

Forest-Based Value Chains in Transition - Innovation, Employment, Diversity, and Inclusion for Sustainable Futures

Sustainability transitions and bioeconomy are fundamentally reconfiguring the forest sector, driving shifts from timber-centric models toward integrated, multifunctional concepts that recognise diverse forest values. Understanding the interplay between value chains, employment dynamics, accounting systems, innovation strategies, and supply chain governance, all grounded in robust data and methods, is essential for equitable and sustainable outcomes.

The **Annual IUFRO Conference of Research Group 4.05.00 Managerial Economics and Accounting** and its **Working Parties** will directly respond to this development by addressing how multifunctional forest management, wood-processing systems, and the strategic integration of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) contribute to building resilient, diverse, inclusive, and transparent forest-based economies.

When: 23-26 November 2026

Where: Bolzano-Bozen, Italy

Website: [Forest-Based Value Chains in Transition - Eurac Research](#)

Deadline for abstracts submission: June 7, 2026.

Acceptance of scientific contributions: will be communicated by June 30, 2026.



Image credit: Eurac Research.

Registration to participate in the conference will open on July 1, 2026. Visit: [IUFRO conference webpage](#)

Hosted and organized by the [Institute for Regional Development of Eurac Research](#) and the [Thünen Institute of Forestry](#).

Green the City - Grow the Future

How can we make our cities greener, more liveable and truly sustainable? This is the question that the **'Green the City - Grow the Future'** conference will address, bringing together leading figures from research, business and practice.

Taking place on **23 and 24 November 2026 in Bern, Switzerland**, the conference is organized by the Bern University of Applied Sciences' School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences (BFH-HAFL), in collaboration with the European Forum on Urban Forestry and IUFRO.

The conference will focus on concrete solutions that bring nature and urban life into harmony. The conference creates an inspiring space for exchange, new ideas and sustainable approaches for the future. As a platform, catalyst and networking hub, the conference is aimed at anyone who wants to play an active role in shaping urban spaces, offering committed partners, exhibitors and innovators the opportunity to position themselves at the heart of the future.

Note: The conference languages are German and French. The majority of presentations will be delivered in German. A digital



Cities of the future – Biocities. Image credit: Adobe Stock, created with AI.

translation app (German-French / French-German) will be available for participants.

Website: [Green the City](#)

IUFRO Research Group 6.01.00 [Forest recreation and nature-based tourism](#)

Visit: [IUFRO - Green the City - Grow the Future](#)

The 5th International Forum on Forest Policy and Economics - Sustainable Forestry: Strategies for Climate Resilience and Carbon Neutrality

Join a **three-day international forum** focused on innovative forestry economic policies and sustainable forestry practices in the context of climate change and carbon neutrality goals. You will learn how to develop effective forestry policy frameworks, how to drive the transformation of forestry industries towards high-value, sustainable pathways, and how to assess the value of forest ecological products through market-based mechanisms.



Key Themes

- Global and National Sustainable (Low-Carbon) Forestry Policy Frameworks: Leveraging the role of forests in addressing climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Sustainable Forestry Industry Transformation and Green Economy: Analysis of models and pathways for sustainable and green forestry industry transformation
- Valuation and Realisation of Forest Ecological Products: How forest ecological products can be valued through market mechanisms
- Green Bioeconomy: Driving the transformation of forestry industries towards high-value, sustainable, and circular production
- Forest Transition: Policy innovations for sustainable forest management and achieving the goals of the Glasgow Declaration
- Forests and Rural Revitalisation: Unlocking the role of forests in promoting rural revitalisation and community development

When: 16-19 October 2026

Where: Beijing, China

Website: [The 5th International Forum on Forest Policy and Economics—Sustainable Forestry: Strategies for Climate Resilience and Carbon Neutrality](#)

IUFRO Unit(s): [Division 9 Forest Policy and Economics](#)

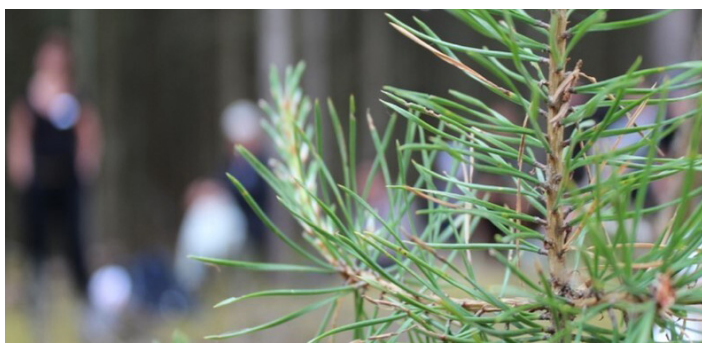
Visit: [IUFRO conference webpage](#)

Silviculture of Spruce - Experiences from Canada and Sweden

Join us on Zoom on **May 28th, 8AM MDT / 10AM EDT / 4PM CEST (60 min)** to learn more about forest management of spruce species!

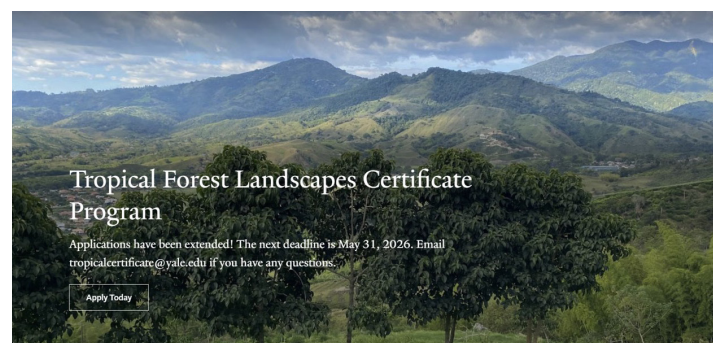
How do different spruce species respond to early treatments such as PCT and thinning? Is there a way to promote mixed woods with spruce and broadleaves? What can we learn from each other in different parts of the boreal zone?

During the webinar, examples will be given from both Canada and Sweden. This webinar is presented by IUFRO Working Party 1.01.08 - [Ecology and silviculture of spruce](#).



Tropical Forest Landscapes: Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use Online Certificate Program

Applications are open for [Yale University's Tropical Forest Landscapes: Conservation, Restoration & Sustainable Use online certificate program](#). This interdisciplinary program explores tropical land management through diverse perspectives in a dynamic online experience. Courses cover important core concepts, showcase global case studies, and provide practical tools for understanding and managing the social, ecological, and economic aspects of effective conservation and restoration initiatives.



Program benefits include:

- Unparalleled access to a world-class institution
- Connections with environmental professionals around the world
- Dedicated mentors who provide one-on-one support
- Skill-building activities to plan a real-life project with individualized faculty feedback
- Optional hands-on field experiences in the tropics

This 10-month program is for current and aspiring environmental leaders eager to expand their knowledge and skills, advance their careers, and maximize their impact on tropical conservation and restoration.

Interested? Check out our new website at environment.yale.edu/certificates/tropical to learn more. You can also preview a selection of program lectures in the Coursera course: [Tropical Forest Landscapes 101](#).

Applications will be accepted until May 31, 2026, and the program will run from 20 July 2026 to 23 May 2027.

Organizers: Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative, Yale School of the Environment, Yale University

Format: Virtual

Visit: [IUFRO course webpage](#)

Master of Science in Tropical Forestry

You are invited to apply for studying [Master of Science in Tropical Forestry \(academic intake 2026-28\)](#) with classes starting in October 2026. The programme is free of tuition fees and taught in English language at the TUD Dresden University of Technology, one of the 10 German Universities of Excellence.

Since its inception in 1995, this unique 2-year master’s degree program has garnered international recognition through its focus on social, ecological and economic aspects of tropical forest management. This is an excellent opportunity to study in an international, intercultural, and dynamic working environment offered at the reputed [Chair of Tropical and International Forestry](#).

At the end of the study program, interested graduates with outstanding merit will have a chance to enter our PhD program and join our team of researchers. You will also benefit from our

competent alumni network of over 400 forestry professionals employed by some of the major national, international, intergovernmental, and private organizations around the world.

Application deadlines:

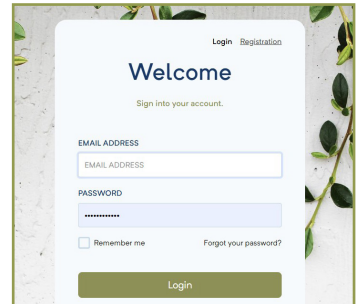
31 May for international applicants

15 July for German citizens

Visit: [IUFRO course webpage](#)

New: Website Login Area for IUFRO Officeholders and Members

A long-awaited feature is now available on the IUFRO website: [the login area for officeholders and members](#). Make sure your user account is activated so you can fully benefit from this feature!

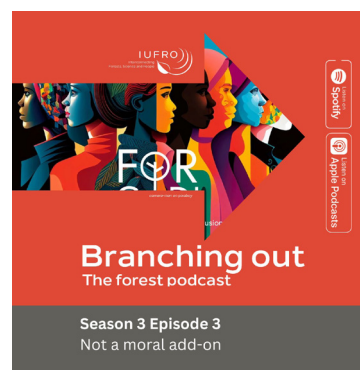


Here are some of the things you can do in the [IUFRO login area](#) once you are logged in:

- Submit information about events, publications or other news related to your Division, Research Group, Working Party or Task Force
- Submit information related to forestry, forest research and / or forest education that is not related to any IUFRO activity, but is still of interest to IUFRO’s audience
- See a list of your submissions once you have used any of these forms
- See any information items that you saved on the IUFRO website, because you found them particularly interesting

We hope that you will be a regular visitor in the [login area](#)!

Branching out: the forest podcast New episode: Not a moral add-on



In [Season 3 of Branching out: the forest podcast](#), we explore how scientists in IUFRO collaborate across disciplines to tackle emerging topics through Task Forces. We continue the Season with the [Task Force on Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Forest-Related Sectors - ForGED!](#).

Host Gerda Wolfrum from IUFRO Headquarters and **co-host Bashir Isiya**, Nigeria, from the International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA), spoke with **Task Force co-leads Todora Rogelja** from the University of Padova, Italy, and **Rattiya Lippe** from the Thuenen Institute of Forestry, Germany.

The conversation highlighted entrenched power and governance structures that determine who is excluded from participation and denied rights, including access to forest resources. Globally, there are many examples of women, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, youth, and other groups that have managed forests well yet remain underrepresented in decision-making.

Listen on: [IUFRO webpage](#) / [Spotify](#) / [Apple Podcasts](#)

Forests as Hubs of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the Anthropocene

The [IUFRO Division 8 Forest Environment Conference 2026](#) was held on 24-27 March 2026 in Coyhaique, Chilean Patagonia, bringing together 352 participants from 36 countries across all inhabited continents. The participant profile showed a strong representation of the scientific community, with approximately 42% researchers and academics and 38% early-career participants, alongside contributions from professionals in government, NGOs, and the private sector.

The conference was conducted entirely in person, with no virtual presentations. The scientific program was structured around four thematic pillars, integrating more than 20 thematic symposia and multiple open topic sessions. It included five keynote lectures, five pre-conference courses delivered over three days, and five simultaneous field trips, supported by 10 IFSA volunteers. More than 300 abstracts were presented across plenary, oral, exhibitor, and poster sessions, with over 20 participating institutions and exhibitors. **The conference achieved a balanced representation across genders and represents the southernmost IUFRO conference ever held!**

Key issues discussed:

- Forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning under global change
- Soil carbon dynamics and climate regulation
- Forest restoration and landscape management
- Remote sensing, AI, and monitoring technologies
- Socio-ecological systems and governance
- Sustainable forest management and silvopastoral systems

The conference highlighted forests as fundamental for maintaining biodiversity, ecosystem services, and livelihoods across local to global scales, reinforcing the urgency of restoration and integrated, interdisciplinary approaches. Presentations reflected advances in monitoring and technological innovation, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning under global change, landscape restoration and management, and governance and socio-ecological systems.

The event demonstrated the importance of collaboration among public institutions, academia, NGOs, and the private sector, enabling the organization of the southernmost IUFRO conference ever held. Sustainability and cleaner production agreements were signed during the event. Discussions also addressed the future of Division 8 and IUFRO's role in supporting new generations, with IFSA volunteers strengthening connections within the global scientific community.

The meeting was kindly hosted by Centro de Investigación en Ecosistemas de la Patagonia (CIEP), and received financial support from: Gobierno Regional de Aysén (Chile), Agencia Nacional de Investigación y Desarrollo (Chile), Centro de Investigación en Ecosistemas de la Patagonia (Chile).

A [Book of Abstracts](#) including more than 300 contributions, conference statistics, and visual documentation is available.

The conference strengthened international collaboration and is expected to lead to joint publications and future research initiatives. Discussions during the event also addressed the future of Division 8 and the role of IUFRO in supporting new generations of researchers. Outcomes will contribute to ongoing IUFRO activities and future meetings.

Meeting website: [Home | IUFRO Patagonia 2026](#)

The meeting involved:

Division 8 IUFRO - [Forest Environment](#)

Research Group 8.01.00 - [Forest ecosystem functions and biodiversity](#)

Working Party 8.01.02 - [Landscape ecology](#)

Read the full report: [HERE](#)

Book of Abstracts: [HERE](#)

Report submitted by: *Mónica Toro-Manríquez and Alejandro Huertas-Herrera, Co-Chairs of the Organizing Committee*



Poster sessions at IUFRO Forest Environment Division 8 Conference 2026, Coyhaique, Chilean Patagonia.
Image: IUFRO Division 8 Conference 2026 Organizing Committee (CIEP).

Visit: [IUFRO conference webpage](#)

International Conference on Population and Conservation Genetics

Climate change versus vulnerability of forest ecosystems is a rising concern to tree biologists. Rapid decline in genetic resources and diversity is a critical and crucial factor to forest health and resilience. Comprehending population diversity and its inherent dynamics is the keystone to conservation, domestication and effective utilization of tree genetic resources.

The [International Conference on Population and Conservation Genetics \(ICPCG 2026\)](#) held on 28 – 30 January 2026 in Coimbatore, India, primarily focused on the population dynamics of forest tree genetic resources in the context of countering ecological and climatic challenges. It was hosted by the ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding and organized by IUFRO Working Party 2.04.01 [Population, Ecological and Conservation Genetics](#), and the Asia-Pacific Forest Genetic Resources Programme (APFORGEN).

The conference was inaugurated by **Smt Kanchan Devi**, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education on 28 January 2026. She underpinned the pioneering role of ICFRE in providing a scientific foundation to sustainable forestry in India. She also highlighted the significance of the conference in the era of changing climatic and ecological landscapes and emphasized the need for global cooperation for translation of scientific advancements into resilient and sustainable forest management.

Prof. Filippos Aravanopoulos, Coordinator of IUFRO Unit 2.04.01 [Population, Ecological and Conservation Genetics](#) delivered a special address and highlighted the role of IUFRO in advancing forestry research at the global level.

Shri T. Rabi Kumar, Director, ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding, highlighted the key milestones of the host Institute in tree improvement programs addressing the raw material need of paper and pulp industries and reiterated the need for networking at national and international levels to provide real world solutions to forestry science.

The conference also hosted the Executive Committee meeting of Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). The 30th Meeting of the APAFRI Executive Committee was held on January 28, 2026, in Coimbatore, India. Conducted in-person, this meeting focused on regional forestry research, networking, and sustainable forest management initiatives. The conference was attended by more than 100 delegates from 11 countries including India, representing research institutes, academia, state forest department, paper and pulp industries and NGOs. The conference included three structured sessions with 12 themes.

The organizers of ICPCG2026 gratefully acknowledge the sponsors who believed in shared commitments and efforts to address environmental and climate change challenges. The financial support extended by Anusandhan National Research Foundation, Department of Biotechnology, National Biodiversity Authority, MAK India Limited, SSVM Institutions, Indian Institute



Participants of the International Conference on Population and Conservation Genetics. Image: provided by Modhumita Dasgupta.

of Forest Management, Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Paper Limited, Seshasayee Paper and Boards Limited, Union Bank of India, Asia Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI), National Institute of Forest Science (NiFoS) and The Precision Scientific Company is gratefully acknowledged.

See: [Conference website](#)

Visit: [IUFRO conference webpage](#)

Report submitted by: *Modhumita Dasgupta, Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 2.04.01*

Download the full report: [ICPCG-2026-report.pdf](#)

Forest Hydrology: Past, Present, and Future

An international workshop, titled [“Forest Hydrology: Past, Present, and Future”](#) was held on March 20, 2026, at the Faculty of Forest Sciences, Universidad de Concepción (UdeC), Chile. The workshop was organized by the [IUFRO Task Force on the Forest–Water–Livelihood–Governance Nexus](#) and IUFRO Working Party 8.01.04 [Hydrological processes and water quality](#).

The event examined forest hydrological research conducted in Canada, Chile, and China across past, present, and future contexts, with the aim of strengthening collaboration among Task Force members from these countries. Participants included Task Force members (**Mingfang Zhang, Shirong Liu, Xiaohua Wei, Francisco Balocchi, and Yiping Hou**), along with students, faculty, and local researchers.



Group photo of workshop participants. Photo provided by Mingfang Zhang

The workshop opened with a warm welcome from the Dean of the Faculty of Forest Sciences at UdeC. **Dr. Mingfang Zhang**, Task Force Coordinator, provided an overview of the roles of IUFRO, Division 8, and the Task Force. Task Force members **Dr. Francisco Balocchi**, **Dr. Mingfang Zhang**, and **Dr. Xiaohua Wei** delivered presentations on forest hydrology in Chile, China, and Canada, respectively. Additionally, **Dr. Rafael Rubliar** introduced the MHIDROC3 model, a hydrological model developed specifically for climate change applications in south-central Chile.

Dr. Shirong Liu, former Vice-President of IUFRO, delivered the closing remarks, emphasizing the important role of the Task Force in fostering global collaboration and knowledge exchange in forest ecohydrology research. He also expressed sincere gratitude to the organizers and all participants.

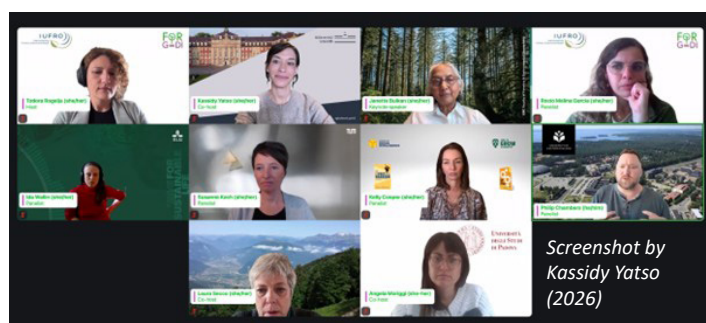
Report submitted by: *Mingfang Zhang, Coordinator of [IUFRO Task Force on the Forest–Water–Livelihood–Governance Nexus](#) and IUFRO Working Party 8.01.04 [Hydrological processes and water quality](#)*

Visit: [IUFRO workshop webpage](#)

2nd Anniversary of the ForGEDI MOOC

On 08 April 2026, the ForGEDI IUFRO Task Force celebrated the second anniversary of the ForGEDI MOOC with an online webinar titled **“Knowledge Co-Creation in Practice: Reflections and Future Directions”**. Hosted by the University of Padova and organized by the [ForGEDI IUFRO Task Force](#), together with IUFRO and Nordic Forest Research (SNS), the event brought together the people behind the creation of the course to reflect on its development, impact(s), and future direction.

Since its launch, the MOOC has reached more than 2,400 learners worldwide.



The webinar opened with a keynote by **Dr. Janette Bulkan** (University of British Columbia), speaking on “Reflections on the role of knowledge in promoting gender equity.”

The panel then moved into flash reflections from coordinators, contributors, and learners involved in the MOOC. These included **Dr. Ida Wallin** (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), MOOC Week 2 coordinator; **Dr. Susanne Koch** (Technical University of Munich), MOOC Week 1 contributor; **Dr. Rocío Melina García**, postdoctoral researcher in forest governance; **Kelly Cooper** (Founder and President of the Centre for Social

Intelligence), MOOC Week 3 contributor; and **Philip Chambers** (University of Eastern Finland), representing the learner perspective. The session was moderated by **Dr. Todora Rogelja** (University of Padova), MOOC Week 3 coordinator, and current coordinator of the ForGEDI IUFRO Task Force.

The discussion highlighted why knowledge co-creation matters for the future of forestry education and governance. Speakers reflected on persistent gaps in integrating gender equity, diversity, and inclusion into forestry curricula and institutions, while also pointing to the value of intersectional thinking, local knowledge, and stronger participation in shaping forest-related policy and practice. The webinar underlined that GEDI (Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) is not a peripheral concern, but a condition for more legitimate, resilient, and effective forest governance.

The event had 59 registered participants, with 36 attending live. According to the official meeting report, organisers and panellists represented countries including Argentina, Canada, Finland, Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Sweden.

Report submitted by: *Todora Rogelja, Coordinator of the [IUFRO Task Force on Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Forest-Related Sectors](#)*

Visit: [IUFRO webinar webpage](#)

Webinar: Nexus of Certain Estimators in Remote Sensing Forest Inventory

On 24 March 2026, **Dr. Zhengyang Hou** of Beijing Forestry University, China, delivered a webinar presentation entitled **“Nexus of Certain Estimators in Remote Sensing Forest Inventory”**. He was invited by IUFRO Working Party 4.01.07 [Tree growth, mortality, and remote sensing](#) to speak in recognition of his expertise in forest inventory and remote sensing.

Dr. Hou addressed a critical small-sample inference bottleneck that challenges annual forest carbon stock accounting under UNFCCC obligations. He introduced novel model-assisted double sampling estimators that successfully bridge the methodological gap between model-based and design-based inference. The framework achieves asymptotic design unbiasedness and is applicable to both wall-to-wall satellite imagery and non-wall-to-wall LiDAR data, providing high-precision, cost-effective solutions for National Forest Inventories worldwide.



Participants found the insights on correctly accounting for uncertainty when working with NFI and LiDAR data to be particularly valuable. The Q&A session generated an active discussion, reflecting the high relevance of the topic for the Working Party members.

The webinar was highly informative and successful. **Dr. Hou's** presentation provided valuable methodological insights on bridging model-based and design-based inference for remote sensing forest inventory. The event attracted 74 participants from South Korea, Austria, Spain, China and other countries. The next webinar in this series will be determined shortly.

Report submitted by: *Changhyun Choi, Deputy Coordinator of Working Party [Tree growth, mortality and remote sensing](#)*
Visit: [IUFRO webinar webpage](#)

Forest-Steppe Recovery after Landscape Fires in Eastern Ukraine

The first webinar of the [IUFRO Task Force on Post-Conflict Forest Landscape Restoration](#) on 12 March 2026 marked the launch of a series of discussions aimed at exploring the challenges and opportunities of restoring forest landscapes affected by armed conflicts. The webinar titled '[Forest-Steppe Recovery after Landscape Fires in Eastern Ukraine: land-use history, climate change, and war](#)' gathered 28 participants from different countries and professional backgrounds.

The event was opened by **Sergiy Zibtsev**, one of the Task Force Coordinators, who briefly presented the mission of IUFRO and the objectives of the Task Force. The keynote presentation was delivered by **Brian Milakovsky**, who shared insights based on his extensive experience working in Ukraine in regions affected by the Russian war.

His presentation addressed the complex interactions between armed conflict, land-use history, and forest landscape dynamics. A key theme of the presentation was the long-term environmental consequences of armed conflict. Military activities, fires, unexploded ordnance, land degradation, and infrastructure damage create multiple pressures on forest



Photo © Serhii Korovayny WWF-Ukraine 03450.

ecosystems. These impacts often extend far beyond the immediate conflict period, affecting soil conditions, biodiversity, forest regeneration, and the capacity of landscapes to recover naturally.

The presentation also highlighted the importance of historical land-use trajectories in understanding current landscape dynamics. In many regions, forest-steppe and forest landscapes have been shaped by decades of agricultural expansion, forestry practices, and land abandonment. Armed conflict interacts with these existing land-use legacies, sometimes accelerating degradation but also occasionally creating conditions for ecological regeneration in abandoned or restricted areas. Another key message concerned the role of governance and institutional capacity in post-conflict restoration. Effective recovery requires coordination among multiple actors, including government agencies, local communities, scientists, and international organizations. However, in conflict-affected regions, institutions often operate under severe constraints, including limited resources, security risks, and disrupted administrative systems.

During the discussion, participants emphasized the importance of integrating ecological knowledge with local experience and practical management approaches. Restoration strategies need to address both ecological processes and social realities, including local livelihoods and community engagement in land stewardship. Participants also raised questions related to the risks associated with land mines and unexploded ordnance, as well as the role of international cooperation in supporting restoration initiatives.

Overall, the webinar demonstrated strong interest within the international community in understanding how forest landscapes can recover after armed conflicts and how restoration strategies can be designed under conditions of uncertainty and institutional disruption.

Report submitted by: *Marine Elbakidze, Coordinator of IUFRO Task Force Post-Conflict Forest Landscape Restoration: [Make "It Back Better"](#)*

Visit: [IUFRO webinar webpage](#)

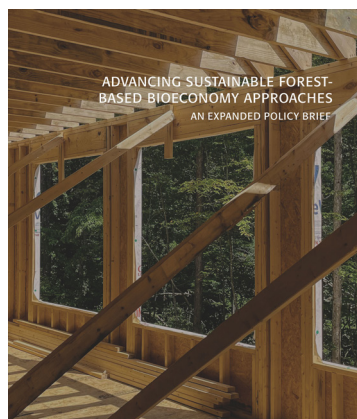
Publications

From Minefields to Multifunctionality: Forest Recovery in Post-war Ukraine

When discussing Ukraine's recovery, forests are rarely the starting point. Yet a [recent study](#) led by **Mariana Melnykovych** and colleagues reframes forest recovery as a central component of rebuilding the country. Mariana Melnykovych, Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland, is a Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Working Party 4.05.05 [Social innovation and entrepreneurship](#). **Find out more:** [IUFRO news webpage](#)

Pathways for Ukraine's post-war nature recovery: Focus on forest socio-ecological systems. *Ambio* 55, 817–843 (2026).

Expanded Policy Brief on Advancing Forest-Based Bioeconomy Approaches



When grounded in principles of sustainability, equity, and resilience, forest-based bioeconomy strategies can play a central role in advancing circular economies and delivering on multiple global commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, and the Global Biodiversity Framework among others.

This [Expanded Policy Brief](#) published by the [Science-Policy Programme \(SciPol\)](#) of IUFRO consolidates key scientific evidence, policy insights, and practical perspectives on how sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches can be advanced across different contexts. It is intended as a resource for policymakers, practitioners, researchers, and stakeholders seeking to design and implement strategies that harness the full potential of forests while safeguarding their ecological integrity.

The Policy Brief examines the bioeconomy concept through five interlinked dimensions: policy, finance, markets, innovation, and multi-actor collaboration, and presents practical pathways that connect global frameworks with national and local implementation. Together, these dimensions show how coherent governance, investment, and innovation can jointly drive a resilient forest-based bioeconomy. The analysis covers wood products, non-wood forest products (NWFP), forest ecosystem services (FES), as well as an integration perspective within and beyond the forest sector.

A total of 34 scientists and experts from 13 countries contributed to this assessment bringing in their diverse expertise, including forestry, ecology, economics, and policy among others.

The Policy Brief was officially launched in May 2026 at the 21st Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF21) in New York, USA, at a side-event titled “Vienna Call for Action: The power of forest-based bioeconomy”, which is a follow-up to the Global Summit Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches, held in Vienna, Austria, in February 2026.

Editors: Ivana Živojinović, Nelson Grima, Maja Radosavljević
Lead Authors (in alphabetical order): Eric Hansen; Tim Payn; Lucia Pittaluga; Ricardo Vargas Carpintero; Ivana Živojinović

Published in 2026 by the Science-Policy Programme (SciPol) of IUFRO.

ISBN 978-3-903345-39-3

Download at: [IUFRO - Advancing Forest-Based Bioeconomy Approaches: An Expanded Policy Brief](#)

Bioeconomy: Advancing the Transition to a Sustainable, Biobased Economy



This open access textbook is the carefully revised, second edition on the evolving field of the “Bioeconomy”. It defines the sustainable and innovative use of biomass and biological knowledge to provide food, feed, industrial products, bioenergy, and ecological services.

The book’s structure has been extensively updated and expanded to six parts. New chapters feature bioeconomy principles, sustainability and normative aspects, as well

as bioeconomy monitoring. Additionally, a dedicated section explores diverse stakeholder perspectives, covering insights from farmers, consumers, researchers, and others. Contributions highlight the importance of bioeconomy-related concepts in public, scientific, and political discourse. The expert authors use an interdisciplinary approach and outline the dimensions of the bioeconomy as a means of achieving sustainability.

Editors: Iris Lewandowski, Lina Mayorga-Duarte, Philipp Scheurich, Ricardo Vargas-Carpintero, Valentin Schlecht, Jan Weik; all from the Department of Biobased Resources in the Bioeconomy (340b), University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart, Germany

Link: [Bioeconomy: Advancing the Transition to a Sustainable, Biobased Economy | Springer Nature Link](#)

Co-author and IUFRO Officeholder Ricardo Vargas-Carpintero is Deputy Coordinator of Research Group 5.11.00 [Non-wood forest products](#) and Deputy Coordinator of the Task Force [Building an Integrated Vision of the Forest-Based Sector within a Bioeconomy](#).

Visit: [IUFRO publications webpage](#)

Thinking With, Not Just About, Nature: Reimagining the Business–Nature Relationship

Business scholarship has long engaged with the natural environment, yet it rarely pauses to examine what is meant by nature itself. Most research reflects an atomistic orientation that fragments nature into measurable categories, such as carbon, water, and biodiversity, rendering it legible but stripped of interdependence, relationality, and deeper meaning. In response, in this perspective we advance an emerging holistic orientation to business–nature relations that reconceives

organizations as ecologically embedded participants rather than external managers of nature. We contrast these orientations based on five dimensions: underlying logic, ethical framing, scope of responsibility, core proxies, and managerial responses. We then offer several promising avenues for future research to advance a holistic orientation grouped around three domains: worldviews, governance, and operations. Ultimately, we urge management scholars to think with, not merely about, nature, treating ecological complexity as a source of theoretical renewal, ethical reflection, and collective flourishing. (*Abstract*)

Published by Sage Journals, Business and Society in 2026
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00076503261425556>

Read at: [Thinking With, Not Just About, Nature: Reimagining the Business–Nature Relationship](#) - Rajat Panwar, Frederik Dahlmann, Céline Louche, Simon Pek, 2026

Co-author and IUFRO Officeholder
Rajat Panwar is a Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO Research Group 5.10.00 [Forest products marketing and business management](#) and the IUFRO Task Force on [Scaling-Up Science-based Forest Sector Innovation](#).



IUFRO Annual Report 2025



The year 2025 started with the launch of the new IUFRO website. This comprehensive update marks a significant step forward in supporting forest science and fostering global collaboration across the IUFRO network.

This collaboration happens mainly in IUFRO's thematic structure. While the nine Divisions - permanent thematic units with their Research Groups and Working Parties - and one Task Force

from the previous term continued to focus on their core topics, twelve new Task Forces addressing emerging cross-cutting issues started their work in pursuit of their goals through to the next IUFRO World Congress in 2029 in Nairobi, Kenya. Many of the network activities around the world are highlighted in this Annual Report.

The first year after an IUFRO World Congress is also the first full year of a new IUFRO Board, which traditionally meets in Vienna, Austria, where the IUFRO Headquarter is located. Find out about important decisions and activities started in 2025 and read up on highlights of IUFRO Programmes and Projects, awards, and more!

Read: [IUFRO Annual Report 2025](#)

John Parrotta Receives 2026 ABC James A. Duke Award

John Parrotta, Immediate Past President of IUFRO, was honored with the 2026 James A. Duke Excellence in Botanical Literature Award by the American Botanical Council in recognition of his comprehensive publication **Healing Plants of South Asia: A Handbook of the Medicinal Flora of the Indian Subcontinent, Volumes 1 and 2** (CRC Press, 2025).



In two volumes and almost 2,000 pages, *Healing Plants of South Asia* connects the extensive diversity of the flora of the Indian subcontinent with its long history of use by multiple cultures and traditional medicine systems. The publication draws on the author's 40 years of experience in tropical forest ecology, forest management, and traditional forest-related knowledge to create a meticulously researched text.

Read more at: [IUFRO news webpage](#)

2026 Markus Wallenberg Prize Awarded to Professor Holger Miltz

The 2026 [Marcus Wallenberg Prize](#) is awarded to **Prof. Holger Miltz** for his groundbreaking contributions to research on, and industrialization of wood modification technologies. The prize will be presented by HM the King of Sweden at a ceremony in Stockholm in October 2026. **Holger Miltz** is Professor at the University of Göttingen, Germany, and Head of the Department of Wood Biology and Wood Products. His main research interests in wood technology include wood modification, wood decay, wood protection, and wood drying.



Read more at: [IUFRO webpage](#)

MWP Young Researchers' Challenge 2026 Now Open

The Marcus Wallenberg Foundation invites applications for the [Young Researchers' Challenge](#). The program will range from October 18-20, 2026 with the opportunity to participate at the Prize ceremony and banquet in honour of the 2026 Marcus Wallenberg Prize Winner.

Find out more at: [IUFRO webpage](#)

Send contributions for IUFRO News 6/2026, to [wolfrum\(at\)iufro.org](mailto:wolfrum(at)iufro.org) by 28 May 2026!

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