



## Open Call for Task Force Proposals

IUFRO Task Forces are established on a temporary basis to advance inter-disciplinary cooperation in inter-divisional forest research fields. They focus on emerging key issues that are of strong interest to policy makers and groups inside and outside the forest sector, and contribute to international processes and activities.

During the IUFRO Board Meeting held in Salt Lake City in October 2014, a number of Principles were agreed upon as a basis for the establishment of Task Forces during the current IUFRO term. In the view of the IUFRO Management Committee, the number of Task Forces to be convened during a given year may be up to ten, but **in order to encourage activities across the full spectrum of IUFRO's disciplinary expertise, shorter-term, more tightly focused Task Forces are encouraged**. This will enable IUFRO to establish new Task Forces on a periodic basis throughout the 2015-2019 Term to take advantage of emerging needs and opportunities.

### SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals for new Task Forces will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Contribution to implementation of the IUFRO Strategy 2015-2019;
- Potential to strengthen inter-Divisional interaction on specific topics of global relevance related to one or more Emphasis Areas and/or Institutional Goals of the IUFRO Strategy 2015-2019<sup>1</sup>;
- Engagement of two or more Divisions by specifically involving relevant Divisional units (Research Groups and/or Working Parties). Proposal should be jointly developed with the relevant IUFRO Divisions and their units, but may involve additional experts currently outside of the IUFRO network and partner institutions, as required. Task Force activities should not undercut current work within IUFRO Divisions, but rather complement and expand their activities;
- Specific contribution of the proposed Task Force to addressing broader policy processes or interdisciplinary science-policy initiatives;
- In case partner institutions are involved, brief justification for their involvement;
- Clarity of timelines for proposed Task Force activities and their deliverables; while Task Forces can be proposed for up to the full length of the current IUFRO term (until the 2019 World Congress in Brazil), *it is highly recommended that proposed Task Forces consider more focused activities to be undertaken over a much shorter time period (i.e., 1-2 years)*;
- Selection of Task Force members in a way that they reflect required scientific expertise, diversity, balance between North/South, natural and social sciences, and gender;
- Clarity of operational aspects (roles and responsibilities of Task Force coordinator and members, roles and responsibilities of partners involved, if any), budget for activities and funding sources.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the IUFRO 2015-2019 Strategy at <http://www.iufro.org/discover/strategy/> for details on the Emphasis Areas within each of Strategy's five scientific Themes and the three Institutional Goals.



## International Union of Forest Research Organizations

Union Internationale des  
Instituts de Recherches  
Forestières

Unión Internacional  
de Organizaciones de  
Investigación Forestal

Internationaler  
Verband Forstlicher  
Forschungsanstalten

Proposals are now being accepted for new Task Forces.

To initiate the process for establishing a new Task Force, a short 1-2 page “letter of intent” should be prepared that provides a brief statement of the objectives/aims and likely activities of the proposed new Task Force. This will be reviewed by IUFRO Board members for their comments, as well as suggestions regarding scientists from the Divisions who would be particularly interested in being involved. If this is viewed favorably by the Board, then a full proposal will be requested.

Please refer to the format (outlined below) when preparing your proposals. All proposals will be reviewed by the Vice-President for Task Forces in consultation with other members of the IUFRO Management Committee and members of the IUFRO Board. If revisions are required following proposal review, prospective Task Force coordinators will be asked to prepare a revised proposal before a final decision on the establishment of a new Task Forces is made by the IUFRO Board, typically within 1 month of submission of the final proposal.

### FORMAT FOR TASK FORCE PROPOSALS

*Note:* Proposals should include the following as concisely as possible, within 3-5 pages.

- Name of proposed Task Force
- Name of proposed Task Force coordinator, affiliation (including IUFRO position) and contact information
- Names of proposed Task Force members, their affiliations (including IUFRO positions) and contact information
- Brief overview of the rationale, goals, and objectives of the proposed Task Force (1 paragraph)
- Description of specific proposed Task Force activities, deliverables and timelines. This should include planned focused meetings with tangible outputs such as ‘state-of-knowledge’ reviews, journal papers, dedicated volumes, etc.
- Budget table listing major activities and funding sources, if known – indicate if these funds are already secured.
- Narrative addressing the following:
  - Contribution to implementation of the IUFRO 2015-2019 Strategy;
  - How the proposed Task Force will strengthen cross-Divisional interaction on specified topics related to IUFRO 2015-2019 Strategy’s Emphasis Areas and/or Institutional Goals, and how the Task Force will complement and/or expand activities of existing IUFRO Divisional units;
  - Specific contribution of the proposed Task Force to addressing broader policy processes or interdisciplinary science-policy initiatives.

**Letters of Intent and full proposals should be sent to John Parrotta ([jparrotta@fs.fed.us](mailto:jparrotta@fs.fed.us)) with a copy to Renate Prüller ([prueller@iufro.org](mailto:prueller@iufro.org)).**