

Final Report



26th IUFRO World Congress
23–29 June 2024
Stockholm, Sweden
iufro2024.com





Fredrik Ingemarson

IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS 2024

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST Research Organizations' World Congress 2024 would not have been such a success without the hundreds of individuals and subcommittees that contributed their valuable time, energy, and advice during the preparations and implementation of the congress. The Congress Organizing Committee (COC) is proud of its achievements on budget with a net zero balance. The committee is humbled by the positive response to the largest and most inclusive IUFRO World Congress ever. The committee consists of members from co-host organizations in the Nordic and Baltic countries, most already engaged since 2010. The point of departure pre congress for the management and the financial reporting by the COC, was trend analysis and performance evaluation. The COC worked actively in the strategic preparations, worked to secure financial support and selected the awardees for the Host Scientific Awards. Thanks to the leadership of COC, regional support was at a historically high level. In accordance with the theme *Forests and Society Towards 2050* the Congress Scientific Committee put together a diverse and high-quality scientific programme, which was successfully implemented thanks to the tireless efforts of the organizers and moderators of plenary, sub-plenary, technical, and poster sessions.

The IUFRO headquarters team secured the framework and continuity of the congress. Their assistance was indispensable. The IUFRO Management Committee and the Board approved action plans and gave clear directives, while offering valuable insights and leadership. One prerequisite for the successful management of the congress is the work of leaders and staff at the host organization, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). Based on cost projections and risk assessments, the steering group allocated budgets for the congress secretariat, resulting in a dedicated and highly performed work by the staff. The secretariat's support to the COC and the coordination of sub-committees formed the core of the implementation.

SLU's researchers, the largest delegation at the congress, were truly successful in carrying out the in-congress excursions. The Nordic and Baltic cooperation between the co-host organizations resulted in an elegant mix of scientific and cultural exposures of the

region through well executed excursions before and after the congress week. Researchers and students from the Nordic and Baltic region, and the enthusiastic volunteers from all over the world, were the best possible ambassadors for the congress.

The early support from the Nordic Council of Ministers, Nordic Forest Research, Formas research council, Swedish Forest Agency and Skogssällskapet Foundation, was decisive. Thanks to the official partners, a wide range of stakeholders and scientists were able to gather and co-create. Partners such as the International Forest Student Association, Nordic Forest Research, and the Erling Persson Foundation were instrumental in the exhibition and arenas such as the Green Job Arena and the Innovation stage. The collaboration with IKEA and WWF broadened the global dialogue. The Stockholm Exhibition and Congress Centre was a modern venue with high quality service, which was strongly supported by the professional congress organizer, Akademikonferens. In addition, there are a number of other organizations and individuals who have helped carry out the congress as planned in areas such as logistics, food distribution, and facilities.

The application process for the IUFRO World Congress was initiated by the City of Stockholm and the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA) through the Think Tank for International Forestry Issues (SIFI). The value of the long-term mentorship offered by SIFI's advisory group cannot be underestimated. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the delegates during the IUFRO World Congress 2024, the event created a platform for progress and dialogue about Forests and Society Towards 2050, fully in line with the intentions of the Congress Organizing Committee.

Fredrik Ingemarson

Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee

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This is the final report from the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) to the IUFRO Board. The COC consisted of delegates representing IUFRO member organizations from all the Nordic and Baltic countries. With its commitment, international experience, knowledge and broad networks in each country, the COC has been crucial for a successful congress. The committee has had a combined decision-making and advisory role during the bidding and the management process of the congress. The COC chair was also responsible for the financial reporting. With a net zero result, the Congress was on budget according to plan for 2019–2025.

Recurring topics for the COC have been strategies for the bidding process and management issues, including financial plans, global trends, partnerships, member recruitment, communication and input to the Stockholm Congress Statement from the Nordic countries. Other topics were ceremonies and not at least pre- and post-excursion tours to Nordic and Baltic countries. The committee also selected the awardees for the Host Scientific Awards. The COC held its first meeting already in 2010. Meetings in the years before the congress were held approximately every two months on site in Stockholm and Uppsala, as well as online.



CONGRESS PROGRAMME

02

The IUFRO World Congress 2024 programme in Stockholm spanned an entire week, running from 23 to 29 June 2024. The congress was preceded by pre-excursion tours and concluded with post-excursion tours in the Nordic and Baltic countries ending the first week of July. The congress was structured into scientific sessions, ceremonies, social events, exhibitions, delegate registration, administrative meetings, lunch and coffee breaks as shown in Figure 1.

2.1 THE CONGRESS WEEK IN SHORT

The week kicked off with a tree planting ceremony at Skansen open-air museum, as well as receptions and opening ceremonies at the venue, Stockholmssmässan Exhibition & Congress Centre.

During the week, the delegates had the chance to explore the latest research, attend in-congress excursions

and participate in administrative meetings. There were also networking opportunities for delegates and stakeholders during lunch and coffee breaks, poster sessions and outdoor mingle, culminating in a closing ceremony and additional awards presentations to celebrate scientific achievements from all over the world.

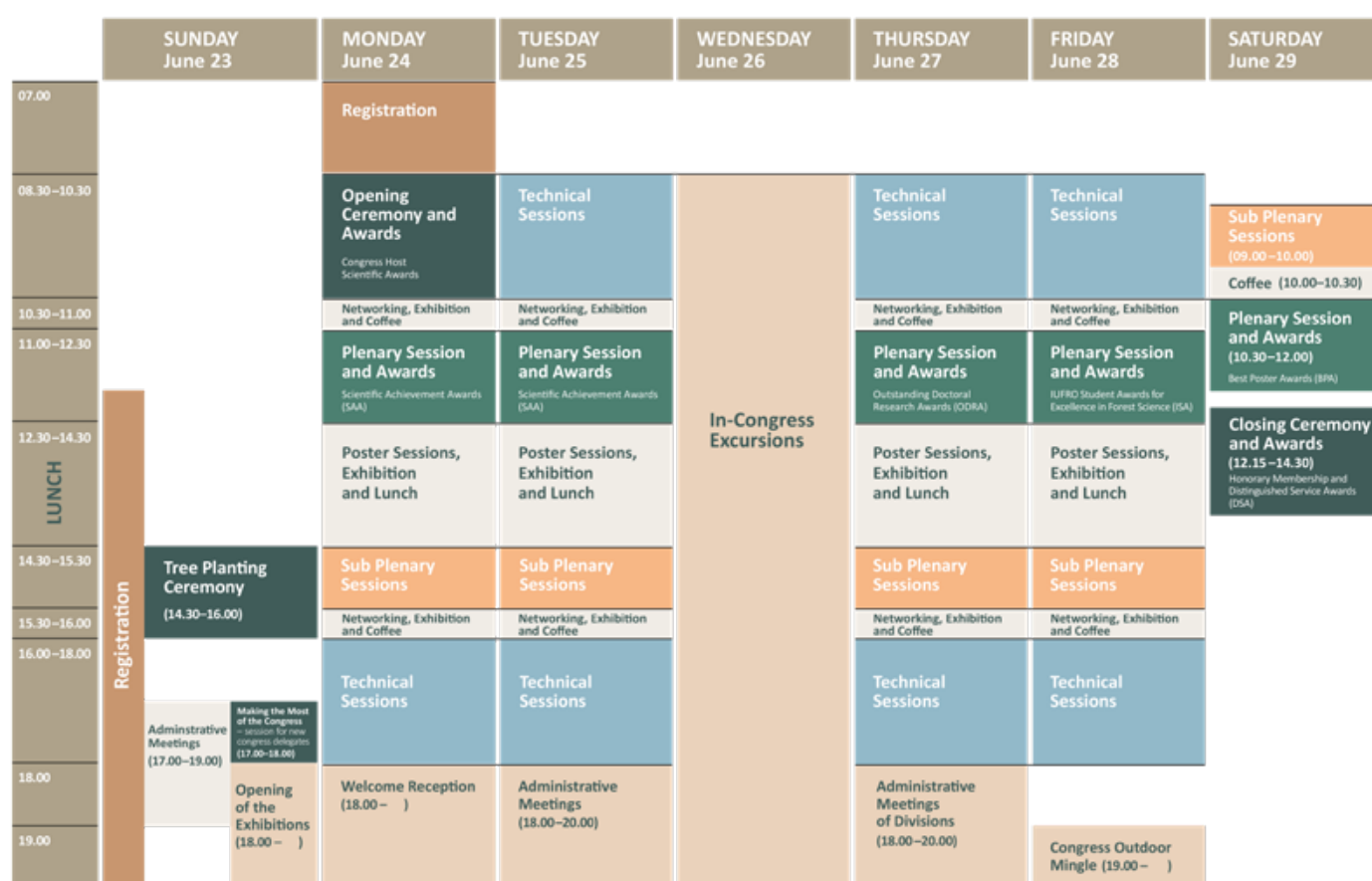


Figure 1. IUFRO World Congress 2024 Week Overview

2.2 SCIENTIFIC OVERVIEW

The congress title *Forests and Society Towards 2050* is rooted in the growing demands on forest ecosystem services due to the climate crisis and the need to reinforce the bioeconomy sector, the social services of healthy forests and forest resilience to disturbances and anthropogenic pressures.

The year 2050 is a landmark to achieve the vision of *Living in Harmony with Nature* as set out in the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, as well as the target of net zero emissions. With a focus on the contribution of forests to the *UN 2030 Agenda* and its *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs), the IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm invited scientists to present their findings in the following five themes.

Theme 1 (Tue): *Strengthening forest resilience and adaptation to stress*

Theme 2 (Thu): *Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy*

Theme 3 (Fri): *Forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services*

Theme 4 (Mon): *Forests for sustainable societies*

Theme 5 (Sat): *Forests for the future*

The scientific programme contained a total of 437 sessions, of which five were plenaries, 30 sub-plenaries, 191 technical, and 211 poster sessions. The detailed scientific programme is presented in attachment B1.



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**





Plenary sessions

Each day of the congress week, except for the excursion day on Wednesday, one scientific and one stakeholder keynote speaker gave their presentations in the plenary sessions, see Table 1. The presentations were given by ten keynote speakers from different parts of the world, of which seven were women and three men, representing the different themes.

Table 1. Keynote Speakers and Session Moderators

Date	Theme	Keynote speaker	Session moderator
Monday 24 June	Forests for sustainable societies	Harini Nagendra Director and Professor, Research Centre and Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability, Azim Premji University, India Cécile Ndjebet Founder of the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests	Monica Gabay Independent researcher, Argentina
Tuesday 25 June	Strengthening forest resilience and adaptation to stress	Andrew Liebhold Research Entomologist, IUFRO Officer, Northern Research Station, USDA Forest Service, Morgantown, WV, USA Juliette Biao Doctor of Philosophy, Director of the UNFF Secretariat	Purabi Bose Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Faculty of Forest Sciences
Thursday 27 June	Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy	Anne Toppinen Professor, Vice Dean of Research, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Helsinki Martin Forsén Chairman of the Board SilviPar SA	Erich Schaitza Embrapa, Brazilian Agriculture Research Corporation
Friday 28 June	Forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services	Sally Aitken Professor in the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia, Canada Fran Raymond Price Global Forest Practice Leader, WWF International	Shirong Liu Chinese Academy of Forestry, National Forestry and Grassland Administration
Saturday 29 June	Forests for the future	Hans Joachim Schellnhuber Professor and Director General of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria Isabelle Claire Dela Paz President of the International Forestry Students Association (IFSA)	Jens Peter Skovsgaard Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Southern Swedish Forest Research Center

Sub-plenary sessions

The Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) made 31 slots available for sub-plenary sessions. Twenty two of the slots were scientific sessions and nine were science and society dialogue sessions, see Table 2. Some of the scientific sub-plenary sessions were given more than one time slot, since they received a large number of abstracts.

Science and society sub-plenary sessions

In addition to the scientific sub-plenary sessions, the congress provided nine science and society sub-plenary

sessions, each offering the opportunity for essential dialogue in forest research and sustainability. The sessions featured keynote presentations and expert panel dialogues between scientists, business leaders and other stakeholders, while exploring the critical role of forests and forest science for a sustainable society, see Table 3. The sessions provided delegates with innovative strategies, interdisciplinary insights and practical tools to navigate the future of forest research and sustainable resilient societal development towards 2050.

Table 2. Sub-plenary sessions – 17 Scientific sessions (abstracts) and 9 Science and Society sessions

Date	Number of sessions
Monday 24 June	5 Sub-plenary sessions (3 scientific + 2 science/society)
Tuesday 25 June	5 Sub-plenary sessions (3 scientific + 2 science/society)
Thursday 27 June	7 Sub-plenary sessions (6 scientific + 1 science/society)
Friday 28 June	9 Sub-plenary sessions (7 scientific + 2 science/society)
Saturday 29 June	5 Sub-plenary sessions (3 scientific + 2 science/society)

Table 3. Science and Society Sub-plenary Sessions

Theme	Title	Number of sessions
1. Strengthening forest resilience and adaptation to stress	President's Discussion "Translating scientific research into effective forest management to meet multiple societal objectives: challenges and opportunities"	1
2. Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy	Scaling up the Exchange Between Forest Science and Business	1
3. Forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services		0
4. Forests for sustainable societies	International Forest Governance: A Comprehensive Global Review Forest Governance in Regions – A Stakeholder Dialogue Ministerial panel – Decisive Roles of Forests Towards 2050	3
5. Forests for the future	Forest Futures Compelling Communication – Reshaping the Sustainable Wood Narrative Leadership for Sustainability – Overcoming Challenges in Forest Research Power of Youth in Scaling Multisectoral Collaboration: The role of forests in achieving the vision for 2050	4
Total number of sessions		9

Technical sessions

Technical sessions (Table 4) were held in the mornings and in the afternoons, except on the excursion day, opening day and closing day. The result was 1 607 presentations in up to 30 parallel rooms distributed over 186 simultaneous technical sessions evenly distributed across themes.

E-poster sessions

E-poster sessions, with short oral presentations, were held every day during lunchtime. Since multiple presentations were presented simultaneously in an open floor area, the audio was live streamed online as a *Silent meeting*. A total of 1 471 short oral poster presentations were given in the e-poster area, which included 30 e-poster screens. The abstracts accepted as poster were available in the *Congress app* throughout the congress.

Table 4. Technical sessions by theme						
Date	THEME 1: Strengthening forest resilience and adaptation to stress	THEME 2: Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy	THEME 3: Forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services	THEME 4: Forests for sustainable societies	THEME 5: Forests for the future	
Monday 24 June	6	5	5	5	7	
Tuesday 25 June	14	10	10	11	11	
Thursday 27 June	12	9	10	11	9	
Friday 28 June	15	8	11	9	13	
Total	47	32	36	36	40	191



2.3 AWARD WINNERS

IUFRO is dedicated to recognizing outstanding contributions to forest research globally and presents awards to researchers across various categories related to forestry. These include the Scientific Achievement Award (SAA), Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA), International Student Award for Excellence in Forest Science (ISA) and Best Poster Award (BPA), as well as the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) and Honorary Memberships. The International Council and the Board of IUFRO are assisted by an Honours and Awards Committee (appointed by the Board) in deciding on recipients of the various honours and awards. The Congress Organizing Committee appointed the Host Country Scientific Awards. During the congress week, a total of 88 IUFRO awards (10 SAA, 9 ODRA, 9 ISA, 54 BPA, 4 DSA and 2 Honorary Memberships) were announced, plus 3 recipients of the Congress Host Scientific Award.

Honorary awards

The IUFRO Distinguished Service Award (DSA) Winners

The IUFRO Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recognizes those whose work has substantially contributed to furthering the scientific, technical, and organizational aims of IUFRO.

- **Professor Mauro Agnoletti**, Italy
- **Professor Dr. Max Krott**, Germany
- **Dr. Elisabeth Johann**, Austria
- **Professor Gun Lidestav**, Sweden



The Honorary Membership of IUFRO Winners

IUFRO's highest award acknowledges persons who have rendered particularly important and outstanding services to IUFRO.

- **Professor Michael Wingfield**, South Africa
- **Professor Björn Hånell**, Sweden



- **Professor Jan Stenlid**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- **Professor Liisa Tyrväinen**, Natural Resources Institute, Finland
- **Professor Algirdas Augustaitis**, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Host Scientific Award Winners

This award honours one or more truly outstanding scientists from the congress host countries who has elevated the profile of forest science and research. The recipients of this prestigious awards should be regarded as pre-eminent forest scientists of contemporary times in the host country/countries. They should have an unchallengeable international standing in the scientific community, and should be either still professionally active or recently, within 5 years, retired.

Scientific Achievement Award (SAA) Winners

Up to 10 awards will be given in recognition of distinguished individual scientific achievements within the fields of research covered by IUFRO. Nominations may be made by a member of the nominee's parent organization, by Coordinators of IUFRO Divisions, research groups, working parties and task forces, and by other office-holders and knowledgeable persons associated with IUFRO. Nominees must either belong to a IUFRO member organization or be individual members of IUFRO.



- **Dr. Eckehard Brockerhoff**, Switzerland
- **Dr. Jiquan Chen**, U.S.A.
- **Dr. Carol Jean Pierce Colfer**, U.S.A.
- **Dr. Shannon Hagerman**, Canada
- **Dr. Henrik Hartmann**, Germany
- **Dr. Cindy Prescott**, Canada
- **Dr. John Sessions**, U.S.A.
- **Dr. Ge Sun**, U.S.A.
- **Dr. Chung-Jui (CJ) Tsai**, U.S.A.
- **Dr. Brenda Wingfield**, South Africa

Outstanding Doctoral Research Award (ODRA) Winners

One award per IUFRO Division will be given to recognize path-breaking doctoral dissertations completed in the period 2018–2023 within the fields of research covered by IUFRO. Nominations may be made by a member of the nominee's parent organization, by Coordinators of IUFRO Divisions, research groups, working parties, task forces and by other officeholders and knowledgeable persons associated with IUFRO. Nominees must either belong to a IUFRO member organizations or be individual members of IUFRO.

- **Dr. Stanislas Zanvo**, Benin
- **Dr. Josephine Queffelec**, Canada
- **Dr. Pipiet Larasatie**, U.S.A.
- **Dr. Adrián Pascual**, U.S.A.
- **Dr. Elena Marra**, Italy
- **Dr. Juliette Archambeau**, UK
- **Dr. Maija Kaarina Lampela**, Finland
- **Dr. Sandrine Brèteau-Amores**, France
- **Dr. Tuo He**, China



IUFRO Student Award for Excellence in Forest Science (ISA) Winners

This award recognizes outstanding individual achievements in forest science made by Masters degree students (or equivalent) completed in the period 2018–2023, in order to encourage their further work within the fields of research covered by IUFRO. One award per IUFRO Division may be made for work related to the themes of the IUFRO World Congress 2024. Nominations can be made through IUFRO members and through the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) via the IFSA Secretariat/Liaison Officer.



- **Annie Biju**, India
- **Liam Gilson**, Canada
- **Aline Krolow Soares**, Brazil
- **Apsana Kafle**, Canada
- **Sara Motte**, Belgium
- **Aditi Mishra**, India
- **Barbara Öllerer**, Austria
- **Kamana Poudel**, U.S.A.
- **Seongmin Shin**, Indonesia

Best Poster Award (BPA) Winners

The Best Poster Award (Table 5, 6 and 7) is granted to encourage public dissemination of high-quality research and to recognize distinguished poster presentations during the IUFRO World Congress by under-graduate students, graduate students and individuals who completed their graduate degrees up to seven years prior to the congress.

Table 5. Best Poster Award Winners – Divisions

Division	Poster	Awardee	Country
1 Silviculture	Do tree-mediated greenhouse gas emissions offset blue carbon in mangroves?	Julio Salas-Rabaza	Mexico
	The influence of retention forestry on reforestation success following dieback of Norway spruce stands	Mareike Mohr	Germany
	Leaf morpho-physiological traits of <i>Populus sibirica</i> and <i>Ulmus pumila</i> in different irrigation regimes and fertilizer types	Byambadorj Ser-Oddamba	Mongolia
2 Physiology and Genetics	De novo assembly of the <i>Ulmus minor</i> genome	Jorge Pallares-Zazo	Spain
	A candidate gene association analysis identifies SNPs potentially involved in several abiotic stress tolerance in European beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> L.)	Cesare Garosi	Italy
	Genetic diversity, population structure and demographic history in <i>Fagus crenata</i>	Cheng-Yun Lai	Japan
3 Forest Operations Engineering and Management	Stone pine shows no trade-offs between growth and survival over its distribution range	Carlos Guadaño-Peyrot	Spain
	Optimizing support systems for cut-to-length machine operators – Current use and future visions	Heli Kymäläinen	Finland
4 Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management	Adapting forests to climate change: evaluating opportunities and risks of non-native tree species on ecosystem services	Julia Konic	Austria
	Employing a dynamic approach for habitat tree selection in temperate forests of Europe	Andreea Spinu	Germany
	Tree diversity increases forest temperature buffering	Florian Schnabel	Germany
5 Forest Products	Seizing new business opportunities? Financial competitiveness and value creation in wood construction element value-chain	Atte Koskivaara	Finland
	Next generation carbon stock and stock change modelling in wood use: towards contributing to climate change mitigation pathways	Cleo (Timokleia) Orfanidou	Finland
	Are non-timber forest products concentrated at regional and state level in Brazil?	Felipe Corrêa Ribeiro	Brazil
6 Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry	Environmental DNA analysis as a supporting tool for assessing soil biodiversity changes in new urban forests	Andrea Viviano	Italy
	Exploring forest stakeholders' perspectives on payment for ecosystem services in the European Union	Diana Carolina Huertas Bernal	Czech Republic
7 Forest Health	Relating farm and landscape tree structural properties to fall armyworm (<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i> J. E. Smith) management in Africa: Evidence from Zambia	Clement Naabeh	Ghana
	Susceptibility of South African pine material to infection by <i>Dothistroma septosporum</i> in Colombia	Ginna Marcela Granados Benavides	Colombia
	Establishment of serological detection methods for novel emaraviruses in oak and ash trees	Marius Rehaneck	Germany
8 Forest Environment	Early overyielding in mixed plantations is driven by above- and belowground species-specific adaptation	Ramona Werner	Austria
	Effects of natural and anthropogenic factors on mammal distribution in Htamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary, Myanmar	Myo Min Latt	South Korea
	When does a new urban forest become a real CO ₂ sink? A case study in Florence, Italy	Jacopo Manzini	Italy
9 Forest Policy and Economics	Could developing countries achieve industrial sustainable development? – Take China's forestry industrial policy as an example	Yulan Sun	China
	Forest governance in the Baltic region – Sustainability pathways for adaptive and inclusive forest governance	Alessandra Giolo	Sweden

Table 6. Best Poster Award Winners – Themes

Theme	Poster	Awardee	Country
1 Strengthening forest resilience and adaptation to stress	How “close-to-nature” are forest disturbance regimes in managed forests in Germany?	Kirsten Krüger	Germany
	Evaluating post-fire recovery of six 2017 summer fires in Sicily with Sentinel-2 time series analysis	Chiara Zabeo	Italy
	Climate change impacts on Norway spruce in Eastern Europe: Early warning signals of forest decline	Andrei Popa	Romania
2 Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy	Optimizing the forest bioeconomy: Balancing biological limits and empowering local communities	Diana Carolina Huertas Bernal	Czech Republic
	Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on private forest landowners in the Southern United States: Challenges and opportunities	Ana Patricia Cubas Baez	United States
	A survey of Swedish hardwood sawmills	Grace Jones	Ireland
3 Forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services	Bat sonotype as a novel insight into the Congo basin rainforest dynamic	Yoba Alenga	Democratic Republic of the Congo
	Survival and growth of <i>Acacia senegal</i> (L.) Wild. (<i>Senegalia senegal</i> (L.) Britton) provenances depend on the rainfall at the site of origin	Oulimata Diatta	Senegal
	Efficiency measurement of ecological conservation and restoration from the per-spective of multi-objective and multi-factor analysis	Yue Ren	China
4 Forests for sustainable societies	Strengthening inter-sectoral convergence in ecological mangrove restoration of abandoned brackish-water fishponds in the Philippines	John Benrich Zuniga	Philippines
	Local community perception on the ecotourism potentialities of the delta mono biosphere reserve in Southern Benin	Dadele S. Grâce Vicentia D.	Benin
	A spatial framework for investment allocation under tree-planting policies: Outcomes for costs, land use, and human equity	Madisen Fuller	United States
5 Forests for the future	Assessing primary vegetation recovery from earthquake-Induced landslide scars in Japan’s boreal forests: RTK-UAV Approach	Yasutaka Nakata	Japan
	Quantifying the aboveground proportion of sapwood-heartwood volume of urban trees with the use of terrestrial laser scanning technology	Georgios Arseniou	United States

Table 7. Best Poster Award Winners – Task forces

Task force	Poster	Awardee	Country
Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education	Advocating for forestry as a topic in high school curriculum Education and training using virtual reality technology – an application in forestry	Jilian Princess Bathan Elena Marra	Philippines Italy
Monitoring Global Tree Mortality Patterns and Trends	A combination of climate change and forest regeneration browsing by ungulates can trigger large-scale degradation of Central European forests	Marco Baldo	Sweden
	No increased mortality from drought stress in thinned stands: results from a meta-analysis	Julius Willig	Germany
Forests and Water Interactions in a Changing Environment	Understanding the relationship of forest and water dynamics in a changing climate regime: Insights from a tropical deciduous watershed	Manisha Singh	India
	From the soil to the sky: The power of the red mangrove to move up water and contribute water to the atmosphere	Sara Gabriela Cerón Aguilera	Mexico
Gender Equality in Forestry	Changes in cyclist patterns in a State Park: a gender perspective	Emerson Soldado	Brazil
	First indigenous women volunteer wild-land fire brigade in Brazil: From spectators to effective agents of integrated fire management	Ana Luiza Violato Espada	Brazil
Resilient Planted Forests Serving Society & Bioeconomy	Leaf traits of understory species are changing in response to climate change in the Congo Basin forests	Tumaini Hatangi Yves	Democratic Republic of the Congo (Zaire)
	Impact of bamboo on nutrient cycling and soil carbon stocks in highlands of Kenya	Riziki Mwalu	Kenya
Unlocking the Bioeconomy and Non-Timber Forest Products	Towards territorial forest-based bioeconomies through value webs from native palms in Colombia	Ricardo Vargas Carpintero	Germany
	Woody debris volume and nutrient retention following conventional pulpwood and wood pellet feedstock harvests in the southeastern US	Hannah Bays	United States
	Xate leaves (<i>Chamaedorea</i> spp.) and Ramón seeds (<i>Brosimum alicastrum</i> Sw.), a bioeconomy example in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala	Juan Pablo Rodríguez Garavito	Colombia
Transforming Forest Landscapes for Future Climates and Human Well-Being	Decision making factors influencing land use transformation and its implication on forest landscape restoration in Ethiopia	Shibire Bekele Eshetu	Germany
	Remote sensing monitoring of urban canopy dynamic across heterogeneous urban habitats	Yasong Guo	Hong Kong
	Co-creating forest management plans for better accommodation of biodiversity and a landscape perspective	Anna Karlsson	Sweden

2.4 MAKING THE MOST OF THE CONGRESS

The very first session of the IUFRO World Congress 2024 took place in the evening of 23 June. The session called *Making the Most of the Congress* provided guidance to first-time delegates on how to get the most out of the scientific sessions of the congress scientific programme as well as the time in between sessions, the congress exhibition, and other events. Following a short presentation on the structure of the scientific session by the Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee, Elena Paoletti, the participants were guided through the facilities at the Stockholmsmässan venue, received

an introduction to the congress App, were familiarised with *best practices* of exchanging information and connecting with fellow researchers, as well as building research partnerships through involvement in IUFRO activities throughout the congress week. In addition, the International Students Association, IFSA, explained the mentorship programme, bringing together experienced IUFRO scientists and students for subject-oriented exchange and learning. The event was hosted by IUFRO's Special Programme for Development of Capacities (SPDC), and moderated by Michael Kleine, Deputy Executive Director of IUFRO.

Programme for *Making the most of the congress*:

- **Welcome** by Fredrik Ingemarson, Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee
- **IUFRO – The Global Forest Science Network** a short video
- **Scientific programme of the Congress** by Elena Paoletti, Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee
 - Structure and objectives of scientific sessions
 - Types of sessions: plenary, sub-plenary, technical, business meetings, side events
- **Congress facilities**
 - Stockholmsmässan Congress Centre
 - Catering, other facilities, social events
 - Poster Exhibition

• **IUFRO Congress app and Exhibition**

- Congress communications
- Use of Congress App
- Exhibition
- IFSA-IUFRO Mentorship Programme, by Alina Lehtikoinen

• **Delegate's guide** by Michael Kleine, IUFRO HQ

- Organising your individual daily programme
- Getting in contact with fellow researchers

• **Exploring possibilities for cooperation & networking**

• **Q&A session**

- **Closing remarks** by Michael Kleine, Deputy Executive Director of IUFRO



2.5 PARTNER SIDE EVENTS

The number of partner side events were limited. In total, seven side events (Table 8) were organized by partners during lunchtime, including notable co-hosted events based on collaborations (e.g. IKEA, the Swedish Forest Agency and World Forest ID) and side events co-hosted by the arena Public Sweden. These events typically lasted one hour each and were held in rooms with a capacity of up to 200 seats. The side events were well-attended and received positive feedback from participants, serving as an appreciated addition to the regular scientific programme.

Table 8. Partner side events

Side event title	Organization
Five Public Sweden Perspectives: The Role of Forests for Society – Beyond Wood and Carbon	Formas, Sida, the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management
“Sow a Seed” – 25 years of IKEA-funded rainforest restoration in Borneo: Lessons learned and the future	IKEA
Using forensic methods, AI and ‘origin science’ to improve traceability and increase the integrity of forest supply chains	Swedish Forest Agency, Co-hosted side event with IKEA and World Forest ID
22 years of learning from a WWF and IKEA long-term partnership and collaboration for forests, biodiversity and people	WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature
Towards more biodiverse forests – Scientific knowledge steers biodiversity actions for the Finnish wood processing industry	Finnish Forest Industries Federation
A Forest Future for All: Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa	CIFOR-ICRAF
“The Friendly Forest 2050” – Towards a new emphasis on social values and recreational needs in forests for the common good	Swedish Association of Outdoor Organizations

2.6 INNOVATION STAGE

The Innovation Stage at the IUFRO World Congress 2024 was a platform where invited guest speakers, including entrepreneurs, global companies, NGOs, researchers, and decision-makers, showcased the latest developments in their fields. The stage offered unparalleled exposure and the chance to connect with influential stakeholders. The focus was on forward-thinking solutions aligned with the theme Forest and Society Towards 2050, emphasising sustainability, climate action and innovation. The concept of the Innovation stage, connecting science with practice, was brand new for the IUFRO World Congress.



Each day, the Innovation Stage featured a specific theme to guide discussions and presentations, aligning with the overall focus of the congress week:

- Monday 24 June: *Forests for Sustainable Societies and Future Societies*
- Tuesday 25 June: *Strengthening Forest Resilience and Adaptation to Stress*
- Thursday 27 June: *Towards a Responsible Forest Bioeconomy*
- Friday 28 June: *Forest Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services*

These themes provided a framework for addressing critical challenges and opportunities in forest management, products and services, focusing on innovative strategies for a more sustainable and resilient future. The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) organized and moderated sessions as well as facilitated audience engagement throughout the week. The presentations and dialogues at the Innovation stage were inspiring, serving as a suitable addition to the regular scientific programme. It was truly appreciated among delegates, partners and other stakeholders.



2.7 GREEN JOB ARENA

The Green Job Arena was a dynamic space where attendees could network and engage in discussions about the future of green forest jobs. It focused on preparing the forestry workforce for upcoming challenges such as bioeconomy demands, climate change and biodiversity loss. The arena attracted experts, employers, employees, students and organizations who discussed various aspects of forest jobs, including talent needs, gender inclusion, mentorship programmes and sustainable practices. The concept of an arena that focuses exclusively on green jobs and skills supply was well received. The Green Job Arena was a new concept and has not

previously been applied at the IUFRO World Congress. The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) was actively present throughout the week in the Green Job Arena, staffing their own dedicated booth. As co-hosts, they helped maintain the arena and ensured it operated smoothly. Similar to their role at the Innovation Stage, they assisted in preparing and supporting guest speakers and facilitating audience engagement by handling questions. Additionally, they organised networking events and opportunities specifically for students and delegates, playing a key role in bridging the gap between young professionals and established experts in the forestry sector.



The Stockholm Congress Statement is the output document from the XXVI IUFRO World Congress, distilled from the deliberations on *Forests and Society towards 2050*. These messages are considered central to ensuring the survival of forest ecosystems and human well-being around the world, and to guiding the transformations needed for a sustainable future for all. Decisive actions 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.

3.1 DECISIVE ACTIONS

The XXVI IUFRO World Congress calls for resolute and equitable actions and best use of knowledge provided by the global science community for informed and far-sighted decisions. The Congress 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.



Climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental pollution and mounting social injustice are among the most severe crises the world is facing today. Tackling these interlinked crises requires resolute and equitable actions and everyone must take responsibility in their own sphere of influence.

The congress urges to make best use of the knowledge of the global science community to:

- strengthen forest resilience and climate adaptation
- maintain and enhance the social values of forests for sustainable societies
- expand the role of forests and forest products in a responsible circular bioeconomy and
- transform forest-related sciences for the future.



3.2 PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

Actions at all levels in line with these messages can contribute to maintaining a stable planet that continues to support life and human well-being. The Stockholm Congress Statement was presented in the congress closing ceremony on 29 June 2024. The Statement is the output document of the congress and the result of a thorough participatory drafting process. The Statement is available in English, German, French and Spanish on the IUFRO World Congress 2024 website (iufro2024.com).

3.3 NORDIC AND BALTIC INPUT

The Nordic and Baltic host countries have provided significant input to the IUFRO Stockholm Congress Statement. The regional contribution provided key messages about roles and needs towards 2050 directed to researchers and policymakers, aiming to provide strategic guidance, and enabling bold action. The Nordic and Baltic contribution can be found on the IUFRO World Congress 2024 website (iufro2024.com).



In total, 4 204 people attended the congress, including scientists, students, invited guests, honorary members, stakeholders from international organizations and the business sector, and political representatives. Delegates from 110 countries attended, the majority coming from European and North American countries.

4.1 SCOPE OF THE CONGRESS

Countries: 110

Registered participants: 4 204

Scientific authors: 13 523

Oral presentations: 1 607

Short oral poster presentations: 1 471

Sessions scientific programme: 437

Parallel technical sessions: 28

Session organizers: 211

Pre- and post-excursions: 5

In-congress excursions: 15

In-congress participants: 3 251

Excursion partners: 82

Student volunteers: 82

Official partners: 34

Website visits in June: 43 000

Delegates from 110 countries from all over the world attended the congress. The majority of the participants came from Europe and North America, with Sweden having the largest delegation of 736 participants.

Nine countries had over 100 participants at the congress. Of the 24 countries that had more than 40 participants (Figure 2), 14 were from Europe. Brazil, which hosted the congress in 2019, was represented by 82 participants, while 79 participants came from Kenya, the host country of the next, 27th IUFRO World Congress in 2029. From the Global South – China (202), Brazil (82), Kenya (79), India (60), Indonesia (44)

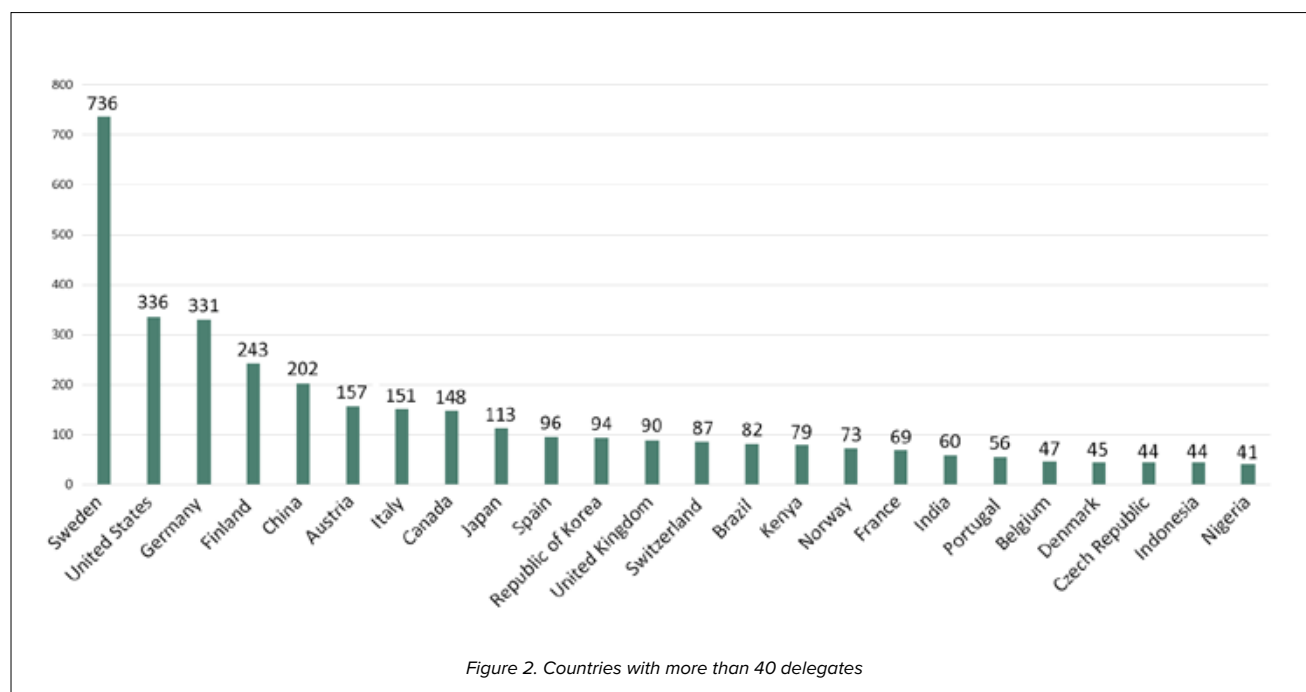
Table 9. Registered delegates

Registered delegates per category	Number
IUFRO member, Developed countries	1 385
Non member, Developed countries	769
IUFRO member, Developing countries	402
Non member, Developing countries	189
Students	743
Seniors	62
One-day	170
Accompanying person	58
Others	35
Non paying/invited delegates	
Speakers/Guests/IFSA	102
Exhibitors and partners	158
Press	49
Others	82
Total number of registered delegates:	4 204



and Nigeria (41) were among the countries with more than 40 participants. Researchers from Economically Disadvantaged Country (EDC) countries had the opportunity to apply for sponsorship grants through IUFRO's

Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP). Also worth noting is that countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Nepal had around 15 participants each.



4.2 GENDER AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY

In the bid to host the 26th IUFRO World Congress, SLU highlighted the Swedish model of fostering inclusion and equality as a cornerstone of its organizational values. This commitment was evident throughout the congress, already starting with the pre-congress activities, which prioritized gender, age, and geographical diversity. These principles guided the selection of panel discussion participants, keynote speakers, and representatives at marketing and rallying events leading up to the congress. Furthermore, this dedication was mirrored in newsletters, videos, and other promotional materials, where efforts were made to feature the diversity of the forest science community.

The 26th IUFRO World Congress achieved unprecedented levels of diversity and inclusion among its delegates. Among the 4 204 participants, 43% identified as women, 54% as men, and 3% as unspecified (Figure 3 and Table 10). The congress also attracted a record-breaking number of students, with 743 student attendees participating in person during the congress week.

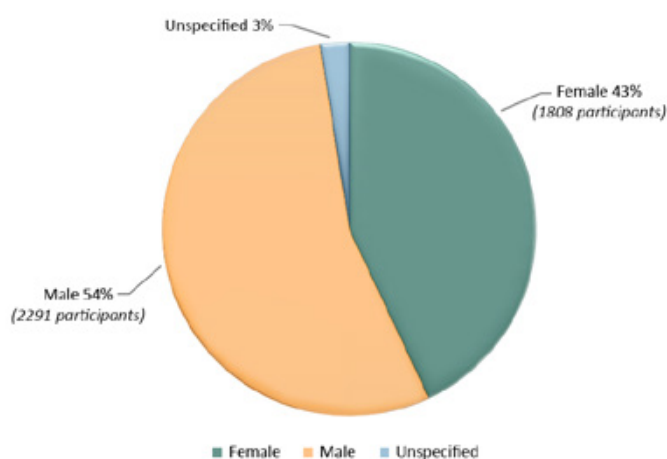
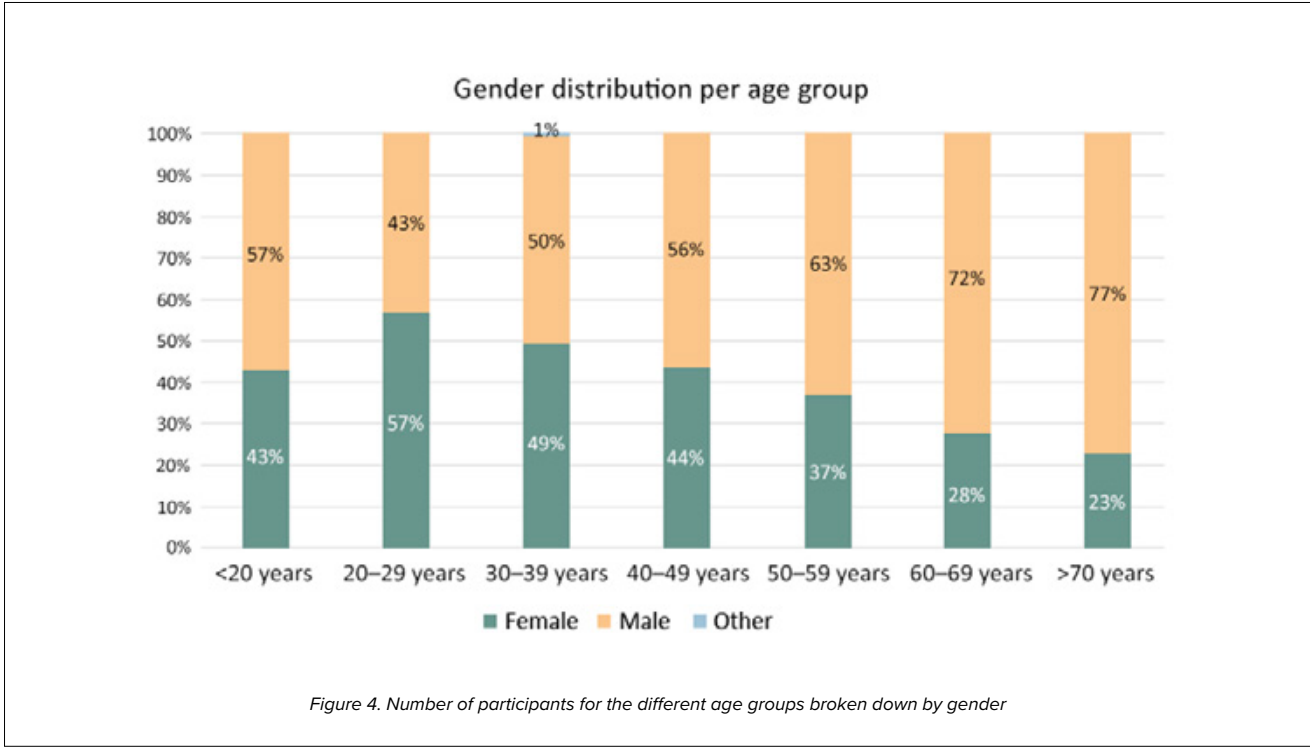


Figure 3. Congress participants, gender ratio

The event reflected the ongoing demographic shift within the forest research community, indicating that more women choose a career in forest research. This trend was particularly noticeable in age distribution. Women represented the majority in the under-29 category and reached parity in the 30–39 age group, whereas men remained the majority in the 40+ categories (Figure 4 and Table 10).

*Unspecified (N/A) in Figure 3 and Table 10, refers to individuals who either received a one-day ticket or registered without needing to provide information about their age or gender, such as accompanying persons.

Table 10. The number of delegates by age and gender					
Age range	Female	Male	Other	Unspecified (N/A)*	Total per age group or N/A
< 20 years	3	4			7
20–29 years	337	254	2		593
30–39 years	570	579	8		1157
40–49 years	473	609	3		1085
50–59 years	297	498			795
60–69 years	109	286	1		396
> 70 years	18	61			79
N/A	1			91	92
Total	1808	2291	14	91	4204



The scientific programme for the World Congress was carefully curated by the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC). While efforts were made to ensure diversity, men predominated as session organizers, with 120 appearances (54%) compared to 92 appearances by women (46%). Furthermore, representation among session organizers was heavily in favour of the Global North, accounting for 201 appearances, while only 11 appearances came from the Global South (Figure 5).

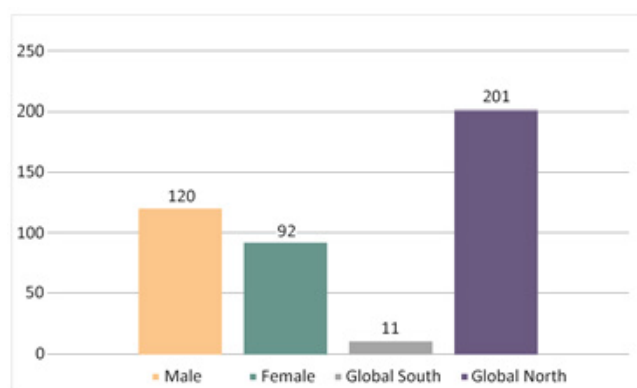


Figure 5. Session organizers by gender and geographical ratio

The programme featured a total of 3 029 presenters from 95 countries, with 1 666 male speakers, 1 352 female speakers, and 11 unspecified speakers. Out of the additional 10 keynote speakers, 7 were female and 3 were male.

Presenters from the Global South significantly outnumbered presenters from the Global North, with 1 901 presenters (63%) from 66 countries in the Global South, and 1 128 speakers (37%) from 29 countries in the Global North (Figure 6).

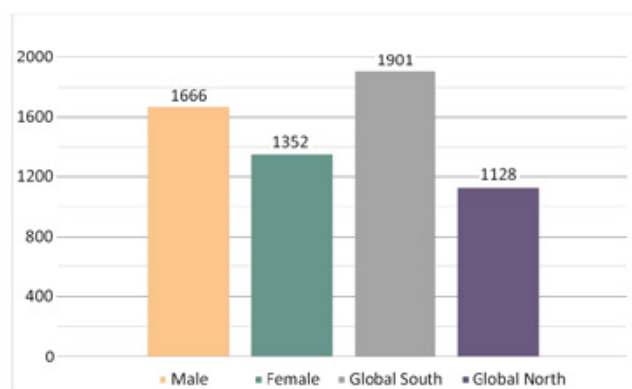


Figure 6. Session Speakers, gender and geographical ratio

The host organizations IUFRO and SLU demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting gender equality, diversity, and inclusion. Recognizing that the global forest science community remains predominantly male, the Congress Organizing Committee and the congress secretariat deliberately prioritized female participants in all external events and activities leading up to the congress week.

This commitment was also evident in all communication efforts, including marketing and in-house news coverage published on the congress website, social media platforms, and newsletters. Geographically, the ambition was to highlight researchers and stakeholders from the Global South through interviews and photography.

From September 2023 until the final day of the congress in June 2024, the congress secretariat produced 67 in-house news articles. Women were prominently featured in 42 of these articles, serving as the principal interviewees in both text and accompanying photos. In comparison, men were the focus of 25 articles. Regarding geographical representation, 46 articles featured interviewees from the Global North, while 21 articles highlighted voices from the Global South (Figure 7).

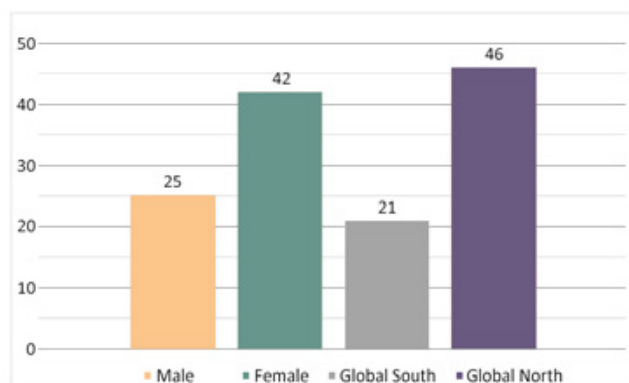


Figure 7. In-house news articles divided by gender and geography

4.3 ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROGRAMME

The registered accompanying persons were invited to the opening and closing ceremonies and the welcome receptions. A two-hour guided city tour of Stockholm was arranged for the registered accompanying persons on Tuesday, 25 June. In addition, they had access to the IUFRO 2024 exhibition and the seven-day Stockholm Metro card, which was included in the congress fee. Only registered participants were given access to register an accompanying person.

The result was on budget with a net zero balance between revenues and the costs. This is a strong result considering the unsecure global development prior to the congress, including the pandemic, geopolitics and travel restrictions. Prior to the congress, trend analysis and performance evaluation were the primary focus of the management and financial reporting activities of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC). In this chapter, the financial report for the IUFRO World Congress 2024 is presented in relation to the bid from the Nordic and Baltic countries, dated May 2017, and the contract dated August 2018.

In general, the costs were higher for the congress in comparison to the budget in the bid. Individual costs items were affected by inflation and increased prices. These costs were covered by the funds set aside for unforeseen costs and rise in prices together with higher revenues from the research councils.

The fee to IUFRO was delivered in accordance to the final contract. Beyond what was included in the bid, the contract included metro cards and food for the delegates.

5.1 REVENUE

- Revenues from research councils was double compared to the bid for 4 000 delegates.
- In accordance with the bid, the research councils covered the revenue for the contributions for the Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP).
- The contributions from sponsorship and the exhibition, including official and other partners, was in line with the budget.
- The revenue generated from the fees for the gala dinner was lower than the bid. The gala dinner was changed to an outdoor event, in accordance with preferences of the IUFRO Management Committee.
- The revenue from congress fees was higher in comparison to the bid, due to increased prices and the additional cost for the delegates' metro cards and food.
- to inflation and increased prices of the premises, technicians and equipment.
- Marketing and information to delegates included the cost for the congress app.
- The cost for sponsorship and exhibition coordination was higher in the financial report. The market and the economic development was weak during the years prior to the congress, thereby the capacities invested in coordinating the sponsorship and exhibition was larger than in the bid.
- The cost for the exhibition was an important strategic feature of the congress, including the *Innovation stage* and the *Green Job Arena*, as well as the PCO cost for coordinating the exhibition.
- The cost for proceedings and invited guest speakers was lower due to the digital approach with no printed book of abstracts. Instead, the strategy was to use a strong platform for the congress app, including abstracts.
- The cost for in-congress excursions was higher, due to increased prices and an extensive programme, in line with the expectations by the COC.
- The cost for the gala dinner/outdoor event was lower than the bid. Still, revenues from the delegates did not cover all the costs for the outdoor event.
- An additional cost was added for volunteers' travel and accommodation in order to insure a strong geographical and gender diversity among the volunteers.

5.2 COSTS

- The venue cost was higher in the financial report for the congress than the bid for 4 000 delegates, due



- Due to global travel restrictions, the PCO's costs for logistics management were higher in comparison to the bid for 4 000 delegates, which required additional efforts by the PCO.

TABLE 11. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE CONGRESS

Revenue	SEK
Contributions for SAP	2 750 000
Congress fees	25 968 253
Research councils	5 250 000
Sponsors and exhibitors	7 676 210
Gala dinner fees	818 800
Other revenue	513 433
Total revenue	42 976 696
Costs	SEK
Venue cost	-9 388 387
Marketing and information to delegates	-386 194
Website	-198 349
Sponsorship and exhibition coordination	-1 944 085
Exhibition	-2 547 764
Invited guest speakers	-257 219
Social activities	-1 504 241
In-congress excursions	-2 241 861
Volunteers travel and accommodation	-518 137
Licensing fee to IUFRO	-6 363 795
Funds for SAP	-2 745 719
Logistical management by PCO	-1 102 000
Delegate PCO cost	-1 439 478
Food and beverage	-6 425 919
Abstract system	-1 865 826
Local organizing on-site	-358 557
Transports	-1 705 867
On-site registration and staff, PCO	-978 585
Other costs	-1 004 713
Total costs	-42 976 696

- In accordance to the suggestion by the COC and the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) the Management Committee took a strategic decision to invest in a strong platform for the abstract system, with extended support for the CSC. The item included the abstract system and e-poster system.
- Other costs included currency differences, credit costs, guides for accompanying persons and internal adjustment with IUFRO.

TABLE 12. NORDIC AND BALTIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CONGRESS SECRETARIAT 2023–2024

Governmental authorities	SEK
Swedish governmental authorities	14 050 012
Nordic and Baltic governmental authorities	4 051 461
Nordic Council of Ministers and Nordic Forest Research	3 278 293
Total	21 379 766

The COC has delivered a result in accordance with the bid and the contract between IUFRO and the host organisation SLU. The result of the congress, with a balance between revenues and costs would not have been possible, without funding from governmental authorities in all the Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) and Baltic (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania) host countries. This funding adequately covered personnel costs for the congress secretariat.

Through the Congress Organising Committee, the secretariat established a strong partnership with the Nordic Council of Ministers and worked from the start to ensure that the Nordic Forest Research would be an important partner for the congress. The congress secretariat was core funded through SLU's annual state grants and grants from other Swedish authorities, with Formas being the largest contributor outside SLU. The Swedish Forest Agency supported the secretariat with several secondments during 2023 and 2024. The financial support from authorities in the Nordic and Baltic countries amounted to approximately SEK 21 million for the years 2023 and 2024 (Table 12).

The congress ceremonies serve as traditional ceremonial elements during the congress week with frequent awards ceremonies and opportunities for the host countries to present the culture of the region. The opening ceremonies are an opportunity for IUFRO and the host countries to set the scene for the congress week.

The closing ceremony provides an overview of the week, presents the Congress statement and hands over the flag to the next congress host country. The 2024 IUFRO World Congress organized the following ceremonies: Tree Planting Ceremony, Opening of the Exhibitions, Opening Ceremony and Awards, and finally Closing Ceremony and Awards.

6.1 TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

The Tree Planting Ceremony served as the inaugural event of the IUFRO World Congress 2024. The ceremony is a longstanding tradition within IUFRO, representing resilience and the connection between generations and continents. It also allows the host country to present the regional culture and traditions related to forest and wood usage. The ceremony was held on Sunday 23 June 2024 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Skansen open-air museum in Stockholm.

The programme included a mingle, high-level speeches by the IUFRO President, the Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee, the Dean and students of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and representatives from the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry and Skansen. The Allmänna Sängen academic choir performed throughout the programme. Two oaks were planted during the ceremony, representing resilience and the connection between generations and continents.

Invitations were extended to the congress delegates, media, high-level representatives from IUFRO, partner host countries and congress partners. Approximately 600 guests and delegates participated in the ceremony. The ceremony also included a traditional Midsummer celebration with dancing and entertainment, which offered participants a unique opportunity to experience a cherished Nordic tradition. Two pine trees were planted in the Entrance hall of Stockholmsmässan Exhibition & Congress Centre and after the congress they were re-planted, for future generations to enjoy, together with the two oaks on the Orsakullen at the open air museum Skansen.





6.2 OPENING CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony was held on Monday 24 June from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Victoria Hall of Stockholmssmässan Exhibition & Congress Centre. The Victoria Hall accommodated 2 000 guests and was fully seated. The event was also streamed to a parallel room. The master of ceremonies led the programme, which included speeches by the Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee; the IUFRO President; His Majesty the King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden; the Swedish Minister for Rural Affairs; the Vice-Chancellor of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU); the Austrian Federal Minister for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management; the President of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA); the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Chief Executive Officer/Director-General of CIFOR-ICRAF.

The IUFRO flag was ceremonially raised by SLU students under the supervision of the chairs of the Congress Organizing and Scientific Committees. The Congress Organizing Committee was acknowledged for their work on stage. The Host Country Awards were handed over in a ceremony to three outstanding scientists from the Baltic and Nordic regions and Sweden. The winners were Professor Algirdas Augustaitis, Lithuania; Professor Liisa Tyrväinen, Finland; and Professor Jan Stenlid, Sweden. Swedish folk musicians and Swedish folk dancers performed throughout the programme. Last, members of the audience were given highlights for the congress week ahead.



6.3 CLOSING CEREMONY

The Closing Ceremony was held on Saturday 29 June from 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Victoria Hall of Stockholmssmässan Exhibition & Congress Centre. The hall was not fully seated. The master of ceremonies led the programme, which included speeches by the Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee and the Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers. Highlights from the congress were shown on the large screen.

The Stockholm Congress Statement was presented by the IUFRO President and the Chair of the Congress Scientific Committee. The congress secretariat as well as the Scientific Committee were then acknowledged and invited on stage. The Distinguished Service Award was given to Professor Mauro Agnoletti, Italy; Dr. Elisabeth Johann, Austria; Professor Dr. Max Krott, Germany; and Professor Gun Lidestav, Sweden. Professor Michael Wingfield and Professor Björn Olof Hånell became IUFRO honorary members and gave speeches. Thereafter, the new IUFRO board members were presented on stage. The new IUFRO President, Professor Daniela Kleinschmit, was welcomed to her new assignment and gave a speech.



During the flag ceremony, the flag was handed over to the new host country of IUFRO World Congress 2029, Kenya. The IUFRO flag ceremony was attended by representatives of the Kenyan and Swedish government, as well the outgoing and incoming chairs of the Congress Organizing Committee. The Kenyan ambassador to Sweden and the incoming Kenyan Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee gave speeches and launched their congress website. Finally, the Kenyan delegation was welcomed on stage and invited all attendees to Kenya for the 2029 congress. Live performances were held throughout the programme by the Swedish band ABBA the choir.

The IUFRO World Congress 2024 venue was Stockholmsmässan Exhibition & Congress Centre, Sweden's largest convention center. The venue was flexible and modern with the session rooms closely connected to the exhibition area. All services and facilities were on-site, including technical support.

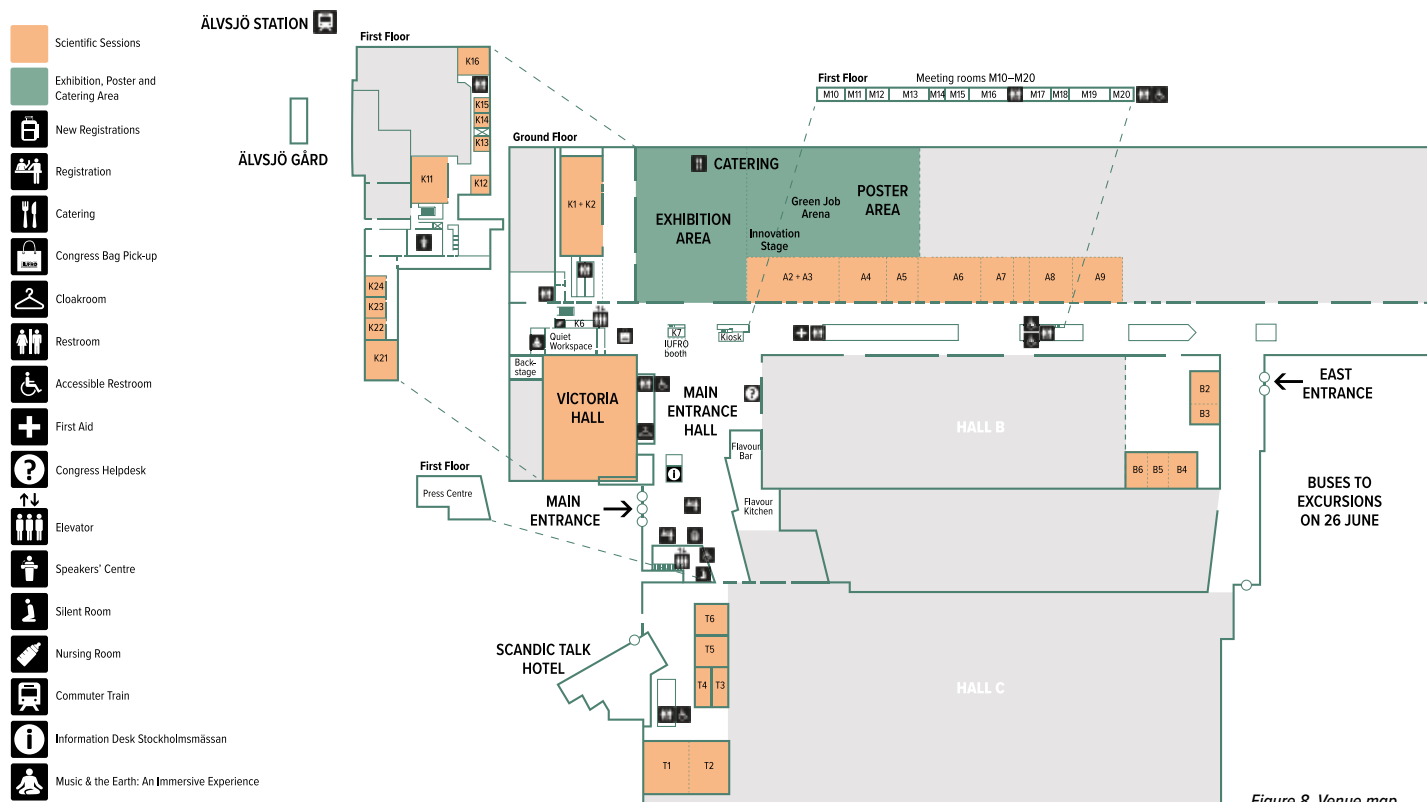


Figure 8. Venue map

7.1 ORGANIZATION

The heart of the congress was the main entrance hall and the exhibition area. Plenary sessions, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies, took place in the Victoria Hall (Figure 8), which had a seating capacity of 2 000 and was accessible from the main entrance hall. The five sub-plenary sessions were held in rooms accommodating between 430 and 2 000 participants. The 28 technical session rooms varied in size, with capacities ranging from 45 to 850 seats per room.

The opening ceremony was also streamed to a room nearby with 850 seats. From the main entrance hall, it was easy to access the exhibition area, catering services, e-poster displays, the Innovation Stage and the Green Job Arena. Delegates were greeted in the main entrance, where they could register at one of the 15 check-in

counters, pick up their credentials and collect congress materials. The area also featured a congress helpdesk, which was staffed with a team ready to assist delegates with a wide range of inquiries. The structure of the scientific events at the congress included a daily plenary session and sub-plenary sessions, including nine that focused on science and society. Technical sessions were held both in the mornings and the afternoon, except on the first and last days. A total of 191 simultaneous technical sessions were held.

The IUFRO booth was strategically located in the entrance hall, providing an excellent opportunity to share information about the organization's role in global forest research. The location also allowed for the distribution of printed materials, answering of questions and the exchange of ideas with numerous delegates.

Each session room was equipped with a presentation laptop, a fixed podium microphone, preview monitors and slide advancers/presentation clickers. Technicians were ready to assist with setup, operation and troubleshooting throughout the event.

7.2 TRANSPORT

Paying delegates received a seven-day commuter card for Stockholm public transport (metro, bus and commuter train). This was provided as a mobile ticket/voucher. Stockholmsmässan, located south-west of the city, was easy to reach by public transport, as it is just ten minutes by commuter train from Stockholm city centre. It was also possible to travel by commuter train all the way from Stockholm Arlanda Airport to Stockholmsmässan.

The Green Travel Policy for the 2024 IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm focuses on sustainable travel with reducing waste and energy consumption for eco-friendly and efficient business travel. Since more than 4 000 delegates were expected in Stockholm, this would generate CO₂ emissions. With this in mind, the Green Travel Policy was designed to provide the delegates with guidance on how to reduce emissions.

Delegates were provided with practical guidance on sustainable choices via the congress website. Travel to Stockholm was emphasized, with useful links offering alternative travel options from Europe, such as train journeys, to promote environmentally friendly transportation. Information on local transport and communications within the city, as well as connections to and from the airport, was also made available. For instance, attendees were offered a discount on the fast train service connecting the airport to the city centre. Additionally, all accommodations recommended on the congress website were certified as sustainable and had clear strategies for achieving their sustainability goals.

7.3 EXHIBITION

The official opening of the Exhibition was on Sunday 23 June at 6:00 p.m., where the IUFRO President and the Dean of Faculty of Forest Sciences at SLU participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. The congress exhibition complemented the scientific programme under the

title *From Science to Practice*. The floor plan for the exhibition was designed to create an open atmosphere, mixing the booths with networking areas to create an inviting space for delegates to mingle and network. The Innovation Stage and the Green Job Arena held central positions in the exhibition.

During the congress, the exhibition hall was open:

Monday 24 June: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.,

6:00 p.m.–7:45 p.m., welcome reception

Tuesday 25 June: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Wednesday 26 June: Closed due to excursions

Thursday 27 June: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Friday 28 June: 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

7.4 NETWORK AREAS

To create inviting networking spaces for participants, the congress secretariat partnered with Konstfack, Sweden's largest university for arts, crafts, and design. Two student groups were assigned to design networking environments, resulting in three installations: The Right of Roaming Freely in Nature, Midsummer Day and Midsummer Night. The spaces included well-utilized elements that were highly appreciated.



The Right to Roam

An enormous three piece tent was installed, symbolizing the right to move freely in nature and inviting delegates to roam the forests. The tent was made of spun and woven fabric from Swedish FSC stamped wood – exemplifying traditional wood craftsmanship combined with new technologies. Two pines in the tent were re-planted after the event as a legacy of the IUFRO World Congress 2024 at the cultural heritage museum Skansen in Stockholm.

The Right of Public Access means that the general public in Sweden has the constitutionally protected right to access a great deal of publicly as well as privately owned land for recreation and exercise.



Midsummer Night

This space was created as a social area inspired by the Swedish pine forest and illuminated by the warm, magical light of a Midsummer night. Here, the delegates could experience the forest, from stately pines to stumps and logs, ultimately leading to wooden furniture that showcased contemporary design and innovations.

Midsummer is the time of the year when the meadows flourish, the forests are at their greenest, the nights are their brightest, and Sweden is at its most magical.



Photo: Rebecca Eurén, Matilda Haglund, Julia Stihlert

Midsummer Eve

The space was created for the delegates to have a place to work during the congress week. It was inspired by the Midsummer Eve feast where the feast table was transformed into working places. The location created an attractive atmosphere for conversation and collaboration.

Photo exhibition – An Eye for Science

The congress venue hosted a photo exhibition entitled *An Eye for Science*. The exhibition showed some concrete examples on how the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences takes on fundamental issues that affect all of us. The exhibition contained eleven large photographs printed on backlit displays with accompanying text and a website with more photographs and texts.



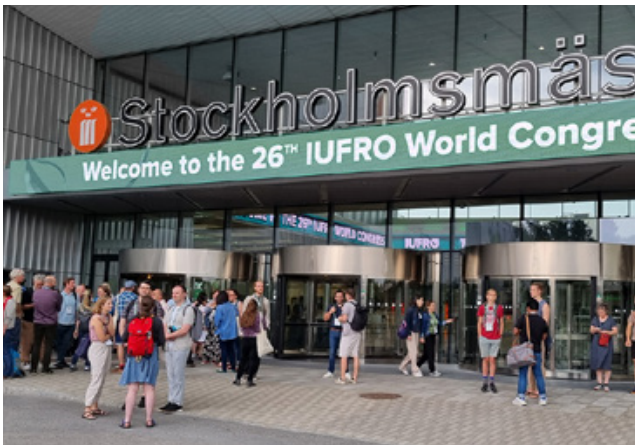
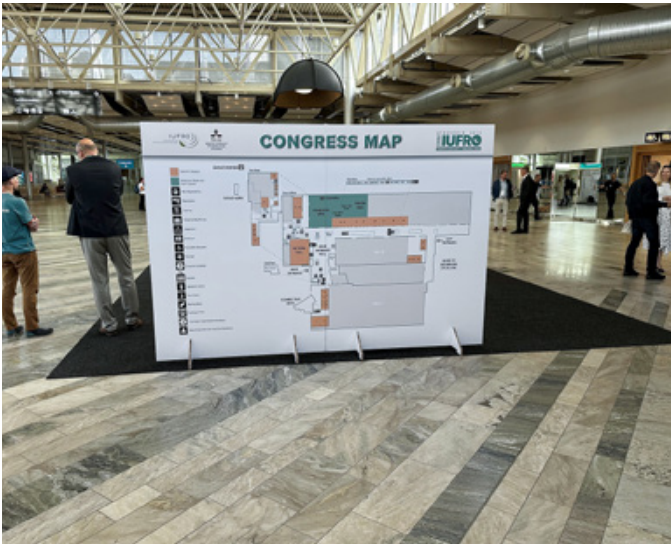
Knowledge key to a sustainable future

All around the world wildlife is monitored using different methods to conserve, restore and sustainably manage ecosystems.



7.5 SIGNAGE

To orient and welcome congress participants, directional signage was strategically placed along the pathway from the subway station to the venue. A prominent banner, aligned with the congress theme, was displayed on an exterior wall. Each day, the daily theme was prominently featured above the venue’s main entrance, creating a consistent and engaging thematic experience for attendees. Most of the signage indoors at the venue was digital. Large, high-resolution screens were strategically placed throughout the venue. In addition to the physical signage, the congress mobile app offered an integrated digital map, which allowed attendees to navigate the venue with ease identifying points of interest such as exhibitors, restrooms, food stalls, and session rooms. This approach catered to tech-savvy participants while promoting a sustainable, forward-thinking congress experience.



IUFRO traditionally holds a series of working meetings the week before and during each IUFRO World Congress. The Management Committee and the Enlarged Board meetings were held the week before the congress, which were followed by administrative meetings, a Director's Forum meeting, and the International Council meeting during the congress week.

8.1 ADMINISTRATIVE AND DIVISIONS MEETINGS

The IUFRO World Congress 2024 offered an opportunity for IUFRO divisions, research groups, working parties and task forces to meet and discuss administrative and strategic matters during the congress week, and was well utilized (Table 13).

8.2 INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

The IUFRO International Council (IC) met in the afternoon of 27 June during the congress in Stockholm. Thirty-seven countries were represented in person at the congress venue. The meeting included the approval of draft minutes of the previous IC meeting held on 2 October 2019 in Curitiba, Brazil, as well as approval of reports by the President, Vice Presidents and Executive Director. The IC members were then given presentations of the new IC Chair, Vice Chairs and members of the IUFRO Board. The Stockholm Congress Statement 2024 was approved. A review and discussion of future policy and the *IUFRO post 2024 Strategy Action Plan* took place before viewing a video and presentation of the venue of the IUFRO World Congress 2029. The final item on the agenda concerned honorary membership, where there was a vote on two incoming nominations received by the Honours and Awards Committee.



8.3 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE ENLARGED BOARD



The IUFRO Management Committee held its meeting prior to the congress on Tuesday 18 June at the campus of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala, Sweden.

The IUFRO Enlarged Board (Table 14) held its meeting back-to-back with the Management Committee meeting on Wednesday and Thursday 19–20 June. The board is comprised of members of the Management Committee and the coordinators and deputy coordinators of IUFRO's nine divisions. The majority of the members participated in person, and a handful participated online. On the evening of 19 June, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences hosted the board members dinner in central Uppsala, on the historical grounds of the beautiful Linneaus Garden, dating back to the 17th century.

Table 13. IUFRO administrative and divisions meetings for research groups, working parties, task forces and IUFRO divisions

Group	Date	Time
WP 1.01.12 Silviculture and ungulates	Sunday 23 June	17.00–18.50
WP 9.01.02 Communication and public relations	Sunday 23 June	17.00–17.50
WP 8.01.02 Landscape ecology	Sunday 23 June	17.00–18.50
RG 9.04.00 Forest resource economics	Sunday 23 June	17.00–18.50
WP 1.01.13 Ecology and silviculture of chestnut	Sunday 23 June	17.00–18.50
(joint meeting) Task Force Gender equality in forestry & RG 6.08.00 Gender and forestry	Sunday 23 June	17.00–18.50
WP 8.02.08 African wildlife conservation and management (AWCM)	Sunday 23 June	17.00–17.50
WP 9.03.02 Forest culture	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 1.02.04 Sustainable management and genetic resources in Meliaceae	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 4.02.01 Resource data in the tropics	Tuesday 25 June	19.00–19.50
WP 8.02.01 Key factors and ecological functions for forest biodiversity	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 4.01.04 Effects of environmental changes on forest growth	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 4.01.00 Forest mensuration and modelling	Tuesday 25 June	19.00–19.50
WP 8.04.07 Radioactive contamination of forest ecosystems	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–19.50
WP 9.01.06 Forest science publishing	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–19.50
Task Force Forest and Water	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–19.50
WP 7.02.03 Vascular wilt diseases	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 9.05.04 Forest policies in the Baltic and CEE regions	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 9.03.04 Traditional forest knowledge	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 2.04.01 Population, ecological and conservation genetics	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 4.03.03 Information management and information technologies	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 1.01.08 Ecology and silviculture of spruce	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 9.01.03 Extension and knowledge exchange	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 1.04.00 Agroforestry	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 1.08.00 Silviculture for edible non-wood forest products	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 5.11.00 Non-wood forest products	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 5.10.00 Forest products marketing and business management	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 4.05.00 Managerial economics and accounting	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 6.01.00 Forest recreation	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
RG 9.02.00 Forest sector analysis	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
Task Force Joint IFSA-IUFRO TF on Forest Education	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
Task Force Precision Pest Management (PPM) in Forest Ecosystems	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
Task Force Transforming Forest Landscapes for Future Climates and Human Well-Being	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
WP 1.01.01 Boreal forest silviculture and management	Tuesday 25 June	18.00–18.50
Division 1 – Silviculture	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 2 – Physiology and Genetics	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 3 – Forest Operations Engineering and Management	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 4 – Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 5 – Forest Products	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 6 – Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 7 – Forest Health	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 8 – Forest Environment	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00
Division 9 – Forest Policy and Economics	Thursday 27 June	18.00–20.00

Table 14. IUFRO Enlarged Board 2019–2024

Board member role	Name
President	John Parrotta
Vice-President Divisions	Daniela Kleinschmit
Vice-President Task Forces	Shirong Liu
Immediate Past President	Mike Wingfield
Executive Director	Alexander Buck
Coordinator, Division 1	Jens Peter Skovsgaard
Coordinator, Division 2	Santiago C. Gonzáles-Martínez
Coordinator, Division 3	Woodam Chung
Coordinator, Division 4	Donald G. Hodges
Coordinator, Division 5	Pekka Saranpää
Coordinator, Division 6	Purabi Bose
Coordinator, Division 7	Tod Ramsfield
Coordinator, Division 8	Sandra Luque
Coordinator, Division 9	Mónica Gabay
President's Nominee	Erich Gomes Schaitza
President's Nominee	Hubert Hasenauer
President's Nominee	Elena Paoletti
President's Nominee	Olga Shaytarova
President's Nominee	Kugbo Shim
President's Nominee	Wubalem Tadesse Wondifraw
President's Nominee	Xiao Wenfa
IUFRO Headquarters Host Country Austria Representative	Elfriede Moser
Deputy Executive Director/Coordinator, SPDC	Michael Kleine
Coordinator, WFSE	Pia Katila
Coordinator, GFEP/Science-Policy Programme	Christoph Wildburger
Coordinator, Directors' Forum	Peter Mayer
Chair, Congress Scientific Committee 2024	Elena Paoletti
Chair, Congress Organizing Committee 2024	Fredrik Ingemarson
Task Force Coordinator	Sandra Rodríguez-Pineros
Task Force Coordinator	Annie Biju
Task Force Coordinator	Henrik Hartmann
Task Force Coordinator	Gun Lidestav
Task Force Coordinator	Giovanbattista de Dato
Task Force Coordinator	James Chamberlain
Task Force Coordinator	Christophe Orazio
Task Force Coordinator	Adam Xiaohua Wei
Task Force Coordinator	Andreas Bolte
Task Force Coordinator	Jeremy Allison
FAO representative (observer)	Wu Zhimin
IFSA representatives (observer)	Isabelle Claire Dela Paz and Agustin Rosello Hinrichs

Board member role	Name
Deputy Coordinator, Division 1	Teresa de Jesus Fidalgo Fonseca
Deputy Coordinator, Division 1	Pil Sun Park
Deputy Coordinator, Division 1	Khosro Sagheb-Talebi
Deputy Coordinator, Division 2	Janice Cooke
Deputy Coordinator, Division 2	Ilga Porth
Deputy Coordinator, Division 2	Marjana Westergren
Deputy Coordinator, Division 3	Ola Lindroos
Deputy Coordinator, Division 3	Yaoxiang Li
Deputy Coordinator, Division 3	Luc Lebel
Deputy Coordinator, Division 4	Bianca Eskelson
Deputy Coordinator, Division 4	Temesgen Hailemariam
Deputy Coordinator, Division 4	Arne Pommerening
Deputy Coordinator, Division 5	Eric Hansen
Deputy Coordinator, Division 5	Franka Brüchert
Deputy Coordinator, Division 5	Andrew Wong
Deputy Coordinator, Division 5	Roger Meder
Deputy Coordinator, Division 6	Liisa Tyrväinen
Deputy Coordinator, Division 6	Ellyn K. Damayanti
Deputy Coordinator, Division 6	Taylor V. Stein
Deputy Coordinator, Division 6	Cecil C. Konijnendijk van den Bosch
Deputy Coordinator, Division 7	Maartje Klapwijk
Deputy Coordinator, Division 7	Julio Javier Diez Casero
Deputy Coordinator, Division 7	Rebecca Ganley
Deputy Coordinator, Division 8	Alexia Stokes
Deputy Coordinator, Division 8	Anna Barbati
Deputy Coordinator, Division 8	Elena Paoletti
Deputy Coordinator, Division 9	Mercy Derky
Deputy Coordinator, Division 9	Ahmad Maryudi
Deputy Coordinator, Division 9	Jinlong Liu
Deputy Coordinator, Division 9	Shashi Kant

At the congress, social events were crucial to make delegates from all over the world feel welcome. These social events, including networking and mingling opportunities, set the atmosphere for the congress and showcase the traditions and customs of the host country.

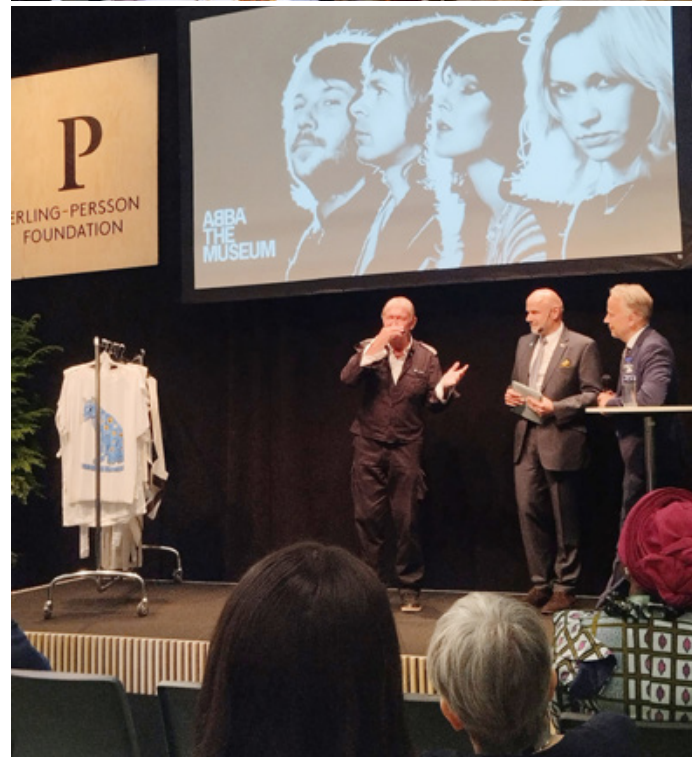


9.1 OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

The opening of the exhibition took place on Sunday 23 June from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the exhibition hall at Stockholmsmässan. The IUFRO President and the Dean of the SLU Faculty of Forest Sciences opened the exhibition in a ribbon cutting ceremony and gave short speeches, accompanied by the Chair of the Congress Organizing Committee.

9.2 WELCOME RECEPTIONS

The Congress Organizing Committee welcomed delegates to two individual receptions during the evening of Monday 24 June – one at Stockholm City Hall and one at the congress venue. At Stockholm City Hall, the IUFRO President and the Stockholm City Council welcomed 1 200 delegates, followed by a guided tour through the Nobel Prize Banquet premises and a buffet dinner. At the venue Stockholmsmässan, the IUFRO Executive Director and the Dean of SLU Faculty of Forest Sciences welcomed 3 000 delegates, followed by mingling with a light meal. The designer of ABBA's stage clothing, Mr. Owe Sandström, delivered a captivating lecture about the inspiration from nature, Next-Gen and shared memories.

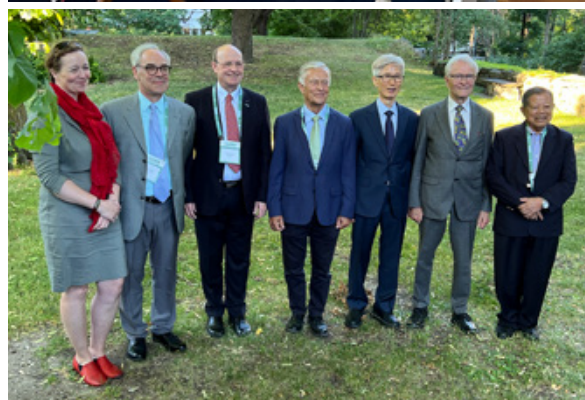


9.3 PRESIDENT'S DINNER

The traditional and ceremonial IUFRO President's Dinner took place on Wednesday 25 June from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Älvsjö Manor, a historical manor house from the 17th century adjacent to Stockholmsmässan. Seventy invited international guests, including past IUFRO Presidents, mingled and listened to speeches by the current IUFRO President and the Chair of COC. Attendees were invited to a buffet dinner in the garden of the manor house after these proceedings.

9.4 OUTDOOR MINGLE

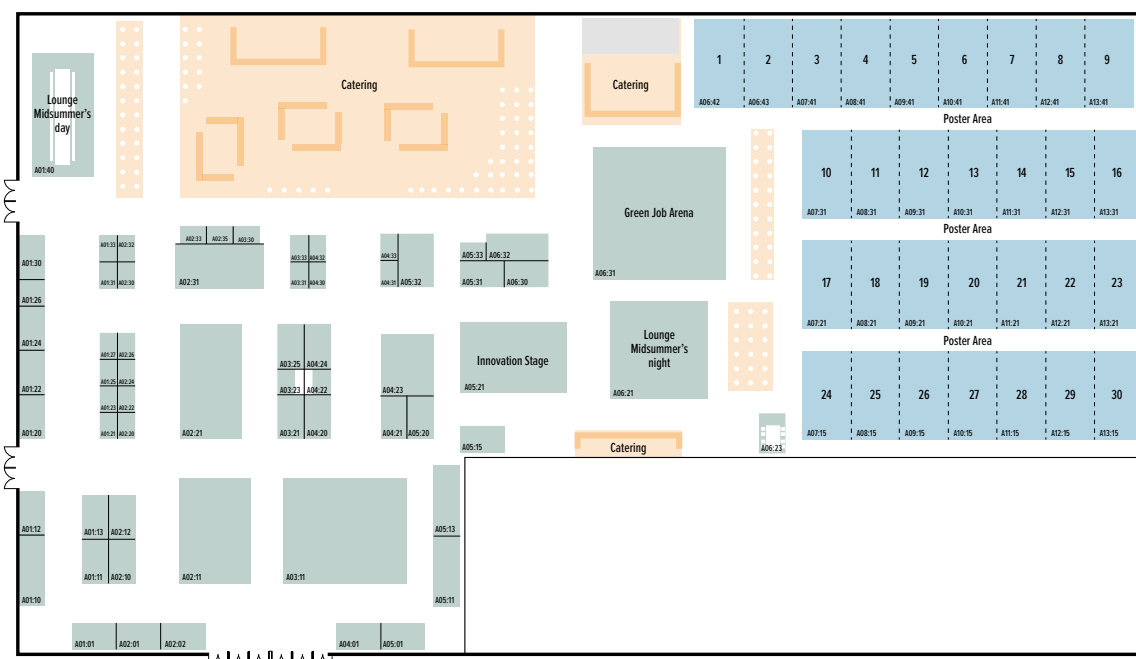
The outdoor mingle was arranged for the delegates on the evening of Friday 28 June at the Evenew Arena in central Stockholm. Delegates arrived at an open, outdoor arena where a large tent had been erected. In the tent, delegates were treated to a show by Rockford Big Band, which played classic big band jazz, soul, funk music and modern covers. Participants enjoyed a buffet dinner, followed by a spectacular light and sound show until late in the evening. Delegates from all over the world danced the night away and a wonderful, pleasant atmosphere was created.



The exhibition hall was one of many highlights for the partners and delegates who participated in the IUFRO World Congress 2024. The exhibition was truly well attended, and the dedicated lounge areas in the exhibition were buzzing with delegates throughout the week.

10.1 EXHIBITORS

The exhibition took place in the centre of the congress venue, Stockholmsmässan, with a total area of 7 500 m². In addition to the exhibition booths, the hall featured a poster session area, a technical help desk, seven catering stations, two Swedish Midsummer themed social spaces for work and relaxation, and two new highlights: the Green Job Arena and the Innovation Stage, both introduced for the first time at the IUFRO World Congress exhibition.



Booth Exhibitor	
A01-26	Agroforestry Network
A01-23	AirForestry
A02-15	Arven
A04-24	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFCO)
A01-10	Association of University Forestry Schools of Canada, Canada (shared)
A02-20	Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI)
A01-31	Barkem Development, Groupe Barkem
A01-19	Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, Canada (shared)
A05-20	Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)
A01-25	CIC
A04-21	CFOR-ICRAF
A05-13	Conservation International
A05-15	EcoPeace Bamboo
A01-20	Elsevier Ltd
A05-21	Ernst & Young Foundation (Patron of the Innovation Stage)
A01-23	Fachagentur Nachhaltende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNH)
A06-30	Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)
A02-21	Formas, Public Sweden (shared)
A04-01	General Laser GmbH, Umweltdata GmbH (shared)
A02-01	GLF
A05-15	Hogst Sweden AB
A01-27	ICT International Pty Ltd
A02-26	ISA Technology Services
A05-01	International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR)
A05-21	International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) (shared)
A02-30	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
A05-31	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
A05-11	IUFRO-SPIC
A02-21	Kenya Forestry Research Institute
A04-33	KSLA
A02-22	Larsson State Forest Research Institute "Silva"
A04-22	Li-COR Environmental
A02-33	Limnosa AB
A02-26	MDPI - Academic Open Access Publishing since 1996
A02-32	Michigan State University Department of Forestry
A01-12	Norwegian Forest University (NFI), Journal of Forestry Research
A01-12	Oregon State University College of Forestry
A01-13	Oxford University Press (OUP)
A01-21	Pennsoft Publishers Ltd.
A04-30	Pharmat Forestry
A01-25	Purcell Inc.
A01-25	RECOFTC
A01-15	Rena Aulander Pulp & Paper, APRIL
A01-01	Scientific and Academic College of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, Université Laval, Faculty of Forestry, Geography and Geomatics
A02-21	Sida, Public Sweden (shared)
A01-24	Showstar
A01-20	SILV-BU Soil Health Living Lab: support by NATIONS & PREP-SOL
A01-11	SNS (Nordic Forest Research)
A02-23	Springer Nature
A02-24	Stiftelsen Egendomsförvaltnings Forening, Prästörelsebyggnads i Svenska kyrkan
A02-21	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Public Sweden (shared)
A02-21	Swedish Energy Agency, Public Sweden (shared)
A02-21	Swedish Forest Agency, Public Sweden (shared)
A02-12	Swedish Forest Industries Federation
A02-11	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
A04-20	UBC Faculty of Forestry
A04-01	Umweltdata GmbH
A02-10	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
A02-33	UNCCD-G20 Global Land Initiative
A04-32	University of Copenhagen
A04-32	University of Helsinki
A02-20	Vitana Major University (VMA)
A01-22	World Vision Korea, Sustainable Environment and Economy against Drought and Degradation in TERA
A02-02	World Wood Day Foundation (WWDF)
A06-32	WWF
A01-25	Wyns Academy for Nature, RECOFTC (shared)

Other

A06-31	Green Job Arena
A05-21	Innovation Stage
EK01	IUFRO Booth (not on this map - located in the entrance hall)
A01-43	Lounge - Midsummer's day
A06-21	Lounge - Midsummer's night

Figure 9. Exhibition, poster and catering area – IUFRO World Congress 2024

A total of 68 exhibitors (Figure 9 and Table 15) participated in the IUFRO World Congress 2024, representing a wide range of sectors and demonstrating significant global diversity. Of these, 25 exhibitors were from Nordic or Baltic countries (37%), 20 from other European countries (29%), and 23 from countries outside Europe (34%).



Table 15. List of exhibitors at the IUFRO World Congress 2024

Booth	Organization	Type of organization	Country (HQ)
A04:23	AirForestry	Companies and business	Sweden
A02:20	Australian Forest and Wood Innovations (AFWI)	Government research institutes	Australia
A04:24	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)	Intergovernmental organization (IGO)	Korea
A01:26	Agroforestry Network	Network	Sweden
A02:12	Arevo	Companies and business	Sweden
A01:10	Association of University Forestry Schools of Canada, Canada (shared)	Academic association	Canada
A01:31	Berkem Development, Groupe Berkem	Companies and business	France
A01:10	Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, Canada (shared)	Government agency	Canada
A05:33	Conservation International	NGO	U.S.A
A05:20	Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)	Government research institutes	China
A04:21	CIFOR-ICRAF	NGO	Kenya
A01:25	International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)	NGO	Hungary
A05:13	EcoPlanet Bamboo	Companies and business	Kenya
A01:20	Elsevier Ltd	Companies and business	Netherlands
A05:21	Erling-Persson Foundation (Patron of the Innovation Stage)	Foundation	Sweden
A06:30	Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®)	NGO	Germany
A02:21	Formas, Public Sweden (shared)	Government agency	Sweden
A01:23	Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR)	Research institute	Germany
A04:01	General Laser GmbH, Umweltdata GmbH (shared)	Companies and business	Austria
A02:01	Global Landscape Forum (GLF)	Network	Germany
A05:15	Haglöf Sweden AB	Companies and business	Sweden
A01:27	ICT International Pty Ltd	Companies and business	Australia
A05:31	International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	Intergovernmental organization (IGO)	Japan
A06:31	International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)	Student network	Germany
A03:30	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	Research institute	Austria
A05:01	International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR)	Intergovernmental organization (IGO)	China
EH:01	IUFRO (in the entrance hall)	International research network	Austria
A05:11	IUFRO-SPDC	International research network	Austria
A02:35	IGA Technology Services	Companies and business	Italy
A03:21	Kenya Forestry Research Institute	Research institute	Kenya
A03:31	KKL-JNF	NGO	Israel
A04:33	Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)	Academic society	Sweden
A02:22	Latvian State Forest Research Institute "Silava"	Universities and educational institutions	Latvia
A02:31	Linnaeus University	Universities and educational institutions	Sweden
A04:22	LI-COR Environmental	Companies and business	U.S.A
A02:33	Logscom AB	Companies and business	Sweden
A02:26	MDPI – Academic Open Access Publishing since 1996	Companies and business	Switzerland
A02:32	Michigan State University Department of Forestry	Universities and educational institutions	U.S.A
A04:31	Northeast Forestry University (NEFU), Journal of Forestry Research	Universities and educational institutions	China
A01:12	Oregon State University College of Forestry	Universities and educational institutions	U.S.A

cont. Table 15. List of exhibitors at the IUFRO World Congress 2024

Booth	Organization	Type of organization	Country (HQ)
A01:33	Oxford University Press (OUP)	Companies and business	UK
A01:21	Pensoft Publishers Ltd.	Companies and business	Bulgaria
A04:30	Plantma Forestry	Companies and business	Sweden
A01:11	Ponsse Plc	Companies and business	Finland
A01:13	Riau Andalan Pulp & Paper, APRIL	Companies and business	Indonesia
A03:25	RECOFTC	NGO	Thailand
A01:01	Scientific and Academic College of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership	Research network	Canada
A02:21	Sida, Public Sweden (shared)	Government agency	Sweden
A01:24	Sitowise	Companies and business	Finland
A01:30	SLU, EU Soil health Living Labs: support by NATI00NS & PREP SOIL	Universities and educational institutions	Sweden
A03:11	SNS (Nordic Forest Research)	Research network	Sweden
A03:23	Springer Nature	Companies and business	Germany
A02:24	Stiftens Egendomsförvaltningars Förening, Prästlönetillgångarna i Svenska kyrkan	Association	Sweden
A02:11	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)	Universities and educational institutions	Sweden
A02:21	Swedish Energy Agency, Public Sweden (shared)	Government agency	Sweden
A02:21	Swedish Forest Agency, Public Sweden (shared)	Government agency	Sweden
A02:21	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Public Sweden (shared)	Government agency	Sweden
A05:32	Swedish Forest Industries Federation	Association	Sweden
A04:20	UBC Faculty of Forestry	Universities and educational institutions	Canada
A04:01	Umweltdata GmbH	Companies and business	Austria
A03:33	University of Copenhagen	Universities and educational institutions	Denmark
A04:32	University of Helsinki	Universities and educational institutions	Finland
A02:10	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UNCCD/ G20 Global Land Initiative	Intergovernmental organization (IGO)	Germany
A02:30	Vytautas Magnus University (VMU)	Universities and educational institutions	Lithuania
A02:02	World Wood Day Foundation (WWDF)	NGO	U.S.A
A01:22	World Vision Korea, Sustainable Environment and Economy against Drought and Degradation in TEDA	NGO	Korea
A06:32	WWF	NGO	Switzerland
A03:25	Wyss Academy for Nature, RECOFTC (shared)	Research institute	Switzerland
Total: 68 exhibitors (25 Nordic/Baltic, 20 European, 23 Non-European)			

10.2 PARTNERS

There were a total of 34 official partners (Table 16) of the IUFRO World Congress 2024, with a majority originating from Sweden and other Nordic and Baltic countries. Close to 100 partners and organizations were involved in organizing and implementing the in-congress and pre-and post-congress excursions (see Table 17). Partners represent, for example, universities, research councils, associations, environmental organizations, global companies, forest management companies, tourism organizations, and governmental and other non-governmental organizations. Among these partners, ten were universities, reflecting strong academic participation. Several partners are affiliated with IUFRO, emphasising the strong connection between the con-

gress and global forestry research. Many of these partners contributed not only through financial support, but also by providing content during the congress, such as organizing lunchtime side events and actively participating in the exhibition by speaking at the Green Job Arena and the Innovation Stage. A number of partners were also present as exhibitors, representing their organizations with dedicated booths. Notably, the Major Organizational Partner package and the Organizational Partner package were well utilised.

Table 16. List of all official partners of the IUFRO World Congress 2024

Partners	Country (HQ)	Partner status	Exhibition booth
Formas – the Swedish research council for sustainable development	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓ (Public Sweden)
The Nordic Council of Ministers	Denmark	Major org. partner	
Nordic Forest Research (SNS)	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓
Skogssällskapet	Sweden	Major org. partner	
Erling-Persson Foundation	Sweden	Patron	
Swedish Energy Agency	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓ (Public Sweden)
IKEA	Sweden	Platinum partner	
Sveaskog	Sweden	Major org. partner	
Swedish Forest Agency	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓ (Public Sweden)
WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature	Switzerland	Major org. partner	✓
Finnish Forest Industries Federation	Finland	Major org. partner	
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓ (Public Sweden)
The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)	Japan	Org. partner	✓
The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	Germany	Org. partner	✓
CIFOR-ICRAF	Kenya	Org. partner	✓
Conservation International	U.S.A	Org. partner	✓
The Swedish Association of Outdoor Organizations	Sweden	Org. partner	
The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓
Agroforestry Network	Sweden	NGO Partner	✓
Swedish Agency of Marine and Water Management	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓ (Public Sweden)
Swedish Forest Industries Federation	Sweden	Major org. partner	✓
Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU)	Norwegian	Org. partner	
University of Helsinki	Finland	Org. partner	✓
Vytautas Magnus University	Lithuania	Org. partner	✓
Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies	Latvia	Org. partner	
University of Copenhagen	Denmark	Org. partner	✓
SILAVA	Latvia	Org. partner	✓
Eesti Maaülikool (EMU)	Estonia	Org. partner	
Land and Forest Iceland	Iceland	Org. partner	
Agricultural University of Iceland	Iceland	Org. partner	
University of Eastern Finland	Finland	Org. partner	
Linnaeus University	Sweden	Org. partner	✓
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)	Sweden	Org. partner	✓
IUFRO	Austria	Major org. partner	✓
Total: 34 partners			21 partner exhibitors

Out of the 34 partners, 21 had their own exhibition booth. Several governmental partners, such as Formas, the Swedish Energy Agency, the Swedish Forest Agency, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swedish Agency of Marine and Water Management, participated in the shared Public Sweden booth.



As presented in chapter 2.5, seven side events were organized by partners, including co-hosted events (e.g. IKEA and the Swedish Forest Agency) and Public Sweden's co-hosted side event. Moreover, partners also filled 12 out of 19 time slots at the Green Job Arena, including panel discussions, and 15 out of 44 time slots on the Innovation Stage. IKEA stood out as a key contributor, as the company co-hosted two side events and filled a total of six time slots in the Innovation Stage and Green Job Arena.



Table 17. List of partners and organizations that were involved in organizing the in-congress, pre- and post-congress excursions

In-Congress Excursions	Pre- and Post-Congress Excursions
Arboreal	School for forest management, SLU
Biometria	Sveaskog
Drottningholms palace	Hjälmare canal / Steamship Gerda
Finnish geospatial research institute	Stora Enso
Future forests	Splitkom
Gålö sea camp	Hardraade Vikingship association
Gothenburg university	Ekebyark sculpture walk
Haga palace	Ytre Hvaler National park
Holmen forest	Midgard Viking Center
The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry	Hyytiälä station sites
Royal Institute of Technology	Keuruu Harbor / Elias Rönnroth
Linköpings forest service	Gösta Serlachius museum
County Administrative Board of Stockholm	Jaakinsuo forest drainage experimental area
The Royal court	Västerbottens museum
Life 2 taiga	Svartberget experimental station (SITES, ICOS Sweden)
Linné university	Bonnstan Midsummer eve celebration – Skellefteå municipality
Luleå technical university	Abisko Scientific Research station
MISTRA digital forest	Jukkasjärvi Ice Hotel
MISTRA Sports and Outdoor	Vaisikkavuoma nature reserve
Nordic forest women	Pallas Meteorological Station
Nordluft automation	Nordic Husky farm
The Sami council	Arktikum science museum
SITES	Rovaniemi Santa claus village
Forestry Research Institute of Sweden	Þingvellir National Park
The Swedish forest historical society	Friðheimar farm
Swedish Forest Industries Federation	Droplaugarstaðir forest farm
Skogssällskapet	Icelandic forest research
The Cluster of Forest Technology	Haukadalur National Forest

cont. Table 17. List of partners and organizations that were involved in organizing the in-congress, pre- and post-congress excursions

In-Congress Excursions	Pre- and Post-Congress Excursions
The Archipelago Foundation	Skaftafell National park
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	Icelandic forest Service
Spillkråkan	Vök geothermal baths
Stockholm university	Skriðuklaustur
Stora Enso forest	Kasmu Captains village
Sveaskog	Oandu Forest trail
Svebio	Sagadi forest museum
Swedish Hunters Association	Järvesilja Experimental Station
Church of Sweden	Amatciens log houses
Swedish Orienteering Association	LIGNUMS
Swedish television	Laflora
Södra forest owners	Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava
National Museum of Science and Technology	Estonian University of Life Sciences
Treeseearch	Vytautas Magnus University
Umeå university	Borregaard as
UNITE/ Helsinki university	Viken Skog
Uppsala university	Treklyngen
Wallenberg wood science center	Oslo municipality
	Det norske skogselskap
	County Governor of Østfold, Buskerud, Oslo og Akershus



Figure 10. Partner logos printed on re-board

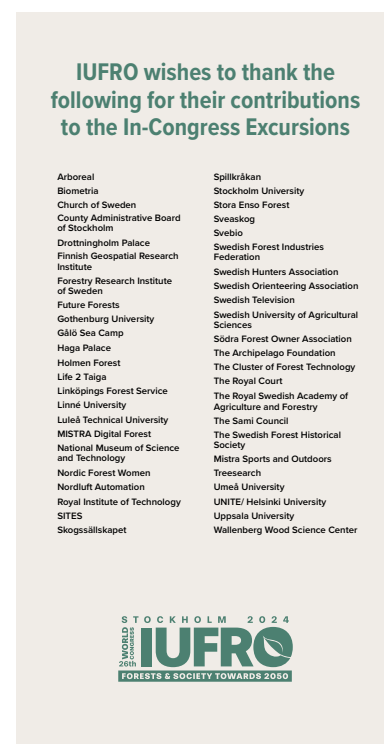


Figure 11. Contributors to the in-congress excursions

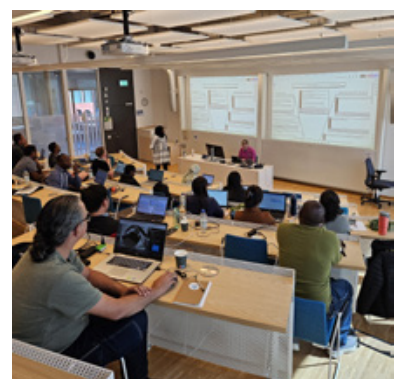
As an integral part of the congress, IUFRO organized a Congress Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) through its Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) providing early and mid-career forest scientists from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe with financial assistance to participate in the congress.

The Congress Scientist Assistance Programme pre-congress training course included the following three topics:

- **Research Methods in Forest Science** – with Lead Facilitator John Kershaw from the University of New Brunswick, Canada
- **Science-Society Interactions** – Making Science Work for Policy and Practice; with Lead Facilitator Steve Makungwa from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi. Supported by Anders Malmer, Swedish Forest Agency, Madelene Ostwald, Linköping University, Sweden, Klas Bengtsson, Eco-Innovation Foundation, Sweden, Michael Kleine, IUFRO-SPDC, Austria
- **Systematic Evidence Evaluation in Forest Science** – with Lead Facilitator Gillian Petrokofsky, from Oxford Systematic Reviews, Great Britain. Supported by William Harvey and Leo Petrokofsky, Oxford Systematic Reviews UK & University of Oxford, Great Britain

From 19 to 22 June 2024, the IUFRO SPDC Pre-Congress Training Course took place at SLU's Ultuna campus. This year, the training course gave scientists from the global south the opportunity to enhance essential skills needed to generate high-quality research results. It also focused on communicating such results to policy and practice. At SLU, 56 participants from 35 different countries joined in the workshop, in addition to IUFRO staff and lecturers.

Several lecture halls were used for the three workshops, and the course also had access to small group-work rooms, a student kitchen and a seating area where coffee and light snacks were served. The large lecture hall was used for the opening and closing of the workshop in the morning of 19 and 22 of June.



In accordance with the strategic concept of the IUFRO World Congress 2024, the primary goal of all communication efforts was to promote the visibility of the scientific work of IUFRO and to highlight the partners and stakeholders contributing to the network and policy impact. Promotional activities, aimed to enhance global awareness and regional engagement, were started several years before the congress. The central hubs for all content were the website and smartphone app, which were supported by a digital newsletter.

This chapter presents the implementation of communication activities for the IUFRO World Congress 2024, which were conducted in accordance with the strategic concept of the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024, specifically strategic component 3: communication, outreach and PR activities (Appendix 3). Communication and outreach are essential for achieving the objectives of the IUFRO's post-2020 Strategy as well as the goal of the congress. The communication efforts for the congress therefore aim to support a sustainable future for forests and society by demonstrating the role of IUFRO in addressing the critical challenges to sustainable development and human well-being and providing response options. The communication activities for the IUFRO World Congress 2024 had the following points of departure:

- alignment with the congress title, *Forests and Society Towards 2050*, and the five main themes
- inclusion of promotional activities at global and regional key events leading up to the congress
- using a digital approach for communication during the congress event through the congress website, smartphone app and newsletters
- targeting both social media and traditional media channels
- including the development of profile products

The communication efforts engaged various stakeholders and target groups such as researchers, policy- and decisionmakers, business, civil society, funding organizations, development cooperation agencies and media. To enhance awareness and engagement for the congress, extensive promotional activities were carried through for three key global events leading up to the congress; XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019,

Expo 2020 and the XV World Forestry Congress 2022. During the period leading up to the congress, several kick-off meetings and round tables were held for partners and stakeholders in order to promote partnerships in the Nordic host region.

The congress website served as the central hub for all content pre congress. This was complemented with, a digital newsletter, which was a key channel for reaching and engaging delegates and stakeholders, and driving traffic to the website. During the final month before the congress, the website was complemented by a dedicated smartphone app, which made it easier for attendees to find scientific sessions of interest, main events, contacts and other practical information. The communication strategy during the event embraced a digital-first approach through the website, smartphone app and newsletters, targeting delegates and stakeholders who prefer digital modes of communication – e.g. accessing content via desktop computers, tablets, or smartphones.

FORESTS & SOCIETY TOWARDS 2050

THE MOST EXCITING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY OF A CENTURY

New products and innovations derived from forests are becoming increasingly important in our daily lives and for the environment. Sustainability is the only way forward for future societies. **IUFRO's 26th WORLD CONGRESS 23-29 June 2024** in Stockholm, Sweden provides a platform for innovative thinking and collaboration.

As an exhibitor your company or organization will have the chance to:

- reach the whole world with new ideas, products and innovations
- strengthen your brand
- network with pioneers and start new collaborations
- shape the future
- gather insights and valuable information
- meet next generation of leaders and researchers

SMALL

- 6 m² Exhibition space
- 6 m² Turn-key stand construction
- White walls
- Black carpet
- Electrical outlet
- 2 Spotlights
- 1 Bar stool
- 1 Bar stand
- Cleaning - exhibition days
- 1 Exhibitor pass

MEDIUM

- 15 m² Exhibition space
- 15 m² Turn-key stand construction
- White walls
- Black carpet
- Electrical outlet
- 5 Spotlights
- 1 Bar stool
- 2 Bar stools
- Cleaning - exhibition days
- 1 Exhibitor pass

LARGE

- 24 m² Exhibition space
- 24 m² Turn-key stand construction
- White walls
- Black carpet
- Electrical outlet
- 6 Spotlights
- 1 Bar stool
- 2 Bar stools
- 1 Coffee table
- 3 Chairs
- Storage room 3x1 m
- Cleaning - exhibition days
- 2 Exhibitor passes

PREMIUM

- 50 m² Exhibition space
- 50 m² Turn-key stand construction
- White walls
- Black carpet
- Electrical outlet
- 8 Spotlights
- 1 Bar stool
- 5 Bar stools
- 1 Information stand
- 1 Coffee table
- 3 Chairs
- Storage room 3x1 m
- Cleaning - exhibition days
- 3 Exhibitor passes

Four exhibition packages to choose between

STOCKHOLM 2024

IUFRO

For more information about the exhibition and the exhibition packages, please contact:

Anna Delle
Exhibition Sales Manager
anna.delle@iufro2024.com

Bo Magnusson
Exhibition Sales Manager
bo.magnusson@iufro2024.com

www.iufro2024.com

12.1 PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

To enhance awareness and engagement prior to the congress, the COC engaged and organized global and regional promotional activities. The target audiences were researchers, policy- and decision-makers, business, civil society, funding organizations, development cooperation agencies and media.

XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019

In 2019, the incoming Congress Organizing Committee actively participated in the XXV IUFRO World Congress held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 29 September to 5 October. The COC, including representatives from the Nordic and Baltic countries, served as ambassadors for the upcoming IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm. They were present at the Stockholm 2024 pavilion in the exhibition centre, promoting the next congress and showcasing the host countries commitment to forest research and sustainable management.

The Stockholm 2024 pavilion was a central hub during the IUFRO World Congress 2019 and hosted three well attended receptions.

- **Welcome reception:** A welcome reception for Swedish participants.
- **Nordic-Baltic regional reception:** A networking event for partners and participants from the Nordic and Baltic regions.
- **Global VIP reception:** An exclusive reception in collaboration with Sweden's ambassador in Brazil.

The pavilion functioned as a vital platform for dialogue and networking, emphasizing ongoing projects, as well as current and future oriented research. An appreciated feature was the Speakers' Corner, a forerunner to the Innovation Stage, highlighting solutions and ideas for the future. The Stockholm 2024 pavilion offered an inspiring insight into Nordic innovation and sustainability. Visitors could experience a forest machine simulator and a model of the city hall of Skellefteå's new cultural centre, a multi-storage building in wood. In addition, there were informative exhibitions focusing on Agenda 2030, the city of Stockholm and the partner countries.

Expo 2020 Dubai

During the International Day of Forests, on 21st March, 2022, a high-level hybrid event was organized at Expo 2020 in Dubai. Due to the pandemic the world exhibition was postponed. The work was coordinated by the COC and SLU, in close liaison with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The three-hour event titled *Inspire for the future – the role of forests in ensuring sustainable production and consumption* consisted of high-level dialogues, keynote speeches, and a global trend panel discussion. The hybrid event offered physical participation in Dubai, virtual participation online, and real-time webcasting to the public with translation into the six official languages of the United Nations. About 1 000 participants joined the event, most of them online. Part of the meeting in Dubai was a half day round table discussion on 20th March with the stakeholders, to prepare for the official event on 21st March. This was a forerunner of the regional round tables. The output of the engagement in the Expo 2020 was a publication with key messages from the high-level event by FAO, IUFRO and the IUFRO World Congress 2024 under the title *The role of forests in ensuring sustainable production and consumption*.

XV World Forestry Congress 2022

During the XV World Forestry Congress 2–6th May 2022, in Seoul, the Congress Organizing Committee participated with an exhibition booth. The goal was to invite potential international delegates to the IUFRO World Congress 2024 and to create conditions for increased cooperation for Nordic and Baltic stakeholders with other international stakeholders. The exhibition booth featured information and marketing material from partners, while policies, projects, and innovative technologies for future partnerships were presented. A highlight of the week was the reception with the ambassador of Sweden, which attracted high-level stakeholders from all continents, international media, students and researchers, and which was also shown on Al Jazeera's primetime news channel. Bilateral receptions were also held for students, as well as Nordic and Baltic host partners.



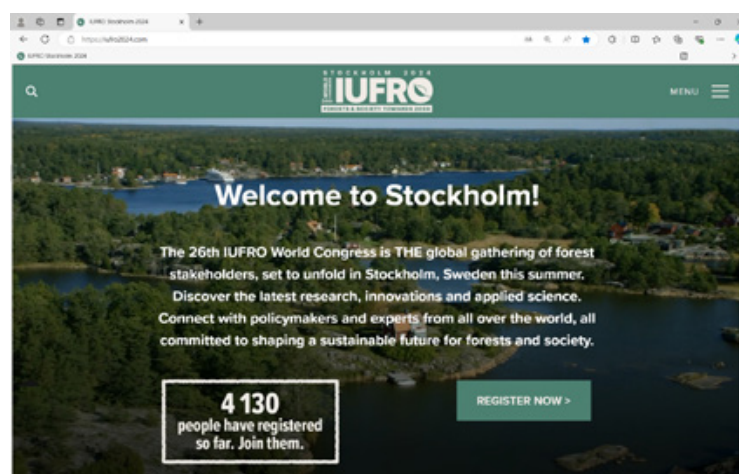
Table 18. Global and regional promotional activities pre and post congress

Date range	Type of activity	Location	Host
29 Sept–5 Oct 2019	Pavilion at XXV IUFRO World Congress	Curitiba, Brazil	International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
21 March 2022	Seminar on <i>Inspire for the future – the role of forests in ensuring sustainable production and consumption</i> , International Day of Forests	Expo 2020, Dubai, United Arab Emirates	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
2–6 May 2022	Exhibition booth at XV World Forestry Congress	Seoul, South Korea	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
2–3 June 2022	Participation at the Stockholm +50 global meeting	Stockholm, Sweden	United Nations (UN)
27 September 2022	Participation at the All-IUFRO Conference, Forests in a Volatile World	Vienna, Austria	International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)
26 January 2023	High Level Nordic and Baltic partner meeting	Uppsala, Sweden	Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU)
9 February 2023	Panel Dialogue on forests in future societal development	Stockholm, Sweden	The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)
10 May 2023	Kick-off regional partner meeting for Finnish stakeholders	Helsinki, Finland	Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
28 June 2023	Cross-sectoral panel discussion on Forest and Society towards 2050	Visby, Sweden	Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU)
28–31 August 2023	Participation at the 20 th IBFRA Conference on Climate Resilient and Sustainable Forest Management	Helsinki, Finland	International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA)
16 January 2024	Round table on the regional input to Stockholm Congress Statement	Stockholm, Sweden	The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)
6 March 2024	Panel discussions on IUFRO 2024 and the Nordic Input	Stockholm, Sweden	The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)
5 December 2024	Seminar and panel discussions on the heritage of IUFRO 2024: Experiences and outcomes for the Nordic partnership	Stockholm, Sweden	The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA)

12.2 IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS 2024 WEB

The domain for the IUFRO World Congress 2024 website, iufro2024.com, was set up in 2018 and shortly thereafter, in 2019, a first version of the website, released at the IUFRO World Congress 2019, was published in three languages: English, Spanish and Portuguese. The website backend was built on a WordPress-based interface supplied by a procured web agency responsible for the site's maintenance and functionality.

The interface contained a number of ready-to-use modules and templates. Additional functionality have been developed along the road. The basic structure of the website was a frontpage with a header, a footer menu



and a main menu placed to the right, with links to all other pages from menu items in the main menu, the footer menu or images/videos displayed on the front page. The frontpage itself contained different sections – such as EXCURSIONS, VIDEOS, NEWS, CALENDAR and PARTNERS.

The last year before the congress, the website consisted of up to 129 published pages (Appendix 1) sorted under various headings, depending on subject. The headings referred to, for example:

- presenting Northern Europe, Sweden, Stockholm and the congress
- organization behind the IUFRO World Congress 2024
- raising awareness of key dates
- marketing of the congress, exhibition, *Green Job Arena* and *Innovation Stage*
- sharing important information published on the *IUFRO.org* website
- informing about calls for congress abstracts, congress session proposals, nominations for IUFRO awards and for the membership programme
- recruitment of volunteers
- showing videos
- highlighting partners
- highlighting interesting speakers and subjects
- recruitment of new IUFRO members
- marketing of and informing about pre- and post-excursions, in-congress excursions and the respective excursion countries
- informing about registration procedure and fees and suggesting accommodation
- accounting for different policies – such as *Environmental policy*, *Green travel policy* and *Privacy policy*
- marketing of and informing about social events and special ceremonies during the congress
- highlighting and marketing of keynote speakers and sub-plenary session speakers
- informing about the venue
- informing about the congress app
- congress week overview and keeping it updated in accordance with the latest version of the detailed programme.



An overview of the website traffic in June 2024:

- The IUFRO2024 website received a total of 43 000 visits from 18 000 unique devices.
- The number of actual persons visiting the website was 13 600.
- 95 300 page visits were registered, which means the average user visited about seven pages in total.
- The most visited pages were pages related to registration and fees, the scientific programme and travel information.
- In total, 10% of the visitors clicked on links provided by the congress newsletters, and 7% clicked on links from social media accounts; mainly the account of the congress (on LinkedIn) and the IUFRO accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.
- The majority of IUFRO2024 website visitors could be traced back to Sweden, USA, Finland, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Website activity was higher during the summer of 2023 than during spring and early autumn of the same year. The number of visits increased dramatically from December 2023 and continued on a higher level with peaks in January and during the congress week, the last week of June 2024. Traffic to the website came mainly from Direct, Organic Search and Referrals – in that order. Marketing was mainly done through newsletters, which proved to drive a lot of traffic.

From 1 February 2023 to 10 July 2024, there were a total of 379 000 page views, 76 000 users and around 15 500 file downloads (Figure 12). The most visited pages were the Frontpage, Registration and Fees, IUFRO World Congress Week Overview, Detailed Programme (i.e. scientific), Sustainable Future, Call for Congress Abstracts, Themes IUFRO World Congress 2024, In-Congress Excursions, Accommodation, and Keynote Speakers.

12.3 SMARTPHONE CONGRESS APP

The congress app was a popular feature among delegates making it the most widely used and valuable communication tool during the congress week.

- The app was downloaded to 3 982 mobile units, 2 152 with Android operating system and 1 830 with iOS.
- The app was started approximately 100 times per user.
- Around 140 programme items were viewed per user and on average 29 of these were saved in a personal list by the user.

Page path and screen class	Views	Users
	378,900 100% of total	76,047 100% of total
1 /	110,858	44,332
2 /registration-and-fees/	31,942	17,598
3 /week-overview/	19,552	8,971
4 /detailed-programme/	16,015	6,526
5 /iufro-world-congress-2024/sustainable-future/	10,797	6,226
6 /call-for-congress-abstracts/	8,927	2,562
7 /iufro-world-congress-2024/themes/	8,835	5,069
8 /excursions/in-congress-excursions/	5,935	3,323
9 /accommodation/	5,812	3,769
10 /keynote-speakers/	5,757	3,849

Figure 12. GA4 Web statistics from Google Analytics 1 February 2023 – 10 July 2024

Apple and Google require that you ask delegates for permission to gather data, which means that only part of the total usage can be accounted for. Consequently the statistics is based on approximately 400 users, which corresponds to around one-tenth of the total.

The smartphone congress app offered the delegates 12 different functions or components; My favourites, Program, Abstracts, Keynote speakers, Congress news, Partners, Green Job Arena, Innovation stage, Side events by partners, Exhibitors, Map and Information (Fig. 13).

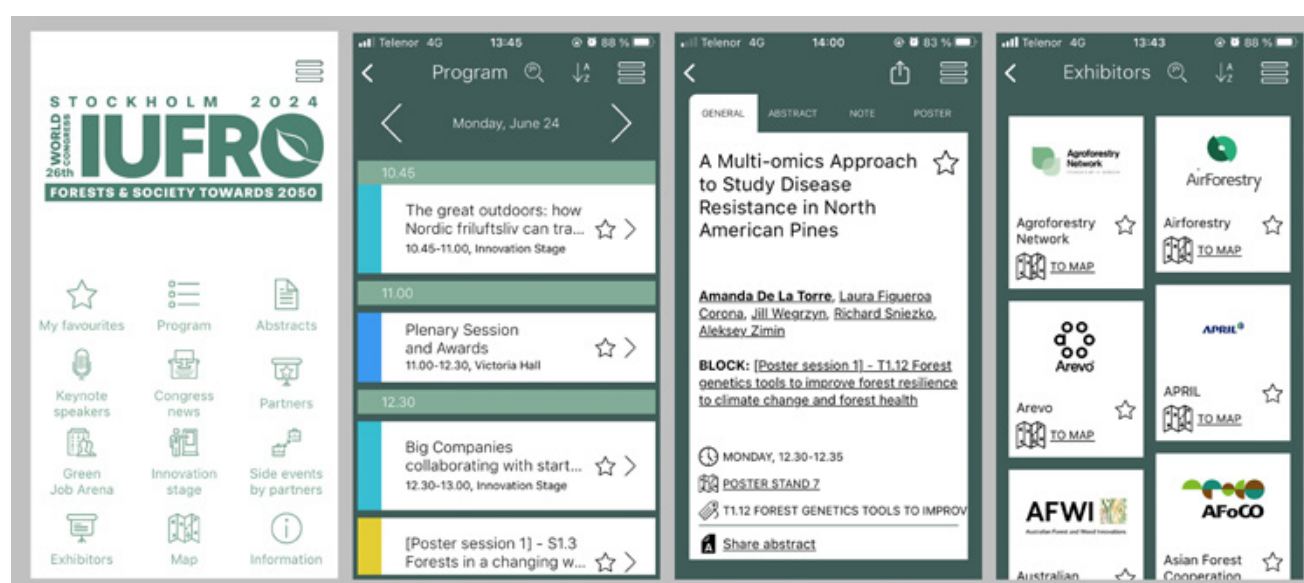


Figure 13. Extracts from the smartphone congress app, showing the 12 functions to the far left.

12.4 NEWSLETTERS

The digital newsletter proved to be a vital tool for reaching and engaging delegates and stakeholders globally. Over the 10 months leading up to the congress, 31 newsletters were sent to an audience of 21 000 recipients worldwide. The recipient list was compiled from various sources, including authors and co-authors of abstracts, existing stakeholder networks from IUFRO, COC, and partner organizations, purchased participant lists from similar international congresses, and identified stakeholders from the Nordic and Baltic countries.

The first newsletter was sent in September of 2023, and during the following months the main focus was to attract delegates. The newsletter was by default a catch all newsletter sent with the same content to all target groups. During the final weeks before the early bird registration deadline on 15th January 2024, separate newsletters were sent to Nordic and Baltic business stakeholders. During spring, the content of the newsletter focused on raising the interest about selected speakers and sessions at the congress.

During the congress event, nine newsletters were sent on a daily basis. They focused on summarizing each day's selected and prioritized sessions, individuals, and events, and highlighting upcoming sessions for the next day.

- On average, around 10 100 delegates and stakeholders opened the newsletter each day, with approximately 2 400 readers clicking on the links provided.
- With an average opening rate of 48%, these metrics reflect significant interest from delegates as well as stakeholders not attending the congress.
- With an average click rate of 16%, these metrics reflect a relatively high engagement.

Sign up for the most anticipated scientific Congress of the year!

NEWS LETTER STOCKHOLM 2024
FORESTS & SOCIETY TOWARDS 2050

23-29 June 2024

Welcome June!
You're receiving this newsletter because you have expressed interest in being updated about the 2024 IUFRO World Congress 2024. Enjoy the read!

SilviPar Spearheads Sustainable Forestry for Global South Prosperity
Join us at the Congress for a keynote by Martin Forsell from SilviPar, showcasing the transformative impact of sustainable forestry in the Global South.
Forsell's extensive insights and SilviPar's groundbreaking initiatives highlight the potential for forestry to drive economic growth and environmental balance.
Don't miss Martin's keynote on Thursday, June 27th, and catch a sneak peek with our available teaser now.

Meet all our keynote speakers!

Countries from the Global South Dominates Congress
The upcoming Congress marks a significant shift towards greater global equity, with registration data showcasing a promising move away from the historical dominance of the Global North.
Out of 137 countries registered so far, a remarkable two-thirds are from the Global South, underscoring a shift towards geographical diversity.
This evolving representation is not just a win for geographical balance but also aligns perfectly with the UN Sustainable Development Goal of fostering inclusive partnerships.
IUFRO President John Hemmick, reflecting on this positive trend, highlighted the importance of this shift for the Congress. "This signifies our commitment to inclusivity and global collaboration," he stated.

Read the full article!

New Ways of Promoting Gender Equality in the Forest Sector Available
The Nordic Forest Research (NFR) is a champion of addressing gender inequality in forestry, a sector known for its gender imbalances in the Nordic region. Despite advancements in digitalization and automation that could potentially even the playing field, gender equality remains an unfulfilled promise in this sector.
At the upcoming Congress, NFR will present a practical method manual aimed at integrating digital issues from a gender perspective into the educational curriculum for forestry.
This method manual is designed for both teachers and students, offering accessible tools, videos, podcasts, and other materials to foster a better understanding of gender equality challenges and encourage active participation in finding solutions. Remember to visit the NFR booth during the Congress.

Access the method manual!

Registration Still Open - Don't Miss Out!
Haven't registered yet? No need to panic! You can still sign up for the Congress. Act quickly to secure your place!
While we welcome an unlimited number of delegates, seats for our most sought-after events and interactive sessions are quickly being claimed.
Ensure you experience everything the Congress has to offer by registering now!

Register for the Congress today!

Seats for Pre- and Post-Congress Excursions Filling Fast!
Don't miss your chance to join our exclusive pre- and post-congress excursions! With around 500 attendees already expressing interest, only a limited number of seats remain. Secure your spot now to ensure you're part of these unique experiences.

Exciting Time off

Book Your Hotel Now!
For a smooth Congress experience, we recommend securing your accommodation soon. We've handpicked a variety of hotels to suit different budgets, ensuring you find the perfect place to stay.

Our recommended hotels

Get to and travel in Stockholm

Register for the Congress today!

2024 IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden 23-29 June 2024
E-mail: iufro@iufro.org | Phone: +46 18 47 32 31 |
Address of the venue: Stockholm Convention Center, Stockholm, Sweden
This email was sent to you because you've expressed interest in or shown interest in our newsletter. Unsubscribe or change your preferences.

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NEWS LETTER STOCKHOLM 2024
FORESTS & SOCIETY TOWARDS 2050

23-29 June 2024

Listen To Science And Take Action!
The Stockholm Congress features the Congress's keynote. The keynote will address the global scientific research agenda and the challenges ahead in the forest sector.
The keynote speaker will be a leading expert in the field of forest science and policy, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of the forest sector and the challenges ahead.
The keynote will be held on Thursday, June 27th, at 10:00 AM.

No Stockholm Congress Summary

History in the Making - First Female President Elected at IUFRO
Historical President Elected at IUFRO World Congress 2024. The election of the first female president of IUFRO, a significant milestone in the organization's history, was celebrated during the opening ceremony of the Congress. The new president, Dr. Maria Forsell, was elected by a majority of the delegates, marking a historic moment for the organization.
Dr. Forsell, who has been a prominent figure in the forest sector for many years, expressed her honor and commitment to leading IUFRO towards a more inclusive and sustainable future.
The election of Dr. Forsell as president is a testament to the growing influence of women in the forest sector and the organization's commitment to gender equality.

Wide Discussions Foster Good Decision-Making
Keynote speakers have been selected for the Congress. The keynote speakers will be leading experts in the field of forest science and policy, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of the forest sector and the challenges ahead.
The keynote will be held on Thursday, June 27th, at 10:00 AM.

Hope And Crisis in the Final Keynotes
Keynote speakers have been selected for the Congress. The keynote speakers will be leading experts in the field of forest science and policy, providing a comprehensive overview of the current state of the forest sector and the challenges ahead.
The keynote will be held on Thursday, June 27th, at 10:00 AM.

Honorary and Distinguished Awardees
Several awards will be given to recognize individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the forest sector. The awards will be presented during the Congress ceremony.

Nurs Sverdrup
Nurs Sverdrup, a leading expert in the field of forest science and policy, will be speaking at the Congress. She will be presenting on the challenges ahead in the forest sector and the role of science in addressing these challenges.

Activists Urge Businesses and Politicians to Take Action!
Activists have urged businesses and politicians to take action to address the challenges ahead in the forest sector. They have called for a more sustainable and inclusive forest sector that takes into account the needs of all stakeholders.

The Future is to Be Found in The Past
The future of the forest sector is to be found in the past. By learning from the lessons of the past, we can build a more sustainable and inclusive forest sector for the future.

Francisco X. Aguilar
Francisco X. Aguilar, a leading expert in the field of forest science and policy, will be speaking at the Congress. He will be presenting on the challenges ahead in the forest sector and the role of science in addressing these challenges.

More Wood Products are Needed from the Industry
More wood products are needed from the industry. The industry must focus on producing high-quality wood products that meet the needs of the market.

Welcome to Kenya in 2024!
The Congress will be held in Kenya in 2024. The location has been chosen for its rich biodiversity and the opportunity to showcase the forest sector in a developing country.

Stay In The Loop!
The Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden. Stay in the loop by following the Congress on social media and staying up to date on the latest news and developments.

2024 IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden 23-29 June 2024
E-mail: iufro@iufro.org | Phone: +46 18 47 32 31 |
Address of the venue: Stockholm Convention Center, Stockholm, Sweden
This email was sent to you because you've expressed interest in or shown interest in our newsletter. Unsubscribe or change your preferences.

Follow us on LinkedIn

12.5 SOCIAL MEDIA

The traffic on social media, e.g. LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube were extensive during the congress event, mainly driven by the large number of delegates at the congress. LinkedIn was the main social media channel used by the congress secretariat. It was also used before the congress to arouse attention and lead traffic to the congress website. Content was published on a weekly basis.

This strategy resulted in 76 191 organic impressions, representing the number of times the content appeared naturally in users' feeds without paid promotion or advertising. These impressions indicate a genuine interest from the target audience, with approximately 1 700 unique visitors to the congress account on LinkedIn each day. This is the first time an IUFRO World Congress used a specific account on social media. The account is a relay account and is taken over to the next organizers of the next IUFRO World Congress 2029.

Delegates and stakeholders were also encouraged to create or share content on social media using the #IUFRO2024 hashtag. These posts were displayed during the congress in a social media feed on a large screen in the entrance hall at the venue, and was also published at the congress' website. A total of 5 335 posts were registered on LinkedIn and Instagram with the hashtag during June and July 2024, peaking on the opening day, 24th June, with 646 posts. The second most popular hashtag, #trees4resilience, was used 1 374 times during the same period. The most active delegates on social media came from the following countries:

1. Austria – 687 posts
2. USA – 292 posts
3. United Kingdom – 242 posts
4. Finland – 239 posts
5. Sweden – 232 posts
6. Kenya – 157 posts
7. India – 156 posts
8. Canada – 154 posts
9. Spain – 128 posts
10. Germany – 126 posts

Public perception of the congress was very supportive, which was proven by the sentiment ratings based on real-time public opinion. Overall, the sentiment on social media was very positive throughout the week: 66% of the 5 335 total posts had a positive tone, only 2% were negative, and the remainder were neutral.



12.6 TRADITIONAL MEDIA AND NEWS OUTREACH

The outreach through media and news outlets was approximately 158 000 unique individuals worldwide, reading or viewing the content. This data was automatically compiled by the news agent Meltwater and then reviewed and finalized manually by the congress secretariat. The result showed that the coverage of the congress spanned 112 news items across 84 unique channels. Key outlets included major news websites like Infobae and Naver, regional and international media platforms including, for instance, derStandard, BioMed Central, Aftonbladet and National Geographic. The following categories of sources (Figure 14) are included in the media and news outreach compilation:

1. Corporate/Commercial Sources
2. Traditional news outlets
3. Digital Platforms/Portals
4. Specialized/Expert Media
5. Scientific/Academic Sources

According to Meltwater's media monitoring software, 112 news items were published in 12 different languages. The most common languages were English, Spanish and Korean followed by German and Swedish. Less frequent languages were Indonesian, Italian, Croatian, Finnish, Hungarian, French and Portuguese.

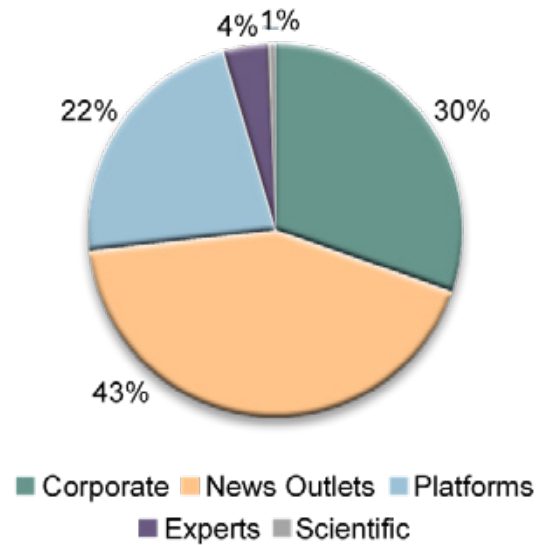


Figure 14. Share of outreach, according to Melwater's media monitoring software

Table 19. Top 20 news and media outlets, ordered by potential outreach in descending order

Channel	Outreach	Description
1. IKEA: Sweden (Global)	82 086 880	Global enterprise
2. Infobae	80 533 550	Argentine digital news outlet
3. Naver	44 316 120	South Korea's leading web portal
4. Cope.es	7 945 040	One of Spain's largest radio stations, conservative
5. BioMed Central	6 743 750	A global open-access publisher of scientific research
6. Nate News	6 566 860	A South Korean web portal
7. Aftonbladet	6 038 300	Sweden's largest daily newspaper, socialist
8. derStandard.at	4 292 000	A major Austrian news outlet, high credibility. Liberal.
9. Scroll.in: India	3 346 930	A digital news website, high credibility. Liberal.
10. meinbezirk.at	3 299 270	Austrian regional news platform, independent
11. Kompas.Id	3 077 360	A leading Indonesian news website, independent
12. DerStandard.de	3 028 320	A major German news outlet, high credibility. Liberal.
13. National Geographic	2 269 200	Spanish edition of the international science magazine
14. Policy Briefing	2 145 160	South Korean governmental news site
15. MyjoyOnline.com	1 510 180	A major Ghanaian news website, independent
16. Nigerian Tribune	1 399 700	One of Nigeria's oldest newspapers. Liberal/Left.
17. Daily News	984 300	A South Korean news website. Independent.
18. Tech Xplore	827 930	A U.S. online publication focused on science and tech
19. Citizen Digital	823 710	A global digital news platform. Independent.
20. Regeringskansliet	423 000	Swedish governmental news site

Swedish sources provided the highest number of articles covering the congress, followed closely by English-language sources. This result is not surprising, as media outlets and other sources in the host country typically have easier access to events like this. The data from Meltwater did not cover all publications in the co-

hosting countries, still the number of published articles in traditional media was expected to be higher. On the other hand, the social media coverage was truly strong in the Nordic region. Notably, it was easier to publish news about the latest science in traditional forest media in comparison to traditional public news channels.

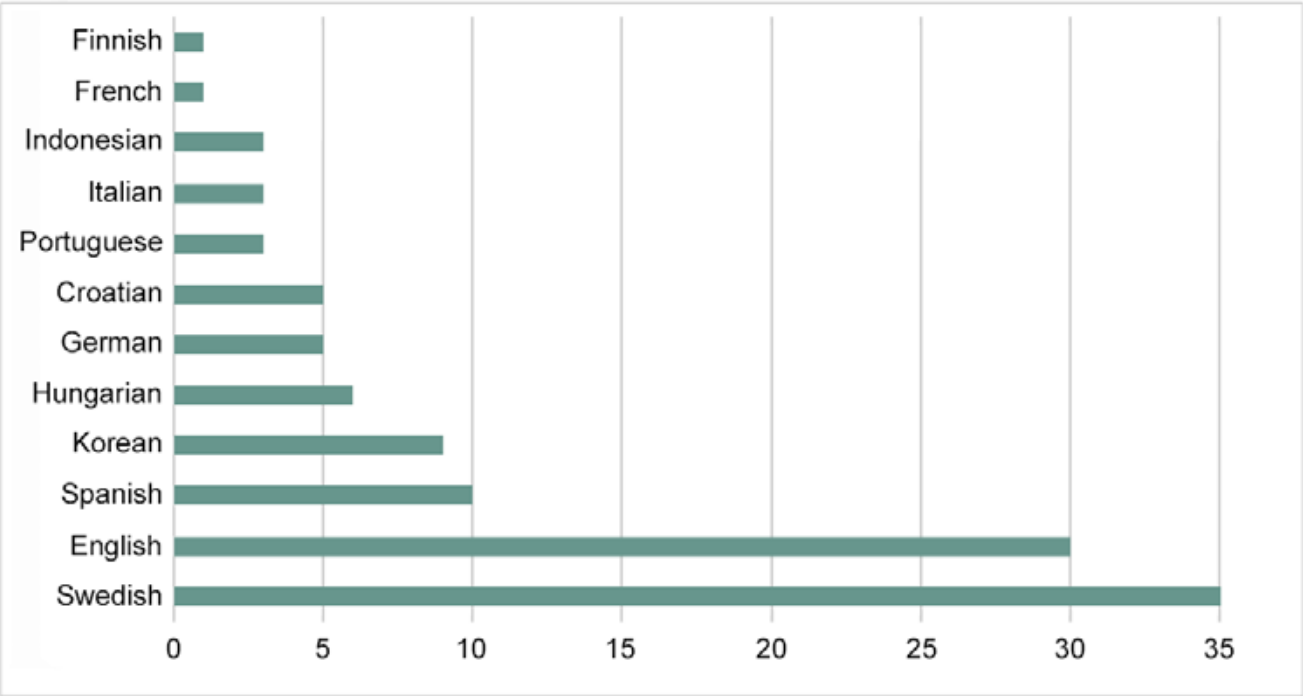


Figure 15. Number of articles per language

In total 74 videos were produced for the congress, 44 published on Vimeo during the congress week and directly after, and 30 published on YouTube, spread over a longer period the year before. The three videos promoting the congress and the city of Stockholm accounted for 52% of the views on YouTube.

A 13-member in-house Media Desk produced and distributed 40 news articles (Appendix 2), 31 video interviews, and four video shows aimed at delegates, stakeholders and media outlets. The use of digital communication channels and partnerships with established IUFRO and external networks worked well.

Video statistics on YouTube for the period 31st August 2023 – 9th July 2024:

- 2 700 views
- 81 watch time hours
- 29 subscribers



12.7 PROFILE PRODUCTS

For sustainability reasons, fewer profile products (Figure 16) were produced in comparison to earlier IUFRO World Congresses, instead a high-standard digital platform and a congress smartphone app for the delegates were promoted. However, upon registration, all congress delegates received the following items:

- An organic and fair-trade cotton bag with the logo types of IUFRO and IUFRO World Congress 2024.
- A fair-trade reusable aluminium water bottle.
- A delegate badge, and a badge band with the logo types of the Congress and SLU.

The congress volunteers received a unisex fair trade cotton t-shirt with VOLUNTEER printed on the back and the logotypes of the congress and SLU on the front side. For the *Tree planting ceremony*, aluminium watering cans were used and afterwards given to the invited speakers. The gifts to award winners and high-level guests were either a traditionally printed moose cup in aluminium, a handcrafted wooden moose hook, or a handcrafted wooden cheese tray. A handcrafted rustic wooden sculpture (Figure 17) of the congress logotype, standing on a solid wooden desk were made out of Forest Stewardship Council certified finger-jointed ash wood and the legs from glulam spruce columns.



Figure 16. Profile products

The sculpture was highly appreciated by delegates for photo shooting. The Branch organisation for event companies in Sweden, SES, nominated the sculpture for Craft of the Year.



Figure 17. Wooden sculpture of Congress logotype

12.8 PRINT AND ADVERTISING

The primary channel for marketing and communication was digital media, especially through the use of the iufro2024.com website, newsletters, other marketing PDF files optimized for mail clients and social media – all four means of communication easily available and for the most part free of charge through licensing provided by SLU. Other benefits of using mainly digital marketing were, for instance, the accessibility to target groups all over the world, shorter lead times, having the flexibility to make changes and corrections both immediately before and after publication, and saving of printed material. However, a few printed advertisements were produced, mainly for business magazines, along with various printed material intended for conferences and meetings where the congress and IUFRO were to be marketed.

Examples of printed and digital material were handout cards, posters, rollups, banners, folders and business cards (Figure 18, 19 and 20). In addition to using proprietary printed and digital material, the congress was advertised in the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry's (KSLA) printed magazine and the Swedish forestry magazine Skogen. Starting in January 2024, the congress was digitally advertised on the web through the use of Swedish media house LRF-Media, adviser.se and atl.nu. The effect of advertising digitally about the congress was low, both among delegates and exhibitors.



Figure 18.



Figure 19.



Figure 20.

The Human Resources section of the IUFRO World Congress 2024 outlines the key committees and teams responsible for organizing and managing the congress. The Congress Organizing Committee (COC), comprised of international experts in forestry and related sciences, played a central role in shaping the congress. The Congress Scientific Committee (CSC), in close collaboration with the Scientific Support Team, handled the scientific programme, with a detailed timeline for session proposals, abstract submissions and programme releases. The congress secretariat and the Professional Congress Organizer managed the logistics, including registration and on-site activities. The Media Desk ensured communication and coverage, while the Volunteer Programme offered opportunities for participants to engage directly with the congress.



13.1 CONGRESS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (COC)

Fredrik Ingemarson Chair, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Vivian Kvist Johannsen University of Copenhagen

Niclas Scott Bentsen University of Copenhagen

Hardi Tullus Estonian University of Life Sciences

Lauri T. Valsta University of Helsinki, Finland

Eeva-Stiina Tuittila University of Eastern Finland

Edda Oddsdottir Icelandic Forest Service

Adalsteinn Sigurgeirsson Icelandic Forest Service

Aris Jansons Latvia University of Agriculture

Vitas Marozas Vytautas Magnus University Agriculture Academy

Hans Fredrik Hoen Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Birgitta Naumburg The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, KSLA

Ulf Johansson Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Johan Bergh Linnaeus University, Sweden

Karin Hornay Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Björn Hånell Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Therese Hultgren Academic Conferences, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Raymond Wide Secretary, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

13.2 CONGRESS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (CSC)

Elena Paoletti Chair, National Research Council, Italy

Teresa De Jesus Fidalgo Fonseca University of Tras-Os-Montes and Alto Douro, Division 1, Portugal

Marjana Westergren Slovenian Forestry Institute, Division 2, Slovenia

Ola Lindroos Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Division 3, Sweden

Donald A. Hodges University of Tennessee, School of Natural Resources, Division 4, USA

Pekka Saranpää Natural Resources Institute, Division 5, Finland

Purabi Bose Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Division 6, Sweden

Maartje Klapwijk Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Division 7, Sweden

Alexia Stokes French National Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment, Division 8, France

Mónica Gabay National University of San Martin, Division 9, Argentina

Daniela Kleinschmit University of Freiburg, Vice-President Divisions, Germany

Shirong Liu Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, Vice-President Task Forces, China

Wubalem Tadesse Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute, President's Nominee for Africa, Ethiopia

Erich Schaitza Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, Embrapa Forestry Research, President's Nominee for South America, Brazil

Björn Hånell Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Representative of the Congress Organizing Committee, Sweden

Isabelle Claire Dela Paz International Forestry Students' Association, Philippines

13.3 THE HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: **Elena Paoletti**

Division 1: DC **Pil Sun Park**

Division 2: DC **Janice Cooke**

Division 3: DC **Luc Lebel**

Division 4: DC **Donald Grebner**

Division 5: DC **Roger Meder**

Division 6: DC **Ellyn Damayanti**

Division 7: C **Tod Ramsfield**

Division 8: C **Sandra Luque**

Division 9: DC **Shashi Kant**

Head of IFSA Sub-commission: **Agustin Rosello**

IUFRO HQ support: **Eva-Maria Schimpf**





13.4 CONGRESS SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat of IUFRO World Congress 2024 was fully staffed from September 2023 until June 2024.

Johan Adolfsson Public Relations Officer
Sara Andersson Assistant Ceremonies and Excursions
Lovisa Eriksson Project Assistant Partnerships
Åsa Hofring Coordinator Innovation Stage
Karin Hornay Coordinator PCO
Jimmy Hägglund Project Assistant Partnerships
Björn Hånell Senior Advisor, Congress Organizing Committee
Rebecca Hunt Coordinator International Relations
Fredrik Ingemarson Chair, Congress Organizing Committee

Jimmy Karlsson Accounting Manager
Henrik Karmehag Congress Photographer
Maria Lindfors Assistant COC
Ulf Lovéus Graphic Designer and Web Editor
Anders Malmer Coordinator Pre-Congress training course
Per Olofsson Head of the Congress Secretariat
Britta Radeloff Coordinator Authorities
Göran Rune Senior Advisor
Raymond Wide Coordinator Excursions and Green Job Arena



13.5 PROFESSIONAL CONGRESS ORGANIZER AND SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT TEAM

The management of the World Congress registration process and activities at the venue was mainly conducted by SLU's own in-house Professional Congress Organizers (PCO), Akademikonferens. The scientific support team were led by the consultant company Invajo, which managed the entire abstract process, including submission, review, and notifications. They also handled scheduling and programme building, seamlessly integrating everything with the Congress app. The PCO and the scientific support team delivered high quality throughout the planning and carry through of the congress.

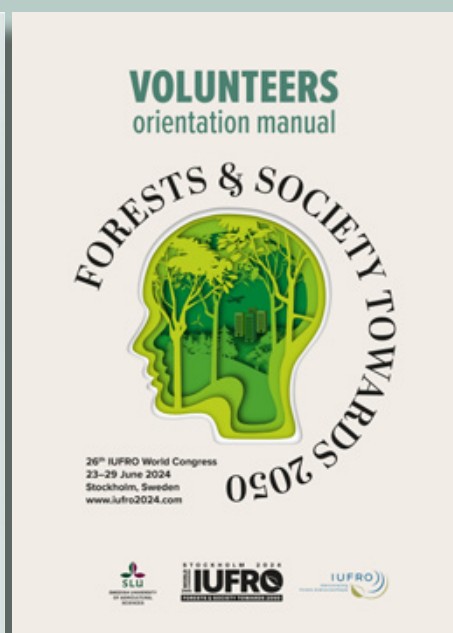
13.6 MEDIA DESK

The Media Desk was assigned to coordinate and execute communication during the congress week. It provided coverage of selected sessions, speakers and events, according to the communication plan. It consisted of ten SLU employees: one chief editor, three back-office staff for editing and publishing, and six staff members creating content i.e. conducting interviews, writing articles, taking photos and videos. The media desk also included an external partner, Websedge, with three staff members creating congress TV-interviews and a daily congress TV-show for delegates.



13.7 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The IUFRO World Congress 2024 volunteer programme aimed to give volunteers valuable work experience and a chance to network with international leading researchers, stakeholders and potential future employers. The selection process of the volunteers was widely publicized, which resulted in over 600 applicants. In total, 82 applications from all over the world were approved. The scholarship for the volunteers included access to scientific sessions and the exhibition, lunch and coffee, in-congress excursions and outdoor-mingle, and finally a certificate of attendance. The volunteers from the Nordic and Baltic host countries, were granted with travel and accommodation free of charge.



The obligations for the volunteers were:

- participate in the one-day training for volunteers
- be an ambassador for the congress, be helpful and willing to assist
- carry out assigned duties in a responsible and professional manner
- inform delegates and attendees, based on written instructions
- occupy a specific station for at least two days during the congress
- be available for in-congress excursions on Wednesday 26 June
- assist at the congress outdoor mingle on Friday 28 June.

The excursions were managed through the Congress Organising Committee, with excursion coordinators and host organisations from the Baltic and Nordic host countries. Researchers from the host organisations coordinated the programmes. Close to 100 partner organisations were involved in organising and implementing pre-, in- and post-congress excursions, resulting in a mix of cultures, scenic landscapes, business and forest research. More than 3 200 delegates joined the in-congress excursions.

14.1 PRE- AND POST-CONGRESS EXCURSIONS

Five excursions were coordinated through the Congress Organising Committee, with excursion coordinators and host organisations in each host country. Researchers from the Nordic and Baltic host organisations managed the programme in collaboration with two travel agencies – Nordic Ways and Impro Travel. The highly appreciated tours offered a mix of scenic landscapes, culture, industry and modern forest science, covering most of the thematic areas of the congress.

THE GLACIERS OF ICELAND

Iceland – A Unique Meeting Point for Forest Science and Ecology

The Iceland excursion provided an in-depth exploration of the country's unique geology, ecology, and culture. Participants gained valuable insights into Iceland's natural history, forestry development, and the impacts of climate change on glaciers and forest ecosystems. Through expert-led lectures, cultural site visits, and hands-on experiences, the programme seamlessly combined science, culture, and Iceland's breath-taking landscapes. The excursion was led by Professor Bjarni D. Sigurdsson.

Geology and the Forces of Nature

A significant part of the excursion focused on Iceland's dramatic landscapes, shaped by volcanic activity and glacial erosion. At Þingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, participants studied the tectonic plate boundaries where the Eurasian and North American plates meet. The visit to Geysir showcased the country's geothermal energy, with erupting geysers and hot springs demonstrating the power beneath Iceland's surface.

At Sólheimajökull Glacier, participants witnessed the retreating glacier and learned about the broader implications of climate change on ecosystems and local communities.



The session at Kötlusteinn delved into the catastrophic effects of glacial floods, which have reshaped Iceland's landscape over centuries.



Forestry and Biodiversity

The excursion examined Iceland's forestry challenges and achievements. At Mógilsá Forest Research Station, participants explored Iceland's history of deforestation and its current afforestation efforts, including strategies for restoring ecosystems in volcanic soils and harsh climates.

A visit to Haukadalur National Forest showcased forest stands over 70 years old, providing a hands-on understanding of Iceland's forest management practices. At Hallormsstaður, one of Iceland's largest forests, participants toured an arboretum featuring over 80 tree species from around the world. The discussion highlighted how reforestation projects contribute to soil stabilization, biodiversity, and ecosystem restoration.

Climate Change and Sustainability

A recurring theme throughout the excursion was the impact of climate change on Iceland's ecosystems and communities. At Jökulsárlón Glacial Lagoon and Diamond Beach, participants observed the striking interaction between melting glaciers and the ocean, learning about the connections to rising sea levels.

In Höfn, a traditional fishing village, participants explored the challenges faced by the local fishing industry due to climate change, including the drying harbour and shifting fish stocks. A visit to Friðheimar, a geothermal-powered greenhouse, provided a remarkable example of Iceland's innovation in combining renewable energy with sustainable food production.

Cultural Heritage and Historical Roots

Iceland's rich culture and history were interwoven throughout the excursion. At Skriðuklaustur, participants explored the ruins of a 16th-century monastery, uncovering the historical narratives tied to the site. The visit to Þingvellir connected Iceland's geological and cultural significance, emphasizing its role in the country's independence and governance.

The group also visited Kirkjubæjarklaustur, where Iceland's tallest tree, a 30-metre Sitka spruce, stands as a testament to the success of forestry efforts in the country. The area's historical significance and natural beauty further underscored the interconnectedness of Iceland's landscapes and culture.

Social and Relaxing Activities

In addition to scientific and cultural learning, the excursion offered opportunities for relaxation and social connection. At Vök Baths in Hallormsstaður, participants enjoyed geothermal pools with serene views of the surrounding nature. The final day in Reykjavík allowed for free exploration of the capital city, including its vibrant café culture, museums, and historic districts.



BALTIC STATES – EUROPE'S GREEN JEWELS

The excursion to the Baltic countries explored the region's multifaceted landscapes and rich forest culture. Participants gained unique insights into sustainable forestry, biodiversity, and the interplay between humans and nature throughout history. Visits to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania combined theory, practice, and culture in a thoughtfully designed programme.

Cultural Landscapes and Historical Roots

The excursion began in Estonia with a visit to Tallinn's Old Town, a place where medieval Hanseatic architecture meets modernity. Participants strolled along the city's well-preserved cobbled streets and discovered historic landmarks such as the picturesque Town Hall Square and Kadriorg Park. Continuing through Estonia, the group visited Kāsmu, known as the "Captains' Village," where local history and maritime culture were highlighted. In Lithuania, the Hill of Crosses stood out as a powerful symbol of the region's history and culture, with its impressive collection of thousands of crosses reflecting faith and resilience.

Diverse Nature and Biological Research

A central focus of the excursion was the exploration of the unique natural environments in the Baltics. Lahemaa National Park in Estonia offered insights into the region's rich eco-systems, from coastal cliffs to lush forests and wetlands. In Latvia, Mežole research forest provided an opportunity to learn about climate adaptation measures and biodiversity-enhancing practices. At Järvselja Experimental Station in Estonia, theory and practice were integrated to study forestry's impact on ecosystems. The Curonian Spit, a UNESCO-listed site in Lithuania, showcased a remarkable combination of sand dunes, pine forests, and colonies of herons and cormorants.

Sustainable Forestry and Innovation

A recurring theme throughout the excursion was sustainable forestry. At the Sagadi Forest Museum, participants delved into Estonia's longstanding relationship with forests through exhibits covering topics from hunting and woodworking to nature conservation. At Latvijas Finieris in Latvia, a world-leading producer of birch plywood, innovative approaches to combining production with sustainability goals were presented. Participants also visited Joudkrantė in Lithuania, where discussions focused on invasive species and their impact on forestry and ecology.

Harmony Between Humans and Nature

A recurring theme was the relationship between humans and nature. In the village of Amatciems, Latvia, participants saw how modern architecture and urban planning could harmonize with forest ecology. Here, they learned about sustainable construction and the careful balance between human activity and environmental preservation. At the Aģe demonstration site in Latvia, the importance of integrating social, economic, and ecological perspectives in forest and water management was emphasized.

Social and Gastronomic Highlights

The excursion also offered numerous opportunities to experience the region's culture through food and drink. A highlight was the visit to Valmiermuiža Brewery in Latvia, where traditional brewing methods were paired with modern flavours. Local delicacies, such as freshly smoked fish in Kāsmu and traditional dishes in Jelgava, provided participants with a taste of the region's culinary heritage. In Lithuania, the group was invited to the Samogitian countryside to enjoy traditional food and folk dances.



VOYAGE TO THE FJORDS – FROM VIKINGS TO FOREST INDUSTRIES

This excursion offered participants an immersive journey through the rich cultural heritage and advanced forestry practices of mid-Sweden and southern Norway. Spanning from June 29 to July 4, 2024, the programme seamlessly integrated historical exploration with contemporary industrial insights, highlighting the region's evolution from its Viking roots to its current status as a leader in sustainable forest management.



Cultural Heritage and Historical Sites

The excursion commenced in Stockholm, Sweden, progressing through significant historical landmarks. Participants visited the medieval town of Arboga, renowned for its well-preserved architecture and historical significance as the site of Sweden's first parliament in 1435. A guided tour along Västerlånggatan, lined with period wooden houses, provided insights into the town's rich past. The journey continued to the Hjälmare canal, Sweden's oldest artificial waterway, operational since 1639, which historically facilitated the transport of iron from the Central Swedish Mining District to Stockholm and beyond. An excursion aboard the steam-ship s/s Gerda, built in 1865, allowed participants to experience this historic route firsthand.

Crossing into Norway, the tour included a visit to the Ytre Hvaler National Park in Skjærhalden, the country's first marine national park, encompassing 354 km² of coastline and skerries. A boat trip through the park showcased its underwater biodiversity, including kelp forests, eelgrass beds, and corals. On land, discussions centred on protected forests and conservation efforts. The historical exploration culminated at Fredriksten Fortress in Halden, Norway's largest and most significant border fortress, offering a glimpse into the nation's military history.

Advancements in Forestry and Industrial Innovation

A central theme of the excursion was the examination of sustainable forestry practices and industrial innovations in the region. In Sweden, participants explored Ekopark Färna, owned by Sveaskog, the largest forest

owner in Sweden. Here, the ecopark concept and strategies for promoting high nature conservation values and biodiversity were presented, with a focus on management methods for conifer-dominated forests in the Bergslagen region. The tour also included a visit to Setra in Skinnskatteberg, a leading wood products company, where sustainable forest management systems and methods were displayed and discussed.

In Norway, the itinerary featured a visit to the Borregaard biorefinery in Sarpsborg, recognized as one of the world's most advanced and sustainable biorefineries. By utilizing various wood components, Borregaard produces environmentally friendly biochemicals that can replace oil-based products, with applications worldwide. Notably, Borregaard is the only supplier of vanillin derived from PEFC-certified wood. The excursion also included a visit to Splitkon in Åmot, a production facility for cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels and glulam beams, representing Norway's industrial advancements in massive wooden-house production. Participants learned about the facility's annual usage of 60 000 cubic metres of solid-sawn PEFC-certified timber boards from Norway.

Integration of Tradition and Modernity

The excursion highlighted the seamless integration of traditional practices with modern innovations. At the Midgard Viking Centre, participants engaged in a guided tour focusing on Viking history and the use of wood throughout Norwegian history, including traditional construction techniques such as "lafting", which dominated wooden house construction from the Viking Age to the 19th century. The visit also included the Viking playground and the Viking Hall, providing a comprehensive understanding of historical building practices.



IN THE HEART OF THE BOREAL – NATURE, ART, AND SWEDISH MIDSUMMER EVE

This six-day excursion offered a deep dive into the landscapes, culture, and ecological research of Finland and Sweden. Participants explored boreal ecosystems, engaged with cutting-edge forest science, and celebrated Swedish Midsummer traditions, blending natural beauty with cultural immersion.

Boreal Ecosystems and Forest Science

The programme began with visits to key research sites in Finland. At the Hyytiälä Forest Research Station, participants learned about its history as a hub for forestry education and its role in global carbon cycle research. The SMEAR II Station offered an up-close view of measurements related to ecosystem-atmosphere interactions, focusing on greenhouse gases and their environmental impacts.

A highlight was the Siikaneva Mire, where participants examined peatland ecosystems and their significance as carbon sinks. Discussions delved into the management and restoration of these fragile habitats, emphasizing their role in mitigating climate change.

In Sweden, participants visited The Svartberget Experimental Forest and the Krycklan Catchment Area, leading sites for long-term ecological and hydrological research. Presentations emphasized the interplay between forest management, water quality, and ecosystem services, supported by national research infrastructure like SITES and ICOS Sweden.

Art and Cultural Exploration

Art and history were central themes, with visits to the Serlachius Museum Gösta in Finland and the Västerbotten Museum in Sweden. At Serlachius, participants enjoyed guided tours of its world-class art collection, architecture, and exhibitions that connect the region's industrial heritage with its artistic legacy.

In Sweden, the visit to the Västerbotten Museum combined an art exhibition tour with a workshop in traditional Nordic crafts. Participants carved birch utensils, connecting with local traditions while learning about the region's cultural history.

Midsummer Celebration and Nordic Traditions

A highlight of the excursion was celebrating Midsummer's Eve in Bonnstan, Skellefteå. Participants joined locals in decorating and raising the midsummer pole, crafting floral wreaths, and dancing to traditional songs. Guided walks along the Lejonströmsbron River provided a tranquil end to the day, offering reflections on Sweden's cultural ties to nature.

UNDER THE MIDNIGHT SUN – NORTHERN SWEDEN AND FINLAND

This six-day journey explored the unique landscapes, ecology, and cultural traditions of northern Sweden and Finland under the captivating glow of the midnight sun. From visits to polar research stations to immersive cultural experiences, the excursion offered a unique perspective on Arctic ecosystems and lifestyles.

Arctic Research and Ecosystem Exploration

The excursion began in Abisko, home to the renowned Abisko Scientific Research Station. Participants engaged with researchers to learn about the impacts of climate change on Arctic ecosystems, including shifts in vegetation and permafrost dynamics.

The journey continued to the Pallas-Yllästunturi National Park in Finland, where participants visited the GAW ICOS LTER forest and peatland research facilities. These sites offered insights into how the Arctic landscape is monitored for carbon fluxes and climate change indicators.

Nature and Midnight Sun Experiences

Participants experienced the serene beauty of the Arctic landscape through guided hikes and e-biking tours under the midnight sun. Activities included encounters with reindeers and opportunities to observe Arctic bird species, highlighting the region's biodiversity.

In Kiruna, the group visited the Ice Hotel, where they explored ice sculptures and engaged in hands-on ice sculpting workshops.

Sámi and Torne Valley Cultural Heritage

The programme included immersive cultural experiences at Vasikkavuoma Nature Reserve, where participants engaged with Sámi traditions through storytelling and a traditional lunch. Discussions emphasized the deep connection between the Sámi people and the Arctic landscape.

A stop in Rovaniemi provided time to visit the Arktikum Science Centre, which showcases Arctic research and culture. Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Santa Claus Village, a light-hearted end to the educational excursion.

14.2 IN-CONGRESS EXCURSIONS

During the IUFRO World Congress 2024, 15 in-congress excursions (Table 20) were conducted, engaging over 3 500 participants. All excursions took place within a two-hour journey from the Stockholm event area. They covered the themes of the congress, showing cutting-edge research, innovative practices, and the intersection of sustainability, biodiversity and forestry with a large variety of themes such as forest management methods, nature protection, forest damage, game management, park management and social values, land and water research, bioenergy, climate issues, forest policy and economy, digitalization and innovation, and new materials from the forest.

The well-visited and much appreciated excursions were the result of successful and close collaboration between research and the authorities as well as business and non-profit organizations. More than 100 scientists and 50 organizations participated in the planning and implementation of the excursions, enhancing the understanding of the social, cultural, ecological and economic roles that forest systems and forest products play in addressing the existing and emerging challenges.



Table 20. In-Congress Excursions

No	Excursion title	Host/Excursion leader	Participants
1	Fire dynamics and disturbances in past and present forest landscapes	Tyresta Forest Foundation and Uppsala University	195
2	Joint efforts to take forest management into the future	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Linneaus University	270
3	Pathology, mycology, ecology and conservation	SLU	238
4	Valuable trees and forests close to people	Royal Djurgården Administration and SLU	271
5	Environmental monitoring and field-based research infrastructure	SLU and SITES (Swedish Infrastructure for Ecosystem Science)	180
6	Production systems for forest fuels and bioenergy generation	SLU and StoraEnso	173
7	Forest-industry integration and logistics	SLU and Sveaskog	224
8	State-of-the-art forestry over a rotation period	Forestry Research Inst. of Sweden and Skogssällskapet	300
9	People, forest and climate change	SLU Future forest	273
10	Conservation and forestry in practice	The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry	373
11	Co-management of deer and forests in a multispecies setting	SLU and Swedish Hunters Association	116
12	Forest as a Park at the Royal Parks of Stockholm	Swedish Royal Court	117
13	New innovative materials from the forest – the research forefront	Royal Institute of Technology and Wallenberg Wood Science Center	64
14	Digitalisation for sustainable forest management	SLU and MISTRA digital forest	182
15	New technologies and innovations in forestry	Linneaus University and National Museum of Science and Technology	275
Total			3251



FIRE DYNAMICS AND DISTURBANCES IN PAST AND PRESENT FOREST LANDSCAPES

This excursion at Tyresta National Park examined the role of fire in boreal forests, with a focus on prescribed burns as a conservation tool, the historical and ecological significance of fire, and the challenges of managing a national park close to urban areas.

Prescribed Fire as a Conservation Tool

Prescribed fire plays a critical role in maintaining biodiversity and ecological balance in boreal pine forests. Participants observed field sites where controlled burns were conducted as part of the Life2Taiga project, a large-scale EU-funded initiative. Discussions revolved around the ecological benefits of prescribed fire, such as promoting fire-adapted species, restoring open forest structures, and controlling pests. Methodologies, safety protocols, and the practical challenges of implementing prescribed burns were thoroughly explored.

Speakers: **Julia Carlsson**, EU Project Life2Taiga, Project leader – methodologies, goals, and results of the Life2Taiga project. **Ellinor Ramberg**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, PhD student – how prescribed fires contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Fire History and Ecological Significance

The history of fire in Sweden's boreal landscapes was explored through a combination of field visits and discussions. Using evidence from fire scars on trees, soil charcoal deposits, and historical records, researchers demonstrated how fire frequency and intensity have shaped forest structure and biodiversity over centuries. The role of human activity in altering natural fire regimes was also addressed, providing a nuanced perspective on the relationship between humans and fire in shaping forest ecosystems.

Speakers: **Mats Niklasson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Southern Swedish Forest Research Centre, Researcher – historical fire regimes and their influence

on forest ecosystems. **Igor Drobyshev**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Southern Swedish Forest Research Centre, Researcher – Research on the interplay between natural fire cycles and human land-use practices.

Forest Bathing and Urban Interaction

Participants experienced a guided forest bathing session, designed to highlight the mental health benefits of nature immersion. This activity underscored the importance of national parks like Tyresta, which serve as refuges for urban populations. The session also covered the challenges of managing a national park near a city, including balancing visitor accessibility with conservation objectives. Educational programs and strategies to minimize the ecological footprint of tourism were discussed.

Speakers: **Tyresta Forest Foundation representatives** – overview of sustainable tourism practices and visitor education.



JOINT EFFORTS TO TAKE FOREST MANAGEMENT INTO THE FUTURE

This excursion showcased cutting-edge forestry practices and research from the FRAS (Future Forest Management in Southern Sweden) programme, addressing mixed forest management, regeneration challenges, and digital innovations for sustainable forestry.

Introduction by: **Mattias Berglund**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Researcher and **Erika Olofsson**, Linnaeus University, Department of Forestry and Wood Technology, Associate Professor in silviculture, Head of Department.

Mixed Forest Management

Presentations focused on the transition from monocultures to mixed forests, detailing the incentives for forestry companies to adopt such practices and the silvicultural challenges they face. Researchers discussed the

pros and cons of mixed-species forests and introduced ongoing projects within the FRAS II programme, which aim to develop best practices for mixed forest management.

Speakers: **Alfred Deutgen**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), PhD student on Forest management, **Nils Fahlvik**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Senior Researcher, and **Rebecka McCarthyTune**, Sveaskog, Forest management specialist – presented findings on transitioning to mixed forests in boreal regions and discussed silvicultural practices and their application in mixed forest management.

Regeneration Challenges and Innovations

Participants learned about innovative methods for forest regeneration, including advanced soil preparation, pest management, and improving seedling quality. Examples of successful regeneration projects in Sweden highlighted the role of collaboration between researchers and forest managers in overcoming challenges.

Speakers: **Karin Hjelm**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Senior Lecturer, **Edzus Romans**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, PhD Student, and **Henrik Holmberg**, Södra Forest Owner Association, Maintenance and entrepreneurial developer – discussed soil preparation techniques for optimal regeneration and shared industry perspectives on improving seedling survival rates.

Managing Threats to Forest Health

Fungal pathogens, insect pests, and moose browsing were identified as key threats to forest health. Field demonstrations showcased tools and methods for monitoring and mitigating these threats, including predictive modeling and adaptive management strategies.

Speakers: **Johanna Witzell**, Linneaus University, Professor, **Märtha Wallgren**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Senior Researcher, and **Frida Carlstedt**, Swedish Forest Agency, Forest damage inventory leader – presented research on fungal pathogens affecting boreal forests and discussed the impacts of moose browsing on forest regeneration.

Management for High Production

This excursion point described measures to increase forest growth and profitability. It discussed the current and potential impact of genetic breeding, evaluated tree species adaptation for different stands and regions, and examined the effectiveness of various silvicultural measures that had been implemented in Swedish forestry over the years.

Speakers: **Mikolaj Lula**, Swedish University of Agricultural

Sciences, Researcher, **Thomas Kraft**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Programme Manager Tree breeding, and **Olov Norgren**, Holmen Skog Forest owner, Forestry Manager.

Management for Ecosystem Services

Participants gained insights into forest management to balance timber production, biodiversity conservation, and recreational value. Case studies included rewetting projects and the Church of Sweden's approach to sustainable forestry, which integrates cultural heritage preservation with ecosystem services.

Speakers: **Anders Lindhagen**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Researcher, **Delphine Lariviere**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Resercher in Forest Management, and **Sofia Bäcklund**, Church of Sweden, Director of Forest Management – discussed recreational and cultural heritage values in forest management and shared insights into balancing sustainability and ecosystem services.



Digital Tools for Sustainable Forestry

Cutting-edge digital tools were demonstrated, including drone-based surveys, AI-powered analysis, and hyperspectral imaging for detecting early signs of stress in forests. These tools enable precise forest monitoring, helping to optimize decision-making and improve sustainability.

Speakers: **Johan Fransson**, Linneaus University, Professor Forest management, **Mattias Berglund**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Researcher, and **Liselott Nilsson**, Swedish Forest Agency, GIS-Specialist – demonstrated drone-based technologies for forest monitoring and presented case studies on using digital tools for sustainable forestry.

PATHOLOGY, MYCOLOGY, ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION

In a scenic mix of idyllic meadows, ancient forests, leafy oak slopes, and spectacular views, this excursion explored continuous cover forestry, the ecological role of fungi, and the impact of forest pathogens. Participants also examined the conservation of ancient oaks, which serve as biodiversity hotspots. Organized by the SLU Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology and the Unit for Experimental Forests and Research Stations at SLU, the programme provided valuable insights into the intersection of ecology and sustainable forestry.

Continuous Cover Forestry: Selection Forestry

This part of the excursion demonstrated selection forestry practices in a mixed-age forest with diverse tree species. Participants observed how this method minimizes soil disturbance and supports biodiversity while ensuring sustainable forest regeneration. A special focus was placed on root rot damage and its implications for forest management. Additionally, mycorrhizal biodiversity was discussed, emphasizing its critical role in nutrient cycling and forest resilience.

Speakers: **Ola Langvall**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Experiment Group Leader for Field-based Forest Research – presented on the practical application of selection forestry and its integration with research initiatives. **Malin Elfstrand**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Professor, **Petra Fransson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Vice-Dean and Senior Lecturer, **Ke Zhang**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Researcher, and PhD student, **Katherine King**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, PhD student – shared findings on the ecological functions of mycorrhizal fungi in continuous cover systems and their contribution to forest health.

Continuous Cover Forestry: Natural Regeneration of Pine

In a pine forest, natural regeneration methods were showcased as a way to achieve continuous cover forestry. Participants learned about the ecological benefits of natural regeneration, including reduced soil disturbance and enhanced biodiversity. Discussions also focused on two significant fungal pathogens in Sweden: the Red Devil and orange blisters, both of which pose threats to pine forests. Soil microbiology and its critical interactions with tree health were also a key focus during this session.

Speakers: **Christer Karlsson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Experimental Forests and Research Stations, Researcher – demonstrated natural regeneration techniques and their application in Swedish forestry. **Paul Kardol**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Professor, **Åke Olson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Researcher, and **Freja de Prins**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, PhD Student – presented research on fungal pathogens and soil microbiology, emphasizing practical solutions for managing these challenges

Dutch Elm Disease and Ash Decline

This session explored the devastating impact of Dutch elm disease (DED) and ash decline on European forests. Participants gained insights into the biology of the pathogens responsible for these diseases, including *Ophiostoma ulmi* and *O. novo-ulmi* for DED, and their transmission via bark beetles (*Scolytus spp.*). The ecological and economic consequences of these diseases were discussed, along with current research efforts to develop resistant tree strains. Field discussions included examples of ash and elm trees affected by these diseases, highlighting ongoing conservation challenges.

Speakers: **Kateryna Davydenko**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Researcher, and **Jan Stenlid**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Professor.



Old Oaks in Kungshamn-Morga Nature Reserve

Participants visited the Kungshamn-Morga Nature Reserve in Uppsala/Knivsta, home to ancient oak trees that stand as living monuments of biodiversity. These centuries-old oaks support an array of species, from fungi and lichens to birds and insects, playing a critical role in maintaining ecological balance. The session emphasized the conservation of these oaks in the face of habitat fragmentation and climate change. Insights were provided into ongoing ecological research and restoration projects focused on preserving these vital habitats.

Speakers: **Audrius Menkis**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Researcher, and **Rimvis Vasaitis**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, Researcher and Associate professor.

VALUABLE TREES AND FORESTS CLOSE TO PEOPLE

This excursion to Stockholm's Royal National City Park focused on the integration of biodiversity, recreation, and cultural heritage into sustainable forest management. Participants explored the role of urban forests in supporting ecological balance and community well-being while preserving the park's historical significance as a natural and cultural landmark.

Urban Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Participants were introduced to the Royal National City Park, a unique green space that combines natural beauty with ecological importance. The park's rich biodiversity was highlighted, including its role in supporting native wildlife such as pollinators, birds, and small mammals. Discussions emphasized the importance of maintaining habitat connectivity within an urban landscape. The park's forested areas serve as vital ecological corridors, linking fragmented habitats and ensuring the survival of various species. Demonstrations included the park's management strategies to balance biodiversity conservation with public access and recreational use.

Speakers: **Johan Colding**, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Professor and theme-leader for the Urban social-ecological systems and globalization – delivered insights into the ecosystem services provided by urban forests, including climate regulation, water retention, and habitat provision. **Ingela Torslund**, Stockholm City Park Management, Director – presented practical approaches to conserving biodiversity in urban environments while accommodating the needs of local communities.



Cultural Heritage in Urban Forest Management

The park's rich history as a royal hunting ground was explored, offering participants a glimpse into its transformation over centuries into a multifunctional green space. Speakers highlighted the integration of cultural heritage into urban forest management, demonstrating how selective thinning, grazing, and other sustainable practices preserve both the ecological and historical values of the landscape.

Participants visited historical landmarks within the park, learning how forest management practices have evolved to reflect the interplay between cultural preservation and ecological stewardship.

Speakers: **Anders Lindhagen**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Researcher – discussed the intersection of forestry, cultural heritage, and recreation in managing urban green spaces. **Sofia Sundström**, Stockholm Municipality, Cultural Heritage Division, Art Historian – provided examples of integrating historical narratives into contemporary forest management planning.

Community Engagement and Education

Community involvement emerged as a central theme of this session, with discussions on how local engagement enhances the effectiveness of urban forest management. Educational programs, citizen science initiatives, and partnerships with schools were highlighted as successful tools for fostering public appreciation of the park's ecological and cultural importance.

Participants learned about specific initiatives aimed at involving residents in conservation activities, such as tree planting campaigns, biodiversity monitoring, and guided nature walks. These programmes not only strengthen community ties but also instill a deeper sense of responsibility toward urban green spaces.

Speakers: **Maria Svensson**, Stockholm Municipality, Environment Education Specialist – presented on the role of educational outreach and community-driven conservation in maintaining the park's ecological integrity.

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND FIELD-BASED RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

This excursion, hosted at Uppsala University's Erken Laboratory at the lake Erken, provided participants with a comprehensive overview of Sweden's advanced environmental monitoring systems. Focused on long-term ecosystem research, biodiversity tracking, and the interconnectedness of forests and aquatic systems, it showcased how innovative tools and infrastructure support sustainable management of natural resources.

Long-Term Ecosystem Monitoring and research on forest water.

Participants were introduced to Sweden's national monitoring programs, which have been pivotal in tracking changes in biodiversity, ecosystem services, and environmental health over decades. This session emphasized the importance of long-term data collection for understanding the impacts of climate change, land-use shifts, and forestry practices on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Speakers outlined how monitoring programmes integrate multiple variables, such as water chemistry, species populations, and hydrological processes, to provide a holistic picture of ecosystem dynamics. The role of standardized methods in ensuring data comparability over time and across regions was also discussed. Examples from Sweden's extensive network of monitoring stations demonstrated how long-term research has informed policy and conservation strategies.

This session also delved into the relationship between forests and water systems, emphasizing how forestry practices influence hydrology, water quality, and aquatic biodiversity. Participants learned about cutting-edge research on mitigating the negative impacts of forestry on water systems, such as nutrient runoff and changes in hydrological regimes.

Discussions focused on practical solutions, including improved forest management practices that prioritize water conservation. Participants explored case studies illustrating how reforestation, buffer zones, and sustainable harvesting techniques contribute to maintaining water quality and ecosystem health.

Speakers: **Charlotta Erefur**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Forest Sciences, Unit for Field-based Forest Research, Coordinator, **Hjalmar Laudon**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Ecology and Management, Professor, and **Blaize Denfeld**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Infrastructure for Ecosystem Science (SITES) programme, Deputy Director.

Biodiversity Tracking and Innovative Research Tools

The final part of the excursion showcased the advanced tools and technologies used in biodiversity tracking and ecosystem research. Demonstrations included aquatic sensors for real-time water quality monitoring, drones for landscape-scale biodiversity assessments, and genetic sampling techniques to detect species presence in aquatic and terrestrial environments.

Participants were given an in-depth look at how these technologies are integrated into Sweden's national monitoring programs to generate robust datasets that inform conservation efforts. Practical examples highlighted the use of these tools in linking forest management with aquatic ecosystem health, providing actionable insights for policymakers and practitioners.

Speakers: **Gustav Hellström**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies, Professor and Senior Lecturer, and **Annika Nordin**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Genetics and Plant Physiology, Professor – presented case studies on the application of innovative research tools in biodiversity monitoring and their role in enhancing forest and water ecosystem management.

National Forest Inventory & Swedish Forest Soil Inventory

SLU's National Forest Inventory & Swedish Forest Soil Inventory conducted field-based sampling of circular plots systematically distributed over all land-use classes. Detailed integrated inventories of trees, vegetation, and soil generated an important base for statistics on forest state, growth calculations, as well as modelling for forest management plans and forest scenario analysis. The data was also increasingly used in the production of maps.

Speakers: **Cornelia Roberge**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish National Forest Inventory, Programme Manager, **Per-Erik Wikberg**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish National Forest Inventory, Head of Analysis, **Jonas Dahlgren**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish National Forest Inventory, Division Manager, **Johan Stendahl**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Soil and Environment; Biogeochemistry of Forest Soils, Head of department and researcher, and **Carina Josefsson Ortiz**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Soil and Environment; Biogeochemistry of Forest Soils, Environmental analysis specialist.

Walking Tour – Monitoring of Habitats and Forest Biodiversity in Sweden

National Inventories of Landscapes in Sweden (NILS) was a national environmental monitoring programme encompassing several targeted inventories within a general framework. Its purpose was to collect, analyze, and present data on habitats, assessing their quality and how they changed over time.

Speakers: **Hans Gardfjell**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Resource Management, Project Leader, **Henrik Hedenås**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Resource Management, Programme Manager NILS, and **Åsa Ranlund**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Resource Management, Environmental Assessment Specialist.

PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR FOREST FUELS AND BIO-ENERGY GENERATION

This excursion explored Sweden's advanced bioenergy systems, focusing on harvesting, storage, logistics, and the transformation of forest residues into sustainable fuel sources. The overall purpose of the excursion was to demonstrate and lecture in the field about Swedish production systems where residual products from forestry and forest industries are used to provide society with heat and electricity.

Storage of Logging Residues and Chips

This session demonstrated methods for storing logging residues and processing them into biofuel. Participants observed equipment used for chipping and quality measurement, alongside discussions on storage techniques that preserve biomass quality.

Speakers: **Erik Anerud**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Biomaterials and Technology, Researcher – presented on storage technologies, quality assessment methods, and logistics for bio-fuel production.

Fuel Production and Logistics

Participants learned about Stora Enso's forest fuel logistics, which manage the transportation of biomass from forest landings to bioenergy facilities. The session included practical demonstrations and discussions on optimizing logistics for efficiency and sustainability.

Speakers: **Helena Gålnander**, Stora Enso Forest, Forestry Specialist – discussed fuel assortments and logistical solutions in Sweden's bioenergy supply chain.

Circular Energy Systems

The excursion concluded with a session on integrating bioenergy into circular energy systems. Participants explored the role of bioenergy in reducing carbon footprints and achieving Sweden's national energy goals.

Speakers: **Peichen Gong**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Economics, Professor – Sweden and energy policy. **Kjell Andersson**, Swedish Bioenergy association Svebio, National team leader for IEA Bioenergy T44 – potential of forest-based bio-energy to support a sustainable energy transition. **Erik Dahlén**, Research Manager, Stockholm Exergi – connected production, sustainability and circularity. **Camilla Widmark**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Economics, Head of Department, Researcher – Sweden, bioeconomy and forest policy.

FOREST-INDUSTRY INTEGRATION AND LOGISTICS

This excursion near Eskilstuna, west of Stockholm, offered participants a comprehensive look into Sweden's advanced forest management practices and the seamless integration of forestry operations with the timber industry. With demonstrations of cutting-edge technology and insights into the Swedish forestry system, the programme showcased how innovation and tradition co-exist in creating a sustainable and efficient forest sector.

Swedish Forests and Forestry

The excursion began with an introduction to Sweden's boreal forests, highlighting their typical characteristics and management regimes. Participants learned how forestry in Sweden balances economic productivity with ecological and social objectives. This segment emphasized the importance of long-term planning and the role of sustainable practices in maintaining the health of boreal forests.

Speaker: **Mattias Forsberg**, Sveaskog Forest Owner, Head of Production (with colleagues) – provided an overview of forest structures, management techniques, and the integration of sustainability into forestry operations.





Swedish Forest Operations

Participants observed best-practice forest operations first hand, including a demonstration of a cut-to-length harvester and forwarder conducting thinning in a Scots pine stand. They explored the machines' advanced features and learned about the digital decision-support systems used to optimize efficiency and sustainability. The presentation also covered the real-time data flows between machines and operators, demonstrating how technology enhances decision-making and ensures precision in forestry operations.

Speaker: **Linnéa Carlsson**, Sveaskog Forest Owner, Technology Specialist (with colleagues) – shared insights into the machinery, digital tools, and data-driven approaches that define modern Swedish forestry.

The Swedish System for Forest-Industry Integration

The programme included a presentation on Sweden's unique system for forest-industry integration, a national initiative built on a century-old agreement between timber buyers and sellers. This system has evolved into a highly automated data hub that ensures efficient and transparent business practices. Participants learned about the accurate measurement and accounting of timber, as well as the sophisticated logistics management processes that support the timber supply chain.

Speaker: **Lars Björklund**, Biometria – timber measurement company ensuring quality of the forest industry's business and enable data-driven and sustainable development, Business Developer (with colleagues) – explained the historical roots, current functionality, and future potential of Sweden's forest-industry integration system.

The Innovations of Tomorrow

Participants were introduced to innovative technologies poised to revolutionize forestry operations. Two emerging companies presented their groundbreaking solutions – Arboreal, which offers a smartphone-based tool for fast and accurate forest inventory, and Nordluft, specializing in drone-based precision forest fertilization.

Both presentations demonstrated how these technologies address traditional challenges in forestry, combining efficiency with environmental sustainability.

Speakers: **Johan Ekenstedt**, Arboreal – tree measurement in the forest, CEO – presented the smartphone-based forest inventory tool. **Elof Winroth**, Nordluft Automation – Utility Drones, CEO – demonstrated the use of drones for precision fertilization.

The Innovations of the Future

The excursion concluded with a glimpse into the future of forestry robotics. Participants observed conceptual robotic systems designed for autonomous planting and timber harvesting. A standout demonstration featured a cableless forest machine capable of independently locating, picking up, and transporting logs, showcasing the potential of robotics to transform forest operations. Speakers: **Anna Wallner**, Södra Forest Owner Association, Project Leader – shared insights into autonomous planting systems. **Magnus Karlberg**, Luleå University of Technology, Professor (with colleagues) – demonstrated conceptual designs for robotic forestry machines.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FORESTRY OVER A ROTATION PERIOD

This excursion to the Bredvik forest estate, located north of Stockholm, offered participants a comprehensive view of applied research and state-of-the-art Swedish forestry. Hosted by Skogssällskapet (estate owner) and Skogforsk (The Forestry Research Institute of Sweden), the programme demonstrated how diverse disciplines are seamlessly integrated into operational forestry. Participants explored how aspects such as silviculture, biodiversity, forest history, cultural heritage, soil, and water protection are managed cohesively over a full rotation period.

Forest Tree Breeding and Regeneration

The excursion began with a demonstration of ongoing research on Norway spruce growth and phenology. Discussions focused on the importance of advanced breeding programs to improve tree resilience and productivity, particularly in the face of climate change. Practical examples showed how research findings are translated into efficient regeneration practices.

Speakers: **Mats Berlin**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Researcher, and **Henrik Hallingbäck**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Researcher – presented research on genetic advancements and phenological studies. **Relika Kaer**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Forest Manager – shared insights into regeneration practices informed by research.

Planning and practical examples of cultural heritage consideration

Participants explored the integration of cultural heritage into modern forestry operations. Digital tools for planning and decision support were demonstrated, showcasing how cultural sites like stone walls, ancient paths, and burial mounds are preserved during forest management. Practical examples illustrated how these considerations are embedded into daily operations without compromising productivity.

Speakers: **Henrik Persson**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Assistant Professor, Digital transformation and forest planning – introduced digital tools for cultural heritage planning. **Kajsa Johansson**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Forest Manager, and **Gustav Flodin**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Trainee – provided practical examples of heritage preservation in forestry.

Set-Asides and Certification

This session highlighted voluntary set-asides as part of FSC certification criteria. Discussions emphasized balancing ecological and social values with sustainability goals. Field demonstrations included biodiversity-rich areas and spaces designated for recreational use, underscoring their importance in long-term forest management.

Speakers: **Johan Sonesson**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Assistant Professor – presented on ecological and sustainability impacts of set-asides. **Karin Fällman Lillqvist**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Director of Sustainability, and **Staffan Mattsson**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Forest Certification Manager – shared operational perspectives on meeting FSC certification standards. **Joakim Ingelsson**, Swedish Orienteering Association, Land and environmental developer – discussed the recreational and social benefits of set-asides.

Retention Forestry in Practice

The principles and practices of retention forestry were demonstrated, emphasizing its role in the Swedish forestry model. Participants observed buffer zones, biodiversity patches, and other retained features that ensure ecological balance within managed forests. Discussions addressed the benefits and trade-offs of retention forestry in balancing economic and environmental goals.

Speakers: **Line Djupström**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Deputy Manager, Forest management, and **Per Westerfelt**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Researcher, Forest management – explained the historical development and practical application of retention forestry. **Harald Nylinder**, Skogs-

sällskapet Foundation, Business Unit Manager, and **David Eiderbrant**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Forest Manager – highlighted field-level implementation and outcomes.

Final Felling Operations

Participants observed a live demonstration of state-of-the-art logging technology, focusing on harvesting techniques and how research influences machinery design. Advanced tools for optimizing felling operations while minimizing environmental impact were showcased.

Speakers: **Petrus Jönsson**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Assistant Programme Manager – presented the latest advancements in logging technology. **Henrik Möllerberg**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Production and Quality Development Officer – discussed the practical application of research findings in harvesting operations.

The Wood Value Chain

This session delved into the interaction between forestry and the forest industry, emphasizing the flow of timber from harvest to processing. Participants learned how digital tools manage harvesting, logistics, and quality control, ensuring efficiency and precision.

Speakers: **Mia Iwarsson Wide**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Programme Manager, and **Johan J. Möller**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Assistant Programme Manager – explained the digital and physical aspects of the wood value chain. **Cassandra Ramstedt**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Business Developer – shared industry perspectives on optimizing value-chain processes.

Timber Transport and Road Technology

At the landing site, participants explored the intricacies of timber measurement, road infrastructure, and transport logistics. Presentations covered innovations in road technology and how strategic planning enhances efficiency while reducing environmental impacts.

Speakers: **Gert Andersson**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Programme Manager, and **Anna Pernestål**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Assistant Professor – shared insights into logistics and road development. **Pontus Larsson**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Business Unit Manager – provided operational examples of timber transport and infrastructure improvements.

Forestry and Water Protection

The excursion concluded with a focus on water protection during forestry operations, emphasizing the need to balance productivity with environmental stewardship. Participants explored strategies for preserving water quality, minimizing erosion, and maintaining aquatic biodiversity.

Speakers: **Lars Högbo**m, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Assistant Professor, and **Rasmus Sörensen**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Researcher – presented research findings on water and forestry interaction. **Johan Asp**, Skogssällskapet Foundation, Regional Manager – discussed practical applications of water protection in forest management.

PEOPLE, FOREST, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This excursion to the Gålö peninsula highlighted the diverse ways in which local actors, forest owners, researchers, and environmental organizations in Sweden engage with forests and climate change. By focusing on the co-production of knowledge between society, science and academia, the programme explored the opportunities and challenges of implementing alternative forestry practices and Sweden's model of forest governance – “freedom with responsibility”. Participants gained valuable insights into the vital role of local actors and stakeholders in shaping sustainable forest management and climate resilience.

Citizen Science and Biodiversity Monitoring

The excursion began with an exploration of citizen science's contribution to monitoring biodiversity responses to climate and land-use changes. Participants learned about Artportalen, Sweden's online multi-tax-on biodiversity platform, which facilitates biological recordings nationwide. Discussions focused on how citizen science supports research, environmental monitoring, and governance while engaging communities in biodiversity conservation.

Speaker: **Mari Jönsson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Swedish Species Information Centre, Researcher – explored the use of the Artportalen platform for monitoring biodiversity in Sweden, focusing on climate and land-use changes.

Continuous Cover Forestry and Recreational Values

Participants visited forest areas where continuous cover forestry have been developed in collaboration with the Archipelago Foundation. The session highlighted how these clear-cut free forestry practices balance production with biodiversity and recreational needs, particularly in

regions of high public interest such as the archipelago.

Speakers: **Jakob Bäckman**, The Archipelago Foundation, Forest Manager – presented demonstration areas and their management principles. **Johannes Ackemo**, Swedish Forest Agency, Forestry consultant – discussed the agency's focus on clearcut-free forestry since 2005.

Reindeer Husbandry and Sustainable Forest Management

The excursion delved into the challenges of managing boreal forests for both reindeer husbandry and forestry, particularly under the pressures of climate change. Participants explored potential solutions for transitioning from conflict to co-management and learned about the cultural and economic significance of reindeer grazing in Northern Sweden.

Speaker: **Tim Horstkotte**, Umeå University, Department of Ecology and Environmental Science, Staff scientist – discussed multiple-use forest management strategies that integrate grazing and production.

Sámi Livelihoods and Climate Change

Participants gained insights into the vital role of forests in Sámi culture and livelihoods. The session emphasized the threats posed by climate change and resource extraction to Sámi traditions and food security, advocating for sustainable forest management guided by indigenous knowledge.

Speaker: **Karin Nutti Pilflykt**, The Saami Council, EU unit, Forest Scientist – shared perspectives on preserving Sámi ecosystems and livelihoods.

Green Infrastructure as a Climate Action Tool

A presentation on green infrastructure highlighted its potential to enhance ecosystem resilience and biodiversity. Participants learned how a landscape-based approach, supported by stakeholder collaboration, can improve natural value management while addressing implementation challenges.

Speaker: **Luis Andrés Guillén Alm**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Southern Swedish Forest Research Centre, Researcher in Forest Policy and Planning – presented on green infrastructure and its application in Swedish forestry.

Nordic Forest Women Network and Barriers to Sustainable Forestry

This session explored how gender perspectives and diverse approaches can overcome structural barriers to sustainable forest management. The discussion highlighted the innovative contributions of women forest

owners and the work of the Nordic Forest Women Network in advancing sustainable practices.

Speakers: **Ingrid Stjernquist**, Stockholm University representing Nordic Forest Women, Senior lecturer – discussed systemic challenges and innovative solutions. **Viktoria Byback**, Spillkråkan, Swedish association for women who own forest, Chair – shared perspectives on gender equality in forestry. **Helena Geijer**, Geijer Skog AB, CEO representing Nordic Forest Women – presented case studies of women-led forest management initiatives.

Combining Scientific and Local Knowledge in Forest Scenarios

Participants explored how combining scientific modeling with local knowledge can enhance forest research. A case study demonstrated the value of integrating diverse perspectives to improve future forest scenarios and decision-making.

Speaker: **Isabella Hallberg-Sramek**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Resource Management, Researcher – presented findings from studies blending scientific and local knowledge.

Transdisciplinary Knowledge for Sustainability

This session examined how cultural and techno-scientific knowledge intersect in forest and climate governance. Using empirical data from Swedish forest stakeholders, the discussion revealed the importance of integrating diverse knowledge domains for sustainable solutions.

Speaker: **Janina Priebe**, Umeå University, Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, Associate professor – shared insights into the transdisciplinary approaches needed for sustainability.

Governing Forests for Carbon Sink Targets

The role of Swedish forests in meeting EU carbon sink targets was highlighted, focusing on how the Paris Agreement goals are being applied in Sweden. Discussions included the concept of a “just transition” at national and EU levels.

Speaker: **Auvikki de Boon**, Umeå University, Department of Political Science, Postdoctoral fellow – provided insights into forest governance within the context of international climate goals.

Socio-Economic Indicators and Environmental Quality Objectives

Participants learned about Sweden’s Environmental Quality Objectives (EQOs) and their relevance to the forest sector. A long-term analysis of socio-economic indicators highlighted trends and challenges in achieving these objectives.

Speaker: **Anniina Kietäväinen**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Economics, Ph.D. Student – presented findings on socio-economic trends in the Swedish forest sector.

Local Community Agency and Wildfire Resilience

The session explored the impact of the 2018 Swedish wildfires, which burned 25,000 hectares. Participants examined how local communities mobilized resources during the crisis and how their experiences informed strategies for sustainable development and wildfire resilience.

Speaker: **Jenny Ingridsson**, Umeå University, Department of Culture and Media Studies, Associate Professor – presented an ethnographic study of community responses to wildfires.

Climate Change Adaptation in Forestry

The excursion concluded with a session on climate change adaptation strategies among forestry professionals. Data from a nationwide survey revealed how practitioners adapt their practices and what factors influence their decisions.

Speakers: **Carola Häggström**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Biomaterials and Technology, Researcher, and **Kristina Blennow**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management, Professor – discussed survey findings and implications for future forest management.

CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY IN PRACTICE

The Barksätter excursion provided a comprehensive exploration of the challenges and opportunities in Swedish forest conservation and management. By addressing biodiversity pressures, wildlife impacts, pest outbreaks, and historical land-use legacies, the programme emphasized the importance of sustainable practices and continuous research. The discussions underscored the need for innovative solutions that balance ecological, economic, and cultural priorities in managing Sweden's forests for the future.

Forest Biodiversity Under Pressure

Participants were introduced to the challenges facing Sweden's forest biodiversity, including pressures from industrial forestry, climate change, and other anthropogenic factors. Presentations emphasized the need for effective conservation strategies and robust monitoring systems to track forest health.

Key insights included the impacts of forest fragmentation and intensive management on species diversity, and the development and application of biodiversity-friendly forestry practices.

Speakers: **Lena Gustafsson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Ecology, Professor Emeritus – provided an overview of biodiversity pressures and conservation strategies. **Joachim Strengbom**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Ecology, Associate Professor – discussed monitoring systems for assessing forest health.

Wildlife Management and Sustainable Forestry

The interplay between wildlife populations and forestry was a central theme. Moose, deer, and wild boar were highlighted for their significant impacts on forests and agricultural lands, including over-browsing and crop damage. Presenters shared insights from the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry's (KSLA) long-term project at Barksätter, which integrates wildlife management with sustainable forestry practices.

Key topics included strategies for balancing wildlife populations with forage availability and damage mitigation, and the role of adaptive management in ensuring harmony between forests, wildlife, and agriculture.

Speakers: **Göran Ericsson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Chair of Wildlife Ecology, Professor and Dean – presented research on the ecological impacts of wildlife populations. **Camilla Sandström**, Umeå University, Department of Political Science, Professor – addressed policy and governance frameworks for wildlife management.

Combating Bark Beetle Outbreaks

The excursion examined the devastating outbreak of the Eurasian spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) following the unusually warm and dry summer of 2018, which led to the loss of over 30 million m³ of Norway spruce. Discussions focused on the historical development of these outbreaks, the drivers of their occurrence, and strategies to reduce future damage, particularly in the context of climate change.

Key points included the ecological and economic impacts of bark beetle infestations, and preventative measures, such as diversified planting and improved monitoring technologies.

Speakers: **Martin Schroeder**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Ecology, Professor of Forest Entomology – presented on the causes and consequences of bark beetle outbreaks. **Gabriel Danielsson**, Skogstjänst AB, Forest Manager – shared practical approaches to managing spruce bark beetle impacts.

Historical Context of Swedish Forestry

The session explored the historical evolution of forest management in Sweden, focusing on the feudal croft system and its role in deforestation. Presenters explained how the cessation of this system and the introduction of the Forestry Act of 1903 significantly increased forest cover. However, challenges persist, such as the current shortage of high-quality timber for maintaining heritage buildings.

Key discussions included the relationship between historical land-use practices and present-day forest composition, and the importance of high-quality timber for cultural heritage preservation.

Speakers: **Ulrich Lange**, University of Gothenburg, Department of Conservation, Professor – discussed the historical development of Swedish forestry practices. **Linda Lindblad**, University of Gothenburg, Craft Laboratory, Director – highlighted the need for quality timber in heritage building maintenance.

CO-MANAGEMENT OF DEER AND FORESTS IN A MULTISPECIES SETTING

The excursion took place in the vicinity of Öster Malma estate in Södermanland County, which houses the national headquarters of the Swedish Association for Hunting and Wildlife Management (SAHWM) as well as a Wildlife Park with ample opportunities to see all deer species appearing in the area.

Browsing by deer was recognized as one of the major sources of direct damage to production forests in Sweden. Furthermore, regenerating with less palatable species in unsuitable sites in order to escape browsing has led to indirect costs through reduced growth and increased susceptibility to other damaging agents. At the same time, intermediate browsing pressures increase biodiversity through disturbance and increased heterogeneity. This excursion focused on drivers of browsing pressures, mitigation measures, and how to co-manage deer and forests in boreal production landscapes under climate change. A major conclusion was that browsing pressures are determined by a combination of the forage availability and the browser community; successful management should focus on both factors simultaneously.

Fredrik Widemo, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies, Associate professor in animal ecology and Senior lecturer, **Laura Saggiomo**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies, Postdoctoral researcher, **Joseph Anderson**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies, Doctoral student, and **Sarah Gore**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Environmental Studies, Doctoral student presented ongoing research, while **managers from SAHWM** guided participants through the event, providing a combination of new results from research and suggestions for applications in management.



FOREST AS A PARK AT THE ROYAL PARKS OF STOCKHOLM

This excursion explored the integration of natural elements – forests, meadows, and lakes – into the historical garden designs of Stockholm’s royal parks. Focusing on Drottningholm Palace and Hagaparken, participants examined the interplay between cultural heritage, biodiversity, and ecological management. Guided by leading landscape architects and environmental experts, the programme showcased the evolution of garden design from baroque formality to romantic English landscapes and highlighted the challenges of preserving these living cultural landmarks.

The Precious Old Trees of Drottningholm

The park at Drottningholm Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is home to numerous ancient oaks and lime trees that are vital for biodiversity. These trees provide habitats for fungi, insects, lichens, and small mammals, but they face significant threats from overgrowth and natural decline.

Participants visited some of the park’s oldest trees, where experts discussed their ecological importance and the species that depend on them. The session highlighted the challenges of balancing historical preservation with ecological needs and public safety. Particular attention was paid to Sweden’s “age gap” in tree populations, where a lack of middle-aged trees poses a risk to species reliant on old-growth habitats.

Speakers: **Martin Elmestål**, County Administrative Board of Stockholm, Environmental Officer – discussed the ecological significance of ancient trees and their preservation challenges. **Patrik Vilidu**, Drottningholm Park, Royal Head Gardener – shared insights into maintaining the historical and ecological integrity of Drottningholm’s landscape.

Hagaparken: A Scandinavian English Landscape Park

The excursion continued to Hagaparken, the most prominent Scandinavian example of an English landscape park. Created in a mid-Swedish fissure valley, the park reflects the romantic ideals of 18th-century English garden design, where nature is artistically shaped to evoke harmony and tranquility.

Participants explored Hagaparken's unique topography and learned about its role as both a public space and a cultural landmark, serving as the residence of Sweden's Crown Princess Victoria. Discussions emphasized the park's history and its ongoing evolution as a cherished public park.

Speaker: **Bengt Isling**, Hagaparken, Nyréns Arkitektkontor AB, Head Landscape Architect – presented the historical and cultural significance of Hagaparken as a product of its natural landscape and English garden ideals.

European Lime Trees in Swedish Parks

Participants explored the lifecycle and management of European lime trees in Hagaparken. The park features veteran hybrid lime trees that have thrived under Sweden's unique conditions, outlasting many of their counterparts in Central Europe.

This session focused on the management strategies that have contributed to their longevity, including pruning, replanting, and adaptive care. Participants learned about the different life stages of the iconic trees and their importance in maintaining the park's historical and ecological integrity.

Speaker: **Daniel Daggfeldt**, Trädmästarna AB, Arborist – demonstrated the lifecycle management of lime trees and their adaptation to Swedish landscapes.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN FORESTRY – 1

This excursion to KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm showcased cutting-edge research on innovative materials derived from forest resources. Hosted by the Wallenberg Wood Science Center (WWSC), participants explored how nature's raw materials can be transformed into advanced materials that contribute to a more sustainable and resilient society. Through presentations, lab tours, and interactions with researchers and startups, the programme offered a comprehensive overview of how research and innovation are driving the development of forest-based materials.

Introduction to KTH and Forest-Based Innovations

The day began with an introduction to KTH Royal Institute of Technology and its pivotal role in forest-based innovation. Participants learned about Sweden's approach

to value creation from the forest and how institutions like KTH contribute to this process through interdisciplinary research and collaboration with industry.

Speakers: **Mikael Lindström**, Swedish Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Deputy President – welcomed participants and provided an overview of KTH's role in sustainability and innovation. **Daniel Söderberg**, Swedish Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Professor and Director of Treearch – discussed Sweden's value creation from forest resources and its global significance.

Wallenberg Wood Science Center: Research for a Sustainable Future

Participants were introduced to the pioneering work of the Wallenberg Wood Science Center (WWSC), which focuses on developing new materials from wood. Presentations highlighted the potential of forest-based resources to replace fossil-based materials, offering innovative solutions for sustainability. The research emphasized the unique properties of nature's components and their ability to drive breakthroughs in material science.

Key topics included the transformation of lignin, cellulose, and hemicellulose into advanced materials, and the potential applications of forest-based materials in industries such as construction, packaging, and healthcare.

Speaker: **Eva Malmström**, Swedish Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Professor, Director of Wallenberg Wood Science Center – presented the centre's research focus and its implications for global development.

From Research to Innovation: Startups and Entrepreneurship

The programme featured presentations from startups that have emerged from KTH's research ecosystem. Participants learned how academic discoveries are translated into market-ready solutions, supported by KTH Innovation, a dedicated hub for business development.

Key examples included novel materials for renewable packaging and composites, and sustainable alternatives to plastics and specialty chemicals derived from forest resources.

Speaker: **Daniel Carlsson**, Swedish Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Business Development Coach, KTH Innovation – shared insights into the commercialization process and the role of startups in advancing sustainable materials.

Interactive Lab Tours and Research Demonstrations

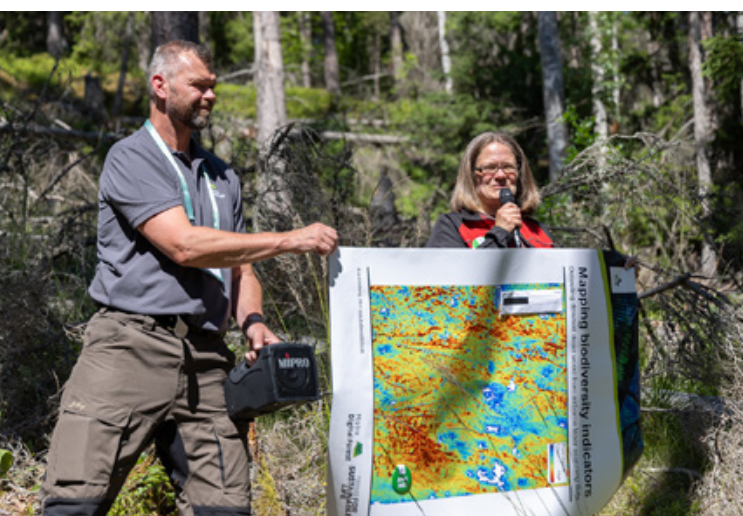
Participants had the opportunity to engage directly with the research activities at WWSC. Guided tours of the laboratories provided a hands-on understanding of ongoing projects, from material synthesis to application testing. PhD students and researchers showcased innovative prototypes and explained the science behind their work.

Highlights included demonstrations of high-strength cellulose-based materials and insights into the scalability of forest-based materials for industrial applications.

This interactive session fostered dialogue between participants and researchers, bridging the gap between fundamental research and real-world impact.

DIGITALIZATION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

This excursion, hosted by Mistra Digital Forest in collaboration with Skogsindustrierna, Sveaskog, the Forestry Agency, Skogforsk, SLU, and Umeå University, showcased Sweden's cutting-edge contributions to digitized sustainable forestry. Participants explored innovative technologies and digital tools transforming forestry practices, highlighting their role in addressing climate change, enhancing biodiversity conservation, and optimizing resource management.



Biodiversity Mapping Using LiDAR

The excursion began with an introduction to the use of LiDAR technology for mapping biodiversity indicators in forest ecosystems. By leveraging laser scanning, researchers can identify critical biodiversity elements, such as deadwood, which provide habitats for various species. This technology allows for precise data collection, enabling effective monitoring and management of forest structures to support conservation efforts.

Speaker: **Eva Lindberg**, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Forest Resource Management,

Senior Lecturer – presented the application of LiDAR in biodiversity mapping and its implications for sustainable forest management.

AI for Detecting Bark Beetle Damage

Participants gained insights into how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used to combat the destructive effects of spruce bark beetles. AI-powered tools analyze satellite imagery, drone data, and field observations to detect early signs of infestations. This early detection system enables swift interventions, reducing the spread of bark beetle damage and mitigating its ecological and economic impacts.

Speaker: **Patrik Olsson**, Swedish Forest Agency, GIS and Remote Sensing Specialist – discussed the integration of AI in monitoring and managing bark beetle infestations.

Outdoor Recreation and Trail Management

The Sörmlandsleden hiking trail served as a case study in sustainable trail management and outdoor recreation. Representatives emphasized the importance of maintaining recreational areas while preserving their surrounding ecosystems. Participants learned about collaborative approaches to managing the trail and ensuring its accessibility and sustainability for future generations.

Speakers: **Representatives from the Sörmlandsleden Association** – shared strategies for managing the trail and balancing recreational use with environmental conservation.

Mistra Digital Forest Research Programme

The Mistra Digital Forest Research Programme was highlighted as a transformative initiative aimed at integrating digital technologies into forestry practices. This programme focuses on enhancing forest management strategies, optimizing timber yield, and improving environmental performance. The discussion emphasized the role of partnerships between industry stakeholders, researchers, and innovators in advancing sustainable forestry.

Speaker: **Sverker Danielsson**, Swedish Forest Industries Association, Programme Manager Mistra Digital Forest and Bioinnovation – provided an overview of Mistra Digital Forest's contributions to digital forestry.

Digital Tools for Thinning Management

Participants explored the development of digital tools for estimating thinning needs in forests. By analyzing data from remote sensing, LiDAR, and GPS, these tools provide forest managers with precise recommendations for thinning practices. This approach improves forest productivity, maintains biodiversity, and reduces environmental impact, ensuring a balance between ecological and economic objectives.

Speaker: **Maria Nordström**, Forestry Research Institute of Sweden (Skogforsk), Program Manager, Digital transformation and forest planning – presented digital solutions for optimizing thinning practices.

Automation of Logging and Transport Simulation

The excursion concluded with a presentation on automation in logging and transport, focusing on simulation tools that optimize harvesting operations. By simulating various scenarios and operational conditions, these tools enhance planning, resource management, and operational efficiency. The use of autonomous vehicles, drones, and robotic systems further reduces environmental impacts and increases safety in forestry operations.

Speaker: **Martin Cervin**, Umeå University, Research programme Mistra Digital Forest, Programme manager – discussed automation technologies and simulation-based models for sustainable logging and transport.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN FORESTRY – 2

Held at the National Museum of Science and Technology in Stockholm's Royal Djurgården, this excursion highlighted cutting-edge technologies and innovations in forestry, focusing on advancements in measurement, remote sensing, AI, IoT, and Big Data. Participants also experienced the museum's brand-new exhibition, "The Forest," which explored the multifaceted role of forests and forest-based products. The tour culminated in a visit to the Wisdome, a spectacular wooden dome, showcasing the potential of wood as a sustainable construction material.

Exploring the Wisdome: Wooden Marvel and Cosmic Journeys

Participants began the day with an introduction to the Wisdome, a state-of-the-art wooden dome that exemplifies the advantages of timber construction. Guided by Museum Intendent Peter Skogh, attendees learned about the dome's design, construction process, and its role in promoting wood as a renewable building material.

The session included a 3D film experience, "VAST 3D –

A Cosmic Journey Through Time and Space", in which participants were immersed in a high-resolution projection of the universe. Alongside this, a poster session by Linnaeus University presented advancements in green and blue sustainability, linking forestry innovation with broader environmental objectives.

Speaker: **Peter Skogh**, Swedish National Museum of Science and Technology, Director – discussed the design and construction of the Wisdome and its significance in promoting sustainable building practices.

The Forest: A New Perspective on Sustainability

Participants explored "The Forest," a newly launched exhibition at the museum that brought the beauty and complexity of forests to life. Walking along trails through simulated trees and terrain, attendees reflected on the ecological, social, and economic roles of forests. The exhibit posed thought-provoking questions about balancing the diverse needs forests fulfill, from biodiversity conservation to timber production.

The session also included a visit to "Zero City," an exhibition envisioning a fossil-free future for urban transportation and its intersections with sustainable forestry.

Cutting-Edge Lectures on Forestry Innovations

The programme featured five expert-led lectures on transformative technologies and practices shaping forestry's future.

Harvest and Recovery: The Carbon Balance of Managed Forests

Discussed how managed forests influence carbon cycles and their potential to mitigate climate change.

Speaker: **Achim Grelle**, Linnaeus University, Department of Forestry and Wood Technology, Professor

The Close Link Between Tree Water Use and Growth

Examined the relationship between water use and tree growth, highlighting implications for forest management under changing climatic conditions.

Speaker: **Martin Bader**, Linnaeus University, Professor of Ecology and Biodiversity

Forest 4.0: Utilizing Data as a Key Resource

Presented innovative applications of Big Data and digital technologies in optimizing forestry value chains.

Speaker: **Arianit Kurti**, Linnaeus University, Department of Computer Science and Media Technology, Professor and Head of department

Södra: Optimizing the Value Chain in Family Forestry

Shared insights into how family forestry operations are enhancing efficiency and sustainability through technological integration.

Speaker: **Tinh Sjökvist**, Södra Skogsägarna, Specialist Wood Technology Södra Innovation

Engineering Design Along the Wood Value Chain

Explored resource-efficient timber structures and the engineering design innovations driving competitiveness in the timber industry.

Speaker: **Thomas Bader**, Linnaeus University, Department of Building Technology, Professor



The XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024, held from June 23 to 29, in Stockholm, Sweden, under the theme Forest and Society Towards 2050, represented a landmark event in global forest research, gathering 4 200 delegates from 110 countries. The global event was thoroughly managed to integrate scientific discourse, policy dialogue, and networking opportunities, reinforcing the commitment to sustainability, diversity, inclusion and equitable action within the forestry sector.

This final report of the Congress Organizing Committee describes scope, organization, programme and output of the congress. It also compiles the management of the finances, human resources, partnerships, as well as communication and public relations.

The congress featured an extensive programme comprising 400 scientific sessions with 3 000 oral presentations highlighting the latest advancements in forest science. The themes addressed critical areas such as forest resilience, bioeconomy, biodiversity, sustainable societies, and future forest developments. The scientific agenda was complemented by a dynamic exhibition, *From Science to Practice*, which introduced the *Innovation Stage* and the *Green Job Arena*, reflecting a commitment to bridging scientific research with practical implementation through stakeholder dialogues.

A significant achievement of the congress, in line with the ambitions of the host organization Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), was its emphasis on inclusion and gender equality with the highest levels of diversity in IUFRO history with 43% women. The Congress Organizing Committee (COC) also delivered a net zero result in accordance with the bid and the contract.

The IUFRO World Congress 2024 engaged 34 official partners from all over the world. Hundred regional partners and organizations were involved in congress excursions. Partners represent business and environmental organizations as well as governmental and other non-governmental organizations.

The congress week commenced with a ceremonial tree planting, followed by an opening ceremony, graced by His Majesty the King of Sweden. The captivating atmosphere among delegates continued throughout the week. Participants engaged in the extensive scientific program with 35 parallel sessions, excursions, IUFRO

administrative meetings, networking and social events. The week culminated in a closing ceremony where awards were presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to forest research. The congress also facilitated pre- and post-excursions across the Nordic and Baltic host regions as well as in-congress excursions involving over 3 500 participants. The excursions provided participants with insights into regional forestry practices, environmental monitoring, industry innovations, and cultural heritage.

Sustainability was a central pillar of the congress management, manifested through e.g. minimising food waste and transports. Delegates were equipped with digital commuter cards, and digital platforms were prioritized over printed materials. The communications strategy leveraged a digital-first approach, including newsletters, a dedicated mobile application, and strategic social media engagement, resulting in significant global outreach.

The Stockholm Congress Statement articulated key messages for the future of forests and society towards 2050. It underscored the urgency of addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, social inequalities and responsible circular bioeconomy, through science-driven policy and equitable action. In addition, the Nordic and Baltic contribution to the statement provided key messages about roles and needs towards 2050 directed to researchers and policymakers enabling bold action.

Overall, the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm provided an unparalleled platform for scientific exchange, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and reinforcing the role of forests in addressing global challenges. The successful execution of the congress set a new benchmark for future IUFRO World Congresses.

APPENDIX 1

List of published web pages on website iufro2024.com

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2	A Word Cloud of our Shared Experiences
3	About IUFRO
4	About Northern Europe
5	Accommodation
6	Arlanda Express
7	Avicii Experience
8	Booking and Rooms – Best Western
9	Booking and Rooms – Ligula Hospitality Group
10	Booking and Rooms – Scandic Hotel
11	Booking and Rooms – Strawberry Hotel
12	Boost Your Career
13	Call for Congress Abstracts
14	Call for Congress Session Proposals
15	Call for Nominations for IUFRO Awards
16	Call for Volunteers
17	Challenges Towards 2050 – Videos
18	Closing Ceremony
19	Confirmed Exhibitors
20	Confirmed Partners
21	Congress App
22	Congress Awards
23	Congress Organizing Committee (COC)
24	Congress Outdoor Mingle
25	Congress Scientific Committee (CSC)
26	Contact
27	Denmark
28	Detailed Programme
29	Discover World Class Innovation
30	Download Marketing Materials
31	Enhancing Inclusiveness, Equity and Cooperation for Effective Forest Governance
32	Enjoy a Green Experience in Stockholm
33	Environmental Policies (Stockholmsmässan)
34	Estonia
35	Excursion Countries
36	Excursions – Frequently Asked Questions
37	Excursions Baltic Countries – Frequently Asked Questions
38	FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions
39	FAQ and Exhibition Manual
40	Find Your Way
41	Finland
42	Floor Plan (preliminary)
43	Forests and Society Towards 2050
44	Four Exhibition Packages
45	From Castles to Canopies – Forest Resilience in Southern Sweden
46	From Coast to Coast: The High Road to Trondheim Fjord – Northern Sweden and Mid Norway
47	General Information
48	Give Feed Back on the Congress
49	Green Travel Policy
50	Iceland
51	In the Heart of the Boreal – Nature, Art and Swedish Midsummer Eve – Finland and Northern Sweden
52	In-Congress Excursions
53	IUFRO Student Award for Excellence in Forest Science Winners 2024
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55	IUFRO World Congress 2024
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60	Join the Innovation Stage
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64	Latvia

65	Lithuania
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69	Mentorship Programme
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80	NOW 22296 – The High Road to Trondheim Fjord
81	NOW 22297 – From Castles to Canopies – Forest Resilience
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85	Opening of the Exhibitions
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93	Privacy Policy Page
94	Professor Peter Poschen speaks at the Green Job Arena
95	Registration and Fees
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97	Science and Society Sub-Plenary Sessions
98	Scientific Achievement Award Winners 2024
99	Scientist Assistance Programme
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101	Skansen Open-Air Museum
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105	Stockholm – the Natural Choice
106	Stockholm 2024 in Curitiba
107	Stockholm Metro Card
108	Sub-Plenary Sessions long description
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111	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
112	The Baltic Countries – Green Jewels of Europe
113	The Exhibition
114	The Glaciers of Iceland
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116	The SLU Pavilion
117	The Stockholm Exhibition and Congress Centre
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119	Themes IUFRO World Congress 2024
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121	Tree Planting Ceremony
122	Under the Midnight Sun – Northern Sweden and Finland
123	Videos
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125	Voyage to the Fjords – from Vikings to Forest Industries – Mid Sweden and Southern Norway
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128	Welcome to the IUFRO World Congress 2024
129	Welcoming Dr. Éliane Ubalijoro

The 44 news items produced during the congress	
1	Gender Milestone - First Female President Elected at IUFRO
2	IUFRO Honorary Awards
3	Keynote Speaker Hans Joachim Schellnhuber
4	Keynote Speaker Isabelle Claire Dela Paz
5	Activists Urge Businesses and Politicians to Take Action!
6	The Future is to Be Found in the Past
7	22 Years of Learning from a WWF and IKEA Partnership
8	Will There Be Enough Wood in the Future?
9	Keynote Speaker Sally Aitken – Forest Biodiversity and its Ecosystem Services
10	Protecting People and Societies from the Threat of Wildfires
11	Mokena Makeka – Bioeconomy as the Next Industrial Revolution
12	IUFRO Student Award for Excellence in Forest Science (ISA) 2024
13	The Stockholm Congress Statement is Now Official
14	How Forest Bioeconomy Becomes a Reality
15	Keynote Speaker Anne Toppinen – Forest Bioeconomy in the Era of Sustainability Transition
16	International Science Cooperation is Key for Research Excellence
17	How to Incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in Forest Education
18	IUFRO Outstanding Doctoral Research Award Winners (ODRA) 2024
19	Enhancing Inclusiveness, Equity and Cooperation for Effective Forest Governance
20	Forests Boost Public Health
21	Let AI-Drones Protect Your Plantation
22	Embrapa – Integrating Solutions to Meet Diverse Needs
23	IKEA Takes Global Lead on Sustainable Forest Management
24	Boosting Wildlife Populations via Saltstones
25	Living Greener With Wood
26	Consumer Insights Needed to Optimize Sustainability
27	The True Price of Cocoa
28	SAA Winner Chung-Jiun Tsai
29	Congress Week Mingle Pictures
30	No Glass Ceiling: Dr. Juliette Biao Calls for Visibility and Recognition of Women
31	Scientific Achievement Award Winners Announced
32	HM The King Calls for Deeper Understanding of Forests
33	Time to Enhance and Revise Forestry Education!
34	Creating Cities Where People and Forests Flourish Together
35	Host Award Winners Announced
36	Awardee Liisa Tyrväinen
37	Awardee Jan Stenlid
38	Awardee Algirdas Augustaitis
39	HM The King Opened the 26th World Congress
40	Increasing Wood Product Use Essential for Carbon Neutrality
41	Tree Planting Marked The Start of Congress Week
42	Skansen Open-Air Museum Supports Congress
43	Nordic Input Finalized for Stockholm Congress Statement
44	Leadership for Sustainability Interview: Lars Rebien Sørensen

Examples of other existing pages before the congress	
1	Steering Committee at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
2	Call for Congress Session Proposals
3	Call for nominations for IUFRO awards
4	Call for Congress Abstracts
5	Exhibitors Premium
6	Exhibitors Medium
7	Exhibitors Small
8	Mini Booth Area

11 Calendar events published just before and during the congress	
1	Grassroots and Activists Perspectives
2	Forest Therapy Walk
3	22 Years of Learning From a WWF and IKEA Partnership
4	Improved Traceability with Forensics and AI
5	Rainforest Restoration in Borneo by IKEA
6	The Friendly Forest 2050
7	Towards More Biodiverse Forests
8	Ministerial Panel
9	Outdoor Mingle
10	Closing Ceremony
11	Making Most of the Congress

STRATEGIC
CONCEPT
OF THE XXVI
IUFRO
WORLD
CONGRESS
2024

Strategic Concept of the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024

07 June 2022

Background and rationale

The XXVI IUFRO World Congress will be held in Stockholm, Sweden from 23-29 June 2024. It will gather scientists and stakeholders from all parts of the world to discuss scientific issues related to priority areas of forest research, policy and management. Focusing on the contributions of forest and trees to the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, it will help to focus forest research agendas, furthering dialogue and cross-sectoral cooperation, and promote the multi-functionality of forests and the vast array of services they provide.

The title of the Congress is *Forests and Society towards 2050*, encompassing the growing demand for forest ecosystem services due to the climate crisis and needs of the bioeconomy sector, reinforcing the importance of ecological, social, cultural and economic functions of healthy forests, and forest resilience to disturbances and anthropogenic pressures. 2050 is a landmark year to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature of the UN CBD as well as the target of the net zero emissions.

As described in the IUFRO Strategy post-2020, an increasing global population, coupled with resource-intensive lifestyles, is putting more pressure on forests and trees. Climate change, biodiversity loss, ongoing environmental degradation, urbanization, globalization and changing consumption patterns are likely to further exacerbate these pressures. More than ever, the world needs to move away from the fossil-based economy towards renewable resources and nature-based solutions.

To react to the most pressing challenges and hazards that affect both forests and society, high-quality, up-to-date scientific evidence and innovation drawing on the best expertise is required. More than before, there is a need to raise awareness and combat misinformation and scientific illiteracy by conducting and communicating (forest) science that is transparent, independent, accessible, inclusive, equitable, and of high integrity and quality. Scientific voices need to be heard even more by both the policy-makers and practitioners, and communicated even more effectively worldwide.

Purpose of this strategic concept

This document provides strategic guidance for planning and implementing activities related to the programme of the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024, including the engagement of IUFRO's scientific network, partners and stakeholders, as well as the related communication activities. In this way, it will also facilitate the development of a Congress outcome document, e.g., a declaration.

It outlines the strategic goals of the Congress, tools and ways to implement the strategic concept including guiding principles and assignment of tasks in line with the *Agreement for hosting the XXVI IUFRO World Congress*, signed both by SLU and IUFRO in August 2018, and offers concrete suggestions for activities.

The strategic concept is underpinned by the Vision, Core Values and Institutional Goals of IUFRO as laid out in the IUFRO Strategy post-2020, guided by the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Strategic aim of the Congress

The main goal and the five strategic objectives of the Congress are guided by IUFRO's Vision *The Global Voice of Forest Science Promoting a Sustainable Future of Forests and Society* and Core Values (*Excellence; Networking; Diversity; Integrity*).

The goal of the Congress is to promote a sustainable future for forests and society by demonstrating the role of IUFRO in addressing the critical challenges to sustainable development and human well-being and providing response options.

The main goal of the Congress can be achieved through the following five (5) equally important strategic objectives:

- Objective 1: Provide a global platform to IUFRO members and scientists, including from economically disadvantaged countries, for scientific exchange and research networking within forestry and with related disciplines.
- Objective 2: Further increase the diversity of the IUFRO network in terms of gender, age, culture, ethnic/social origin, and geography.
- Objective 3: Enhance understanding of the social, cultural, ecological and economic roles that forests and forest products play in addressing the existing and emerging challenges to sustainable development and in providing response options.
- Objective 4: Promote global collaboration in forest-related research by engaging all relevant regional and global stakeholders, including beyond the forest- and tree-based sector.
- Objective 5: Showcase IUFRO as a key player in providing high-quality, unbiased, independent and accessible scientific evidence and guidance related to forests and trees to the science community, policy-makers and other relevant stakeholders.

By addressing these objectives, the Congress will also offer opportunities to expand the funding-base for IUFRO activities from existing and potential new partners and donors.

Implementing the strategic concept

Engagement of all relevant stakeholder groups is the key to accomplishing the main goal and the five strategic objectives. Therefore, a coherent approach towards engaging the wide spectrum of IUFRO stakeholders is required. In broad terms, the internal and external stakeholders (both regionally and globally) can be divided as follows:

- Academia/research, including IUFRO member organizations and early career researchers
- Policy- and decision-makers, including governments, inter-governmental organizations and international policy processes
- Business sector, including industry, landowners and managers, and practitioners
- UN Major Groups, including smallholders, local communities, indigenous peoples, women, youth etc.
- Civil Society Organizations including, among others, environmental and social NGOs.
- Funding organizations/development cooperation agencies
- Other relevant international and regional networks, associations, unions and societies
- Regional and global media and communicators
- General public

For the success of the Congress, identification of the expectations and needs of stakeholders is required. In return, it is essential to map the options how relevant stakeholders could provide strategic guidance and support for IUFRO.

Keeping in mind the variety of stakeholders, it is suggested to implement this strategic concept through the following strategic components of the Congress:

- 1) Congress scientific programme;
- 2) Activities engaging non-scientific stakeholders; and
- 3) Communication, outreach and PR activities.

For each strategic component, the main responsibilities of the CSC, COC and HQ are outlined in order to ensure effective and well-coordinated implementation of related tasks.

Strategic component 1: Congress scientific programme

➤ Congress scientific programme

Aim and purpose

Scientists and science in general are the driving forces behind IUFRO. *Science* as a major stakeholder for IUFRO comprises all IUFRO Member Organizations and scientists, as well as those scientific organizations and institutions, including the scientists who are not yet members. It has become increasingly important to attract scientists also from other scientific disciplines related to forests and trees beyond the forest sector.

The scientific programme of the Congress provides a platform for IUFRO (and non-IUFRO) members and scientists, including those from economically disadvantaged countries, to exchange the latest science related to forests and trees and participate in research networking. At the same time, the scientific programme offers excellent opportunities to involve also the non-scientific stakeholders e.g., through non-scientific keynote speakers on the main themes and sub-themes of the Congress. *Youth* and *early career researchers* as the next generation of scientists affected by the decisions taken today should be highlighted in this regard.

Guiding principles:

The programme should be aligned with the Congress title *Forests and Society Towards 2050* and contribute to addressing existing and emerging challenges to sustainable development and well-being and providing response options.

To address the most pressing challenges and hazards that affect both forests and society, the scientific programme should take into account the five thematic areas of the IUFRO Strategy post-2020: Forests for People; Forests and Climate Change; Forests and Forest-Based Products for a Greener Future; Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Biological Invasions; and Forests, Soil and Water Interactions. Furthermore, the programme should address and contribute to the UN Agenda 2030 and its SDGs.

The scientific programme of the Congress is guided by the following themes and sub-themes¹, developed by the Congress Scientific Committee:

THEME 1: Strengthening forest resilience and adaptation to stress

Subtheme 1.1 Maintaining forest health in the face global change

Subtheme 1.2 Forests, soil and water

Subtheme 1.3 Forest management for global change adaptation and mitigation

THEME 2: Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy

Subtheme 2.1 Sustainable forest operations

Subtheme 2.2 Innovations, markets, and industrial developments for the forest products

Subtheme 2.3 Planted forests for a resourceful forest bioeconomy

THEME 3: Forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services

Subtheme 3.1 Harnessing underused forest genetic resources

Subtheme 3.2 Biodiversity, deforestation, and restoration

Subtheme 3.3 Emerging issues in forest landscape ecology

THEME 4: Forests for sustainable societies

Subtheme 4.1 Nature-Based Solutions

Subtheme 4.2 Power and equity in the forest sector

Subtheme 4.3 Forests, trees, and human well-being

Subtheme 4.4 The complexity of forest governance

¹ As per the decision by the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) on 15.09.2021, the Themes correspond to the topics of the Plenary Sessions, but the Sub-themes are not necessarily the topics of the Sub-Plenary Sessions.

THEME 5: Forests for the future

Subtheme 5.1 Innovation on forest research and emerging methodologies

Subtheme 5.2 Modelling the future of our forests: projections and uncertainties

Subtheme 5.3 Quality forest education

Responsibilities/assignment of roles:

It is the responsibility of the Congress Scientific Committee (CSC) to:

- Set the title and themes of the Congress and seek approval of the title by the IUFRO Board;
- Develop the full scientific programme for the Congress, including plenary, sub-plenary and technical sessions as well as poster session, and periodically inform the Board about updates;
- Shortlist potential scientific keynote speakers and inform the IUFRO Board as needed;
- Prepare the call for abstracts and session submissions, and manage related review processes;
- Select the abstracts and sessions, to be included in the Congress scientific programme;
- Prepare the timetable for Congress sessions (plenary, sub-plenary, technical, and poster sessions);
- Point out to session organizers the requirement to ensure English language quality of the received and accepted abstracts;
- Include a member of the COC in the CSC for the purpose of assisting with the development of scientific programme and the selection of speakers, and ensuring continuous information exchange between the CSC and COC.

It is the responsibility of IUFRO HQ to:

- Facilitate the establishment of Congress Scientific Committee (CSC), including the approval of the Chair and committee members by the IUFRO Board;
- Support the work of CSC with selected organizational and technical tasks (i.e., arranging virtual CSC meetings; providing shared folders for CSC documents; preparing meeting summary notes; and facilitating internal communication within HQ on CSC matters);
- Facilitate regular communication between CSC and IUFRO HQ.

It is the responsibility of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) to:

- Ensure the organizational and technical aspects/support and infrastructure in carrying out the scientific programme including the plenary and sub-plenary sessions, technical and poster sessions;
- Provide rooms and technical equipment for administrative meetings of IUFRO units and committees;
- Maintain the Congress website, and periodically update it in regular consultation with IUFRO HQ;
- Establish and maintain the online registration system, in regular consultation with IUFRO HQ;
- Establish and maintain the session proposal and abstract submission and review tools, in consultation with CSC;
- Implement a reduced registration fee for scientists coming from IUFRO member organization; IUFRO associate members; delegates from developing countries; and for students;
- Select keynote speaker for the opening plenary on behalf of the host country (see also Strategic Component 2).

It is the joint responsibility of the CSC, COC and IUFRO HQ to:

- Agree on the overall schedule of plenary, sub-plenary, technical and poster sessions;
- Agree on scientific and non-scientific keynotes, taking into consideration the goal of the congress, the holistic composition, the balance of gender, age, culture, ethnic/social origin, and geography.
- Determine the entitlements (i.e., travel costs) for plenary keynote speakers (to be covered through Congress budget).

➤ **Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP):**

Aim and purpose

High-quality scientific research requires adequate capacities of scientists and research institutions around the globe, including in economically disadvantaged regions. The Scientist Assistance Programme (SAP) provides support to forest scientists from economically disadvantaged countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to participate in scientific meetings and conferences organized by IUFRO scientific units, including in the IUFRO World Congresses. The support is directed to in-service forest scientists working at national or sub-national institutions of research and higher education that are in one way or another involved in forest- and tree-related research and academic training programmes. In economically disadvantaged countries, such institutions have very limited means to support their scientists to attend IUFRO events.

The SAP facilitates participation in the Congress by early- to mid-career forest scientists (below the age of 46 years) and contributes directly to achieving Objectives 1 and 2 of this strategic concept.

Guiding principles:

The SAP for the Congress is implemented by IUFRO's Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) and is based on the following general policy guidelines:

- Support is directed to those scientists who are contributing to a particular IUFRO meeting in the form of a paper or poster presentation;
- Preference is given to early- to mid-career forest scientists (below the age of 46 years) who are in need of further developing their expertise and skills as a researcher;
- Highest priority in providing sponsorship is given to forest scientists working in IUFRO member institutions, though scientists from other forest-related research institutions which are not IUFRO member institutions will also be supported depending on funding available;
- The selection of candidates will be geared to achieve both geographical and gender balance.

Based on the general policy outlined above, the criteria for the selection of candidates for sponsorship to participate in the Congress include the following.

The candidate:

- has an accepted paper or poster approved by the Congress Scientific Committee;
- is associated with IUFRO, either directly as an officeholder or as an employee of a IUFRO member organization (not compulsory);
- is an early or mid-career scientist.

Responsibilities/assignment of roles:

It is the responsibility of IUFRO-SPDC to:

- Mobilize funding for the Congress Scientist Assistant Programme from SPDC's regular donors and/or additional funding sources
- Prepare and disseminate the call for Congress SAP applications;
- Receive and evaluate applications against the SAP selection criteria (including acceptance of abstracts by the CSC);
- Decide on allocation of sponsorship to SAP applicants based on donor requirements;
- Manage the incoming donor funds for the Congress SAP (including communication with approved SAP delegates, flight tickets, hotel bookings, payment of congress registration fees, disbursement of daily allowance to SAP delegates at the Congress venue);
- Manage the processing, accounting and reporting on the use of the funds to the donors.

It is the responsibility of Congress Organizing Committee (COC) to:

- Mobilize - as far as possible - additional funding for the Scientist Assistant Program;
- Transfer of these funds to IUFRO-SPDC for SAP processing (based on the conditions of the donor);
- Implement a reduced registration fee for SAP delegates from economically disadvantaged countries;
- Appoint a Congress SAP Liaison Officer as contact person for the Vienna-based SPDC Team on SAP issues; and
- The SAP Liaison Officer to assist in establishing a SAP desk at the Congress (staffed with SPDC personnel), advises on visa, hotel and travel insurance and arrangements in Sweden.

Strategic component 2: Activities engaging non-scientific stakeholders

Aim and purpose

IUFRO's activities and strategic actions for the future are influenced by a diverse range of stakeholders beyond *science*, as listed earlier in the section on *Implementing the strategic concept*. Strengthened collaboration with stakeholders is key to the effective provision and sharing of scientific knowledge on the role of forests and trees in combatting global sustainability challenges, and for strategically positioning IUFRO as a global network in the future.

Guiding principles:

The stakeholders should be invited to discuss the concrete actions that could be taken by IUFRO and the broader scientific community to increase the uptake of available scientific information by the spectrum of stakeholders (see also section *Implementing the strategic concept*), as well as to identify information needs and knowledge gaps for future research. For this purpose, a focussed discussion that seeks to involve a full spectrum of representatives of key stakeholder groups from around the globe should be initiated well before the Congress. This will make it possible to present and discuss these information needs and knowledge gaps at the Congress.

As done previously, the Congress should also be used to invite stakeholders to provide guidance and feedback to IUFRO regarding its own strategy-planning for the coming years.

The following examples of engagement and concrete activities have been used in the past and could also be considered for the Congress in 2024:

- Involving stakeholders directly in the Congress programme as non-scientific keynote speakers;
- Selected stakeholder representatives (e.g., IFSA, FAO) could be invited to speak in Opening/Closing plenary in addition to a high-level representative from the host country (e.g. Head of State, Minister responsible for forests);
- Organization of special sessions dedicated to stakeholder engagement such as President's Discussion and/or dialogues (sessions) between *science* and other stakeholder groups;
- Stakeholder involvement could be facilitated also through informal gatherings such as networking get-together or an informal stakeholder consultation;
- Before the Congress, a stakeholder survey, providing input to e.g., special sessions of the Congress, could be organized.

The balanced involvement and selection of stakeholders should be consistent with the principles of the General Rules and Procedures for Partnership Development, approved by IUFRO Board in May 2021. Those rules and procedures ensure that the partnerships are in line with the statutes and internal regulations of IUFRO, support the IUFRO post-2020 Strategy and contribute to the implementation of the associated Strategy Action Plan 2020-2024.

Responsibilities/assignment of roles:

It is the responsibility of IUFRO HQ to:

- Advise on formats of engagement and the selection of stakeholders in line with IUFRO post-2020 Strategy and consistent with the principles of the General Rules and Procedures for Partnership Development;
- Organize one or more special sessions (e.g., President's Discussion), in close liaison with COC and CSC;
- Liaise with the President on matters related to the involvement of stakeholders.

It is the responsibility of Congress Organizing Committee (COC) to:

- Develop and manage the following Congress elements/parts involving various stakeholders:
 - Opening and closing ceremonies, in close liaison with IUFRO HQ;
 - Trade exhibition and exhibition hall;
 - The social programme of the Congress;
 - The in-, pre- and post-Congress tours;
 - A Congress volunteer programme;
- The COC is responsible for covering all expenditures, based on a jointly agreed budget, for the IUFRO President's Reception and Discussion, International Council (IC) meetings, a joint lunch-dinner for incoming/outgoing Board members, through the Congress budget.

It is the joint responsibility of IUFRO HQ and COC to:

- Mobilize financial resources to facilitate the participation of stakeholders in the Congress;
- Develop a more detailed plan for engaging the various stakeholders in close liaison with the CSC regarding possible non-scientific speakers in plenary sessions, including a limited number of special events.

➤ **Sponsors and exhibition:**

Aim and purpose:

Stakeholders also play an important role in providing financial and/or in-kind support for implementing and carrying out Congress-related activities. This includes IUFRO Member Organizations in the region, as well as public and private organizations sponsoring the congress. For the 2024 Congress, IUFRO Member Organizations from the following countries have already been invited and confirmed as official host partners from the region: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Norway.

Guiding principles:

Entering into contractual partnerships with selected stakeholders (e.g., through donorships, exhibition booths etc.) should be consistent with the principles of the General Rules and Procedures for Partnership Development, approved by IUFRO Board in May 2021. Those rules and procedures ensure that the partnerships are in line with the statutes and internal regulations of IUFRO, support the IUFRO post-2020 Strategy and contribute to the implementation of the associated Strategy Action Plan.

Responsibilities/assignment of roles:

It is the responsibility of Congress Organizing Committee (COC) to:

- Develop and implement a detailed plan for the collaboration with the regional host partners in consultation with IUFRO HQ;
- Develop and implement sponsorship strategy for the Congress in consultation with IUFRO HQ, with a range of sponsorship packages;
- Develop and organize trade exhibition and exhibition hall.

Strategic component 3: Communication, outreach and PR activities

Aim and purpose

Informing all stakeholders, including the public and media, through targeted communication, outreach and other PR activities on the Congress-related information is the key to a successful World Congress. Effective communication offers possibilities to give great visibility to the scientific work done in the network as well as to highlight the partners and other stakeholders involved, contributing to the overall aim of leveraging impact on both policy-making and forest management practices.

Communication and outreach are essential for achieving the objectives of the IUFRO's post-2020 Strategy as well as all five objectives set out for the XXVI IUFRO World Congress 2024.

Guiding principles:

The general objectives for communication and outreach activities:

- Create widespread awareness of the event and attract participants to the Congress, including scientists from economically disadvantaged countries and early-career scientists;
- Increase the visibility of IUFRO and its role in providing sound and objective scientific basis for policy-making and forest management practices;
- Showcase the contributions of forests and trees to combatting sustainability challenges as well as the implementation of the SDGs;
- Strengthen cooperation within forest science community and with other stakeholders and sectors;
- Attract new members to IUFRO;
- Give visibility to Congress sponsors and those IUFRO donors that contribute to the Congress and its sessions.

As a basis for executing communication and outreach activities, a joint communication strategy for the Congress shall be developed jointly by the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) and IUFRO HQ.

The joint communication strategy shall:

- Be developed in accordance with this strategic concept;
- Take into consideration the experience gained at former major IUFRO conferences, particularly the IUFRO World Congress 2014, the 2017 Anniversary Congress and the IUFRO World Congress 2019;
- Be guided by Congress title *Forests and Society Towards 2050* and the five main themes:
 - *Strengthening forest resilience and adaptation to stress*
 - *Towards a responsible forest bioeconomy*
 - *Forest biodiversity and its ecosystem services*
 - *Forests for sustainable societies*
 - *Forests for the future*
- Be tailored to cover different kinds of media (i.e., social media, print, radio and TV);
- Specify the envisaged types of communication activities, outputs and target audiences, and related details, such as the following:
 - Social media (e.g., the establishment of Congress Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and other relevant accounts; setting main goals/expectations regarding social media activities etc.);
 - Congress website (including linking up with IUFRO HQ Congress landing page etc.);
 - Communication products such as press releases, news articles and newsletters, blog posts, testimonials, videos, podcasts before the event;
 - Promotion activities at key events leading up to the Congress (e.g., XV World Forestry Congress; Expo Dubai 2021 etc.);

- Communication during the event (e.g., on-site blogging, photography, vlogging, filming, interviews and press conferences, reporting and daily newsletters etc.);
- Livestreaming (e.g., for the opening and closing ceremony) and recording of selected sessions, including the options to make the recordings available for later viewing.
- Communication after the event including Congress report;
- Toolkits for social media and other types of media;
- Engagement of journalists and traditional media;
- Congress App;
- Estimate the requirements of on-site human resources (including the potential use of students, networks etc.);
- Specify the coordination of activities between Congress Secretariat and IUFRO HQ;
- Outline the communication activities and opportunities, including the resource implications for carrying out activities;

Responsibilities/assignment of roles:

It is the joint responsibility of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) and IUFRO HQ to:

- To develop and implement a joint communication strategy for the Congress

The Congress Organizing Committee (COC) is responsible, in close consultation with IUFRO HQ, for:

- Establishing and maintaining the Congress Website, including online registration and abstract submission tools;
- Implementing communication and PR activities including a selection of social media before and during the Congress;
- Developing promotional products;
- Editing of the Congress Information Package and the Congress Registration Package, in cooperation with IUFRO HQ;
- Selecting/setting up the selection process for the host country scientific award, to be presented at the Congress with other IUFRO awards.

It is the responsibility of the Congress Organizing Committee (COC) to:

- Develop a Congress logotype and related design which ensures the recognition of IUFRO on the conference proceedings and other publications related to and resulting from the event, the website, the conference posters and other advertising materials, and when possible also on conference accessories;
- Cover all the costs for production and distribution of the Congress Information Package, the Congress Registration Package and the Congress Proceedings;
- Publicize and distribute digitally the Congress Proceedings including the abstracts, selected presentations and a list of participants.

It is the responsibility of IUFRO HQ to:

- Assist Congress Secretariat in developing and implementing a joint communication strategy for the Congress;
- Encourage and assist in establishing support for the Congress among forest scientists and forest-related stakeholders worldwide;
- Assist in marketing and promotion of the Congress;
- Announce and inform about the Congress in all IUFRO media;
- Publish/advertise a summary of the Congress outcome (reports/publications) in IUFRO media;
- Give out IUFRO awards at the Congress through the Honours and Awards Committee (HAC).

Monitoring and evaluation

In order to monitor the progress in implementing this strategic concept, including the main goal and the five objectives, project matrix including detailed timelines for different programme elements and their activities could be developed. Additionally, frequent communication between IUFRO HQ, COC and CSC is crucial to ensure the efficient and timely implementation of the strategic concept.

For evaluation after the Congress, the following activities could be organized:

- Survey(s) for participants/session organizers/stakeholders;
- Technical analysis (including web analytics);
- Impact analysis, including contributions to implementing IUFRO post-2020 Strategy;
- Evaluation meetings with HQ and COC (potentially also CSC);
- Based on previous, preparing guidance and suggestions for future Congresses.

The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists, which promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests. IUFRO unites around 630 member organizations in 115 countries, counting more than 15 000 researchers. The IUFRO World Congress is held every fifth year preceded by an extensive bid process auditing 25 evaluation criteria covering the host country, the host city, the congress venue, finances, and excursions.