

IUFRO WORLD DAY - Digital Forest Science Forum 2021 (revised concept note, 16 March 2021)

Summary for IUFRO Units: Divisions/Task Forces/Special Programmes/Projects

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 shall be organized at the end of September 2021.

Date:

28-29 September 2021 – after the 60th IUFRO Enlarged Board meeting (22-24 September 2021)

Note: The 24h event needs to be organized over two days to enable convenient time schedules for all participants.

Three core elements:

- 1) Interactive rotatable globe as a tool to make live and static program elements visible (decentralized bottom-up organization of events and content)
- 2) Networking session (centralized organization) – about IUFRO; youth component
- 3) Science-policy forums (centralized organization) – to attract policymakers

CORE ELEMENT #1: Interactive rotatable globe

The globe as a simple and intuitive webpage featuring the World map would serve as the backbone of the event, where all the different inputs and content from the IUFRO Network (both live events and static content from IUFRO Units and IUFRO Member Organizations) would be made visible (pinned on the globe) and accessible to the visitors.

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 globe can be made available after the event (e.g. recordings of the past live events can be pinned on the globe).

The overall objective is to showcase the diversity of the IUFRO Network, including the thematic scientific contents across the various IUFRO units, and to facilitate networking and communication.



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-10 to UTC-3 (North America and South America)**
 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)
- 2) **UTC-2 to UTC+5 (Africa, Europe, Middle East)**
 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)
- 3) **UTC+6 to UTC+13 (Asia, Asia-Pacific, Oceania) (On next day!)**
 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)

Timetable for live sessions of IUFRO Units:

All IUFRO Units (Divisions, Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects) are invited to organize live sessions during the event. Units will have 15 min timeslots shown in the timetable, but all sessions can carry on with a chatroom or networking after the designated 15 min. Every 15 min a new event by another unit will start. Units that do not wish to organize live sessions, can submit pre-recorded content to fill up these 15 min. All live sessions and pre-recorded sessions will be shown in a separate table for each of the three time zone groups mentioned above.

Divisions:

In order to get quality rather than quantity and ensure a balanced representation of Units, there will be 3 times 18 timeslots available for Divisions, meaning that **each Division will have 2 timeslots (15 min + 15 min) in each of the three time zone groups – i.e. 1.5 hours in total**), avoiding major overlaps.

- **Division Coordinators should solicit session proposals** from their Research Groups and Working Parties and ensure balanced distribution of sessions across the three timetables.
- Division Coordinators to provide the final session selection to HQ/programme 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 **at least 1 slot (15 min) per time zone group or a total of 45 minutes across all three time zone groups**; free time slots could be allocated upon further requests.

Example of timetable in one time zone group (in total there will be 3 timetables): the events by units are randomly allocated. It is suggested to organize live sessions in two parallel streams: (1) Divisions; (2) all other units. In addition, there will be centrally organized networking sessions and the policy forums (in total 3.5 hours) that are carved out in the middle of the timetable.

	Divisions	Task Forces, Special Programmes and Projects
10:00	Event by a Unit in Division 1	Event by a Task Force #1
10:15	Event by a Unit in Division 1	Event by a Task Force #2
10:30	Event by a Unit in Division 2	Event by a Task Force #3
10:45	Event by a Unit in Division 2	Event by a Task Force #4
11:00	Event by a Unit in Division 3	Event by a Task Force #5
11:15	Event by a Unit in Division 3	Event by a Task Force #6
11:30	Event by a Unit in Division 4	Event by a Task Force #7
11:45	Event by a Unit in Division 4	Event by a Task Force #8
12:00 – 14:00	<i>Core element #2 (Networking sessions)</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	<i>Core element #3 (Science-policy forums)</i>	
15:30	Event by a Unit in Division 5	Event by a Task Force #9
15:45	Event by a Unit in Division 5	FREE SLOT
16:00	Event by a Unit in Division 6	FREE SLOT
16:15	Event by a Unit in Division 6	FREE SLOT
16:30	Event by a Unit in Division 7	FREE SLOT
16:45	Event by a Unit in Division 7	Event by a SPP (GFEP)
17:00	Event by a Unit in Division 8	Event by a SPP (SPDC)
17:15	Event by a Unit in Division 8	Event by a SPP (WFSE)
17:30	Event by a Unit in Division 9	Event by a SPP (GFIS)
17:45	Event by a Unit in Division 9	Event by a SPP (Director's Forum)
18:00	<i>Closing of the time zone group programme</i>	

Live session format:

- IUFRO Units can shape their sessions freely (presentation of the work/research of the unit and/or introduction of the unit), keeping in mind that the most important information should be delivered within the first 15 minutes.
- Each session should start with a 2 minutes' introduction of the unit.
- After 15 minutes the session participants could carry on in a breakout or chatroom if they like (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 and possibly speakers) will be distributed in due time by HQ.
- Sessions will be technically implemented by each Unit. Overall 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:

- It is also possible to pin static information on the globe, including links, websites, presentations, videos, publications, tutorials etc.
- The content and input pinned on the globe will be organized in a systematic way to increase the user-friendliness and accessibility (e.g. different color-coding for various types of content).
- There would be a separate overview table of the contents on the globe (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.

Tentative timeline:

21 March (International Day of Forests):

First announcement of the event (save the date)

30 April:

Call for live sessions/content proposals to IUFRO Units and members together with distribution of guidelines and forms

5 July:

Deadline for receiving session/content proposals

CORE ELEMENT #2: Centrally organized networking sessions (3x)

One 2-hour session per time zone group will be organized by IUFRO HQ. It allows participants to:

- To learn more about IUFRO and what it does.
- To find out how to get involved in Divisions, Task Forces, Projects and Programmes.
- To meet peers, make new acquaintances, talk with experienced scientists.
- **IUFRO Board members should be present in their preferred time zone groups.**

This element offers an opportunity to interact with the leadership (President, VPs, other Board Members) in an informal style and format.

One element of this session could be a **Competition on the most popular PhD presentation.**

- **Divisions would pre-select one thesis each** that would then be presented live – 3 minutes per presentation - during the session.
- Details and guidelines will be elaborated by IUFRO HQ in due course.
- Prize to be defined.

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

One forum each would be held per time zone group. Once general topics have been decided, a more detailed concept note will be elaborated together with Board Members. Detailed information on this element will follow in due time.