

## IUFRO Launches New Website to Enhance Global Forest Research Collaboration

By Carola Egger, Project and Partnership Manager, IUFRO HQ

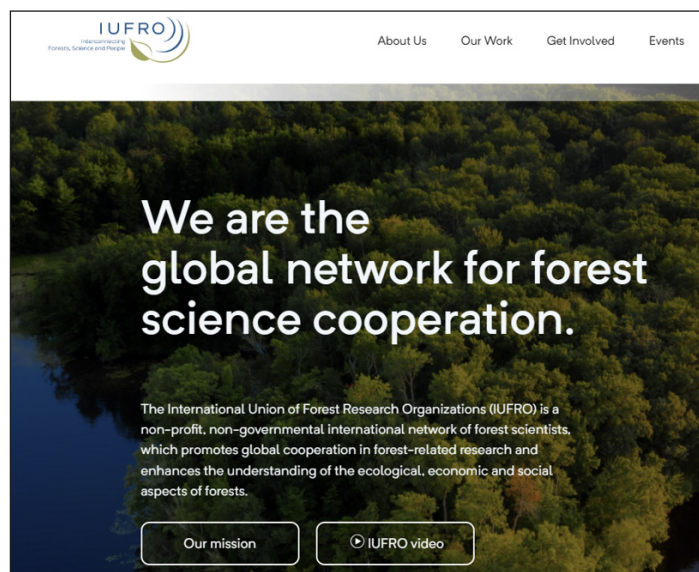
Kicking off the year 2025, IUFRO is proud to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website, now live at <https://www.iufro.org/>. This comprehensive update marks a significant step forward in supporting forest science and fostering global collaboration across the IUFRO network.

The revamped website is designed to meet the evolving needs of the IUFRO network and provides a modern, streamlined platform that improves access to information, resources, and opportunities for collaboration.

### Key features of the new website:

- A fresh, modern design for easy navigation.
- Streamlined access to IUFRO units, resources, events, news and media.
- Advanced search tools and information on global forest research.
- Up-to-date information on IUFRO events and activities.

The IUFRO Headquarters team has been working on planning and developing the new knowledge and information system for two years, starting even earlier with a review of the previous system. With the support of technical experts and a development company, the team created a system specifically designed for the IUFRO network.



The launch of the new IUFRO website marks the beginning of a novel way of engaging in IUFRO. In a next step, new features and exclusive benefits for IUFRO Members and Officeholders will be added, accessible through a personalized login area.

**Visit the website today and experience the new face of IUFRO!**  
Explore the website here: <https://www.iufro.org/>  
[Watch this video!](#)

## IUFRO Establishes New Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

By Carola Egger, Project and Partnership Manager, IUFRO HQ



Principles of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) are vital to the global science community and fundamental to IUFRO's overall mission of advancing forest science for the benefit of all.

In response to the growing organizational and societal demand for DEI, and to advance the goals of IUFRO's Strategy, the IUFRO Management Committee recommended in 2023 to form the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee. This new committee builds on insights gained from the work of the IUFRO Task Force on Gender Equality in Forestry and expands our focus to encompass broader issues of diversity, equity and inclusion within the IUFRO network.

The IUFRO DEI Committee aims to promote DEI principles throughout IUFRO's management, operations, and programs. The Committee works to foster a diverse, equitable, and inclusive

Picture by geralt on Pixabay

environment where every member, officeholder and stakeholder feels valued, respected, and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives in pursuit of IUFRO's vision, mission and goals.

The committee started its work in September 2024 and will operate for a term of 5 years subject to a potential extension. Chaired by the IUFRO Vice President Woodam Chung and represented by a diverse group of members, the committee plans to

develop strategies, best practices and measures to implement DEI principles across all IUFRO activities. The establishment of the committee marks an important milestone in IUFRO's efforts to underscore the importance of DEI and integrate DEI aspects into its global work.

Also, read this blog published by the International Science Council (ISC): [Making science accessible is a matter of human rights: A scientist's call for inclusion](#)

## AFoCO and IUFRO Sign MoU to Foster Long-term Partnership in Forest Research and Knowledge Sharing

Submitted by CHA Minkyu, Carbon Projects Team

In a landmark agreement, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) and International Union of Forest Research Organization (IUFRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on December 16, 2024, at AFoCO's Secretariat in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This partnership establishes a framework for collaboration to advance forest science and sustainable management across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

This agreement builds on a solid foundation of mutual trust and recognition. During its Ninth Session held on October 25-26, 2023, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, the Assembly of AFoCO officially endorsed IUFRO as a Partner Organization. This endorsement acknowledged IUFRO's strong credibility and global expertise in the forest and forestry sector, reinforcing its role as an ideal collaborator for advancing forest cooperation initiatives.

Under this MoU, AFoCO and IUFRO will focus on strengthening the exchange of technical expertise and providing strategic leadership within AFoCO's thematic areas and IUFRO's institutional goals. A particular focus will be placed on knowledge sharing, capacity building, and supporting evidence-based decision-making.

The organizations will collaborate in critical areas, including:

- Joint research initiatives and scientific assessments
- Capacity development activities for forest professionals and scientists
- Knowledge dissemination through publications and outreach
- Technical cooperation in forestry and climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Collaborative efforts to mobilize financial resources to promote sustainable forest management



(From left) Chongho Park, Executive Director of AFoCO, and Daniela Kleinschmit, President of IUFRO, signing the MoU. Photo IUFRO

This MoU represents a significant milestone in fostering innovative approaches to forest sustainability practices. By combining AFoCO's mission to create resilient forests, landscapes, and communities with IUFRO's global expertise in forest research, this partnership paves the way for impactful collaborations that address pressing environmental challenges and contribute to a greener and more sustainable future.

[AFoCO and IUFRO Sign MoU to Foster Long-term Partnership in Forest Research and Knowledge Sharing | AFoCO](#)

## Dante Bertocci - New IFSA Head of Sub-commission to IUFRO

My name is Dante Bertocci. I am an avid biophilic, Forestry MSc Specialist, and mycology aficionado, with dual citizenship between Italy and the United States of America. I have a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from the College of Environment+Design at University of Georgia in the USA and a joint Master's in Forestry and Natural Resources Management between the University of Lisbon in Portugal and the University of Valladolid in Palencia, Spain.



I have been an active member of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) since 2022. I have had the pleasure of being a consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for the Bioeconomy team of the Environment Workstream and now serve as Partner-

ships Coordinator for the Mediterranean Youth Task Force of FAO's Silva Mediterranea.

It is a pleasure to serve as Head of Sub-commission to IUFRO. Liaising between two of the most influential forestry organizations of our time means guaranteeing smooth communication between both parties, as well as fostering collaboration amongst student members and leading forest scientists from around the globe, thus creating opportunities of growth for present and future forestry professionals.

I look forward to organizing potential workshops and mentoring programs, bringing insightful podcasts directly to your homes, as well as discussing the possibility of reinstating the IFSA-IUFRO Joint Task Force in the future, which for years had served as a tremendous platform for interconnectedness and alliance between the two organizations. Feel free to reach out as I'm always available for a friendly chat or professional discussion!

**Dante will be the co-host of IUFRO's next Podcast episode on Division 3 Forest operations engineering and management!**

## Exploring Forest Physiology and Genetics: A Conversation with IUFRO Division 2

By Jose Bolaños, IUFRO Communications Manager

In the latest episode of **Branching Out: the Forest Podcast**, host *Jose Bolaños* (IUFRO HQ) and cohost *Nilo Wijaya* (IFSA) examine the intersection of physiology and genetics with *Amanda de la Torre* (Northern Arizona University) and *Santiago González-Martínez* (INRAE), Co-Coordinator of IUFRO's **Division 2**. From genetic diversity to groundbreaking technologies, the conversation revealed how science could shape the future of forests.



reflected on her journey from studying Amazonian trees in Peru to exploring the genomic complexities of conifers like Douglas Fir.

The two Co-Coordinator emphasized the importance of collaboration within IUFRO's global network. "Genetic diversity is our insurance for an uncertain future," Santiago noted. Amanda encouraged young researchers to ask bold questions, underscoring the role of creativity in scientific discovery.

Listen at: <https://www.iufro.org/podcast>

Nilo, a forestry student specializing in forest policy, brought fresh perspectives and clearly engaged with topics outside her daily focus. While Santiago shared his fascination with conifers, showcasing their remarkable adaptations to diverse environments, such as fire resistance of species in the Canary Islands, Amanda

From Gymnosperms to the transformative power of genomics, this episode offers a whole spectrum of tools for our forests' survival. We invite you to tune in to the Branching Out: the forest podcast. Listen wherever you enjoy your podcasts, and don't forget to follow and review! **And stay tuned for our next episode, where we will explore IUFRO **Division 3**!**

## In Memoriam Jan Heino

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of *Jan Erik Heino*, an exceptional forest policymaker and diplomat, and steadfast advocate for forest science.

Born on July 22, 1947, in Liljendal, Finland, Jan Heino's career exemplified unparalleled leadership in the forestry sector. He held prominent roles in both the public and private sectors, including as Director General of the Forestry Department at Finland's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Director General of the Finnish State Forest Enterprise Metsähallitus, Assistant Director-General and Head of the Forestry Department at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. In these positions, Jan played a pivotal role in shaping and promoting sustainable forest management policies and practices both in Finland and internationally.



Photo taken by Morné Booij-Liewes (FABI) for IUFRO

Jan's contributions to IUFRO were equally significant. During his tenure as Assistant Director-General for Forestry, FAO and IUFRO celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their collaboration at the XIII World Forestry Congress in 2009 and signed an agreement that further strengthened the collaboration between the two organizations. Jan also chaired an independent review initiated by the IUFRO Management Committee, which facilitated the adaptation and reorientation of IUFRO's strategic priorities. Additionally, in his voluntary role as IUFRO Development Officer, Jan was deeply involved in expanding IUFRO's donor network. In recognition of his exceptional service, he was awarded the IUFRO Special Recognition Award in 2016.

The IUFRO community has lost a distinguished and immensely supportive colleague. He will be profoundly missed. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Elvi, his children, and their families during this difficult time.

## Wallenberg Initiatives in Forest Research - WIFORCE

The growth of Sweden's forests has decreased significantly over the past 15 years. The causes remain unclear, but climate change is believed to play a major role, bringing more intense autumn storms, increased drought, and more pests. To sustainably manage forests while preserving their biodiversity, fundamental knowledge of forest ecosystems and their processes is needed – this is why the Wallenberg Initiatives in Forest Research was launched.

**WIFORCE** is a strategic investment in natural science forest research at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), funded by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. The research program includes an extension of two existing programs: one focused on future forest management and another on forest biotechnology. It also includes a new research school where more than 50 doctoral students will be trained, of which 14 will collaborate with industry and other partners. Additionally, five new research groups will be established.

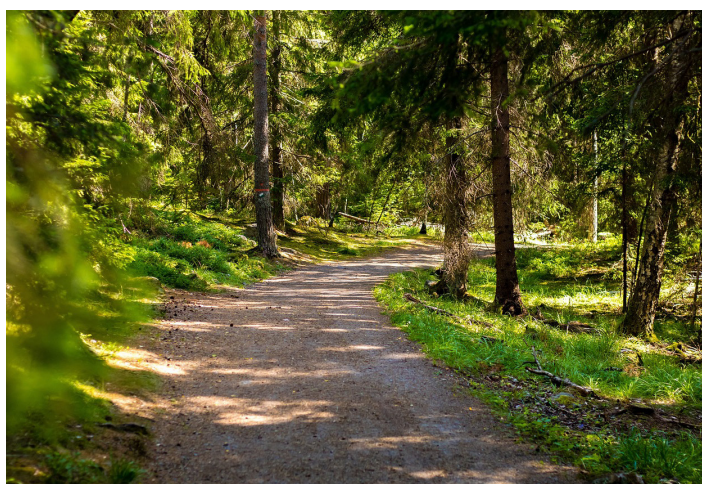


Photo by Patrik Linden on Pixabay

## Agroforestry Systems and Forests: Proposals for the Ecological and Productive Restoration of the Patagonian Landscape

Report from the 5th International Patagonian Agroforestry Congress (CIAP) and the 2nd Patagonian Forestry Congress (CFP), both held on 4-6 December 2024 in Coyhaique, Región de Aysén, Chile

By **Mónica Toro Manríquez**, [CIEP](#) (Ecosystem Research Center of Patagonia), Chile, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Research Group 8.01.00 [Forest ecosystem functions](#)

### [Meeting website](#)

The 5th Patagonian Agroforestry Congress and 2nd Patagonian Forestry Congress held in December 2024 in Chile brought

together experts from Chile, Argentina and Colombia to exchange cutting-edge scientific, technological, and practical knowledge. Discussions focused on advancing agroforestry systems and forest resources, including native forests and plantations, as their implementation and sustainable use represent an opportunity to promote the development of the Patagonian Region in Chile and Argentina.

### Topics and conclusions:

*Sustainable Silvopastoral Management: Optimized regeneration through strategic forest management.*

Long-term forest management evaluations for multipurpose use identified optimal regeneration practices that support sustainable silvopastoral systems.

*Agroforestry Systems: Enhanced forage quality and ecosystem services.*

Research emphasized the integration of forest and agricultural systems to improve forage quality and ecosystem services.

*Restoration Strategies: Effective passive and active methods balancing conservation and livestock.*

Innovative strategies for passive and active ecological restoration of degraded forests highlighted the importance of silvopastoral models and participatory approaches to balance conservation with livestock production.

*Sustainability Indicators: Framework for assessing trends and risks in silvopastoral systems.*

Comprehensive economic, environmental, and social indicators were developed to evaluate sustainability trends and risks associated with silvopastoral systems in forested areas.

*Biodiversity Benefits: Silvopastoral systems boost biodiversity and ecosystem services.*

Assessments of vegetational diversity in silvopastoral systems demonstrated significant benefits for biodiversity conservation and essential ecosystem services in native forests.

*Innovative Restoration: Cost-effective reforestation using biological legacies.*

The use of biological legacies, such as deadwood, in reforestation efforts to enhance tree survival and growth, proved to offer cost-efficient, nature-based restoration solutions.

*Climate Adaptation: Managed impacts of temperature and canopy changes on ecosystems.*

Topics such as landscape restoration, carbon capture, soil recovery, and agro-environmental practices are considered, along with the managed impacts of temperature and canopy changes on ecosystems

*Community Role: Collaborative ownership and participation improve conservation outcomes.*

The adoption of collaborative property ownership and active community involvement was shown to enhance public engagement and improve the success of conservation and restoration initiatives.

The Congresses were organized by the Forestry Institute (INFOR), Research Center in Ecosystems of Patagonia (CIEP), Municipality of Coyhaique, and the National Forestry Corporation (CONAF). In addition, the events were supported by the Regional Government of Aysén, Institute of Agricultural Development (INDAP), Foundation for Agricultural Innovation (FIA), Agricultural Research Institute (INIA), CMPC, University of Aysén (UAYSEN), Bicentennial High School of Patagonia, Reforestemos Foundation and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

### Outlook

IUFRO Division 8 Forest Environment Conference: “Forests as hubs of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Anthropocene” in Patagonia, Chile, on 24-27 March 2026.



Presentation: IUFRO by Dr. Mónica Toro Manríquez. Credit: CIEP

## Natural Resources, Green Technology and Sustainable Development

Report from the GREEN/5 Conference in Zagreb, Croatia, 3-5 December 2024

By **Tamara Jakovljević**, Croatian Forest Research Institute, International Scientific Committee Chair and Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 8.04.03 [Atmospheric deposition, soils and nutrient cycles](#)

### Meeting website

After the great success of the GREEN2014, GREEN2016, GREEN2018 and GREEN2022 conferences and a break due to the pandemic, leading experts from all over the world gathered in Zagreb, Croatia, again for the fifth International Scientific & Expert Conference “Natural resources, green technology and sustainable development – GREEN/5” from 3 to 5 December.

The conference was organized by the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb, Croatian Forest Research Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation, University of Zagreb Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Croatian Society of Biotechnology, Croatian Chamber of Forestry and Wood Technology Engineers, University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Academy of Forestry Sciences, “Zeleni prsten” Public Institution of Zagreb County.

The event was supported by IUFRO Division 8 Forest Environment, EFI – European Forest Institute, and EBTA – European Biotechnology Thematic Network Association. The conference gathered 255 from the following countries: Japan, Finland, Austria, Serbia, Portugal, France, Malaysia, Italy, Spain, Romania,

Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Greece, Netherlands, Albania, Turkey, Norway, Slovenia, USA and Croatia

Discussions focused on challenges, risks and opportunities in environmental and ecosystem management while emphasizing the potential of plant extracts, functional food and useful products coming from nature as well as the implementation of green technology and biomass in general.



IUFRO Vice-President Elena Paoletti presenting IUFRO.

The conference began with two plenary presentations. The first, titled “Rethinking Economic Growth: How Forests Can Lead Us to a Sustainable Future,” was delivered by Robert Mavsar from the European Forest Institute. The second plenary presentation, “IUFRO – The International Union of Forest Research Organizations,” was given by Elena Paoletti from IUFRO, where she discussed the work of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

Each of the six main sessions also featured plenary presentations:

### Session A: Environment and climate change

- *Alessandra De Marco* “Air pollution and Climate change Impacts on Forests”

### Session B: Sustainable production of food

- *Roland Ludwig* “Enzymes contributing to sustainable food production”

### Session C: Green technologies

- *Pedro Lozano* “Green(Bio) Catalytic processes for sustainable chemical industries”

### Session D: Urban forest and urban greening

- *Polona Žindaršič Plazl* “Flow biocatalysis as a key green technology”
- *Pierre Sicard* “The 3-30-300 rule compliance: A Geospatial tool for Urban Planning”

### Session E: Sustainable wood products

- *Aleš Straže* “Use of non-destructive method to determine quality along the entire production chain from forest to end use”

### Session F: Silviculture and ecosystem management

- *Valeriu-Norocel Nicolescu* "Stand Silviculture "Vs. "Free-Growth Silviculture" in Sessile Oak (*Quercus Petraea* (Matt.) Liebl)

Taking a multidisciplinary approach, presenters at the conference showed and shared the latest scientific achievements and offered possible answers to the challenges ahead, illustrated new policies, demonstrated innovative techniques and outlined the sustainability of ecosystems.

Conference organizers and committees Green2024:

HRVATSKI ŠUMARSKI INSTITUT

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## Forest Genetic Common Gardens

*Report from the Workshop of the IUFRO Working Party 2.02.13 Breeding and Genetic Resources of Mediterranean Conifers on Forest Genetic Common Gardens held in Madrid, 27-29 November 2024*

By **Ricardo Alia**, INIA-CSIC, Deputy Coordinator of WP 2.02.13 [Breeding and genetic resources of Mediterranean conifers](#)

### [Meeting website](#)

In November 2024, the IUFRO Unit 2.02.13 Breeding and Genetic Resources of Mediterranean Conifers organized a hybrid Workshop on Forest Genetic Common Gardens in Madrid, Spain, in collaboration with IUFRO Units 2.04.00 [Genetics](#) and 2.04.02 [Breeding strategy and progeny evaluation](#).

Given that common garden experimental networks are essential infrastructures that provide experimental data to enable research in forest tree breeding, selection methods, adaptive potential, plasticity, evolvability, conservation and sustainable use of forest tree species under climate change, the key issues raised and discussed during the workshop covered a wide spectrum on the fields of genetics and breeding, including:

- The exploration of ways to examine the state of the art of existing genetic trial networks
- Advanced experimental designs to address the main aims of field experiments
- The application of new tools (phenotyping, genotyping, modelling)
- Data sharing - repositories and analytical methods issues
- The need for recommendations for the establishment and analysis of new genetic trial networks
- The traits that need to be considered in the face of climate change, and the potential of multi-trait selection methods.

The 28 oral presentations offered tackled all the above topics and triggered lively and thought-provoking discussions. In conclusion, the significance of genetic trials was highlighted together with the fields where additional actions need to be taken in the

frame of the scope and activities of the IUFRO WP 2.02.13 and in collaboration with other potential partners.

The workshop, which was organized by *Dr. Ricardo Alia*, took place in the Headquarters of Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) and was co-sponsored and/or supported by the EU projects Optforests and Forgenius. In total 24 countries from across the globe were represented and 114 participants attended the workshop either in person or online.



*Workshop participants. photo by D. Barba, E. Notivol*

## Insect Pests and Diseases Threaten Forest Health

*Report from the IUFRO Division 7 Forest Health Joint Meeting of Working Parties [7.03.06](#), [7.03.12](#), and [7.03.13](#): Theory and Practice to address Defoliating Insects, Invasive Pests and Biological Control of Insects and Pathogens in Forests, 21 to 23 August 2024, Tokyo, Japan*

By **Etsuko Shoda-Kagaya**, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 7.03.12 [Alien invasive species and international trade](#) and Research Group Deputy Coordinator – 7.03.00 [Entomology](#)

### [Meeting website](#)

The health of forests worldwide is threatened by insect pests and diseases. For example, outbreaks of defoliating insects reduce production efficiency, and the continued introduction of invasive pests is stretching the available capacity and resources to manage these threats. Research in various disciplines is needed to unlock new approaches to manage forest pests, including a shift in focus from chemical to biological control. In addition, many of the current threats require cross-boundary and multi-disciplinary approaches.

This joint meeting exchanged information on the theory and practice of addressing defoliating insects and invasive species in forests, including biological control and other approaches. The keynote speeches were given by *Prof. Manuela Branco* on deciduous insects in Europe, *Prof. Juan Corley* on Ecological drivers of

invasive forest pests, *Dr. Nami Uehi* on Invasive wood boring species in Japan and *Dr. Shiroma Sathyapala* on regional and global invasive species management, all of which were well received by the audience. Oral presentations were given by researchers from Europe, North America, South America, Africa, and Asia, and the variety of content attracted a large audience.



Coordinators and deputies of IUFRO WP 7.03.06, 7.03.12 and 7.03.13.  
Photo provided by Etsuko Shoda-Kagaya

### Conclusions

- Understanding the ecological background of invasive alien species, defoliators and biological control agents has a significant impact on the development of actual management policies.
- International as well as interdisciplinary collaborations are critical to understanding global challenges pertaining to invasive pest introductions, outbreaks mediated by climate change and navigating bureaucracy to enable policymaking to mitigate impacts of pests and pathogens.
- Efforts for regional, gender and cultural equality are conducive to more internationally coordinated research and practice.

The excursion on the second day included a visit to Ashikaga to see *Aromia bungii*, oak wilt and pine wilt damaged areas, a visit to the Tsukuba City area to see trees affected by *Anoplophora glabripennis*, and a visit to the arboretum and a small museum at FFPRI.

The meeting was a great success, attracting 54 on-site and 9 online participants from 18 countries. It was organized by the IUFRO Division 7 Joint Meeting IUFRO Tokyo 2024 Organizing Committee, Wood Trade Pests Consortium and Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI), and supported by: National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization, Forest Research Support Fund, Japan Forest Technology Association, The Japan Forestry Association, IUFRO-J, Forest Chemicals Association of Japan and Japan Forest Foundation

Discussions began on organizing the **next IUFRO Joint Working Party Meeting in 2026**. The Canadian Forest Service has offered to host a meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick, with at least three IUFRO Working Parties and including more formats for exchange such as workshops and group discussions.

## Publications

### IUFRO 2024 World Congress Summary Report

Presented by the Congress Organizing Committee (COC)

The success of the IUFRO World Congress 2024 was a collective effort, involving hundreds of individuals. This summary report prepared by the Congress Organizing Committee presents the carrying out and outcome of the IUFRO World Congress 2024. It was the largest IUFRO World Congress ever with almost 4,300 delegates from 110 countries, 3,500 presentations and hundreds of showcased innovations.

#### Forests and Society Towards 2050

IUFRO's role as the global voice of forest science is more critical than ever. Under the theme Forests and Society Towards 2050, the Congress set new standards for scientific dialogue, innovation, collaboration, diversity, interdisciplinarity and inclusivity.

#### The value of the Congress

The Congress has proven its value in advancing research, influencing policy, and addressing global challenges. Moving forward, it showed the need to inspire young researchers, strengthen regional partnerships, and advocate for sustainable forest management globally.

#### Momentous contributions

The results from the Congress will guide IUFRO's future work and make a lasting impact worldwide. The Summary Report summarizes the Congress participation and the management by the host organizations IUFRO, SLU and the other co-hosting organizations in the Nordic and Baltic countries, as well as the momentous contributions by hundreds of individuals, partners and subcommittees.

#### The heritage

Looking ahead to the next IUFRO World Congress in Kenya in 2029, the Summary Report is essential to secure the heritage from the outgoing to the incoming Congress Organizing Committee. The concept of the IUFRO World Congress needs constant improvements and should evolve in line with societal development. Still, the handing over of a strong heritage should give the next host country the prerequisites for the IUFRO World Congress to remain a strong platform to guide the future global forest community dialogue, in accordance with the Stockholm Congress Statement.



[Download the Summary Report: PDF](#)  
[Stockholm Congress Statement: PDF](#)

## Communicating Forest Science: Language Versions Now Available

IUFRO's [Communications and Public Relations Working Party](#) proudly presented the new '[Communicating Forest Science](#)' manual at the IUFRO2024 World Congress in Stockholm. This updated guide builds on its predecessor, published over a decade ago, and is designed to empower scientists and science communicators with cutting-edge insights into communication theory and practice.

Now the manual has been translated and is available not only in English but also in **Croatian, Italian and Slovenian!**

In today's fast-paced media landscape, effective communication and public relations in forest science are more crucial than ever. Forests play a vital role in tackling global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and human health issues. As urbanization continues, it is essential to keep people connected to forests and informed about forest science.

### Citation

Hermanowicz, E., Hayes, J., Watson, C., and Sands, Y. (eds). 2024 *Communicating Forest Science Manual 2024. the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Communications & Public Relations Working Party, Vienna.*

[Learn more and download your language version!](#)



## Austrian Wood Initiative Projects

The compilation of all projects and measures implemented in the framework of the Austrian Wood Initiative between 2021 and 2024 is now also available in English.

The projects and measures presented are funded by the Austrian Forest Fund and structured around the following thematic modules: Governance, Construction, Innovation, Education, Communication, Infrastructure and Research.

They range from climate-friendly building to improving and developing legal and technical guidelines for the increasing use

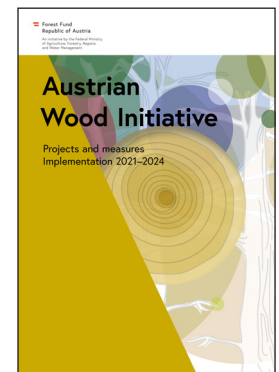
of wood in the construction sector, as well as basic and applied research for the use of wood as a raw and building material as well as energy source.

IUFRO has been involved in two of these projects, both of which belong to the Governance category:

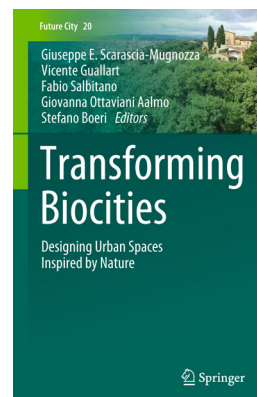
[European Wood Policy Platform \(Wood-PoP\) \(page 14\)](#)

[Wood for Globe \(page 15\)](#)

[Click to download the publication!](#)



## Transforming Biocities - Designing Urban Spaces Inspired by Nature



The book highlights, among other things, why cities using wood in construction become carbon capture and storage infrastructures and how urban forests and the strategic placements of trees around buildings decrease the energy consumption in buildings for heating and cooling. But they also reduce the increasing problem of the urban heat island effect and play a major role in human health and well-being.

Transitioning to biocities is a challenge for truly transdisciplinary research and for transformative approaches that combine urban and landscape planning, medical science, architecture, forestry, ecology, biology, chemistry, sociology, agriculture, landscape architecture, industrial design, engineering, economics, governance, and social sciences. It also requires political leadership, and the active participation of urban and rural citizens.

To accelerate this transition, the European Forest Institute launched its Biocities Facility <https://efi.int/biocities>, aiming to create an informed dialogue on how trees, forests, and wood can rethink and form the backbone of climate smart cities: Biocities.

**Editors:** Giuseppe E. Scarascia-Mugnozza, Vicente Gualart, Fabio Salbitano, Giovanna Ottaviani Aalmo, Stefano Boeri

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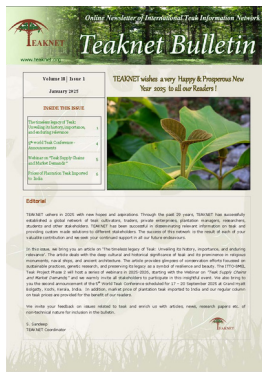
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## Latest Issue of TEAKNET Bulletin



In this issue, Teaknet brings you an article on 'The timeless legacy of Teak: Unveiling its history, importance, and enduring relevance'. The article deals with the deep cultural and historical significance of teak and its prominence in religious monuments, naval ships, and ancient architecture. The article provides glimpses of conservation efforts focused on sustainable practices, genetic research, and preserving its legacy as a symbol of resilience and beauty.

### [TEAKNET Bulletin 2025 - English](#)

Also find information about the [5th World Teak Conference 2025](#) to take place in Kochi, Kerala, India, on 17-20 September!

Teaknet Bulletin is a quarterly electronic newsletter of the International Teak Information Network (TEAKNET) brought out through its website. It is intended for circulation among the members of TEAKNET and other stakeholders of global teak sector. The views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization. The readers are welcome to express their opinions or pass on information of value to teak growers, traders, researchers or others concerned with teak across the globe.

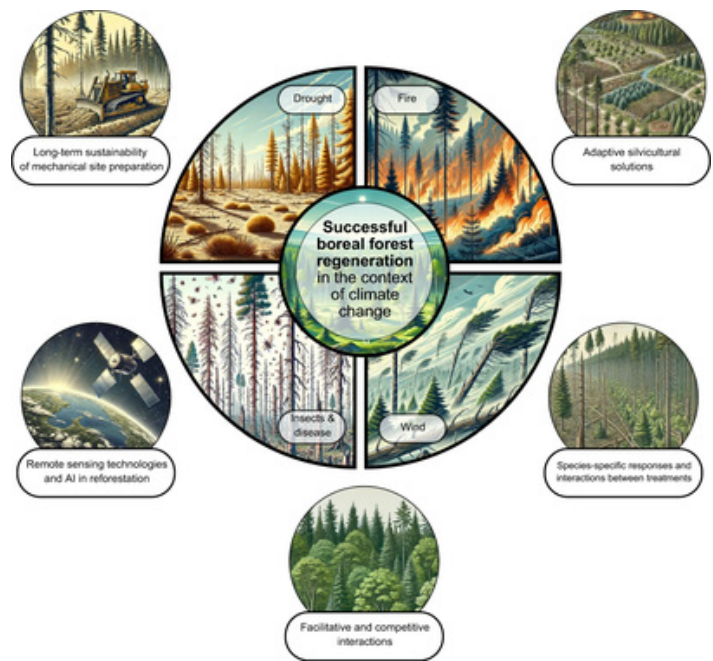
**Editors:** Dr. S. Sandeep, Dr. E. M. Muralidharan and Dr. P.K. Thulasidas, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 5.06.02 [Utilization of planted teak](#)

## A Trans-Atlantic Perspective on Successful Plantation Establishment in Boreal Ecosystems: Lessons Learned and Research Opportunities

Boreal forests, which account for one-third of the world's forested areas, play a crucial role in global climate regulation and provide significant ecological, economic, and cultural benefits. However, boreal ecosystems face substantial threats from climate change, leading to increased disturbances such as wildfires, insect outbreaks, and disease.

In response, reforestation emerges as a vital strategy for maintaining and restoring forest cover. In this perspective paper, some recent research on plantation establishment in boreal ecosystems of eastern North America and Scandinavia is summarized, emphasizing the effectiveness of mechanical site preparation (MSP), species-specific responses, and soil nutrient dynamics.

**The article** suggests key areas for future research, including the long-term sustainability of MSP, the development of adaptive strategies to climate variability, species-specific optimization of planting techniques, and integration of technological advances. Addressing these research needs will support the development of adaptive silviculture practices that enhance boreal stands resilience and productivity, helping to meet reforestation objec-



tives and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The aim is to stimulate regional, national, and international research initiatives, contributing to the resilience and sustainability of boreal ecosystems.

### **Citation:**

Thiffault, N., Nordin, P., Wotherspoon, A. et al. A trans-Atlantic perspective on successful plantation establishment in boreal ecosystems: lessons learned and research opportunities. *New Forests* 56, 16 (2025).

**Link to:** [Article](#)

### **IUFRO Units involved:**

[T42: Resilient Planted Forests Serving Society and Bioeconomy](#)  
[1.01.08: Ecology and silviculture of spruce](#)

## Courses and Meetings

### APS Seed Pathology Course: Developing & Validating Seed Health Assays

This course builds upon the APS [Seed Pathology Fundamentals](#) course, diving deeper into the latest and most effective practices for developing and validating robust seed health assays. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding and practical tools tailored to their unique needs in research, industry, and regulatory settings.

**Lecturers:** Lindsey du Toit, Washington State University  
Gary Munkvold, Iowa State University

**Dates and format:** February 11 – April 15, 2025  
Live sessions on Tuesdays, 9:00 am - 10:15 am US Central Time.

**Organizers:** American Phytopathological Society

**Contact:** [apscourses\(at\)scisoc.org](mailto:apscourses(at)scisoc.org)

[Details and registration](#)

## Seminar Series: Data-Driven Urban Forestry

Throughout this seminar series organized by Hixon Center, Yale School of the Environment, between January and April 2025 urban forestry experts will share their use of data to effectively resolve management problems and measure the efficacy of different solutions. Bringing a range of experience across government, research, and nonprofit leadership, lecturers will present insights to guide decision-making for more equitable, green, and climate-ready cities.

Find out more: [LINK](#)

### Speakers include:

- Freetown, Sierra Leone's Treetown Strategy: *Manja Kargo*, Team Lead of Mayor's Delivery Unit
- The Importance of High-Resolution Land Cover Mapping: *Paige Brochu*, Director of University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab
- Trees Cool the City but Feel the Heat: *Mike Alonzo*, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science at American University
- Health Benefits of Urban Greening: *Matt Browning*, Co-Director of the Virtual Reality & Nature Lab

**Dates and format:** Tuesdays from January 21 to April 8, 2025, at 10:30 - 11:30 am U.S. EST; Spring 2025 Speaker Series

**Location:** online

**Organizers:** Hixon Center, Yale School of the Environment

**Contact:** Ian French, [ian.french@yale.edu](mailto:ian.french@yale.edu)

**Registration:** <https://yse.to/hixonspring2025>

## Join the 2025 Summer School on Ambrosia Symbiosis!

Discover the fascinating world of ambrosia symbiosis in a 7-day immersive workshop this May in Gainesville, FL, United States, packed with hands-on activities, lab exercises, and expert-led discussions where you will learn: - Hands-On Sampling & Isolation: Techniques for collecting and isolating ambrosia beetles and fungi; - Guided Analyses: Molecular barcoding, data interpretation, and ecological analysis; - Theory: Experiment design, biosecurity issues, and publishing strategies.

**Date:** 13-21 May 2025

**Organizers:** Forest Entomology Lab, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences

[Details](#)

## 2025 IUFRO Small Scale Forestry and Extension and Knowledge Exchange Joint Conference

IUFRO 3.08.00 [Small-scale forestry](#) Research Group and 9.01.03 [Extension and knowledge exchange](#) Working Party are pleased to announce the [First Call for Papers](#) for their 2025 joint meeting.

The conference will be held on **8-10 September 2025** in Everett, WA, USA, with an optional post-conference tour on September 11-13. **Meeting website:** <https://www.iufro-eki.org/>

To submit your abstract for the *First Call for Papers*, please complete one of the forms (Word version or PDF version) and email your completed form to [Brett Butler](#) and/or [Calvin Norman](#).

The submission deadline for the first call for papers is **February 12, 2025**. Conference registration will be open soon.

## DecisionES\_BR2025

The "DecisionES\_BR2025: Symposium on Ecosystem Services, Forest Management and Decision Making" will take place from **30 June to 4 July 2025** in Porto Seguro, Brazil, supported by IUFRO Research Group 4.04.00 [Forest management planning](#).

This symposium, co-sponsored by IUFRO, the Systems Analysis community, and DecisionES project coordinators, provides a forum for forest systems analysis, operations research (OR), and decision science.

It will feature two main types of sessions: technical and practical. The technical presentations will focus on forest management and planning research, covering topics such as harvest scheduling, supply chain management, forest health, spatial optimization, wildland fire risk management, simulation, stochastic processes, and forest and fire economics. Meanwhile, the practical sessions will showcase studies on ecosystem service provision, global change impacts, degraded forest restoration, and more.

The conference organizers invite collaborators and speakers from diverse countries and backgrounds. This event will be held in conjunction with the annual coordination meeting of the DecisionES project and IUFRO Unit 4.04.00 Forest management planning.

**Visit:** <https://decisiones.ctfc.cat/conference2025/>

## Advanced Training Course on Deforestation-Free Supply Chain Management

This online course was developed by the EMMA4EU Erasmus + Project ([Innovation Alliance for Training Programmes for Deforestation-Free Supply Chains in Europe](#)).

It is designed to provide participants with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to effectively manage deforestation-free supply chains (DFSC). It will address the changes mandated by the EUDR, requiring EU market companies to implement due diligence procedures to ensure raw materials and forest-risk commodities (FRCs) are free from deforestation.

**The deadline for applications is February 18th at 12:30 PM CET.**

[Link to the application page](#) The selection committee will carefully review applications based on the course requirements. Successful applicants will be notified by February 21st.

**Classes will begin on March 3rd.**

**Find all meetings on the IUFRO website under EVENTS, search by keywords and more, and choose your preferred view: <https://www.iufro.org/>**