

Home & Foreign News

Dear Sirs,

The XVI IUFRO World Congress took place in Oslo, Norway, from June 20 to July 2, 1976. 1400 scientists from 65 countries attended the Congress, 293 papers were presented in 207 Sessions on the Various sciences within IUFRO's research fields on forestry, forest operations and forest products. Being aware of the resource limitations in the world, the main theme of the Congress was the following: **FORESTRY IN A WORLD OF LIMITED RESOURCES**. Based on the Union's work during the five years period from 1971 to 1976 within the Union's 160 Research Groups as well as the work inside the Congress, an Editing Committee summarized the main problems in forestry sciences today and highlighted some of the major tasks which should be given special attention within the world's forestry, its research programs and the international organizations interested in various aspects of forestry sciences today.

The proposal made by the Editing Committee was thoroughly examined by the IUFRO International Council which after some adjustments unanimously agreed to present to you the enclosed Recommendations. These Recommendations were also agreed upon unanimously by the entire Congress on its closing session.

Enclosed please find a copy of these Recommendations.

Any action you can do in order to follow up these Recommendations would be highly appreciated. We also hope that you could give these Recommendations the necessary attention in your Publishing Programs.

Recommendations of the Congress. The continuing management of forests as a renewable resource is essential to safeguard the standards of living the quality of life of future generations.

Being mindful that the theme of this Congress is Forestry in a World of Limited Resources and being aware of the possible implications of the rapidly increasing demand

for wood in the world on the environmental and social functions of forests, the XVI IUFRO World Congress recognise that:—

- (1) WHEREAS the population of the world is increasing rapidly and thereby placing greater demands on all forest resources in particular for the provision of paper, fuelwood and wood for housing:

WHEREAS the increased population is placing greater demands on the land to produce food crops and, as a consequence, is continuing to remove land from forest production:

WHEREAS many developing and most developed countries are experiencing conflicts between wood production, recreation, amenity, protection and conservation and;

WHEREAS the yield of most of the world's forests is much less than the site potential;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- (a) There is a great potential for increased wood production by extending plantation forestry, by reducing waste, and by utilising a high proportion of the available biomass more efficiently, by improved operational efficiency, and more systematic management of existing forest resources;
- (b) Organised research programmes and implementation of research findings can contribute in a major way to improvement of the forest resource and its utilization and to meet the growing demand on the forest for wood and wood products;
- (c) That in future research, special emphasis be given to the needs of developing countries, IUFRO should make every effort to include studies of problems relating to developing countries in their programmes and to involve scientists from developing countries.

Land-use Policy:

- (2) WHEREAS policy and management practices have to be based on subjective assessments of benefits to the societies concerned, it is essential that forestry be integrated into planned land use and there is therefore a need for objective criteria to assess its relative merits.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- (a) As an aid to the selection of appropriate forest and forest industry policies and practices, research is needed on the evaluation of the actual and potential contribution of forestry and forest industries to society.
- (b) Objective criteria are essential for balanced decision making and more research is needed into criteria and systems of land classification for forestry and other uses covering all aspects, physical, economic and social.

Forest Resources

- (3) WHEREAS with the continuously increasing demand for wood and the depletion of forest land for food production and other uses, a prime need in future is to increase wood production from a reducing forest area.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- (a) Research should be directed to facilitate more accurate assessment and monitoring of the world's forest resources, their accessibility and their potential to meet human needs.
- (b) A world wide study of forest lands and ecosystems is needed to provide information in their carrying capacity under various exploitation and management methods.
- (4) WHEREAS some forest areas have by prodigal exploitation, been reduced to worthless scrub or coppice which nevertheless is capable of conversion either to agriculture or to productive forest.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Development of silvicultural techniques for conversion, regeneration and enrichment of such areas needs to be intensified.

- (5) WHEREAS the afforestation of wasteland non-forest land and abandoned agricultural land can contribute greatly to increased wood production, and advanced silvicultural techniques have been developed especially in temperate regions for afforestation.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

In the tropics further research is needed to develop appropriate silvicultural and operational techniques of afforestation.

Tree Improvement and Protection

- (6) WHEREAS tree breeding is an important means of improving the growth and health of forest land. Much has been achieved through provenance research, selection and hybridisation, especially in temperate regions. In the tropics, research has so far concentrated on eucalypts, teak and a few other hardwoods.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Increased efforts are required to establish international cooperation in breeding for high yield and disease resistance.

- (7) WHEREAS the increasing use of planting material of known provenance requires a guarantee of the identity of each lot of seed or plants; this in turn means a system of control and certification. Schemes such as that of OECD

for controlling the movement of forest reproductive material are indispensable for making available the best possible planting material for the forests of the future.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

All countries are urged to support such arrangements for movement of forest reproductive material.

- (8) WHEREAS forests may be subject to various forms of long and short term deterioration caused by man's activities as well as by natural causes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

All countries place adequate emphasis on forest protection research to guarantee sustained forest production and in particular research needs to be intensified in tropical regions.

- (9) WHEREAS the risks and dangers arising from the transport of harmful insects and disease from one continent to another are enormous and constant care needs to be exercised both by governments and scientists.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Steps should be taken to stimulate research on quarantine procedures and assists in developing and standardising import regulations.

Planning and Forest Operations

- (10) WHEREAS new operational methods that increase productivity can reduce or at least hold costs and much is being achieved scale operations.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

More research is needed in particular for small scale operations as for example where the size of land unit, terrain or silvicultural considerations limit the scale of work.

- (11) WHEREAS the development of new operational methods and machines has reduced manual work loads but the forest workers is faced with new stresses such as vibration noise and chemical pollution.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- (a) Improved methods must be developed the better to adapt machines to the human individual to reduce accidents and to reduce environment pollution.
- (b) In research involving the use of chemical compounds in forestry, it is essential that health hazards to workers and to the public be properly

investigated drawing on medical expertise to ensure that safe work procedures are defined and made known.

- (12) WHEREAS it is estimated that 25% of forest land is located in mountainous regions, with steep and difficult terrain.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Increased research is needed to improve operational efficiency in these conditions.

- (13) WHEREAS some forest machinery can cause damage to standing trees of the size, particularly in logging operations.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Research should be aimed at devising machinery and methods which minimise site damage safeguard the soil, the landscape, recreation values and nature conservation.

- (14) WHEREAS stumpage systems of timber sales are widely used and forest management may be adversely affected due to the conflict of interest that can arise between the forest owner and timber buyer.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Studies of administrative systems are needed in order to secure a better reconciliation of the needs of forest management and the needs of commercial logging.

Forest Products

- (15) WHEREAS the properties and utility of wood can be greatly influenced by forest management decisions and wood processing methods.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Research is needed to define the required properties for different end uses.

- (16) WHEREAS in harvesting tropical forests much wood remains unused because of the great number and variety of species and the unknown or unfavourable properties of many species.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Increase research on the properties and improved utilization of all tropical species whether single or mixed. Emphasis should also be given to developing means of transforming wood into products with low requirements to technology and capital investment and greater use of hand labour.

- (17) WHEREAS during harvesting processing and utilization of wood a large amount of the biomass is wasted or not used to the best effect.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

More research is needed aimed at the more rational and economic use of this material in order to achieve its fuller utilization.

- (18) WHEREAS with increasing energy costs and decreasing availability of non-renewable raw materials, the use of wood gains increasing importance.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Research should supply technological and economic information for the competitive use of wood and bark for various enduses such as manufacture of building materials, paper and a source of chemicals and of fuel.

- (19) WHEREAS manufacturing processes and working conditions at some wood-working plants may cause environmental pollution and hazards to health.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Environmental, safety and ergonomic criteria be used as well as economic and technical criteria in research programmes.

Communications

- (20) WHEREAS with the evergrowing volume and complexity of published information, access by research workers is becoming increasingly difficult.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

It has become vital that progress be made in establishing a uniform and readily accessible international system for storage and retrieval of research information.

Research Organization

- (21) WHEREAS the institutional and organisational framework within which forest research is conducted has a major influence on the relevance and affectiveness of research programmes.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- (a) This merits further study and in particular the processes of programme formulation and application of research findings:
- (b) That forest research organisation should liaise more closely with the organisations responsible for forest and land management, and that research programmes be developed in particular to assist managers in enhancing the contribution forests can make to human welfare.

- (22) WHEREAS the organizations of this large and complex international Congress has required the support of many people in Norway as the host country.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

That Congress here assembled on June 26th recognised this support with gratitude and directs the president of IUFRO to convey our warm thanks Royal Highness Crown Prince Haraled, the Prime Minister of Norway, the Norweigan Government, The Norweigan Ministry of Agriculture, the Forest Service, the Agricultural University of Norway, the Forest Research Institute of Norway, the University of Oslo and to the many individuals who helped make this Congress a success. Approved 25 June 1976 by the International Council of IUFRO under the Presidency of Professor Ivar Samset.