

IUFRO-SPDC's Scientist Assistance Programme – How to Take Advantage of It

The **Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP)** is designed to provide forest scientists from **economically disadvantaged countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America** with financial assistance to **participate in scientific meetings and conferences organized by IUFRO's Divisions, Research Groups and Working Parties.**

The support is directed to in-service forest scientists working at national or sub-national institutions of research and higher education that are involved in forest- and tree-related research and academic training programmes. In economically disadvantaged countries such institutions have very limited means to support their scientists to attend IUFRO conferences.

Note: All countries pertaining to the [World Bank's list of low income economies and lower middle income economies](#) fall within the category of *economically disadvantaged countries*.

General Policy Guidelines for SAP support of participation in IUFRO events:

- Support is directed to those scientists who are contributing to a particular IUFRO meeting in the form of a paper or poster presentation;
- Only scientists who are employed at an institution in an economically disadvantaged country and reside in an economically disadvantaged country are eligible for support;
- Preference is given to early- to mid-career forest scientists (below the age of 46 years) who are in need of further developing their expertise and skills as a researcher;
- Highest priority in providing sponsorship is given to IUFRO officeholders and forest scientists working in IUFRO member institutions, though scientists working in other forest-related research institutions which are not IUFRO member institutions will also be supported depending on funding available;
- In order to spread support as widely as possible among the forest science community, sponsorship will not be provided to the same scientist in two consecutive years;
- The selection of candidates will also be geared to achieve both geographical and gender balance.

Criteria for the selection of candidates for sponsorship include:

The candidate:

- has an accepted paper or poster approved by the scientific committee of the meeting;
- is employed at an IUFRO member organization (or other forest-related research institution) in an economically disadvantaged country;
- is an early or mid-career scientist;
- resides in an economically disadvantaged country; and,
- has not received travel funding by IUFRO within the past year.

What to bear in mind if you are a meeting organizer:

As a meeting organizer designing the scientific program of the conference or workshop, you know best which of the submitted papers/posters should be presented. Therefore, we ask you to short-list candidates for consideration and send this list to the SPDC office ([spdc\(at\)iufro.org](mailto:spdc@iufro.org)).

Ideally, the list should also include more detailed information about the proposed candidates for sponsorship including the following items:

- the exact names and contact details of your preferred candidates,
- their position and organization,
- their gender,
- their country of origin,
- their country of residence,
- their age, as well as
- an estimate of the costs involved in their participation in the meeting (registration fee, accommodation, local transport if foreseen).

Please note that we have to plan for the financial support a considerable time ahead so we appreciate **an early request, at least 3 months in advance**.

Contact: [spdc\(at\)iufro.org](mailto:spdc@iufro.org)

What to bear in mind if you are a forest scientist from an economically disadvantaged country:

If you would like **to receive scientist assistance for your participation** in an IUFRO Meeting please make sure that you fulfill the above-mentioned general requirements and **contact the respective organizer of the meeting** – they shall be the point of contact for IUFRO-SPDC in all regards concerning the selection of candidates.

Contact: Meeting organizer (Please consult IUFRO's calendar of meetings:
<http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/current/>)

Note: All countries pertaining to the [World Bank's list of low income economies and lower middle income economies](#) fall within the category of *economically disadvantaged countries*.