

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
XXV IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, Curitiba, Brazil**



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The meeting of the IUFRO International Council (IC) took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 at the ExpoUnimed, wing 2, room 7, Curitiba, Brazil, on the occasion of the XXV IUFRO World Congress. The Chair of the IC, IUFRO President Mike Wingfield, presided over the meeting.

A list of participants of the IC meeting can be found in Annex 1.

### 1. Opening; determination of quorum

Mike Wingfield, President of IUFRO and Chair of the IC, welcomed the members of the IC as well as the observers and opened the meeting.

Mike Wingfield brought to the attention of the IC that, at the time of the IC meeting, IUFRO had members in 126 countries. Thus, 31 country representatives were needed to achieve a quorum of more than a quarter of the members of the IC, as required by the IUFRO Statutes. The IC representatives have had the opportunity to give a proxy vote mandating the IUFRO President to vote on their behalf. With 45 voting members (including 11 substitutes) present at the meeting and 3 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

M. Wingfield presented the agenda. Alexander Buck, Executive Director of IUFRO, asked for inclusion of a discussion item on the Congress declaration/communication piece to the agenda. Depending on timely arrival of the proposed text, the items would be discussed after agenda item 5 or later. He then proposed the following motion:

#### **MOTION 1:**

To approve the draft agenda<sup>1 2</sup>, and additional item related to a Congress declaration/communication piece, of the IUFRO International Council Meeting held during the XXV IUFRO World Congress.

*The motion was carried unanimously.*

### 3. Minutes of last IC meetings

A. Buck communicated to the delegates that there were no actions pending from the Minutes<sup>3</sup> of the Salt Lake City IC Meetings in 2014. The following motion was then proposed by the Chair:

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<sup>1</sup> See document "Draft Agenda – IC agenda item 2.1" – posted on the Internet

<sup>2</sup> See document "Annotated draft agenda - IC agenda item 2.2" – posted on the Internet

<sup>3</sup> See document "Minutes of the 2010 IC meetings – IC agenda item 3.1" – posted on the Internet

**MOTION 2:**

To approve the Minutes of the last IC Meetings held on 7 and 10 October 2014 during the XXIV IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City, USA.

*The motion was carried unanimously.*

**4. Reports of IUFRO President, Vice-Presidents and Executive Director**

Written reports have been submitted by the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Executive Director to the IC and were considered as read. Only issues of special importance were highlighted by the presenters, and questions and comments recorded.

***Report of the President***

M. Wingfield pointed out that the written report<sup>4</sup> prepared for the IC meeting should be considered as a collective report of the IUFRO Senior Officers (President, Vice-Presidents, and Executive Director) that summarized the main strategic activities and achievements of IUFRO since the XXIV World Congress and International Council meetings in October 2014. Major developments and achievements regarding the Divisions and Task Forces were described in more detail in the reports by the Vice-Presidents to the International Council. Key operational activities by IUFRO Headquarters were dealt with in the Executive Director's report.

M. Wingfield highlighted some major developments of the last term. He pointed out that one focus had been the improvement of communication and asked for the IC's assistance in continuing to do so in order to make communication even more effective. M. Wingfield then stressed that the relationship with the youth could be strengthened over the last years, also with the International Forestry Student Association (IFSA), including a grant that was given to the IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forests and Education by the South African Department of Science and Technology (through the Forestry and Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute – FABI) and was used particularly in Africa to further forest education. With reference to IUFRO's funding more generally, M. Wingfield noted the significant growing in funding for IUFRO's Special Programme, Projects and Initiatives, but also underlined the importance of the core funding provided by the Austrian Government and the income obtained through membership fees, as these were the prerequisite for leveraging additional funds. He added that a process of closer engagement with the private sector had been started, with Mondi as a first partner.

M. Wingfield then specifically mentioned the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress in Freiburg, Germany, which had put him in the unique situation of having presided over two major IUFRO Congresses during his term. M. Wingfield concluded by thanking the International Council, Board, Management Committee and the Headquarters staff, and by handing over future developments to his successor John Parrotta.

The IC took note of the report of the President. The IC was also informed that in the past period, IUFRO had considerably increased its communication activities in scope and

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<sup>4</sup> See document "Report of the President – IC agenda item 4.1" – posted on the Internet

intensity. In addition to traditional media tools, IUFRO had focused on the growing importance of social media and publishing contributions in a blog.

### ***Report of the Vice-President for Divisions***

In addition to his written report<sup>5</sup>, Björn Hånell, Vice-President for Divisions, gave an overview of the development of the IUFRO Divisions during the past period. He reported that the Divisions of the Union were growing and were getting even stronger, exemplified by the high number of international meetings that had been organized – more than 100 – as well as the numerous products as outputs of these meetings like scientific reports, podcasts, and films. The Vice-President for Divisions pointed out that 253 IUFRO units were in operation as of September 2019, constituting a very significant increase in the number of IUFRO units. Björn Hånell drew the IC's attention to the fact that scope for improvement lay in the fact that among officeholders some regions were overrepresented, and that a gender balance had not yet been achieved, even though it had been possible to raise the number of female officeholders. Additionally, the web pages of the individual units could be updated more often.

The IC took note of the report of the Vice-President for Divisions.

### ***Report of the Vice-President for Task Forces***

From his written report<sup>6</sup>, John Parrotta, Vice-President for Task Forces, gave an overview of the changes regarding the Task Forces that had been introduced since the last IC Meeting in 2014. This involved in particular a two-stage review process of proposals for Task Forces, the new focus on topics of current relevance, and that Divisions got a greater role in the set-up and work of the Task Forces.

The Vice-President for Task Forces underscored that the new term would begin with nine highly relevant Task Forces, including very current 8 Task Forces recently approved by the Board. Shirong Liu, incoming Vice-President, had been actively involved in the review and approval process for the new Task Forces. J. Parrotta also drew the IC's attention to the achievements of Special Programmes and Projects, among them science-policy work, e.g. by the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP).

In reply to questions from the IC, J. Parrotta continued by pointing out that the Board had appealed directly to the Divisions in coming up with ideas for Task Forces and that this system had worked well. The Board had also agreed to handle the operating period of currently maximum two years of the Task Forces more flexibly in the next Board term.

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<sup>5</sup> See document "Report of the Vice-President for Divisions – IC agenda item 4.2" – posted on the Internet

<sup>6</sup> See document "Report of the Vice-President Task Forces, Projects and Programmes and Initiatives – IC agenda item 4.3" – posted on the Internet

### **Report of the Executive Director**

Alexander Buck stressed several items from his written report<sup>7</sup>, providing additional information to the reports of the IUFRO President and the IUFRO Vice-Presidents. Firstly he highlighted the fact that the Secretariat had been hosted for more than 40 years by the government of Austria, who had been providing space and funding. He then continued by informing the IC that IUFRO had now the legal status of a Quasi-international Organization, meaning that the Headquarters could now more easily employ staff from all over the world. Alexander Buck additionally drew the IC's attention to the fact that there had been an increase in IUFRO staff, that there now were more younger staff members and that two staff members were seconded by the Austrian member of IUFRO "Austrian Research Centre for Forests" (BfW) and pointed out that this was a very good example of a contribution by a member of IUFRO and encouraged other members follow this example. Additionally, Alexander Buck underscored that the IUFRO Headquarters had a very close relationship with the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), and reported that IFSA was contributing a lot to the HQ office.

The IUFRO Executive Director continued by informing the IC that the membership base was stable, even though there had been a number of mergers of member institutions. In terms of the number of officeholders he reported that there were currently 761 officeholders from all over the world, one quarter of them female, which meant an improvement of the gender balance. Then Alexander Buck provided the number of meetings held by IUFRO each year, 70-90 meetings, and named the 2016 Regional Congress in Beijing, China, and the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Congress in Freiburg, Germany, in 2017, as landmarks among them.

Then the Executive Director reported on IUFRO's strong role and participation in International Processes which had continued to grow significantly in the inter-Congress period since 2014. He stated that IUFRO had also become increasingly effective in utilizing opportunities for involving IUFRO officeholders in international meetings and processes, but noted the need to further increase awareness within IUFRO about the activities at the science-policy interface and related opportunities for scientists. He then outlined some new developments within the Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives, including the enlargement of the scope of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP), the expansion of the portfolio of activities by IUFRO's Special Programme for Development of Capacities (including a new Young Scientists Initiative (YSI) and new networking activities on forest landscape restoration, as well as the decision by the IUFRO Board to have an external review of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS). He also communicated that the Board had approved Peter Mayer as the new Coordinator of the IUFRO Special Programme Directors' Forum.

A. Buck also drew the IC's attention to communication activities and a very positive development of IUFRO's presence in the Social Media. Overall, he recognized that IUFRO had successfully expanded communication activities and intensified efforts to obtain better public visibility in the donor countries and in the host country. Nevertheless, there continued to be a need to further enhance the communication capacity of IUFRO HQ in line with

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<sup>7</sup> See document "Report of the Executive Director incl. Finance Report – IC agenda item 4.4" – posted on the Internet

IUFRO's mission. He requested the IC to assist in reaching out more effectively to the members.

Finally, A. Buck outlined the financial situation of the IUFRO HQ, the IUFRO Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives, and developments relating to donor support. He stated that the financial situation of IUFRO had been solid in the period 2014 to 2019. IUFRO was very grateful to a core group of donors, the Government of Austria (including in-kind support by the Austrian Forest Research Centre), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA), United States Forest Service (USFS), the Korea National Institute of Forest Sciences (NIFoS) and the German Federal Ministry of Environment for collaboration of mutual benefit. In addition, IUFRO was about to establish a new five-year partnership agreement with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in support of GFEP. Other funding had been obtained from a diverse set of donors, but these funds were project-specific, consisted of smaller amounts, and required considerable input in terms of human resources for project acquisition, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Membership fees, which accounted for roughly 15 per cent of IUFRO's annual income, showed a slightly declining tendency. Therefore, in order to avoid detrimental effects of the level and quality of networking cooperation in IUFRO, the most feasible strategy for increasing income from membership seemed to systematically widen IUFRO's member base in the longer term. Furthermore, HQ was committed to exploring additional opportunities for obtaining unrestricted funding for IUFRO's core networking operations and projects.

The IC took note of the report of the Executive Director.

## **5. Future Policy and Orientation of IUFRO**

### **IUFRO Strategy post-2019**

A. Buck presented the draft outline of the IUFRO Strategy post-2019<sup>8 9</sup> as proposed by the Management Committee. He recalled the process and explained that the draft resulted from recommendations of the Review Panel 2017, with input sourced from IUFRO experts and during a foresight workshop held in connection with the IUFRO Board meeting in Corvallis 2018. He also drew attention on the revised text of the institutional goals that showed better their logical inter-connection:

- Tackling forest-related challenges of today and needs of the future requires the best possible scientific knowledge. Research excellence (Goal 1) could only be achieved if sufficient capacities were in place, relevant scientific disciplines and emerging issues were effectively identified;
- By means of networking (Goal 2) research excellence would be further enhanced, reinforced and scaled up at a regional and global level;
- In combination, research excellence and networking enabled the impact (Goal 3) and outward picture that would make IUFRO attractive for its partners and sponsors.

A. Buck further informed the IC about the deliberations at the Board and resulting

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<sup>8</sup> See document "Draft outline of IUFRO Strategy – IC agenda item 5.1" – posted on the Internet

<sup>9</sup> See PPT "IUFRO Strategy post-2019" – presented at the meeting

recommendation that the strategy first and foremost aimed at providing internal guidance to the organization, and that the five themes would rather serve for external communication. In this regard,

- the Strategy document for internal use during the 2019-2024 term would present institutional goals, associated objectives and actions;
- the strategy document should be supported by an action plan that identifies activities, actors and performance indicators;
- a communication document for external target audiences would highlight IUFRO's collaborative work on important topics and its importance for stakeholders.

In the subsequent discussion, IC members provided comments on the draft strategy document and suggestions for improvement. Comments by IC members related to the conceptual framing and rationale of the goals and objectives, the need to elaborate more clearly on intended end-users of scientific outputs and the public at large, as well the role of women in IUFRO and the need for increasing mentorship programs regarding gender and diversity.

In concluding the discussion, M. Wingfield communicated that the draft strategy document and action plan would be revised on basis of the comments by the IC. The final strategy document, action plan and potential communication document would then be presented for approval at the next IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting in Austria in 2020.

## **6. Honours and Awards: Honorary Membership**

M. Wingfield informed the IC that there was one candidate for Honorary Membership which is IUFRO's highest award. The nomination<sup>10</sup> of Niels Elers Koch, former IUFRO President, had been made by John Parrotta (Vice-President Task Forces) and Björn Hånell (Vice-President Divisions) and had been approved by the Board following a recommendation by the IUFRO Honours and Awards Committee and. The Chair proposed the following motion:

### **MOTION 3:**

Following a recommendation by the IUFRO Honours and Awards Committee and the IUFRO Board, to approve the nomination of Professor Niels Elers Koch as Honorary Member of IUFRO.

*The motion was carried with unanimously.*

As in past Congresses, Honorary Membership would be presented to Niels Elers Koch during the Closing Ceremony of the XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019.

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<sup>10</sup> See document "Citation related to nominee for Honorary Membership – IC agenda item 6.1" – distributed at the meeting

## **7. Presentation of new IC Chair, Vice-Chairs (i.e. President, Vice-Presidents) and members of the IUFRO Board**

The new IUFRO Board for the period 2019-2024 was approved by ballot vote of the International Council already in late 2018; it will take office on the last day of the XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019. The entire list of individuals and their roles<sup>11</sup> in the Board were presented to the IC. The President explained that following a ballot vote there would be more President's Nominees in the new term, raising their number from five to seven. To the extent possible, the members of the IUFRO Board 2019-2024 took part as observers in the IC meeting.

John Parrotta in his role as incoming IUFRO President for the period 2019-2024 addressed the IC, and expressed his thanks for the support by the IC and the entire IUFRO Board. He was pleased about the excellent team and highlighted as priority areas for his Presidency: communication and visibility of IUFRO's science-based achievements and increased interaction with other fields of importance to IUFRO's work, such as agricultural sciences, health research, spatial planning and engineering and arts.

M. Wingfield communicated to the IC that discussion at previous Management Committee and Board meetings on the role of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) in the IUFRO Board has led to a recommendation by the Board that, similar to the status of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), IFSA be approved as a permanent observer to the IUFRO Board. This would also be reflected in a change<sup>12</sup> of the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations. The Chair expressed the following motion:

### **MOTION 4:**

Following a recommendation by the Board, to recognize the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) as an observer to the IUFRO Board and to approve the related change of IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations.

*The motion was carried unanimously.*

The IC was also informed about discussion in the MC and Board meetings related to increasing the maximum number of Deputy Division Coordinators from three to four. In this context, the Board expressed a recommendation to the IC and the Chair presented the following motion:

### **MOTION 5:**

Following a recommendation by the IUFRO Board, to approve a change in the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations allowing appointing a maximum number of up to four Deputy Coordinators per Division.

*The motion was carried unanimously.*

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<sup>11</sup> See document "Terms of Reference for IUFRO Vice-Presidents, Division Coordinators, Deputy Division Coordinators, Task Force Coordinators and President's Nominees 2019-2024 – IC agenda item 7.1" – posted on the Internet

<sup>12</sup> See document "Proposed change in the IUFRO Statutes and Internal Regulations regarding the status of IFSA as an observer to the IUFRO Board – IC agenda item 7.2" – posted on the Internet



## 8. Venue of the IUFRO World Congress 2024

Similar as for the new Board, the decision in favour of Stockholm, Sweden, to host the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024 had also been approved by the IC via ballot vote in late 2018. M. Wingfield introduced Frederik Ingemarson, Director of Congress 2024 in Stockholm. In a PPT presentation, F. Ingemarson together with Ms List (representative of Swedish students) informed the IC about preparatory arrangements for the Congress 2024; he showed the functionality of the 2024 Website in several languages and a promotional video, including post-Congress tours to other co-organizing northern countries.

### **2019 Congress declaration/communication piece**

A. Buck presented a proposal for a 'communication piece' with the title "*Curitiba Declaration: Forest Science for Future*" that had been prepared by an outreach advisor in consultation with senior scientists on the request by the President<sup>13</sup>. M. Winfield thanked Jerry Vanclay (Chair of the CSC), Gerry Steindlegger (Consultant) and a team of who had taken on the task to frame a strong message resulting from the Congress within a short time frame. He explained that the presented short version could be communicated to the media in a signing event, possibly at the end of the Congress.

Further to opinions expressed by the MC and Board for preparing a topical and relevant outcome document of the IUFRO World Congress, J. Vanclay informed the IC that a longer statement was still under preparation with CSC members, and invited contributions and comments.

In the following discussion, the IC raised opinions on the strong or insufficiently strong nature of the proposed statement. Importantly, the members of the IC highlighted the important role of the Curitiba World Congress for sharing scientific evidence and discussing major challenges and solutions. Opportunities arising from the Congress, such as the participation of a high number of scientists from Brazil and Latin America would provide scientists with a platform for articulating their knowledge and individual views. In this context, it would be important to show support to scientists and colleagues in Brazil, and to indicate solidarity with youth.

In the larger context, the representative of Bulgaria reiterated comments made at previous IC meetings about the unbalanced countries' representation in the IUFRO Board, and expressed concern about related biased results in any voting process.

## 9. Towards a more active involvement of IC members in IUFRO

M. Wingfield stated that, according to the IUFRO Statutes, the IC would act as a general assembly, and therefore, was required to meet at least every five years. In addition, the IC was responsible, among other things, for advising the President and the Board on major

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<sup>13</sup> See PPT slide "Curitiba Declaration: Forest Science for Future" – presented during the IC meeting

issues concerning IUFRO's policy and strategy. However, interactions between the President, Board, Management Committee and HQ with IC representatives and also among IC representatives during the inter-Congress periods had remained limited.

Against this background, the IC discussed possible ways and means of involving IC members more actively in IUFRO activities and how to improve communication between member organizations and country representatives of the IC, the Board and IUFRO officeholders. It was noted in the discussion that IC members were not sufficiently aware of their responsibilities; it was thus proposed that Terms of Reference, similar to those for Board members, should be defined and distributed to the incoming IC members. The Terms of Reference would clearly state the ICs mandate of representing the country's member organizations, their potential tasks and responsibilities. As one example, it was suggested involving IC members into identifying emerging research issues. Related institutional arrangements, such as the creation of an IC facilitator/communicator or the designation of regional IC representatives were considered.

M. Wingfield reminded the IC members of the process of nominating their representation to the IC for the period 2019-2024. The invitation sent by the President would call for nominations of a representative and alternate representative to the IC. The task would be to elect among all member organizations in a transparent and democratic process one representative and an alternate. This list of Member Organizations could also be used as a basis for reaching out to new member Organizations in the respective country.

## **10. Proposals from Member Organizations**

According to the Statutes, every IUFRO member has the right to submit proposals to the International Council. Proposals should be transmitted in advance to the President of the Union who will provide for their inclusion in the agenda of the IC meeting. As no proposals were submitted, the item was not discussed.

## **11. Any other business and closure of the meeting**

No other items were raised.

M. Wingfield thanked the IC members for their participation and contributions in the discussion. He presented special thanks to B. Hånell, outgoing Vice-President for Divisions, for excellent support during his Presidency. He then closed the meeting.

**ANNEX 1: PARTICIPATION IC REPRESENTATIVES****Wednesday, 2 October 2019**

<b>Number</b>	<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>NAME</b>
1	ARGENTINA	Monica Gabay
2	AUSTRALIA	Jerry Vanclay
3	AUSTRIA	Peter Mayer
4	BENIN	Chabi Djagoun
5	BRAZIL	Edson Tadeu Iede
6	BULGARIA	Alexandrov Alexander H.
7	BURKINA FASO	Amadé Ouédraogo
8	CANADA	Ellen Macdonald
9	CHILE	Rodrigo Mujica Hoevelmayer
10	CHINA	Chen Yujie
11	CZECH REPUBLIC	Ludek Sisák
12	ESTONIA	Hardi Tullus
13	FINLAND	Lauri Valsta
14	FRANCE	Plinio Sist
15	GHANA	Ernest Gordon Foli
16	INDIA	Suresh Chandra Gairola
17	INDONESIA	Agus Justianto
18	IRAN	Khosro Sagheb-Talebi
19	ITALY	Marco Marchetti
20	JAPAN	Yoshio Tsuboyama
21	KENYA	Joshua Cheboiwo
22	KOREA (Rep)	Pil Sun Park
23	LITHUANIA	Marius Aleinikovas
24	MADAGASCAR	Jean Patrick Ranjatson
25	MALAYSIA	Wan Rasidah Wan Abdul Kadir
26	MYANMAR	Zar Chi Hlaing
27	NEPAL	Shankar Adhikari
28	NEW ZEALAND	Nari Williams
29	NORWAY	Knut Øistad
30	PHILIPPINES	Marilyn S. Combalicer
31	POLAND	Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz
32	PORTUGAL	Teresa De Jesus Fidalgo Fonseca
33	ROMANIA	Nicolae-Ovidiu Badea
34	RUSSIA	Alexander S. Alekseev
35	SERBIA	Mirjana Stevanov
36	SLOVAKIA	Sulek Rastislav
37	SOUTH AFRICA	Brett P. Hurley
38	SPAIN	Isabel Canellas
39	SWEDEN	Göran Ståhl
40	THE NETHERLANDS	Bas Arts
41	TUNESIA	Abdelhamid Khaldi

42	UKRAINE	Petro Lakyda
43	UNITED KINGDOM	James Pendlebury
44	UNITED STATES	Linda Nagel
45	URUGUAY	Gonzalo Martinez

*Substitutes were nominated from Australia, China, Madagascar, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Serbia, USA and Uruguay; substitutes from Belgium and Croatia did not come to the meeting.*