

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING

16 June 2006

The meeting of the IUFRO Policy Committee (PC) took place on 3 May 2006 at the IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. It was chaired by Mr. John Innes, IUFRO Vice-President Policy. A list of participants can be found in the annex.

1. Opening of the meeting, presentation of participants and adoption of agenda

Document PC 05/2006 Doc 1.1 – Draft Agenda – on Internet

Mr. Innes welcomed the members of the PC as well as the invited participants and observers and opened the meeting. He communicated the regrets of the General Board Members Vitor Hoeflich and Roberto Ipinza. The participants of the EB meeting then briefly introduced themselves.

The draft agenda was adopted without comments.

2. Approval of minutes of Policy Committee Meeting on 5 August 2005 and pending actions

Document PC 05/2006 Doc 2.1 “Minutes of the Meeting” – on Internet

The minutes of the previous PC Meeting, held on 5 August 2005 in Brisbane, Australia, were approved without changes. Mr. Innes gave a brief overview of the PC recommendations to the Board that had been agreed at the 2005 PC meeting. He noted that action had been taken on all PC recommendations. Mr. Victor Teplyakov (General Board Member) communicated that the Memorandum of Understanding between IUFRO and The World Conservation Union (IUCN) had been signed by the IUCN General Director and would be presented for signature to the IUFRO President during the Enlarged Board Meeting in Vienna.

Action:

- The IUFRO President to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with IUCN.

Mr. Richard Guldin (Coordinator, Task Force on the Forest Science-Policy Interface) reminded that the PC had suggested translating the guidelines on “Working Effectively at the Interface of Forest Science and Forest Policy” from English into other languages. He noted that the Task Force was still exploring possibilities for translation.

3. Overview of the Enlarged Board Meeting on 4 May and the role of the Policy Committee

Documents:

- PC 05/2006 Doc 3.1 “Main Functions of the Policy Committee”
- EB 05/2006 Doc 1.1 “45th IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting - Draft Agenda”
- EB 05/2006 Doc 1.2 “45th IUFRO Enlarged Board Meeting - Draft Annotated Agenda”

All documents available on Internet

Mr. Innes highlighted the task of the PC meeting to give recommendations to the Enlarged Board (EB) on policy issues. He stated that the current meeting of the PC at the beginning of the new Board period provided an opportunity to reassess the role of the Policy Committee and the context surrounding its work, and to identify its tasks in the future. Mr. Innes noted that in the past the PC had mainly dealt with internal policy issues of IUFRO. However, in recent months and years, IUFRO has developed a stronger focus on external policy and enhanced its involvement in international processes. Mr. Innes highlighted the complementary roles of the PC and the Science Committee (SC). While the membership of the PC mainly reflected the regional coverage of IUFRO, the SC would ensure its scientific coverage. In the discussion that followed, the members of the PC identified five tasks of the PC in the future:

(i) Carry out the functions as assigned to the PC by the IUFRO Statutes;

The PC reaffirmed the main functions assigned to the PC by the IUFRO Internal Regulations (Section V – Board):

- 7.1.3.1 To review and guide the Task Forces agreed by the Board to be under the Policy Committee, as well as Special Programmes and Projects of the Union.
- 7.1.3.2 To assist the President in the participation and activities of international processes and intergovernmental organizations.
- 7.1.3.3 To elaborate position and state-of-knowledge papers of the Union for international processes and intergovernmental organizations.

(ii) Serve as the regional “eyes and ears of IUFRO”

It was stated that the PC should play an even stronger role in serving as the regional “eyes and ears of IUFRO”. For this purpose, it was suggested to invite General Board Members and representatives of IUFRO Chapters to report on the state of IUFRO in their respective regions on the occasion of future PC meetings. When preparing these reports, interaction should be sought with the members of the IUFRO International Council. Additional information should be provided by other PC members, in particular the IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC).

(iii) Identify key issues in international processes

It was noted in the discussion that there was considerable potential for IUFRO to add substance to the deliberations in international processes. Therefore, another task for the PC was to identify issues emerging in international processes that require scientific input and that could be communicated to the SC and addressed by IUFRO Units. Exemplary reference was made in this context to the issue of genetically modified trees that had emerged during the recent 8th

Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Secretariat was requested to inform the PC about the agendas of relevant upcoming international meetings.

(iv) Review IUFRO position papers

The PC also discussed how to ensure that “position papers” prepared by IUFRO do correspond with regional positions of IUFRO. It was stated that because of its regional membership the PC was well-positioned to review position papers. Reference was also made in the discussion to the existing “Guidelines for IUFRO Statements and Information as Part of International Meetings or Processes”¹.

(v) Help with the maintenance of scientific standards in the collaborative work of IUFRO

Experiences gained in the past had indicated that there was room for improvement of the scientific standards applied to the collaborative work of IUFRO. The PC, together with the SC, should therefore also consider ways and means to promote scientific standards and to help those who do not meet these standards to reach them. At the same time, the PC acknowledged the difficulty of ensuring the scientific quality of IUFRO Conferences per se. Rather, the quality of the outputs of these meetings would have to be assessed, e.g. by going through peer review before publication in international journals. The PC noted that this issue was closely linked to the work of the Publications Committee. The Publications Committee was therefore encouraged to discuss ways to promote the scientific quality of IUFRO publications.

4. Special Programmes and Projects – Reports and outlook

Documents:

- EB 05/2006 Doc 8.1 “Report of the Coordinator of IUFRO-SPDC”
- EB 05/2006 Doc 8.2 “Report of the Coordinator of the SilvaVoc Terminology Project”
- EB 05/2006 Doc 8.3 “Report of the Coordinator of IUFRO-WFSE”
- EB 05/2006 Doc 8.4 “Report of the Coordinator of the GFIS Management Unit”

All documents available on Internet

Special Programme for Developing Countries

Mr. Michael Kleine (Coordinator, IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries) highlighted the four pre-Congress Training Courses convened in August 2005 in Australia as a key activity of IUFRO-SPDC in the year 2005. The topics of these training courses had reflected the thematic priorities in the work of IUFRO-SPDC during the past three years: (i) information and communication technology; (ii) communicating forest science; (iii) international forest policy and science policy interface, and (iv) criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Mr. Kleine pointed out that several IUFRO member organizations had contributed to these courses in kind. This clearly underlines the willingness of IUFRO members to transfer their own experiences to partners in developing countries. Mr. Kleine stressed that IUFRO-SPDC continued to struggle with a severe lack of funds which would make it impossible to meet the high demand for training activities expressed by forest scientists and research institutions in developing countries. According to this demand IUFRO-SPDC has been requested to implement

¹ See <http://www.iufro.org/discover/working/>

a total of eight courses involving some 150 participants.

Special Project “World Forests, Society and Environment”

Mr. Gerardo Mery (Coordinator, Special Project “World Forests, Society and Environment”) stated that the activities of the Special Project “World Forests, Society and Environment” in the year 2006 focused on two main tasks, namely the completion of pending tasks and the planning for the years 2007 and 2008. Pending tasks included the publication of summaries of each chapter of the WFSE in three languages (English, Spanish and French) in PowerPoint format and on CD-Rom, and the publication of an evaluation article on WFSE’s first phase in the second semester of 2006. A Steering Committee meeting would be held in May 2006 in Helsinki, Finland, to discuss the working plan of WFSE for the period 2006-2010 and to set up an agreement on the specific cooperation provided by each partner. Furthermore, IUFRO-WFSE was planning to deliver a regional review in Spanish language at the 2nd IUFRO Latin American Congress (II IUFROLAT) and to contribute to the pre-Congress training event organized by IUFRO-SPDC and the Task Force on the Forest Science-Policy Interface.

In the discussion that followed, the importance of a close communication between IUFRO-WFSE and IUFRO was underlined.

Action:

- The IUFRO-WFSE Coordinator to inform the Vice-President Policy and the Secretariat about the results of the Steering Committee meeting in May 2006.

SilvaVoc Terminology Project

Ms. Renate Prüller (Coordinator, IUFRO SilvaVoc Terminology Project) communicated that the the SilvaVoc Terminology Project had been able to restart its activities after a project on “Forest and Climate Change - A multilingual terminology enhancing collaborative work in an e-learning environment” had successfully been submitted to the Austrian National Bank. The project studies the generic concept of forest health and aims to develop a conceptual tree of forest health and related terms and to set up an e-learning website. The results from this 18-month project will be incorporated into the terminology database and linked to the SilvaVoc website. Ms. Prüller is currently also working on up-dating and refining the multilingual terminology database. In this context, she proposed to the PC to remove the database from the IUFRO website for a period of three to four months and to put it on-line again once it has been redesigned graphically and new terms and definitions have been entered into it.

In the discussion it was stated that putting off-line the SilvaTerm database was an operational decision that should be taken by the Headquarters. However, the PC would have a role in providing thematic guidance to the SilvaVoc Terminology Project. The demand for definition was increasing on a number of emerging key issues at both the regional and global levels. Reference was made to bioenergy; carbon sequestration; forest law enforcement, governance and trade (FLEGT); and water.

Global Forest Information Service

On behalf of Mr. Eero Mikkola (Coordinator, GFIS Management Unit), Mr. Peter Mayer (IUFRO Executive Director) provided a brief summary of the joint CPF Initiative “Global Forest

Information Service” (GFIS). He called upon the PC members to promote GFIS within their constituencies and to encourage their respective institutions to become GFIS information providers.

Outlook on IUFRO Programmes and Projects

On behalf of all Special Programmes and Projects, Mr. Kleine once again pointed out the need to secure long-term financing for their activities, including operations and infrastructure. He then communicated that a partnership agreement had been established between IUFRO and the government of Finland. According to this partnership agreement, funding would be provided for an agreed set of activities for a period of three to five years. Mr. Kleine pointed out that EB members had played an instrumental role in building support for this strategic partnership. He noted that the partnership with Finland could serve as a role model for strategic partnerships also with other governments. He then proposed to the PC to give the following recommendation to the Board:

Recommendation to the Board:

- In recognizing the crucial role that EB members can play in building support among decision makers of the national and international donor communities, the Board urges its members to explore such opportunities and facilitate – in close coordination with the MC and the Programmes and Projects – the initiation and negotiation of strategic partnerships between IUFRO and donor agencies

The recommendation was accepted by the PC.

5. Roles and responsibilities of General Board Members – How to promote regional, gender and scientific balance?

Document: PC 05/2006 Doc 5.1 “Terms of Reference – General Board Members”- on Internet

The PC members agreed that there was a need to increase diversification in IUFRO in terms of age, gender, regional involvement and scientific disciplines. Therefore, PC members should play an active role in promoting IUFRO within their respective regions, countries and institutions, and among young scientists and students. It was also acknowledged in the discussion that the lack of capacity and funding continued to be a major barrier for more active participation of scientists and research institutions from developing countries in IUFRO. In this context, the important role of IUFRO-SPDC for capacity development was underlined. It was also advocated that IUFRO should develop a stronger focus on social science in IUFRO. Often, donors would be less interested in technical issues than in solving social conflicts arising from wrong forest management.

A number of actions were proposed to achieve in IUFRO a better balance in terms of scientific disciplines, regional involvement, gender, and age. These include: organizing special scientific meetings for young scientist; giving continued preference to female and younger scientists in the IUFRO Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP); and collaborating actively with the International

Forestry Students' Association (IFSA); and involving students in training activities of IUFRO-SPDC. As a result of the discussion, the following actions were agreed upon:

Actions:

- PC members to send to the Vice-President Policy additional proposals on how to promote the regional, gender, age and scientific balance of IUFRO
- On this basis, the PC to prepare a paper for the 2007 Enlarged Board Meeting on how to promote the regional, gender, age and scientific balance of IUFRO

It was also pointed out in the discussion that increasing the diversification in IUFRO requires close collaboration with and action by the Science Committee. Therefore, the PC agreed on the following recommendation:

Recommendation to the SC:

- To consider ways and means of facilitating the involvement of young people as officeholders in IUFRO.

6. Proposals for new Task Forces

Documents:

- *Task Force Communicating Forest Science*
- *IUFRO Task Force "Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade – The Contribution of Science to Combat Illegal Logging" – Terms of Reference and Status Report*
- *Proposed IUFRO Task Force on Forests and Human Well Being*
- *IUFRO Task Force on the Forest Science-Policy Interface*
- *IUFRO Task Force: Forests and Water*

All documents tabled at the meeting

Mr. Innes stated that five Task Forces had been invited to give presentations at the PC meeting. He reminded the PC members that the Task Forces on Communicating Forest Science as well as Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade had been approved by the Board already at the 2005 EB Meeting in Brisbane.

Communicating Forest Science

Ms. Daniela Kleinschmit (Task Force Coordinator) informed the PC members about the activities of the Task Force "Communicating Forest Science" and next steps ahead. Already at the Brisbane Congress, the Task Force "Communicating Forest Science" had surveyed the communication behaviour of forest scientists participating in the Congress. Following data interpretation of this survey, a second detailed on-line survey will be sent to IUFRO Units and Board members dealing with subjects influencing communication. The results of the survey and improvement opportunities will then be presented to, and discussed by the IUFRO Board, IUFRO Working Group leaders and their deputies in a seminar. These officeholders should act as multipliers and spread the information within IUFRO. The Task Force also plans to hold an international congress which aims at putting into practice the theoretical and empirical knowledge gained by the Task Force. Ms. Kleinschmit pointed out that the Task Force was

seeking close collaboration also with the Task Force on the Forest-Science Policy Interface.

In the discussion, the importance of skills for communication of forest scientists in particular with policy and decision makers was pointed out. While not all scientists may necessarily require these communication skills, all of them should be aware of somebody who has these skills. The Task Forces on the Forest Science-Policy Interface and on Forests and Water, as well as the Special Programme for Developing Countries underlined the relevance of the work of the Task Force for their activities.

Recommendation to the Board:

- To confirm the establishment of the Task Force on Communicating Forest Science as described in the work plan presented to the PC.

Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

Mr. Andreas Ottitsch (Task Force Coordinator) stated that the Task Force had been established in response to the need for unbiased information related to illegal logging and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). The Task Force aims to gather and analyse existing information on relevant activities of IUFRO and its members. It will address three main topics structured along the main elements of the FLEG(T) processes: forest law enforcement; governance; trade. Current activities aimed at achieving a good regional representation in the Task Force and at raising necessary funds.

In the discussion, linkages and potential overlaps of the work of the Task Force with the activities of Research Groups 6.12.00 (Forest Policy and Governance) and 6.13.00 (Forest Law and Environmental Legislation) were pointed out. Also, it was recommended to the Task Force to make its title more specific by including the terms “illegal logging”. It was felt that including non-wood goods and service would over-expand the scope of the Task Force. Reference was also made in the discussion to on-going work of the WWF International, IUCN and ITTO that should be considered by the Task Force.

Recommendation to the Board:

- To confirm the establishment of the Task Force on Illegal Logging and FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) with the request to collaborate closely with Research Groups 6.12.00 (Forest Policy and Governance) and 6.13.00 (Forest Law and Environmental Legislation).

Forests and Human Well-Being

Mr. Innes informed the PC members that draft Terms of Reference for the proposed new Task Force on Forests and Human Well-Being had been submitted to the PC by Ms. Carol J. Pierce Colfer (proposed Task Force Coordinator). He communicated the regrets of Ms. Colfer for not being able to attend the PC meeting. Mr. Innes explained that the proposed title reflected the intention of the Task Force to focus on human well-being in and around forests, rather than using a poverty-related designation. He underlined the relevance of the planned Task Force also for policy makers in the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

Several PC members noted that the Task Force title should be made more specific, e.g. by making reference to rural livelihood. It was also stated that the Task Force should focus more strongly on conditions that constrain rural livelihood, and identify related key questions that needed to be resolved at the governmental, intergovernmental and grassroot level. The discussion resulted in the following recommendation to the Board:

Recommendation to the Board:

- To approve the establishment of the Task Force as described in the Terms of Reference presented to the PC and with the changes suggested by the PC.

Forest Science-Policy Interface

Mr. Richard Guldin (Task Force Coordinator) presented a proposal for continuation of the Task Force on the Forest Science-Policy Interface in the current Board period with a changed focus. The mission of the Task Force would be to increase the capacity of scientists who are part of the IUFRO network so that they are better able to inform forest policy-making processes. Mr. Guldin stated that the Task Force was currently looking for individuals who wish to join the Task Force and contribute to its work. In acknowledging the close linkage between the work of the Task Force and IUFRO-SPDC, Mr. Guldin invited the IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator to become a member of the Task Force.

It was stated in the discussion that the Task Force had succeeded in the past Board period in gathering and analysing practical experiences with working at the science-policy interface. As a next step, it would be important to gather and assess the state of social science knowledge about the science-policy interface, and on that basis, contribute to capacity development. The PC agreed to give the following recommendation to the Board:

Recommendation to the Board:

- To approve the continuation of the Task Force on the Forest Science-Policy Interface as described in the Terms of Reference presented to the PC and with changes suggested by the PC.

Forests and water

Mr. Ian Calder (proposed Task Force Coordinator) presented the Terms of Reference of the proposed new Task Force “Forests and Water”. The aim of the Task Force would be to provide an overview of the key forest and water issues, and highlight those issues that remain poorly understood. Also, it would aim to identify ranges of uncertainty associated with these issues. A key aspect of the work of the Task Force would also be to develop improved mechanisms for communication of forest-water issues to policy makers. The membership would consist of a small international core group involving forest hydrologists, policy makers and economists. Those who are interested in wider issues could participate in a larger network of contributing members. Mr. Calder then demonstrated a web-based GIS tool developed to show the impacts of changing forest cover on evaporation and stream flow of a catchments area. The model also considers socio-economic impacts in terms of employment opportunities and production values. It could serve as a demonstration tool for policy makers.

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the scope of the proposed Task Force activities was too broad. It was therefore recommended to focus on issues of particular relevance to policy makers, such as flood prevention and drinking water and to amend the Terms of Reference accordingly. When addressing these issues, the Task Force should also involve scientists dealing with policy science and economics. Also the involvement of non-forest-service engineers was recommended in the discussion. Finally, it was suggested to change the title as follows “Forests and Water Interactions”. The PC gave the following recommendation to the Board:

Recommendation to the Board:

- To approve the establishment of the Task Force on Forests and Water as described in the Terms of Reference presented to the PC and with changes suggested by the PC.

7. IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010 – Matters of special interest to the Policy Committee and next steps in implementation

Document: EB 05/2006 Doc 9.1 “IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010 – Final draft” – on Internet

Mr. Innes presented to the PC those actions included in the draft IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010 that are of particular interest to the PC. He stated that seven out of the thirty actions for implementation included in the draft Strategy list the PC as an actor.

The subsequent discussion of the PC focused on Actions 1 and 28 of the draft Strategy. With regard to Action 1 (“Identify key issues relevant to scientists and research institutions as well as to policy- and decision-makers, practitioners, stakeholders and donors, including the consideration of emerging issues and changing paradigms”), a number of suggestions were made regarding mechanisms for identification of key issues. For example, it was suggested to organize special meetings for a sub-section of the PC or Board with the task to provide foresight on key issues. It was also proposed to establish a forum that would allow donors to express their priorities. Mr. Innes invited the PC members to communicate additional proposals to the Secretariat:

Action:

- PC members to send to the Secretariat additional proposals on how to implement Action 1 of the draft IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010.

Regarding Action 28 (“In collaboration with CIFOR and ICRAF, establish a joint initiative on science and technology in support of UNFF by assessing available information and producing reports on forest-related issues of high concern to UNFF”), Mr. Mayer reported that the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) had welcomed at its sixth session held in February 2006 the the establishment of a joint initiative on science and technology by IUFRO, CIFOR and ICRAF². Such an activity could be organized in the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. Complementary to Mr. Mayer’s report, Mr. Innes noted that scientific advisory mechanisms had been established e.g. also by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through its Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He stated that there

² See paragraph 23 of the draft resolution agreed at UNFF-6; <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>

was an opportunity for IUFRO to provide independent scientific assessment and reports not only to the UNFF, but also to other international processes, in particular the CBD. In the discussion, it was pointed out that the joint initiative should provide an effective mechanism for IUFRO to provide scientific information to policy makers. It was also acknowledged that at this point it was important for IUFRO to further develop the initiative together with its partners in the CPF, CIFOR and ICRAF. At a later stage it would be important to also involve other international and regional science organizations. As a result of the discussion, the PC agreed on the following recommendation to the Board:

Recommendation to the Board:

- IUFRO, in its global capacity, and through its Policy Committee and the IUFRO Secretariat, to explore with CIFOR, ICRAF and other organizations potential collaboration towards the establishment of a joint initiative on science and technology in support of international processes.

8. Joint IUFRO, CIFOR, ICRAF Initiative on science and technology in support of UNFF – possible approaches

Agenda item 8 was covered by the discussion on Action 28 of the draft IUFRO Strategy 2006-2010 under agenda item 7 (see above).

9. International cooperation, including:

Document: EB 05/2006 Doc 12.1 “Overview of IUFRO representation in international processes” – available on Internet

Mr. Peter Mayer gave an overview of IUFRO’s involvement in international processes. He stated that IUFRO continued to play an active role in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the UNFF. He noted that the participation of IUFRO in the sixth session of UNFF had a positive impact on the science-related decisions taken by the UNFF. IUFRO was also represented in the CBD and contributed to its work through participation in the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSSTA) and in ad hoc Technical Expert Groups. Furthermore, IUFRO had been involved in a number of activities at the regional level and had continued its collaboration with international organizations, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Mr. Alexander Buck (Deputy Executive Director) briefly summarized past and upcoming contributions of IUFRO to the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.

Mr. Mayer also communicated that a file with the names of IUFRO representatives in international meetings, and the reports on these meetings would be made available at the IUFRO website to IUFRO Enlarged Board Members shortly. In this context, he asked the PC members to send reports on international meetings to the IUFRO Secretariat so that they could be included in the on-line file.

Action:

- PC members to send reports on international meetings to the Secretariat.

It was stated in the discussion that there was a significant potential for IUFRO to address key issues emerging in international processes. Reference was made to the four global objectives on forests agreed by the UNFF and the issue of genetically modified trees that had emerged in the deliberations of the CBD. As a result of its discussion, the PC agreed on the following action:

Action:

- The PC to develop, by the 2007 Board meeting, recommendations on how best to address key issues identified by international processes.

10. Upcoming meetings and regional cooperation

Documents:

- *EB 05/2006 Doc 13.1 “II Latin American IUFRO Congress – General information”*
 - *EB 05/2006 Doc 13.2 “Terms of Reference for a IUFRO Regional Office for Asia”*
- Both documents available on Internet*

2nd IUFRO Latin America Congress

Mr. Innes reminded the PC members that expression of interest in hosting the 2nd IUFRO Latin America Congress (II IUFROLAT) had been expressed by Brazil and Chile. He stated that experiences gained when selecting the host of II IUFROLAT had demonstrated the need for clear selection guidelines and an approval mechanism for regional IUFRO congresses. Taking into account these experiences, the PC agreed on the following action:

Action:

- The PC to prepare by the 2007 Board meeting selection guidelines and an approval mechanism for IUFRO Regional Congresses.

Mr. Innes also communicated that the organizers had encouraged strong participation of EB members in the II IUFROLAT and their active contribution to its scientific programme. The Congress will be held in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Terms of Reference for a IUFRO Regional Office for Asia

Mr. Innes communicated that the document “Terms of Reference for a IUFRO Regional Office for Asia” had resulted from consultations among the members of the Management Committee following an initial proposal made by the President. He stated that regional offices could provide an additional mechanism to promote IUFRO in a particular region with funding provided by a host country/institution. He pointed out that the regional offices should not at all replace existing regional networks, but rather work with them. He also brought to the attention of the PC that a specific proposal has been made by the President to set up a regional office for Asia in Korea. Others regional offices could be set up as opportunities arise.

In the discussion, it was acknowledged that there was an opportunity for the IUFRO President to promote IUFRO in the Asian region and to raise funds from Korean sources for this purpose. It

was stated that, for example, in China there were more than one thousand institutions related to forests, and that only a minor fraction of these were IUFRO members. Also potential benefits of decentralization could be achieved by means of regional offices, whereas the relation to existing IUFRO Chapters and regional networks would have to be taken into account.

At the same time, experiences gained by other international organizations had demonstrated a number of potential complications may arise from the establishment of regional offices. It was stated that administrating regional offices could create a significant administrative burden for the IUFRO Headquarters. Furthermore, the establishment of regional offices may require the provision of additional financial resources by IUFRO. Difficulties may also arise with regard to supervision and representation.

As a result of the discussion, it was agreed to report the considerations of the PC concerning the pros and cons of establishing IUFRO regional offices to the Enlarged Board.

IUFRO Regional European Conference 2007

Mr. Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz (General Board Member) communicated that the Faculty of Forestry at the Warsaw Agricultural University, Poland, had submitted an offer to host the IUFRO Regional European Conference in September 2007. More detailed information would be provided by the end of May 2006.

11. Evaluation of the meeting and other items

Mr. Victor Teplyakov (General Board Members) announced that the 13th Conference of the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) titled “New Challenges in Management of Boreal Forests” will take place on 28-30 August 2006 in Umea, Sweden. Further information about the conference can be found at www.ibfra.org.

In evaluating the PC meeting itself, Mr. Gerald Steindlegger (WWF International) noted that there was a high degree of similarity in the issues dealt with by WWF International and IUFRO. He underlined that all new IUFRO Task Forces would tackle issues of high relevance to policy makers and stakeholders. Regarding the work of IUFRO in the future, Mr. Steindlegger pointed out that experiences gained by WWF International had demonstrated the importance of close communication with donors and the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

12. Closure of the meeting

Mr. Innes thanked the members of the PC for their active participation and the substantive discussion. He noted that the results and recommendations of the PC meeting would be brought to the attention of the IUFRO Enlarged Board. He then closed the meeting.

Annex: List of participants

PC Members

John Innes	Vice-President Policy, Chair
Don Koo Lee	President
Risto Seppälä	Immediate Past President
Peter Mayer	Executive Director
Mohammed Ellatifi	General Board Member
Su See Lee	General Board Member
Tohru Nakashizuka	General Board Member
Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz	General Board Member
Shirong Liu	General Board Member
Heinrich Spiecker	General Board Member
Victor K. Teplyakov	General Board Member

Invited participants

Renate Prüller	SilvaVoc Coordinator
Michael Kleine	IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator
Gerardo Mery	IUFRO-WFSE Coordinator
Daniela Kleinschmit	Task Force Coordinator
Andreas Ottitsch	Task Force Coordinator
Richard Guldin	Task Force Coordinator
Ian Calder	Task Force Coordinator
Alexander Buck	Deputy Executive Secretary (Meeting minutes)
Nina Stephan	IFSA Vice-President
Gerald Steindlegger	WWF International

Headquarters - Staff

Margareta Khorchidi	IUFRO-SPDC
Eva-Maria Schimpf	IUFRO-SPDC