

International Union of Forest Research Organizations
Union Internationale des Instituts de Recherches Forestières
Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal
Internationaler Verband Forstlicher Forschungsanstalten



STOCKHOLM CONGRESS STATEMENT

STOCKHOLM 2024
WORLD CONGRESS 26th
IUFR
FORESTS & SOCIETY TOWARDS 2050

STOCKHOLM CONGRESS STATEMENT: FORESTS AND SOCIETY TOWARDS 2050

THE XXVI WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (IUFRO), HELD IN STOCKHOLM ON 23-29 JUNE 2024, BROUGHT TOGETHER 4271 PARTICIPANTS FROM 102 COUNTRIES. IT PROVIDED A GLOBAL FORUM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE, PERSPECTIVES, AND VISIONS BETWEEN SCIENTISTS ACROSS A BROAD SPECTRUM OF DISCIPLINES, AND DIALOGUE WITH YOUTH, POLICY MAKERS, FOREST MANAGERS, BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS.

The IUFRO Congress stresses the urgent need to counteract the severe interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation, environmental pollution, and mounting social injustice. Far-sighted, fact-based, and equitable decisions are required, and everyone is called upon to assume responsibility in their own spheres of influence.

The IUFRO Congress underscores the global importance of forests, trees, and forest-based products and services for contributing to a transition to a sustainable and positive future while pointing out that they are not a panacea and that their future is at risk if the world fails to take decisive action in other sectors and fields of human activity.

The IUFRO Congress underlines the need to consider all dimensions of sustainability – ecological, economic, cultural, and social – to secure a responsible use of forest resources, and to develop cross-sectoral policies related to forests, ensuring greater policy coherence, and aiming at balancing trade-offs.

The IUFRO Congress highlights that forest-related sciences and research, together with traditional knowledge, can provide a sound

knowledge base to guide human activities and decision-making and achieve positive change.

The IUFRO Congress recognizes that cooperation, coordination, and communication within and between scientific disciplines and with diverse groups including from policymaking, business, and civil society are key to provide actionable guidance to decision makers.

The IUFRO Congress emphasizes the need to address threats to science and research cooperation including loss of trust in academia, the spread of misinformation, irresponsible use of technology, failure of multilateralism, and international conflicts.

The IUFRO Congress points to the crucial roles of education, capacity building, youth engagement, and communication for expanded public awareness, promotion of sustainable production and consumption, green job opportunities, and positive on-the-ground impacts.

The IUFRO Congress specifically urges decision makers, forest managers, and business representatives to take effective action by making best use of the knowledge, experience, and recommendations of the global science community to:





empowerment of women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and other marginalized groups;

and by promoting innovative urban forestry and other nature-based approaches to improve ecological functioning and enhance human wellbeing and resilience to climate change in the world's fast-growing cities.

Expand the role of forests and forest products in a responsible circular bioeconomy that contributes to economic development, livelihoods, climate change mitigation and decarbonization of economic activities,

by supporting science-based innovations along the forest-based value chain of products and services through sustainability-focused regulations, governance principles, industrial business models, and collaborative partnerships;

and by utilizing social, economic and policy research to develop governance and financial frameworks that enable a just transition to sustainable natural resource management, more responsible producer and consumer behavior, and business models that prioritize public benefits over private profits.

Transform forest-related sciences for the future,

through responsible use of innovative and emerging technologies, digitalization, and artificial intelligence supported tools in the forest sector based on a fuller understanding of their socio-economic and ethical implications;

by supporting the development of modern teaching techniques, including virtual tools, to broaden the knowledge base and increase outreach, especially to rural, underrepresented and vulnerable groups;

and by diversifying and strengthening pathways in inclusive education and capacity-building at all levels to keep pace with rapid technological, societal, and environmental changes.

These messages, distilled from the XXVI IUFRO World Congress' deliberations on "Forests and Society towards 2050", are considered central to ensuring the survival of forest ecosystems and human wellbeing around the world, and to guiding the transformations needed for a sustainable future for all. Decisive action at all levels in line with these messages will hopefully contribute to maintaining a stable planet that continues to support life and human well-being.

Strengthen forest resilience and climate adaptation,

by promoting cooperation at all levels between science, technology, management, and policy to deliver outcomes that can maintain or improve forest health;

by engaging into policy processes with all parties involved across sectors to halt deforestation and biodiversity loss so critical to achieving sustainable land management;

and by supporting sustainable and adaptive forest management, forest landscape restoration, and nature-based solutions to prevent or alleviate many of the adverse effects of climate change and ensure forest-related ecosystem services.

Maintain and enhance the social values of forests for sustainable societies,

by supporting science-based policy development and efforts to raise public and consumer awareness of the role that forests, forest products, and forest ecosystem services play in society;

by utilizing knowledge and experience with governance systems and institutional arrangements to better support people's livelihoods and quality of life in an equitable manner, including through

