



# *IUFRO-SPDC*

## *Pre-Congress Training Workshop*

### *in Salt Lake City*

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**Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.** The Special Programme for Development of Capacities (IUFRO-SPDC) of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) has a long history of organizing Training Workshops on pertinent subjects relevant to forest scientists from developing countries in conjunction with large IUFRO conferences and congresses. To this end, a one-week training event was organized at Snowbird, a mountain summer and winter resort near Salt Lake City, prior to the IUFRO World Congress from 29 September to 3 October 2014.

A total of 75 participants were selected from a pool of more than 300 scientists. The participants could choose between two training modules and I attended the **Workshop 1: Training in Research Methods**. This training workshop with 41 participants from Africa, Asia, and Latin America was co-led by Dr. Rolfe Leary (retired), U.S. Forest Service, USA, and Dr. John Kershaw, University of New Brunswick, Canada. The workshop presented the scientific process using Gowin's Vee as a model. Topics included problem identification, question formulation, effective literature reviews, hypothesis development, scientific inference, sampling theory, experimental design, statistic inference, strong inference, and research ethics. Training materials included lectures, student discussions, in class exercises, interactive worksheets, and student presentations. Each participant was asked to bring a question or problem statement related to research they are currently undertaking. Lectures incorporated examples and ideas related to the various topics presented by the participants.