

Emphasizing the Role of Forests in Tackling Climate Change

IUFRO at the COP29 Forest Pavilion

This year's **UN Climate Change Summit COP29** from November 11 to 22 in Baku, Azerbaijan, set out on delivering more and better climate finance to economically disadvantaged countries to help them overcome the impacts of climate change. It was an opportunity for world leaders to show how they will enhance climate commitments.

Further reading: [Baku Conference Sets New Collective Climate Finance Goal – SDG Knowledge Hub](#)

At this critical moment for the achievement of climate goals it is **imperative to place more emphasis on forests and trees and their role in climate change negotiations**. The Forest Pavilion led by the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat and multi-stakeholder founding partners provided a platform at the COP to strengthen political commitment and accelerate action for forests by all stakeholders.

Go to: [IUFRO COP29 landing page](#)

On 13 November, the highly anticipated **Forest Pavilion officially opened** with a diverse lineup of speakers, marking the beginning of a critical dialogue on the role of forests in addressing the climate crisis. Representatives from countries and organizations took the stage and underscored the vital role of forests in achieving climate goals, stressing the need for stronger political commitment, increased finance, and transformative global action for sustainable forest management.

Speaking on behalf of IUFRO, *Nelson Grima*, Coordinator of the Science-Policy Programme, remarked, "The Pavilion offers an extraordinary **opportunity to engage with stakeholders from across the world**, and from a wide range of backgrounds, from policymakers, to researchers, Indigenous leaders, the private sector, and civil society. Each of them brings unique knowledge, insights, and perspectives that, together, can bring about effective, science-based solutions for the challenges forests face."



Opening of the Forest Pavilion



IUFRO delegation in Baku (from left): Alexander Buck, Carola Egger, Nelson Grima

Saturday, 16 November, was packed with activities for the IUFRO team, as the Pavilion focused its attention on the theme of **"Forests Forward: Harnessing Science, Technology, and Innovation for Climate Finance and Action"**. IUFRO and CIFOR-ICRAF, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, organized the agenda of the day. *Nelson Grima*, *Alexander Buck* and *Carola Egger* engaged global audiences across four Instagram Live sessions, e.g.: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/Dct9LfbNBfN/>

Each conversation showcased a critical aspect of forest advocacy: from the undeniable role of forests in climate action to the essential collaborations between science and business. *Nelson Grima* also reminded viewers about the [International Forest Governance report](#) published earlier this year, while *Alexander Buck* summarized the **importance of global forest research cooperation**, which is at the heart of IUFRO and was a key topic during the IUFRO World Congress 2024, Forests and society towards 2050. *Carola Egger* explained the **collaboration between science and business** in TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS.

Alexander Buck further elevated IUFRO's message through an interview recorded by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation. This media spotlight emphasizes the growing recognition of forest science and cooperation for a sustainable future of forests and society.

Later that day, [TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS](#) showcased its achievements in bridging research and practice to support sustainable forest management and wood-based value chains, critical for meeting global sustainability targets.

In a session titled **Driving sustainable development through collaboration**, *Carola Egger* and *Maja Radosavljevic* (online) highlighted the platform's success in uniting scientists, businesses, and stakeholders over three years, and presented the shared vision moving forward. "When science and business collaborate, we tackle UN Sustainable Development Goals, such as Climate Action (13), Life on Land (15), Responsible Consumption and Production (12), Decent Work and Economic Growth (8), and on top of that Partnerships (17)", Carola said. She also presented the recent [Europe's wood supply in disruptive times](#) report.

Find a recording of the session and other talks at: [Playlist](#)

On 20 November, the Pavilion's spotlight was on **"Sustainable forest-based bioeconomy for climate change mitigation and adaptation"**. Even though IUFRO did not have a speaker in this event jointly organized by FAO, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), Japan and ITTO, important projects in which IUFRO plays a role were prominently mentioned, including [WOOD for GLOBE](#) and the European Wood Policy Platform [WoodPoP](#).

The 2024 Forest Pavilion was an exceptional premiere as we look towards COP30, which will be held from November 10 to 21, 2025, in Belém, Brazil, in the heart of the Amazon, where forests shall be placed at the forefront of the global political agenda.

Reflecting on the Human-Environment Relationship

Highlights from IUFRO's participation at CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia

IUFRO's Science-Policy Programme ([SciPol](#)) participated in the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16), held from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia. Under the slogan **"Peace with Nature"** this COP called for a reflection on our relationship with the environment, and for rethinking an economic model that does not prioritize the extraction, overexploitation and pollution of nature. It also served as an opportunity to take stock of progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) since its adoption in 2022.

While there was no specific agenda point on forests, SciPol contributed to two agenda points relevant to forests:

Under the agenda point **"Sustainable Wildlife Management"**, Parties agreed on the need for additional guidance, indicators and research concerning sustainable wildlife management. **As a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)**, IUFRO supported various preparatory activities, as well as side events and interventions during COP16. Via CPW, SciPol will continue to be involved in various follow-up actions including the development of indicators for monitoring the status and trends in the use of wild species.

Under the agenda point **"Biodiversity and Health"**, Parties approved a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health designed to help curb the emergence of diseases and promote sustainable ecosystems. The Action Plan calls for a holistic "One Health" approach that recognizes the health of ecosystems, animals, and humans as interconnected and invites nations to designate national focal points for biodiversity and health. The CPW segment during Biodiversity and Health Day on 24 October 2024 provided a great opportunity to share the findings of the recently published Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) assessment on **"Forests and Trees for Human Health: Pathways, Impacts, Challenges and Response Options"**, highlighting the important health benefits of forests and green spaces and the need for integrative and cross-sectoral approaches to improve the forest-health link.

In its role as a member of the **Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)**, IUFRO also participated in activities around Forest and Water Day on 25 October 2024. The day-long event also featured



Christoph Wildburger, Viola Belohrad, Nelson Grima (from left)

the publication of the CBD-CPF report "The Forest Factor. The role of protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework".

Report by Viola Belohrad, IUFRO SciPol Project Manager

World Wildlife Day 2025 to Focus on Finance

The 2025 World Wildlife Day on 3 March will be celebrated under the critical theme of **"Wildlife Conservation Finance: Investing in People and Planet."** The year 2025 will also coincide with the 50th anniversary of the entry into force of [CITES](#).

Survey: Share Your Views on Silviculture and Ungulates!

Reminder: IUFRO Working Party 1.01.12 [Silviculture and ungulates](#) has developed a questionnaire for you. Please fill it in **by 15 December 2024:** [HERE](#)

Active Forest Management Strengthens Europe's Forests Against Climate Change

Ahead of the UN Climate COP29, the TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS (TU4F) hosted a webinar that brought together over 100 participants to discuss the future of forest management in the face of climate change. *Watch recording [HERE!](#) Find slides [HERE!](#)*

Authors of the [Europe's wood supply in disruptive times](#) report, *Florian Kraxner* and *Andrey Krasovskiy* (International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis – IIASA), and *Manfred Lexer* (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna – BOKU) presented the impacts of climate change on forests and strategies for adaptation. Industry perspectives were shared by *Karoliina Niemi* (Finnish Forest Industries Federation) and *Jessica Nordin* (Södra), focusing on sustainable forest management and adaptive approaches.

Welcoming the panel and more than 100 attendees, IUFRO Deputy Director, *Michael Kleine*, underscored the event's relevance. The event was moderated by *Carola Egger* with support from *Maja Radosavljevic*, Partnership Managers. Broadcasted via LinkedIn, the session draws public interest, due to the importance of climate-resilient forests and strategies to support a circular bioeconomy.

The urgency of the discussion was emphasized by the projection that global temperatures will rise above 1.5°C for the first time in 2024, breaching the upper limit set in the 2015 Paris Agreement. In parts of Europe, such as the Alpine region, this threshold has already been surpassed. While the effects of warming will vary across Europe's diverse forest regions, the likelihood of extreme events like droughts and storms is expected to increase across the continent, posing serious challenges to forest productivity and resilience.



Screenshot during webinar

To help forests adapt to these challenges, active forest management is essential. The scientists argued that if forests are left entirely unmanaged, they won't develop the climate resilience they need. For example, in unmanaged oak forests, beech trees often proliferate. However, beech is not as climate resilient as oak, meaning these forests may be more vulnerable to changing conditions.

Active management involves introducing tree species that are better suited to anticipated climate changes, a step that needs to go hand-in-hand with a strengthened circular bioeconomy. This approach not only supports forest resilience but also emphasizes efficient resource use, innovative forest products, and higher recycling rates. Achieving these goals requires close cooperation between scientists, forest owners, industry, policymakers, and other stakeholders. In addition, raising public awareness about the benefits of active forest management is critical for building support.

European Wood Policy Platform "WoodPoP" Defines Framework Conditions for a Sustainable Timber Industry

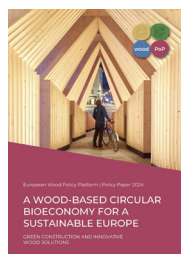
On November 6, 2024, the wood policy platform [WoodPoP](#), which is supported by 25 European countries, adopted a **policy paper**. Entitled ["A Wood-Based Circular Bioeconomy for a Sustainable Europe"](#), it provides a solid foundation for political decision-makers. It contains a joint commitment to an economically valuable, ecologically sensitive and socially responsible wood policy in Europe, which is a crucial piece in the mosaic for achieving climate targets. WoodPoP was launched in 2022 and initiated by Austria and Finland.



WoodPoP is a country-driven initiative which reunites all relevant public and private stakeholders along wood-based value chain, bringing together politicians and administrators as well as scientists and researchers around the same table.

Its aim is to develop a common understanding of sustainable wood policy in Europe. The economic, ecological and social benefits of a sustainable timber industry for people in Europe are evident on many levels. The WoodPoP Secretariat is hosted by IUFRO.

On Thursday, 7 November 2024, the WoodPoP Secretariat hosted the [‘Wood Policy and Innovation Conference: Europe’s Innovative Wood Construction Sector as Driver for The Green and Digital Transformation’](#) together with the Wood4Bauhaus Alliance, BioRegions and Holzcluster Steiermark at the Permanent Representation of the Free State of Bavaria in Brussels.



The [28th International Timber Construction Forum \(IHF\)](#) took place in Innsbruck from 4 to 6 December 2024 under the motto ‘From practice – for practice’. The WoodPoP working group ‘Education and Vocational Training’ organized the [‘IHF Prologue 5’](#) on 4 December on the topic of ‘Perspectives of the New European Bau-haus Academy on education and training in the timber construction sector’.

News from IUFRO Members

European National Forest Inventories Join Forces for European Forest Monitoring and Create ENFIN Association



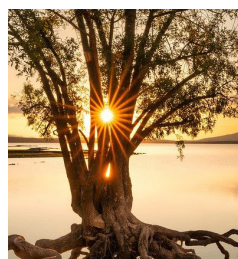
More than 30 European organizations in charge of National Forest Inventories (NFI), have been working in collaboration through a voluntary network since 2003: the European National Forest Inventories Network ([ENFIN](#)).

National Forest Inventories (NFIs) represent the most comprehensive, reliable, large-scale forest monitoring systems. In the context of growing climate change impacts on forests and increasing human

expectations of forests, NFIs have to further develop forest information both at country and European levels.

Building on their experience and willingness to strengthen the role the network has been playing for many years in developing science, technology and governance on the European level, the members established a formal ENFIN Association on the 14 October 2024. The association is registered in France where the office will be established. During its inaugural meeting, **18 organizations became founding members, many of them IUFRO Member Organizations.** [Read a related article by LUKE, Finland!](#)

Sunscreen: It’s in the Trees?



rperucho on Pixabay

A molecule found in wood can block ultraviolet rays, say **US Forest Service** scientists and partners, and could replace less environmentally friendly compounds found in sunscreen. The molecule, lignin, is often left over after wood is processed into paper and other products, meaning that adding it to sunscreen would reduce industry waste. And unlike other compounds in sunscreen, lignin seems to better absorb ultraviolet rays after

it’s exposed to sun and doesn’t harm coral reefs. To further this research, scientists are pioneering ways to use less energy to extract lignin from wood.

[Read more at: Sunscreen from Trees? Highlighting innovative wood products for National Forest Products Week | US Forest Service Research and Development](#)

Announcements

New IUFRO Podcast Season Kicks off with the Topic of Silviculture

In the new season of [Branching out: the forest podcast](#), host *Jose Bolaños*, together with various co-hosts, takes the audience through the world of IUFRO’s nine Divisions and their new leadership model, which now has 2 co-coordinators to improve geographical and gender diversity and balance their work.



The first episode of the podcast season features Division 1, Silviculture, with its two new co-coordinators: *Pil Sun Park* from Seoul National University, Republic of Korea, and *Teresa De Jesus Fidalgo Fonseca* from the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal. The guest host for this episode is *Alexander Watson* from the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA) and a master’s student in Tropical Silviculture and Forest Ecology at the Georg-August University of Göttingen in Germany.

After introducing the speakers, the podcast moves to personal experiences, participation in the Division’s work, current scientific findings, and upcoming projects and conferences. Get to know the two coordinators better, discover what excites *Pil Sun Park* most about her work, and learn about one moment that was most formative in *Teresa Fonseca’s* career.

The two guests also debunk the misconception that silviculture is solely focused on increasing timber yield. Silviculture encompasses much more, including forest restoration, biodiversity conservation, and, not least, strengthening forests in the face of climate change challenges. What should the forest look like? What demands should it meet? How can it become healthy and robust, and adapt to climate change? In this way, silviculture is also about preserving and maintaining the forest ecosystem and its diverse services, such as water, oxygen, and carbon storage. It is also crucial to engage the public and inform them about the goals of silvicultural measures.

The IUFRO Podcast is available on the IUFRO website at [IUFRO: IUFRO Podcasts / Publications](#), as well as on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

Welcoming Mirjana Volarev, a New Colleague with New Tasks, at IUFRO Headquarters



Mirjana Volarev joined the IUFRO HQ team on November 18th as a Project Manager within the Science-Policy Programme. In this role, she will support the **IUFRO Regional Science-Policy Network**, a strategic platform for exchanging ideas on managing research organizations, including topics such as financing, staffing, political frameworks, and communicating scientific results to policymakers. Her responsibilities include conceptual development, project management,

and communication to ensure the smooth execution of activities within this initiative.

Additionally, *Mirjana* will collaborate closely with the **Mentorship Program**, which is currently under development and will be launched soon, and the new **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**, bringing her expertise to further IUFRO's commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for all members.

Mirjana holds a Bachelor's degree in Forestry with a specialization in Forestry Education from the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Belgrade, Serbia. Her passion for environmental policy led her to pursue a Master's degree in Environmental Sciences and Policy at the Central European University in Vienna, where she focused on the challenges and opportunities of climate policy implementation in Serbia.

Over the past few years, *Mirjana* has gained extensive experience in various research and science communication roles in Serbia. Since 2020, she has been actively engaged in the public and academic sectors, as well as environmental research organizations, working on Horizon Europe and ERASMUS projects aimed at bridging the gap between scientific knowledge and climate action. Her work has spanned a wide range of areas, including climate justice, clean energy transition, forestry education, climate services, and climate literacy, all of which contribute to raising awareness and building capacity for addressing climate change challenges at local, national, and global levels.

More information about her work will be released soon!

Publications

A History of IUFRO Congresses, Forest Research and Russia's Participation Updated second edition

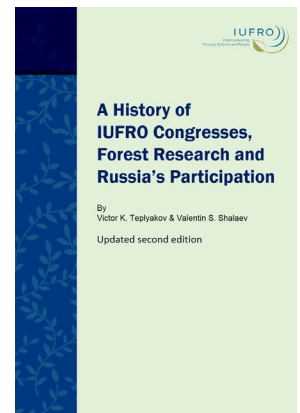
By Victor K. Teplyakov and Valentin S. Shalaev

While focusing largely on the 26 IUFRO World Congresses held between 1893 and 2024, the book also provides a fascinating

and well-documented history of forestry and forest science in Russia since the late 18th century, and of the leading personalities and important contributions that Russian forest scientists, universities and research organizations have made to IUFRO since its very earliest years.

The book is targeted to university and postgraduate students, teachers, professors, researchers, scientists, forest sector administrators, as well as to those interested in the history of the forest sector in Russia and the world, the development of forest science, international relations and scientific organizations.

Find the updated publication [HERE!](#)



Healing Plants of South Asia A Handbook of the Medicinal Flora of the Indian Subcontinent

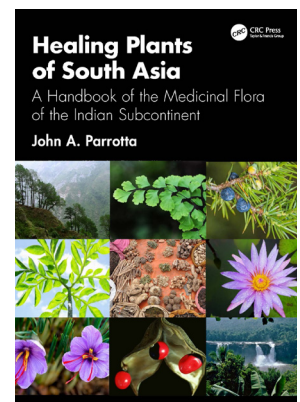
By John A. Parrotta

South Asia is rich in cultural traditions and biodiversity, home to 2.1 billion people with deep knowledge of native and introduced plant species. Plant-based medicines are vital to traditional healthcare systems in India and neighboring countries. However, forest degradation threatens this wealth. Conservation efforts need current data on medicinal plant resources and their importance for health and livelihoods. *Healing Plants of South Asia: A Handbook of the Medicinal Flora of the Indian Subcontinent* helps to address this need.

Two-volume set

For more information visit:

www.routledge.com/9781032896151



The IUFRO Chestnut Newsletter

The team of IUFRO Working Party 1.01.13 '[Ecology and Silviculture of Chestnut](#)' aims at sharing information, exchanging research ideas, and building a network among chestnut researchers. The [newsletter](#) is published every 3 months. Besides a review of activities during the IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm earlier this year, readers will find a wide range of news from the chestnut world including upcoming meetings and interesting publications. Watch this [video on the introduction of American chestnut!](#)

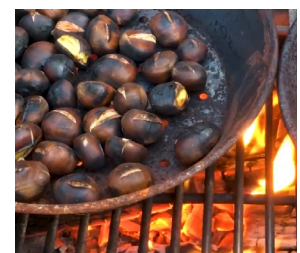


Photo from presentation by Stacy Clark, WP Coordinator

Positions

[IUFRO Noticeboard](#)

Partnership Manager for Science-Business Platform at IUFRO

Apply by 22 December 2024, 11.59 p.m. CEST! Interviews with shortlisted candidates will be conducted virtually mid-January.

IUFRO is looking for a Partnership Manager for the science-business platform [TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS](#) to be based at IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS is a science-business platform addressing key challenges for the sustainable provision of wood-based products to meet societal demands and thereby supporting the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The platform was founded by IUFRO and Mondi in 2021 as a bilateral partnership and aims at inviting more industry partners to join.

Applications shall be addressed to:

Maja Radosavljevic, Partnership Manager,
radosavljevic(at)iufro.org and

Carola Egger, Project and Partnership Manager, egger(at)iufro.org
[Details](#)

Assistant/Associate Professor of Precision Forestry

Apply by 5 January 2025

This is a 9-month tenure track appointment with expected research, teaching, and professional service responsibilities at the Assistant or Associate Professor level in the **Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens, GA, USA.**

This position will be focused on the use of precision forestry technologies, including remote sensing, LiDAR, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and digitalization to improve site-specific prescriptions in forest management and advance the use of technology in forestry. The candidate will use these technologies to address diverse forest management, conservation, sustainability, forest health, and/or timber operations.

[Details](#)

Assistant Professor – Sustainable Bioproducts

Apply by 6 January 2025

The Department of Forestry and Division of Public Health at **Michigan State University, East Lansing, USA**, invite applications for a 9-month tenure-system position (open rank) in Forest and Green Space for Improving Public Health (40% research, 25% teaching, 25% Extension/Outreach, 10% service).

The successful candidate is expected to develop an internationally recognized research program by securing competitive external funding, publishing in leading peer-reviewed journals, and advancing our understanding of the green space-health relationship.

[Details](#)

Courses

[IUFRO Noticeboard](#)

Embrapa's First Online Training in English on Sustainable Forest Management

Embrapa has just released its first online training in English, entitled "Forest Management, species by species". With free access via the e-Campo platform, the English-language version of the course is intended to provide training for technicians, students, and legislators, broadening the reach of this topic among international audiences.

[Details](#)

IUFRO Meetings

For a full list of meetings go to our [online calendar!](#)

Find non-IUFRO meetings on the [IUFRO Noticeboard!](#)

2027 All-Division 5 Conference - Call for Bids

The IUFRO Division 5 Forest Products Conference is held every 5 years.

It is an apolitical, international forum open to all nations, for conducting the Division's business, and for exchanging scientific, professional and technical information on forest products related subjects consistent with the Division's structure. The Conference is frequently extended by post-Conference excursions that may include visits to neighboring countries.

News media are welcome to attend. There is documentation, by Proceedings and websites, including Conference papers, posters and resolutions from Business Meetings.

The next [All Division 5 Conference](#) is planned to take place in 2027. If you wish to prepare a bid for the IUFRO Division 5 conference, kindly refer to the [GUIDELINES AND BIDDING RULES - IUFRO ALL-DIVISION 5 CONFERENCE 2027](#).

Proposals are due by March 15, 2025 to:

Franka Brüchert, IUFRO Division 5 Co-coordinator,
franka.bruechert(at)forst.bwl.de, or

Roger Meder, IUFRO Division 5 Co-coordinator,
roger(at)mederconsulting.com

21-22 Jan 2025

Intercropped plantation and doubling of farmer's income

Online

IUFRO [1.04.00](#)

Contact: Afreen Mohsin, mohsinafreen54(at)gmail.com

Contact: Ana Cristina Gonçalves, acag(at)uevora.pt

Contact: Swoyambhu Man Amatya, swoyambhu_amatya(at)yahoo.com

Contact: Sanjeev Chauhan, chauhanpau(at)rediffmail.com

[More information](#)

5-7 Feb 2025

Precision Forestry Symposium - Precision in Forest Operations and Wood Supply

Stellenbosch, South Africa

IUFRO [3.04.00](#)

IUFRO [3.10.00](#)

Contact: Bruce Talbot, bruce(at)sun.ac.za

[More information](#)

17-19 Mar 2025

International Symposium on Wood Science and Technology 2025 (ISWST2025) with the Session of 2025 World Wood Day Symposium and The Seventh IUFRO Forest Products Culture Colloquium

Sendai, Japan

IUFRO [5.00.00](#)

IUFRO [5.15.00](#)

IUFRO [9.03.02](#)

Contact: Charlotte Chia Hua Lee, chiahua.lee(at)iwcs.com

https://www.worldwoodday.org/2025/regions_event/39

17-21 Mar 2025

Achieving forest establishment at scale to address climate, environmental and economic challenges around the world

Rotorua, New Zealand

IUFRO [1.01.04](#)

Contact: Charles Nock, nock(at)ualberta.ca

Contact: Carol Rolando, carol.rolando(at)scionresearch.com

<https://iufro2025conference.wordpress.com/>

14-15 Apr 2025

26th International Wood Machining Seminar (IWMS26)

Firenze, Italy

IUFRO [5.00.00](#)

Contact: Giacomo Goli, giacomo.goli(at)unifi.it

[More information](#)

21-24 May 2025

4th World Conference on Forests and Parks for Public Health

City of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

IUFRO [6.06.00](#)

Contact: Christos Gallis, cgalis(at)fri.gr

<https://fphcongress.org/>

Other Meetings

10-16 December 2024

11th Session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 11)

Windhoek, Namibia

IUFRO will be represented by Nelson Grima, SciPol Coordinator

<https://www.ipbes.net/events/ipbes-11>

18 – 21 Mar 2025

2nd African Forum on Urban Forests

Green Horizons: Shaping the Future Resilience of African Cities through Urban Forests

Johannesburg, South Africa

Organized by: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the City of Johannesburg, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the Centre on African Public Spaces

Contact: <https://afuf.co.za/contact/>

<https://afuf.co.za/>

31 Jan – 1 Feb 2025

31st Annual Conference of the Yale Chapter of the International Society of Tropical Foresters (ISTF-Yale): Governing Resilient Tropical Forest Systems

Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA

The conference will take place in person and online

Register for the 2025 ISTF Conference is at THIS LINK

<https://istf.yale.edu/>

27 Apr-2 May 2025

General Assembly 2025 of the European Geosciences Union (EGU)

Vienna, Austria & Online

<https://www.egu25.eu/>

26-30 May 2025

International Model Forest Network (IMFN) Global Forum

Kemptville, Canada

<https://imfn.net/canada-to-host-the-next-imfn-global-forum-in-may-2025/>



Photo by Joshua Woroniecki on Pixabay