



IUFRO

Interconnecting
Forests, Science and People

Highlights 2018 Annual Report

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

Setting the course for the future

Scientific expertise for forest landscape restoration

Major assessment on forests and water

77 IUFRO co-sponsored meetings

252 Research Units led by 734 Officeholders

9 Interdisciplinary Task Forces

625 Member Organizations worldwide

Message from the IUFRO President



Mike Wingfield

For IUFRO, the past year felt ‘sandwiched’ between two major events. These being our 125th Anniversary Congress held in Freiburg in 2017 and our now rapidly approaching World Congress 2019. While we did not host a major international meeting during 2018, IUFRO once again had a very active year in terms of smaller meetings such as those representing Working Parties and Research Groups with 77 meetings held in many different parts of the world.

At the time of our Board Meeting hosted by Oregon State University in September, I made the point that this was by far our most important Board meeting of the IUFRO 2014-2019 Board Term. Here I was specifically referring to the fact that this was the meeting where we needed to elect members of the IUFRO Board that will represent and lead the Union for the five years starting after our 2019 World Congress. We also needed to decide on the host country for our World Congress 2024. The outcome of these important decisions is already well known to most readers of this report but I will share them with you here.

A fundamentally important decision relating to the operating processes of IUFRO was made during our Oregon 2018 Board Meeting. This was to request our International Council (IC) to approve the Board’s recommendations relating to the 2019-2024 leadership as well as the 2024 World Congress host country. In the past, this decision had been ratified by the IC only at the time of the World Congress. I am grateful to our IC for agreeing to an electronic vote that enabled us to announce the names of the members of the 2019-2014 Board including the fact that Dr. John Parrotta will serve as the next IUFRO President; also that our 2024 World Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden. Having these decisions made in advance of our 2019 World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil means that incoming Board Members will have the opportunity to prepare more effectively for their new roles. Likewise, our colleagues in Sweden are able to promote the 2024 World Congress at the 2019 World Congress.

Amongst the many highlights of the past year was the launch of the latest Global Forest Expert Panels’ (GFEP) report on Forest and Water Interactions. This comprehensive scientific assessment was released in July at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York. Amongst the many important outcomes of the report is clear evidence that the role of forests in the water cycle is at least as important as their role in the carbon cycle in the face of climate change.

I am delighted to report that the important work of IUFRO in the field of forest landscape restoration (FLR) has continued to be actively pursued during 2018. In addition to a highly successful regional FLR knowledge-sharing workshop in Sri Lanka, IUFRO

participated actively and had impressive visibility in the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) 2018 held in Bonn, Germany.

Another major opportunity to promote collaboration with partners arose when the World Bank’s Programme on Forests (PROFOR) agreed to jointly organize with us an Expert Workshop on “Understanding climate impacts of forest fire and the role of restoration as a forest-smart solution”. This Expert Workshop was the first direct collaborative venture between PROFOR and IUFRO. A summary note arising from this important event was prepared to be published in early 2019.

I am proud to report that the IUFRO-EFI Young Scientists Initiative (YSI) has gained further momentum. This joint initiative with the European Forest Institute (EFI) was launched at our 125th Anniversary Congress in 2017 and has already provided five early career scientists from Armenia, Korea, Madagascar, India and Cameroon with grants for short scientific visits in 2018. These visits have provided a unique opportunity for the young scientists to visit a European forest research organization and conduct collaborative scientific work with a mentor from a selected host organization. I am confident that this mentorship initiative will grow in the future to support greater numbers of young forest researchers. In this regard, we are actively seeking new sponsors to support similar initiatives.

The IUFRO Headquarters office in Vienna continues to serve our Union actively and impressively. I remain most grateful to Executive Director Alexander Buck and his staff for their commitment and support, not only for my office but that of all of the many IUFRO Units. In this regard and following the recommendations of an independent review conducted in 2017, the position of a Thematic Networking Manager was introduced at IUFRO Headquarters in order to increase the quality of its services to members.

An important issue that affects IUFRO business that has emerged during the past year is the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) of the European Union that came into effect on 25 May 2018. The GDPR applies to ‘personal data’, which includes any information relating to an identifiable person. As a legal entity registered in the EU, IUFRO is obliged to comply with the requirements of the GDPR. Since IUFRO, as a global networking organization, stores and processes personal data, I would like to appeal to you to support the work of Headquarters by consenting, where appropriate, to this storage and processing of your data. This will ensure that the IUFRO Headquarters is able to continue to provide our entire network with the services that we have enjoyed in the past.

As I think is clear from this brief report as well as from my various other means of communication, 2018 was another very productive year for IUFRO. There are many details that I have not been able to include in this short report and I thus refer you to our full Annual Report for 2018 published on our website under the ‘publications’ banner. In closing, allow me to take this opportunity to thank all our donors, partners, supporters and stakeholders for their contributions that have a huge impact on the well-being of forests and forestry globally. It has been a great pleasure for me to be able to lead our remarkable network and I am grateful to the many thousands of forest researchers all over the world that make **IUFRO THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR FOREST SCIENCE COLLABORATION.**

Outlook

*John Parrotta and Björn Hånell,
IUFRO Vice-Presidents*

The most conspicuous landscape feature in view from our 2019 Outlook Tower is the 25th IUFRO World Congress which will be held from 29 September to 5 October in the beautiful city of Curitiba, in the southern Brazilian state of Paraná. With this great event IUFRO will reach yet another milestone in its 127-year history: the first time the World Congress is held in Latin America. And what better place than in Brazil, the country renowned for its cultural richness and the greatest biodiversity of flora and fauna on the planet.

The Congress is expected to draw thousands of scientists to Curitiba, lured by the spectacular diversity of Brazil's natural forests, from the vast region of the Amazon to the Atlantic Forests of the southeast, its extensive planted forests supporting a thriving forest products industry, and Brazil's long tradition of excellence in forest-related research. A significant proportion of the over 700 IUFRO Officeholders in the permanent Divisions and temporary Task Forces will be there, together with scientists from several related research fields. The participants will certainly not be disappointed, given the excellent preparations for the Congress by the host country and the IUFRO members involved in organizing this Congress, co-led by the Brazilian Forest Service (SFB) and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA). The Congress Organizing Committee, co-chaired by Yeda Maria Malheiros de Oliveira (EMBRAPA) and Joberto Veloso de Freitas (SFB), have been hard at work since before the 2014 Congress to ensure that this event will stand out as an important landmark in forest science and as an unforgettable networking opportunity for all participants.

The Congress theme "Forest Research and Cooperation for Sustainable Development" emphasizes the importance of forests and forest science in addressing the broader challenges facing society. During the Congress it is expected that the role of forest conservation, the management of natural and planted forests, and forest landscape restoration will feature prominently. The reason for this is their relevance to many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including those related to clean water and sanitation, poverty reduction, food security, affordable and clean energy, and sustainable cities. These topics have been the focus of considerable global research collaboration in recent years. This includes IUFRO's Divisions, Task Forces, Special Programs and Projects, and IUFRO-led Initiatives such as the Global Forest Expert Panels (a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests CPF). Such work is part of a long-term trend in IUFRO activities of reaching out to and establishing greater collaboration with scientists from disciplines outside the boundaries of forest science. IUFRO's outreach efforts also include engagement with the general public, communities and policymakers at the global level to facilitate and enable science-based decisions.

The scientific core of the Congress, developed primarily by the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) in collaboration with IUFRO Officeholders, and led by Jerry Vanclay, contains five broad themes – Forests for People; Forests and Climate Change; Forests and Forest Products for a Greener Future; Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Biological Invasions; and Forests, Soil



Forests in southern Brazil. Photo by Sandra Luque, IRSTEA

and Water Interactions. It will include daily plenary sessions, 19 subplenary sessions, and approximately 200 technical and poster sessions. The unprecedented response to the CSC's open call for session proposals, and subsequent record-breaking response to the call for abstracts (over 4000 submitted), created a level of competition that will likely ensure a scientific program of outstanding value.

The Curitiba Congress also provides an opportunity for IUFRO to gather its internal forces. IUFRO's highest decision-making body - the International Council, formed by representatives from IUFRO's 126 member countries - will meet during the Congress to discuss important issues for the future, including an updated Strategy for the 2019-2024 period.

Further, the Congress will serve as a hub to attract new scientists for IUFRO Officeholder positions in Research Groups and Working Parties, with a special emphasis on recruiting more women to serve as Officeholders. A mentor-mentee program, initiated by the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), will be implemented with IUFRO in Curitiba. The Curitiba Congress will be vital in this process – and strengthen IUFRO's role in

interconnecting forests, science and people!

XXV
IUFRO World Congress
International Union of Forest Research Organizations

iufro2019
Curitiba • Brazil
29 SEPT - 5 OCT

International Host **IUFRO**
Brazilian Hosts **Embrapa**
BRAZILIAN FOREST SERVICE

IUFRO 2019 Congress website: <http://www.iufro2019.com/>

IUFRO Board

IUFRO Senior Officeholders:

President: Mike Wingfield, South Africa
Vice-President Divisions: Björn Hånell, Sweden
Vice-President Task Forces, Special Programmes, Projects and IUFRO-led Initiatives: John Parrotta, USA
Immediate Past President: Niels Elers Koch, Denmark

Division Coordinators:

Division 1: Jens Peter Skovsgaard, Sweden
Division 2: Yousry El-Kassaby, Canada
Division 3: Woodam Chung, USA
Division 4: Jean-Luc Peyron, France
Division 5: Pekka Saranpää, Finland
Division 6: Tuija Sievänen, Finland
Division 7: Eckehard Brockerhoff, New Zealand
Division 8: Sandra Luque, France
Division 9: Daniela Kleinschmit, Germany

President's Nominees:

John Innes, Canada
Shirong Liu, China
Ben Chikamai, Kenya
Jung-Hwan Park, Republic of Korea
Manuel Guariguata, Venezuela/Peru

IUFRO Executive Director:

Alexander Buck, Austria

IUFRO Headquarters Host Country Representative:

Maria Patek, Austria

Task Force (TF) Coordinators:

TF Forests, Soil and Water Interactions:
Xiaohua (Adam) Wei, USA
TF Forest Biomass Network:
Maliwan Haruthaithanasan, Thailand
TF Resources for the Future: Transformation in Forest Use:
John Innes, Canada
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:
Sandra Rodríguez-Pineros, IUFRO/Mexico
Khalil Walji, IFSA/UN-FAO
Monitoring Global Tree Mortality Patterns and Trends:
Henrik Hartmann, Germany

Special Programmes, Projects and Initiatives:

IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC): 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

XXV IUFRO World Congress Organizing Committee (COC) Chairs:

Joberto Veloso de Freitas and Yeda Maria Malheiros de Oliveira, Brazil

XXV IUFRO World Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) Chair:

Jerry Vanclay, Australia

FAO Representative:

Hiroto Mitsugi, Japan/Italy

IUFRO Headquarters (Vienna)

Executive Director: Alexander Buck, Austria
Deputy Executive Director and IUFRO-SPDC Coordinator:
Michael Kleine, Austria
Project Coordinator: Renate Prüller, Austria
Finances and Administration: Astrid Toppel, Austria
Finances and Administration (Projects):
Judith Stöger-Goiser, Austria
Web Management, Communication and Social Media:
Brigitte Burger, Austria
Communication, PR, Publications and Translation:
Gerda Wolfrum, Austria
Library and Database Administrator: Sylvia Fiege, Austria
System Administrator: Heimo Schaffer, Austria
GFEP Coordinator: Christoph Wildburger, Austria
GFEP Project Manager: Andre Purrett, Estonia
IUFRO-SPDC/GFEP Project Management and Translation Services:
Eva Schimpf, Austria
IUFRO-SPDC Project Management and Translation Services:
Margareta Khorchidi, Austria
Thematic Networking Manager:
Janice Burns, Canada
Junior Professional Officer (IUFRO-EFI YSI):
Daniel Boehnke, South Africa

IUFRO Honours and Awards

Certificate of Appreciation (CoA)

Fredrik Ingemarson, Sweden
Woodam Chung, USA

IUFRO Headquarters Publications 2018

- World Series Vol. 37 - Ancient Woodlands and Trees: A Guide for Landscape Planners and Forest Managers
- World Series Vol. 38 - Forest and Water on a Changing Planet: Vulnerability, Adaptation and Governance Opportunities. A Global Assessment Report
- Occasional Paper 32 - Global Fire Challenges in a Warming World
- IUFRO News Issues 1-12 (with 3 double issues), 2018
- 7 Scientific Summaries related to IUFRO News
- 6 IUFRO Spotlight issues
- IUFRO Annual Report 2017

Editorial

Annual Report 2018 Highlights: Copyright by IUFRO, Vienna, 2019
Photos: GFEP/Jianchu Xu (Chinese Academy of Sciences), stockstudioX, IUFRO/G. Wolfrum, IUFRO/M. Kleine, IUFRO/Mike Wingfield

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

Members of the IUFRO Board during field trip in Corvallis, Oregon. USA
Photo IUFRO

