**DRAFT SESSION PROPOSAL for XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024 – Forests and Society towards 2050. Stockholm, Sweden; 23-29 June 2024.**

TITLE: Legacy tropical forest data: current status, uses, and securing them

MODERATOR(S):

Under development

DESCRIPTION (abstract with session rationale (400 words):

Legacy tropical forest data are older datasets. Over the years, these data have been generated from many projects, and they are now scattered among various institutions and people. Many of these datasets are on paper or in older digital formats, and therefore in danger of being lost. But these data have many potential uses. They are valuable for understanding how tropical forests change through time, including the cumulative impacts of change in land use and climate, and changes in patterns of biodiversity and carbon storage. They can serve as guidelines for forest restoration. Many of the forests (e.g., in Nigeria and Ghana) represented in historical datasets no longer exist, so these data are the only record of the natural vegetation of the area.

This session will focus on the current status of these data, their uses, and what needs to be done to secure them. We especially want to consider their possible uses for tropical forest restoration.

We aim for the last part of the session to be a discussion, with questions from the audience and discussion among the presenters and moderators. We hope to and to find common research themes among participants to help build possible collaborations. If the number of abstracts exceed the expected amount, we can also arrange a poster session to be held with the oral presentations. This theme should be interesting for Congress participants, with the increasing global focus on forest restoration.

ORGANIZERS: Name, Organization, email:

Under development

SUGGESTED TIME SLOT: 120 minutes

ALIGNMENT WITH CONGRESS THEMES (~100 words): <https://iufro2024.com/iufro-world-congress-2024/forests-and-society-towards-2050/iufro-world-congress-2024-themes/>

This session aligns well with these themes and subthemes: 1.3 Forest management for global change adaptation and mitigation, 3.2 Biodiversity, deforestation, and restoration, **3.3 Emerging issues in forest landscape ecology**, **(**PLEASE CHECK FOR OTHERS).

SHORT justification.

TENTATIVE TITLES AND PRESENTERS: (WHO?) 15 min talks, including questions and answers.

HOW THE SESSION MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTION (max 1000 characters, roughly 200 words):

Under development