

IUFRO WORLD DAY - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

Concept Note, 06 July 2021

Introduction and basic facts

Large physical meetings are still not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is also why the IUFRO Regional Congress in Russia scheduled for this September had to be postponed to 2022. To fill this gap and cater for the need of strengthening networking and communication in IUFRO, a worldwide digital IUFRO event will be organized at the end of September 2021.

Name of the event:

IUFRO WORLD DAY - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021

Date:

28-29 September 2021 – after the 60th IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting (22-24 September 2021) Note: This will be a '24-hours event' and therefore needs to be organized over two days to enable a convenient time schedule for all participants.

Note: 28 September 2021 is the International Day for Universal Access to Information (<u>A/RES/74/5</u>) [UNESCO 38 C/70].

Registration for the event:

A registration system for the IUFRO World Day 2021 will be put in place by IUFRO Headquarters. The system will allow participants to **register for the whole 24-hour event including all associated sessions and content** (parallel sessions, networking sessions, science policy forums and further content by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations). The registration will be accessible through the event website and generate a code for you to access the user interface of the forum.

Main goals:

In line with the IUFRO communication strategy the event aims to:

- > Strengthen the IUFRO network by creating a momentum for active networking and interaction despite the COVID-19 restrictions;
- Emphasize diversity in IUFRO by offering IUFRO units and members the opportunity to showcase themselves;
- > Raise interest in IUFRO (with a view to recruiting new members and officeholders); and
- Make a policy impact.

Target audiences:

- IUFRO officeholders and other researchers at IUFRO Member Organizations
- Researchers at non-Member Organizations
- Students and early-career scientists
- Policy and decision makers

Four core program elements:

 Interactive map as a tool to make live and static program elements visible: decentralized bottom-up organization of live events and provision of static content from IUFRO Units and Member Organizations;



- 2) **Parallel sessions** by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations (decentralized organization/ live events and static content) IUFRO Units and Members show and share their work in self-organized sessions that will show up on the interactive map
- 3) **Networking sessions** (centralized organization/live events) 'About IUFRO', including a special youth component;
- 4) **Science-policy forums** (centralized organization/live events) to attract policymakers and discuss emerging issues at the science-policy interface

Time zones and timetable structure

Three time zone groups:

To enable participants from all over the world to take part in their own time zones, the event will be structured into three major time zone groups (taking into account the summer/wintertime changes on the proposed event dates):

1) UTC-2 to UTC+5 (Africa, Europe, Middle East)

→ 1st event, 10am-18pm at IUFRO HQ Vienna (CEST)

8am-16pm (Accra; Dakar; Reykjavik)

9am-17pm (London; Dublin)

10am-18pm (Pretoria; Lilongwe; Harare) center of the time zone

11am-19pm (Addis Ababa; Doha; Moscow)

12noon-20pm (Yerevan; Tbilisi; Dubai)

13am-21pm (Dushanbe; Karachi; Tashkent)

2) UTC-10 to UTC-3 (North America and South America)

→ 2nd event, 18pm-2am at IUFRO HQ Vienna (CEST)

8am-16pm (Anchorage)

9am-17pm (Vancouver; Oregon)

10am-18pm (Alberta; Denver; Montana; San José) center of the time zone

11am-19pm (Bogotá; Lima; Mexico City)

12noon-20pm (Washington D.C.; New York; San Juan)

13pm-21pm (Buenos Aires; Curitiba; Montevideo)

3) UTC+6 to UTC+13 (Asia, Asia-Pacific, Oceania) (On the next day!)

→ 3rd event, 5am-13pm at IUFRO HQ Vienna (CEST)

8:30am-16:30pm (Mumbai; New Delhi; Colombo)

9am-17pm (Almaty; Bishkek)

10am-18pm (Jakarta; Bangkok; Ho Chi Minh City)

11am-19pm (Beijing; Kuala Lumpur; Manila; Perth)

12noon-20pm (Tokyo; Seoul) center of the time zone

13pm-21pm (Brisbane; Sidney; Vladivostok)

16pm-24pm (Auckland, Wellington)

Timetables for all time zone groups:

Please note: All stated times refer to the center of each time zone and need to be adapted for other regions! The time slots only refer to the starting time of the session! Live formats may, of course, last longer than 15 minutes and move to chatrooms etc., but every 15 minutes another new event will start!



Timetable and available slots in time zone group 1 (referring to the center of the time zone):

Slot Nr.	Time	Divisions	Task Forces, Special	Member Organizations
			Programmes and Projects	(MO)
1	10:00	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division A		Organization
2	10:15	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division A		Organization
3	10:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division B		Organization
4	10:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division B		Organization
5	11:00	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division C		Organization
6	11:15	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division C		Organization
7	11:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division D		Organization
8	11:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division D		Organization
	12:00 –	Core element #3 (Networking sessions)		
	14:00	Core ere	Thene #3 (Networking sessions)	
	14:00 -	Core element #4	(Science-informs-policy forums)	
	15:30	core element #4 (- Science injoinis policy jordins)	
9	15:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division E		Organization
10	15:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division E		Organization
11	16:00	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division F		Organization
12	16:15	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division F		Organization
13	16:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division G		Organization
14	16:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division G		Organization
15	17:00	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division H		Organization
16	17:15	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division H		Organization
17	17:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division I		Organization
18	17:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division I		Organization
	18:00	Clos	sing of the time zone group prog	ram

Timetable and available slots in time zone group 2 (referring to the center of the time zone)

Slot Nr.	Time	Divisions	Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects	Member Organizations (MO)
1	10:00	Event by a Unit in Division A	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
2	10:15	Event by a Unit in Division A	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization



3	10:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division B	, ,	Organization
4	10:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division B		Organization
5	11:00	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
	44.45	Division C	5 7 /000	Organization
6	11:15	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
7	11:30	Division C Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Organization Event by a Member
'	11.50	Division D	Event by a rask roice / 3FF	Organization
8	11:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division D	, ,	Organization
	12:00 -	Cara ala	ment #2 (Networking sessions)	
	14:00	Core element #3 (Networking sessions)		
	14:00 -	Core element #4 (Science-informs-policy forums)		
	15:30			
9	15:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
10	15.45	Division E	From the Took Force / CDD	Organization
10	15:45	Event by a Unit in Division E	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
11	16:00	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
11	10.00	Division F	Event by a rask roree / 311	Organization
12	16:15	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division F		Organization
13	16:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division G		Organization
14	16:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
15	17.00	Division G	Front has Took Force / CDD	Organization
15	17:00	Event by a Unit in Division H	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
16	17:15	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division H	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Organization
17	17:30	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division I		Organization
18	17:45	Event by a Unit in	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member
		Division I		Organization
	18:00	Closing of the time zone group program		

Timetable and available slots in time zone group 3 (referring to the center of the time zone):

Slot Nr.	Time	Divisions	Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects	Member Organizations (MO)
1	12:00	Event by a Unit in Division A	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
2	12:15	Event by a Unit in Division A	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
3	12:30	Event by a Unit in Division B	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
4	12:45	Event by a Unit in Division B	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
5	13:00	Event by a Unit in Division C	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
6	13:15	Event by a Unit in Division C	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization



7	13:30	Event by a Unit in Division D	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
8	13:45	Event by a Unit in Division D	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
	14:00 – 16:00	Core element #3 (Networking sessions)		
	16:00 – 17:30	Core element #4 (Science-informs-policy forums)		
9	17:30	Event by a Unit in Division E	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
10	17:45	Event by a Unit in Division E	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
11	18:00	Event by a Unit in Division F	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
12	18:15	Event by a Unit in Division F	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
13	18:30	Event by a Unit in Division G	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
14	18:45	Event by a Unit in Division G	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
15	19:00	Event by a Unit in Division H	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
16	19:15	Event by a Unit in Division H	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
17	19:30	Event by a Unit in Division I	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
18	19:45	Event by a Unit in Division I	Event by a Task Force / SPP	Event by a Member Organization
	20:00	C	losing of the time zone group pro	gram

CORE PROGRAM ELEMENT #1: Interactive world map

Idea and aim:

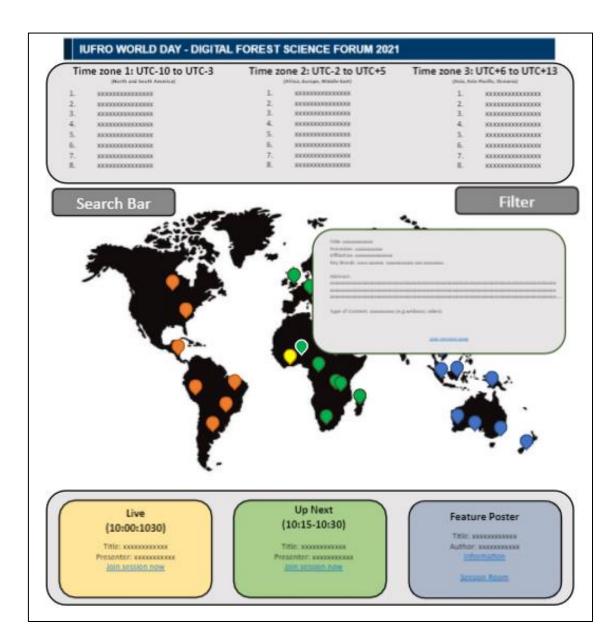
A simple and intuitive webpage featuring the world map will serve as the **backbone of the event**. It serves to make all the different inputs and content from the IUFRO Network - **live events and static content organized and/or provided by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations -** visible (they would be pinned on the interactive world map) and accessible to the visitors throughout the event.

The visitors (participants of the event) can explore the world map and all its content at their own pace and at any time during the 24-hours event. The content of the map can be made available after the event (recordings of the past live events can be pinned on the map, for example).

The overall objective is to **showcase the diversity of the IUFRO Network**, including the thematic scientific contents across the various IUFRO Units as well as the wide spectrum of IUFRO Member Organizations, to facilitate networking and to enhance communication and outreach.

The map not only provides a framework for a bottom-up approach by **IUFRO Units** (Divisions, Research Groups and Working Parties; Task Forces; Special Programmes & Projects) and **Member Organizations** to showcase themselves and their work, but also for the **centrally organized elements** (About IUFRO/involving youth, and science-policy forums). All input and content (both live events and static information) will be displayed on the map as well as described in the detailed timetables.





(example of proposed visualization, prototype stage)





CORE PROGRAM ELEMENT #2: Parallel sessions

Live sessions organized by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations (MOs):

All IUFRO Units (Divisions, Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects) and Member Organizations are invited to organize live sessions during the event. For these sessions, 15-minute timeslots as shown in the timetable will be available, but all sessions can carry on with a chatroom or networking after the designated timeslot. Every 15 minutes a new event by another unit or organization will start. There is **no defined duration of sessions**, but a minimum of 15 minutes is recommended. Units and members that do not wish to organize live sessions can submit pre-recorded content. All live sessions and pre-recorded sessions will be shown in a separate table for each of the three time zone groups.

Proposal submission:

IUFRO Units and Member Organizations must submit proposals for sessions and content through the "session /content proposal form": https://www.iufro.org/events/iufro-world-day/session-content-proposal/

- Session starting times will then be allocated by IUFRO HQ considering preferences stated.
- Unlike other major conferences, this event allows great latitude for designing your own session format. This also means that session hosts should be able to take care of the technical implementation of the session.
- For this purpose, session hosts will need to decide on an online event platform (Zoom, Teams, Skype etc.) and create a link to the session. This session link must be provided by the hosts to IUFRO HQ at the end of August.

Divisions:

In order to get quality rather than quantity and ensure a balanced representation of Units, there will be three times 18 sessions available for all nine Divisions, meaning that **each Division has the opportunity to hold two live and/or pre-recorded sessions in each of the three time zones, adding up to six sessions in total for the whole 24-hour event.** Division Coordinators shall solicit session proposals from their Research Groups and Working Parties and ensure balanced distribution of sessions across the three time zone groups.

- For the sake of convenience, Divisional Units are invited to **submit their session proposals** via the provided proposal form
- ➤ All submitted proposals will be forwarded to the corresponding Coordinator of each Division for the final session selection
- Division Coordinators shall provide the final session selection to HQ/IUFRO World Day project manager
- > Joint sessions of Units within a Division or across Divisions and Task Forces are encouraged.

Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects:

Each TF and SPP will have **one session in their preferred time zone group**; free time slots could be allocated upon further request as soon as IUFRO HQ can confirm.

Member Organizations (MOs):

For Member Organizations that wish to organize a live event, one session in their preferred time zone group will be available; free time slots could be allocated upon further request.

Language Recommendations:

As IUFRO aims to enable the greatest possible range of participants worldwide to follow the live sessions, we strongly recommend holding these sessions in English.

We accept static content from IUFRO Units and Member Organizations in other languages than English - preferably French, German and Spanish – but recommend English for the above reason.



General structure of live events:

- ➤ IUFRO Units/Member Organizations (MOs) can shape their sessions freely (presentation of the work/research of Unit or MO and/or introduction of Unit and/or MO), keeping in mind that the most important information should be delivered within the first 15 minutes.
- Units/Member Organizations are encouraged to organize joint sessions.
- Each session should start with a 2 minutes' introduction.
- After 15 minutes the session participants could carry on in a breakout or chatroom if they wish to (e.g. for another 45 minutes) or move on to another session.
- Detailed session guidelines and a form (procedure) for session applications (requiring information on title, content, organizer/main contact person, keywords and possibly speakers) will be distributed in due time by HQ.
- > Sessions will be technically implemented by each Unit/MO. General technical guidelines will be provided in due time by HQ.
- > Live sessions should be recorded and made available for a certain time after the event.
- In case of need, pre-recorded sessions filling the allocated 15 min timeslot can be accepted.

Static content provided by IUFRO Units and Member Organizations:

- It is also possible to pin static information on the globe/map, including links, websites, presentations, videos, publications, tutorials etc.
- > The content and input pinned on the globe/map will be organized in a systematic way to increase the user-friendliness and accessibility (e.g. by using different color-coding for various types of content).
- There will be a separate overview table of the contents on the globe/map (e.g. structured along thematic focus of units; by regions/types of members; filtered by the type of content).
- Guidelines and a form for the static information will be provided by IUFRO HQ in due time.

CORE PROGRAM ELEMENT #3: Networking session (one per time zone group)

The idea and aim:

The main goals of the three networking sessions (one per time zone group) are to 1) inform about IUFRO, 2) attract early career scientists, and 3) facilitate interaction and socializing.

The networking sessions will allow participants to:

- Learn more about IUFRO and what it does;
- Find out how to get involved in IUFRO;
- Meet peers, make new acquaintances, talk with experienced scientists; and
- Share ideas about the future of forest research and emerging issues in regions.

This element offers an opportunity to interact with IUFRO Divisions in an informal style and format. Therefore, IUFRO Division Coordinators and Deputies will be encouraged to be present in their preferred time zone groups.

Duration and timing of sessions:

- Three sessions (one in each time zone)
- All three sessions last for two hours each from 12:00 to 14:00 pm at the center of time zone 1 and 2, 14:00 to 16:00 pm at the center of time zone 3 (see timetable)
- There is no overlap with other live events during the 2h (no live events by units or members)



Youth component:

The main objective of the youth component is to attract early career scientists. 30 minutes of the networking session will be dedicated to this special component. Details on the implementation of this element are to be defined by IUFRO HQ.

Structure and format of the sessions:

12:00 – 12:10 Introduction (10 min)

Welcome by IUFRO (ideally President / Vice-President)

12:10 – 12:40 Presentation about IUFRO (30 min, live/recorded/both)

- 15 min presentation on how IUFRO works and how to get involved
- 10 min short presentation / information about the IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS 2024
- 5 min quiz or online poll about IUFRO (part of moderation time)

12:40 – 13:10 Youth component (30 min, live/recorded/both) – to be defined

13:10 – 13:55 **Meet IUFRO (45 min,** live only)

IUFRO Divisions introduce themselves and their role within IUFRO

Format: LUNCH SESSION (similar to a digital world café)

- "division tables" in breakout sessions where participants choose who they
 would like to join, each division will be the table host of one of these
 "division tables"
- The divisions shall prepare a poster that can be presented at their "table" (poster criteria to be defined)
- Provide opportunity for participants to discuss, interact and raise questions
- Every division should have at least one main representative in each time zone (at least one Deputy Coordinator in each time zone, Division Coordinator present in at least one time zone)

13:55-14:00 Closing of the session (5 min)

During the 2-hour event, there will be **two breakout-rooms accessible to participants**:

- Coffee/tearoom for those who seek informal networking,
- Room with a digital pin-wall for sticky notes to collect ideas about the <u>future of forest</u> research and emerging issues in all three regions.

CORE PROGRAM ELEMENT #4: Science-informs-policy forums (3x)

Goals:

- Making a **policy impact** has been identified as one of the key goals of the IUFRO 24-hours online event.
- ➤ IUFRO as the global voice of forest research needs to make itself heard and listened to by decision-makers who shape policies related to climate change, the use of land and natural resources, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



> IUFRO needs to keep up with or ideally stand out from the numerous online voices competing for the attention of decision-makers. It needs to increase the recognition of forest research in decision-making processes.

To reach these goals, the science/policy forums must be:

- ➤ Highly **relevant** for regional and/or global policy makers
- Clearly connected to climate change and development issues regionally and/or globally
- Focused on **new and promising approaches** to regional issues in particular
- **Representative** of the regions in terms of speakers and topics

Target audiences:

- Regional decision-makers (IUFRO Board members from regions should help to identify/invite)
- Global decision-makers
- Interested media representatives (IUFRO members should help to identify/invite)
- IUFRO scientific community
- Interested non-IUFRO scientists.

Topics:

The forums will focus on topics of relevance to the global discourses on climate change and sustainable development and take a people-centred approach. Suitable topics will be identified by the IUFRO Management Committee and IUFRO Board Members acting as focal persons.

Duration and timing:

- Three sessions (one in each time zone)
- All three sessions last for 1.5 hours each from 14:00 to 15:30 pm at the center of time zone 1 and 2, 16:00 to 16:30 pm at the center of time zone 3
- > There is no overlap with other live events during the 2h (no live events by units or members)

Format:

The forums will have a length of **1.5 hours**. The detailed format will be defined by the session organizers. Besides the **traditional format** with a keynote, a panel discussion and some audience engagement via the chat (like the 2020 GFEP webinar for the launch of the global report), the forums could also be arranged in the format **of "radio" talks or interviews** with a moderator, 3-4 interview partners and a possibility for the audience to ask questions live or via the chat. The latter format has no keynote speech!

The formats do not necessarily have to be identical for all three events. Ideally, a **technically simple but attractive and modern format** should be identified for each region. The format must consider the technical possibilities of the target audiences and use tools that are widely available in the defined time zone.

The common language of all three sessions will be **English** to allow the widest possible attention. Automatic **translation** as offered by some conferencing tools can be an asset in certain regions.

For each of the three sessions an **experienced moderator** will be identified.

Technical implementation:

For organizing each of the three forums at least two focal person per region (representing the two main regions within each time zone) are identified. This person could be a Board Member in the



region, or someone appointed by a Board Member, and should be able to offer the technical facilities and organizational support for organizing the virtual forum.

IUFRO HQ will also support the integration of the three forums into the overall program of the 24-hours event and help with communicating and information sharing.

Speakers:

Together with the Management Committee and the President's Nominees, apt speakers should be identified. For each of the three forums the choice of speakers must ensure:

Geographic balance (the large geographic regions combined in any time zone must be represented: Africa/Europe; North America/Central & South America; Asia/Oceania) and **gender balance**. Ideally, **early-career scientists** and **scientists from lower income countries** should be among the speakers. Also, at least one of the speakers should be an **active IUFRO officeholder**.

Output:

Each of the three sessions could, in addition to the recorded and maybe edited session, also produce a session summary and/or 'policy brief' for distribution among participants and decision-makers and publication and promotion on the IUFRO website.

Tentative timeline for program development

21 June 2021:

Deadline for receiving expression of interest forms

15 July 2021:

Deadline for receiving session/content proposals

Beginning of August 2021:

Notification of session organizers/confirmation of time allocation

End of August 2021:

Deadline for providing links to sessions/content Finalization and publication of timetable and program elements



