



IUFRO

International Union of Forest Research Organizations

Research Priorities and observations on trends in forest research

*by Professor Niels Elers Koch,
IUFRO President*

World Forest Week 3
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www.iufro.org

- IUFRO is the World's forest science network
- It brings together about 650 member organizations with about 15,000 researchers in more than 120 countries.
- It covers all main basic and applied research related to forests and trees.

➤ IUFR's mission is to promote global co-operation in forest-related research; to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects for forests and trees; to disseminate scientific knowledge to stakeholders and decision-makers and to contribute to policy and on-the-ground forest management.

FOREST PROBLEMS

- Forests are critical for providing a wide range of goods and services
- Forests are essential for human well-being;
- Many complex problems affect forests, among others:



Photo: Leofreitas/Flickr/Getty Images

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Forest fires in Greece in August 2007

Photo: NASA

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BIODIVERSITY LOSS



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A LARGER CONTEXT

- Main forest problems are cross-sectoral and require responses across institutions and at various levels of governance;
- This makes it imperative to see forests as an element in the larger setting;
- It is critical to link processes and orient scientists toward problems on the ground;
- Priority setting in science collaboration must be guided by these needs.



IUFRO'S INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH

Six Research Goals / Task Forces



- Forests for People
- Forests and Climate Change
- Forest Bioenergy
- Forest Biodiversity Conservation
- Forest and Water Interactions, and
- Resources for the Future

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

- Addressing these broader issues effectively depends on collaboration involving both natural and social sciences;
- Interdisciplinary exchange facilitated by Task Forces based on strong foundation of more than 250 scientific Units in 9 Divisions;
- Special initiatives and projects at the science-policy/management interface (GFEP, WFSE, SPDC).

IUFRO Task Force Forest for People *(example)*

➤ Special emphasis areas

- *(Agro)forestry, food security and livelihoods*
- *Forests and human health, recreation and nature-based tourism*
- *Economic benefits through the use of forests, goods and services*
- *The role of forests in landscapes and in urban areas*

➤ Fact sheet available

➤ **IUFRO is committed to work with its partners to**

- Provide scientific information for policy-making and on-the-ground forest management
- Train scientists in science-policy interaction
- Strengthen networks in the science and policy arena ...



OUTLOOK

**27/9 Side Event FORESTS FOR PEOPLE
17:00 – 18:00 Iran Room**

**2013 *Latin American Regional Congress,
San José, Costa Rica***

**2014 *XXIV IUFRO World Congress,
Salt Lake City, USA***