



IFFA Annual Meeting 2015

Minutes

4th December 2015, Paris, France

Participants

Canada (Peter deMarsh), Finland (Janne Näräkkä), France (Luc Bouvarel), Germany (Lorenz Klein von Wisenberg), Norway (Ellen Alfsen), Sweden (Lennart Ackzell), CEPF (Emma Berglund), PEFC (Olivier Bertrand)

Secretariat: Ellen Alfsen and Ivar Legallais-Korsbakken

1. Presentations

The IFFA Chair, Peter deMarsh, chaired and opened the meeting. The participants introduced themselves.

2. Approval of proposed agenda

Decision

Agenda approved

3. Approval of the minutes, Annual Meeting 2014

Decision

Minutes approved

4. Reports on the work of the past year, including Chair's report

A slide show (Lennart Ackzell) demonstrating IFFA 2015 activities was presented in connection with the Chair's report.

Chair Peter deMarsh gave a brief report on the highlights, important activities and the achievements in 2015.

The Chair reported that IFFA has improved during 2015 and are increasingly being listened to. The good progress was illustrated during the World Forestry Congress in Durban, where the stand together with FAO clearly showed the face of family forestry. The African Forest producer

organisations conference in Kenya in June gave an excellent contribution to the further development of international, regional and national networks and served as well as preparations for the World Forestry Congress.

The foundation of the new family forestry association member in Nepal has already proved the importance of organising small producers, and contributed to forest policy improvements in the country. During the terrible earthquake in Nepal, the new organisation actively participated in aiding the population. Partnering expertise from the forest sector in Germany proved as well the cooperation between family forestry countries.

The Oslo workshop compared tax politics and looked at policy trends that may encourage or discourage the marketing of timber. The experience exchange improved tax policy lobbying.

The new IFFA partnership agreement with the Farm and Forest Facility has been a great help for the activities in family forestry and small forest producer organisations.

Areas for improvement in 2016 are recruiting new members, increasing the efficiency of member communication and improved regional networking in Africa, Asia and South and Central America. The improved cooperation between the G3 alliances will continue.

The Chair thanked the Board members and the secretariat for their efforts in 2015. Bertrand Olivier underlined the good cooperation between PEFC and family forestry organisations and the important development of group certification schemes.

5. Economic report

The treasurer, Lorenz Klein won Wisenberg, presented the economic report. The treasurer presented as well the 2015 budget. The annual meeting expressed gratitude for the direct voluntary contributions from members and members that pay for attendance at events where their representatives participate on behalf of IFFA as well as their home organisation.

Decision

The economic report approved

6. Work plan for 2016

Board member Janne Näräkkä presented the proposal for work plan 2016. Important tasks will be the partnership agreement with the Forest and Farm Facility, web site, newsletters, communication in general and the recruiting of new members. The Asia meeting will be an important follow up in the series of regional conferences and strengthening of organisational networks. The future of UNFF and the future arrangement on forests will be important issues as well as including forestry better into the sustainable development goals. The work on climate change and biodiversity issues will be important in 2016.

Decision

The Work Plan 2016 approved

7. Further improvement of communication between IFFA, regional networks and national organisations

Ivar Legallais-Korsbakken presented the work and plans for improving the communication between IFFA, the regional networks and the national organisations. Further improvement of the web will be important tools and communication improvements are a vital part of the partnership agreement with the Forest and Farm Facility.

8. Proposal for membership fees for 2016

The treasurer Lorenz Klein von Wisenberg presented the proposal for the membership fee 2016, at the same level as the 2015 fee.

Decision

Membership fees for 2016 (no increase from 2015):

Members 500 Euros, Associate members 250 Euros

New members with limited economic capacity 100 €/year for the first 2 years

9. Report from the Nomination Committee and Election of the Board

Olivier Bertrand presented the proposal for the election of the IFFA Board. The proposal was made after consultations with national and regional members.

Decision

The Annual Meeting unanimously elected the IFFA Board:

- Peter DeMarsh (Canada) Chair
- Lennart Ackzell (Sweden) Vice Chair
- Lorenz Freiherr Klein von Wisenberg (Germany) Treasurer
- Dominic Walubengo (Kenya)
- Manuel Garcia (Mexico)
- Jog Raj Giri (Nepal) – new
- Juha Hakkarainen (Finland) - new

10. Election of the Nominations Committee

Chair Peter deMarsh presented the proposal for election of the Nominations Committee

Decision

The Annual Meeting unanimously elected the IFFA Nominations Committee:

- Felix Montecuccoli (Austria)
- Olivier Bertrand (France)
- Marc-André Côté (Canada) - new

11. Suggestions for Annual Meeting 2016

The annual meeting discussed different options for organising the annual meeting 2016.

Decision

The Board must follow up the issue and look for organising the annual meeting in conjunction with other international meetings.

12. Sharing experience, recent activities, success stories and challenges

Luc Bouvarel, Forest Privés de France, presented the French forest owners' association and the family forestry activities in France, as well as the challenges and opportunities for French forestry. He presented the member situation, the market, the cooperatives and policy and climate change issues. The annual meeting representatives exchange experience in policy, market and organisational issues.

2016-11-22