International Union of Forest Research Organizations

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Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal

Internationaler Verband Forstlicher Forschungsanstalten

Forest Communications across Continents

Report from the Joint IUFRO and UNECE-FAO FCN Forest Communicators Workshop held in Portland, Oregon, USA, 30 August to 1 September 2016

By Cindy Miner and Yasmeen Sands, Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for the IUFRO Communications and Public Relations Working Party 9.01.02 (http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90100/90102/activities/)

As land managers and citizens around the world meet often daunting challenges in managing forests, professional communications plays an increasingly important role in science and land management organizations. People of varying interests need to understand one another, and communication strategies need to be developed to convey complex information. New technologies are making possible new means of transferring scientific information and involving publics - sometimes simultaneously. Communication professionals need to learn about and adopt such technologies.

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Against this background, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Food and Agriculture Organization's Forest Communicators Network (UNECE-FAO FCN) and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations' (IUFRO) Communications and Public Relations Working Party held a joint conference, which was generously hosted by the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. The workshop brought together 56 participants from 16 countries (Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, and the USA).

Here are some of the key topics of presentations:

- Communications as a strategic tool for policymaking
- Forest communications across continents .
- Communication campaigns .
- Working with the media in the 21st century
- New technology-based approaches to communicating about forests

The goal of the workshop was to help participants address major challenges and opportunities for communications about forests. The meeting opened at the World Forestry Discovery Center, where participants observed worldclass techniques in communicating with the public about forests. Then, participants shared case studies and best practices, identified collaborative opportunities, and engaged in training sessions for the following two days.

The workshop was rounded off by a spectacular tour to Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in Washington State, USA. During the field trip, the group met with professional communicators and scientists at Mount St. Helens, with stops at Johnson Ridge Observatory and the Weyerhaeuser Forest Learning Center.



Joint Forest Communicators Workshop attendees at Mount St. Helens, Washington State, USA (Photo by Matt Burks, U.S. Forest Service)

Conclusions

The need for purposeful communications was emphasized in nearly all presentations. Trends in purpose included storytelling and engagement with the public. Methods were often multiple in case studies with use of social media becoming common place. The ability to communicate across regions and continents seems to be on the increase with sophistication in communication demonstrated through large-scope campaigns with focused outcomes including adoption of policy, practices, and new information.



Research ecologist Charlie Crisafulli (U.S.Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station) talks about ecological responses to the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Outlook

The group will continue exchanging information using social media for networking and developing a training package for use by professional communicators and scientists

Workshop attendees are also being encouraged to **submit** oral and poster presentation abstracts for consideration as part of the Working Party-led session "Connecting People to Forest Science: Innovative Communication Approaches for Delivering Science" at the IUFRO Anniversary Congress in 2017 in Freiburg, Germa-(Photo by G Wolfrum, IUFRO) ny: http://iufro2017.com/

Ecosystem Services Related to Forests, Water and Soil at ECOSUMMIT 2016

Report by Juan A. Blanco, Dep. Ciencias del Medio Natural, Universidad Pública de Navarra, Member of IUFRO Task Force on Forests, Soil and Water Interactions (<u>http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/forests-soil-water/</u>)

EcoSummit is an international conference organized every 4 years on the ecology of terrestrial ecosystems and all habitats that are integrated within those ecosystems, including river networks, wetlands and coastlines.

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The theme of the 2016 conference (http://www.ecosummit2016.org/), which took place on 29 August - 1 September 2016 in Montpellier, France, was: **Ecological Sustainability: Engineering Change**. The event attracted approx. 1400 participants. The next EcoSummit will be held in 2020 at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre near Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, and hosted by Griffith University, Queensland, Australia. The following IUFRO Task Forces were represented at the conference: "Forests, Soil and Water Interactions"; "Sustainable Planted Forests for a Greener Future", and "Forest Adaptation and Restoration under Global Change".

At the 2016 edition of EcoSummit in Montpellier the focus was on fragile ecosystems that are more likely to suffer from the consequences of climate change and anthropogenic pressure. Agriculture, and, to a smaller extent, silviculture were also major focus areas of the conference. Both are being intensified against the background of a growing awareness of the need to preserve and use natural resources sustainably in the current context of an increasing world population, changes in social habits (increasing world consumerism), and climate change. Consequently, another important topic of the conference was how terrestrial restoration can be carried out when the massive demand for food results in fragile ecosystems, forests and marginal lands being converted into agricultural land.

Under the conference sub-theme "Terrestrial Ecosystems", the IUFRO Task Force "Forests, Soil and Water Interactions" organized a session on: "Forests, Water and Soils: Exploring the Importance of their Linkages". Forests play both an integral role in the supply of clean water for a range of uses, and also in stabilizing and protecting soils from erosion. Much of the world's freshwater is provided through forested catchments. Forests also protect many dams from siltation and contamination from various pol-

lutants and protect groundwater systems from pollution. In addition, both soil and water are essential drivers of forest health and growth.

This session showcased the cuttingedge research on forest ecohydrological processes, their linkage to soil science and ecosystem research, and how monitoring and integrating this knowledge at landscape scales can be translated into policies and decision making processes for joint management of forest, soil and water resources.

IUFRO & CAF promoted IUFRO Regional <u>Congress in Asia-Oceania</u> at Ecosummit



Speakers; photo by Dr. Priyanka Halder Mallick

The key issues discussed at this session comprised:

- Ecosystem services related to forests, water and soil
- Restoration of forest wetlands and arid sites
- Schemes for valorization of freshwater provision from forest land
- Water retention capacity in forest soils
- Mapping of soil erosion and sediments in forest streams

Forests provide important ecosystem services to the communities living in them, but also to all inhabitants of the Earth. Forests, through their important linkages with soil and water, can provide water for economic activities, a service usually undervalued, if valued at all. At this session different advances were presented to estimate how much water forests can keep, how much they consume, and how to value the economic importance of such water.

In addition, the role of forests is important in sustaining ecological sites at the two extremes of water availability: rainforests and oasis, but the actions to be done are very site-dependent. However, simple scientific approaches, such as estimating how much soil can be lost through forest streams due to erosion, are valid both for scientific purposes and also for valorization for conservation authorities.

> A special issue in the Spanish language journal "ECOSISTEMAS" (www. revistaecosistemas.net) will publish some of the works presented at the session. There are also ongoing talks to have a special issue in in the journal "FOREST ECOLOGY AND MA-NAGEMENT" in collaboration with the organizers of the session on "Current advances in plant water-relations research, implications for forest management and restoration". Finally, a review paper on the latest trend in the research on ecosystem services from forests, soil and water interactions is planned for submission in mid-2017.





Connecting Knowledge and Minds

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Report by Woodam Chung, IUFRO Division 3 Coordinator

The <u>IUFRO Division 3</u> Doctoral Students Conference hosted by Oregon State University was held in Corvallis, OR, USA, for the first time in the Division history. Representing 9 countries in 4 continents (Africa, Asia, Europe and North America), a total of 14 students who are currently enrolled in PhD programs in Division 3 research disciplines came to Oregon to participate in the conference and share knowledge, professionalism, friendship and a global network.

Meeting website: <u>http://cpe.forestry.oregonstate.edu/IU-</u> <u>FROStudentConference</u>

The entire conference was student oriented, where attendees had ample opportunity to present their doctoral research work and receive feedback from peers. Designed for young and energetic researchers, this event was anything but boring. The attendees participated in field trips to OSU McDonald Dunn Forests and the USDA Forest Service Deschutes National Forest, tours to the Oregon Coast, overnight stay in central Oregon, and lots of socializing events. The goal of the Conference was to foster global community and network among future research scientists in the Division 3 research fields.

Division 3 Podcast Episode 11: <u>http://www.iufro.org/</u> <u>science/divisions/division-3/30000/podcasts/</u>

This episode features an interview with the student participants who spoke about their experience throughout the one-week Conference. The interview participants include: Giovanni Aminti, Wafa Chouaib, Teresa de la Fuente, Ana de Miguel Muñoz, Basil Ewane, Raúl Fernández Lacruz, Christoph Huber, Maria Huka, Matthias Kaltenbrunner, Omar Mologni, Ji She, Sarah Yoga, and Mika Yoshida.



The student participants visiting the student logging crew harvesting site at the Oregon State University's McDonald-Dunn Research Forest (Photo by Woodam Chung).



The student participants observing cable logging operations in central Oregon (Photo by Woodam Chung).

Engagement of Stakeholders at the Local Level is Critical for Success

Report from the IUFRO Extension & Knowledge Exchange Working Party conference on 25-30 September 30, 2016, in Kenora, Ontario, Canada

https://www.cif-ifc.org/2016/04/2016-iufro-extension-and-knowledge-exchange-conference-kenora-ontario/

By Janean Creighton and John Pineau, Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for the IUFRO Extension & Knowledge Exchange Working Party 9.01.03 http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90100/90103/

In a world of ever diminishing resources, the need for innovative and creative approaches to research and educational program delivery is of utmost importance. Therefore the conference focused on ways to engage stakeholders and communities through encouraging their participation in program development and delivery as a means for filling this need.

As a result, the conference presentations covered a wide range of approaches to engagement and dissemination, and participants represented a variety of disciplines including agroforestry, community development, forest products, biofuels, prescribed fire, and social science. The conference theme of "*Increasing capacity for program delivery through knowledge exchange networks and peer-to-peer learning*" was chosen specifically to allow for cross-discipline interactions and networking.

The conference was generously hosted by FPInnovations, Canada (<u>https://fpinnovations.ca/Pages/index.aspx</u>) and the Canadian Institute of Forestry (<u>https://www.cif-ifc.</u> <u>org/</u>). A total of 25 participants from Canada, United States, Ireland, Sweden, Bangladesh and New Zealand discussed the following key issues:

 Engaging stakeholders at the local level will increase success for adoption of new technologies. • It is important to identify local "champions" that can assist extension in the promotion of programs.

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- Collaborations can and do help solve problems and find solutions.
- Urban forestry will become increasingly important as populations continue to increase.
- Successful collaborations take time to develop.

Participants spent a day at the International Institute for Sustainable Development Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA). IISD-ELA is an area of 58 lakes reserved for conducting long-term ecological research. Examples include an experiment in which scientists reduced water flowing into a lake to mimic drier conditions expected in the Canadian Boreal shield due to climate change; an ongoing experiment involved adding small amounts of mercury to a lake and its watershed to mimic atmospheric mercury deposition from coal-fired power plants; the longestrunning experiment at the ELA involving

adding phosphorus and nitrogen to a lake since 1968 to study nutrient contributions to algal blooms.

Conclusions

The major theme across presentations was that engagement of stakeholders at the local level is critical for success. Finding a local "champion" or utilizing peer-to-peer learning can be very effective in increasing capacity of local extensionists.

Outlook to future activities

The Extension & Knowledge Exchange working group is committed to the continuation of annual meetings. We prefer to keep these meetings relatively small (30 to 40 participants) as it allows for good discussions and interactions among participants.

In 2017, members are encouraged to participate in the 125th IUFRO Anniversary Conference in Freiberg, Germany. The EKE working party will be represented during the conference at the All-Division 9 meeting during our research group session #137: "How can we contribute to better information and more efficient communication among different fields of science?"

Discussion during our business meeting included identifying opportunities for additional projects outside of our annual conferences, including:



IUFRO Extension & Knowledge Exchange 2016 conference participants (Photo byJennifer Evans Fawcett)

- A cross-boundary summit between the United States and Canada on forest health.
- How the Extension & Knowledge exchange working group might engage with other divisions in outreach efforts and strategies.
- Re-kindling our relationship with FAO.

We will continue to explore these throughout the next year.

Special Issue of the Forestry Chronicle

The Forestry Chronicle is publishing 6 papers presented at this meeting in a special theme issue highlighting the IUFRO Extension & Knowledge Exchange meeting in Kenora, and addressing the theme: of "Increasing capacity for program delivery through knowledge exchange networks and peer-to-peer learning". All participants were invited to submit papers for peer review with possible publication in the journal. Six papers were selected for inclusion in the issue, expected in December 2016.

Local Press Coverage

The conference received local press coverage, which was unexpected but very much appreciated. The link to the on-line article can be found at:

http://www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com/2016/09/27/ researchers-from-around-the-world-in-kenora-for-conference

Find the IUFRO-AO 2016 Congress Program here: <u>http://www.iufro-ao2016.org/en/news.asp?id=41.html</u>



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Sharing Knowledge on Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation: IUFRO-SPDC Workshops in Rwanda and El Salvador





IUFRO-SPDC Workshops in Rwanda and El Salvador have provided opportunities for knowledge-sharing on Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation.

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IUFRO brings together scientists and experts to share knowledge and experiences on the opportunities and challenges in implementing forest landscape restoration on the ground.

Given the considerable current political momentum and commitment towards Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) by global and national policy makers, there is a need to discuss and to further develop approaches and mechanisms of FLR implementation on the ground. IUFRO took part by holding international knowledge-sharing workshops in Rwanda (26-27 July 2016) and El Salvador (20-21 September 2016) in close partnership with FAO, Wageningen University, and CATIE, with contributions by WRI, CIFOR, ICRAF, IUCN and national expert institutions. The workshops aimed at bringing together leading FLR experts to meet and exchange latest knowledge and experiences with initiating and facilitating FLR projects. These workshops took place based on funding support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

The topics discussed cover a wide spectrum of issues ranging from participatory planning, landscape governance, institutional arrangements and regulatory frameworks, to market mechanisms, funding, and technical aspects of FLR operations on the ground. Overall, these workshops helped participants to make connections to other FLR experts in their regions and further stimulate exchange of information and experiences, thus contributing to mainstreaming FLR practices, and to feedback into regional and sub- regional policy dialogues.

For more information and results of the Rwanda Workshop please visit:

http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/actproj/flr-____ws/rwanda/

For more information and results of the El Salvador Workshop (in Spanish) please visit:

http://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/actproj/flr-ws/ el-salvador/

<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pbwaju1dtZo&featur</u> <u>e=share</u>

Global Assessment in Progress to Shed Light on Forest Crime Rapid Response to Illegal Timber Trade – Scientists Prepare Synthesis Report

Illegal trade in wildlife has been climbing up the political agenda rapidly over the last few years. Various resolutions and decisions by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the UN Environment Assembly have called for increased collaboration to combat illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products; these also include timber and timber products.

In addition, the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has established a clear connection between environmental security and sustainable development.

In order to capture this momentum, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), comprising of 14 major fo-



rest-related international organizations, institutions and convention secretariats, has asked the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) to carry out a global assessment on the topic in the frame of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative. In order to inform policy processes and decision-making at the global level as swiftly as possible, the topic of illegal logging and associated timber trade has been taken up as a rapid response assessment (GFEP RR).

Scientific Experts Meet in Vienna

Lead Authors and some of the contributing authors met in September 2016 in Vienna, Austria, hosted by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) to discuss the draft chapters, analyze the peer-review comments and agree on the refinements of the chapters.



Scientific expert meeting (Photo by A Purret, IUFRO-GFEP)

Read the full meeting report at: <u>http://www.iufro.org/</u> science/gfep/illegal-timber-trade-rapid-response/

GFEP RR at CITES CoP17 in Johannesburg

On 2 October 2016, GFEP's Andre Purret also presented the panel activities and IUFRO at the 27th INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group meeting during the afternoon

Forest is Our Life, Our Hope, and Our Future!

Interview with Professor **Don Koo Lee**, *Republic of Korea, keynote speaker at the IUFRO <u>Asia-Oceania Regional</u> Congress in Beijing, China, 24-27 October 2016*

In this interview Don Koo Lee, Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea, speaks about the contribution of forests towards achieving sustainable development. He points out that the important role of forests for life, hope and future has been further strengthened internationally by collaborative partnership activities in the past few years.

Clicke here for the interview!



session on Forestry Crime This session was held on the sidelines of CITES CoP17 (17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) in Johannesburg, South Africa.

At the CITES conference the introduction of stronger measures to protect commercially traded timber species was strongly supported by governments. Thus, on 29 September CITES CoP17 agreed in Committee to include all Dalbergia species and some other species, known for their high economic value, under protection of Appendix II to the Convention. This appendix lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled. (https://www.cites.org/eng/app/index.php)



Andre Purret (IUFRO-GFEP) at CITES CoP17

Report to be launched at CBD CoP13 in Cancún The "Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) Rapid Response on Illegal Timber Trade" will produce a state-of-knowledge report and associated policy brief. Both publications will be formally launched at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-13) in December 2016 in Cancún, Mexico.

Forests for Sustainable Development: The Role of Research

Interview with Professor **Zhang Shougong**, Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF), keynote speaker at the IUFRO <u>Asia-Oceania Regional Congress</u> in Beijing, China, 2016.



As President of the Congress host organization, the Chinese Academy of Forestry, Professor Zhang explains why the theme *Forests for Sustainable Development: The Role of Research* has been chosen for the Congress. He also talks about the importance of sustainable forest management and the role of planted forests in China and the entire region of Asia and Oceania.

Click here for the interview!



Announcements

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Assistant or Associate Professor, Forest Economics and Management

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The School of Environment & Natural Resources, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA, is offering a full-time, nine-month, tenure-track position. The incumbent will be expected to develop a nationally recognized research and extension program focused on forest economics, management, and policy. *Submit application by: 21 October 2016* http://senr.osu.edu/sites/senr/files/imce/files/OpenPositions/Forest%20Econ%20and%20Mgmt%20Position.pdf

Genetic Diversity of Forests across National Boundaries

The Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW) starts an international project to promote climate change adaptation of forest ecosystems. Eight partner institutions from six countries of Central Europe, all member organizations of IUFRO, share their expertise in the **SUSTREE project**. *More at:* http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms.web?dok=10168

Publications

IUFRO Spotlight #40 – Biological Invasions: An Undesired Effect of Globalization

Biological invasions cause problems in forests worldwide. The IUFRO Task Force on Forests and Biological Invasions aims to gain new insights and foster knowledge sharing. http://www.iufro.org/media/iufro-spotlights/

IUFRO-Japan News No. 118

Among other things, IUFRO-Japan News No. 118 contains and article by Alexander Buck, IUFRO ED, about the long-standing history of IUFRO's collaboration with FAO. *Download PDF from:* <u>http://www.iufro.org/download/</u> file/25408/5542/iufro-japan-news-118_pdf/

IUFRO Proceedings

Lessons Learnt and Challenges from Forest Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) in the Northeast Asian Region; Harbin, China; 20-24 September 2016 <u>http://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/proceedings-meetings-2016/#c24929</u>

Landscape and Biocultural Diversity

Biodiversity and Conservation Special Issue: Volume 24, Issue 13, December 2015. Editors: Agnoletti, Mauro; Emanueli, Francesca ISSN: 0960-3115 (Print) 1572-9710 (Online). http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-9/90000/90300/90306/publications/

The State of Canada's Forests Annual Report 2016

http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/report/16496

This annual report offers a national snapshot of the social, economic and environmental status of forests and forestry in Canada.

Asian Sacred Natural Sites

Philosophy and practice in protected areas and conservation. Edited by Bas Verschuuren, Naoya Furuta, published in 2016 by Routledge.

https://www.routledge.com/Asian-Sacred-Natural-Sites-Philosophy-and-practice-in-protected-areas/Verschuuren-Furuta/p/book/9781138936317

IUFRO Meetings

Search our online calendar for a full list of meetings: http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/current/ Find non-IUFRO meetings on the IUFRO Noticeboard: http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/ Also search for forest-related events in GFIS at: http://www.gfis.net

8-10 Nov 2016

X Congreso Latinoamericano de Derecho Forestal Ambiental: Bosques Gente y Paz, una Oportunidad para la Integración Latinoamericana

Bogotá, Colombia IUFRO <u>9.06.01</u>

Contact: Gloria Sanclemente Zea, gsanclemente(at)ecoversa.org including a Training on Forest Governance on 10 Nov 2016 Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education Contact: Sandra Rodriguez, sandra.rodriguez(at)okstate.edu

28-31 May 2017

23 International Wood Machining Seminar (IWMS-23) *Ozarow Mazowiecki - Warsaw, Poland.* <u>IUFRO 5.04.08</u> Contact: Michal Strzelecki, michal.strzelecki(at)oigpm.org.pl

4-9 Jun 2017

Tree Biotechnology 2017 Conference *Concepción, Chile.* <u>IUFRO 2.04.06</u> Contact: Shawn Mansfield, shawn.mansfield(at)ubc.ca <u>http://iufrotreebiotech2017.com/</u>

12-16 Jun 2017

All-Division 5 Conference - Forest Sector Innovations for a Greener Future

Vancouver, Canada. More at: IUFRO 5.00.00 Contact: Pekka Saranpää, pekka.saranpaa(at)luke.fi http://www.iufrodiv5-2017.ca/

19-21 Jun 2017

Coppice Forests in Europe: a Traditional Natural Resource with Great Potential

Limoges, France, IUFRO <u>3.01.03</u> Contact: Vincent Morillon, Vincent.Morillon(at)fcba.fr <u>https://www.eurocoppice.uni-freiburg.de/conferences/limoges</u>

4-8 Sep 2017

13th International Christmas Tree Research and Extension Conference

Akureyri, Iceland, IUFRO 2.02.09 Contact: Gary Chastagner, chastag(at)wsu.edu Meeting website

12-14 Sep 2017

3rd Restoring Forests: Regeneration and Ecosystem Function for the Future *Lund, Sweden*

IUFRO <u>1.01.06</u>, <u>1.01.00</u>, <u>1.06.00</u>, <u>2.01.15</u>, <u>Task Force Forest</u> <u>Adaptation and Restoration under Global Change</u> Contact: Magnus Löf, Magnus.Lof(at)slu.se <u>Meeting website</u>

19-22 Sep 2017 IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress: "Interconnecting Forests, Science and People"

Freiburg, Germany http://iufro2017.com/ ; http://iufro2017.com/call-for-abstracts/

Other Meetings

5-9 Jun 2017 **18th International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) Conference** Bangor, Maine, U.S.A. <u>http://2017ibfra.org/</u>