

# Circumboreal Cooperation – the way forward

Side-event during COFFI2018 in Vancouver



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**Date:** Tuesday 6 November  
2018

**Time:** 12:15 – 13:45

**Place:** Room 7

**Moderator:** Dr Guy Robertson,  
US Forest Service

## Agenda

1. Introduction to boreal forests  
– context, challenges &  
opportunities
2. Circumboreal cooperation –  
what & why
3. Science-policy interface – the  
new IBFRA insight process
4. Why a Team of Specialists on  
Boreal Forests?
5. Closing

# The Circumboreal Cooperation

- What is circumboreal cooperation and why?
- Summary of the work so far

# What it is

A network of six boreal countries to strengthen cooperation on forest matters in the boreal region. It includes

- Canada, The United States, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Russian Federation.
- The international Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) – network research institutions
- FAO and ECE observers

# Why it is

Boreal countries face similar challenges and opportunities:

- Forest countries with developed industrial sector – Bio economy
- Special challenges with regard to climate change requiring regional adapted strategies/responses, exchange scientific knowledge
- Gender equality, local communities, indigenous peoples, skilled workforce, R&D.
- Raise the profile of boreal forests in Agenda 2030

# How it started and work so far

- 2012: Dialogue to strengthen cooperation between Circumboreal countries (rationale, themes, possible modes of cooperation)
- 2013: High level meeting in Edmonton. Circumboreal working group established. IBFRA joined.
- 2013-2018: Scientific mission, country reports, thematic studies, bioeconomy working group. Discussions on formalizing the cooperation (COFO 2014, 2016)
- 2018: Ministerial summit and high level science/policy dialogue, Haparanda, Sweden

# Outcomes of the Haparanda summit

- The Haparanda declaration: Explore the establishment of a UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists (ToS) on Boreal Forests
- Science/policy dialogue: Launching of an IBFRA insight process