



## XXIV IUFRO World Congress

*“Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research”*

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA: October 5-11, 2014

### ***Call for Congress Session Proposals***

The Congress Scientific Committee invites submission of session proposals for the 2014 IUFRO Congress. In keeping with the spirit of the Congress title – *Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research* - the Congress Scientific Committee is developing a program that will highlight the contributions that forest science is making to address the significant environmental, social and economic challenges facing our world. The Congress program will reflect the forest science community’s diverse contributions across the full range of natural and social science disciplines, with special emphasis on key issues and research areas identified in IUFRO’s 2010-2014 Strategy.

Session proposals will be accepted that address one or more of the following Congress themes<sup>1</sup>:

- *Forests for People*
- *Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*
- *Forests and Climate Change*
- *Forest and Water Interactions*
- *Forest Biomass and Bioenergy*
- *Forests and Forest Products for a Greener Future*
- *Forest Health in a Changing World*

#### ***Who may submit a session proposal?***

All who share an interest in the future of forests and forest science session are invited to submit session proposals. We encourage proposals that involve collaboration between two or more IUFRO Divisions or Task Forces and/or with organizations not formally associated with IUFRO, and from university students at all levels. We strongly recommend IUFRO officeholders and others actively involved in IUFRO Research Groups, Working Parties, and Task Forces communicate with their respective Division representatives on the CSC (or Task Force coordinators) *before* submitting proposals – this will greatly facilitate broader involvement of IUFRO divisional units and Task Forces in the scientific program and avoid overlaps among sessions.

Session proposals from non-IUFRO member organizations are encouraged although preference will be given to those that are prepared jointly with IUFRO Divisional units and Task Forces (see <http://www.iufro.org/science/> for more information) – if assistance is needed to identify appropriate partners within IUFRO, please contact the CSC Chair or other members of the CSC.

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<sup>1</sup> A description of each of the Congress themes is attached.

### ***Preparing and submitting a session proposal.***

Proposals should be submitted between January and April, 2013, online at [www.iufro2014.com](http://www.iufro2014.com) using the **Session Proposal Form**. *Proposals will not be accepted after April 30<sup>th</sup>.*

In addition to providing basic information on session organizer(s), session title, alignment with Congress themes, and a short abstract of the session proposal, those submitting proposals should submit (online) a more complete proposal (as a Word document) that describes the session objectives and content in relation to Congress theme(s), proposed session format (i.e., presentation of individual papers and/or posters, moderated panel discussion, or other forms of presentation) and lists proposed speakers (if known), their organizational affiliations and tentative titles of their presentations. Proposed sessions should be organized to be 2-2½ hours in length. For sessions involving oral presentations, we recommend that each speaker be given a minimum of 15 minutes for his/her presentation.

Please note that the abstract submission process will be open to all, so session organizers may need to include papers or posters that were not originally proposed for their sessions. Please be aware of this possibility and the need for flexibility in designing your session<sup>2</sup>. In the event that the number of accepted abstracts for a particular session exceeds the number that can be accommodated in a single session, organizers may be given an additional session slot in the Congress program.

### ***Criteria for selection.***

Session proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by members of the Congress Scientific Committee with primary consideration given to their scientific quality and relevance to the Congress themes. Other factors that will be considered are: the involvement of two or more IUFRO units (Divisions, Task Forces, Research Groups and Working Parties) and/or non-IUFRO organizations; [geographic and gender] diversity of proposed session speakers/presenters; and the involvement of students and young scientists. Proposals will be evaluated as they are received, so we strongly encourage submissions well in advance of the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Acceptance decisions will be made no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. An open Call for Abstracts will be issued in July, with online abstract submission until October 15<sup>th</sup> and acceptance decisions until November 30<sup>th</sup> (2013)

### ***Responsibilities of session organizers.***

Session organizers of accepted proposals are expected to communicate with prospective presenters regarding submission of abstracts (online, from late July to mid-October 2013), and will be asked to review abstracts submitted for their sessions during the abstract review period (i.e., in late October to late November 2013). Session organizers may be asked to assist the CSC in the editing of accepted abstracts. They will also be responsible for moderating sessions (or assigning session moderation responsibilities) and are encouraged to pursue publication options for papers presented in their sessions.

Abstracts of papers and posters presented during the Congress will be published in a special volume of *The International Forestry Review*, as was done for the 2010 Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea. As

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<sup>2</sup> All oral and poster abstracts will be submitted online between July and October 2013. Individuals submitting abstracts will be asked to select the session(s) that their presentation is most relevant to. During the abstract review process by the CSC in October-November 2013, the allocation of accepted abstracts to specific sessions will be made (with some consultation with session organizers). The *final* program for all sessions will be determined only after the Congress registration deadline for presenters (in May 2014).

formal Congress proceedings with full papers will *not* be published, session organizers should explore alternative publication options (books, special issues of journals, etc.) for their sessions.

We look forward to hearing from you and for your active participation in the design of an excellent scientific program for the 2014 IUFRO Congress in Salt Lake City.

*The IUFRO 2014 Congress Scientific Committee*

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## ***2014 Congress themes***

Forests and trees provide a wide range of environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits to people in rural communities and urban centers worldwide. Their conservation and sustainable management are closely linked to globally important societal challenges related to environmental protection, sustainable economic development, food security, human health, water and energy resource provision, and climate change. The best available scientific knowledge is needed to effectively address these issues at multiple scales (locally, regionally and globally) and provide a strong basis for forest and forest landscape management practices and policy decisions. The scientific program for the IUFRO 2014 World Congress will bring together scientists of all ages, from throughout the world, across the full range of forest-related disciplines, who are engaged in research, education and application of science-based knowledge to address these challenges and meet the changing needs of our increasingly globalized society. The program will be organized along the following seven themes: *Forests for People, Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Forests and Climate Change, Forest and Water Interactions, Forest Biomass and Bioenergy, Forests and Forest Products for a Greener Future, and Forest Health in a Changing World.*

### ***Forests for People***

Forests, woodlands and agroforests play a vital role in the lives of people in both rural and urban communities, supporting livelihoods, food and energy security, human health and wellbeing, and culture. This theme, which focusses on social, cultural and economic aspects of the management and use of forest resources, covers a broad set of topics such as nature-based recreation and tourism, landscape planning and management, nature protection, community forest management, forest work, human health and wellbeing, urban forestry, forest ethics, forest history and culture, gender issues in forestry, rural development and community wellbeing. Congress sessions within this theme will explore the linkages between human wellbeing and quality of life related to the environmental, economic and social goods and services provided by forests both for urban and rural populations. They will also examine the roles of policy, planning, forest governance, formal and traditional knowledge, communication, education and training in the maintenance, enhancement, valuation and optimization of benefits derived from forest ecosystems and forest products and services to people at local, regional and broader spatial scales.

### ***Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services***

The conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity (at genetic, species and ecosystem levels) is fundamental to the maintenance of forest regulating and habitat services responsible for provision of the environmental, economic, social and cultural goods and services that people in both rural and urban communities depend on. Addressing the threats to forest biodiversity – including deforestation, forest fragmentation and degradation, unsustainable use, alien invasive species, and climate change - requires a more profound scientific understanding of the role of biodiversity in the provision of ecosystem services, and the impacts of biodiversity loss on responses and resilience of forest ecosystems, habitats and species at different spatial and temporal scales to natural and human-induced disturbances. Sessions within this theme will explore these issues as well as such topics as the impacts and efficacy of different forest management practices on biodiversity in protected areas, community management, and more intensively managed forests for timber, non-timber forest products, and agroforestry systems; landscape level strategies for forest biodiversity conservation and restoration; and challenges in achieving a balance between biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

### ***Forests and Climate Change***

Understanding and anticipating the impacts of climate change on forest ecosystems and the services they provide to people are critical to efforts to develop and implement effective policies and management

strategies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Sessions within this theme will consider climate change effects on forest ecosystem structure and function; interactions with other natural disturbance and forest management regimes; monitoring and modelling of climate-change related impacts on forest ecosystems, landscapes, and communities; environmental, social and economic implications of forest-based climate change adaptation strategies and mitigation opportunities (such as REDD+); silvicultural, planning and policy options for managing and restoring natural and planted forests to enhance carbon storage and other ecosystem services, as well as adapting natural and planted forests to climate change; the role of sustainable production and use of wood-based products in climate change mitigation (including wood-based substitutes for less "climate friendly" materials); and the contributions of forest genetics, restoration ecology and landscape ecology in climate change mitigation and adaptation, including incentives and issues of trans-boundary emission trading schemes.

### ***Forest and Water Interactions***

Forests and forest cover play a crucial role with regard to sustaining the availability and quality of water critical for human well-being. The linkages between water, wetlands and forests show the importance of managing ecosystems at watershed or landscape scales in order to protect these vital services. There is an urgent need for improved understanding of the interactions between forests, trees and water (including riparian and coastal ecosystems) as affected by large-scale natural and human-induced disturbance, including climate change, as well as effects of land-use, land-cover change and forest management on watershed hydrology and provision of water-related ecosystem services. Sessions within this theme will consider these broad issues as well as more specific questions such as: water consumption of growing tree crops compared to other land uses; region-specific interactions of forests and water; water consumption of forest plantations and forest bioenergy systems; and governance and institutional arrangements related to management of forested watersheds.

### ***Forest Biomass and Bioenergy***

The rapidly growing use of wood and other types of biomass for bioenergy, biofuels, bio-based products requires the development of innovative production systems, more efficient use of material from plantations based on end-user, raw material and processing requirements, and management of competition for biomass from planted and natural forests for energy vs other forest products and environmental services. Sessions within this theme will explore these issues as well as trends in plantation forestry and fibre-farming in relation to other important roles of forests such as biodiversity conservation and provision of other forest ecosystem goods and services such as carbon sequestration and protection of water quality. Additional topics that will be emphasized include: breeding and selection of trees to meet changing biomass and bioenergy objectives; environmental and social impacts of forest resource competition; cascades of use and life-cycle analysis; 'eco-efficiency' of forest bioenergy production systems and technologies; and marketing of biomass and its economic impacts.

### ***Forests and Forest Products for a Greener Future***

The future of sustainable forest management in the face of forest loss and ever-increasing demands for food, timber and wood fiber, water and other ecosystem services, and uncertainties posed by globalization and economic, social and environmental uncertainty, is a fundamental challenge for the forest research community. Innovation in the field of forest products, goods and services together with sustainable and environmentally responsible wood production systems and forest operations will play an important role to meet these challenges. Sessions within this theme will explore: trends in demand for traditional and innovative forest products, ecosystem goods and services; increased use of wood in construction; managing conflicting needs of forest stakeholders; changing societal values, institutions and forest governance structures under different socio-cultural conditions and their role in sustainable management and use of forests in the future; development of new forest management approaches and processing techniques for

environmentally and socially acceptable products and services; emerging landscape management (i.e., Green Infrastructure) approaches; valuation of benefits derived from non-wood forest products and ecosystem services; and forestry education, research and training to meet future needs.

### ***Forest Health in a Changing World***

Healthy forests are foundational to the delivery of ecological, economic and social benefits associated with forests, yet these benefits are under threat from disparate sources ranging from climate change to the side-effects of globalization. The sessions within this theme will focus on the three components of risk (as defined by the IPCC): hazard, vulnerability and exposure. Session topics will include: trends in biotic and abiotic hazard occurrence including responses to climate change, the introduction of alien invasive species, and global trade as a pathway; vulnerability of forests including, tree resistance, shifts in pest and host species relationships, and forest resilience; exposure of society to forest health issues such as hazard tree management and the socio-economic impacts associated with forest health; mechanisms of risk mitigation such as pest management solutions, alternative forest management strategies, global trade issues including alien species surveillance, forest pest incursion management, and phytosanitary protection risks and mitigation strategies for traded wood and packaging materials (i.e., suitable wood protection strategies).