



Interconnecting Forests,
Science and People

125th Anniversary
Congress 2017

Congress Newsletter 01/2016

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- **4 April 2016**
Call for Session Proposals
- **15 June 2016**
Deadline Call for Session Proposals
- **1 September 2016**
Call for Abstracts
- **15 November 2016**
Deadline Call for Abstracts
- **January 2017**
Start Registration
- **March 2017**
Deadline Early Registration
- **19–22 September 2017**
125th Anniversary Congress 2017

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1) Invitation by the IUFRO President Prof. Michael J. Wingfield

Warm greetings from Pretoria,
South Africa!

On behalf of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, it is my great pleasure to invite you to attend the **IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress**, which will take place at the *Konzerthaus* in Freiburg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, from **19 to 22 September 2017**.

IUFRO prides itself on being one of the world's oldest international scientific organizations. When IUFRO was established in 1892 by the forestry research institutes of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, these founding members shared the conviction that scientific research needed to be an international activity. Almost 125 years later, we are able to state with pride that this vision of our founding members has not only materialized, but has achieved a level I am sure they would not have dreamed possible. Today IUFRO unites over 15,000 scientists in more than 120 countries from virtually every part of the world. The thematic spectrum of IUFRO's activities is equally unparalleled and includes more than 250 scientific units. The unique qualities of IUFRO as a networking organization are also well-reflected through the more than 70 IUFRO-sponsored meetings held every year around the globe.



Prof. Michael J. Wingfield

Our 125th Anniversary Congress in Freiburg will not only celebrate the accomplishments of the past. It will also establish a dialogue on the future of forestry and forest research. These discussions will focus on globally pressing topics such as how to enhance the contribution forest research will need to make towards mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, providing water, creating income and employment, and improving the quality of life. Issues such as how changes and disruptions in society and technologies are likely to impact on forests and people in the future will also be discussed.

I can think of no better way to celebrate the past accomplishments and address the future challenges that will face IUFRO and its global partners than by holding a truly international

scientific meeting. And this will be a meeting that brings together not only forest scientists from around the globe but also leading decision makers from the forestry, environment, development and other key sectors. In doing so, the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress aims to provide a platform for the exchange of scientific knowledge and a dialogue across the full range of forest-related topics and scientific disciplines. Contemporary research results and innovations will be presented and discussed in numerous plenary, sub-plenary, technical and poster sessions. A science-policy dialogue will constitute an integral part of the event. Moreover, because this is an Anniversary Congress, there will be outstanding social events that will provide opportunities for relaxed discussion and, importantly, to initiate new collaboration and develop friendships.

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2) The motto behind the congress

The year 2017 marks 125 years since the forest research institutes of the states of Germany — which, at the time, included the research institute in Alsace-Lorraine — and of Austria and Switzerland founded the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) in 1892 to promote international cooperation in forest research.

As 2017 also marks a point midway in the current IUFRO Strategy 2015- 2019, for the 125th Anniversary Congress we continue under the motto ***Interconnecting Forests, Science and People.***

Against this background, I extend a hearty invitation not only to the many forest scientists and stakeholders that constitute our global network, but I also encourage researchers from other disciplines who have not yet been involved in IUFRO, to attend this important Congress. Join us in Freiburg and witness first-hand the unique qualities of our network and the many opportunities it provides to more than 15 000 forest researchers globally.

I look forward to seeing you in fabulous Freiburg in September 2017!

This motto places the needs of people at the forefront of forest research endeavors and the networking activities of IUFRO. Today, when the scale of socio-economic, demographic and environmental changes are unprecedented, the IUFRO network plays a critical role in interconnecting forests, science and people to address the complex challenges facing the planet and its people.

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Freiburg is located on the foot of the famous Black Forest mountain range, one of the most important forest regions in Germany. Image credits: FVA/Gössl

3) Call for Sessions open

Session proposals may be submitted anytime from **4 April 2016** through to the deadline on **15 June 2016**. The submission process will be administered online at www.iufro2017.com, where you can find full information on submission.

In keeping with the congress title we invite proposals highlighting forest and forest-related research that contributes to science-based solutions for the benefit of forests and people worldwide. The following key questions, drawn from each of the five themes outlined in the current IUFRO Strategy, guide the congress program:

1. How can the role of forests for people's livelihoods and quality of life be improved, and what contribution could forest restoration make?
2. How can forests play a greater role in carbon sequestering and simultaneously become more resilient to climatic changes?
3. What role can forests play in the emerging bio-economy, and how can their true value be recognized?
4. How can biodiversity loss and biological invasions be effectively addressed?
5. How do trees, soil and water interact in forest ecosystems, and what role can forests play in enhancing the provision of freshwater?

This congress provides a platform for the exchange of science knowledge across the full range of forest and forest-related topics and scientific disciplines. Thus, equally, in recognition that forests need to be seen in connection with other environmental and human sys-

tems, the CSC welcomes session proposals highlighting innovative research and interdisciplinary research approaches of relevance to forests. Moreover, sessions focusing on the transfer of scientific knowledge on critical global forest-related challenges to national and international political agendas are especially encouraged.

All scientists with an interest in advancing forest-related science knowledge through international networking are invited to submit proposals. IUFRO members and Units (Divisions, Research Groups and Working Parties, Task Forces) are strongly encouraged to submit proposals. We also invite relevant proposals from individuals or organizations not formally associated with IUFRO. In particular, submissions from young scientists and university students at all levels are encouraged.

Session organizers should receive notification of the acceptance of their proposed session by **mid-August 2016**.

For more information and answers to questions, please contact the Chair of the Scientific Committee:

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The next issue of this newsletter will be sent in July 2016. There we will inform you about:

- The Congress Schedule
- The Congress Venue
- Planning developments

We invite you to spread this newsletter widely among your colleagues and friends!

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If you'd rather not receive e-mail updates about the 125th Anniversary Congress, please send a mail with subject „Unsubscribe“ to IUFRO2017@forst.bwl.de

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