



**WFC2015**  
XIV World Forestry Congress



**The IUFRO Directors' Forum:  
Crossing science boundaries for the benefit of forests and people**

**Venue:** WFC, Durban, SA, Hall 2C  
**Time:** Tuesday, 8 September,  
12:45-14:15 hours  
**Organizer:** IUFRO Directors Forum  
Peter Mayer, Managing Director, Austrian Forest Research Institute, BFW, Co-Chair of  
the Directors' Forum

**What is the IUFRO Directors Forum?**

The IUFRO Directors' Forum brings together heads of forest research institutes and deans of forest faculties, and provides a platform for the exchange and development of views on the management of forest research. It also aims at an active exchange of views with policy and business experts and decision makers as well as with NGOs and other groups of civil society.

**Objective of the side event**

The result of a survey ran among heads of IUFRO member organizations reflect an expanded scope of forest research institutions from a focus on forest research to broader interests on research priorities such as climate change impacts, landscape level issues, water and social issues. To meet these broader challenges, research institutions have also shifted from a more applied science focus to general science focus to bring to bear and integrated approach to addressing natural resource issues.

Moreover, policy and societal interests in forests and trees, such as recreational and health effects, agro-forestry or urban ecosystems, are gaining increasing relevance. Forests can no longer be viewed in isolation but rather as systems that are interconnected with other environmental or human elements.

Therefore, the grand challenges faced by the forest community require integrated networks to gain comprehension of these complex systems in all their multi-temporal and multi-dimensional complexity. Overall, change is happening at an accelerated pace, therefore business as usual will not be sufficient.

Against this background, the Directors Forum would like to share its expectations on how to organize, fund and manage research in order to maintain the relevance of forest-focused research institutions in the future. At the same time it aims to learn about related expectations, recommendations and views of business, policy experts and managers as well as NGOs and other groups of society especially in the African context.

## **Program and schedule**

<b>Introductory remarks</b> Peter Mayer	5'
<b>Crossing science boundaries – results of a global IUFRO survey</b> John Parrotta, US Forest Service, IUFRO Vice-President	15'
<b>Leading IUFRO and FABI</b> <b>Similarities and differences of global networking vs. business driven research</b> Mike Wingfield, IUFRO President	10'
<b>Forestry Research for Impact - Crossing Science Boundaries: Experience from Kenya</b> Ben Chikamai, Director Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)	10'
<b>Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA) – A research vision for the next 10 years</b> Victor Agyeman, Coordinator FORNESSA	10'
<b>Discussion with the audience</b> Moderated by Peter Mayer	40'

## **Conclusions**

*A light lunch will be provided*