Forests are home to about 80% of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity. Biodiversity is under serious threat from deforestation, forest degradation and climate change. Managing forests sustainably, and restoring them when needed, is crucial for people, biodiversity and climate.

IUFRO Starts Follow-up Study on Biodiversity, Forest Management, and REDD+

Forests are conservation areas, carbon sinks, sources of renewable materials and much more! We all know that forests are multitalented in many ways.

The United Nations have declared 2020 the "super year" for biodiversity and, accordingly, the theme of this year’s International Day of Forests is "forests and biodiversity". Against this background, IUFRO is announcing the start of a comprehensive review and update process of the scientific assessment report prepared by the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Biodiversity, Forest Management, and REDD+, in 2012. This publication will be the first in a series of follow-up studies and shall be completed in 2021.

The follow-up studies are a newly established work area of IUFRO’s Science-Policy Programme, together with the GFEP initiative and related regional activities. The follow-up study will look into the implementation of the REDD+ mechanism, lessons learnt and developments related to international processes and negotiations on climate change and biodiversity.

More about GFEP: https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/
Link to the 2012 study

Forest Landscape Restoration Implementation: Lessons learned from selected landscapes in Africa, Asia and Latin America

IUFRO Occasional Paper 33: A publication prepared by contributors to the FLR Snapshot Scientific Analysis Project led by the IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC).

The publication attempts to link lessons learned from the analysis to progress made in achieving the Bonn Challenge goals. It suggests possible ways forward for global processes addressing the problems of deforestation and land degradation and concludes with a view on the outlook and implications for global FLR-related processes such as the Bonn Challenge.

Authors: John A. Stanturf, Stephanie Mansourian, András Darabant, Michael Kleine, Promode Kant and Janice Burns.

Click: More information and download link

Photo by Peter Tarasiewicz
Following a first meeting of the GFEP Expert Panel on Forests and Poverty in late August 2019, the main authors of the upcoming GFEP assessment report met 29-31 January 2020 at the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting was kindly hosted by CIFOR – ICRAF, with generous organizational support by the ICRAF team and financial support from the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA).

17 members of the Expert Panel and the GFEP management team attended the meeting. The main objective of the session was to discuss and refine the draft manuscripts of the global scientific assessment on forests and poverty, to align the various chapters of the assessment report, to ensure good coordination between the authors and to clarify issues arising from the drafting process. The global assessment aims at giving answers to questions as to ‘how do forests and tree-based landscapes affect poverty and wellbeing of the poor’ and ‘what processes and conditions related to forests constrain or enable the reduction of poverty’. Therefore, the GFEP on Forests and Poverty will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by highlighting the nexus between SDG 1 on ending poverty and SDG 15 on life on land, as well as relevant links to other SDGs, including SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities.

Having worked hard during the three days, the chapter groups left Nairobi and the successful meeting in good mood and looked forward to completing the draft manuscripts by the end of February 2020. As a next step, a thorough peer review process of the draft assessment takes place, followed by discussions on the reviewed manuscripts in mid-April 2020.

The launch of the report and policy brief is planned to take place during the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA-75) in September 2020 at UN Headquarters in New York. The outcomes will be of particular relevance to the sessions of the United Nations Forum on Forests and to other forest-related forums such as CBD COP-15 and UNFCCC COP-26.

More information about the assessment, including the list of Panel Members is available at: https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/forests-and-poverty-panel/

Report by Andre Purret, GFEP/IUFRO

Forest Research Innovation Potential in National and International Scenarios

Workshop on 29 January 2020, CREA Research Centre for Forestry and Wood, Arezzo, Italy

The workshop aimed to promote hands-on networking and exchanges about innovation and developing priorities among the forest research community; present relevant innovative initiatives in Italy and on an international level; connect current research and practices to further improve existing projects and provide inspiration. It was organized by the Italian Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (CREA) and the National Rural Network (RRN) of the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MIPAAF), in collaboration with the Italian Academy of Forest Sciences and the Italian Society of Forestry and Forest Ecology.

The meeting saw the presence of over sixty representatives of research bodies, forestry universities, professionals, forestry entrepreneurs and the General Directorate for Forestry of MIPAAF to share with John Parrotta, the IUFRO President, the innovation and technology transfer initiatives in the forestry sector in response to current challenges of global change and support to landowners, enterprises and other stakeholders.

John Parrotta opened the workshop, and 12 reports were then presented, discussing: perspectives of research and innovation in forestry; conservation and management of forest genetic resources; challenges and opportunities for mitigation and adaptation to global change; perspectives.
in the study of the health of forest systems; economics and technological innovation in forestry operations; role of urban and peri-urban forests; forest resource monitoring. The final wrap up summarized the main topics targeted to strengthen the potential of interdisciplinarity and correct communication to the general public, and the issues of sustainability and responsibility in fostering global forest science collaboration and innovation.

Report by Piermaria Corona, CREA

From left to right: Piermaria Corona (Director of CREA Research Centre for Forestry and Wood, Italy), Elena Paoletti (IUFRO Executive Board), John Parrotta (IUFRO President), Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza (past Italian representative at the IUFRO International Council), Marco Marchetti (current Italian representative at the IUFRO International Council), Fulvio Ducci (coordinator of the IUFRO Task Force "Strengthening Mediterranean nursery systems for forest reproductive material procurement to adapt to the effects of the climate change").

News from IUFRO Headquarters

Janice Burns Assumes New Position as IUFRO-SPDC Deputy Coordinator

Globally, socio-economic and environmental challenges associated with climate change, water shortage, food security and livelihood have significantly increased.

International cooperation including on forest-related issues has responded by providing more opportunities also for IUFRO to strengthen its services to the forest science community in economically disadvantaged countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, mainly through IUFRO’s Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC).

In support of the expanding scope of work and diversity of activities, we are pleased to report that Ms Janice Burns from Canada, who has been involved in IUFRO-SPDC activities since 2016, has agreed to assume the position of IUFRO-SPDC Deputy Coordinator.

With an academic background in forestry in various regions and specialisations ranging from remote sensing and fire management to forest landscape restoration, forest education and communication, Janice brings on-board the necessary expertise to further strengthen IUFRO-SPDC’s work. She will continue her current work as IUFRO’s Thematic Networking Manager and on a part-time basis will lead IUFRO-SPDC’s activities on training and research networking, bridging science and practice.

Find out more about IUFRO-SPDC here: https://www.iufro.org/science/special/spdc/

IFSA-IUFRO Workshop at the IUFRO HQ

In the week of the International Day of Forests, we would like to shine a light on the future of our forests, namely, forestry students.

IUFRO hosted a workshop for IFSA officials on the 5th of February at the IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

The workshop was moderated by Daniel Boehnke, of the IUFRO HQ, and the speakers included Alexander Buck, Michael Kleine, Janice Burns and Elisabeth Pötzelsberger, a senior scientist at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU).

A brief overview of the IUFRO history and structure was presented, as well as the purpose and workings of the Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC). The Global Forest Information Service (GFIS), Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) and Young Scientists Initiative (YSI) were also presented to the students.

Elisabeth Pötzelsberger presented the history of BOKU and the international programmes it offers. Janice Burns conducted an interactive activity designed to improve communication during networking. The students were also told about opportunities which they may be eligible for “beyond IFSA” once they are no longer students but young professionals in the early stages of their careers.

The participants were very proactive and were well received by the IUFRO HQ staff. (Photo by G. Wolfrum/IUFRO)
Publications

Climate Change and Sustainable Supply of Softwood. An Outlook for the 21st Century. The Case of Central Europe.

Think Tank Meeting. 25th November 2019, Vienna, Austria.

In pursuit of IUFRO’s strategic goal of providing analysis, insights and options for practical use by stakeholders, IUFRO started to intensify cooperation with the forest industry and established a Science-Meets-Stakeholders Dialogue at the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress in 2017. This Dialogue was successfully continued at the Curitiba World Congress in 2019.

As a next step, IUFRO piloted this Think Tank discussion with interested forest industry representatives on the future of softwood supply in Central Europe in light of climate change. Find more information and a link to the summary document here: https://www.iufro.org/news/article/2020/02/05/climate-change-and-sustainable-supply-of-softwood/

IUFRO Task Forces:
A Multi-disciplinary Approach to Addressing Forest Challenges around the Globe

This is the first in a series of IUFRO Spotlight articles that will highlight the work of IUFRO Task Forces.

Current forest-related challenges are best addressed from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Integrating knowledge from biophysical and socioeconomic sciences can provide more complete analyses of forest issues. These, in turn, are of more direct value to forest decision makers and practitioners. That’s one of the primary reasons underlying the IUFRO Task Forces (TFs).

Read the Spotlight here: https://www.iufro.org/media/iufro-spotlights/

Coming next:
Spotlight on “Transforming Forest Landscapes for Future Climates and Human Well-Being”

Forest Education in Japan

Historical Review; Current Forestry Practices, Forest Management, and Wood Processing Education; and Future Expectations - Tama Forest Science Garden

Editor in Chief, Mariko INOUE: “We hope that the forest education activity initiated by Tama Forestry Science Garden of the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute will connect those involved in forestry research, industry, government, and the general public, and will continue to stress the importance of forest education, especially for children, to realize sustainable forests utilization and conservation.”

To celebrate last year’s International Day of Forests on March 21, the IUFRO Forest Education Task Force and partners organized the Global Competition on Best Practices in Forest Education together with IFSA, University of Helsinki, UN FAO and other organizations, to raise awareness about education. The Tama Forest Science Garden activities were selected as one of the top ten finalists.

For download, go to Other Publications on: https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-6/60000/60900/publications/

Proceedings
https://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/

Book of Abstracts
“Temperate and boreal primeval forests in the face of global change”
2-4 September 2019, Lviv, Western Ukraine, IUFRO 1.01.07, 8.01.01

Book of Abstracts
“Governing and managing forests for multiple ecosystem services across the globe”
26-28 February 2020, Bonn, Germany, IUFRO 9.00.00, 9.05.07
Editors: Abruscato, S.; Joa, B.; Winkel, G. (eds.)
https://www.iufro.org/publications/proceedings/proceedings-meetings-2020/#c29770

Podcast: Seminar on “Governance responses to illegal natural resource activities”
Listen to Daniela Kleinschmit, Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy at the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg, Germany and Vice-President of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO). This seminar was recorded on Tuesday 3 March 2020 at the Australian National University.
Forest Policy and Economics – Competition for Special Issue

Forest Policy and Economics is happy to announce a competition for eliciting the best proposal for a special issue (SI) to be published by the journal in the fields of Forest Policy/Governance as well as Forest Economics, respectively.


Any group or individual, including young scholars, who has a substantial track record in a field of research relevant to the journal and whose networks reach out to potential authors in that field, is invited to submit a proposal and serve as its Guest Editor(s). Proposals should be concise (max 3 pages), provide Guest Editors’ name(s), the study background and justification, the joint SI objectives, as well as the contributions’ titles and author names already confirmed or likely being contributed to the SI (the number of contributions is not limited to upper or lower bounds). Abstracts of such contributions are strongly encouraged being annexed to the 3 pages.

The winners of the competition will be awarded promotional open access for all contributions to the SI for a fixed term of 6 months. Proposals will be assessed based on (i) the originality and timeliness of the topic, (ii) their internal coherence, as well as (iii) the quality of the envisaged contributions.

Proposals should be addressed to Lukas.Giessen(at)efi.int until May 31st 2020.

The State of Global Environmental Governance 2019

In this book, the IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin team reflects on the successes, shortcomings and overall trends of international environmental negotiations in 2019. The year saw scientists rise as truth-tellers, with international scientific bodies producing a range of reports on climate change, biodiversity and the environment as a whole. The report concludes by looking to a busy environmental negotiations’ agenda for 2020 amid waning political will, rising nationalism and faltering support for multilateralism.


Awards

BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards

The current nomination period concludes at 23:00 GMT on June 30, 2020.

The BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Awards recognize fundamental contributions in a broad array of areas of scientific knowledge, technology, humanities and artistic creation. Ecology and Conservation Biology, and Climate Change are the two most obvious categories for forest scientists. The Climate Change award recognizes both research endeavors in confronting this challenge and impactful actions informed by the best science. Find out more: https://www.frontiersofknowledgeawards-fbbva.es/conditions/

Register your Team for the Rainforest XPRIZE

The Rainforest XPRIZE will reward teams that can develop effective new technology to capture the true biological diversity of rainforests and further layer additional data to show the value of protecting the natural resources within them. The current methods used to identify and catalogue biodiversity, including in situ human-led studies, remote sensing by satellites or radar, or sophisticated spectroscopy, cannot operate to scale and gather the data necessary to understand the full ecosystem wealth of rainforests in sustainable ways.

The Rainforest XPRIZE is a call-to-action to help save rainforests through the development and implementation of transformative, scalable, and affordable technology.

The deadline for teams to register through the XPRIZE website is June 30, 2020. Beginning July 1, 2020 to September 23, 2020 teams can request late registration; that will be at the discretion of XPRIZE.

For more information, and to register your intent to compete, visit: rainforest.xprize.org

News from IUFRO Members and Partner Organizations

Wildfire and Carbon: Increasing the resilience of BC’s forests to climate change (Press release)

Researchers from Canada and the United States want to de-escalate the devastating forest wildfires that are increasingly occurring due to climate change, while strengthening development of a forest-based bioeconomy in British Columbia (BC), boosting carbon uptake and reducing emissions. (…)

Werner Kurz, Natural Resources Canada senior research scientist and principal investigator (PI) of the Wildfire and Carbon project, says wildfires can quickly wipe out the carbon uptake and storage provided by living forests. “For example, direct emissions from British Columbia’s 2017 and 2018 wildfires were each more than three times those of all BC’s sectors combined,” he says. (…)

Werner Kurz was a keynote speaker at the 25th IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2019. Find his keynote presentation here: https://www.iufro.org/events/congresses/2019/#c24425
Announcement of First Tree Cities of the World

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Arbor Day Foundation announced the first cities to be recognized under the Tree Cities of the World programme, designed to help create more resilient and sustainable cities: https://treecitiesoftheworld.org/

Among the first-movers were capital cities such as Ljubljana, Quito, Paris, Yerevan, major metropolitan areas including New York, San Francisco and Toronto, and a host of smaller centers such as Bradford in the United Kingdom, Thunder Bay in Canada, Tempe, Arizona and Mantova, Italy, where the worldwide initiative was launched in 2018.


Position Announcements

https://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/position-announcements/

Permanent position: Research scientist (Ingénieur de Recherches) - Monitoring the risks of disease emergence in forests
Apply by 26 March 2020
A research scientist permanent position (Ingénieur de Recherches) for monitoring the risks of disease emergence in forests is open in the IAM Department at INRAE Nancy.
Institution: Joint Research Unit (INRAE and University of Lorraine) Tree-Microbe Interactions (IAM)
Duty station: Nancy, France
Details: https://mycor.nancy.inra.fr/IAM/?p=10183

Professor in Forest Planning and Simulation
Apply by 31 March 2020
The Faculty of Environmental Sciences and Natural Resource Management (MINA) at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) invites applications for a full-time, permanent position as Associate Professor or Professor within forest planning and simulation.
Duty station: Ås, Norway

Courses


Online Short Course – Understanding Forest Carbon Management
Open from 15 March to 15 June 2020
The course is self-paced, with an estimated participation time of 6-8 weeks, though users are free to begin and complete the course at any time within the course period.
Organizers: Michigan State University Department of Forestry Forest Carbon and Climate Program (FCCP) in partnership with the USDA Forest Service’s Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science (NIACS) and the USDA Northern Forest Climate Hub (USDA Hub).
Details and registration: https://www.canr.msu.edu/fccp/short-courses/understanding-forest-carbon-management

Course on Forest Regeneration
Online and field work
The purpose of this master and PhD course is to give the students insight into the complexity of forest regeneration of the modern forestry in northern Europe.
Date: Summer semester from the beginning of June to mid-August
Venue: online (Canvas) and field work (Småland and Skåne, Sweden)
Organizers: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
Details: https://www.slu.se/institutioner/sydsvensk-skogsvetenskap/education2020/courses/forest-regeneration/

Forest Monitoring to assess Forest Functioning under Air Pollution and Climate Change
Submit application by: 1 May 2020
23-28 August 2020, Davos, Switzerland
The Summer School is organized around four major topics, which address different aspects of long-term forest monitoring: 1) The strength and challenges of forest long-term monitoring; 2) Scaling over space and time; 3) Management and socio-economic perspectives; 4) Interdisciplinary methods and approaches addressed with project examples. In each topic, experienced and internationally recognized researchers and speakers are responsible for the scientific content and the discussions.
Organizers: ICP Forests, SwissForestLab, NFZ.foresnet
Details: https://www.wsl.ch/swissforestlab/summer-school/

IUFRO Meetings

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

CANCELLED due to corona virus concerns
21 March 2020
World Wood Day 2020
Tokyo, Japan
IUFRO 5.15.00 and 5.15.02
http://www.worldwoodday.org/2020/regions/Japan

CANCELLED due to corona virus concerns
25-27 March 2020
Mixed species forests: Risks, Resilience and Management
Lund, Sweden
IUFRO 1.01.06, 1.01.10, 1.09.00, 7.03.00, 8.02.01
Contact Magnus.Lof(at)slu.se https://www.mixedforest2020.se/
The meeting may take place at a later date.
POSTPONED, new date to be decided
27-29 Apr 2020
International Conference on Forestry Education
Rome, Italy
IUFRO 6.09.00
Contact: Mika Rekola, mika.rekola(at)helsinki.fi

IMPORTANT NOTE
Further cancellations and postponements are possible, but were not known at the date of publication. Please contact the meeting organizers and/or check the meeting websites regularly!

31 Mar - 2 Apr 2020
Challenges and solutions for merging tree mortality datasets
Würzburg, Germany
By invitation only!
IUFRO Task Force Monitoring Global Tree Mortality Patterns and Trends
Contact: Bernhard Schuldt, bernhard.schuldt(at)uni-wuerzburg.de

25-27 May 2020
Forests in Women’s Hands
Traunkirchen, Austria
IUFRO Task Force on Gender Equality in Forestry
In cooperation with Die Forstfrauen and IFSA, coordinated by the Austrian Research Center for Forests (BFW), supported by BMLRT and Walddialog
Contact: Barbara Oellerer, barbara.oellerer(at)bfw.gv.at
Janice Burns, burns(at)iufro.org
https://www.forstfrauen.at/en/conference-2020

2-5 Jun 2020
Is there a room for the small scale enterprises in the forest bioeconomy?
Castelfranco Veneto (TV), Italy
IUFRO 4.05.00, IUFRO Task Force Unlocking the Bioeconomy and Non-Timber Forest Products
TESAF Department - University of Padova
Contact: Davide Pettenella, davide.pettenella(at)unipd.it
https://www.etifor.com/iufro2020/

22-24 Jun 2020
IUFRO Small-Scale Forestry Conference
Kilkenny, Ireland
IUFRO 3.08.00
Contact: Christoph Hartebrodt, christoph.hartebrodt(at)forst.bwl.de
https://iufro2020.org/

8-10 Jul 2020
SILVA Network Annual Conference “Digitalization in Higher Forest Education - Teaching and Learning Revisited”
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
IUFRO 6.07.00
Contact: Mika Rekola, mika.rekola(at)helsinki.fi

NEW DATE: 7-11 Sep 2020
Air Pollution Threats to Plant Ecosystems
Paphos, Cyprus
IUFRO 8.04.00, with all Working Parties
Contact: Pierre Sicard, pierre.sicard(at)arches-conseils.fr
https://www.ozoneandplants2020.com/

NEW DATE: 27-29 Sep 2020
Pathways of forest bioeconomy – past, present and future
Asikkala, Finland
IUFRO 5.10.00
Contact: Anne M K Toppinen, anne.toppinen(at)helsinki.fi

14-17 Sep
AFORPOLIS 2: African forest-related policies and politics
Accra, Ghana
IUFRO 9.05.09
Contact: Symphorien Ongolo, contact(at)aforpolis.org
https://aforpolis.org/international-aforpolis-conference-2020/

22-30 Sep, 2020
2nd IUFRO Division 3 Doctoral Student Conference (only for PhD students)
Corvallis, Oregon, USA
IUFRO 3.00.00
Contact: Woodam Chung, woodam.chung(at)oregonstate.edu
https://cofe-formec2020.org/conferece-information

27-30 Sep 2020
Joint Annual Meeting of the Council on Forest Engineering (COFE) and the International Symposium on Forest Mechanization (FORMEC)
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA
IUFRO 3.00.00
Contact: Woodam Chung, woodam.chung(at)oregonstate.edu
Karl Stampfer, karl.stampfer(at)boku.ac.at
https://cofe-formec2020.org/

18-19 Nov 2020
3rd European i-Tree Conference
Amsterdam, Netherlands
IUFRO 6.07.00
Contact: Nadine Moreby, nadine(at)treeconomics.co.uk
https://www.itree-europe.com/

8-10 Dec 2020
Natural Resources, Green Technology and Sustainable Development – Green 2020
Zagreb and Jastrebarsko, Croatia
IUFRO 5.00.00
Croatian Forest Research Institute, University of Zagreb, Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation
Contact: GREEN2020(at)sumins.hr

Other Meetings
POSTPONED due to corona virus concerns
19-23 May 2020
23rd European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF)
Manchester, UK
Contact: info(at)efuf.org; http://efuf2020.org.uk

3-5 Jun 2020
GLF Bonn Digital Summit 2020
“Food and Livelihoods”
GLF Broadcast Center, Bonn and Online
https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/bonn-2020/ways-to-shape-the-agenda/

3-5 Jun 2020
GLF Bonn Digital Summit 2020
“Food and Livelihoods”
GLF Broadcast Center, Bonn and Online
https://events.globallandscapesforum.org/bonn-2020/ways-to-shape-the-agenda/

8-10 Jun 2020
9th ICP Forests Scientific Conference: Forest Monitoring to assess Forest Functioning under Air Pollution and Climate Change
Birmensdorf, Switzerland
The International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests - ICP Forests
Details: https://sc2020.thuenen.de/

Imprint