



Annual Report 2015 Highlights

International Union of Forest Research Organizations
Union Internationale des Instituts de Recherches Forestières
Internationaler Verband Forstlicher Forschungsanstalten
Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal
www.iufro.org

80 IUFRO co-sponsored meetings

247 research units led by 750 officeholders

10 new interdisciplinary task forces

strong presence in global policy processes and events

626 member organizations worldwide

comprehensive forest and food security report

focus on forest and landscape restoration

2015 in a Nutshell

IUFRO President Mike Wingfield

A year has passed since our hugely successful 24th IUFRO World Congress and thus also my first year as President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

It certainly has been a busy year; one in which we have set in place important new strategic initiatives and directions for our organization. These offer **numerous new and interesting opportunities for IUFRO scientists to network and share research results**, thus increasing the visibility of forest science worldwide.

The impressive number of **80 IUFRO co-sponsored meetings and a strong IUFRO presence in global policy processes and events** provide ample evidence of a high level of activity and success in just the first year of the 2014-2019 Board term. My sincere **thanks go to the many IUFRO scientists** who have contributed to these accomplishments.

The 54th Meeting of the IUFRO Enlarged Board in April 2015 provided the **first milestone to achieving our goals set out in our new Strategy** that serves as our “roadmap” leading up to the XXV World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2019. Among other things, the Board approved the establishment of **10 new Task Forces** as well as of a **new Special Programme**, the IUFRO Directors’ Forum.

Prior to the Board meeting, IUFRO was proud to organize a **highly successful International Bio-economy Symposium in Vienna**. This was undertaken in cooperation with the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW). One of the important conclusions from this meeting was that there is an urgent need to maximize the contributions of forests to the global bio-economy, while at the same time ensuring their sustainability.

In 2015 **IUFRO continued to be very active in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)**, a partnership of 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programs on forests. IUFRO recommended further strengthening the role of the CPF in providing scientific and technical advice. I am pleased to say IUFRO’s recommendation was well-received by the member states of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

The UNFF also acknowledged IUFRO’s leadership in the CPF **Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP)**. These panels provide a mechanism by which we are able to respond effectively to the information needs of policy makers and stakeholders at an international level. Against this background, it was most timely that GFEP successfully released a comprehensive **scientific analysis on the relationship among forests, food and nutrition** at UNFF11 in New York in May.

In September the XIV World Forestry Congress, hosted by the Republic of South Africa and organized by the FAO Forestry Department, brought together the global forestry community. **IUFRO used this opportunity most efficiently to highlight the importance of forest research, capacity building and education.**



Finally, at the 2015 Global Landscapes Forum held on the sidelines of the UNFCCC COP21 Climate Summit in Paris in December IUFRO successfully launched the latest volume in IUFRO's World Series entitled **"Forest Landscape Restoration as a Key Component of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation"**.

I have outlined just a few of IUFRO's achievements during 2015. What is important to say is that these have all resulted from valuable contributions and hard work on the part of many members of our extensive global network.

Looking Ahead

Björn Hånell and John Parrotta, IUFRO Vice-Presidents

The historic climate agreement reached at the **Paris Climate Conference in December 2015 presents challenges and opportunities for forest scientists** to work together, and with our colleagues in numerous other fields as well as with decision-makers. Together we can develop viable and socially acceptable approaches that will help us reach our collective goal of a more sustainable future.

Beyond the climate challenge, **the forest science community has much to contribute towards finding and helping to implement solutions to other pressing global concerns**, such as biodiversity loss and degradation of the capacity of forests to provide the environmental, economic, social, cultural, spiritual and health benefits that sustain rural and urban societies worldwide. Solutions to these concerns are critically important, particularly for those who rely most directly on forests and trees outside of forests for their daily livelihoods needs – for food, clean water, energy, and incomes. **With its global coverage and thematic breadth, IUFRO is well prepared to face these challenges.**

In 2016, there are already more than 50 international meetings scheduled and announced in IUFRO's Calendar of events! The largest of these is the **IUFRO Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania 2016 to be held in Beijing, China, in late October.** With its broad theme *"Forests for Sustainable Development: The Role of Research"* it aims at reaching a common understanding about the status and trends of forests and the consequent research needs towards sustainable forestry development in the region.

2015 was a great year for IUFRO. We are confident that 2016 will provide many opportunities for us to build on this momentum, to strengthen IUFRO's global network, foster expanded international research collaboration within and beyond our disciplinary boundaries, and enhance communications with decision-makers and society at large for a greener and more harmonious future.

Read the full report at: <http://www.iufro.org/publications/annual-report/>

Photos (starting on the left page from the top):

Mike Wingfield at the Bioeconomy Symposium in Vienna. (BMLFUW/R. Strasser);

Field tour, beech forests of Zunguldag, Turkey. (IUFRO 1.01.07/K. Sagheb-Talebi);

Handing over a signed copy of GFEP report on forests and food security to UNFF Director Manoel Sobral Filho (centre) at UNFF11 (GFEP/IUFRO/G. Wolfrum);

WFC, South Africa, IUFRO/IFSA Side Event (FABI/IUFRO/M. Booij-Liewes);

Local stakeholders discuss main causes of forest degradation. (FORNESSA/E. Foli);

Extension and Knowledge Exchange meeting in Ireland (IUFRO 9.01.03/S. Moore)

Field trip to the Altai Forest Seed Breeding Center. (IUFRO 2.02.00/K. Krutovsky);

Systematic Review in Forest Science Training Workshop (IUFRO-SPDC/Hu Yanjie).



IUFRO Board

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Gerhard Mannsberger, Austria

Task Force (TF) Coordinators

TF Forests, Soil and Water Interactions:
Richard Harper, Australia
TF Foresight for Forest Sector Planning:
Jerry Vanclay, Australia
TF Sustainable Forest Biomass Network:
Viktor Bruckman, Austria
TF Resources for the Future: Transformation in Forest Use:
John Innes, Canada
TF Contribution of Biodiversity to Ecosystem Services in Managed Forests: Hervé Jactel, France
TF Sustainable Planted Forests for a Greener Future:
Christophe Orazio, France
TF Forest Adaptation and Restoration under Global Change:
Andreas Bolte, Germany
TF Climate Change and Forest Health: Elena Paoletti, Italy
TF Forests and Biological Invasions: Andrew Liebhold, USA
Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education:
Magdalena Lackner/IFSA, Austria
Sandra Rodríguez-Pineros/IUFRO, Mexico

Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives

IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) and IUFRO Deputy Executive Director:
Michael Kleine, Austria
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Global Forest Information Service (GFIS):
Eero Mikkola, Finland
CPF Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP):
Christoph Wildburger, Austria

IUFRO World Congress Organizing Committee Chairs (Brazil 2019)

Joberto Veloso de Freitas and Yeda Maria Malheiros de Oliveira

Congress Scientific Committee Chair:

Jerry Vanclay, Australia

FAO Representative:

Eduardo Rojas Briaes, Spain

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PR & Communication, Publications and Translation:
Gerda Wolfrum, Austria

IUFRO Honours and Awards

Certificate of Appreciation:

Filimon Carcea, Heok-Choh Sim, Stephen Harrison, Aneta Rydel, Milozs Mielcarek, Radomir Balazy, Terry Sunderland, Henry Neufeldt, Daniela Kleinschmit, John Parrotta, Stepha McMullin, Ramni Jamnadass, Stephanie Mansourian, Bhaskar Vira

IUFRO Headquarters Publications 2015

- World Series Vol. 34 - Forest Landscape Restoration as a Key Component of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- World Series Vol. 33 - Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition. A Global Assessment Report
- IUFRO Occasional Paper 30 - Creating and Sharing New Knowledge Through Joint Learning on Water Governance and Climate Change Adaptation in Three Latin American Model Forests: The EcoAdapt Case
- IUFRO Occasional Paper 29 - COST FP 1207: Orchestrating Forest-related Policy Analysis in Europe (ORCHESTRA)
- IUFRO News Issues 1-12 (3 double issues), 2015
- 6 Scientific Summaries related to IUFRO News
- 8 IUFRO Spotlight issues
- IUFRO Annual Report 2014

Editorial:

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Full report at: <http://www.iufro.org/publications/annual-report/>

Mark your calendars for the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress 2017:



**Interconnecting Forests,
Science and People**

**125th Anniversary
Congress 2017**

19-22 September 2017 - Freiburg, Germany - iufro2017.com