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195 Session Organizers

It has been a great pleasure for me to serve as Chair of this Congress Scientific Committee. During the past 33 years, I have benefited greatly from my involvement in IUFRO, and this Congress has been an opportunity to repay, and to help others to benefit from the IUFRO network. I have been lucky to have been supported a fantastic team, both by the CSC, and by 195 session organizers. I'd like this helpful team of 211 people to stand so we can acknowledge them, and so that everyone can see how many people are involved in bringing this program together.

ASK CSC AND THE SESSION ORGANIZERS TO STAND for applause



During the past week, we have benefited from 350 scientific sessions, with 1648 oral presentations, and 964 posters. There has been much discussion in the corridors, the buzz of excitement in the trade exhibition, and many side events. Many of us enjoyed 14 scientific excursions, and young scientists have benefited from training courses last week. We have had the opportunity to renew old friendships, to make new friends, and to strengthen our research networks. I think that we all will look back on this congress with a great deal of satisfaction and fondness. I want to thank every participant who made a presentation, who asked a question, or who participated in a discussion. Together we made it a fabulous week!



I come from Southern Cross University in Australia, and it is a custom that I should bring greetings from the first nation, the Widjabul people, and say something about their culture. It is a little unusual to bring these greetings at the end of the Congress, but I do so to emphasise some common concerns. The totem of the Widjabul people is *Araucaria cunninghamii*, closely affiliated with *Araucaria angustifolia* for which Curitiba is named. This link is reflected in our planting of Araucarias at the commencement of this Congress last Sunday. These Araucarias remind us of the link that our countries shared 80 million years ago, and remind us that today, we share one world. Once widespread, some of these Araucarias have retreated to the highest mountains, and are recognised as sentinels of change, warning us of threats to our world.



We have something else in common: The Widjabul people are part of the Bundjalung nation, whose totem is *Gnibi*, the black swan flying. You may have seen this black swan near the lake on your way to the poster sessions. For the Bundjalng people, this group of stars is *Gnibi*, the black swan flying, but most of us know as the southern cross, present on both the Australian and Brazilian flags. Pathfinders have used the southern cross for millennia to find direction and inspiration.

'Black Swan' events: Natural disasters without precedent

ABC Weather | By Kate Doyle

Posted 14 Sep 2010, 5:04pm



PHOTO: The Black Swan video first caught many off guard, but could they have been alerted and warned for?

But “Black swan” is taking a new meaning, now used to describe the unprecedented and catastrophic fires that have occurred in Australia during the past month. It is in this context that I bring a message from the Widjabul people.



The Widjabul people would like me to say “*Ngali na Jugun...*” – this land does not belong to us; instead, we belong to this land. It is our responsibility to care for this land, for our children, and for their children. The Widjabul people have maintained this ethic through 12,000 years in eastern Australia, and this ethic is shared with other first nations people in Australia with traditions reaching back more than 50,000 years – so this is an ethic that has stood the test of time.

Davi Yanomami, the “Champion of the Rainforest,” wins “Alternative Nobel Prize”

September 25, 2019



Davi Yanomami, who has won this year's Right Livelihood Award
© Fiona Watson/Survival

“Why is it taking so long to believe that if we hurt nature, we hurt ourselves? We are not watching the world from without. We are not separate from it.”

First nations people here in Brazil have a similar land care ethic – I know little of the first nations in Brazil, but I quote Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, who last week won the Right Livelihood Award: *“Why is it taking so long to believe that if we hurt nature, we hurt ourselves? We are not watching the world from without. We are not separate from it.”*



A protester holds a sign outside Portugal's parliament during a student strike for climate change action, on May 24, 2019. (AP Photo / Armando Franca)

The youth of the world also identify with this message, and are telling us that they want better care for our land



This theme of caring for land is central to our profession of forestry, and has been echoed in many of our discussions during the past few days, both within this Congress, and internationally.



Our collective concern for the environment has led many congress participants to contribute to a “Curitiba Declaration” which many of you have signed yesterday. The declaration does not say as much as some wished, but it emphasises the core business of IUFRO: the sharing and mentoring of scientific method, of scientific knowledge, and of evidence to guide wise forest management.

Forest Science for Future

XXV IUFRO World Congress, Curitiba, Brazil, October 2019

Over 2500 scientists from 92 countries assembled at the Congress to discuss the plight of the world's forests. This first congress in South America allowed a specific focus on this region of the world rich in forest resources. Deforestation and climate change were identified as two of the most pressing problems worldwide.

The IUFRO World Congress offered a unique opportunity to share evidence-based knowledge across disciplines and continents, to discuss the state of the forests, the challenges and consequences, and possible solutions. As a result, we recognise urgent issues and advocate for the knowledge of forests provided by the global IUFRO network to mobilize forest science for a sustainable future.

We commit to accelerate our own efforts to *provide knowledge and practical solutions*

- to foster good land management for water and wildlife;
- to prevent deforestation and to repair damaged landscapes;
- to supply wood products that have a lower carbon footprint than alternatives; and
- to enable forests to fulfil physical and spiritual needs of society.

We reiterate the calls by the global youth to "listen to the scientists", and recognise the need for the science community to speak up in new ways to highlight the fundamental role science and technology must play in finding effective, economically viable solutions.

It is in this context that I am proud to formally announce the Congress Declaration: