



Paving the Way for the First Ever IUFRO World Congress in Latin America

The 25th World Congress of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) shall take place in Curitiba, Brazil, in October 2019. This is what the IUFRO Board decided to recommend to the IUFRO International Council, the body that will make the final decision on the venue at its next meeting during the 2014 IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake City, USA.

(Vienna/San José, 24 June 2013) During the opening of the Third IUFRO Latin American Congress (IUFROLAT) held in San José, Costa Rica on 12-15 June 2013, IUFRO President Niels Elers Koch announced that the 2019 IUFRO World Congress would for the first time in IUFRO's 121-year-long history be held in Latin America. Out of a total of 8 bidders, Curitiba, Brazil, had been chosen from a short list of 3 by the IUFRO Board at its 52nd meeting on 10-11 June in Costa Rica after a comprehensive and highly competitive bidding process. This announcement was received with enthusiasm by the almost 600 participants of IUFROLAT as it reflects IUFRO's determination to focus its forest science networking activities more strongly on Latin America.

"Awarding the Congress to Brazil is certainly also a strategic opportunity to promote IUFRO in Brazil and Latin America, where membership is proportionally lower than in other regions of the world. In addition, a much higher number of scientists from Latin American forest research institutions and universities will be able to participate in this Congress", explained IUFRO President Niels Elers Koch.

The Brazilian Forest Service and Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation Embrapa will jointly organize this important event in Curitiba, the capital of the southern Brazilian state of Paraná. Yeda Oliveira from Embrapa, Curitiba, expresses her delight about the choice and points out that "Curitiba with its 1.8 million inhabitants is widely recognized as a very "green" and "livable" city. It has become an international role model for sustainable urban development and offers an exceptional ratio of 64.50m² of forests per citizen."

Joberto Freitas from the Brazilian Forest Service, Brasilia, adds, "We are proud to be the first Latin American country to host an IUFRO World Congress. This will not only provide an opportunity to enhance the participation of Brazilian institutions in international research agendas but also boost the national forest research agenda and further increase the political and societal importance of forest science in Brazil."

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The **International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)** is the only worldwide organization devoted to forest research and related sciences. Its members are research institutions, universities, and individual scientists as well as decision-making authorities and other stakeholders with a focus on forests and trees. (www.iufro.org)