

DRAFT MINUTES

14 November 2024

The IUFRO Management Committee (MC) met in a hybrid format on 22-23 October 2024 in Freiburg, Germany at the Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy of the University of Freiburg. The meeting was chaired by IUFRO President Daniela Kleinschmit. The list of participants can be found in the Annex.

1. Opening by the President and welcome remarks by meeting host

The meeting was opened by the Chair, who welcomed the MC members attending both in-person and virtually. The Chair conveyed regrets from IUFRO Vice-President for Task Forces Elena Paoletti who would be unable to join most parts of the meeting due to personal reasons, but would connect for agenda item 5 on Task Forces.

As a surprise guest, President of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) Ms Theresa Loch, who is currently doing her PhD in Freiburg, briefly welcomed the MC and introduced herself.

2. Adoption of agenda, call for additions to agenda, approval of draft Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting on 18 June 2024, and pending actions

Documents:

- MC 10/2024 Doc 2.1: Revised draft agenda (IUFRO HQ)
- MC 10/2024 Doc 2.2: Draft Minutes of the MC Meeting on 18 June 2024 (IUFRO HQ)
- MC 10/2024 Doc 2.3: Implementation of actions from the MC meeting in March 2024 (IUFRO HQ)

The Chair presented the draft agenda of the meeting and called for any changes and additions to the agenda. She noted that due to the restricted availability of Vice-President Task Forces, it was suggested to move the agenda item related to Task Forces right after the lunchbreak, and instead take up agenda item 9 and 10 before the lunch. The agenda was adopted with the proposed changes.

The Chair then presented the draft Minutes of the MC meeting held on June 18 in Uppsala, Sweden. There were no concerns and the draft Minutes were approved by the MC unanimously.

Operations Manager Andre Purret informed the MC about the status of implementing the MC-relevant actions agreed upon at the last MC meeting and at the 63rd Enlarged Board Meeting (EBM) in Uppsala. The MC had agreed on only one action which had been implemented in September. One pending action from the EBM had been implemented and an update on the implementation of the remaining five actions will be provided in the context of relevant items during the current meeting. The MC took note of the status of implementation of actions.

3. Brief reports by IUFRO President and Executive Director

Document:

- MC 10/2024 Doc 3.1: Report of the Executive Director (A. Buck)

IUFRO President Daniela Kleinschmit started by noting that it has been agreed not to request written reports from the President and Vice-Presidents for the standalone MC meetings in the future, but only for the MC and Board Meetings that take place back-to-back annually.

In her oral report, she highlighted the weekly calls between President and IUFRO HQ (with A. Buck and A. Purret); regular meetings with the Science-Policy Programme team; designating Don Hodges as the Chair of the IUFRO Honours and Awards Committee (HAC); and designating Monica Gabay as the Chair of the IUFRO Strategy Committee. Her visits since the Congress 2024 included attendance in the 27th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), including intervention at the High-Level Segment plus celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the MoU between FAO and IUFRO and the support of the Wood for Globe evening reception; participation in the EFI Annual Conference 2024 to refresh collaboration with EFI and its renewed leadership; and attendance in the 9th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference, including an invited statement on behalf of IUFRO at the High-Level Segment. Regarding fundraising, she informed the MC about the incoming funding from the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation to support activities in IUFRO HQ (one person for full time supporting the next phase of the Directors' Forum respectively the Regional Science-Policy Platform, mentorship programme and IUFRO DEI committee) as well as her travels as the President throughout the term. Additionally, she had discussions with the GIZ/BMZ and BMEL in Germany regarding potential funding opportunities for IUFRO. Lastly, she highlighted the ongoing planning for the Regional Science-Policy Platforms in Europe and Africa as the next phase of the Directors' Forum. The MC took note of the report by the President.

IUFRO Executive Director Alexander Buck presented highlights from his written report that had been circulated as a background document for the meeting. Highlights included an overview of selection process for a new Project Manager in the Science-Policy Programme (Mirjana Volarev from Serbia was selected among 103 candidates) who will start her work in mid-November to support the DEI committee, mentorship programme and the Regional Science-Policy Platforms.

Regarding fundraising status, A. Buck noted that most of the funding from funding partners for 2024 has already been received. An agreement for a new five-year funding cycle with USDA Forest Service has been signed, the collaboration with NIFoS will continue as planned, and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has agreed to provide funding to IUFRO for 2024 as well as for 2025 (despite the overall reallocation of government funding in Finland). The prospects of receiving funding from MFA beyond 2025 are currently not yet clear and depend on the independent evaluation/review of the impact of MFA grant for the last 10 years that has to be carried out in 2025. A. Buck wished to thank FORMAS from Sweden on behalf of IUFRO for their generous financial support to the Congress 2024 Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) through SLU, allowing the IUFRO-SPDC to bring a large number of scientists to the Congress (more than half of the SAP delegates were supported with the FORMAS funds). Regarding the philanthropic foundations, a new contract has been signed with the Audemars-Watkins Foundation and discussions are ongoing with the Novo Nordisk Foundation. It was added that Mondi has agreed to continue to fund the next three-year phase of the science-business platform Teaming Up 4 Forests. Concerning the funding from German BMZ, efforts to establish a new agreement before the end of December 2024, when the current five-year partnership expires, have unfortunately not yet been successful, mostly due to severe budget cuts in Germany and thematic adjustment to BMZ-internal funding mechanisms. This is despite a letter by the State Secretary of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development recognizing that the partnership between BMZ and IUFRO would continue to be of great relevance in the future and suggesting exploring further options for collaboration. As this funding source has been vital for the SciPol activities, there is a need to scale down activities for 2025 unless additional funding can be mobilized. Responding to a question on the impact of the BMZ budget cuts, it was explained that the funds from USFS and MFA will be sufficient to cover staff positions (the MFA funds can be spent until spring 2025), and the regional activities will likely have to be scaled back for a certain period. The MC members noted that the limited funding for research and international collaboration is an EU-wide problem as national funding has been

shifted towards military and defense. On the independent review of the MFA grant, it was noted that it would be important to identify persons not active in IUFRO, but who know IUFRO well. The MC took note of the updates and presentation by the Executive Director.

4. Divisions

IUFRO Vice-President for Divisions Woodam Chung started his report by noting that, as agreed by the Division Co-Coordinator in June 2024, the representative of Divisions in the MC would be on a rotational basis, Don Hodges (Division 4) being the first Division Co-Coordinator to serve in the MC. W. Chung reported that Divisions are currently busy finalizing their structure changes and submitting these to IUFRO HQ. It was suggested to send a reminder to those Divisions that have not yet submitted their updated structure with an ultimate deadline of 17 November. Once the updated structures have been received, the website will be updated accordingly.

Action 1:

- *IUFRO HQ to send a reminder to those Divisions that have not submitted their updated structure with a deadline of 17 November. An electronic Board ballot to accept these changes all-in-one will be scheduled latest by the end of November 2024;*

On fundraising and collaboration with Korea, W. Chung had engaged with key forestry organizations in Korea (AFoCO, Korea Forest Service and NIFoS) to explore collaboration opportunities. As the budgets are subject to government appropriations processes, strategic planning and investment is required to secure a long-term funding commitment. In order to develop mutually beneficial collaboration mechanism, it has been suggested that an IUFRO delegation (including the President, Vice-President for Divisions and Executive Director) conducts a follow-up visit to Korea in December 2024 to formally (re-)introduce IUFRO, explore future collaboration and funding options, and finalize a MoU with AFoCO. MC members inquired about the possible topics for collaboration and suggested to also involve President's Nominee from the region, Marilyn Combalicer in these discussions. The MC thanked Woodam for his efforts to open doors to the Korean funding partners.

On virtual officeholder orientation, W. Chung reported that he had prepared a draft programme in collaboration with IUFRO HQ. It is planned to hold two virtual one-hour sessions in two time-zones in mid-November open to all existing and new officeholders. Each session includes an introduction of IUFRO, a description of the roles and responsibilities of officeholders, breakout sessions, and interactive networking and Q&A through Gather-town platform. W. Chung would moderate the meeting, with support by J. Burns from IUFRO HQ. Resources are needed to cover the Gather-town license (approx. 600 EUR). It was clarified that this orientation would be separate from the new website tutorial and orientation sessions. It was suggested holding the virtual orientation annually, if feasible, and to also involve representatives from Task Forces in the next sequence.

W. Chung then presented his ideas for a virtual mentoring programme, noting that he has gathered potential collaborators (volunteers) who could assist in developing the programme, and has already contacted Mentiway as a potential platform to host the virtual mentoring programme. A challenge could arise regarding the coverage of costs for the Mentiway, if this is to be contracted, as the cost is around 4,000 USD for 100 participants. D. Kleinschmit noted that mentoring was an important mechanism for implementing her strategic goal as President of actively involving early-career scientists in IUFRO and ensuring IUFRO's continued relevance in the future. Accordingly, operational support for a future mentoring programme had been included among the tasks and responsibilities of the new staff position at IUFRO HQ funded by the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation. Interested officeholders as well as IFSA should be involved in the development of this programme. A small core group could be formed, tasked with developing and testing the concept.

Action 2:

- *D. Kleinschmit to form a core group, including W. Chung, S. Rodriguez and an HQ representative, tasked with developing a concept for a IUFRO mentorship programme, followed by starting and testing a pilot. The invitation to join the core group could be extended to IFSA;*

Don Hodges, the representative of Divisions in the MC for the one year-period 2024/25, reported back from the virtual meeting of Division Co-Coordination held on October 14. Items discussed included Division structure updates; membership fees, branding of publications, Divisional communication officers and upcoming events. Regarding the communication officers, it was noted that some Divisions have established voluntary communication officer positions and it has worked well, but there is a request to have these positions recognized within IUFRO's structure and on website. It could be established as an official position in Statutes, though all related details (who appoints them, duration of the term, how to remove them, are they members of the Board etc.) need to be clarified.

Action 3:

- *By the time of the next MC meeting (May 2025), W. Chung and D. Hodges, in collaboration with IUFRO HQ, to prepare a proposal for formalizing the communication officer position;*

On the topic of membership fees, concerns had been raised by Division Co-Coordination relating to the rates of membership fees (both for Member Organizations as well as Associate Memberships) which were seen as a potential barrier to increasing age, gender and geographic diversity amongst the unit officeholders. Regarding the guidelines for branding IUFRO in publications, the Division Co-Coordination were interested in developing one-page guidelines. The Chair noted that discussions related to both topics will be held later under agenda item 12.

On upcoming events, the All-IUFRO Conference in Edmonton (2027) had been discussed, and Division 9 had recently joined other Divisions interested in holding their All-Division meetings as part of the All-IUFRO Conference. The next meeting of Division Co-Coordination is scheduled for February 10, and agenda items could include feedback to the co-ordination of Divisions, representative of Divisions in the MC next year, among others. The MC took note of the reports by W. Chung and D. Hodges.

5. Task Forces

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 5.1 Compilation of feedback to TF proposals by the Board*

IUFRO Vice-President for Task Forces Elena Paoletti moderated this agenda item virtually. In total, 23 concept notes for new Task Forces in term 2024-2029 were submitted by the deadline, demonstrating a great interest and wish for engagement in IUFRO's structure. The voting Board members have evaluated the submitted concept notes by pointing out their strengths, weaknesses, and recommended whether the proposals should proceed to the next phase and submit a full Task Force proposal or not. A compilation of the feedback from the Board was circulated as a background document for this item (Doc 5.1). While the Board had by a large majority suggested that 9 proponents should be invited to submit full proposals, 5 should not proceed to the next stage and 9 should be discussed further (received either an equal number of yes/no recommendations, received more positive than negative recommendations, or received more negative than positive recommendations). The MC decided to discuss those 9 proposals that did not receive a clear recommendation by the Board and those 5 that had been clearly objected by the Board.

As a result of the discussion and deliberations, the MC decided that the following 8 Task Force proposals should *not* proceed to the next phase and not be invited to prepare full proposals (in a random order):

- TF on Promoting African Forestry Research and Capacity Building

- TF on Agroforestry
- TF on Continuous Cover Forestry for better forest resilience and greater societal welfare
- TF on Bamboo and Other Biomaterials for Combating Plastic Pollution
- TF on A worldwide research on Climate change and Education
- TF on The second international conference on forest education
- TF on Forestry-pulp-paper integration in developing countries
- TF on Integrated Forest Management as an adaptive concept to improve multifunctionality and biodiversity in forests across the globe

When responding to the proponents of the rejected Task Forces, the strengths and weaknesses as identified by the Board will be communicated. While these Task Force proposals were rejected, the suggestions by the Board include working together with an existing Working Party or Research Group in IUFRO to fulfil the specific goals and objectives (e.g., via scientific meeting or project);

Also based on the evaluation by the Board, the MC agreed that a full Task Force proposal will be invited from the following 15 Task Force proponents (in a random order):

- TF on Stand complexity in planted forests. Testing for resilience in commercial plantations
- TF on Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Forest-related Sectors
- TF on Post-War Forest Landscape Restoration: Make “it back better”
- TF on Building an integrated view of forest-based bioeconomy
- TF on Monitoring biotic and abiotic forest disturbances
- TF on Scaling-Up Science-based Forest Sector Innovation.
- TF on Forest Living Labs for Sustainable Climate Adaptation (FORLIVS)
- TF on Health, safety, and social dimensions of forest restoration operations
- TF on AI for Forest Science
- TF on Interaction and Synergy of Carbon “3S” (Sink, Storage and Substitution) in Forest Value Chains
- TF on Forest-Water-Livelihood-Governance Nexus
- TF on Legacy Forest Data and Related Resources
- TF on The impact of biodiversity on carbon related ecosystem services provided by soils of managed forests
- Joint IUFRO-IFSA TF on Capacity Development for Youth Empowerment and Stewardship
- TF on the New Bauhaus – Global Wood-based Reconstructing for a Future of People and the Planet in Well-Being

The Vice-President for Task Forces will communicate also the strengths and weaknesses of the proposals to each proponent, asking them to submit an improved full proposal that also takes into account the feedback received. Main areas for improvement include the need to: increase geographical diversity; focus on the suggested topics from a global perspective; increase interdisciplinarity and involvement of more IUFRO Divisions; clarify the governance and sharing of workload within the Task Force; clarify budget and respective commitments; describe objectives more clearly and possible renaming. It was clarified that not all those that will be invited to submit full proposals may be approved as Task Forces in the end. The Board and the MC will also evaluate the full proposals, before the final approval. The deadline for submitting full proposals remains 30 November 2024, as planned originally.

Action 4:

- *IUFRO Vice-President for Task Forces E. Paoletti to inform all proponents of Task Forces, including those that were not successful, about the discussions and decisions by the Management Committee. Those submitting full proposals will be asked to address the received feedback;*

6. Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives

Document:

- MC 10/2024 Doc 6.1 *Compilation of reports by Coordinators of Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives (M. Kleine/Coordinators of SPDC, SciPol and WFSE)*

IUFRO Deputy Executive Director Michael Kleine started his report by noting the changes in reporting. From now on, the progress reports by three specific-purpose projects WoodPoP, Teaming Up 4 Forests and Wood for Globe will be included in the reporting to the MC and the Board.

M. Kleine provided highlights from the written compilation or reports by the Coordinators of IUFRO Special Programmes, Project and IUFRO-led Initiatives. Highlights included:

- **SPDC:** Congress 2024 Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) sponsored 106 applicants (54% women/46% male) from 47 countries (18 Africa, 17 Asia-Pacific, 11 Latin America, 1 Eastern Europe). The greatest financial contribution was received from the Swedish Government Research Council for Sustainable Development (Formas) through SLU (52% from the total). Other donors included the United States Forest Service, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the National Institute of Forest Science of the Republic of Korea, and the Audemars-Watkins Foundation. The Pre-Congress training workshop of four days in Uppsala was joined by 54 early- and mid-career scientists. For the first time, an IUFRO-SPDC Exhibition Space was organized at the Congress 2024, presenting SPDC-supported projects. Plans for 2025 include supporting 30 scientists through the SAP; thematic networking projects in Malawi and Sri Lanka, and a workshop on human dimension of FLR.
- **SciPol:** Launch of the follow-up study [“International Forest Governance: A critical review of trends, drawbacks, and new approaches”](#) and its accompanying policy brief during a side event at the 19th session of the UN Forum on Forests, achieving top-tier media coverage globally. Outreach sessions held at Congress 2024, plans for activities at CBD COP16 and UNFCCC COP29. The Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) Assessment on Forests for Social and Economic Resilience is proceeding as planned. The Directors’ Forum has been integrated into the SciPol following its termination as a Special Programme by the Board at its last meeting. The next phase includes developing a detailed concept on strengthening the regional science-policy interface in Europe and Africa as pilot regions. To implement the associated activities, a new position has been created with funding from the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation. Plans for 2025 include finalization of the ongoing GFEP assessment on social and economic resilience, and completion of the concept notes for regional science-policy platforms, including the organization of the first regional meetings.
- **WFSE:** highlights included sessions and events at the Congress 2024, including one sub-plenary session, technical session with seven presentations, and two WFSE editorial meetings. Publishing a peer reviewed open access book [Restoring Forests and Trees for Sustainable Development: Policies, Practices, Impacts, and Ways Forward](#) with Oxford University Press. The development of the book involved altogether 68 authors including the 6 editors. Planning of the next book on *Forests and people in global transformational changes* has started already, including identification of lead authors of the different chapters, editors, and the organization of a two-day hybrid workshop for the editors and lead authors in Finland in December 2024. Plans for 2025 focus on finalization of the book.
- **Teaming Up 4 Forests:** this science-business platform continued to grow in 2024 and the highlights include: publication of a new study report on [Europe’s wood supply in disruptive times](#) as IUFRO World Series Volume 42 (plus related business brief and factsheet); webinar series with three webinars; a sub-plenary session at Congress 2024; study launch at Fastmarkets Conference in Istanbul and press breakfast for Austrian media in Vienna; development of a

partnership strategy for the next phase; outreach to potential new partners; and media and outreach activities (such as the new [partnership video](#)). Plans for 2025 include entering into second three-year partnership agreement with Mondi; expansion of partnership, network, focus and geographic reach; carrying out new science-business-stakeholder events and studies; working towards a global science-business platform with multiple partners; and enhancing impact of science in the private sector.

- **Wood for Globe:** Recent activities include: *CPF SW4SW Policy Dialogue, Advancing sustainable wood policy and science for carbon-neutral and resilient economies* on 25 March 2024 as a hybrid event with 161 participants online and 30 in person; contribution to a sub-plenary session in Congress 2024; scientific background paper coordinated by BOKU, available online, and presentations by scientists in various scientific events and Wood for Globe policy dialogues; *High-Level Dialogue WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways to carbon neutrality and resilience* on 19 July 2024 with hybrid participation of 100 in-person and 300 online participants, including high-level representatives of countries, heads of forestry/technical experts, representatives of various stakeholders, organizations and initiatives, culminated in an outcome statement calling for scaling-up sustainable wood-based pathways. The project had a high policy impact, as the Wood for Globe outcome statement was included in FAO COFO 27 and its proceedings. All outputs of the project, ending in March 2025, are available at: <https://www.iufro.org/science/partnership-projects/wood-for-globe/>.
- **WoodPoP:** the Secretariat of the European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP) has been hosted in IUFRO HQ since 2023, funded by the Austrian Forest Fund. The Secretariat includes two project staff (V. Juch and C. Linayao). Activity highlights include: organization of Wood Policy Lab in July in Austria, Study Tour and Expert Group Meeting in September in Norway, High-Level Meeting in November in Brussels and *Education in the Wood Construction Sector* in December in Austria; preparation of the Policy Paper *A wood-based circular bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe. Green construction and innovative wood solutions*; launch of the [homepage](#), a dedicated newsletter, and development of graphical identity and short videos. Plans for 2025 include outreach activities on the policy paper on “A Wood-Based Circular Bioeconomy for a Sustainable Europe”, organization of the annual High-Level Meeting, preparation of country leaflets, mapping national public procurement activities in support of wood use, organization of a wood innovation workshop and a pan-European wood construction prize.

The MC took note of the report and highlights presented by Michael Kleine. It was noted that the three specific-purpose projects that have been added to the reporting by SPPs are all focused on the sustainable provision of wood-based products. When pursuing future opportunities for collaboration with additional funding partners, efforts should be made to address a broader spectrum of topics, reflecting the thematic diversity of IUFRO itself and considering the scientific value that can be created through such collaborations. Related to the engagement of officeholders in the SciPol activities, it was noted that IUFRO officeholders are not sufficiently aware of the possibilities to participate and related mechanisms. IUFRO HQ explained the process for selecting scientists as authors or reviewers of the SciPol studies and reports. In the first step, the policy questions are translated into scientific questions, and then the SciPol team systematically identifies suitable scientific experts, including IUFRO officeholders but also other scientists, reflecting the inter-disciplinary nature of SciPol activities and the topics addressed. An open call to identify scientist has not been considered a suitable approach. It was suggested considering an additional mandatory step in the process (for all SPPs) that includes greater communication with Divisions when looking for scientists to participate in the activities of the various SPPs. Therefore, the following action from the last Enlarged Board meeting should be reinforced:

Action 5:

- *Divisions to invite the Coordinators of IUFRO Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives to join future meetings of Division Co-ordinators;*

In the second part of this agenda item, D. Kleinschmit informed the MC about the plans for the next phase of the Directors' Forum – the IUFRO Regional Science-Policy Network 2025-2029. Its aim is to strengthen regional science-policy networks, with a specific focus initially on Europe and Africa. As had been mentioned earlier in the meeting, a new project manager (M. Volarev) has been hired to support these activities through funding from the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation, working closely with the project lead of the IUFRO Regional Science-Policy Network (V. Juch). It was noted that the Austrian Research Centre for Forests, BFW will continue to provide funding support for the IUFRO Regional Science-Policy Network. The core group of the European Science-Policy Platform pilot project so far involves partners and countries such as the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (lead), the Spanish Instituto de Ciencias Forestales (ICIFOR) and the CIFOR-ICRAF office in Europe. The core group of the African pilot project so far involves Ethiopia (lead), Kenya and CIFOR-ICRAF. The two core groups in both regions are working in parallel to develop detailed concept notes to be presented for review to the MC and the Board in May 2025. It was added that more partners from the regions will be added to the core group in due course. It was highlighted that the work in other regions has not yet been started, as the idea is to run pilots in these two regions, and learn about feasibility and from possible challenges. The MC took note of the update.

7. Strategic partnerships, international cooperation and IUFRO in international processes

IUFRO Executive Director Alexander Buck provided a brief update on recent developments regarding IUFRO's partners and partnerships. The challenges in inquiring spots for IUFRO in the UNFCCC COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan were highlighted, as only 3 delegates (from IUFRO HQ) will attend and promote IUFRO. The allocated quota by the UNFCCC Secretariat needs to be raised significantly before the next, "forest" COP30 to be held in Brazil in late 2025. In this context, it was suggested recommending to the Enlarged Board members to make efforts to include IUFRO officeholders in their national delegations. At the upcoming UNFCCC COP29 there will also be a Forest Pavilion, where IUFRO jointly with CIFOR-ICRAF will organize a Science, Technology and Innovation day (16 Nov).

Action 6:

- *The IUFRO President and IUFRO HQ to recommend to the Board to encourage inclusion of IUFRO officeholders in national delegations to future COPs of the Rio Conventions, to ensure adequate representation of IUFRO scientists in these meetings;*

Regarding other updates, collaboration options with the European Forest Institute (EFI) have recently been discussed bilaterally, leading to a potential collaboration focused on early-career researchers through the established EFI Young Leadership Programme. Responding to a question about IUFRO representation at the CBD COP16, A. Buck clarified that three delegates from IUFRO Science-Policy Programme attended the meeting in Cali, Colombia. The MC took note of the updates by the A. Buck.

8. Financial issues and fundraising

Budget status 2024

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 8.1 Status of budget 2024 (IUFRO HQ)*

Astrid Toppel (IUFRO Finances and Administration) presented the budget status as of August 2024. She

noted that it is very likely that the Union will end the year 2024 with a deficit that has been planned due to the Congress year and related increases in costs. In this context, the Strategic Fund had not been tapped to cover these Congress-related costs. Commenting on some budget items that will exceed the planned budget, the cost related to IT and communications are higher due to the new recurring costs of the new server space for the redesigned website. A. Toppel highlighted that funding from Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and from Mondi for the Teaming Up 4 Forest partnership has been received by now (compared to the table circulated ahead of the MC meeting). Responding to a question on the costs related to the website redesign, it was noted that the development costs are shown in a separate line from the “Telecommunication and IT”, and that the development work has been covered by funding partners of projects and programmes. It was added that the increased recurring annual costs for the new server space/website hosting costs will be partly covered also to funding generated from “HQ services to projects”. The MC took note of the presentation by A. Toppel.

Update on fundraising activities

Document:

– *MC 10/2024 Doc 8.2 Mobilizing resources for IUFRO activities – Priorities and potential innovations (HQ)*

A. Buck and M. Kleine presented the background slides prepared by IUFRO HQ (Doc 8.2). Two types of funding can be differentiated: 1) financial resources mobilized and/or processed by IUFRO HQ; and 2) financial resources acquired and/or processed by IUFRO member organizations. Income sources for IUFRO HQ include membership fees (11,6%); core funding from the Austrian ministry, BML (25%), grants from governments and affiliated institutions (49,6%); philanthropic funds (6%); and corporate sponsorship (7,8%). A tendency in the last 5 years has been that the grants from governments or affiliated institutions are decreasing, while there is a potential in acquiring philanthropic funds and corporate sponsorship. Efforts to try various ways of fundraising did not work too well (e.g., individual donation schemes including Eberswalde Circle, dedicated committee for fundraising, hired fundraiser). It has been proven successful to use door-openers (good personal networks and contacts to domestic or multilateral donors) as the opportunity with highest potential for mobilizing resources. While Board members and other officeholders could be good door-openers, detailed next steps and follow-up should be undertaken by IUFRO HQ in a dialogue with the potential donors, taking into account the established rules and procedures for partnerships. As examples, Past President Risto Seppälä opened the doors to Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland; COC 2014 Chair Rich Guldin paved the way for recurring funding cycle from the US Forest Service; Past President Don Ko Lee established collaboration with NIFoS; President Daniela Kleinschmit has mobilized resources from the Eva Mayr-Stihl Foundation, Past President Niels Elers Koch is helping to obtain funding from the Novo Nordisk Foundation; and Vice-President for Divisions Woodam Chung is pursuing additional opportunities for collaboration with funding partners in Korea.

The MC members commented that the idea of using door openers is indeed the most promising way forward, even though it can be a long process (e.g., 5-6 years) with some potential donors. It was noted that partnerships need to be developed in line with IUFRO’s established rules and procedures and that reputational risk for IUFRO need to be carefully considered, especially with respect to potential private sector partners. It was agreed that the Enlarged Board would be informed about the discussions at the MC meeting and the suggestion to focus on door openers. Regarding suitable individuals from the Board who could act as door openers, bilateral discussions could be held informally with IUFRO HQ. The MC thanked A. Buck and M. Kleine for their presentation and suggestions.

Action 7:

- *IUFRO HQ to inform the Enlarged Board in May 2025 about the results of the fundraising discussion at the MC meeting in Freiburg, including the recommendation to focus on door*

openers;

9. International Council

IUFRO Operations Manager Andre Purret as IUFRO HQ's focal point for the International Council (IC) informed the MC about the status of the call for nominations. By the time of the MC meeting only 10 countries had nominated their representatives to the IC (out of the 120 countries in IUFRO). The call will end on 31 October, but the deadline could be extended if not enough nominations have been received. It would be important to have the IC in place by late November, as at least one item resulting from the likely Board approval will need to be also approved by the International Council (additional President's Nominee as a voting member of the IUFRO Board). The MC discussed how to increase the participation of countries in the International Council. A comment was made that the roles of the IC members might not be that clear to all IUFRO members and often the members in a country are not sure who should lead the nomination process. It was also discussed that as per the IUFRO Statutes, if no representative is nominated from a country, the President may, for the purpose of passing information and seeking advice, presume the representative of that country in the IC to be the head of the Member Organization having the largest number of research scientists.

Action 8:

- *IUFRO HQ to send out a reminder with an extended deadline to all members and former IC representatives of those countries that have not yet nominated their IC representatives. In case no representative has been nominated by the extended deadline, IUFRO HQ assumes that the head of the Member Organization in a given country that has the largest number of researchers will represent the country in the International Council;*

In the context of making the IC more active, it was suggested to talk to selective IC members to collect ideas and advice on how to improve the engagement of IC members. It was suggested holding a virtual orientation meeting for the new IC members to inform them about the IC roles and established Terms of Reference. Another virtual meeting could be held e.g., one year prior to the next World Congress 2029 to remind the IC about the abstract submission process and the preparations for the Congress, and possibly also organize voting for the Board members 2029-2034 and the host of the World Congress 2034. Lastly, it was discussed whether the International Council as a separate body is required by the legal authorities. A. Buck clarified that the Austrian Act for Associations which also applies to quasi-international organizations including IUFRO requires each association to have a meeting of delegates representing the member organizations.

10. President's Nominees

Documents:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 10.1 Curriculum Vitae of Peter Kanowsky*

IUFRO President Daniela Kleinschmit moderated this agenda item and noted that she has invited Sandra Rodriguez as representative of the IUFRO President's Nominees to join the MC throughout the term 2024-2029. S. Rodriguez participated in this meeting remotely. She reminded the MC that one of the proposed President's Nominees Juliette Biao (Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat, UNFFS) regrettably had to decline her proposed IUFRO role due to ethical considerations in relation to her position at the United Nations. Therefore, D. Kleinschmit would like to propose Prof. Peter Kanowsky (Australia) to fill the remaining vacant position of the PNs. One of his tasks is to support membership development in the Oceania region, as the number of members in this region has decreased over time.

Actions 9 and 10:

- *The Management Committee to recommend to the Board to endorse Prof. Peter Kanowsky as an IUFRO President's Nominee via electronic Board ballot vote, set up by IUFRO HQ in November 2024;*
- *Based on a recommendation by the IUFRO Board, the International Council to approve Prof. Peter Kanowsky as an IUFRO President's Nominee via electronic ballot vote, set up by IUFRO HQ latest by January 2025;*

11. XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 11.1 Summary report of the COC/Congress 2029 (F. Ingemarson/Congress Secretariat)*

Report by COC Chair, including preliminary financial report;

The Chair of the COC Fredrik Ingemarson presented highlights from the written summary report, circulated as a background document for the meeting (Doc 11.1). He started by providing an overview of the Congress week, noting that 4,204 registered participants from 110 countries attended. The scientific programme included 437 sessions, plus 5 pre- and post-Congress excursions and 15 in-congress tours. He highlighted that 82 student volunteers supported the COC with various tasks throughout the week.

The financial turnover of the Congress week is estimated to add up to 36 Million Swedish Kronor (SEK), and income from delegate registration fees to amount to a total of 25.9 Million SEK, of which 25% would be paid to IUFRO as licensing fee. While some finances have been set aside as accruals for potential financial claims by a company contracted by SLU, a lawsuit against the SLU was unlikely to be successful. The final financial result from the Congress will be available in early 2025 and presented to the Board at its meeting in May 2025.

F. Ingemarson highlighted the special events that took place during the Congress week, including the Tree Planting Ceremony, Opening and Closing Ceremony. He pointed out the success of the innovation stage in the exhibition area and recommended considering this also for the Congress 2029. Another recommendation was to involve IUFRO HQ more closely into the selection of exhibitors, to avoid decisions creating potential (reputational) damage. When presenting an overview of the scientific and side events, it was noted that the balance of technical sessions between the Congress themes (Table 6 in the Summary Report) was extraordinary. However, the work involved in organizing the sessions by themes based on analysis of the Invajo company, which created extra budget needs. The COC Chair highlighted also the successful business meetings of units, pre- and post-Congress excursions as well as the in-Congress excursions, and social events. He gratefully acknowledged the official partners, exhibitors and excursion partners. Regarding communication, he highlighted that the Congress app was downloaded to 3,982 mobile units and was started approximately 100 times per user. The Congress was ranked on top in social media portal X, the media coverage spanned 122 news items across 84 channels, and key outlets included major news website as well as regional and international media platforms such as der Standard, BioMed Central and National Geographic. The online streaming of certain sessions against a payment did not attract sufficient interest from the participants who were not in Stockholm. Consequently it was suggested not to offer this service for the Congress 2029.

The COC Chair then gave an overview of the human resources involved, including the members of the Congress Organizing Committee, Congress Scientific Committee, Congress Secretariat and the Professional Congress Organizer Akademikonferens. It was added that most of the Congress Secretariat staff will continue to be employed until June 2025, including the COC Chair.

As the next steps, the Congress Secretariat will work on the final Congress report for public audience, which the MC suggested could be a modified version of the current summary report.

Actions 11 and 12:

- *The COC 2024 Chair to submit the final financial accounts of the Congress, including the delegate fees received from the Congress 2024 and licencing fee to IUFRO, to the MC for review latest by early April 2025;*
- *The COC 2024 Chair to submit the final summary report of the Congress to the MC and the Board prior to the 64th IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting;*

The MC discussed the usefulness of collecting feedback from delegates about the impact of the Congress through a survey. Moreover, the COC Chair may consider compiling lessons learnt from the Congress Secretariat, for consideration by IUFRO and future Congress organizers.

The COC Chair also informed the MC about a meeting with Nordic and Baltic stakeholders on 5 December 2024 to share experiences and outcomes for the Nordic partnership and celebrate the success of the Congress.

Action 13:

- *The COC 2024 Chair, in collaboration with IUFRO HQ, to develop a concept for a follow-up survey to investigate the impact of the Congress and map out the usefulness of the Congress for the delegates, e.g. in terms of networking, topics and research outputs. The survey to be carried out before June 2025.*

Lastly, the MC members noted that the Congress survey, sent out following the Congress week, did not reach most of the participants, and it would be beneficial to carefully prepare a survey in due time before the Congress 2029 and send the survey to Congress delegates already before the end of the Congress week. The MC thanked F. Ingemarson for his work and presentations, and also wished to convey a big thanks to the Congress Secretariat, PCO and others involved in preparing for the successful Congress.

12. Strategic issues

IUFRO Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 12.1 Updated Terms of Reference for the DEI committee (W. Chung)*

IUFRO Vice-President Woodam Chung as the Chair of the DEI Committee informed the MC that the committee has been formed and held two virtual meetings (15.09 and 14.10). The members of the committee include: Woodam Chung (Chair), Marilyn Combalicer, Carola Egger, Monica Gabay, Björn Hånell, Pipiet Larasatie and Ida Wallin. W. Chung noted that an assignment will be given to committee members in each meeting, to be reported on at the next meeting. For the last meeting, members were asked to brainstorm about DEI challenges in IUFRO from their perspective. Examples included raising DEI awareness, addressing language and cultural barriers, ensuring regional representation, developing fair and equitable evaluation processes, improving officeholder recruitment and reviewing the 2-term policy for officeholders, etc. The next step would be to look at these issues and whether there is a need to establish DEI principles that tackle these issues. At its next meeting in November, the committee will share examples of DEI principles (based on research about other organizations etc.). A challenge for the committee could be the anticipated large workload in the future. Next steps include developing IUFRO DEI principles and creating actionable strategies for implementation of the principles. Regarding the timeline, it is envisaged to develop principles before the Enlarged Board Meeting (EBM), and finalize these during the EBM. It was suggested placing special consideration to the effectiveness of the

principles, as IUFRO is a voluntary networking organization. Another comment referred to the interrelations to and collaboration with the potential new Task Force on gender DEI. Lastly, the geographic diversity among the committee members was discussed and it was suggested identifying another member from the African continent. The MC took note of the update by W. Chung.

Action 14:

- *DEI committee to consider additional member from the African continent, to ensure a better regional and cultural representation;*

Membership fees

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 12.2 Background analysis of membership fees (IUFRO HQ)*

Andre Purret presented the results of the membership fee analysis undertaken by IUFRO HQ (Doc 12.2). For the analysis, IUFRO HQ used the data from IUFRO HQ membership database (all fees received are recorded using the double entry/accrual-based accounting, and also entered manually into IUFRO's membership database). The analysis was carried out in response to Actions 1 and 10 of the last Board Meeting, and was intended to provide a basis for discussions on the future changes in the membership fee structure, reduction and possible waivers of the fees. While the number of Member Organizations (MOs) had been fairly stable in the last four years (629MOs in 2020; 623 MOs in 2023), the number of Associate Members (AMs) had increased significantly (from 214 in 2020 to 270 in 2023). A. Purret then explained the calculations of the annual membership fees for MOs and AMs, noting that in case of the MOs, the fee consists of a base fee (differs by the income categories set by the World Bank) plus an additional amount set for every 10 researchers employed. It was added that the fee rates have been adjusted almost annually in the last Board term, due to the high inflation rate in IUFRO HQ host country Austria. The membership fees are the only source of income to IUFRO HQ that are unrestricted and make up roughly 29% of the annual Secretariat budget and 12% of the total annual IUFRO HQ budget (includes funds received from donors for SPPs).

Based on the data from 2020-2023, on average 96% of income from membership fees has been generated from Member Organisations (4% comes from the fees paid by Associate Members) annually. To exemplify, in 2023, roughly 273.000 EUR was derived from MOs, while roughly EUR 12.000 came from AMs. The total income from fees has increased slowly year-by-year, though this can be attributed to the annual increased fee rates due to inflation rather than the increased number of paying members.

As it became evident from the data, IUFRO HQ writes off around 31-33% of irrecoverable membership fees annually (in monetary terms, 137.000 EUR was written off in 2023). While the write-off for fees invoiced to MOs was around 30%, the write-off of fees invoiced to AMs has been consistently more than 50%. This suggests that, indirectly, IUFRO HQ *de facto* already significantly “sponsors” all those members that for various reasons do not pay their membership fees. At the same time, their membership in IUFRO has been retained. Formal sponsorship to Member Organizations has taken place through the generosity of key IUFRO sponsors, mainly thanks to the United States Forest Service which has funded a number of MOs from economically disadvantaged countries who cannot pay their fees annually. 122 different MOs have been sponsored in the last 10 years (most have been sponsored once or twice, though selected MOs have been sponsored 4-6 years).

Looking at the regional analysis, 55% of IUFRO Member Organizations are located in Europe and Northern America, while 43% of Associate Members are based in these regions. On average, 68% of income has been received from MOs in Europe and North America; 4.4% from African continent and 3.9% from Latin America (in total amounting to 22.723 EUR in 2023 for these latter regions). For Associate Membership fees, 1.659 EUR was received in 2023 from Africa and Latin America combined.

Analysis by income categories shows that 21% of IUFRO Member Organizations and 34% of Associate Members come from low-income economies and lower-middle income economies. In 2023, 19.085 EUR was generated by fees from MOs in those income categories (7.2% from the total fees paid by MOs). In 2023, only 848 EUR was received from AMs in these income categories, meaning that from the 89 Associate Members in low and middle-lower income economies, only 14 paid their fees.

The MC thanked A. Purret for the analysis and presentation and noted that the analysis provides a good basis for any decisions by the MC and the Board. While the Board had suggested considering changes to the current fee system itself, the MC concluded that IUFRO should rather consider reducing the membership fee rate for Member Organizations from low and middle-lower income economies and be stricter with members from high income countries who do not pay their fees. The representatives of the International Council could also be involved in raising the issue within the concerned regions. It was suggested investigating the distribution of written off fees by regions and income categories. Additionally, a qualitative analysis could be made about why the members cannot/do not pay their fees.

Those who wish to become officeholders need to be members of IUFRO, and often the only choice is to become an Associate Member. The fee for Associate Members may thus constitute a barrier for scientists to become active in IUFRO. The MC proposed, also based on a further economic analysis by IUFRO HQ, to consider options for lowering the AMs fees, or even waiving the AM fee for officeholders from low and middle-lower income economies. However, such waivers should be based on a formal written request by the scientists. The fee could also be lowered/waived for early-career researchers.

Regarding added value of becoming an IUFRO members in regions, it was noted that the benefits are presented on the website, but more work needs to be done to inform the potential members, including private universities. As one possibility, a campaign to waive the first year's membership fee for new member organizations could be tried out. It was suggested to present this analysis, without the regional analysis, together with the further economic analysis to the Board in May 2025.

Actions 15 and 16:

- *IUFRO HQ to undertake an economic analysis of reducing membership fee rates for lower- and middle-lower income countries for both Member Organizations and Associate Members, plus an analysis on the distribution of the written off membership fees between the IUFRO regions and income levels, to be presented to the MC latest by May 2025;*
- *Based on the analysis (Action 15), the MC to make related recommendations to the Board, including possible waiving of the Associate Membership fee, based on a formal written request, for officeholders who are from the Global South and early career researchers globally;*

IUFRO Strategy Committee

Andre Purret informed the MC about the updates regarding IUFRO Strategy Committee. The Board had approved the committee in June 2024, mandating the President and the MC to appoint the Chair and members of the committee. The IUFRO President had invited Monica Gabay, the Chair of the IUFRO Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024 Evaluation Advisory Committee to Chair also the Strategy Committee. M. Gabay had accepted the task and had also proposed other members of the committee. The Chair, supported by A. Purret and D. Kleinschmit, is currently finalizing the draft ToR for the committee. The tentative timeline culminates with the approval of the Strategy Action Plan 2025-2029 by the Board in June 2025 (electronically after the Enlarged Board Meeting). The MC took note of the update and looked forward to endorsing the ToR for the committee.

Action 17:

- *Once finalized, the Terms of Reference, including the proposed composition of the IUFRO Strategy Committee to be circulated to the MC for its endorsement;*

Branding of IUFRO in publications

Following the discussion by the Board in June 2024, and the related recommendation by the Board to establish uniform guidelines for branding IUFRO in publications, including journal special issues, resulting from the work of those involved in IUFRO, the MC was tasked to discuss the next steps. The main issues to be addressed include establishing criteria on what can be labelled as an IUFRO publication, developing guidelines for referring to IUFRO and the use of IUFRO logo, as well as preparing a procedure for selecting publications for the IUFRO World Series and Occasional Papers. It was suggested establishing a task group for this purpose, led by the Immediate Past President John Parrotta and involving IUFRO officeholders who have experience with journals and publishing. The group could include President's Nominee Lijuan Cui, 2-3 other IUFRO Officeholders and a representative from IUFRO HQ.

Action 18:

- *J. Parrotta to draft Terms of Reference for a task group/committee to develop guidelines for IUFRO in publications, consisting of experts from the IUFRO network, to be finalized for Board's approval latest by the Enlarged Board Meeting in May 2025;*

13. Honours and Awards Committee (HAC)

The newly appointed Chair of the Honours and Awards Committee (HAC) Don Hodges, who also serves as the representative of Divisions in the Management Committee, provided an update on the formation of the committee. He noted that almost all Divisions and IFSA have confirmed their representatives, and hoped that also the remaining invited members will confirm swiftly. It was agreed that the composition of the committee could be approved via electronic Board ballot vote in late November. The MC suggested inviting the HAC Chair to report to the MC also once his term as the Divisions' representative in the MC has ended. The MC took note of the update by D. Hodges.

Action 19:

- *D. Hodges to finalize the composition of the Honours and Awards Committee for approval by the Board via electronic Board ballot vote in November 2024;*

14. XXVII IUFRO World Congress 2029

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 14.1 Report of the COC Chair (J. Njuguna; N. Oduor)*

Report by the COC 2029 Chair

The Chair of the Local Organizing Committee Dr. Jane Njuguna and Ms Nellie Oduor as a newly appointed Coordinator of the Congress 2029 Secretariat informed the MC about the developments since the Congress 2024. They highlighted the successful participation of the Kenyan delegation at the World Congress 2024 in Stockholm, including exhibition booth for the Congress 2029. Kenya's Ambassador to the Nordic Countries, Ms. Angeline Musili represented Kenya at the highest level during the Congress Opening and Closing ceremonies. At the Closing Ceremony, Kenya was officially announced as the host of the 27th World Congress 2029. KEFRI and IUFRO also signed the formal agreement to host the Congress 2029 in Nairobi, Kenya during the IUFRO President's Dinner, where the IUFRO President J. Parrotta counter-signed the agreement. Detailed list of activities can be read from the background document Doc 14.1.

The plans for autumn include a breakfast meeting with all stakeholders in November 2024 to announce the Congress and start mobilizing resources; the appointment of a dedicated Information and

Communication Technology (ICT) expert to follow up and report on IUFRO matters, including on the management of the website, that is still to be launched; and hold meetings with IUFRO to ensure a timely preparation for the Congress. It was noted that the teams responsible for various aspects of the Congress should be set up in the Congress Secretariat as soon as possible, including the representative of the COC 2029 in the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC 2029). IUFRO HQ also noted that the Congress bid, accepted by the Board and International Council, forms a formal part of the agreement between IUFRO and KEFRI, thus the contents of the bid as well as the institutional parts form part of the contract. Responding to a question about the partners involved, N. Oduor noted that CIFOR-ICRAF, African Forest Forum, Kenya Forest Service, FORNESSA and the University of Nairobi are among the key partners. It was noted that the engagement of various partners will be very important for the success of the Congress and that IUFRO HQ should also be consulted and part of the discussions with local and regional partners, as well as invited to join the meetings of the Steering Committee.

Action 20:

- *Before the end of 2024, the COC 2029 to discuss with the IUFRO President and IUFRO HQ the detailed plans and timeline for involvement of partners;*

Action 21:

- *The COC 2029 to involve IUFRO HQ in meetings of the Steering Committee of the Congress 2029;*

Following the discussion on partner and IUFRO HQ involvement, it would also be useful to have a bigger changeover/bridging meeting with the COC 2024 to learn about all the details in planning, and receive exemplary files and other useful documents. The MC took note of the report by the COC 2029.

Action 22:

- *The COC 2029 and COC 2024 to organize a bridging meeting in the first half of 2025 to share information and experiences, including with the presence of IUFRO HQ representative(s);*

Update by the CSC 2029 Chair

The IUFRO President welcomed the Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC 2029) Ernest Foli, who joined the meeting virtually. E. Foli thanked the MC and the Board for trusting this important task in his hands. He had been in consultation with J. Parrotta about the composition of the committee and the next step will be to invite the proposed members to join the committee. Proposals include representatives of Divisions, new Task Forces, President's Nominees, FORNESSA, representation from some regions in Africa, and the Immediate Past President J. Parrotta. W. Chung agreed to assist in the discussions with Divisions to identify suitable representatives. The MC noted that the committee should be set up by early 2025 to start discussing the timeline for activities and related tasks. Once the members have been invited, the Board could approve the composition of the CSC via electronic Board ballot. The MC took note of the update by E. Foli.

Action 23:

- *CSC 2029 Chair to identify and invite members to the Congress Scientific Committee, pending Board approval via electronic ballot vote in January 2025;*

15. IUFRO Communication

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 15.1 Communications update (IUFRO HQ)*

A. Buck informed the MC about the recent communication activities by IUFRO HQ since the last MC

meeting. Highlights included communication at and after the Congress 2024, including the Stockholm Congress Statement, which was taken up by various national and international media in July. A new podcast season had been started with a focus on Divisions. Regarding the IUFRO website redesign project, A. Buck informed the MC about the plan to launch the new website by the end of November 2024. On funding status, M. Kleine informed the MC that the funds from donors are available to cover the estimated cost. Moreover, a modest budget had been set aside to cover possible expenditures for optimizing and/or refining certain aspects of the website in the coming months, if required. Therefore, there is no need to tap into the Strategic Fund at this stage. It was noted that the database is currently being moved to a new server space and that the logins for the website will change automatically (all who have a login for the current website will receive login details for the new website). A. Buck also added that a general communication plan is in place and includes tutorials as well as orientation materials to introduce the new website. It was suggested inviting IUFRO HQ communications representative to the next meeting of Division Co-Coordinators in February 2025 to inform the participants about the new website. The MC thanked A. Buck and M. Kleine for the updates and information.

Action 24:

- *A representative of IUFRO HQ communications team to be invited to the next meeting of Division Co-Coordinators, to inform them about the new website and related details;*

16. Proposed schedule of IUFRO Board and MC meetings

Document:

- *MC 10/2024 Doc 16.1 Proposed schedule of IUFRO Board and MC meetings*

Proposed Schedule of IUFRO Board and MC meetings

A. Purret presented the updated proposed schedule of IUFRO Board and MC meetings under consideration in the new Board term. Following the first Enlarged Board Meeting (EBM), to be held from 21-22 May 2025 in Vienna, Austria, the discussions are currently ongoing with IUFRO members in Indonesia to hold a standalone MC meeting in the second half of September in Bogor, Indonesia.

Regarding the EBM in Vienna, it was noted that the meeting will be preceded by the pre-Board MC meeting on 19 May and pre-Board meeting of Divisions on 20 May, and followed, followed by an excursion on 23 May. The MC discussed the format for presenting and reporting at the EBM and suggested instructing the Divisions and Task Forces to use only 1 slide per Division/Task Force (2-3 min each) when presenting their updates/plans.

The MC noted with thanks the written update by the University of Alberta and the Canadian Forest Service regarding the All-Division IUFRO Conference in Edmonton, Canada (2027). While planning is proceeding, financial restrictions at this stage are becoming a challenge. The MC discussed the issue and suggested contacting the local organizers to discuss the potential change in the venue (university instead of convention centre) and the scaling down of the size of the event.

17. Any other items

The MC wished to thank the IUFRO President for hosting the meeting in Freiburg and for such an effective conduct of the meeting.

18. Closure of the meeting

The meeting of the IUFRO Management Committee was closed by the IUFRO President.

ANNEX: List of participants

Daniela Kleinschmit (President)

Woodam Chung (Vice-President for Divisions)

Elena Paoletti (*joined virtually*)

John Parrotta (Immediate Past President)

Alexander Buck (Executive Director)

Donald Hodges (Coordinator, Division 4 – Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management)

Sandra Rodríguez-Piñeros (President's Nominee) (*joined virtually*)

Ernest Foli (Chair, Congress Scientific Committee, IUFRO World Congress 2029) (*joined virtually*)

Jane Njuguna (Chair, Local Organizing Committee, IUFRO World Congress 2029) (*joined virtually*)

IUFRO HQ:

Michael Kleine (Deputy Executive Director; Coordinator, IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities) (*joined virtually*)

Astrid Toppel (IUFRO Finances and Administration)

Andre Purret (IUFRO Operations Manager; Minutes)

Invited participants:

Fredrik Ingemarson (Chair, Congress Organizing Committee, IUFRO World Congress 2024)

Nellie Oduor (Coordinator, Congress Secretariat, IUFRO World Congress 2029) (*joined virtually*)