

To react to the most pressing challenges and hazards that affect both forests and society, the work and collaboration in IUFRO is focused on five thematic areas: Forests for People; Forests and Climate Change; Forests and Forest-Based Products for a Greener Future; Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Biological Invasions; and Forests, Soil and Water Interactions.

All of them are strongly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, a global framework guiding the forest-related policy processes in the coming decade, and thus the direction of the future of IUFRO's strategic development.

(1) FORESTS FOR PEOPLE addresses key dimensions and challenges regarding the relationship between forests and society as individuals or communities, as well as the institutional arrangements supporting people's livelihoods and quality of life. (Linked to SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 15 and 16).

(2) FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE focuses on the impacts of climate change on forests and how to increase their resilience and adaptive capacity. Climate change is a global challenge neglecting national borders and affecting every forest on every continent. Global temperatures are increasing, regionally, and more extreme and intense weather events are occurring, coupled with increased stress and disturbances. These effects on forests affect human well-being and health, thus requiring efficient mitigation and adaptation strategies. (Linked to SDGs 13, 15, 6, 7).

(3) FORESTS AND FOREST-BASED PRODUCTS FOR A GREENER FUTURE addresses the provision of wood and forest-based products and how the environmental performance of existing bio-based forest products can be improved. It includes the use of forests as a source of renewable energy and the potential for new and innovative forest-based products in the future. (Linked to SDGs 8, 9, 11, 12, and 15).

(4) BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND BIOLOGICAL INVASIONS focuses on how the loss of biodiversity may be prevented or mitigated across ecosystems and landscapes and how management regimes could be adapted to enhance biodiversity and control biological invasions. (Linked to SDGs 2, 3, 14 and 15).

(5) FORESTS, SOIL AND WATER INTERACTIONS addresses the contribution of forests, especially natural forests, to the resilience of water supply for humans and the delivery of related ecosystem goods and services. (Linked to SDGs 6 and 15).