

10th Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference



Yuzou Sano, Chair of Organizing Committee, Hokkaido University, Japan,

Hisashi Abe, Vice Chair of Organizing Committee, Deputy Executive Secretary of IAWA, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) of Japan, and

Yafang Yin, Deputy Coordinator of Division 5 Forest Products, Coordinator of [IUFRO Research Group 5.16.00 Wood Identification](#), Executive Secretary of IAWA, Chinese Academy of Forestry

Photo Yasuhiro Utsumi/Kyushu University, Japan

The 10th Pacific Regional Wood Anatomy Conference (PRWAC) took place in Asahikawa, Hokkaido, Japan, on September 10-14, 2024. It attracted 104 participants from Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Thailand, New Zealand, The Philippines, Indonesia, South Africa, The USA and Vietnam.

Meeting website: <https://www.prwac2024.org>

The PRWAC is an international meeting organized by members of the Pacific regional group of the International Association of Wood Anatomists (IAWA). It has been held approximately every four years since the first conference in Tsukuba, 1984. At PRWAC, participants discuss topics related to wood science from the viewpoint of 'wood anatomy'. The conference also offers an important platform for the exchange of ideas concerning climate change responses by focusing on the smart use of timber and trees as carbon stocks.

The conference kicked off with a keynote lecture presented by *Dr. Yafang Yin*, Executive Secretary of IAWA. He provided an overview of the history of wood anatomical studies in China in recent decades and highlighted latest developments in this field worldwide.

The conference arranged three themed sessions focusing on highly topical issues in wood anatomy and wood science: **application of machine learning to wood science, isotope labelling techniques to clarify elemental processes in wood formation, and cambium activities under climate change.**

In these presentation sessions, a total of 86 oral and poster presenters talked about their findings. There were lively discussions on a wide range of wood science topics ranging from wood identification, wood utilization and wood formation to tree physiology and ecology. Participants reaffirmed the importance of wood anatomy research as a basis for these topics.

Presentations by young researchers and students were quite remarkable, and, to encourage the next generations, the organizing committee awarded best presentation prizes to four students after a rigorous selection process. The business meeting of the IAWA Pacific regional group discussed the further cooperation with international organizations including IUFRO, IAWS, IUBS, IABMS etc.

The event, which involved IUFRO Division 5, Research Group 5.16.00 and the IUFRO-Japan Committee, was kindly hosted by the Laboratory of Woody Plant Biology, Research Faculty of Agriculture, Hokkaido University of Japan, and supported by: Asahikawa Tourism and Convention Association; Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) of Japan; IUFRO-Japan Committee; The Japan Wood Research Society (JWRS); Hokkaido Prefectural Government

The conference also included tours to Bogakudai, a nice viewpoint to overview a typical landscape in Hokkaido, Japan; the Forest Products Research Institute, Hokkaido Research Organization, one of the largest institutions for wood products research in Japan; and CondeHouse Co., Ltd., one of the leading companies for the production of high-quality wooden furniture.

The abstracts of all presentations in this conference are accessible on the website: <http://www.prwac2024.org>
The 11th PRWAC will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2028.

TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS at Cepi Bioeconomy Lab

Carola Egger and Maja Radosavljevic, Partnership Managers of the [TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS](#) (TU4F) science-business platform, represented the platform at the Cepi Bioeconomy LAB in Brussels, Belgium, on 24 September 2024.

The event on 23-24 September was organized by the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI), the pan-European association representing the forest fibre and paper industry, as a follow-up to the Cepi Bioeconomy LAB that took place in the context of the 9th World Forestry Week at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy, in July 2024. It did not only comprise an exhibition of over 50 innovative bio-based products, but also a session with insightful discussions and presentations.

The session kicked off with a talk by Marco Onida from the Directorate-General for Environment of the EU Commission on the 3 Billion Trees initiative and its progress. In 2021, the EU pledged to plant at least 3 billion additional trees by 2030. Cepi is among the organizations contributing to this pledge and Ulrich Leberle, Raw Materials Director at Cepi, delivered a comprehensive progress report.

Carola Egger gave an overview of the work and goals of the TU4F collaborative partnership that was initiated by IUFRO and Mondi in 2021 and presented findings of a major synthesis study report [“Europe’s wood supply in disruptive times”](#) and related business brief published by IUFRO earlier in 2024.

Her presentation was followed by best practice examples from industry leaders including Juha Jumppanen (Metsä Forest),



From the right: Carola Egger (at lectern), Ulrich Leberle, Juha Jumppanen, Henrique Vieira and Jessica Nordin. Photo IUFRO/Maja Radosavljevic

Jessica Nordin (Södra), and Henrique Vieira (Biond). The session was rounded off by a panel discussion offering valuable insights into critical topics such as forest resilience, climate adaptation, and the vital role of biodiversity in sustainable forest management.

Learn more about TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS and join the next [Webinar – Europe’s future forest management in a changing climate](#) on 7 November 2024 at 14:00 CET!

Progress on the GFEP Assessment on Forests for Social and Economic Resilience

Report by Viola Belohrad, IUFRO Sci-Pol

Given the increasingly rapid, unpredictable, and unprecedented global changes linked to the twin climate change and biodiversity crises, [IUFRO’s Science-Policy Programme](#) is undertaking a [Global Forest Expert Panels](#) (GFEP) assessment looking at the multi-dimensional relationships between forests and social and economic resilience.

The GFEP assessment Forests for Social and Economic Resilience will comprehensively assess the available scientific information and feed into current and upcoming global discussions and platforms to support integrated, holistic, and effective policy responses. Chaired by Prof. Craig Allen (University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA), the



Expert Panel comprises 14 leading scientists in the field, bringing together diverse perspectives and expertise from different regions of the world. From 8-9 October 2024, the Expert Panel will convene for an in-person meeting in Rome to review the draft chapters of the assessment. The publication launch is planned for mid-2025.

Find out more about the panel and its activities: [HERE](#)

About [GFEP](#): Coordinated by IUFRO, GFEP is an initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). By producing objective and independent scientific assessments on key forest-related issues, GFEP aims to effectively link the information requirements of intergovernmental processes related to forests with existing scientific expertise, thus supporting informed decision-making at the global level.

Photo IUFRO/Viola Belohrad

9th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference: Shaping our future with resilient forests

On 1 and 2 October 2024, [FOREST EUROPE](#) signatories and observers met in Königswinter near Bonn, with the aim to strengthen future cooperation on forests in Europe and share the latest findings and developments in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) across the pan-European region. Ministers and heads of observer organizations, including IUFRO, discussed issues ranging from Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) to resilience and youth involvement.

The focus was on sharing national experiences, addressing challenges, and shaping the future vision of FOREST EUROPE through key thematic sessions. The event concluded with the signing of the [Bonn Ministerial Declaration](#), reaffirming the commitment of FOREST EUROPE's signatories and observers to promoting collective actions to "shape our future with resilient forests" through SFM policies and practices.

IUFRO was represented by IUFRO President *Daniela Kleinschmit* and Executive Director *Alexander Buck*. In her statement *Professor Kleinschmit* reaffirmed IUFRO's strong support to FOREST EUROPE by bringing the latest scientific evidence into the continuing discussion on SFM not only to better understand the problems and interrelations but also to provide options for solutions. She emphasized the urgent need to act and respond to the problems that forests and society are facing, and which can no longer be ignored.

In the discussion about the future of FOREST EUROPE, Alexander Buck stressed the ever increasing need to reach potential partners in other sectors and the public at large in view of the growing impacts of climate change on European forests. Furthermore, he noted that the effectiveness and success of FOREST EUROPE in the next phase will also depend on its ability to utilize the best possible scientific knowledge and expertise.

More: [9th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference](#)

United Nations' Pact for the Future Places Emphasis on Science-Based Solutions

Excerpts (edited) from:
[International Science Council blog](#)

On 22 September, world leaders adopted a Pact for the Future – the agreement outlining the vision for a more sustainable, equitable, and peaceful world. The International Science Council, of which IUFRO is a member, is uniquely positioned to support the Pact and translate its vision into action.



Daniela Kleinschmit presenting IUFRO's statement. Photo IUFRO/Alexander Buck

Further reading

Are European Forests fit for the future? A short story about European Forests

Authors: Michael Köhl and Kit Prins
Published by: FOREST EUROPE
Find out more at: [LINK](#)



European forests have shown quite constant trends since the beginning of Pan-European reporting in 1990. Overall, forest area is increasing, the economic role of forests to the overall economy is rather stable, and there have been some improvements in biodiversity and climate change adaptation. However, there are many short-term impacts on European forest that are more difficult to grasp.

[The Pact](#) includes 56 actions that span across sustainable development, peace and security, science, technology, digital cooperation, and global governance. It emphasizes international and intergenerational solidarity, prioritizing future generations through commitments to peace, the environment, and youth.

The crucial role of youth in shaping a sustainable and peaceful future is heavily acknowledged in the Pact and even more so in the Declaration on Future Generations, where youth are positioned as essential partners in achieving its vision of a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world.

The Pact repeatedly underscores the **need for evidence-based policymaking and leveraging scientific knowledge** to address global challenges.

Summer School on Modeling Assisted Migration to Adapt Forests and Ecosystem Services to Climate Change

The Austrian Research Center for Forests ([BFW](#)), a member organization of IUFRO, in collaboration with the EVOLTREE network and the Czech University of Life Sciences, also an IUFRO member hosted a Summer School on assisted migration from July 30 to August 2, 2024, for the 2nd consecutive year at the Forestry Training Centre of BFW in Traunkirchen, Austria.

The summer school was coordinated by *Debojyoti Chakraborty*, who also coordinates the [IUFRO Working Party 2.02.05](#) Breeding and Genetic Resources of Pacific Northwest conifers. The summer school was attended by participants from across Europe and Canada and aimed at providing in-depth insight into the concept of assisted migration of forests under climate change, with a focus on models to guide decision support.

Topics included climate change's effects on European forests, adaptation options, the role of genetic diversity, and modeling data sources. The participants worked with real-time data from



Summer school participants. Photo BFW

provenance trials to develop models for seed transfer under climate change. The program also included an excursion to LIECO forest nurseries at Sankt Martin im Innkreis, where participants learned about state-of-the-art forest seedling production and seed orchard. The visit concluded with a hike to an Alpine hut, offering discussion opportunities in a relaxed environment.

Welcome! New IFSA President Theresa Klara Loch

My name is *Theresa Klara Loch*, and I am excited to serve as the President of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) for the 2024/2025 term. I am currently pursuing my PhD at the University of Freiburg, Germany, where I focus on social-ecological networks in biodiversity conservation.

My journey with IFSA began during my master's degree in Sustainable Forest and Nature Management. Over the years, I have contributed to various international projects, including my involvement in the Gender Sub-Commission and co-authoring the IFSA Open Letter on Gender and Forest Education. These experiences have shaped my passion for advocating gender



equality and promoting inclusivity within forest-related education and the forestry sector. Leading IFSA is truly a team effort, and I am fortunate to work alongside a dedicated board: Bora Karataş, Hemanshu Kafle, Alexander William Arnott Watson, Rizka Afif Muhammad, Lea Arbogast, and Fiana Eka Aprilia. Together, we are committed to making IFSA more inclusive and amplifying the voice of youth in global forest policy.

A key part of our work is the strong partnership with IUFRO, exemplified during the great collaboration at the IUFRO World Congress. We look forward to continuing this partnership and further strengthening the connection between forestry students and the global research community.

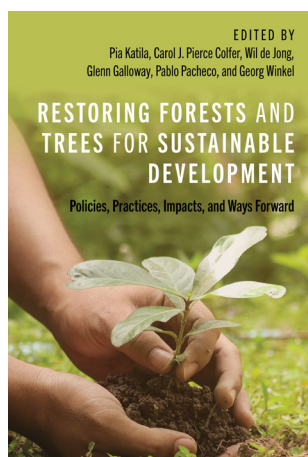
More about IFSA and their leadership team:
<https://ifsa.net/team/>

Publications

Restoring Forests and Trees for Sustainable Development: Policies, Practices, Impacts, and Ways Forward

By IUFRO-WFSE editorial board: *Pia Katila, Carol J. Pierce Colfer, Wil de Jong, Glenn Galloway, Pablo Pacheco, Georg Winkel*
Online ISBN: 9780197683958
Print ISBN: 780197683927

A new book by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations Special Project World



Forests, Society and Environment ([IUFRO WFSE](#)) is now available as open access at Oxford Academic:
<https://doi.org/10.1093/9780197683958.001.0001>

This book takes a multidisciplinary perspective to analyze and discuss the various opportunities and challenges of restoring tree and forest cover to address regional and global environmental challenges that threaten human well-being and compromise sustainable development.

It examines forest restoration commitments, policies and programs, and their planning and implementation at different scales and contexts,

and how forest restoration helps to mitigate environmental, societal, and cultural challenges.

The chapters explore the concept of forest restoration, how it can reconstitute forest ecosystem services, contribute to biodiversity conservation, and generate benefits and synergies, while recognizing the considerable costs, trade-offs, and variable feasibility of its implementation. The chapters review historic and contemporary forest restoration practice and governance, variations in approaches and implementation across the globe, and relevant technological advances.

Using the insights from the ten topic-focused chapters, the book reflects on the possibility of sustainable and just approaches to meet the challenges that lie ahead to achieve ambitious international forest restoration targets and commitments.

Contribute to a Special Issue of *Evolutionary Applications*!

Genomic Assessment of Adaptive Potential of Populations to Environmental Challenges: Applications to Management and Conservation"

Deadline for submissions: 1 March 2025

[Details](#)

Understanding the adaptive potential of populations in the face of environmental challenges is crucial for effective management and conservation strategies. Genomic approaches offer valuable insights into this adaptive potential, but their application in this context still requires further development.

This *Special Issue* aims to delve deeper into how genomic variation influences responses to environmental pressures. By examining the genetic basis of adaptation potential, a better understanding of the mechanisms can be gained that enable populations to cope with changing environments. Such knowledge is essential for predicting how populations will respond to future environmental changes, such as climate change, new pest and disease outbreaks, habitat fragmentation and destruction, and pollution.

Guest editors: Maren Wellenreuther, Plant and Food Research, New Zealand; Dr. David Chagné, Plant and Food Research, New Zealand; Dr. Santiago González-Martínez, INRAE, France; Prof. Lesley Lancaster, University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom; Assoc. Prof. Sam Yeaman, University of Calgary, Canada; Prof. Juntao Hu, Fudan University, China; Dr. Yiyong Chen, Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Summary for Policymakers: The First Synthesis Report on Climate Change Impact Assessment for Forest Sector

National Institute of Forest Science (NIFoS) (2024). The first synthesis report on climate change impact assessment for forest sector: Summary for policymakers. Cho, J.H., Yang, H., Choi, W.I., Park, G.E., Kirn, E.S., Jang, K., Yim, J.S., Lee, B., Jung, J.Y., Choi, H.T., Jang, Y., Kirn, C., Um, Y., Kirn, S., Kwon, C., Eu, S., Nam, Y.,

Cho, Y., Park, Y., Park, C.R., and San, D.C. National Institute of Forest Science, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 59 pp. ISBN 979-11-6019-911-6 (93520).

Like the IPCC's Summary for Policymakers (SPM), which distills the implications of scientific findings presented in its synthesis report, this summary aims to highlight the principal findings from the First Synthesis Report on Climate Change Impact Assessment in the Forest Sector; it seeks to elucidate the policy implications, thereby facilitating the decision-making process concerning climate change adaptation efforts.

The report by NIFoS was prepared by a specialized working group consisting of 35 members including representatives from one center, seven departments, and three research institutes within the NIFoS, in addition to the staff of two divisions of the National Arboretum.

[Download link](#) (*report in Korean/use translation tool if necessary*)

Fellowships

[IUFRO: Fellowships](#)

Gund PhD Research Fellowships

Apply by 5 January 2025

The Gund Institute for Environment at the University of Vermont (UVM) currently seeks exceptional PhD applicants to join the university to conduct interdisciplinary research on global environmental challenges beginning in the fall 2025 semester.

[Details](#)

Positions

[IUFRO: Position Announcements](#)

Assistant/Associate Professor for the David Brand Professorship in Sustainable Forestry and Conservation Finance

Apply by 31 October 2024, 11:59 PM

The Department of Forest Resources Management in the Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia (UBC)-Vancouver Campus is looking to fill the newly created David Brand professorship in Sustainable Forestry and Conservation Finance. This is a tenure-stream position and will either be at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor, depending on the qualifications of the successful applicant.

Start date: 1 July 2025

[Details](#)

Assistant Professor - Forest Pathologist

Apply by 31 October 2024

The University of Florida is inviting applications for the position of Assistant Professor in Forest Pathology. Duties of this faculty member will include the development of a strong, internationally recognized, externally funded research program in areas of forest pathology addressing local, regional, and global forest health priorities or emerging issues.

Institution: Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA

[Details](#)

2 Open Positions at Universidad de la República Uruguay

Apply by 4 and 5 November 2024, respectively

Adjunct Professor in Silviculture / Profesor Adjunto – Área Silvicultura – Ingeniería Forestal

[Details](#)

Adjunct Professor in Forest Industry / Profesor Adjunto – Área Procesos Industriales – Ingeniería Forestal

[Details](#)

Duty station: Tacuarembó, Uruguay

PhD Position in Sampling Theory for Forest Growth

Apply by 1 December 2024

The Department of Forest Resources Management, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia (UBC), is looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic, and independent person for a four-year funded PhD. The overall aims are to develop efficient forest monitoring systems for assessing forest growth. The preferred start date is September 2025.

Duty Station: Vancouver, BC, Canada

Contact: Tzeng Yih Lam, Assistant Professor in Forest Measurements, tzengyih.lam(at)ubc.ca

[Details](#)

PhD Graduate Research Assistantship in Natural Resources Science (Forest Policy and Economics)

Open until filled

The School of Natural Resources and the Environment at West Virginia University is seeking a graduate research assistant to join a multidisciplinary team on an NSF-funded project, “Enhancing Ecological and Community Resiliency through Forest-based Climate Solutions (FbCS)” to start in spring or fall 2025.

Contact Dr. Kathryn Gazal, Kathryn.Arano(at)mail.wvu.edu

[Details](#)

IUFRO Meetings and Webinars

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

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

14-18 Oct 2024

IX Congreso Chileno de Ciencias Forestales: “Descubriendo, aceptando desafíos, y cultivando sostenibilidad”

Valdivia, Chile

IUFRO [3.01.00](#), [3.02.00](#), [4.01.00](#), [4.02.00](#)

Contact: Marco Contreras, Email: marco.contreras(at)uach.cl

<https://www.ixcongresoforestal.cl/>

18-20 Oct 2024

The 4th International Forum on Forest Policy and Economics: Sustainable forestry development and policy change in response to climate change

Beijing, China

IUFRO [9.04.00](#)

Contact: Yaoqi Zhang, zhangy3(at)auburn.edu

[First announcement](#)

7 Nov 2024

Europe’s Future Forest Management in a Changing Climate online, 14:00 CET

[TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS](#)

[Details](#)

4-6 Dec 2024

V Congreso Internacional Agroforestal y Forestal Patagónico (CIAP) – II Congreso Forestal Patagónico (CFP)

Coyhaique, Chile

IUFRO [8.02.00](#)

Contact: Mónica Toro-Manríquez, monica.toro(at)ciep.cl

[First announcement](#)

19-23 May 2025

IUFRO Division 7 Working Parties Conference: Tree health - from Cities to Forests

Zurich, Switzerland

IUFRO [7.02.02](#), [7.02.05](#), [7.03.17](#)

Contact: Valentin Queloz, valentin.queloz(at)wsl.ch

30 Jun – 4 Jul 2025

6th International Conference on Soil Bio- and Eco-engineering: The Use of Vegetation to Improve Slope Stability

Xalapa, Mexico

IUFRO [8.03.00](#), [8.03.01](#), [8.01.04](#)

Contact: Alexia Stokes, alexia.stokes(at)cirad.fr

<https://sbee2025.com/>

17-20 Oct 2025

5th World Teak Conference 2025: Sustainable Development of the Global Teak Sector – Adapting to Future Markets and Environments

Cochin, India

IUFRO [5.06.02](#)

Contact: P. K. Thulasidas, pktas(at)gmail.com

<https://www.worldteakconference2025.com/>

Other Meetings and Webinars

23 Oct 2024

Extreme Wildfire Events, Event 1 - Forestry Speed Dating

Webinar at 15:00 CEST

Organized by: Bioregions Facility and FIRE-RES

[Details](#) <https://bioregions.efi.int/our-work/forestry-speed-dating/forestry-speed-dating-4/#registration>

13-15 Nov 2024

Eighty-second session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry: Deforestation-free trade dialogue

Palais de Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

<https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/386478>

17-19 Dec 2024

Joint Meeting of WoodCircle Communication and Annual Workshop Meeting of ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Communication - Forest Communicators’ Network (FCN)

Vienna, Austria

Contact: Maria de Cristofaro, maria.decrisofaro@fao.org