



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

Date: **Tuesday, 8 September, 12:45 – 14:15**

Venue: **Green Room**

Description

The IUFRO Directors' Forum provides a platform for the exchange and development of views on the management of forest research. The research landscape and the policy agenda dealing with forest research are becoming increasingly fragmented. Against this background, the Directors' Forum would like to share its findings on how to organize, fund and manage research in order to maintain the relevance of forest-focused research institutions. The results 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 resources issues. Moreover, policy and societal interests in forests and trees, such as recreational and health effects, agroforestry 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.

Speakers will include: Mike Wingfield (IUFRO President, South Africa), Konstantin v. Teuffel (Baden-Württemberg Forest Research Institute, Germany, co-chair IUFRO Directors' Forum), Peter Mayer (Austrian Research Centre for Forests, co-chair IUFRO Directors Forum), Ann Bartuska (Deputy Under Secretary for USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area) (tbc), and/or Jimmy Reaves (US Forest Service Deputy Chief for Research and Development)

Convening organizations

IUFRO International Union of Forest Research Organizations
ARCF Austrian Research Centre for Forests

Contact

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