The conference will take place in Vaasa, which is a sunny university city on the west coast of southern Finland. There are active family forestry and promotion activities as well as dynamic forest-based entrepreneurship in the region. The post-conference tour will take participants by ferry to Umeå and its surroundings, where the lovely nature, traditions, and highly developed forestry organization of Sweden will be illustrated.

**Important dates**

- September 17, 2017: First announcement
- November 1, 2017: First call for papers opens
- December 15, 2017: First call for papers closes
- February 28, 2018: Second call for papers closes
- April 3, 2018: Early bird registration closes
- May 15, 2018: Registration closes
- June 11-13, 2018: Conference presentations and in-conference tour
- June 14-16, 2018: Post-conference tour to Umeå region of Sweden

**Main contacts**

- Chair of Scientific Committee: Prof. Heimo Karppinen, University of Helsinki, Finland (heimo.karppinen@helsinki.fi)
- Chair of Organizing Committee: Prof. Teppo Hujala, University of Eastern Finland (teppo.hujala@uef.fi)
- Chair of Swedish organizers: Adj. Prof. Gun Lidestav, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (gun.lidestav@slu.se)
Introduction to conference themes
In small-scale forestry, foreseeing, shaping, and directing transformations require a deeper understanding of change, collaboration across disciplines and sectors, and out-of-the-box thinking. Therefore this IUFRO Small-scale Forestry conference invites abstract submissions for oral presentations and posters from the following broad topics:

- Analyses of change processes and transition within small-scale forestry and with other systems
- Foresight analyses and futures-oriented land ownership studies
- Spatial approaches and techniques for land ownership and tenure research
- Non-timber forest products & services and forest owners
- Novel information dissemination: online platforms, digitalized services, collaborative learning, social networks, etc.
- Community forestry, cooperation, social engagement, and non-professional forest groups
- Theoretical and methodological approaches for small-scale forest research
- Landowners’ values, attitudes and objectives
- Practical applications of recent research uptake
- Forest policy development and forest owners’ response
- Role of tourism and recreation in private forests and links to rural development
- Carbon credits, ecosystem services, and climate change in private forests
- Inter-generational transfer and other processes impacting the next generation of private forest owners
- Factors impacting land tenure rights for small-scale forests in developing countries
- Agroforestry and other management practices for small-scale forest owners
- Gender roles in small-scale forestry

The submitted abstracts will undergo a peer review focusing on novelty of approach, relevance for small-scale forestry research and practice, theoretical and methodological soundness, and technical quality. Contributions best meeting these requirements will be accepted for presentation in the conference. In addition, a poster session will be organized.

Welcome to Finland and Sweden in June 2018!