



www.iufro.org



*the global
network
for forest science
cooperation*

Vision

As the global network for forest-related research to serve the needs of all forest researchers and decision-makers.

Mission

IUFRO promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees, including wood and non-wood products, goods and services. It disseminates scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision-makers and contributes to forest policy and on-the-ground forest management.



IUFRO - International Union of Forest Research Organizations

IUFRO is a global non-profit and non-governmental scientific organization

with headquarters in Vienna, Austria. It was founded in 1892 with the aim to promote international cooperation in forest-related research.

IUFRO's members are research organizations,

universities, individual scientists, decision-making authorities and other stakeholders with an interest in and a focus on forests and trees.

IUFRO attains its objectives by networking

activities such as the generation, exchange and dissemination of scientific knowledge, the provision of access to relevant information, and the assistance to scientists and institutions to strengthen their research capacities.

The IUFRO network offers many entry points

for voluntary expert cooperation:

currently 9 Divisions with their Research Groups and Working Parties; 9 interdisciplinary Task Forces;

Special Programmes such as IUFRO-SPDC; Special Projects such as IUFRO-WFSE; IUFRO-led Initiatives such as GFIS and GFEP; and regional Chapters.

Scientific, technical, policy and business

matters are taken care of by various organs such as the Congress or general assembly, the International Council, the Board with its committees, the President and Vice-Presidents, the Executive Director and Secretariat, and all cooperating officeholders.

IUFRO in Figures

600+ member organizations in
100+ countries representing
15,000+ scientists

700+ voluntary officeholders
9 Divisions, 9 Task Forces, 4 Special Programmes,
Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives
59 Research Groups and 172 Working Parties

70 meetings per year on average
IUFRO World Congress every 5 years

Divisions

IUFRO's field of scientific activity is spread over a number of Divisions which support researchers in collaborative work. These Divisions provide an organizational structure with units called Research Groups and Working Parties. These units are coordinated by voluntary IUFRO officeholders and develop a series of activities such as organizing meetings, publishing newsletters, conducting study tours, exchanging knowledge and communicating findings, etc.

Division 1 - Silviculture

Research is mainly focused on temperate and boreal silviculture; tropical and subtropical silviculture; short-rotation forestry; agroforestry; unevenaged silviculture; restoration of degraded sites; silviculture and management of threatened and endangered tree species.

Division 2 - Physiology and Genetics

This Division has Research Groups on physiology; conifer breeding and genetic resources; genetics; hardwood improvement; culture and genetic resources; and tree seed, physiology and biotechnology.

Division 3 - Forest Operations Engineering and Management

Researchers in this Division work in the fields of harvesting and transportation engineering; stand establishment and treatment; forest ergonomics; forest operations management; forest operations ecology; forest operations in mountainous conditions; forest operations in the tropics; and small-scale forestry.



Division 4 - Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management

This Division includes Research Groups on forest mensuration and modelling; forest resources inventory and monitoring; informatics, modelling and statistics; uncertainty analyses of spatial and non-spatial models; computing methods in forest biometrics; information management and information technologies; forest management planning; and managerial economics and accounting.

Division 5 - Forest Products

The main focus lies on the study of wood quality; biomechanical properties of wood and wood-based materials; wood protection; wood processing; composite and reconstituted products; properties and utilization of plantation wood; energy and chemicals from forest biomass; forest products marketing and business management; non-wood forest products; sustainable utilization of forest products; and forest products education.

Division 6 - Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry

The main fields of interest here are forest and human health; forest education; forest ethics; gender and forestry; landscape planning and management; nature-based tourism; nature conservation and protected areas; recreation; rural development and urban forestry.



Division 7 - Forest Health

There are three major Research Groups, namely on impacts of air pollution and climate change on forest ecosystems; pathology; and entomology with a great number of Working Parties.

Division 8 - Forest Environment

This Division is very active in the research on forest ecosystem functions; forest biodiversity; and natural hazards and risk management.

Division 9 - Forest Policy and Economics

This Division was created in 2010 to deal with issues concerning information and organization; management of forest research; forest history and traditional knowledge; forest resource economics; forest policy and governance; forest law and environmental legislation; and forest sector analysis.



Task Forces

For IUFRO to be successful, it is important to present effective and research-based responses of the science community to the changes in paradigms concerning forests, forest science, and policies affecting forests. In Task Forces, IUFRO scientists work together across disciplines. Their focus is on emerging key issues that are of strong interests to policy makers and groups inside and outside the forest sector. Task Forces are established for a limited period only whereas Divisions are of a permanent character.

Task Force - Forests for People

The main issues that are dealt with concern: livelihoods - agroforestry, food security, fuels, poverty alleviation, and human dislocation; health, recreation and tourism - human health, recreation and nature-based tourism; urban and rural landscapes - ecosystem services, economic development, spaces and places for living; culture and education - perceptions of forests, spiritual character, education, historical tradition and practice, communication.



Task Force - Forests and Climate Change

The Task Force particularly focuses on the following themes: climate change impacts on forest ecosystems (including insects and pathogens) and forest-dependent people; feedbacks between land cover dynamics, forest disturbance processes and climate change; options for adaptation and trade-offs between adaptation, conservation, and/or socio-cultural needs; and REDD and other opportunities for carbon mitigation, including governance and institutional arrangements.

Task Force - Forest Bioenergy

Special emphasis areas of the Task Force include efficiency and sustainability of forest bioenergy technologies and production systems; forest bioenergy markets and economic and social outcomes of a developing forest bioenergy sector; quantification of potential resource competition (bioenergy, fibre, traditional forest products etc.) and subsequent impacts.

Task Force - Forest Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

The Task Force addresses the following specific questions of *why, where and how* we should conserve forest biodiversity. Particular emphasis is given to the functional aspects of forest biodiversity and conceptual frameworks and tools for understanding and managing the socio-ecological system in this context.

Task Force - Forests and Water Interactions

The linkages between water, wetlands and forests show the importance of managing ecosystems in their entire complexity in order to protect the related vital services. The Task Force addresses important questions such as water consumption of growing tree crops compared to other land uses; the impact of bioenergy schemes on catchments moving towards closure, etc. and aims to provide tangible research goals and identify knowledge gaps.



Task Force - Resources for the Future

Specific lines of inquiry will be developed into the following: What are the consequences of the shift from natural to anthropogenic forests? What are the effects and implications of increasing globalization (in commerce, travel, supply chains, etc.) on the future supply of forest resources? What are the new services needed from forests, and what can be done to meet these demands? How are product developments (biosubstances, biomaterials, engineered forest products, traditional forest products, etc.) encouraging the future use of forest resources?

Task Force - International Forest Governance

Activities focus on bringing together leading scholars on specific challenges relating to forest policy and governance, such as “reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation plus” (REDD+), legality verification/good forest governance, and certification initiatives.

Task Force - Forests and Human Health

Environmental change and biodiversity degradation have a big impact on the dispersion of infectious human diseases, but at the same time forest environment can be an enormous asset in improving the health conditions of human communities. The Task Force has two main objectives: to support the dialogue and information exchange between the various players in this field, especially between forest and health professionals; and to enhance the transfer of knowledge on the health benefits and health risks of forests into practice.

Task Force - Education in Forest Science

The Task Force aims at an improved practice of education in forest sciences worldwide and at contributing to the development of standards of education in forest sciences, which meet the requirements of today.



IUFRO-SPDC: Special Programme for Developing Countries

The mission of the Special Programme for Developing Countries is “to expand and foster forest research capacity in developing and economically disadvantaged countries”.

In order to enhance the ability of research institutions to generate and deliver scientific information and advisory services on forest and trees and their sustainable utilization, IUFRO-SPDC implements the following programme components:

- Training of scientists,
- Collaborative research networking,
- Scientist assistance programme.

High priority is given to the role of scientists in translating good science into useful information for forest policy and management. With its training and research networking activities, IUFRO-SPDC contributes towards strengthening the bridge between science and application, and in this way helps achieving greater impact of science on forest policy and practice.

IUFRO-WFSE: Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment

The IUFRO-WFSE network shares existing scientific knowledge and participates actively in forest-related policy processes. It promotes global cooperation in high quality research and wide participation in the international discussions and processes. WFSE produces books, policy briefs and capacity building material, participates in international events, and develops collaboration with other IUFRO units.

WFSE actively supports regional and global policy processes related to forests and tree resources with cross-sectoral, critical analyses based on existing solid scientific knowledge. Through producing regional policy briefs it specifically aims at strengthening the focus on regionally critical issues of global importance in the forests-society-environment interface.



GFIS: Global Forest Information Service

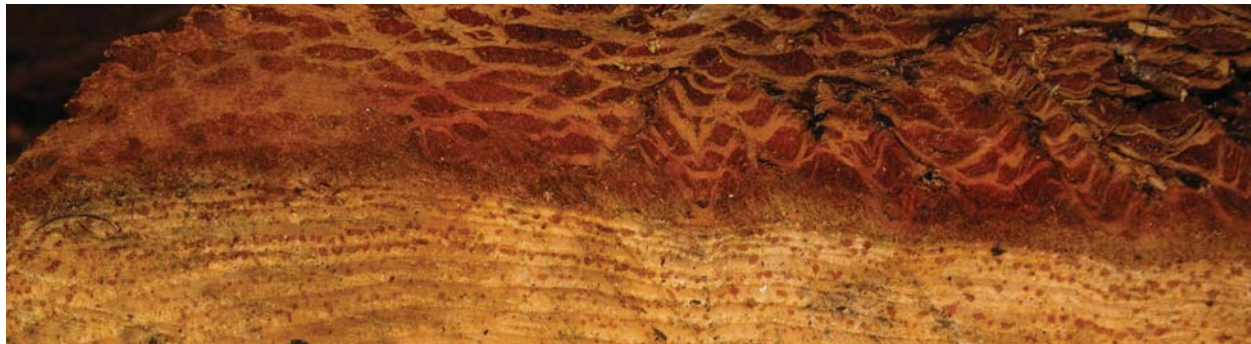
The Global Forest Information Service brings the information that matters to key stakeholders in a single gateway “www.gfis.net”. Users of the service can easily access forest and tree-related news, events, publications, education, projects, jobs and more through the use of a targeted search tool. Users can stay up-to-date on the results of their searches through subscribing to the results via an RSS feed.

Partnerships with institutions related to forests and forestry create a comprehensive and structured storage of information accessible to GFIS users while simultaneously promoting the institutions themselves. With a growing number of information providers, the GFIS gateway has grown to be a highly respected source for information and bringing increased traffic flows to its partners.

GFEP: Global Forest Expert Panels

The IUFRO-led “Global Forest Expert Panels” initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) was launched in April 2007 to provide objective and independent scientific assessments of key issues in order to support more informed decision-making at the global level.

Following the successful completion of the first thematic publication on “Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change – A Global Assessment Report”, GFEP initiated a new scientific assessment on the “International Forest Regime” in autumn 2009 and presented its second global assessment report called “Embracing complexity: Meeting the challenges of international forest governance” in 2011. In the same year a new expert panel was set up to prepare a scientific assessment of the relationship between biodiversity, forest management, and REDDplus.





www.iufro.org

IUFRO Headquarters

Tel: +43-1-8770151-0, Fax: +43-1-8770151-50

E-mail: office@iufro.org, <http://www.iufro.org>



international union of forest research organizations
the global network for forest science cooperation

union internationale des instituts de recherches forestières
le réseau mondial de coopération en science forestière

internationaler verband forstlicher forschungsanstalten
das weltweite netz für die forstwissenschaftliche zusammenarbeit

unión internacional de organizaciones de investigación forestal
la red mundial para la cooperación en ciencias forestales

Printed by:
Ferdinand Berger &
Söhne GmbH
3580 Horn, Austria

Photo credits (in alphabetical order):
Pierre Ackerman, Alexander Buck, Jouni Hyvärinen,
Michael Kleine, Cecil Konijnendik, Renate Prüller,
Geoff Roberts, Wolfgang Simlinger, Gerda Wolfrum