Investing in Knowledge Generation, Capacity Building and Education in Forestry

IUFRO fosters discussions on respective needs and benefits at a number of side events during the XIV World Forestry Congress in September in Durban, South Africa.

Climate change, food and water security, biodiversity conservation, and reliable, clean energy are some of the global challenges society is facing today. All have in common that they are highly interconnected and that they are all related to forests and forest management in some ways. Therefore our sustainable development will highly depend on how we manage and use forests in future and how we include forests in meeting the big challenges ahead.

In order to come up with effective responses, a deep scientific understanding of the issues and their interconnectivity is one premise. Other premises are the dissemination and application of this knowledge. Knowledge generation, capacity building and education in forestry are key means to help developing our society sustainably and responsibly both at the local and global levels.

For IUFRO, the XIV World Forestry Congress, hosted by the Republic of South Africa and organized by the FAO Forestry Department, will be the ideal platform to bring these topics to the attention of the global forestry community effectively. The XIV World Forestry Congress is expected to be one of the largest forestry events of this decade.

At the WFC, IUFRO will hold a side event on “Global Forest Science Cooperation” on 9 September, 18:15 – 19:30 hours, hall 1A open to all Congress participants. Among other things, this event principally aims at discussing framework conditions and investment in research, education and capacity development that are required to achieve impact on policies and practices promoting forest sustainability at all levels. It will also elaborate on the role of networking as means of generating, synthesizing and disseminating scientific knowledge.

"Knowledge societies will have to be societies of shared knowledge", stated the first UNESCO World Report in 2005: "Networking helps to open up entire realms of knowledge, such as scientific and technological knowledge, that until now were often jealously guarded for strategic or military reasons.“ Today’s global challenges require responses that are well-grounded on shared scientific knowledge, across various research areas and with input from different regions of the world. At the same time, networking cooperation is a cost-effective way of how to create and share scientific knowledge.

As an example, the IUFRO-led Global Forest Expert Panels Initiative (GFEP) just recently presented the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on the relationship among forests, food and nutrition. More than 60 renowned scientists from around the world collaborated on the peer-reviewed publication “Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition. A Global Assessment Report”, which was coordinated by IUFRO, the world’s largest network of forest scientists, on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). The study came in the lead up to the United Nations’ finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals, designed to address, among other global challenges, poverty and hunger.

Another example is IUFRO’s project on “Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Central and West Africa”. In many African countries there is a strong connection between forest degradation and the inability by decision-makers and society at large to access existing scientific knowledge and innovations that could aid in reversing the numerous negative effects of forest degradation. In an attempt to address this issue, IUFRO and its partner institutions in the four African countries of Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, and Nigeria, supported by ITTO (through the "REDDES – Reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing environmental services from forests" programme), established a project to propagate and disseminate forest-related scientific information.

"Interconnecting forests, science and people, this is the theme of the IUFRO Strategy for the coming years. We aim to promote research excellence around the globe and effectively share the latest scientific evidence on key policy issues. We will bring people together to address the complex natural resource challenges that are facing our planet.”

Mike Wingfield, IUFRO President, South Africa

Photo by E Schramm (2014 IUFRO World Congress)
Knowledge generation and its dissemination highly depend on skilled experts. However there are knowledge and skill divides across the world, often occurring between developed and less developed countries, but also within societies. Capacity building is key to address these divides.

In order to strengthen capacity building and to bring knowledge and implementation tools to those from less-favored regions in terms of higher education or research programs, IUFRO’s Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC) in collaboration with the World Resources Institute is organizing a workshop in the run-up to the World Forestry Congress. The training workshop on science-policy interactions for forest and landscape restoration (4-6 September 2015) aims to train on what is needed at local levels to implement forest and landscape restoration, and it discusses ways and means of transforming scientific knowledge into useful information for policy and management decisions on the ground (closed group of participants).

There are already good examples for well-established regional scientific networks in Africa, such as the Forestry Research Network of Sub-Saharan Africa (FORNESSA). The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) supports the initiative, and the first IUFRO/FORNESSA regional Congress in Africa was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2012.

However, to promote tomorrow’s experts on forests and forest management, there is also an urgent need to enhance forestry education with main emphasis in those parts of the world where educational institutions are lacking. The side event “Enhancing Forestry Education in Africa” (8 September, 19:45 – 21:00 hours, room 21ABC), that will be held by the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA) in cooperation with IUFRO aims at reviewing the current state of forestry education in Africa. It particularly addresses students and professionals to come together and discuss respective needs and opportunities. Participants of the panel include representatives from FAO, IUFRO, SAIF, IFSA, local forestry students in Africa and two South African universities.

Discussions will also reflect on outcomes of a pre-side event workshop on forestry education in Africa (6 September, 9:30 – 12:30 hours, room 11CDE). The Workshop will concentrate on the analysis of the situation of forestry education in Africa and is aiming at identifying main gaps and challenges with active participation of both African and international students.

Investing in knowledge generation, capacity building and education in forestry must rather be seen as an absolute necessity than as a question in order to enable our society to respond to the great challenges of this century. With its various events at the World Forestry Congress, IUFRO would like to contribute to improving conditions and terms and finding innovative approaches to implement these issues.

We encourage you to participate in these events and get involved in the discussions!


XIV World Forestry Congress, 7-11 Sep 2015
Inkosi Albert Luthuli Int’l Convention Centre (ICC)
Durban, South Africa

The central theme of the XIV World Forestry Congress is “Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future”. The aim is to show that investment in forestry is an investment in people and, in turn, an investment in sustainable development. http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/programme/en/

"The range and diversity of forest ecosystems in Africa is broad and sustainable management of these forests has always been on the agenda. However, a plethora of environmental challenges in the Anthropocene calls for understanding the extent of and the linkages in diversity as well as education systems that catapult enabling environments for knowledge generation, capacity building, crossing conventional literacy barriers and affording inclusiveness."

Tatenda Mapeto, PhD Student (Forest Hydrology) at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa, and Head of Forestry Education Commission in the International Forestry Students Association

(Photo provided by Tatenda Mapeto)
If you plan to come to the **World Forestry Congress** and have an interest in forest-related research issues, here are some more sessions that you will find worth attending:

**Friday, 4 September, 7:45 – 18:00**  
**Research Symposium: Underpinning sustainable tree plantations in Southern Africa**  
Meeting room 22

Linking to the Congress theme *Forests and People – Investing in a Sustainable Future*, the event will address some of South Africa’s key issues as well as the need to promote forestry as an investment and development sector of the future, and support the creation of appropriate and relevant policy. “The Champion Trees of Southern Africa” book will be formally launched at the Symposium with copies on sale for delegates to purchase.

Contact: Sally Upfold, sally.upfold@icfr.ukzn.ac.za  

**Monday, 7 September, 12:45 – 14:15**  
**Opportunities and challenges for harnessing local forest management to improve rural livelihoods in Africa**  
Meeting room 11A

Aiming at increasing forest-based incomes and local development, overarching conclusions will be drawn to identify opportunities for intervention and support, and for research and development efforts.

Convened by Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment ([IUFRO-WFSE](http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/world-forestry-congress/programme/precongress-events/forestry-research/en/))  
Contact: Pia Katila (pia.katila@luke.fi)

**Tuesday 8 September – Wednesday 9 September 2015, 10:00-17:30**  
**International Forest and Water Dialogue**  
Hall 3A

This two-day special event will see the finalization and launch of a Five-year Forests and Water Action Plan. Calling for action in the areas of science, policy, economics and forest practices, the Plan was drafted over the last two years by an expert group and partner organizations from around the world.

This event is co-organized by FAO, IUFRO, the World Agroforestry Centre and INBAR. **IUFRO presents the science block on Tuesday morning, from 10:00-14:15**, with key presentations and lightning talks. Don’t miss it!  

**Tuesday, 8 September, 12:45 – 14:15**  
**IUFRO Directors’ Forum - Crossing science boundaries for the benefit of forests and people**  
Green Room

The research landscape and the policy agenda dealing with forest research are becoming increasingly fragmented. Change is happening at an accelerated pace, therefore business as usual will not be sufficient. Against this background, the Directors’ Forum would like to share its findings on how to organize, fund and manage research in order to maintain the relevance of forest-focused research institutions.

Convened by IUFRO and the Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW)  
Contact: Peter Mayer (peter.mayer@bfw.gv.at)
And another World Forestry Congress highlight:

Tuesday, 8 September, 10:30 - 12:30

**Connecting forests and people – building capacity to communicate at the World Forestry Congress 2015**

Hall 3BC, Sub-theme Improving Governance by Capacity Building

How concerted communications campaigns can change behaviour will be demonstrated at the “Connecting forests and people – building capacity to communicate,” session on Tuesday, 8 September 2015 at the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa. To make greater strides in improving forest management, today’s forester must be skilled at communication – listening, understanding, promoting and encouraging.

A dedicated network can be even more effective. Join this interactive session to explore the issues, learn about new tools to help improve your own communications, and find out how new networks are encouraging capacity building and sharing new methods to improve as a sector. Hear the experiences of forest communicators and join the discussion with a renowned panel of experts.

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**Mountain Forest Management in a Changing World**

*By Manfred Lexer, Institute of Silviculture, BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria, Coordinator of the ARANGE project. Meeting website: [http://www.nlcsk.sk/mfm-conference](http://www.nlcsk.sk/mfm-conference)*

This three-day event was organized as an open science conference in Smokovce, High Tatra Mountains, Slovakia on 7-9 July 2015. It brought together 130 registered participants from 19 countries and was co-sponsored by IUFRO Units 1.01.05 Mountain Forest Management & 4.03.03 Information management and information technologies. Participants included international researchers, international mountain forestry stakeholders and ARANGE consortium partners. The meeting was hosted by the National Forest Center (NFC), Slovakia, and the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), and supported by ARANGE (Advanced multifunctional management of European mountain ranges), a Collaborative Project within the 7th Framework Programme with funding of the European Commission.

Three invited keynote speakers provided the conceptual framework for further discussions and presentations:

- **Bernhard Wolfslehner** (BOKU, Austria, and EFICEEC Central-East European Regional Office of the European Forest Institute), gave a talk entitled: *Towards 2020 – The role of mountain forests for the pan-European goals and targets for European forests*

- **Timo Pukkala** (University of Eastern Finland) discussed: *Evaluating and planning for economic, ecological and social benefits from forests*

- **Peter Brang** (Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL) spoke about: *Managing mountain forests in a changing climate: focused intensification to meet particular challenges?*

The conference continued with four key presentations of the ARANGE project and provided room to share and discuss main findings and results in the plenary before the audience split up for a set of individual scientific sessions. In total 48 oral and 31 poster presentations provided thought-provoking insights into this multi-faceted topic.

A field trip to the ARANGE Case Study Area (Kozie Chřby Mountains, Spišská Teplica) in the afternoon of Day 2 (July, 8) allowed for direct knowledge transfer from practice to science and vice versa (hosted by National Forest Centre NFC together with the forest owner Pro Populo Poprad Ltd.). At four thematic stops in selected forest stands representatives of both NFC and Pro Populo Ltd. highlighted key challenges in the context of the provision of ecosystem services from mountain forests in their region.

Topics addressed included: i) Wildlife management and hunting, ii) Conflicting Ecosystem Services, iii) Forest and Water, and iv) Climate Change, and provided additional food for thought in related discussions with conference participants who were eager to hand back state of the art knowledge to the practitioners and to share their experiences.

The final day of the ARANGE conference was dedicated to a concluding stakeholder event. In a panel discussion supported by representatives of MountFor, EUROMONTANA, the Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture and the European Commission, the question “What is needed, what can be learned from mountain forest research?” aimed at pinpointing the gaps and bridges between science, policy and practice - issues that were then taken up in the attached workshop on the way forward: “Towards a European Mountain Forest Research Agenda”. The conference was closed in a plenary session by the Coordinator of the ARANGE project, Manfred J. Lexer.
Silviculture and Management of Dryland Forests

By Ben du Toit, University of Stellenbosch, Faculty of AgriSciences, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 1.02.05 - Silviculture and management in arid and semi-arid regions

Report from a Symposium held on 16-19 March 2015, in the Western Cape, South Africa

Natural forests in dry regions are under increasing pressure from expanding human populations and climate change. Afforestation with fast growing plantations of exotics has helped to decrease the pressure on natural forests in many countries. However, even the plantation forests are under pressure due to scarcity of land for agriculture and development, increasing pest and disease threats, and also climate change.

At the very successful first Symposium on Silviculture and Dryland Forests that was hosted by the University of Stellenbosch and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and attended by more than 100 representatives and speakers from Companies and Universities from 15 countries, covered the following main themes:

- Tree physiology, growth and tree architectural responses in drought conditions
- Site–species matching / genotype x environment interactions
- Silviculture regimes and management systems for Dryland Forestry
- Management systems for dry natural forest ecosystems (including Savanna forests, bush encroachment and sustainable livelihoods issues)
- Products, procurement, wood properties and markets
- Integrated fire management
- Landscape improvements and ecosystem services from woodlots and farm forestry projects

The management of fire effects and herbivory, as well as human utilization and harvesting of forest products and services was also specifically highlighted.

With keynote speakers from Brazil, Australia, Germany and South Africa, a combined effort was made to unite decision-makers, ecologists, forest scientists, forest practitioners, academics, forest managers and researchers, who are interested in plantations, woodlots or natural forests in dry regions to share and review information, developments, concepts and ideas within the broad spectrum of the listed themes.

Apart from the high standard of presentations, the symposium was a perfect learning opportunity in terms of interactions between delegates from a range of forestry backgrounds and interests. A number of social events were arranged where delegates could meet and exchange personal contacts. The field day included visits to the forest eco-physiological and hydrological experiments in Jonkershoek, the dryland eucalypt trials at Mariendahl and Backsberg and a walk through a dry natural forest and up to the granite dome of Paarl Mountain. Feedback on the field day included overwhelming positive remarks on the quality of the research and the performance of dryland eucalypts species tested in the Western Cape.

The symposium was unique in the sense that plantation managers and natural forests managers are seldom combined in one forum with the same objectives. The carefully selected combination of presentations on the seven themes and the discussions that followed resulted in a number of unexpected synergies identified between the plantation forests and natural forests.

This interaction has facilitated networking to develop joint projects and activities that will address priority research issues in the future.

Courses

XXVII Curso Intensivo Internacional
Manejo Diversificado de Bosques Naturales Tropicales: El Manejo ante los Desafíos del Cambio Climático

This course offered by CATIE in Spanish takes place from 5-30 October at CATIE, Turrialba, Costa Rica. Deadline for Application: 13 September 2015. For more information, write to: capacitacion(at)catie.ac.cr

Scholarships

International Scholarships for MSc in Tropical Forestry at TU Dresden, Germany

Deadline 30 October
To apply or for more information write to: tutor(at)forst.tu-dresden.de
http://www.forst.tu-dresden.de/Inter
Publications

Directory on Urban Forestry Experts
IUFRO Research Group 6.07.00 - Urban Forestry has developed an online directory to facilitate research collaboration and information dissemination among its members across the globe. Membership in this directory is free and to join, please visit: http://www.itreetools.org/iufro/

Proceedings from IUFRO Meetings
In our proceeding archive you will find IUFRO conference proceedings that were submitted electronically: http://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/

Among the latest entries:
First International Conference on Reforestation Challenges, 3-6 June 2015, Belgrade, Serbia http://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/proceedings-meetings-2015/#c23099


Bamboo - The Plant and its Uses
By W. Liese, M. Köhl (Eds.)

This book presents the state-of-the-art knowledge on bamboo. It starts with an introduction to the plant’s biology, its taxonomy, habitat, morphology and growth. The cultivation of bamboo is discussed in terms of silviculture, pests and diseases, and harvesting techniques. The book is completed by a comprehensive presentation of the properties of bamboo, its utilization and its preservation.

Guardians of the Brazilian Amazon Rainforest: Environmental Organizations and Development
By Luiz C. Barbosa, San Francisco State University, USA https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138825826 Copyright 2015 Routledge

Climate Change Impacts on Tropical Forests in Central America
An ecosystem service perspective
Edited by Aline Chiabai, Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) https://www.routledge.com/products/9780415720809 Copyright 2015 – Routledge

Obituary: Kurt W. Gottschalk
It is with sadness we note the passing of Dr. Kurt W. Gottschalk, 63, USA. Dr. Gottschalk died on August 10, 2015, while on a mission trip with his church to Belize, Central America. He was an internationally known and highly respected silviculturist and forest ecologist, who will be greatly missed in the scientific and forest management communities. Since 1979, he was Research Forester and Project Leader with the US Forest Service in Morgantown, West Virginia. In IUFRO, he served from 2010 up to his death as Coordinator of Working Party 1.01.06, Ecology and Silviculture of Oak.

Positions

Seeking Junior Professional Officer for IFSA/IUFRO Joint Position
After another successful year for IFSA and IUFRO, both parties are happy to once again announce the opening for the IFSA/IUFRO Joint Position.

Details:
Title of the job: Junior Professional Officer, IFSA/IUFRO Joint Position
Application open until: September 27th, Sunday, UTC/GMT +2
Contact of the person responsible for applications: vice_president@ifsa.net
Duration: Calendar year 2016, beginning in January 2016
Place: Vienna, Austria http://www.ifsa.net/job-position-junior-professional-officer-ifsaifufo-joint-position/

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

4-11 September 2015
IUFRO Events at the World Forestry Congress in Durban: http://www.iufro.org/events/other-major-events/wfc-2015/

World Forestry Congress

12-16 Oct 2015
Linking Ecosystem Services to Livelihood of Rural Communities
Seoul, South Korea IUFRO 9.04.03 Contact: Yeo-Chang Youn, youn(at)snu.ac.kr https://sites.google.com/site/ecosystemlivelihood/

14-16 Oct 2015
International Workshop on Forest Science Publishing Helsinki, Finland IUFRO 9.01.06
Contact: Pekka Nygren, pekka.nygren@luke.fi
http://www.metla.fi/fsp2015/

18-20 Oct 2015
Effects of Forest Carbon Mitigation on Soil and Water
Guangzhou, China
IUFRO Task Force on Forests, Soil and Water Interactions
Contact: Richard Harper, R.Harper@murdoch.edu.au

8-11 Dec 2015
3rd ACMECS Bioenergy Workshop: Future Development of ACMECS Bioenergy: Regional Plan and Standardization
Ubon Ratchatani, Thailand
IUFRO Task Force Sustainable Forest Biomass Network
Contact: Viktor Bruckman, viktor.bruckman@oeaw.ac.at

21-23 Apr 2016
PERCEPTION-PREDICTION-ACTION: Managing risk in uncertain times
Freiburg, Germany
IUFRO Task Force Sustainable Forest Biomass Network
Contact: David Gray, david.gray@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca
http://riskanalysis-iufro.org/meetinginformation.html

9-11 May 2016
Advances and Challenges in Managerial Economics and Accounting
Vienna, Austria
IUFRO 4.05.00, 4.05.01, 4.05.02, 4.05.03
Contact: Walter Sekot, walter.sekot@boku.ac.at

30 May-3 Jun 2016
IUFRO Genomics and Forest Tree Genetics Conference
Arcachon, France
IUFRO 2.04.00, 2.04.01, 2.04.02, 2.04.06, 2.04.10
Contact: Christophe Plomion, plomion(at)ierroton.inra.fr
https://colloque.inra.fr/iufro2016

12-17 Jun 2016
8th meeting of IUFRO 5.01.04 and 3.02.04: Modelling Wood Quality, Supply and Value Chain Networks
Québec City, Canada
IUFRO 5.01.04, 3.04.02
Contact: Conference Organizers, woodqc2016(at)ffgg.ulaval.ca

5-6 Dec 2016
Global Landscapes Forum
On the sidelines of the UNFCCC COP21, Paris, France
Contact: John Colmey, j.colmey@cgiar.org
http://www.landscapes.org/glf-2015/

22-24 Feb 2016
2nd International Conference on Urban Tree Diversity
Melbourne, Australia
http://urbantreediversity.org/

http://esof.eu/