

International Expert Group Recommends Strengthening Science-policy Interface

The second meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group on the International Arrangement on Forests (AHEG2) convened from 12 to 16 January 2015 at UN Headquarters, in New York, US.

The International Arrangement relates predominantly to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), a high-level intergovernmental forest policy forum composed of all member states of the United Nations, and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a partnership of 14 international forest-related institutions including IUFRO.

Executive Director Alexander Buck represented IUFRO at this meeting. He underlined specifically the importance of research for informing the deliberations by policy makers and ultimately achieving effective and durable solutions on the ground. "IUFRO provides a comprehensive structure for regional and global science cooperation related to forests and trees. It is a unique advantage of IUFRO to be able to extract evidence-based knowledge from its global network of researchers", he explained.

As a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, IUFRO, together with the CPF members CIFOR (Center for International Forestry Research) and ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre), has been playing a very active role in providing relevant scientific information for international policy deliberations in recent years.

For example, IUFRO leads and coordinates the [Global Forest Expert Panels](#) (GFEP). GFEP produces interdisciplinary scientific assessment reports on key issues emerging from international policy debates. The reports are prepared by thematic Expert Panels consisting of internationally recognized scientific experts in their fields. GFEP successfully completed three major assessments and is currently in the process of finalizing its fourth assessment report on forests and food security that will be launched at the 11th session of UNFF from 4-15 May 2015 in New York, US.

The deliberations on a future International Arrangement on Forests and the post-2015 Development Agenda provide member states, organizations and stakeholders with an opportunity to further strengthen the link between science and policy. "IUFRO is ready to work with its scientific partner organizations, notably CIFOR and ICRAF, and with governments and stakeholders towards strengthening the crucially important link between science and policy in a future International Arrangement on Forests", underlined Alexander Buck. Such efforts should build on existing international forest science organizations and on existing forest science-policy mechanisms such as GFEP.



*IUFRO Executive Director Alexander Buck
at AHEG2 in New York
(Photo provided by IISD Reporting Services)*

The comments made by IUFRO and its scientific partners were well received by the expert group. In their report about the meeting, the Co-Chairs state that "the interface of policy with science, research and practice is an area where UNFF could forge a very useful role, working with CPF" and that experts had recommended to "strengthen science-policy interface to enable systematic interaction that takes into account the overall role of forests in sustainable development and links policy to latest scientific results and assessments; in this regard, science and research related CPF members, such as CIFOR, ICRAF and IUFRO may play an important role".

IUFRO at UNFF 11

Based on these outcomes of the expert meeting in New York and as a practical next step, IUFRO President Mike Wingfield and the Secretariat are currently working together with CIFOR and ICRAF to prepare a joint event in conjunction with the 11th session of UNFF in May 2015. This event shall inform the policy makers and stakeholders assembled in New York about relevant research outputs, including the **forthcoming GFEP study on forests and food security**, and to discuss in more detail how to enhance the research support for policy in a future International Arrangement on Forests and the post-2015 Development Agenda. *(Further details of the event will be communicated in due course.)*



Coming soon! The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests. The theme of the 2015 International Day of Forests (IDF) is *Forests | Climate | Change*. Spread the word about IDF!

The International Day of Forests celebrates and raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. On each International Day of Forests, countries are encouraged to undertake local, national and international efforts to organize activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns.

The theme of the 2015 International Day of Forests (IDF) is *Forests | Climate | Change*. It has been chosen purposely to highlight the ways in which forests and climate change are linked, and to rally global support for greater action and change.

Forests have four major roles in climate change:
(www.fao.org/forestry/climatechange/en/)

- their clearance, overuse and degradation contribute about one-sixth of global carbon emissions;
- they react sensitively to a changing climate;
- when managed sustainably, they produce woodfuels as a benign alternative to fossil fuels;
- and finally, they have the potential to absorb about one-tenth of global carbon emissions projected for the first half of this century into their biomass, soils and products and store them - in principle in perpetuity.

Visit:
www.fao.org/forestry/international-day-of-forests/en/

Review of Targets for the Sustainable Development Goals: The Science Perspective

The International Council for Science (ICSU) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) have launched a new report on the Sustainable Development Goals targets. It is the first independent review conducted by the scientific community of the targets which are intended to operationalize the 17 goals due to be approved later this year.

The report finds that of the 169 targets beneath the 17 draft goals, just 29% are well defined and based on the latest scientific evidence, while 54% need more work and 17% are weak or non-essential. Nevertheless, the SDGs offer a "major improvement" over their predecessors, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):
<http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/review-of-targets-for-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-science-perspective-2015/>

The SDGs build upon the existing Millennium Development Goals (which expire in 2015) and guide the post 2015

21 March is also World Wood Day!

World Wood Day (WWD) is a cultural event celebrated annually on 21 March to highlight wood as an eco-friendly and renewable biomaterial and to raise awareness on the key role wood plays in a sustainable world through biodiversity and forest conservation. Furthermore, this unique celebration will remind humans of the importance and true value of wood and its responsible use.

The 2015 WWD international celebration will be held in Turkey with the theme "*Wood & Humanity*" to rediscover and recognize the contribution and beauty of wood as well as recall its significance in contemporary society.

IUFRO will be represented at the 2015 World Wood Day by Howard Rosen (hrosen(at)fs.fed.us).
(www.worldwoodday.org/2015/index.html)



The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2015 the **International Year of Soils (IYS)**. The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions.

Read the key messages at:
www.fao.org/soils-2015/about/key-messages/en/Communications Toolkit:
www.fao.org/soils-2015/communications-toolkit/en/



international development agenda. IUFRO Headquarters also participated actively in the preparation of coordinated thematic input to the deliberations of an Open Working Group (OWG) of the United Nations about future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). (<https://sustainable-development.un.org/post2015/declaration>)

IUFRO used two different channels for providing input to the OWP, namely the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the International Council for Science (ICSU) as organizing partner of the UN Major Group on Science & Technology. Also as a result of these efforts, the list of proposed SDGs adopted by the OWG in July 2014 contains one goal (no 15) which makes explicit reference to forests.

Global Research Suggests Forests and Green Spaces Have a Positive Effect on People's Health

(Press release by the International Society of Arboriculture ISA, <http://www.isa-arbor.com/>)

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., U.S. – The urban forest is increasingly being recognized for its benefits to public health and wellbeing. As a result, more European cities are including green spaces in their community health policies and promoting trees in their climate-change agendas.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) credits partnerships between medical professionals and tree experts for making headway on today's global health-challenges, including obesity, heart disease, and nutrition.

"Research shows that the presence of trees in a community can encourage people to be more physically active and positively affects their attitudes and behaviors," says Jim Skiera, Executive Director of ISA. "We are just beginning to establish relationships between public health experts and urban forestry, but we know much more about the positive link between health and nature today, so there has been tremendous progress."

Currently, tree experts are working with the World Health Organization to develop guidelines for improving human access to green space in urban areas. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals also include making more green space available, especially for young people and the elderly.

"In Canada, urban foresters have been part of a policy to fight skin cancer and in Sweden, a regional government has partnered with a university to treat people with burnout in therapeutic gardens," says Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk*, a noted expert on urban forestry and urban greening in the department of landscape architecture, planning and management at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. "A colleague of mine in the Netherlands has partnered with a health insurance company for a program to take people out on nature walks to help alleviate stress."

Among the ways trees improve public health:

A national study in the United Kingdom showed that people exposed to the greenest environments have lowest levels of health inequality related to income deprivation. Physical environments that promote good health are important to reduce socioeconomic health inequalities. (Mitchell and Popham, 2008)

Residents in the Netherlands with only 10% green space within 1km of their home had a 25% greater risk of de-

pression and a 30% greater risk of anxiety disorders than those with the highest degree of green space nearby. (Maas et al., 2009)

A worldwide review of scientific literature showed that an urban park was on average 0.94 °C cooler in the day than the surrounding urban area, making warm days more tolerable. (Bowler et al., 2010)

Dr. Konijnendijk adds, "When asked how they feel after spending time in green spaces, volunteering for tree work, or in a community garden, people are consistently telling us that they are in better health and less stressed compared to the time before they engaged in these activities."

Mark Hartley, an ISA Certified Arborist and tree consultant in Penrith, Australia, believes planting more trees - when appropriate - is a way to keep the momentum going worldwide in support of tree benefits on human health.

"As the pressures of urbanization increase, we need to place a far greater value on the urban forest," says Hartley. "Our front line workers need to better understand the benefits of trees to help make decisions before they consider tree removal. We need to keep conveying this message to our policymakers in order for the number of trees to increase."

For more information on the health benefits of trees, visit www.treesaregood.org
Continue at: <http://www.treesaregood.org/newsroom/pressreleases.aspx>



*Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch is also Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 6.07.00 Urban Forestry and was a keynote speaker at the 2014 IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City, USA. Watch his keynote speech at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFOOPu6R6nY> and a video interview at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3bp-Cd-2uw>

AREA

Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch is the current president of the Arboricultural Research and Education Academy (AREA), which is affiliated with the International Society of Arboriculture, and brings together researchers and educators in the fields of arboriculture and urban forestry. (<http://area.isa-arbor.com>)

Photo: Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch
(by Eric Schramm, IUFRO 2014 World Congress)

Announcements

Call for Nomination of Candidates for European Forest Institute's Scientific Advisory Board

The EFI Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) opens a call for nominations of candidates for (2) SAB memberships for the period of 1 Jan 2016 – 31 Dec 2020. The SAB advises the EFI Board, Directors and the staff of EFI on research and policy support issues relevant for cross-unit cooperation. The deadline for submitting nominations of candidates is **31 March 2015**. <http://www.efi.int/portal/>

Nominations shall be addressed to Bill Slee, Chairperson of the SAB, with a full CV and a support letter by the organization nominating the candidate, and they should be sent by email to Katriina Pajari at EFI (katriina.pajari(at)efi.int). For more information, please contact Bill Slee or Katriina Pajari.

Two Ph.D. Positions and One Postdoc Position in Forest Genetics

The Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, Czech Republic, is offering two Ph.D. positions and one postdoc position in forest genetics. The start date for all positions is 1 October 2015. The research areas are: Development of "Breeding-without-Breeding" strategies and associated topics linking theoretical quantitative genetics and molecular genetics to operational tree improvement programs. It is a great mixture of disciplines and the students would interact with experts in different fields.

Submit application by: **1 April 2015**
Contact: Milan Lstibůrek, lstiburek(at)fld.czu.cz
<http://home.czu.cz/en/lstiburek/>

International MSc Study Program in Global Change Ecology

The program is devoted to understanding and analyzing ecological consequences of Global Change, especially the effects of climate change and biodiversity loss. The international program is organized in close contact with research institutions, NGOs, companies and administration. It has been acknowledged by the United Nations as an observer organization. The teaching language is English. Accepted candidates do not have to pay tuition fees.

Date: winter term 2015/2016
Submit applications for the winter term 2015/2016
by 15 July 2015
Organizers: University of Bayreuth in Germany
<http://www.global-change-ecology.de/>

For more announcements, visit the online noticeboard:
<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/iufro-announcements/>

Appointment

Richard P. Vlosky, Ph.D., Director, Louisiana Forest Products Development Center, LSU AgCenter and Crosby Land & Resources Endowed Professor of Forest Sector Business Development, was recently appointed as an Outside Expert to the United Nations Economic Commis-

sion for Europe/Food and Agriculture Organization of the U.N.(UNECE/FAO) Team of Specialists in Wood Bioenergy of the Committee on Forests and Forest Industry, Geneva, Switzerland.
(Source: *The Forest Products Report*, 28 January 2015)

Richard Vlosky is also a Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Research Group 5.10.00 Forest Products Marketing and Business Management.

Publications

July 2015 Newsletter - Industrial Engineering, Operations Analysis and Logistics

IUFRO Working Party 5.04.13 is now accepting contributions for the July 2015 Newsletter. Please contact Henry Quesada at quesada(at)vt.edu to submit your contributions.

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/50400/50413/activities/>

Proceedings

International IUFRO Symposium *Adaptation in Forest Management Under Changing Framework Conditions*, 19–23 May 2014, Sopron, Hungary, IUFRO 3.08.00, 4.05.00; English.

Author(s): Endre Schiberna, Magdolna Stark (eds.)
www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/proceedings-meetings-2014/#c21356

Look for IUFRO Conference proceedings at:
<http://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/>

IUFRO Meetings

Search our **online calendar** for a full list of meetings!
<http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/current/>
Find non-IUFRO meetings on the **IUFRO Noticeboard!**
<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/>
Also search for forest-related events in **GFIS** at:
<http://www.gfis.net>

9-11 Apr 2015

International conference: Coppice Forests: Past, Present and Future

Brno, Czech Republic

IUFRO **8.02.00**

Contact: Tomas Vrska, tomas.vrska(at)vukoz.cz
http://coppice.eu/conference_en.html

13-14 Apr 2015

Sowing Innovation – Reaping Sustainability Forests' Crucial Role in a Green Economy

Vienna, Austria

Symposium preceding the 54th IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting, organized by IUFRO and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Contact: office(at)iufro.org

<http://www.iufro.org/science-for-policy/article/2015/02/16/bio-economy-symposium-sowing-innovation-reaping-sustainability-forests-crucial-role-in-a-gree/>

16-18 Apr 2015

SILVA Network Annual Conference 2015: Should All Forestry Students Learn the Same? Generalization versus Specialization

Vienna, Austria

IUFRO [6.09.00](#)

Contact: Siegfried Lewark, siegfried.lewark(at)fobawi.uni-freiburg.de

<https://www.silva-network.uni-freiburg.de/>

4-6 May 2015

International Symposium: Cross-sectoral Policy Impacts on Managerial Economics and Accounting in Forestry

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

IUFRO [4.05.00](#), [9.05.00](#)

Contact:

Mersudin Avdibegovic, mavdibegovic(at)gmail.com

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-4/40000/40500/activities/>

20-22 May 2015

16th International Symposium on Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development

Brasov, Romania

IUFRO [9.06.00](#)

Contact: Rastislav Šulek, sulek(at)tuzvo.sk

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90600/activities/>

26-29 May 2015

International closing symposium of the XYLAREDD project: Wood Science Underpinning Tropical Forest Ecology and Management

Tervuren, Belgium

IUFRO [1.02.00](#)

Contact: Robert Nasi, r.nasi(at)cgiair.org

<http://www.africamuseum.be/research/conferences/xylaredd2015/index.html>

28-29 May 2015

COST Action EUMIXFOR Workshop: Silviculture of Mixed Forests in Europe

Arezzo, Italy

IUFRO [4.02.06](#), [1.01.06](#)

Contact: Piermaria Corona,

piermaria.corona(at)entecra.it

8-12 Jun 2015

International Scientific Forum: Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forests

Astana, Kazakhstan

IUFRO [1.06.00](#)

Contact: Sezgin Ayan, sezginayan(at)kastamonu.edu.tr

<http://sempozyum.kastamonu.edu.tr/index.php/en/menu-home-page>

9-13 Jun 2015

18th European Forum on Urban Forestry - EFUF: Connecting the Street Tree to the Forest - Strengthening Nature for Urban Living

Brussels, Belgium

IUFRO [6.07.00](#)

Cecil C. Konijnendijk van den Bosch, cck(at)ign.ku.dk

<http://efuf2015.org/>

17-20 Aug 2015

Forest Genetics 2015: Integrating Tree Breeding, Silviculture, and Growth and Yield

Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada

IUFRO [2.09.01](#), [2.04.01](#)

Contact: Kyu-Suk Kang, kangks84(at)snu.ac.kr

Michele Fullarton, Michele.Fullarton(at)gnb.ca

<http://forestgenetics2015.ca/>

19-21 Aug 2015

16th Symposium for Systems Analysis in Forest Resources (SSAFR)

Uppsala, Sweden

IUFRO [3.04.00](#), [4.00.00](#), [4.04.04](#), [9.02.00](#)

Contact: Ljusk Ola Eriksson, ola.eriksson(at)slu.se

<http://www.skogforsk.se/ssafr2015>

23-28 Aug 2015

Fifth International Workshop on the Genetics of Tree-Parasite Interactions

Orléans, France

IUFRO [2.02.15](#), [2.02.20](#), [7.02.05](#), [7.03.11](#)

Contact: Aurélien Sallé, aurelien.salle(at)univ-orleans.fr

<https://colloque.inra.fr/tree-parasite-interactions2015>

23-30 Aug 2015

Sustaining Ecosystem Services in Forest Landscapes - Concepts, Research, and Applications

Tartu, Estonia

IUFRO [8.01.02](#)

Contact: Sandra Luque, sandra.luque(at)irstea.fr

<http://iufrole2015.to.ee/>

24-29 Aug 2015

4th International Conference on Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources in Siberia

Barnaul, Russia

IUFRO [2.02.00](#)

Contact: Konstantin V. Krutovsky,

kkrutovsky(at)gmail.com

<http://conf.ict.nsc.ru/cfgs2015>

25 Aug 2015

Viruses and Phytoplasma of Forest and Urban Trees

Berlin, Germany

IUFRO [7.02.04](#)

Workshop at XVIII Int'l Plant Protection Congress (IPPC)

Contact: Carmen Büttner,

carmen.buettner(at)agrar.hu-berlin.de

<http://dpg.phytomedizin.org/de/xviii-international-plant-protection-congress-2015/dpg-workshops/>

27-30 Aug 2015

Competence for the Future: Challenging Gendered Notions of Learning about Forest and Forestry

Rogów, Poland

IUFRO [6.08.02](#), [6.08.00](#)

Contact: Jane Kiragu, janekw2001(at)yahoo.com

<http://www.lff2015.pl/>

1-6 Sep 2015

10th Int'l Beech Symposium: Ecology and Silviculture of Beech - Climate Change and its Impacts upon the Beech Forests

Kastamonu & Safranbolu, Turkey

IUFRO [1.01.07](#), [1.01.00](#)

Contact: Khosro Sagheb-Talebi, saghebtalebi(at)rifr-ac.ir
Palle Madsen, pam(at))life.ku.dk
[http://sempozyum.kastamonu.edu.tr/index.php/en/
menu-home](http://sempozyum.kastamonu.edu.tr/index.php/en/menu-home)

28 Sep-2 Oct 2015

Extension & Knowledge Exchange Conference

Galway, Ireland

IUFRO [9.01.03](#)

Contact: Janean Creighton,
Janean.Creighton(at)oregonstate.edu
[http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=07a960258f4a03
a669ebcc206&id=85206ce198&e=1764a91183](http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=07a960258f4a03a669ebcc206&id=85206ce198&e=1764a91183)

11-15 Oct 2015

Small-scale and Community Forestry and the Changing Nature of Forest Landscapes

Sunshine Coast, Australia

IUFRO [3.08.00](#)

Contact: John Herbohn, jherbohn(at)usc.edu.au
<http://www.smallscaleforestry.org/>

21-24 Oct 2015

Scientific Cultivation and Green Development to Enhance the Sustainability of Eucalypt Plantations

Nanning City, Guangxi Province, China

IUFRO [2.08.03](#)

Contact: Shaoxiong CHEN, sxchen01(at)163.com
<http://www.euciufr2015.com/en/>

24-28 Oct 2015

2015 Int'l Symposium on Forest Soils (ISFS2015): Linking Soil Processes to Forest Productivity and Water Protection under Global Change

Fuzhou, China

IUFRO [8.01.03](#)

Contact: Hailong Wang, hailong(at)zafu.edu.cn
<http://isfs2015.com/>

14-18 Mar 2016

Forest Genetics for Productivity

Rotorua, New Zealand

IUFRO [2.02.05](#), [2.02.20](#), [2.04.06](#)

Contact: Heidi Dungey,
Heidi.Dungey(at)scionresearch.com
<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-2/20000/20200/20205/activities/>

5-9 Sep 2016

13th International IUFRO Wood Drying Conference on Wood Drying in Developing Countries

Istanbul, Turkey

IUFRO [5.04.06](#)

Contact: Diego Elustondo,
diego.elustondo(at)fpinnovations.ca
<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/50400/50406/activities/>

4-10 Sep 2016

Disease/environment interactions in forest decline - integrated ecosystem approach

Perth, Australia

IUFRO [7.02.06](#)

Contact: Giles Hardy, G.Hardy(at)murdoch.edu.au
Treena Burgess, tburgess(at)murdoch.edu.au
Conference homepage to be announced.

17-24 Jun 2018

IUFRO All-Division 2 Conference – Physiology and Genetics

Prague, Czech Republic

IUFRO [2.00.00](#)

Contact: Yousry El-Kassaby, y.el-kassaby(at)ubc.ca
Conference homepage to be announced.

Other meetings

17-20 Mar 2015

IV Mediterranean Forest Week

Barcelona, Spain

<http://med.forestweek.org/>

4-15 May 2015

United Nations Forum on Forests UNFF1

New York, USA

<http://www.un.org/esa/forests/>

11-15 May 2015

LIGNA 2015

Hanover, Germany

<http://www.ligna.de/home>

19 May 2015

Conference on Biomass Mobilization

Rome, Italy

<http://www.infres.eu/en/final-conference/>

16-17 Jun 2015

35th New Phytologist Symposium: The Genomes of Forest Trees – New Frontiers of Forest Biology

Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA

<http://www.newphytologist.org/symposiums/view/37>

24-27 Aug 2015

XVIII International Plant Protection Congress

Berlin, Germany

<http://dpg.phytomedizin.org/de/xviii-international-plant-protection-congress-2015/the-congress/>

7-11 Sep 2015

14th World Forestry Congress

Durban, South Africa

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/wfc/en/>

17-18 Sep 2015

BiodiverCities 2015

Marseilles, France

UPA Network, UNPEC project

<http://english.upa-network.org/>

24-26 Sep 2015

The 5th Annual World Congress of Bioenergy

Xi'an, China

Sub-conference of Euro-Asia Economic Forum-2015

Contact: Bella YU, bella(at)wcbe-congress.com

<http://www.bitcongress.com/wcbe2015/default.asp>

28 Sep-3 Oct 2015

ISPRS Geospatial Week 2015 / Silvilaser 2015

La Grande Motte, France

<http://silvilaser2015.teledetection.fr>

<http://www.isprs-geospatialweek2015.org>