

2014 IUFRO CONGRESS DAILY NEWS

Discovering Knowledge through Geography and the Inconspicuous Proletariat



The planet is evolving, according to Jack Dangermond, and geography as a science is playing a key role in that evolution. Dangermond, who is the founder and president of ESRI, addressed the third plenary session of the 2014 IUFRO World Congress. “We live in an age in which we are beginning to measure everything that moves and changes, using GPS and satellites,” he said. “This technology will become a platform for our evolution because GIS makes science come alive. It is a visual language.”

Dangermond discussed Web GIS, a new platform developed by ESRI, designed to make data sharing and manipulation easier. “It is fundamentally a new architecture. Traditionally we put maps into a database. This centralized approach, while powerful, is inflexible.” He emphasized not only imagining how we want the future to unfold, but taking steps to turn imagination into reality.



If Dangermond focused on a larger, more abstract way of discovering knowledge, David Haskell focused on a part of the world you can hold in your hands. Haskell, who is professor of biology at the University of the South, also addressed the plenary session. He is the author of *The Forest Unseen: A Year's Watch in Nature*, a book in which he contemplates the life found in one square meter of Tennessee forest.

Using just a hand lens, his senses, and a notebook, Haskell sat – or sometimes lay – on the ground, foreswearing what he called the “problems of bipedalism” to get down where the action was.

According to Haskell, the wonder of nature is too often buried away from the general public in scientific papers and technical reports. To Haskell, the fundamental reality is not the self, but the network. “Without the network, the individual falls out of existence,” he said.

Two very different points of view- one very captivated audience.

Friday's Events

- 08:00-10:30 IUFRO Technical Sessions
- 10:30-11:00 Refreshment Break
- 11:00-12:00 Keynote Plenary
- 10:30-18:30 Trade Exposition & Posters
- 12:00-13:30 Lunch Break (on your own)
- 12:00-13:30 Side Events
- 12:00-13:30 Poster Viewing
- 13:30-15:00 Sub-Plenary Sessions
- 15:00-15:30 Refreshment Break
- 15:30-18:00 Technical Sessions
- 18:30-21:30 Side Events
- 18:30-21:30 IUFRO Divisional Meetings

Special Reminders

There are 9 Side Events occurring today. Here are some examples.

Gender Lens Photo Book Launch
Time: 12:00- 13:00 Room: 150B

Forest Landscape Restoration as a Strategy for Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change
Time: 12:00-13:00 Room: 250C

Developments and the way forward: Establishment of the International Union of Agroforestry
Time: 19:00- 21:00 Room: 250D

Integration and Communication to Bridge the Gap between Science and Management

How can we effectively integrate the many ways of understanding forests to create the best paradigms to manage them?

That was the question that moderator Nalini Nadkarni, professor of biology at the University of Utah, posed to a panel of five scientists and researchers during the second portion of the joint plenary with the Canadian Institute of Forestry and the Society of American Foresters.

According to panelist Sally Collins, who owns a consulting firm dedicated to international forestry and ecosystem services valuation, a good way to start is to slow down a bit and be more deliberate. “We are racing through urgent things all the time, but are missing much in the process,” she said. “We need to experience life.”

That, in turn, may lead to a better understanding of the world. “If we don’t know what we don’t know,” she said, “we will continue not to know it.”

Mike Wingfield, who is the founding director of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute in South Africa agreed, but to a point. “We do need to slow down and think,” he said, “but we have to deal with the real world.”

For Mila Alvarez, professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, time also is important, but in a different way. “We take time as a constant variable,” she said. “It influences how we operate and manage natural resources.” However, there are forest ecosystems that have been around for thousands of years. As managers we are cognizant of that timeframe, but society lives in the present.”

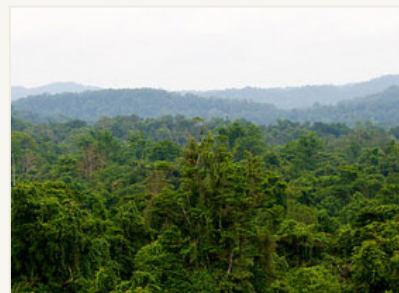
According to Jack Dangermond, founder and president of ESRI, “we live in stimulus/response world and a contemplative/creative world. We are integrative in our own sense of being able to deal with the abstract world and the contemplative/ordinary world.”

The panel also discussed some of the obstacles that must be overcome in the interface between forest science and forest management. They favored clear communications to help bridge the gap. Citing her background as a manager for the U.S. Forest Service, Collins said, “How you take science and incorporate it into management is an art form. The best science in the world goes nowhere if you don’t have infrastructure to implement it and an adequate budget. The science culture and the management culture have to meet.”



SP-09

Forests for People: Ecosystem Services Under Pressure?



Walking into this session I was prepared for grim predictions about resource scarcity and ecosystem collapse. The session tagline was pretty foreboding—“Ecosystem services under pressure?” It was totally a misnomer!

Rather than doom and gloom, the four speakers related stories about forests’ value to people.

They briefly mentioned the environmental squeeze from climate change and population growth, which is fair. Threats to forest sustainability are real and frightening. But it’s also nice to hear something positive, like the small and big ways forests make us happy, healthy, and secure.

These presenters are involved in the IUFRO taskforce “Forests for People.” Taskforce members engage around four themes: culture and education, landscape development, livelihoods, and health / recreation / tourism. Their research is revealing crucial links between ecosystem services and human wellbeing.

SP-12

Policy Learning for Multi-Level Governance

Developing policy is a complicated process. When looking at governance and policy across multiple levels - local, state, national, international - the complications tend to compound. Overlapping interests, demands, and regulations, become so difficult to comprehend that it's essential to approach the discussion through a theoretical framework, since theory allows you to see solutions that do not yet exist.

Ben Cashore (Yale University) introduced a policy-learning framework he developed to examine complex governance issues. The framework provides the ability to engage the proper instruments to address the problem issues.

On-the-ground change is ultimately a question of values. Deep-seated differences are commonplace, so it's essential to choose a proper instrument that creates solutions of a synergistic nature. This is easier said than done, as humans can be confrontational by nature. Most problems are win-lose, and while progress is achieved through compromise a challenging hierarchy of competing interests will often set the agenda and drive the political and governance discourse.

Through bringing in local knowledge, practitioner knowledge, scientific knowledge, and having open discussion, communities can stimulate dialogue that leads to the capacity to create new ideas. Looking through the lens of new theoretical frameworks will give us new insights into age-old problems, or perhaps, redefine what the problem is.

KEYNOTE PLENARY

Carol J.P. Colfer The People and Forests Trajectory-1994-2014 and Beyond



Date: Friday 10 October
Session Chair: Daniela Kleinschmidt

Carol J. Pierce Colfer is a Senior Associate at the Center for International Forestry Research and a Visiting Scholar at Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program in Ithaca, New York. Her professional life has been interdisciplinary and international in nature, including long stints of ethnographic fieldwork in the forests of Washington State (rural US) and Indonesia (Borneo, Sumatra).

This session will discuss the progress that has been made in the last 20 years toward a better understanding of impacts of forests on people and people on forests. Additionally, the session will cover what needs to be done to activate all human capabilities and focus attention on equity; we need to better understand the relations between men and women as they interact with each other and with the forest.

See all the Highlights

The IUFRO 2014 YouTube channel is loaded with great conference footage. See all the highlights you missed or have a second look at moments you watched live.

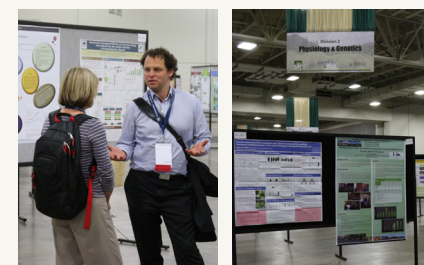
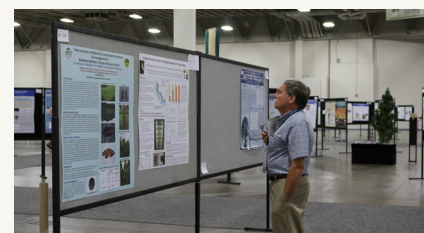


www.youtube.com/user/IUFRO

Poster Presentations & Viewing Sessions Today During the Lunch Break

Time: 12:00-13:30

Room: Hall 1



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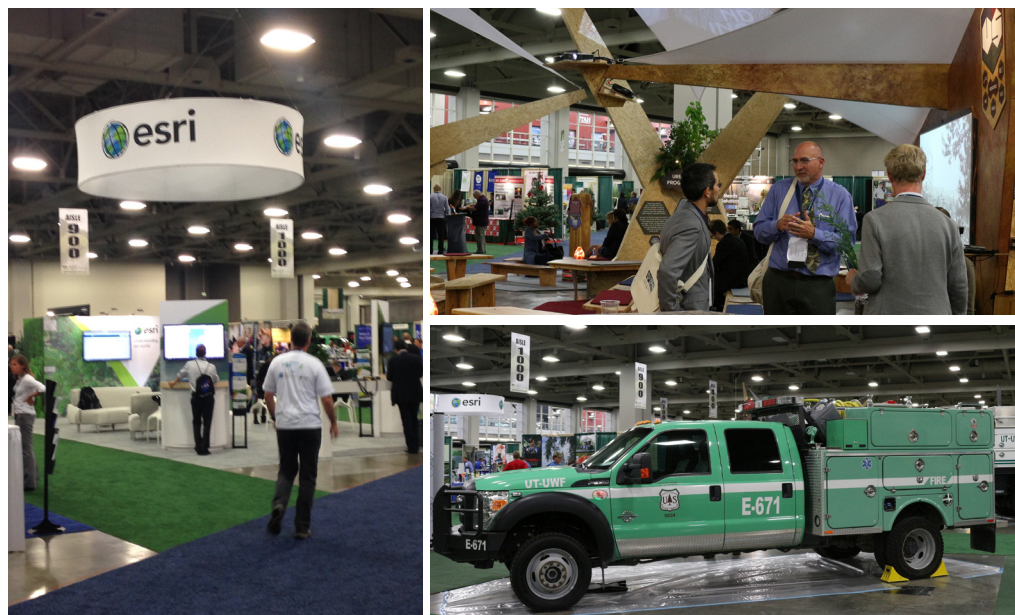
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Tomorrow's Weather

Mostly Sunny 72° / 58°
Chance of Rain 0%

Host Country Pavilion Events

– 10:30AM –

Laurel Wilt: How an Exotic Tree Disease is Altering Landscapes and American Indian Culture

Jason A. Smith,
University of Florida
Associate Professor of Forest Pathology,
Co-Director of Emerging Threats to
Forests Research Team

– 12:30PM –

Rocky Mountain Forests at Risk: Confronting Climate-Driven Impacts from Insects, Wildfires, Heat, and Drought

Adam Markham,
Union of Concerned Scientists Director,
Climate Impacts Initiative

Nicholas L. Crookston,
USDA Forest Service Operations
Research Analyst,
Rocky Mountain Research Station

– 3:00PM –

Deepening Tribal and Aboriginal Relations

Andrew de Vries,
Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc.
Vice President, Conservation &
Indigenous Relations

