

THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

Urban Forestry: Working Together for Green City Values

Cecil C. Konijnendijk, Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape, and Planning, University of Copenhagen
Coordinator, [IUFRO 6.14.00](http://iufro.6.14.00) 'Urban Forestry', E-mail: cck@life.ku.dk

Cities across the world are turning to urban green space as important contributors to quality of life and city competitiveness. There has been a recent boom in 'green city' competitions and various scholars have stressed the importance of high quality green environments for attracting talent and money. The 12th European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF), co-organized by IUFRO, focused on these and related issues. Host was Arnhem, recently awarded the accolade of 'Greenest City of the Netherlands'.

Green city branding

Various speakers stressed the important role of green spaces for city competitiveness. The Swedish city of Växjö, for example, has managed to maintain and develop a large amount of forests and other green spaces. Together with a focus on saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, this resulted in recognition of its exceptional 'green profile' by, for example, the BBC. Urban forestry is an important element of Växjö's efforts. All of the city's forests are classified and managed according to their specific role and nearness to residential areas.

Residents in focus

Other sessions at the EFUF stressed the importance of involving residents in urban forestry. Arnhem itself offered an excellent example. A volunteer group has e.g. been very active in preserving and managing the city's historical Sonsbeek woodland park. In various projects in the Netherlands, thinking 'out of the box' and building in an element of surprise has proven to be a good way of motivating people to take active part in planning and managing their local environment.

Children and nature

Among urban residents, children are an important target group. Although research is still limited, it points at the importance of natural environments for children's learning and development. Denmark makes use of this important link. In so-called 'outdoor schools', lessons out in nature are part of the regular teaching program. Nearby local parks or green areas can thus become outdoor classrooms where learning is much more fun and stimulating.



Photo by Cecil Konijnendijk: On the highly interactive first day of the conference, participants were asked to develop a development plan for the Meinerswijk riparian green area.

Strategies and innovation

For urban forestry to be successful, it needs to be strategic and innovative, connecting to the overall challenges dealt with by cities. Various speakers mentioned the links between human health and nature, with a large body of research now showing the positive impacts of using or viewing nature in terms of stress reduction, physical health, and so forth. Another important strategic 'hook' for urban forestry is climate change. Urban forests can help mitigate climate change, but their role is especially important in adaptation of cities to the effects of climate change, such as heat waves and floods.

12th EFUF

The Arnhem conference, attended by about 90 people from 13 countries, was the 12th edition of the annual European Forum on Urban Forestry. It was held during 27-30 May 2009. This event is co-organized by IUFRO 6.14.00 Urban Forestry. Local hosts included the city of Arnhem, Van Hall-Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, and the Dutch urban forestry core team. Next year's EFUF will be held in the Austrian city of Tulln.

IUFRO Awards: Nominate Your Candidate by 31 July 2009 !



At the IUFRO World Congress 2010 outstanding scientific achievements and contributions to forestry will be recognized with a range of IUFRO Awards. Find all details at:

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/awards/>

Forest Law Experts Meeting in the Heart of Europe

By Rastislav Sulek, Vice-rector of the Technical University Zvolen, and Peter Herbst, Coordinator of [IUFRO 6.13.00](#)

On the occasion of their 11th International Symposium on "Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development", IUFRO 6.13.00 returned to the heart of Europe, namely to Slovakia. Slovakia with its rich history in forestry education, research and practice, was the ideal place for that meeting of experts active in forest law and environmental legislation eager to review the state of the subject and to set priorities concerning further research and practice.

The meeting focussed on two major issues: Firstly, the development of modern forest legislation and implementation of forest policy tools in different countries with special emphasis on the West Balkan countries, and secondly, the balance between forestry and nature conservation at public and/or private property level including collisions between regulations in forest laws and environment related legislation. Special attention was devoted to the problems of forest management in protected areas, considering actual threats such as bark beetle calamities induced by biotope protection forests, and the processes of harmonization of activities that "have to be done" and those that "are not allowed to be done" under such regimes.

Nowadays, forestry has achieved recognition as a global issue and sustainable multi-purpose forestry has become the government's policy in many countries. Forests are considered as one of the essential and most important components of the environment. However, in many countries, there is still conflict that originates from different objectives of different interest groups. On the one hand, there are forest owners who want to utilize their forests in the sense of their legitimate property rights, originating from the general constitutional rights. On the other hand, there is an interest of the whole society which wants to care for ecological balance and effective environmental policy, including nature protection. In order to solve such conflicts, it is necessary to use different tools of forest and environmental policy and legislation. The consideration of diverse values and interests of various stakeholders by means of multi-professional teamwork of experts, inter-agency co-operation, public participation, and settlement of controversies concerning land-use alternatives through negotiation seem to be the future for research in this field.

The symposium took place from 13-15 May 2009 in Zvolen Slovakia and was attended by 24 researchers and practitioners from sixteen different countries including Canada, Japan and Iran. It was kindly hosted by the Technical University of Zvolen, Faculty of Forestry and supported by the host organization as well as the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland. The meeting was organized by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rastislav Sulek and his staff at the Technical University in Zvolen, including Mariana Krivosikova and Jan Lichy, as well as Peter Herbst (IUFRO 6.13.00). The high relevance of this meeting was emphasized by the continued active participation of the rector of the Technical University in Zvolen, Prof. Dr. Jan Tucek.



Participants in front of the Technical University in Zvolen



Karel Vancura (center), receiving the IUFRO Distinguished Service Award (DSA) during the Zvolen meeting. From left to right: Rastislav Šulek, Heinrich Schmutzenhofer, Karel Vancura, Jan Tucek, Peter Herbst
(Photos by Peter Herbst)

Congratulations!

IUFRO Distinguished Service Award for Karel Vancura

The IUFRO Symposium in Zvolen offered the perfect setting for honoring a long-standing and deserving IUFRO officeholder: **Karel Vancura**, Czech Republic. He has served IUFRO in several functions. From 1991 to 1996 he was Representative of the Czech Republic at the IUFRO International Council, from 1996 to 2000 he served as Board Member for the Central European Region, and in 2001 he was appointed General Board Member until 2005. From 2006 to 2009 he was Deputy Coordinator of Division 2 "Physiology and Genetics".

Heinrich Schmutzenhofer turned 70!

On 16 May 2009 HR Dipl. Ing. **Heinrich Schmutzenhofer** celebrated his 70th birthday. He has dedicated almost his entire career to international cooperation in forest-related research. From 1988 to 2003 Heinz Schmutzenhofer was Executive Secretary of IUFRO and has contributed decisively to IUFRO's development into a truly global network of forest-related research. In recognition of his outstanding services to IUFRO, Heinz Schmutzenhofer was awarded Honoray Membership in IUFRO in 2005. On behalf of all his colleagues in IUFRO we would like to send him our best wishes for a healthy and active future.

Announcements

Obituary

We are deeply grieved to inform you that **Professor Ian Calder**, Director of the Centre for Land Use and Water Resources Research at Newcastle University, UK, and Coordinator of the IUFRO Task Force on Forest and Water Interactions passed away on 14 May 2009.

Ian Calder was a specialist in forest hydrology, land use and integrated water resources management. He held a BSc in Physics and special maths, and a PhD in Cosmic Ray Physics (Leeds University). He had also been a member of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Adaptation of Forest to Climate change coordinated by IUFRO. We express our sincere sympathy with his family, friends and colleagues.

Positions

Professorship in Forest Ecology

University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna, Austria

<http://www.boku.ac.at/14840.html> (in German)

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/#c14607>

Applications (6 copies) should be sent to the Rectorate of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences Vienna, Peter Jordan-Straße 70, A-1190 Wien, Austria no later than the 31st August 2009 (date of postmark).

Professor and Department Head

Department of Wood Science and Forest Products, College of Natural Resources at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, United States

This is a full time 12 month, tenure-track position. The position will become available August 1, 2009. Applications review will begin in July 24, 2009 and continue until the position is filled.

<http://www.woodscience.vt.edu/searchresources/>

President & Chief Executive Officer

International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD)

<http://www.iisd.org/about/ceo.asp>

Applicants should forward a cover letter and *curriculum vitae* by e-mail to Stephanie Cairns, Wrangellia Consulting, at <iisdsearch(at)wrangellia.ca> by September 30, 2009. Candidates must currently hold or be eligible to obtain authorization to accept employment in **Canada**. An Executive Brief with more detailed information about this position is available on request.

Training Course

Landscape Functions and People - Applying Strategic Planning Approaches for Good Natural Resource Governance

RECOFTC, Bangkok, Thailand, 26 October to 6 November 2009. Registration deadline: 26 September 2009

The course is a joint collaboration between Wageningen International and RECOFTC.

<http://www.recoftc.org>



XXIII IUFRO World Congress

"Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment"
Seoul, Korea, 23-28 August 2010

Online Abstract Submission

Visit <http://www.iufro2010.com/> and click the "Online Abstract Submission" button.

For detailed instructions see the **Call for Papers**.

Deadline for abstract submission: 31 December 2009.

Acceptance of abstracts: no later than 10 Feb. 2010.

Note: Online abstract submission is best viewed with Internet Explorer.

Publications

Traditional forest-related knowledge in Asia

Special section of "Forest Ecology and Management", Volume 257, Issue 10, by guest editors J. A. Parrotta, H.F. Lim, J. Liu, P.S. Ramakrishnan and Y.-C. Youn. This issue contains selected edited papers from the IUFRO conference "Sustainable Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation: Roles of Traditional Forest-related Knowledge", held in Kunming, China in December 2007. (ISSN 0378-1127)

Synthesis Report from the IARU Climate Change Congress

The synthesis report presents an extended and more detailed version of the six key messages that were presented in the closing session of the international scientific congress 'Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges & Decisions' held in Copenhagen 10-12 March. The Report can be downloaded from:

www.climatecongress.ku.dk/pdf/synthesisreport/

80th Birthday – Congratulations !

We would like to congratulate Dipl.-Ing. Dr. **Otmar Griess** on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Otmar Griess has been actively involved in IUFRO activities for more than 20 years starting as Subject Group Leader of 4.04.00 and continuing as Coordinator of 4.07.07 and 4.04.03 up to the present day. He dedicated much of his IUFRO activities to explaining and defining the technical terms of forest management in IUFRO World Series Vol. 9 and in an on-line terminology database. In 1995 Othmar Griess was presented the IUFRO Distinguished Service Award. We wish him many more years of IUFRO activities.

Award

Award for Innovative Biomaterials

Biomaterials Congress, 26-27 October, 2009 in Stuttgart, Germany. Submit applications by 18 September 2009.

http://www.biowerkstoff-kongress.de/index.php?tpl=a_infolist&lng=de

Students' Column



Working at IUFRO HQ

Jan Hradil (26) studies Forestry and Wood Technology at the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, Czech Republic.

In May he started an internship with IUFRO at the Vienna Headquarters. The chance of getting a closer look at IUFRO as an organization and of contributing to IUFRO's daily tasks has in fact provided Jan with a greater understanding of networking in forest research.

"The reason I applied for the internship with IUFRO was to get to know forest science cooperation around the world. IUFRO is recognized world-wide as a leading organization in forest-related sciences, and working with this organization is a unique professional experience for me."

Jan has been helping to collect publications, policy briefs, and technical papers dealing with forest and bio-energy issues and has gained some insight into the IUFRO science-policy initiative GFEP (Global Forest Expert Panels).

Working with IUFRO particularly in the science-policy field has aroused his interest in focussing on forest policies and foreign affairs in his future career. In Jan's opinion, there are not enough young people who want to build their careers in the forest policy field. His interest keeps on increasing daily and he feels confident that soon he will be able to make a positive impact for the world's forests.

Tarun Bathija, IUFRO Public Relations Intern

Students on the Road to the World Forestry Congress (WFC)!



The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) launched an international initiative to make students benefit from the World Forestry Congress (WFC –

October 2010 in Buenos Aires, Argentina). A group of 50 students coming from 25 different countries have been selected to create a consistent delegation and share ideas on forestry education and about the WFC. A session on forestry education will be co-organized during the WFC by IFSA and the International Partnership on Forestry Education (IPFE). Several abstracts submitted by students have been accepted for poster or oral presentations.

Despite the fund raising efforts done by IFSA, there is no guarantee that the 50 motivated and suited students will have the opportunity to actually participate at the WFC. We hope that financial partners will understand the importance of this initiative and show more interest and support.

Michaël Rivoire (France), iufro.lo(at)ifsa.net

IUFRO Meetings

NOTE: This is not a full list of IUFRO meetings!

Search our [online calendar](#) for a full list of meetings.

Find non-IUFRO meetings on the IUFRO [Noticeboard](#).

Also search for forest-related events at: <http://www.gfis.net>

4-8 August 2009

1st World Congress of Environmental History

Copenhagen, Denmark

IUFRO [6.07.00](#)

Contact: Mauro Agnoletti, mauro.agnoletti@unifi.it

<http://wceh2009.org>

8-12 March 2010

Conserving and Enhancing Productivity of Forests in the Genomics Era, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

IUFRO [2.04.01, 2.04.10](#)

Contact: Wickneswari Ratnam, wicki(at)ukm.my ;

<http://www.iufrokualalumpur2010.org/>

12-14 April 2010

Efforts in Response to Forest-Related Natural Disasters

Beijing, China

IUFRO [8.00.00](#)

Contact: Alex Mosseler,

alex.mosseler(at)nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

<http://www.gfsf2010.org/>

24-26 May 2010

Soil and Roots Engineering Relationship

Ardebil Province, Iran

IUFRO [8.00.00](#)

Contact: Ghassem Habibi Bibalani ,

habibibibalani(at)gmail.com, landcon.ir(at)gmail.com

<http://www.landcon-ir.com/index.htm>

13-18 June 2010

WorldDendro 2010

Rovaniemi, Finland

IUFRO [5.01.07](#)

Contact: Margaret Devall, mdevall(at)fs.fed.us

<http://www.worlddendro2010.fi/pmwiki/pmwiki.php?n=Main.HomePage>

16-21 September 2010

Population dynamics, biological control, and integrated management of forest insects

Eberswalde, Germany

IUFRO [7.03.06, 7.03.07, 7.03.13](#)

Contact: Andreas Linde, alinde(at)fh-eberswalde.de

<http://www.forestinsects.org/iufro/eberswalde>

20-23 September 2010

Biotic Risks and Climate Change in Forests

Freiburg/Breisgau, Baden-Württemberg, Germany

IUFRO [7.03.10](#)

Contact: Horst Delb, horst.delb(at)forst.bwl.de

Other Meetings

28-31 October 2009

3rd International Faustmann Symposium

Darmstadt, Germany

Contact: Martin Moog, fwl(at)forst.tu-muenchen.de

<http://www.faustmann-conference.de/index.php?id=7>