

IUFRO WORLD DAY - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

Concept Note, 26 April 2021

Introduction and basic facts

Large physical meetings are still not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is also why the IUFRO Regional Congress in Russia scheduled for this September had to be postponed to 2022. To fill this gap and cater for the need of strengthening networking and communication in IUFRO, a worldwide digital IUFRO event will be organized at the end of September 2021.

Name of the event:

IUFRO WORLD DAY - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

Date:

28-29 September 2021 – after the 60th IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting (22-24 September 2021)

Note: This will be a '24-hours event' and therefore needs to be organized over two days to enable a convenient time schedule for all participants.

Note: 28 September 2021 is the International Day for Universal Access to Information ([A/RES/74/5](#)) [[UNESCO 38 C/70](#)].

Main goals:

In line with the IUFRO communication strategy the event aims to:

- Strengthen the IUFRO network by creating a momentum for active networking and interaction despite the COVID-19 restrictions;
- Emphasize diversity in IUFRO by offering IUFRO units and members the opportunity to showcase themselves;
- Raise interest in IUFRO (with a view to recruiting new members and officeholders); and
- Make a policy impact.

Target audiences:

- IUFRO officeholders and other researchers at IUFRO Member Organizations
- Researchers at non-Member Organizations
- Students and early-career scientists
- Policy and decision makers

Three core program elements:

- 1) **Interactive globe/map** as a tool to make live and static program elements visible: decentralized bottom-up organization of live events and provision of static content from IUFRO Units and Member Organizations;
- 2) **Networking sessions** (centralized organization/live events) – 'About IUFRO', including a special youth component;
- 3) **Science-informs-policy forums** (centralized organization/live events) – to attract policymakers

CORE PROGRAM ELEMENT #1: Interactive globe/world map

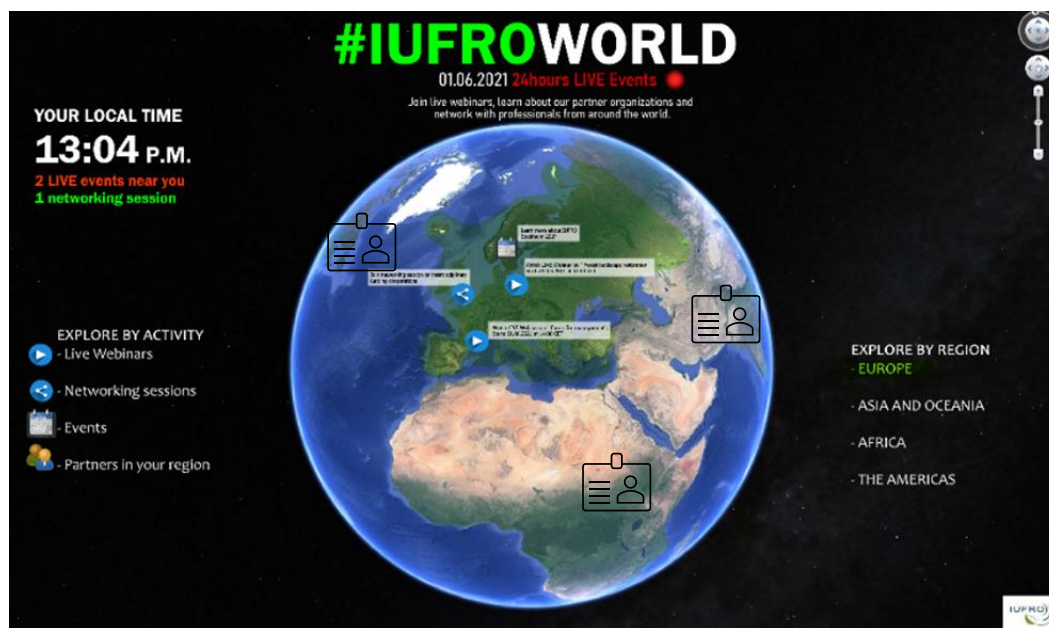
Idea and aim:

A simple and intuitive webpage featuring the world map will serve as the **backbone of the event**. It serves to make all the different inputs and content from the IUFRO Network - **live events and static content organized and/or provided by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations** - visible (they would be pinned on the globe/map) and accessible to the visitors throughout the event.

The visitors (participants of the event) can explore the world map and all its content at their own pace and at any time during the 24-hours event. The content of the globe/map can be made available after the event (recordings of the past live events can be pinned on the globe/map, for example).

The overall objective is to showcase the diversity of the IUFRO Network, including the thematic scientific contents across the various IUFRO Units as well as the wide spectrum of IUFRO Member Organizations, to facilitate networking and to enhance communication and outreach.

The globe/map not only provides a framework for a bottom-up approach by **IUFRO Units** (Divisions, Research Groups and Working Parties; Task Forces; Special Programmes & Projects) and **Member Organizations** to showcase themselves and their work, but also for the **centrally organized elements** (About IUFRO/involving youth, and science-informs-policy forums). All input and content (both live events and static information) will be displayed on the globe/map as well as described in the detailed timetables.



(example of proposed visualization)



Three time zone groups:

To enable participants from all over the world to take part in their own time zones, the event will be structured into three major time zone groups (taking into account the summer/wintertime changes on the proposed event dates):

- 1) **UTC-10 to UTC-3 (North America and South America)**
 - 8am-16pm (Anchorage)
 - 9am-17pm (Vancouver; Oregon)
 - 10am-18pm (Alberta; Denver; Montana; San José) center of the time zone*
 - 11am-19pm (Bogotá; Lima; Mexico City)
 - 12noon-20pm (Washington D.C.; New York; San Juan)
 - 13pm-21pm (Buenos Aires; Curitiba; Montevideo)
- 2) **UTC-2 to UTC+5 (Africa, Europe, Middle East)**
 - 8am-16pm (Accra; Dakar; Reykjavik)
 - 9am-17pm (London; Dublin)
 - 10am-18pm (Pretoria; Lilongwe; Harare) center of the time zone*
 - 11am-19pm (Addis Ababa; Doha; Moscow)
 - 12noon-20pm (Yerevan; Tbilisi; Dubai)
 - 13am-21pm (Dushanbe; Karachi; Tashkent)
- 3) **UTC+6 to UTC+13 (Asia, Asia-Pacific, Oceania) (On the next day!)**
 - 8:30am-16:30pm (Mumbai; New Delhi; Colombo)
 - 9am-17pm (Almaty; Bishkek)
 - 10am-18pm (Jakarta; Bangkok; Ho Chi Minh City)
 - 11am-19pm (Beijing; Kuala Lumpur; Manila; Perth)
 - 12noon-20pm (Tokyo; Seoul) center of the time zone*
 - 13pm-21pm (Brisbane; Sidney; Vladivostok)
 - 16pm-24pm (Auckland, Wellington)

Live sessions organized by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations (MOs):

All IUFRO Units (Divisions, Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects) are invited to organize live sessions during the event. Units will have 15-minute timeslots shown in the timetable, but all sessions can carry on with a chatroom or networking after the designated 15 minutes. Every 15 minutes a new event by another unit will start. Units that do not wish to organize live sessions can submit pre-recorded content to fill up these 15 minutes. All live sessions and pre-recorded sessions will be shown in a separate table for each of the three time zone groups mentioned above.

Divisions:

In order to get quality rather than quantity and ensure a balanced representation of Units, there will be three times 18 timeslots available for all nine Divisions, meaning that **each Division will have two timeslots (15 min + 15 min) in each of the three time zone groups – i.e. 1.5 hours in total**.

- Division Coordinators shall solicit session proposals from their Research Groups and Working Parties and ensure balanced distribution of sessions across the three time zone groups.
- Division Coordinators shall provide the final session selection to HQ/IUFRO World Day project manager.
- Joint sessions of Units within a Division or across Divisions and Task Forces are encouraged.

Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects:

Each TF and SPP will have **one slot (15 minutes) in their preferred time zone group**; free time slots could be allocated upon further request.

Member Organizations (MOs)

For Member Organizations that wish to organize a live event **one slot (15 minutes) in their preferred time zone group** will be available; free time slots could be allocated upon further request.

Example of timetable in one time zone group (in total there will be three such timetables):

The events by units are randomly allocated in this example. It is suggested to organize live sessions in parallel streams: Divisions / all other units / Member Organizations. In addition, there will be centrally organized networking sessions and policy forums (in total 3.5 hours) that are carved out in the middle of the timetable.

	Divisions	Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects	Member Organizations (MO)
10:00	Event by a Unit in Division 1	Event by a Task Force #1	Event by a Member Organization
10:15	Event by a Unit in Division 1	Event by a Task Force #2	Event by a Member Organization
10:30	Event by a Unit in Division 2	Event by a Task Force #3	Event by a Member Organization
10:45	Event by a Unit in Division 2	Event by a Task Force #4	Event by a Member Organization
11:00	Event by a Unit in Division 3	Event by a Task Force #5	Event by a Member Organization
11:15	Event by a Unit in Division 3	Event by a Task Force #6	Event by a Member Organization
11:30	Event by a Unit in Division 4	Event by a Task Force #7	Event by a Member Organization
11:45	Event by a Unit in Division 4	Event by a Task Force #8	Event by a Member Organization
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Core element #2 (Networking sessions)</i>		
14:00 – 15:30	<i>Core element #3 (Science-informs-policy forums)</i>		
15:30	Event by a Unit in Division 5	Event by a Task Force #9	Event by a Member Organization
15:45	Event by a Unit in Division 5	<i>FREE SLOT</i>	Event by a Member Organization
16:00	Event by a Unit in Division 6	<i>FREE SLOT</i>	Event by a Member Organization
16:15	Event by a Unit in Division 6	<i>FREE SLOT</i>	Event by a Member Organization
16:30	Event by a Unit in Division 7	<i>FREE SLOT</i>	Event by a Member Organization
16:45	Event by a Unit in Division 7	Event by SPP (GFEP)	Event by a Member Organization
17:00	Event by a Unit in Division 8	Event by SPP (SPDC)	Event by a Member Organization
17:15	Event by a Unit in Division 8	Event by SPP (WFSE)	Event by a Member Organization
17:30	Event by a Unit in Division 9	Event by SPP (GFIS)	Event by a Member Organization
17:45	Event by a Unit in Division 9	Event by SPP (Director's Forum)	Event by a Member Organization
18:00	<i>Closing of the time zone group program</i>		

General structure of live events:

- **IUFRO Units/Member Organizations (MOs) can shape their sessions freely** (presentation of the work/research of Unit or MO and/or introduction of Unit and/or MO), keeping in mind that the most important information should be delivered within the first 15 minutes.
- Units/Member Organizations are encouraged to organize joint sessions.
- Each session should start with a 2 minutes' introduction.
- After 15 minutes the session participants could carry on in a breakout or chatroom if they wish to (e.g. for another 45 minutes) or move on to another session.
- Detailed session guidelines and a form (procedure) for session applications (requiring information on title, content, organizer/main contact person, keywords and possibly speakers) will be distributed in due time by HQ.
- **Sessions will be technically implemented by each Unit/MO.** General technical guidelines will be provided in due time by HQ.
- Live sessions should be recorded and made available for a certain time after the event.
- In case of need, pre-recorded sessions filling the allocated 15 min timeslot can be accepted.

Static content provided by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations:

- It is also possible to pin static information on the globe/map, including links, websites, presentations, videos, publications, tutorials etc.
- The content and input pinned on the globe/map will be organized in a systematic way to increase the user-friendliness and accessibility (e.g. by using different color-coding for various types of content).
- There will be a separate overview table of the contents on the globe/map (e.g. structured along thematic focus of units; by regions/types of members; filtered by the type of content).
- Guidelines and a form for the static information will be provided by IUFRO HQ in due time.

CORE PROGRAM ELEMENT #2: Networking session (one per time zone group)

The idea and aim:

The main goals of the three networking sessions (one per time zone group) are to 1) inform about IUFRO, 2) attract early career scientists, and 3) facilitate interaction and socializing.

The networking sessions will allow participants to:

- *Learn more about IUFRO and what it does;*
- *Find out how to get involved in Divisions, Task Forces, Special Projects and Programmes;*
- *Meet peers, make new acquaintances, talk with experienced scientists; and*
- *Share ideas about the future of forest research and emerging issues in regions.*

This element offers an opportunity to interact with the leadership (President, VPs, other Board Members) in an informal style and format. **Therefore, IUFRO Board members will be encouraged to be present in their preferred time zone groups.**

Duration and timing of sessions:

- All three sessions last for two hours each.
- They are organized in the “prime time” of each region (e.g. starting around 12:00 mid-region time).
- There is no overlap with other live events during the 2h (no live events by units or members).

Youth component, for example a competition on the most popular PhD presentation:

Such a competition could be one element of this session to attract early career scientists.

Structure and format of the sessions:

- Launch/presentation of the globe/map and guide to its contents (15 min) (live/recorded/both). *Note: Information on the globe/map will also be made available online beforehand.*
- Presentation about IUFRO (30 min) (live/recorded/both)
- Meet the IUFRO leadership (mentoring part) (55 min) (live only)
- Youth component (to be defined)
- Closing of the session (5 min)

During the 2-hour event, there will be **two breakout-rooms accessible to participants**:

- Coffee/tearoom for those who seek informal networking.
- Room with a digital pin-wall for sticky notes to collect ideas about the future of forest research and emerging issues in all three regions.

Participation will be free, but a registration system will be put in place by IUFRO Headquarters.

CORE PROGRAM ELEMENT #3: Science-informs-policy forums (3x)

Idea and aim:

- Making a policy impact.
- IUFRO as the global voice of forest research aims to make itself heard and listened to by decision-makers who shape policies related to climate change, the use of land and natural resources, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Keeping up with or ideally standing out from the numerous online voices competing for the attention of decision-makers. IUFRO strives to further increase the recognition and uptake of forest research in decision-making processes.

To reach these goals, the science/policy forums will seek to be:

- Highly relevant for regional and/or global policy makers;
- Clearly connected to climate change and development issues regionally and/or globally;
- Focused on new and promising approaches to regional issues, in particular; and
- Representative of the regions in terms of speakers and topics

Target audiences:

- Regional decision-makers (IUFRO Board members from regions should help to identify/invite)
- Global decision-makers
- Interested media representatives (IUFRO members should help to identify/invite)
- IUFRO scientific community
- Interested non-IUFRO scientists.

Topics:

The forums will focus on topics of relevance to the global discourses on climate change and sustainable development and take a people-centred approach.

Suitable topics will be identified by the IUFRO Management Committee and IUFRO Board Members acting as focal persons.

Duration and timing:

The forums will have a length of 1.5 hours maximum and will also be scheduled at the “prime time” of each region (see the timetable example above).

Speakers:

Together with the Management Committee and the focal persons for each region, speakers will be identified. For each of the three forums the group comprised of 3-4 renowned scientific experts, for example, and a moderator should be balanced in terms of gender, geography and age.

Output:

Each of the three sessions could, in addition to the recorded and maybe edited session, also produce a session summary and/or ‘policy brief’ for distribution among participants and decision-makers and publication and promotion on the IUFRO website.

Tentative timeline for program development

End of May 2021:

Deadline for receiving expression of interest forms

End of June 2021:

Deadline for receiving session/content proposals

End of July 2021:

Notification of session organizers/confirmation of time allocation

End of August 2021:

Finalization and publication of timetable and program elements



The graphic features two globes of Earth on a dark background. A white circular overlay in the center contains the following text:

IUFRO WORLD DAY
28-29 September 2021

Members of the global network will show and share forest-related research work, projects, news and more!

Come and get to know the world of

IUFRO
Intercconnecting
Forests, Science and People



On the right side of the graphic, a list of activities is shown:

- Three time zones
- Live sessions
- Presentations
- Networking
- All about IUFRO
- Science informs policy
- Meet officeholders