

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



Annual Report

2016 Highlights

1st IUFRO Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania

82 IUFRO co-sponsored meetings

Report on illegal logging and related timber trade

Focus on the future of forests and forest education

247 Research Units led by 727 Officeholders

10 interdisciplinary Task Forces

613 Member Organizations worldwide

2016 in a Nutshell

Mike Wingfield, IUFRO President

One of the most important and certainly amongst the most exciting events for IUFRO in 2016 was the **First IUFRO Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania (IUFRO-AO)** in Beijing, China, held between the 24th and the 27th of October. I can report with absolute confidence that the Congress was a resounding success. Our hope for the Congress was primarily to unite more closely the IUFRO community in this important region. This was not only achieved but clearly exceeded our every expectation. Many important scientific issues relevant to forests and forestry were discussed and many new collaborative activities have emerged from the Congress. Here I not only once again compliment but sincerely thank our colleagues in China and especially the Chinese Academy of Forestry for their remarkable efforts to organize such an outstanding event.

Amongst many highlights of the IUFRO-AO Congress I had the great privilege of bestowing **Honorary Membership, IUFRO's highest award, on Dr. Su See Lee** from Malaysia. Su See becomes the first female Honorary Member of IUFRO. And I hope that many more female scientists follow her lead in the future.

In terms of meetings and our primary goal of global forest research networking, IUFRO held a total of 82 research meetings in different countries during 2016. These meetings are not solitary initiatives but are part of a process of growth over time for our many members and stakeholders. This is because research is strongly driven by collaboration and networking. Thus, the meetings and events that IUFRO initiates become intertwined and linked in a long-term process of growth and progress. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere **thanks to all members and officeholders of IUFRO** for their tireless efforts and hard work to organize IUFRO meetings and other activities.

An important highlight for IUFRO in 2016 was the launch of our latest scientific assessment report prepared as a **"Rapid Response on Illegal Timber Trade"** by the IUFRO-led Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). More than 40 internationally renowned scientists contributed to the study. Several high-ranking UN officials including the Executive Director of UN Environment and the CBD Executive Secretary participated in the launch of the study at the Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Cancun, Mexico, in December.

During the past year, I was able to visit the IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna on various occasions. On 18 April 2016 I met with the Austrian Minister responsible for forests, Mr Andrä Rupprechter, to **discuss the collaboration between Austria and IUFRO**. The Government of Austria hosts IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna and provides indispensable funding and support for its operations. During this meeting Minister Rupprechter assured me of the Government of Austria's commitment to continued support for IUFRO. He also emphasized IUFRO's important role as a provider of scientific knowledge and best practices in key forestry issues not only relevant to Austria but globally.



Honorary membership for former Vice-President Su See Lee (centre). From left to right: Liu Shirong (Vice-President CAF), Björn Hånell and John Parrotta (IUFRO Vice-Presidents), Mike Wingfield (IUFRO President), Alexander Buck (IUFRO Executive Director) and Lu Wenming (Secretary General of Congress Organizing Committee, CAF). Photo by Morne Booij-Liewes (FABI)

In August 2016 I met with students from the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) during the course of their **44th International Forestry Students' Symposium (IFSS)** that took place in Austria and Bavaria (Germany). I was able to host a workshop where I had challenged IFSA students to debate and discuss their views on the future of forests and forestry. More specifically to challenge them to consider how universities might adapt forestry curricula to serve the needs of forests and forestry in the future. This was a fascinating experience and a pleasure to hear the interesting and sometimes challenging views of enthusiastic future forestry professionals. I also had the privilege of participating in a panel discussion considering the topic of the 2016 IFSS "Regional forests, global perspectives".

As I am sure many readers of this Annual Report are aware, the close cooperation between IFSA and IUFRO was further strengthened when the **IFSA/IUFRO Joint Position** was established in 2013. In 2016 we welcomed the third incumbent of this position, Janice Burns from Canada, who followed in the 'footsteps' of Hugo Pierre from France and Andre Purret from Estonia. I am happy to also report that Andre has remained with IUFRO and now serves as the GFEP Project Manager where he continues to support the IUFRO HQ team in Vienna.

It has been a pleasure to serve IUFRO as its President during the past year and to be able to engage closely with many of our members and stakeholders globally. I certainly hope to meet many of you at our now rapidly approaching 125th Anniversary Congress in Freiburg, Germany, in September. On that matter, I have just spent a few days in Freiburg meeting with members of the organizing committee and I am truly excited at what promises to be a fabulous event. In closing I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of IUFRO. I also extend a very sincere vote of thanks to IUFRO Executive Director, Alexander Buck, and the IUFRO remarkably effective headquarters staff who have provided me with superb support and assistance. In this brief overview, I have highlighted only a small selection of IUFRO's many activities and achievements during 2016. I do hope that you will be able to take some time to peruse a more comprehensive report of IUFRO's many activities by downloading our full 2016 Annual Report at:

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

Looking Ahead

Björn Hånell and John Parrotta, IUFRO Vice-Presidents

In September, IUFRO will celebrate a milestone in the history of international forest science collaboration with our **125th Anniversary Congress, to be held in Freiburg, Germany**. Since IUFRO's establishment in 1892 by the forestry research institutes of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, we have grown – slowly but steadily – into *the* global network for forest science.

Today, the IUFRO family includes over 600 member organizations in more than 120 countries, uniting over 15,000 scientists in the **pursuit of excellence in all fields of forest-related research**, working together to help solve some of today's – and tomorrow's - toughest environmental, social and economic challenges related to forests.

Humanity's failure to respond to early warnings is apparent in one of the most serious of these challenges - the degradation of forest land. With his holistic view of nature, achieved not only by collecting new data but also by including art, history, poetry and politics, *Alexander von Humboldt* (1769-1859), in his magnificent work "Kosmos", predicted global consequences of deforestation - nearly 200 years ago! Already then, Humboldt, the greatest scientist of his time, believed in what now are cornerstones of IUFRO, i.e. **free exchange of information, uniting scientists, and promoting communication between disciplines**. Today, in our efforts to understand and predict global changes, Humboldt's interdisciplinary view on science and nature is more relevant than ever. Our way of thinking builds on his idea of global patterns.

Since Humboldt, environmental degradation he discussed has affected 25% of the Earth's land area (FAO 2010), ca 3.75 billion hectares, and poses a significant threat to global sustainability. Furthermore, **the remaining areas of intact forest landscapes continue to shrink**. Recent initiatives to counteract land degradation, such as the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests, aim at restoring 350 million hectares of forest landscapes by 2030 - about one tenth of all degraded land. Because land restoration priorities clearly correlate to where we people live, more initiatives and more knowledge are needed. Filling knowledge gaps, explaining the prerequisites and developing the techniques for improved **forest landscape restoration are tasks of greatest importance for IUFRO Divisions and Task Forces**.

More than half the world's population is already living in cities and the forecast for 2050 is that this figure will rise to about 70%. The United Nations projects that almost all global population growth the next 13 years will happen in cities, including over 1 billion new urban residents. The **rapid population shift from rural to urban areas** calls for giving highest priority to constructing efficient urban forest ecosystems. It is therefore reasonable to believe that **the topic we commonly name urban forestry will gain in importance**.

IUFRO can contribute to the development and strengthening of this essential scientific field for the future and give necessary input to the promotion of forest cities. But a lot of new knowledge is needed to meet this need. The accelerating pace of **urbanization brings substantial opportunities for progress as**



well as a series of challenges that are priority IUFRO tasks, e.g. water shortage, soil erosion, maintenance of biodiversity, and a need for new products from the forest.

These and many other issues of global importance will be highlighted at the 125th Anniversary Congress. It will provide the over 2000 expected participants with a great venue for presenting the most recent research results from across the spectrum of IUFRO's nine permanent Divisions as well as the cutting-edge work done in our interdisciplinary Task Force, which seek to synthesize the best available scientific knowledge to inform decision-making, enhance the management of forests, forest products, and forest ecosystem services. A common and most important aim of IUFRO Divisions and Task Forces is to serve the general public that depends on the best we have to offer to solve today's and tomorrow's challenges.

The 125th Anniversary Congress promises to be a grand occasion, for forest science, and for the chance to celebrate our shared IUFRO history and its accomplishments! **We look forward to meeting you in September in Freiburg, Germany** - the home country of Alexander von Humboldt, and where IUFRO was born.



Black Forest, Germany

IUFRO
Interconnecting Forests,
Science and People

125th Anniversary
Congress 2017

IUFRO Board

IUFRO Senior Officeholders:

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Vice-President Divisions: Björn Hånell, Sweden
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Immediate Past President: Niels Elers Koch, Denmark

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Division 6: Tuija Sievänen, Finland
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President's Nominees:

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Jung-Hwan Park, Republic of Korea
Manuel Guariguata, Venezuela/Peru

IUFRO Executive Director:

Alexander Buck, Austria

IUFRO Headquarters Host Country Representative:

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
IUFRO World Forests, Society and Environment (IUFRO-WFSE): Pia Katila, Finland
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:

René Castro, Costa Rica

IUFRO Headquarters (Vienna Office)

Executive Director: Alexander Buck, Austria
Deputy Executive Director and IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator:
Michael Kleine, Austria
Web Management, Communication and Social Media:
Brigitte Burger, Austria
Library and Database Administrator:
Sylvia Fiege, Austria
IUFRO-SPDC Project Management and Translation Services:
Margareta Khorchidi, Austria
Junior Professional Officer – IUFRO/IFSA Joint Position:
Janice Burns, Canada
Project Coordinator:
Renate Prüller, Austria
GFEP Project Manager:
Andre Purrett, Estonia
System Administrator:
Heimo Schaffer, Austria
SPDC/GFEP Project Management and Translation Services:
Eva Schimpf, Austria
Finances and Administration (Projects)
Judith Stöger-Goiser, Austria
Finances and Administration:
Astrid Tippel, Austria
PR & Communication, Publications and Translation:
Gerda Wolfrum, Austria

IUFRO Honours and Awards

Certificate of Appreciation:

He Chao, Zhou Xiaoxing, Ms Wang Qiuju, Ms Wang Jianlan, Kang Lei, Wang Zhen, Ms Gu Yali, Ms Wang Zishan, Ms Li Xuejiao, Ms Lang Yan, Ms Chen Yujie, Ms Ge Yuhang, Lu Wenming, Liu Shirong, Zhang Shougong, Toshiaki Owari, Masato Shibuya, Walter Sekot, Ms Leena Paavilainen

IUFRO Headquarters Publications 2016

- World Series Vol. 35 - Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade – Dimensions, Drivers, Impacts and Responses. A Global Scientific Rapid Response Assessment Report
- IUFRO News Issues 1-12 (1 double issue), 2016
- 9 Scientific Summaries related to IUFRO News
- 8 IUFRO Spotlight issues
- IUFRO Annual Report 2015

Editorial:

Annual Report 2016 Highlights

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



IUFRO Board Meeting in Beijing, China. Photo by Morne Booij-Liewes (FABI)