

## FABI Director elected as next IUFRO president



Prof. Mike Wingfield, the director of the Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) at the University of Pretoria was elected this past week to serve as the next president of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO). Mike is the first ever African to be elected to this prestigious position, which has a five year term running from October 2014 to 2019.

IUFRO is “the global network for forestry research” and one of the most influential organisations dealing with forestry and linking forest scientists throughout the world. It is “a non-profit, non-governmental international network, which promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees”. IUFRO unites more than 15 000 forestry scientists from more than 110 countries globally. The organization was established in 1892 and is a member of ICSU (International Council for Science).

Prof. Wingfield has been an active member of IUFRO for more than 30 years. He has served in many positions in the organisation including being the Co-ordinator of Division 7 (Forest Health). For the past four years he has been the Vice President responsible for the nine Divisions of IUFRO. Mike has worked in forestry, particularly forest protection since his student years and has a passion for protecting these crucially important ecosystems. His international scientific reputation, backed up by an extensive network of forest scientists in IUFRO, will be the start of a new and exciting era, not only for IUFRO, but especially for the African continent.