Conference Announcement and Call for Session Proposals
For the International IUFRO Conference
"Forest Governance, Policy, Economics, and beyond"
To be held in Beijing, China | October 9–11, 2025

Organization:
Renmin University of China; Prof. Jinlong Liu, Dr. Weiye Wang, and Dr. Yiwen Zhang
TU Dresden, Germany; Prof. Lukas Giessen
IUFRO Division 9

Conference Background

This international scientific, English language conference will serve as a global forum for the latest research in forest-related social sciences, extending to broader environmental contexts. It will spotlight innovative research in the broad field of forest governance, policies, and economics across disciplines such as political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, human geography, development studies, environmental history, legal studies, and livelihoods analyses. Open to all research groups and working parties in IUFRO Division 9, Division 9 related Task Forces and Special Programs and Projects, the conference will include a special focus on the importance of forests for meeting the Global Environmental Crisis, Sustainable Development Goals, and International environmental agreements.

The conference will include four scientific plenaries, tens sessions, posters and one day field trip, as well as a conference dinner. Thematic areas include (but are not limited to):

- Forest Governance through Policy (international, national, and local scales)
- Urban Forests and Garden Mega-cities
- Nature Conservation Policy
- AI and Digital Technology, Information and Communication
- Forest Sector Innovation
- Forest-related Indigenous Knowledge and local knowledge
- Forestry Economics and Management
- Environmental Policy and Economics related to Forests
- Integrated Forest Management
- Forest Law and Legislation
- Green Job and Forest-based Community Livelihoods
- Forest History

The conference invites only _mature_ empirical or review studies from that wide range of disciplines, combining theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions. It serves as a central event for IUFRO Division 9 "Forest Policy and Economics", in particular its Research Group 9.05.00 "Forest Policy and Governance", and acknowledges China's growing role in contemporary forest governance and related research. Established and emerging researchers

from around the world are invited to join during Beijing's scenic autumn season, and enjoy garden mega-city for sharing future of harmonization between people and nature.

Pre-conference "Autumn School" Training Camp

Before the conference, the organizers will conduct an "autumn school" training camp for PhD candidates and other early-career researchers such as Postdocs. The number of participants will be limited to 30, including 10 from China. A separate call will follow.

The tentative proposed instructors (t.b.c.) include Prof. Bas Arts and Prof. Georg Winkel from Wageningen University and Research, Prof. Liu Jinlong from Renmin University of China, Prof. Max Krott from Göttingen University, Prof. Lukas Giessen from TU Dresden.

Call for Session Proposals

The Organizing Committee herewith invites session proposals from established and emerging researchers from around the globe. From the best and most mature sessions and individual papers, we intend to edit a number of special issues in the journal "Forest Policy and Economics" (Elsevier), "Forests, Trees and Livelihoods", and "Forest and Society" (UNHAS Indonesia).

Session Formats

We invite proposals at least for the following session formats to encourage an engaging experience. All session organizers will need to collect draft papers prior to the conference in order to provide substantial feedback by a discussant from that session:

- Open Sessions on relevant topics that welcome the open submission of individual papers at a later stage for broad participation and discussion.
- Closed Sessions which are priorly organized into a suitable format and with a set of X pre-selected speakers, ideally from collaborative projects or established research networks.
- Interactive Workshops: Hands-on sessions aimed at skills-building, interactive learning, or collaborative research approaches.
- Roundtable Discussions: Moderated discussions that foster open dialogue and knowledge exchange on focused themes.
- YOUR other preferred session format

Guidelines for Session Proposals

To submit a session proposal, please provide the following details to iufro9beijing@ruc.edu.cn:

- Session Title: A concise title that captures the theme of the session.
- Brief Description: A max. 200 word summary describing the session's purpose, objectives, relevance to the conference theme, and open or closed session nature.
- Objectives and Expected Outcomes: Clearly outline what the session aims to achieve and the anticipated takeaways for participants.
- Target Audience: Describe the intended audience and how the session will engage participants from various backgrounds or career stages.
- Preferred Time Frame: Indicate how much time your session would ideally take.

- Only for organized closed sessions: Please list at least 5 pre-arranged speakers and their preliminary presentation titles. Also indicate if additional papers are welcomed.

Encouragement for Early-Career Researchers and Inclusivity

We particularly welcome proposals from early-career researchers, post-doctoral scholars, and interdisciplinary teams. Proposals that integrate perspectives from multiple disciplines or regions are encouraged, supporting IUFRO's commitment to inclusivity and international collaboration.

Submission and Review Process

Session proposals should be submitted to IUFRO9Beijing@ruc.edu.cn in accordance to the below timelines. Submissions will be selected by the Organizing Committee merely based on quality.

Timelines and key dates

- Call for <u>session</u> proposals: January 1 - January 31, 2025
- Notification of session acceptance   before February 28, 2025
- Call for <u>paper</u> abstracts (to be announced)   March 1 - April 15, 2025
- Notification of paper acceptance   before April 30, 2025
- Submission of draft working papers
  to session organizers   September 1 – 15, 2025
- Pre-conference training camp   October 5 – 7, 2025
- Conference   October 9 – 11, 2025

Financial Support

Renmin University of China will provide local support to some selected participants from developing countries. IFURO will provide some support to selected young participants through SPDC program.

For further inquiries, please contact us at IUFRO9Beijing@ruc.edu.cn.

Please distribute this call widely in your networks.

We look forward to your participation and to a vibrant scientific exchange.

With best regards,

Jinlong Liu, Monica Gabay, Lukas Giessen