



XXIV IUFRO World Congress
5-11 October 2014, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
Closing Ceremony

SUSTAINING FORESTS, SUSTAINING PEOPLE: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH – THE SALT LAKE CITY DECLARATION

Forests and trees play a critical role in supporting the livelihoods and quality of life of people worldwide, providing income opportunities, sustaining agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition, providing adequate supplies of clean water, affordable and sustainable sources of renewable energy and forest-based products. Forests and trees also hold the key to our future well-being, improving the environmental quality of growing urban centers, contributing to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change, and the conservation of our planet's biodiversity upon which our survival will ultimately depend.

The 24th World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) "Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research" brought together 2,500 scientists from more than 100 countries, and 1,200 professional foresters from North America. It provided a unique forum for presentation and discussion of current and future global research needs in forest science. The Congress explored the role of science in crafting practical measures to enhance the resilience of forests and their capacity to provide the environmental, economic, social, cultural, spiritual and health benefits that sustain rural and urban societies worldwide.

Based on this World Congress, IUFRO commits itself to expand and intensify its efforts to develop and promote integrated solutions to the interrelated economic, social and environmental challenges we must face together. These efforts will also inform the discussions that will take place next year at the XIV World Forestry Congress 2015 and other important gatherings, including the United Nations Forum on Forests, which will promote ongoing efforts towards achieving a coherent and integrated development agenda beyond 2015.

Pursuing these goals will require effective collaboration among people across landscapes, sectors and disciplines. During the next five years, IUFRO is committed to building on the strengths of its current global network. In particular, IUFRO will expand its interdisciplinary research and partnerships with scientists in related fields, and broaden its dialogue with, and service to, other organizations, communities, land managers and policy-makers.

The need for international cooperation in forest research and the dissemination of research findings has never been greater. As the global network for forest science, IUFRO shall do its utmost to meet this need.