



**Forest Pedagogic and Environmental Education
- The PAWS-MED experience -
International Conference on Forest Pedagogic in the Mediterranean region**

**Sabaudia, National Park of Circeo, Italy
15th and 16th September 2011**

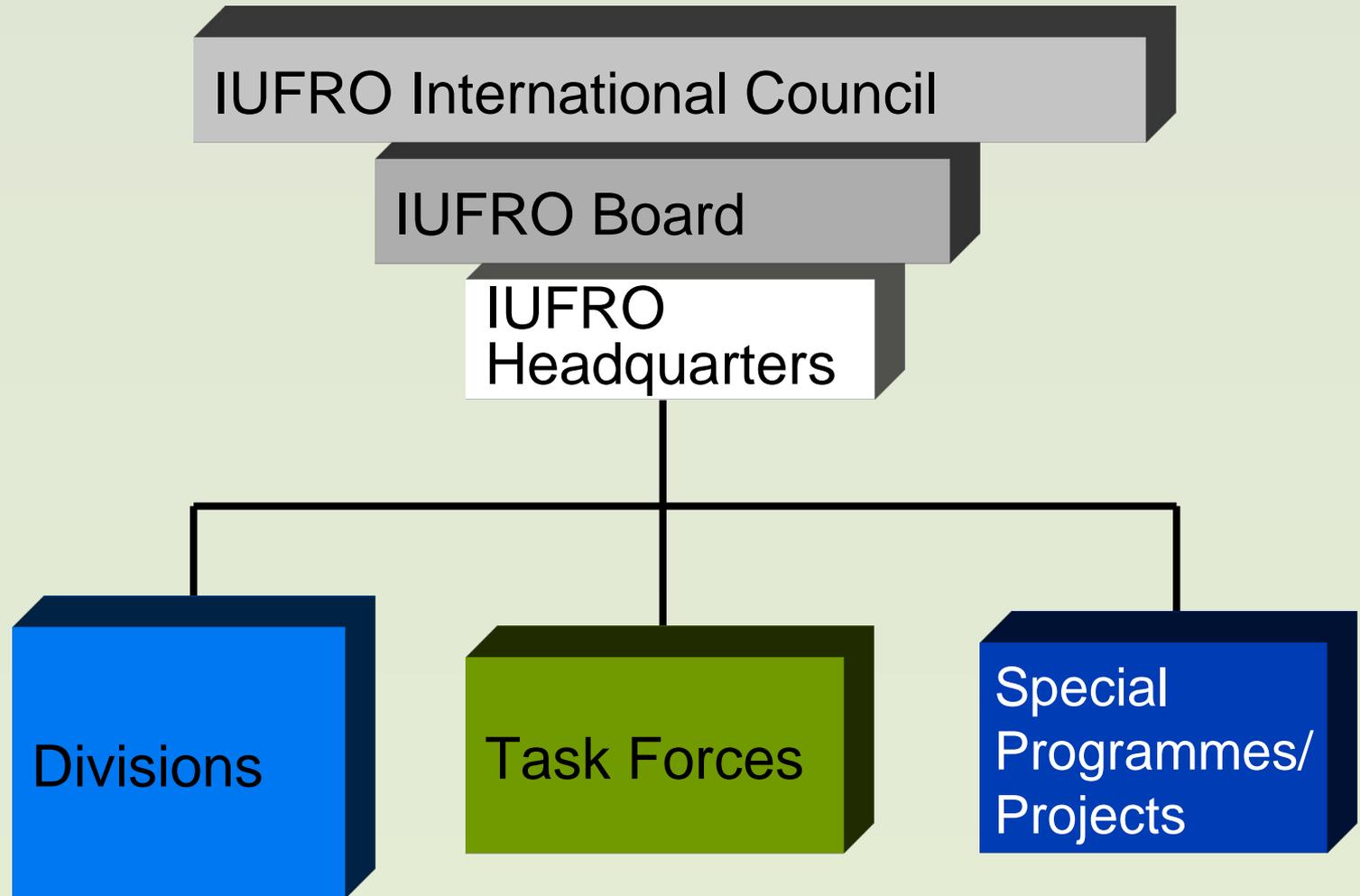
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**Objectives, approaches and organization of the
IUFRO Task Force**

WHAT IS IUFRO ?

- IUFRO is the **global network** for forest science cooperation;
- IUFRO is the **only world-wide** international organization devoted to forest research;
- IUFRO unites more than **15,000 scientists** in almost **700 Member Organizations** in more than 110 countries;
- Founded in **1892**, IUFRO has a long history of international forest science cooperation.

IUFRO STRUCTURE - OVERVIEW



IUFRO STRUCTURE (2)

- **Task Forces** are established on a temporary basis for inter-disciplinary cooperation in inter-divisional forest research fields.

www.iufro.org



The need to explore new fields of education stems not only from the requirement to find answers to the questions posed by our civilization,

but also from accumulated research knowledge and practical achievements of forestry that should be properly utilized.



The system of higher education has been facing fundamental changes, triggered by globalization and global change, altering expectations of stakeholders and society from university graduates and novel insights of educational sciences

- from teaching to learning



We should also take into account that the competence profiles of forestry graduates do not always comply with the requirements posed by potential employer's, while emphasizing that the professional attractiveness of the forestry sector for graduates is decreasing.



Sustainable Forest Management requires knowledge of the uncertainties and risks on a global scale not only identified as "risk management", but also of the consequences to forests and forestry caused, for example, by aging of populations in developed countries.



Consequently development of forest sciences curricula should move towards:

Focusing on generic and methodical competencies instead of contents and descriptive approaches, enabling graduates to tackle novel, complex problems;

Competencies to integrate and communicate knowledge across disciplinary borders and to analyze the existing interactions;

New learning units addressing challenges such as climate change, adaptive ecosystem management, governance systems, gender issues, forests as source of energy, role of forests and forest products in rural development and poverty alleviation as well as the assessment of other environmental and social impacts.



The objective of the Task Force is an improved practice of Education in Forest Sciences worldwide. TF therefore aims at contributing to development of standards of Education in Forest Sciences, which meet the requirements of today, using experiences and examples of good practice in the IUFRO community and cooperation with higher education experts.

Activities of the TF in the attempt to reach this objective will be worked on in the course of the establishment of the TF and will include:





- Survey of forest curricula ("state of practice") and an attempt at a comprehensive analysis of challenges and opportunities facing Higher Education in Forest Sciences in different parts of the world.
- Development of a framework on required competences of graduates of education in forest sciences, to be characterized in terms of skill dimension, context, and level of mastery.
- Development of a standard curriculum assessment for higher forest education through workshops and a IUFRO Learning Initiative (Summer Schools) with the idea and the opportunity to check and to test new programmes and solutions in education at the university level and also integrate students from different parts of the world under the IUFRO umbrella, in joint operations with the IFSA.
- Curriculum assessment with the participation of young teachers and employers in workshops.

- Publication of findings in scientific articles and books



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EFS IUFRO TF therefore aims at contributing to development of standards of Education in Forest Sciences, which meet the requirements of today, using experiences and examples of good practice in the IUFRO community and cooperation with higher education specialists.

Achieving an adequate level of education is not just to develop good and innovative curriculum. Equally important is the use of appropriate tools and techniques in knowledge transfer, and the effectiveness of which should be measurable.



- IUFRO ESF Learning Initiatives will be specially organised sessions and workshops, which will test adequately prepared special education programs and use different teaching techniques.
- Students and educators will conduct these tests both as a subject and an object. The methodology of this experiment will be prepared in consultation with specialists from education, and the first experiments scheduled for the third quarter of 2012.
- Students and participants will recruit from forestry faculties worldwide and from various institutions related to forestry authorities.



- **Schedule for Activities**

- **Seminars**

- **2011:** –review of initial concept, methodology and principles of innovative educational tool IUFRO EFS Learning Initiative
- –development of a standard curriculum assessment for higher forest education
- **2012:** –assessment of various curricula used in higher forest education
- –assessment and further elaboration of the outputs from the first IUFRO EFS Learning Initiative
- **2013:** –elaboration of the initial version of model curricula
- –curriculum assessment with participation of young teachers and employers in workshops
- **2014:** – final elaboration of the principles and methods used in IUFRO EFS Learning Initiative

- **Annual conferences:**

- **2012:** – presentation and discussion on issues within TF scope in form of plenary sessions and poster presentations
- **2013:** – presentation and discussion on issues within TF scope in form of plenary sessions and poster presentations
- **2014:** – presentation and discussion of TF final outputs during IUFRO World Congress in Salt Lake

City in form of plenary session

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Members of the TF, now - more than 40 people from all regions of the world represent different fields of knowledge of forest, both at university level education and the level of forestry experts and other scientific disciplines, including - experts in the field of education and skills transfer.

Core group, which representing about 20 people, among others, Vice-rectors of universities, Deans of Forestry Faculties, Directors of Research Institutes, professors who perform various functions in the international educational networks as well as representatives of student organizations.

Coordinator: prof. Piotr Paschalis-Jakubowicz, Poland

Deputy Coordinator: prof. Siegfried Lewark, Germany



As the TF will work on a global scale and we seek close collaboration with other networks of education in forest sciences as SILVA Network, ANAFE, RELAFOR, IPFE, IFSA as well as other networks established in various countries (e.g. in Russia),



Thank you for your attention