

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS
XXII IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS
9 and 12 August 2005, Brisbane, Australia**



MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The meetings of the IUFRO International Council (IC) took place on 9 and 12 August 2005 in Brisbane, Australia on the occasion of the XXII IUFRO World Congress. They were chaired by the Chair of the IC, IUFRO President Mr. Risto Seppälä.

A list of participants of both IC meetings can be found in Annex 1.

PART I: TUESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2005

1. Opening; recognition of quorum

Mr. Seppälä welcomed the members of the IC and opened the first part of the meeting. He communicated that the second part would take place on Friday, 12 August 2005. He stated that the invitations to the IC meetings had been sent out in March 2005. The supporting documentation for the agenda items had been placed on the IUFRO website for downloading.

Mr. Seppälä brought to the attention of the IC that, at the time of the IC meeting, IUFRO had members in 112 countries. Thus, 57 country representatives were needed to achieve a quorum. Mr. Peter Mayer (IUFRO Executive Secretary) reminded that IC representatives had had the opportunity to give a proxy vote mandating the IUFRO President to vote on their behalf. With 50 voting members present at the first part of the meeting and 19 proxy votes that had been submitted to the President and the Secretariat in advance of the IC meeting, the quorum was achieved.

2. Approval of agenda

Mr. Seppälä informed the delegates that items 1 to 7 of the draft agenda would be considered during the first part of the meeting, and items 9 to 13 would be discussed in the second part on 12 August 2005. Agenda item 8 would be subject to consideration on both days. He then proposed the following motion:

MOTION 1:

To approve the draft agenda of the IUFRO International Council Meetings held during XXII IUFRO World Congress

The motion was carried unanimously.

3. Minutes of last IC meetings

The following motion was proposed by the Chair:

MOTION 2:

To approve the Minutes of the last IC Meetings, held on 8 and 11 August 2000 during the XXI IUFRO World Congress in Kuala Lumpur.

The motion was carried unanimously.

4. Reports of President, Vice-Presidents and Executive Secretary*Report of the President*

Mr. Seppälä pointed out that his written report prepared for the IC meeting should be considered not only as the report of the President, but as a collective report of the IUFRO Senior Officers (President, Vice-Presidents, Immediate Past President and Executive Secretary). He then highlighted the main developments in IUFRO during the Board period 2001-2005:

In general, most goals set by the Board in the Strategic Action Plan for 2002-2005 had been achieved. The financial basis of the IUFRO Secretariat had been strengthened as a result of the changes made to the structure of the membership fee in 2003, and the increased financial and in-kind contributions of the Secretariat's host country Austria. In December 2003, Mr. Mayer had assumed the tasks of Executive Secretary following the retirement of Mr. Heinrich Schmutzenhofer. During the current term, the efficiency of Board meetings had improved, and a stronger emphasis had been given to strategic and policy issues. However, there was a need to further improve the geographical and gender balance of the IUFRO Units, including the Enlarged Board. Limited progress had been made in reactivating the International Council. Hence, Mr. Seppälä invited the delegates to consider during this meeting how the members of the IC could play a more active role in the future.

Concerning IUFRO's structure, the 8 Divisions and their Units have continued to be the core of IUFRO's scientific activities. In addition, 12 Task Forces have been established since 1987 to react to emerging problem-oriented interdisciplinary issues. 365 meetings in 62 countries had been convened by IUFRO Units in the Board period. In addition to the IUFRO Units, the IUFRO Special Programmes and Projects and the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) have played a vital role in supporting the thematic collaboration within IUFRO. However, Programmes and Projects have been fighting with financial problems, and the future of SPDC and Terminology is at stake. The income of the Programmes and Projects must be based on external sources as IUFRO cannot fund these activities from its own budget.

A major shortcoming was that the goal of expanding the IUFRO membership base has not been achieved. Therefore, stronger efforts would be needed in the next Board period to reach out to potential new members, including those outside the traditional forest sector. To increase IUFRO-related activities in their respective regions, the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI) had been approved as IUFRO Regional Chapter for Asia-Pacific, and the Northeast Asian Forest Forum (NEAFF) as the Regional Chapter for Northeast Asia.

As regards external relations of the Union, IUFRO had been involved in international

processes much more than in the past, reflecting the goal set in the Strategic Action Plan. Mr. Seppälä pointed out that a milestone had been reached in 2003 when IUFRO had become the 14th member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). IUFRO has collaborated closely with CPF members, but also with other international organizations, such as the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA).

As a response to the goal to improve IUFRO's corporate image, a new logo had been accepted, the IUFRO News and Annual Reports had been redesigned, and the Annual Reports were now meant also for IUFRO's stakeholders, thus being a part of IUFRO's promotional material. However, the Union still lacked a strategy for communication and Public Relations.

The IC took note of the report of the President.

Report of the Vice-President Policy

Mr. Don Koo Lee outlined major activities of the Vice-President Policy in the current Board period. He gave particular emphasis to the tasks assigned to the Vice-President Policy as chair of the Policy Committee. One of these tasks of the Policy Committee was to review and guide the Task Forces reporting to the Policy Committee. In this context, Mr. Lee pointed out that very good progress had been made by all three Task Forces, including the Task Force on the Forest Science-Policy Interface, the Task Force on Public Relations in Forest Science, and the Task Force on the Role of Forests in Sustainable Mountain Development.

Another task was to assist the President in the collaboration with international processes and organizations. In this regard, the Vice-President Policy had promoted and facilitated the development of Memoranda of Understanding with the United Nations University, the International Forestry Students' Association, the Korea Forest Research Institute, the Center for International Forestry Research, the Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions, and the Northeast Asian Forest Forum. Regional science collaboration had benefited from the liaison of the Vice-President Policy with the General Board Members. Mr. Lee had also represented IUFRO in a range of international, regional and national meetings.

The IC took note of the report of the Vice-President Policy.

Report of the Vice-President Science

Mr. Eric Teissier du Cros gave an overview of his activities as Vice-President Science in the Board period 2001-2005. He put special emphasis on the tasks of the Vice-President Science as chair of the Science Committee. Key responsibilities of this Committee included approving new Research Groups and Working Parties as well as overseeing and reviewing their activities. He pointed out that all IUFRO Divisions had been requested by the Vice-President Science to review their existing structure and to adjust this structure for the next Board period, as needed. Another major task was to promote inter-Divisional activities and to review and guide the Task Forces reporting to the Science Committee by the Board. He informed the IC members that most of Task Forces would be terminated by the end of the

Board period and that new ones would be established.

With the objective of strengthening cooperation with international science organizations, Mr. Teissier du Cros had also established and maintained contacts with various international science organizations, including the UNESCO and the International Council for Science (ICSU). He had also represented IUFRO in various international meetings and conferences, such as the International Conference Biodiversity Science and Governance ("Biodiv2005Paris") in January 2005 and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's "Berastagi+7" forest conservation policy meeting in March 2005. Furthermore, the Scientific Committee had initiated and contributed to the development of the scientific programme for the Brisbane Congress. In this context, Mr. Teissier du Cros thanked Mr. John Innes (Chair, Congress Scientific Committee) for the outstanding achievements of the Congress Scientific Committee. He also thanked Mr. Seppälä, Mr. Lee and the Secretariat for the excellent collaboration during the Board period.

The IC took note of the report of the Vice-President Science.

Report of the Executive Secretary

Mr. Mayer provided complementary information to the reports of the IUFRO President and the IUFRO Vice-Presidents and the financial aspects for the IUFRO Secretariat and the IUFRO Programmes and Projects over the last five years. He communicated that at the time of the IC meeting IUFRO had 659 members. This was a decrease of 52 compared to 2001. At the same time, IUFRO had an increase of associate members from 52 to 82 during the last five years.

Mr. Mayer also outlined the changes in the communication and publication tools of IUFRO which included the re-structuring of the IUFRO web-site, the start of a monthly electronic IUFRO newsletter and the publishing of the IUFRO Occasional Papers in electronic form. He noted that these new communication and publication tools had improved the flow of information within the IUFRO network and had also increased the visibility of scientific results of IUFRO Units for other scientists and stakeholders. He encouraged IC members to make best use of these new tools.

Concerning the finances of the Union, Mr. Mayer stated that shifting the accounting from Switzerland to the IUFRO Headquarters in June 2002 had made this task more efficient. He confirmed that the restructuring of the IUFRO membership fees in the year 2003 had led to a visible increase of fees received. The Secretariat had also been strengthened as a result of a new contractual agreement with the Government of Austria. The main change in this new contract was that the Austrian Government – in addition to the in-kind support provided for one full-time and two part-time staff positions – had committed itself to cover all staff expenses for the IUFRO Secretariat. Mr. Mayer also communicated that IUFRO's investments at Credit Suisse, Switzerland, had unfortunately not developed as expected during the current Board period. Overall, the budget of the IUFRO Secretariat had been balanced throughout the Board period.

Mr. Mayer then outlined the financial situation of the IUFRO Special Programmes and Projects. He underlined the urgent need to obtain funding for the IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries (IUFRO-SPDC) and the SilvaVoc Terminology Project. He informed the IC members that the Board had decided to terminate the SilvaVoc Terminology Project by the end of November 2005 unless additional funds became available by that time for maintaining the Project for at least another six months. He therefore strongly encouraged the IC members to investigate funding possibilities. Mr. Mayer also communicated that the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS) had become a joint Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in 2004 with shared input of resources of the involved partners (currently FAO, CIFOR, CABI, UNFF Secretariat).

The IC took note of the report of the Executive Secretary. In the discussion, the importance of the SilvaVoc Terminology Project was underlined. It was stated that the SilvaVoc brought together and built upon the expertise and contributions of 240 international experts. Furthermore, the services provided by SlivaVoc became even more important, as IUFRO increased its involvement in international processes. Hence, strong efforts should be made to raise the necessary funds for continuing SilvaVoc. More than that, it was noted that long-term funding also needed to be secured for IUFRO-SPDC, especially when considering the crucial role of this Programme in the context of the Millennium Development Goals (see also item 11 below).

In concluding the discussion about the Report of the Executive Secretary, Mr. Seppälä expressed his thanks to the Headquarters and characterized them as well-functioning, reliable and very cost effective. Regarding SilvaVoc and IUFRO-SPDC, he called upon IC members to investigate and actively promote mid- and long-term support within their respective organizations.

5. Election of Chair, Vice-Chairs of the IC (i.e. President and Vice-Presidents) and members of the Board

Mr. Seppälä reminded that according to the IUFRO Statues the Chair, Vice-Chairs of the IC (i.e. President and Vice-Presidents) and members of the Board were elected by the IC. He informed the IC that the IUFRO Board had appointed a Nominating Committee chaired by the Immediate Past President, Mr. Jeffery Burley. This Committee had sent requests for nominations to all IUFRO members and officeholders. As a result, the Nominating Committee had drawn up a list of nominations that had been unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Seppälä then presented the nominations of the Board for the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the IC as well as for the Board Members 2006-2010. It was unanimously agreed to vote by hand-raising.

MOTION 3:

To elect Professor Don K. Lee for President of IUFRO for the period 2006-2010.

The motion was carried unanimously. The election was accepted by the nominee.

MOTION 4:

To elect Professor John Innes for Vice-President Policy of IUFRO for the period 2006-2010.
The motion was carried unanimously. The election was accepted by the nominee.

MOTION 5:

To elect Dr. Niels Elers Koch for Vice-President Science of IUFRO for the period 2006-2010.
The motion was carried unanimously. The election was accepted by the nominee.

MOTION 6:

To elect for Division Coordinators for the period 2006-2010:

Division 1	Hånell, Björn	Sweden
Division 2	Li, Bailian	USA
Division 2	Heinimann, Hans R.	Switzerland
Division 4	Tomé, Margarida	Portugal
Division 5	Wang, Cathy ¹	China Taipei
Division 6	Brown, Perry	USA
Division 7	Wingfield, Mike	South Africa
Division 8	Mosseler, Alexander	Canada

The motion was carried unanimously. The elections were accepted by the nominees.

Concerning the nominations for General Board Members, Mr. Seppälä communicated that only nine out of possible ten members had been nominated by the Board in order to give the possibility to nominate one General Board Member at a later stage.

MOTION 7:

To elect for General Members for the period 2006-2010:

Ellatifi, Mohammed	Morocco
Höflich, Vitor	Brazil
Ipinza, Roberto	Chile
Lee, Su See	Malaysia
Nakashizuka, Tohru	Japan
Paschalis-Jakubowicz, Piotr	Poland
Shirong, Liu	China
Spiecker, Heinrich	Germany
Teplyakov, Victor K.	Russia

The motion was carried unanimously. The elections were accepted by the nominees.

Mr. Seppälä also presented to the IC for information the list of Deputy Division Coordinators

that had been approved by the Board at its previous meeting in Brisbane. The IC took note of the list, as presented in Annex 2.

6. Honours and Awards

Honorary Members

Mr. Seppälä informed the IC members that three candidates had been proposed for Honorary Membership, IUFRO's highest award. Their nominations had been approved by the Honours and Awards Committee and by the Board. He clarified that Honorary Members were entitled to receive all IUFRO publications and were guests of honour at every IUFRO Congress. He then proposed the following motion:

MOTION 8:

To approve the nomination of Jeffery Burley, Heinrich Schmutzenhofer and Les Whitmore as Honorary Members of IUFRO.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Changes in the Honours and Awards system

Mr. Seppälä brought to the attention of the IC that the IUFRO Board had decided to evaluate and possibly restructure the Honours and Awards system of IUFRO in order to increase its attractiveness and reduce existing administrative and financial burdens. Complementary to this information, Mr. Mayer presented two options on how the system could be modified in the future. In option 1, the current system would be adapted moderately by changing the number of student awards from 2 annually to 5 awards at each Congress. Option 2 would consist of two awards only, but with a higher cash honorarium, one of them being a student award and the other one being a general scientific award. Both awards would be presented every five years on the occasion of IUFRO Congresses.

The IC took note of the proposals for a revised system of Honours and Awards. In the discussion, it was pointed out that the system of IUFRO Honours and Awards should above all be an effective means for recognizing outstanding scientific achievements. While the current number of awards may be too high, reducing it to only two awards every five years might not allow for sufficient recognition. The importance of the student award was underlined in the discussion, and it was suggested to invite nominations in all four IUFRO languages in the future.

Mr. Seppälä communicated that both options would be discussed further at the next Board meeting, taking into account the comments made in the IC discussion.

¹ Ms. Cathy Wang had to withdraw her nomination for Coordinator of Division 5 for health reasons shortly after the IC meeting in Brisbane. A recommendation of the Board for David Cown (New Zealand) to fill the post has been presented to the IC for decision by ballot vote in December 2005.

7. Congress Resolutions

Mr. Mayer informed the delegates that a Congress Resolutions Committee had been formed with the task of drawing up a draft Resolution for the Brisbane Congress. He then outlined the structure and contents of the draft Congress Resolution proposed by the Committee. Mr. Mayer stated that this draft Resolution had also been discussed by the Enlarged Board at its meeting prior to the Congress. Furthermore, also the Congress participants have been given the possibility to comment on the draft Resolutions through the Information Village.

In the discussion, it was noted that the messages contained in the text should be directed more clearly to the two main target groups, namely IUFRO itself, and decision-makers/stakeholders. Concerning the messages directed towards IUFRO, it was pointed out that even stronger emphasis should be given to promoting gender mainstreaming and encouraging the participation of women, young scientists and students in IUFRO's activities. As regards the promotion of science for decision making, it was noted that the text should include a more explicit reference to the contribution of science to reaching the Millennium Development Goals. It should also underline the importance of capacity building and education activities aimed at reducing poverty and improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people. Furthermore, it was recommended to make direct reference to the private sector as a stakeholder of IUFRO. A number of detailed comments were presented on the text of the draft resolution.

Mr. Mayer asked the IC members to provide additional comments to the Secretariat in writing by Wednesday, 10 August 2005, noon. He explained that a revised version of the Congress Resolution would then be presented to the IC for discussion and approval at its second meeting on Friday, 12 August. This revised version would be prepared on the basis of the comments of IC members, members of the Enlarged Board and Congress participants. Following approval by the IC, the Congress Resolution would finally be presented to the Congress participants during the Closing Ceremony.

PART II: FRIDAY, 12 AUGUST 2005

Mr. Seppälä welcomed the IC delegates and opened the second part of the IC meeting. He noted that 44 IC representatives were present at the meeting. With 18 proxy votes submitted before the meeting, the quorum was again achieved.

7. Congress Resolutions (continued)

Mr. Mayer communicated that, taking into account the comments received from IC members, members of the Enlarged Board and Congress participants, the original text had been amended by the Congress Resolutions Committee and split in two Resolutions: Resolution 1 "Promoting Global Cooperation in Forest Related Research", and Resolution 2 "Promoting Science for Decision-Making". Both Resolutions had been provided to the IC members in advance of the meeting. Based on this information, Mr. Seppälä invited additional comments by the IC. Since no more comments were made, he proposed the following motion:

MOTION 9:

To approve the Congress Resolutions.

The motion was carried unanimously.

8. Statutes and Internal Regulations

Mr. Mayer reminded the delegates that an IC ballot had been circulated in May 2005 in which several changes had been recommended by the Board to the IUFRO Statutes. He communicated that all recommended changes had been approved by the IC. More specifically, the IC had agreed by the ballot to change the number of auditors of the Annual Account from two to one, and to change the maximum number of terms of office of Research Group and Working Party Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators from two to three. Furthermore, the IC had approved to change the terms "Executive Secretary" and "Deputy Executive Secretary" to "Executive Director" and "Deputy Executive Director". It had accepted several changes that were needed for the Statutes to be in conformity with the legislation of the host country of the Secretariat (Austria). The IC took note of the outcome of the IC ballot vote on changes in the Statutes, as presented in Annex 3.

Mr. Seppälä brought to the attention of the IC that the Board had agreed in a ballot vote carried out in May 2005 to include in the Internal Regulations a clause providing for an adjustment of membership fees by a percentage matching the inflation rate of the country hosting the IUFRO Headquarters (i.e. currently Austria). Following a request for clarification, Mr. Mayer explained that in practical terms the membership fees would be increased only if the inflation rate added up to 5 percent or more. With this explanation, the Chair proposed the following motion:

MOTION 10:

To approve the decision of the IUFRO Board to include in the Internal Regulations a clause providing for an adjustment of membership fees by a percentage matching the accumulated inflation rates of the country hosting the IUFRO Headquarters (currently Austria) in case that the inflation rates add up to more than 5 per cent.

The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Venue of Congress 2010

The next IUFRO World Congress after the Brisbane Congress will take place in the year 2010. In this context, Mr. Seppälä communicated that bids to host the Congress 2010 had been received from Brazil, Russia, South Africa, and the Republic of Korea. Following an evaluation of these bids against the criteria for selection (Annex 3 of the IUFRO Statutes), South Africa and the Republic of Korea (Korea) had been invited to give a presentation describing their bids at the 43rd meeting of the IUFRO Enlarged Board, held in Seoul, Korea, on 13 – 14 October 2004. Mr. Seppälä noted that both countries had presented excellent bids. He informed the IC members that he had visited both Congress venues in advance and had verified that both would fulfill the requirements of IUFRO Congresses.

During its meeting in Seoul the Board had taken note of the presentations of both bids and had addressed complementary questions to both presenters. Those voting members of the Board present at the meeting had then been invited by the President to discuss the two bids and to give their votes on a recommendation to the IC concerning the host of the Congress 2010. As a consequence of the voting result, the Board adopted a motion which recommended to the IUFRO International Council the Republic of Korea as host of the IUFRO World Congress 2010.

In the following, the IC representative of Sweden gave a statement in which he noted that the voting on the host of the Congress 2010 had taken place in one of the two candidate countries. He stated that pressure had been exerted on Board members to vote in favor of the country that had hosted the Board meeting. He made clear that the result of the vote was acceptable, but at the same time emphasized that the procedure that had led to the recommendation was very unfortunate and should not be accepted in the future. Therefore, he recommended to the IC to request the Board to prepare guidelines or rules that prevented the Board from voting in one of the countries bidding for an IUFRO Congress. He concluded his statement by noting that IUFRO should strive for diversity in various respects, including the location of its World Congresses.

In the discussion, the concerns raised by Sweden were shared by other IC members. The rotation of continents, the capability of a country to host a Congress, and the favorable environment for forest science and research that may be created in a continent as an effect of a Congress bid were mentioned as possible selection criteria for future Congresses. Following the intervention of Sweden and the subsequent discussion, Mr. Seppälä proposed the following motion:

MOTION 11:

To include in the Congress bidding rules (Appendix 3 of the Statutes) a clear statement that the Board must not take a decision on the host of a Congress in one of the bidding countries.
The motion was carried unanimously.

The representative of Bulgaria proposed that South Africa should be invited by the IC to host the Congress 2010. The proposal was not seconded by any other IC member.

The Chair then proposed the following motion:

MOTION 12:

To invite South Korea, Seoul, to host the IUFRO Congress 2010.

Votes during IC meeting:

Yes: 35

No: 0

Abstentions: 9

Proxies:

Yes: 14

No: 2

Abstentions: 2

Total number of votes:

Yes: 49

No: 2

Abstentions: 11

The motion was carried.

Concerning the approximate date, Mr. Seppälä informed the IC that the Board had recommended holding the Congress in August 2010. However, Korea had indicated that the date might be changed to October 2010.

10. Proposals from Member Organizations

Mr. Seppälä stated that, according to the Statutes, every member had the right to submit proposals to the International Council in advance of the meeting. However, no proposal had been received by the President.

11. Future policy and orientation of IUFRO

Mr. Seppälä reminded the delegates that according to the Statutes of IUFRO the first task of the IC was to advise the President and the Board on major issues concerning IUFRO's policy and strategy, on the basis of timely information received from the Board. In this context, he communicated that a review of IUFRO had been carried out in summer 2004 by an independent Review Panel with the objectives to assess IUFRO's current structure and activities, to identify challenges and opportunities, and to provide guidance on how to position IUFRO in the future. As a central outcome of its work, the IUFRO Review Panel had recommended to develop a general strategic plan for IUFRO. As a consequence, the IUFRO Board, at its meeting in October 2004, had requested the IUFRO Management Committee to prepare a draft for an IUFRO strategy 2006-2010. This draft Strategy had been presented to the Enlarged Board at its meeting prior to the Congress and had been discussed by the members of the Enlarged Board.

Mr. Mayer gave an overview of the contents of the draft Strategy 2006-2010. He pointed out that a previous draft of the strategy had been sent to all members of the Enlarged Board for comments, and that their comments had already been incorporated into the current draft. He explained that the document consisted of two parts, the first describing the strategic goals for IUFRO for the years to come and setting out related actions for implementation, and the second identifying the actors and time frames for each of the actions for implementation. Mr. Mayer then presented the revised vision and mission statements of IUFRO, as included in the draft strategy, and outlined the three goals and the nine related sub-goals. He concluded his presentation by outlining next steps in the further development of the strategy. Following the discussion by the members of the IC, comments would be collected from Congress participants through the Information Village. In addition, members of the Incoming Board would be invited to give their comments. The Management Committee would then finalize the strategy and present it to the Board for approval at its meeting in May 2006.

In a general discussion, it was noted that the trends in forest research and science collaboration, such as the fragmentation of the forest sector in many countries and the increasing amount of forest research carried out outside the forest sector, had been analyzed thoroughly in the draft strategy. It was stated that IUFRO should address these

developments by promoting science collaboration that comprehensively addresses relevant research topics. It should also assist its members in demonstrating the relevance of forest research results for policy and decision making. In this context, it was suggested to make more explicit reference to agroforestry and smallholder forestry, conflicts between forestry and other land-use activities as well as between the conservation and the use of forest resources.

The delegates then presented more detailed comments on individual sections of part 1 of the draft strategy. These comments underlined the importance of providing an even better home for IUFRO's members and of strengthening their research both globally and in the regions, including the development of capacities of scientists and research institutions. Several speakers also made reference to the objective of providing scientific opinion and advice for international policy-making and noted that mechanisms needed to be put in place for assessing or approving scientific contributions, such as state-of-knowledge reports or science briefs for decision makers. It was discussed whether there should be role for the IC in approving scientific contributions, without a unanimous conclusion. It was also pointed out that the Policy Committee could have a stronger role in identifying emerging policy issues requiring scientific information and in identifying activities and research outputs within IUFRO that could be synthesized into state-of-knowledge reports. Reference was also made to the "Guidelines for IUFRO Statements and Information as Part of International Meetings or Processes" that had been approved by the Board at its previous meeting in October 2004². Regarding part 2 of the draft strategy, it was suggested to defined more clearly who was going to take action and to identify measures of success with each item.

Mr. Seppälä thanked the delegates for their comments and invited them to provide additional comments in writing after the IC meeting. He noted that the IC should develop an even stronger focus on strategic issues in the future.

On another note, Mr. Teissier du Cros brought to the attention of the delegates a "Statement on IUFRO-SPDC to the International Council". He communicated that a meeting of the IUFRO-SPDC Advisory Committee had been held during the Congress. The role of this Committee was to give advice to the IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator, including an evaluation of past and current activities and the development of future ones. The Committee had noted that there was considerable demand for capacity development of scientists and research institutes particularly in the developing world. This demand has been recognized by other international organizations of global and regional importance. However, because of significant changes in donor policies since the IUFRO World Congress 2000 in Malaysia, IUFRO-SPDC had been forced to utilize its financial reserves that had been accumulated over the years to operate capacity development projects and the Scientist Assistance Programme. Without substantial new donor input, IUFRO-SPDC would therefore not be able to operate from 2006 onwards. Mr. Teissier du Cros informed the IC members that the Advisory Committee had strongly recommended the continuation of the activities of IUFRO-SPDC and had urged IUFRO to mobilize the necessary financial resources.

² These guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.iufro.org/discover/working/>

The IC took note of the statement on IUFRO-SPDC. Various delegates underlined the important role of IUFRO-SPDC in expanding and fostering research capacity. For example, it was stated that in the future most fiber was expected to come from the developing world, with potential adverse impacts on forest resources. Also, the rate of deforestation remained alarmingly high in many developing countries. At the same time, there was a low institutional capacity for sustainable forest management, and developing country governments only had few sources of solid objective scientific advice. Hence, IUFRO-SPDC should remain a key component of IUFRO and should have a clear role in the Strategy 2006-2010.

Mr. Seppälä called upon the members of the IC to make best use of their access to donors and to help in raising funds for IUFRO-SPDC. He stated that since 1983 IUFRO-SPDC had been one of the flagship activities of the whole Union.

12. Any other business

The IC requested the Secretariat to translate the English version of the Congress Resolutions in all other three IUFRO languages and to include them in the Congress report.

13. Closure of meeting

Mr. Seppälä thanked the delegates for their participation and the substantive discussion. He underlined the importance of the involvement of IC members in IUFRO activities and expressed his hope that this involvement could be further enhanced in the future. He then closed the meeting.

ANNEX 1: PARTICIPATING IC REPRESENTATIVES/ ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVES³

Part I: Tuesday, 9 August 2005

NUMBER	COUNTRY	NAME
1	AUSTRALIA	Bacon Gary John
2	AUSTRIA	Hager Herbert
3	BOLIVIA	Guzman Rudy
4	BRAZIL	Mattos Patricia de Povo
5	BULGARIA	Alexandrov Alexander
6	CANADA	Munro Geoff
7	CHILE	Caldentey P. Juan
8	CHINA	Lu Wenming
9	CHINA - TAIPEI	Wu Shuen Chao
10	COLOMBIA	Arevalo Rosven
11	CZECH REPUBLIC	Sisak Ludek
12	DENMARK	Roulund Hans
13	ECUADOR	Montenegro Sanchez Fernando
14	ETHIOPIA	Yadessa Abebe
15	FINLAND	Raitio Hannu / Mikkonen Esko
16	FRANCE	Carnus Jean-Michel
17	GERMANY	Lewark Siegfried
18	GHANA	Cobbinah Joseph R.
19	HUNGARY	Matyas Csaba
20	INDIA	Kohli R K
21	INDONESIA	Sukandi Taulana
22	IRELAND	Hendrick Eugene
23	ISRAEL	Atzmon Nir
24	JAPAN	Sasaki Satohiko
25	KOREA (DPR)	Kang Hyong Gi
26	KOREA (REP)	Kim Kae Hwan
27	LATVIA	Donis Janis
28	MADAGASCAR	Ramamonjisoa Lolona
29	MALAYSIA	Mohd Mahami Sahri
30	MONGOLIA	Tsogtbaatar J.
31	NEPAL	Acharya Krishna
32	NETHERLANDS	Mohren G.M.J.
33	NEW ZEALAND	Goulding Chris
34	NORWAY	Fretheim Kristen

³ A full list of participants was distributed at the IC meeting.

Minutes of the meetings

35	PHILIPPINES	Odsey Minda
36	POLAND	Zadjac Stanislav
37	PORTUGAL	Tomé Margarida
38	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Shalaev Valentin
39	SLOVAKIA	Paule Ladislav
40	SLOVENIA	Jurc Dusan
41	SOUTH AFRICA	Dyer Colin
42	SPAIN	Campos Palacín Pablo
43	SRI LANKA	Sarath Fernando M.P.A.U.
44	SWEDEN	Hånell Björn
45	SWITZERLAND	Kaennel Michele
46	UNITED KINGDOM	Freer-Smith P.H.
47	UNITED STATES	Brown Perry J.
48	URUGUAY	Bennadji Zohra
49	VENEZUELA	Torres Lezama Armando
50	VIET NAM	Nhan Huynh Duc

Part II: Friday, 12 August 2005

NUMBER	COUNTRY	NAME
1	AUSTRALIA	Bacon Gary John
2	AUSTRIA	Hager Herbert
3	BOLIVIA	Guzman Rudy
4	BRAZIL	Mattos Patricia de Pova
5	BULGARIA	Alexandrov Alexander
6	CANADA	Munro Geoff
7	CHILE	Caldentey P. Juan
8	CHINA	Liu Shirong
9	CHINA - TAIPEI	Wu Shuen Chao
10	COLOMBIA	Arevalo Rosven
11	CZECH REPUBLIC	Sisak Ludek
12	DENMARK	Roulund Hans
13	FINLAND	Raitio Hannu / Mikkonen Esko
14	FRANCE	Mallet Bernard
15	GERMANY	Roeder Axel
16	GHANA	Cobbinah Joseph R.
17	HUNGARY	Mátyás Csaba
no authorization	INDIA	Atul
18	INDONESIA	Siregar Chairil Anwar
19	IRELAND	Hendrick Eugene
20	ITALY	Scarascia-Mugnozza Guiseppe

Minutes of the meetings

21	JAPAN	Sasaki Satohiko
22	KOREA (DPR)	Kang Hyong Gi
23	KOREA (REP)	Kim Kae Hwan
24	MADAGASCAR	Ramamonjisoa Lolona
25	MALAYSIA	Mohd Mahami Sahri
26	MEXICO	Román Miranda María Leonor / Montes de Oca Fernando
27	MONGOLIA	Tsogtbaatar J.
28	NEPAL	Acharya Krishna
29	NEW ZEALAND	Goulding Chris
30	NORWAY	Fretheim Kristen
31	PHILIPPINES	Odsey Minda
32	POLAND	Paschalis-Jakubowicz Piotr
33	PORTUGAL	Tomé Margarida
34	RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Shalaev Valentin
35	SLOVAKIA	Paule Ladislav
36	SLOVENIA	Jurc Maja
37	SOUTH AFRICA	Dyer Colin / Horsley Tasmien
38	SWEDEN	Hånell Björn
39	SWITZERLAND	Brang Peter
40	UNITED KINGDOM	Freer-Smith P.H.
41	UNITED STATES	Brown Perry J.
42	URUGUAY	Bennadji Zohra
43	VENEZUELA	Torres Lezama Armando
44	VIET NAM	Nhan Huynh Duc

ANNEX 2: DIVISION DEPUTY COORDINATORS 2006-2010

Division	Coordinator	Deputy	Country
1	Björn Hånell	Isabel Cañellas John Parrotta Jens Peter Skovsgaard	Spain USA Denmark
2	Bailian Li	Zohra Bennadji Karel Vancura John (Jack) Vozzo	Uruguay Czech Republic USA
3	Hans Heinimann	Daniel Guimier Hideo Sakai Amauro Paulo de Souza	Canada Japan Brazil
4	Margarida Tomé	Peter Holmgren Lauri Valsta Atsushi Yoshimoto	Sweden Finland Japan
5	Cathy Wang ⁴	Kanthila Mahabala Bhat Dave Cown Chris Risbrudt	India New Zealand USA
6	Perry Brown	Susanna Benedetti James Johnson Tuija Sievänen	Chile USA Finland
7	Mike Wingfield	Jean-Claude Grégoire Naoto Kamata Kevin Percy	Belgium Japan Canada
8	Alexander Mosseler	Jean Michel Carnus Susan Conard Robert Jandl	France USA Austria

⁴ Ms. Cathy Wang had to withdraw her nomination for Division Coordinator for health reasons after the IC meeting in Brisbane. A recommendation of the Board for David Cown (New Zealand) to fill the post has been presented to the IC for decision by ballot vote in December 2005.

ANNEX 3: INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL BALLOT VOTE IN MAY 2005

TOPIC: Change of Statutes

TASK OF THE IC: To vote on the proposed changes in Statutes

BACKGROUND:

During the IUFRO World Congress, two meetings of the International Council (IC) will be held, in which the IC will need to take decisions on numerous issues. One of the functions of the IC is to decide on changes in the Statutes.

It is hoped that during the upcoming IC meetings, a large part of the time can be used for matters of content such as the IUFRO Strategy, while more technical items could be decided by the members of the IC by electronic vote beforehand.

All the items below have been approved by the IUFRO Board and are now submitted to the IC members for decision by electronic ballot before the IUFRO World Congress in August.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD:

The Board recommends to approve the changes in Statutes proposed hereafter.

ISSUES/COMMENTS:

The members of the IC are kindly requested to **submit their vote by Friday, 17 June 2005**.

Votes are to be submitted to the President at:

email: **office@iufro.org**, or

fax: **+43-1-877 0151-50**, or

postal address: **IUFRO Headquarters
Secretariat
Mariabrunn (BFW)
Hauptstrasse 7
A-1140 Vienna, Austria**

1. Audit of the Annual Account: by one auditor only

Background: Until a few years ago, certain parts of the financial administration of IUFRO were located in Switzerland, while other tasks of the financial administration were handled in Austria. Therefore, the Statutes required that the Union's accounts be submitted to two independent auditors, located in Austria and Switzerland. Since 2002 all of the financial administration is handled in Austria.

In accordance with the action required in the minutes of the 2004 Vienna Management Committee meeting (Item 10), the following change of Statutes is therefore recommended by the IUFRO Board:

Relevant Article of Statutes:

ARTICLE VII**Board**

Relevant Article of Statutes to read:

Functions

(...)

5 The Board shall appoint **one** authorized independent **auditor** to examine and report on financial transactions of the Union.

(...)

Relevant Article of Statutes:

ARTICLE XI**Executive Secretary – Secretariat**

Relevant Article of Statutes to read:

(...)

9 (...) The Executive Secretary submits [the accounts of the Union] to the Board after the accounts have been audited by **one** authorized independent **auditor** appointed by the Board.

Vote: I agree I disagree I abstain

2. Term of office of Research Group and Working Party Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators

Two changes are proposed in connection with the terms of office of Research Group and Working Party Coordinators.

- 2.1.** Background: Some Units have experienced considerable difficulty to find officeholders for the term 2006-2010. On the other hand, there are Units where the (very active) Coordinator would like to continue in his/her post, but is unable to because of the clause in the Statutes which limits the maximum number of terms to two.

It is therefore proposed to change the maximum number of terms of office of Research Group and Working Party Coordinators from two to three.

Relevant Article of Statutes:

ARTICLE XIV**Research Groups and Working Parties**

Revised Article of Statutes to read:

Procedure

(...)

- 7 Research Group Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators are appointed by the Board after consultation with the respective Research Groups and on the recommendation of the Division Coordinator. They normally hold office until the end of the year in which the next Congress is held and are eligible for **a maximum of three** full terms.

(...)

Vote: I agree I disagree I abstain

- 2.2.** Background: Currently, the maximum number of terms of office are not specified in the Statutes for Working Party Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators; the rule for Research Group Coordinators and Deputies was used in analogy for Working Party officeholders.

It is proposed to explicitly mention Working Party Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators in the relevant paragraph.

Relevant Article of Statutes:

ARTICLE XIV***Research Groups and Working Parties***

Revised Article of Statutes to read:

Procedure

(...)

- 9 Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators of already existing Working Parties are normally elected by the Working Party members and approved by the Division Coordinators. The Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator of a newly established Working Party are appointed by the Division Coordinator. **They normally hold office until the end of the year in which the next Congress is held and are eligible for a maximum of three full terms.**

(...)

Vote: I agree I disagree I abstain

- 3. Change of the term "Executive Secretary" to "Executive Director"**

Background: The MC recommends the change, since this title would reflect in a more appropriate way this position and a similar recommendation was already made by the 1999 Review Panel; the title of the Deputy Executive Secretary would also be changed accordingly.

Therefore, on the recommendation of the Management Committee and the 1999 Review Panel, it is proposed to change the term "Executive Secretary" and "Deputy Executive Secretary" to "Executive Director" and "Deputy Executive Director" throughout the Statutes and Internal Regulations.

Vote: I agree I disagree I abstain

- 4. Changes in Statutes required by Austrian legislation – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Background: The new Austrian legislation concerning associations ("Vereinsrecht") was amended a few years ago. The authority to which any change of Statutes needs to be submitted made several comments about the current version of the Statutes.

Since IUFRO is an association registered in Austria, the following changes are therefore necessary to be in line with the Austrian law:

- 4.1. The Statutes say that the Congress in plenary session is the general assembly of the members of the Union. Even though in the plenary sessions at IUFRO World Congress usually no decisions are taken, Austrian legislation requires that it be specified in the Statutes how the general assembly would take decisions.

It is therefore proposed to add the following sentence:

Relevant Articles of Statutes:

ARTICLE V
Congress

Revised Article of Statutes to read:

Function

- 1 The Congress in plenary session is the general assembly of the members of the Union. It is concerned with scientific, technical, policy and business matters, such as the election of officeholders. At any plenary session of a Congress, the President may inform the Congress of decisions of the International Council regarding the functioning of the Union, resolutions, motions, and of any other matter that he/she believes should be brought to the attention of the members. **Decisions require a simple majority of votes.**

(...)

- 4.2. **General Assembly of an association as per Austrian legislation vs. quinquennial IUFRO World Congress in plenary session**

The new Austrian legislation concerning associations ("Vereinsrecht") prescribes that a general assembly be held every four years. The IUFRO World Congress, however, is normally held only every five years. It is possible, though, that the members delegate their duty to meet every four years to authorized representatives. According to the IUFRO Statutes, the members of the International Council (IC) are the representatives of the members in the respective countries. Therefore, it will be sufficient, if the IC meets a second time during the current five-year term. Such meetings can be held electronically and are already provided for in the Statutes. A short clause needs to be inserted for clarification.

It is therefore proposed to make the following addition:

Relevant Articles of Statutes:

ARTICLE VI
International Council

Revised Article of Statutes to read:

Procedure

- 6 The International Council meets when a Congress is in session, **and in the middle of the five-year term electronically,** or at other times if the need arises.
- 7 Meetings of the International Council outside the Congress may be called by the President in his/her capacity as the Chair of the International Council. The President may call such meetings for decision-making purposes physically or by ballot using the procedures defined in the Internal Regulations. This may be upon request of the

Board, at least one-third of the International Council members, or by at least one-third of the Member Organizations.

(...)

4.3. Arbitration

The current Statutes say that the Arbitration Committee shall consist of five voting members of the Board. In the event that Board members are themselves involved in disputes, the Arbitration Committee must consist of members of an impartial body, which would be the International Council.

It is therefore proposed to add the following sentence:

Relevant Articles of Statutes:

ARTICLE XIX

Arbitration Committee

Revised Article of Statutes to read:

- 1 The final decision in all disputes arising within the Union shall rest with an Arbitration Committee.
- 2 An Arbitration Committee shall consist of five voting members of the Board; each party in a dispute shall elect two members. All four shall agree to elect a fifth member as the Chair, who will only vote to break a tie.
- 3 **In the event that members of the Board are involved in the dispute, the Arbitration Committee shall consist of five voting members of the International Council.**
- 4 If no agreement can be reached on the election of the Chair, he/she shall be elected by the Board **or, if the Committee consists of members of the International Council, by the International Council.**
- 5 The Arbitrators shall have discretionary powers and shall make their decisions to the best of their knowledge and ability consistent with the Statutes and Internal Regulations. The Arbitration Committee shall decide by a simple majority.

4.4. Languages of the Statutes

At present, in case of difficulty of interpretation, the English version of the Statutes is considered to be authoritative. Since IUFRO is an association registered in Austria, Austrian legislation requires that the authoritative version of the Statutes be German. A second language can be added provided that the translation into that language is a certified translation.

The following change is therefore proposed:

Relevant Articles of Statutes:

ARTICLE XXI

Languages and Difficulty in Interpretation

Relevant Articles of Statutes to read:

- 1 The Statutes and Internal Regulations are published in English, French, German and Spanish, and the Board, at its discretion, may publish them in other languages. In case of difficulty of interpretation, the **German and the certified English translation of the German version** are considered to be authoritative.