

2014 IUFRO CONGRESS DAILY NEWS

XXVI World Congress on Forest Science is Underway

Nearly 4,000 scientists and experts from more than 105 countries have convened for the 24th IUFRO World Congress & SAF/CIF Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA this week to share their research and discuss the leading issues facing the world's forests.

A number of dignitaries shared the stage during the opening ceremony such as Steve Bullard, President, NAUFRP and Jimmy Reaves, Deputy Chief for Research and Development for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) who raised the IUFRO flag.

Niels Elers Koch, IUFRO President, opened by reminiscing on his first IUFRO World Congress in Norway, 1976, which, "...changed the rest of his life – for the better."

Tom Tidwell, Chief of the USFS, the host organization outlined the importance of partnerships and how the future of sustainable forest management in the United States is built upon sound science.



USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Robert Bonnie, introduced many examples of the role research has played in re-establishing, conserving, and sustainably utilizing the forests of his country. Bonnie addressed the plight of the forests, noting that fire season in the U.S. is 60-80 days longer than it was three decades ago. Uncertainty in management decisions is a fact, which needs to be dealt with. Stakeholders need decisions they can draw on for intended outcomes and, "science and research will light the way."

Sustaining Forests, Sustaining People: The Role of Research is the theme of the Congress, and it will be carried throughout the 168 sessions happening this week.

Tuesday's Events

- 07:00 – 19:00 Registration
- 08:00 – 10:30 Technical Sessions
- 10:30 – 11:00 Refreshment Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 Keynote Plenary
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break
- 12:00 – 13:30 Poster Viewing
- 12:00 – 13:30 Business Sessions
- 13:30 – 15:00 Sub-Plenary Sessions
- 15:00 – 15:30 Refreshment Break
- 15:30 – 18:00 Technical Sessions
- 19:00 – 20:00 Business Sessions

Special Reminders

Special Session for Students and Young Scientists: The "IUFRO Incubator"

Time: 15:30 – 18:00

Room: 155 A-C

Poster Sessions

Time: 12:00 – 13:30

Location: Hall 1

Opening Ceremony

Conference attendees were awed by a traditional song and dance performance by Native American dancers (Nino Reyos and Twoshields Production Co.) and welcomed to the Congress by Richard Guldin, Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee.



KEYNOTE PLENARY

David Newbury: On Maintaining Cycles and Feedbacks in Tropical Forest Ecosystems: Some Thoughts From Basic Research



Room: Ballroom
Session Chair: Su See Lee

Dr. David Newbury is Professor for Vegetation Ecology at the Institute of Plant Sciences, University of Bern, Switzerland, with special focus on tropical forest ecology. His other areas of expertise lie in data analysis and theoretical ecology. Dr. Newbury's work focuses on basic research, though sometimes with view to application in forest management.

This session will cover the need to 'take stock' and re-evaluate our research directions. Ideas will be developed with some theory. Illustrative examples from two long-term studies in rain forest will be discussed, and some recommendations presented.

Collaborative Partnership on Forests Honours Pati Ruiz Corzo the Wangari Maathai Award

The Mexican environmental campaigner Martha Isabel 'Pati' Ruiz Corzo has won the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Wangari Maathai Award 2014 for her pioneering work to preserve forests and alleviate rural poverty in her native country.

Ruiz Corzo is recognized for making conservation profitable for rural communities in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve. Through her Sierra Gorda Ecological Group, Ruiz Corzo successfully lobbied the government for the creation of the reserve in 1997 and instituted an intensive programme of conservation education and training for local communities, turning the reserve into a flagship for public-private ecosystem management.

"I believe in the common good not only for the people that live in the Sierra Gorda but also for the conservation of flora and fauna with whom we share this biosphere," said Ruiz Corzo. "The Wangari Maathai Award gives credibility to the innovation needed to give value to environmental services and to communities, and calls attention to the wave of love that we must orchestrate to defend the natural heritage of the planet."



Preeminent Forest Scientists Receive Scientific Achievement Award



Forestry research is a vast and diverse field, rich with expertise in many scientific arenas. Three renowned experts from varied fields of study were recognized with Host Country Scientific Achievement Awards during the IUFRO 2014 World Congress Opening Ceremony. These awards recognize distinguished careers that have had exceptional impact. The recipients, Dr. Harold E. Burkhart, Dr. Stephen Hubbell, and Dr. Chadwick Dearing Oliver, are regarded as the preeminent forest scientists in the United States.

Dr. Burkhart, a University Distinguished Professor in Virginia Tech's Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, is a leading innovator in forest biometrics. His 45-year career began with an interest in converting forest management into quantitative terms in order to measure and improve management techniques.

Dr. Hubbell, a Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA, studies some of the most diverse forests in the world. He is the co-founder and co-director of the Center for Tropical Forest Science, which manages a global network of large, permanent tropical forest research plots and monitors natural population of more than 6,000 tropical tree species.

Dr. Oliver is the Pinchot Professor of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Director of the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. As the son of a forester, Oliver often heard his father talk about how much they didn't know about forests, and how management could be improved with more knowledge.

All three researchers were quick to emphasize that their success would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of a large network of colleagues, and that their recognition is rightly shared with many others in the scientific community.

When asked about the future of forestry research, the recipients spoke of a range of needs from technical advances to increased social support for conservation. Undaunted, Dr. Burkhart focused on the great possibilities that lie ahead. "I believe there are more opportunities in forest science than ever before because there is more pressure on our forests than ever before," said Burkhart. "Regardless of specialty, there is a brilliant and bright future for forest research."

Wangari Maathai Honourable Mention for Cambodian Activist

An Honourable Mention was also given to the late Cambodian environmental activist Chut Wutty for his work to end illegal deforestation in Cambodia and protect the rights of indigenous forest dwellers.

Founder of the Natural Resource Protection Group, Wutty advocated tirelessly against the destruction of Cambodia's natural resources and encouraged local communities to patrol forests to prevent illegal logging. He was killed in 2012 while escorting journalists to see an area of suspected illegal activity.

International Student Quiz Bowl

Come watch and cheer on student teams from across the globe test and demonstrate their forestry knowledge.

Location: Convention Center 155-355

Date: Wed, 8 October – 19:30-21:30

Science for Sustaining the World's Forests: The 2014 IUFRO Scientific Achievement Awards

IUFRO presents the Scientific Achievement Awards for outstanding research published in scientific journals, proceedings of scientific meetings, books, appropriate patents or other achievements important to the advancement of regional or world forestry or forestry research.



Scientific Achievement Award winners, from left to right: Shibu Jose (USA), Aino A. Mäkelä-Carter (Finland), Sally Aitken (Canada), Robert Kozak (Canada), Jürgen Bauhus (Germany), Christopher Harwood (Australia), Richard Hamelin (Canada), and Guiseppe Scarascia Mugnozza (Italy). Not pictured: Jolanda Roux (South Africa).

Can You Put a Price on Nature?

Forest economists around the world are exploring the links between ecosystem services and sustainable forest management.

Presenters in the IUFRO sub plenary session on ecosystem services illustrated diverse methods and contexts for forging this link. They also shared opportunities and obstacles for ecosystem service research.

Challenges include:

- Lack of markets for ecosystem services
- Research gaps on economic costs and benefits of forest management
- Inappropriate methods for assessing the value of nature

While it may be difficult to put a price on nature, doing so is often necessary to grab the attention of policy makers and corporations.

Forest Foods, Medicines, and Human Health

When you walk through a forest, it is hard not to notice the trees. Often we just think that forests are trees. But, in fact, there's a great complexity of plants, fungi and other organisms between the forest floor and the top of the tree canopy, many of them regularly used by humans for food, medicine or other purposes. It's increasingly important to take these forest foods and medicines into account when coming up with forest management plans and accounting for ecosystem services.

Jim Chamberlain noted that, in the current forest management paradigm, though food and medicinal products from the forest are of the utmost concern for food security, health, and cultural reasons, they are very rarely taken into account in forest management plans and strategy. There is a real need for a vocal and visible constituency to ensure the sustainability of the plants, animals, fungi and other organisms that people across the world rely on for food, medicine, and often, their livelihoods.

While trees are a valuable component of forests, it is crucial to also recognize the importance of understory plants, fungi, and animals when making management decisions. Chamberlain and Marla Emery both alluded to the next phase, moving from wild harvest of forest foods and medicines to forest farming.

Bending, Not Breaking: Engineered Wood Products Can Help Rebuild Christchurch

Just a few years ago, two major earthquakes struck Christchurch, New Zealand within six months. The first, a 7.1-magnitude quake, struck the Canterbury Plains to the west of the city in September 2010, but resulted in no deaths. The second, a 6.3-magnitude aftershock from the first earthquake, took place under downtown Christchurch in February 2011 and resulted in 182 deaths and extensive damage to commercial buildings and houses.



Because most of the buildings in Christchurch were constructed of steel and reinforced concrete, two materials that don't stand up well to earthquakes, they could not be repaired. Instead, it was cheaper to demolish them and rebuild from the ground up.

This also presented an opportunity to reshape the future face of Christchurch, according to Andy Buchanan, who delivered the first plenary at the 2014 IUFRO World Congress.

"What kind of city do we want?" he asked. "Why can't we use wood to rebuild?"

In particular, Buchanan discussed using engineered wood products such as laminated veneer lumber (LVL) and cross-laminated timber (CLT), which unlike solid lumber are made of wood particles, veneer, or fibers held together with adhesive.

Using engineered wood to construct buildings has many benefits. The material is a renewable resource, can be carbon negative, is relatively lightweight, and is aesthetically pleasing.

Perhaps of most importance to the residents of Christchurch, however, is the fact that buildings made of engineered wood hold up better under earthquakes than structures built of steel and concrete. Engineered wood buildings can actually absorb energy from an earthquake and then return to form.

In other words, they bend but they don't break.

Exposition Hall Opening Reception

This Trade Exposition Hall Opening Reception welcomes all IUFRO delegates and the Society of American Foresters and Canadian Institute of Forestry participants. This informal reception is an excellent opportunity to peruse the vendors of the trade exposition and to enjoy unique American food, drink, and music. The reception will take place following the day's In-Congress tour.

Wednesday, October 8

Time: 17:30-20:30

Location: Exposition Halls A, B, & C

Alumni Receptions

Various universities are organizing receptions. Please check with your alma mater to see if they have one planned. These are not affiliated with the Congress.

Time: 19:00-21:00

Location: Marriott Downtown and Hilton Hotels

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Considerations & Information for In-Congress Tours

All delegates should:

- Bring your Congress name badge to confirm your reservation on the tour.
- Arrive 10-15 minutes before your tour departure time and gather inside the registration area to wait for your tour to be called for loading.
- Wear comfortable closed-toe walking shoes (no sandals).
- Wear comfortable clothes for walking. Layers are recommended.
- Bring a sweater or jacket for warmth (tours going to high elevations may also consider bringing a warm hat and gloves). Most tours are going to areas where cold weather is very possible.
- Bring a rain jacket in case of inclement weather.
- Bring the water bottle provided to you in your Congress satchel – fill it with water the morning of the tour from your hotel (tap water is safe to drink in Salt Lake City).
- Consider wearing sunscreen and bringing sunglasses.
- Consider bringing a camera and/or binoculars.
- Eat breakfast before you arrive for your tour.
- Bring snacks if you are likely to get hungry – there are no options for purchasing snacks or drinks once the tour departs.

All tours will provide:

- A tour lead.
- One light snack (for example, a small bag of popcorn or pretzels).
- Jugs of water to refill your water bottles.
- All full day tours will receive lunch on the tour. Meat and vegetarian options will be available on all tours. Soft drinks and/or tea are included in lunch. If you have special dietary requirements, please bring your own meal. Half day tours (IC-06, IC-07) will not have lunch. No tours provide breakfast, so please eat breakfast before your tour, or bring your breakfast for the bus ride.
- Bathroom stops are available throughout the day. Some may be rustic (pit toilets in the forest), others may be more developed. All coach buses are equipped with toilets for emergency use. We ask that you only use those if absolutely necessary, as all buses are full and we would like the ride to remain enjoyable for all delegates throughout the day.



Tomorrow's Weather

Mostly Sunny 77°/54°
Chance of Rain 0%

Dining Out

In the U.S., it is customary to tip 18% of the total cost of food and beverages for good service in restaurants.

The drinking (alcoholic beverages) age in the U.S. is 21. If you order an alcoholic beverage at a restaurant or bar, your server may ask for proof of age.

In Salt Lake City, you may not use tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes) inside any building.

Community Events

Feature Film

Utah Film Center Presents: IL ÉTAIT UNE FORÊT – ONCE UPON A FOREST- A film written and directed by Luc Jaquet, (creator of *March of the Penguins*)

Once Upon a Forest, invites you to explore how rainforests grow through the science and art of French botanist Francis Hallé.

Time: 19:00

Location: Salt Lake City Library

Forest Book Reading

Book readings of tree & forest books. Featuring *Between Earth & Sky*, read by author Nalini Nadkarni

Time: 17:30-18:30

Location: The King's English Bookstore, 1511 S 1500 E, Salt Lake City, Utah

