

IUFRO WFSE

Special Project: World Forests, Society and Environment

Coordinator Gerardo Mery | Deputy Coordinator Pia Katila | www.iufro.org/wfse

*This is the **Newsletter of IUFRO's Special Project World Forests, Society and Environment (IUFRO WFSE)**. It is meant for sharing the latest news and information about the special project's current activities with IUFRO officeholders, member organizations, WFSE partners, donors and the members of the WFSE-network from research organizations and universities around the world.*

News

The long-time coordinator of IUFRO WFSE **Gerardo Mery** will retire in 2014.



Gerardo brought WFSE under the IUFRO umbrella, and the current IUFRO WFSE, the extensive network of international research organizations, universities and researchers from all around the world, is the result of his novel ideas, vision and dedication to the project.

Here Gerardo tells us about some of the highlights of his long career:

"Chilean by birth and nationality, I've lived most of my life, about 40, years in Finland. In Chile I studied at the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Chile in Santiago. During my last years at the university, I also worked for more than two years in forest research organizations. I left Chile after the 1973 coup that installed in power the military dictatorship that violated human rights and abol-

ished democracy for 17 years. Finland gave me the opportunity to resume my normal personal life, professional career and continue my studies. In 1974, I also worked for few months for Metsähallitus (the Finnish organization responsible for the management of state forests). After that I studied about three years at the Academy of Social Sciences in Bulgaria. I returned to Finland in 1978 and initiated my studies at the University of Helsinki. I obtained a Master's degree in forestry in 1983. Already a year before I had started to work at the Department of Forest Economics in the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), where I have now worked for over thirty years. I have carried out research on issues related to forest inventory, sustainable forest management, carbon and international forest policy.

From my long professional work experience, I would like to highlight the project World Forests, Society and Environment for which I have worked since 1996 and as the coordinator of this project from 1998 onwards. The last 12 years as the coordinator of the project have been especially intense and exciting, and my contribution to this project has been fully rewarded by the results produced by WFSE. It has been a privilege to participate in the creation of this vast international network of researchers who have provided their valuable inputs in studying numerous timely topics on the forests, society and environment interface. The work developed jointly by hundreds of researchers has produced fruitful outcomes that have been compiled into several publications (books and policy briefs) which have been widely disseminated worldwide.

Now, when my retirement from the active professional life approaches, I wish to express my gratitude to Metla and IUFRO for giving me this great professional opportunity. I would also like to warmly thank all my colleagues whose invaluable and dedicated efforts made possible to obtain the

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remarkable results achieved by WFSE project. It has been a real pleasure to work with you all."

The IUFRO WFSE coordinator starting from 1.1.2014 will be the current deputy coordinator Pia Katila.

Current activities

The main current activities of the project focus on the finalisation of the new book ***Forests under pressure: Local responses to global issues*** and the short policy brief that will present the main findings from the book in a very concise form. The book and the brief will be launched at the IUFRO World Congress, October 2014, in Salt Lake City, United States.

All the four main parts of the book are well under development. Almost all of the 27 case study chapters (Part II) have been finalised and well developed drafts exist of the three other parts of the book (Parts I, III and IV). During this fall major efforts have been dedicated to synthesise the case study information and analyse the information across cases to find out what seem to be the "pre-requisite" conditions and combinations of these conditions that support positive development towards sustainable forest management and forest-related development.

Important events

WFSE participated in **IUFROLAT Congress in San Jose, Costa Rica 12-15 June, 2013** by organising the Technical Session "Los bosques bajo presión - experiencias locales de manejo forestal comunitario sostenible en America Latina" (Forests under pressure - experiences from sustainable forest management in Latin America). The session presented some of the case studies from the forthcoming IUFRO WFSE book "Forest under pressure

– Local responses to global issues". Gerardo Mery moderated the session that included following presentations:

Walter Cano (Bolivia) – The flexibilization of forest regulation, the integration of new actors and its consequences on community forest management, livelihoods and deforestation

Eddie Ellis (University of Veracruz, Mexico) – Community-based forest management in Quintana Roo, Mexico

Cesar Sabogal (FAO, Italy) – Alcanzando la excelencia en el manejo forestal comunitario: Condiciones para el éxito a partir de algunos casos de América Latina

Marianne Schmink (University of Florida, US) – Forest Citizenship in Acre, Brazil

Plinio Sist (CIRAD, France) – New opportunities for small farmers of the Amazon to strengthen hazards resilience while preserving their forest. Field experiments combined with multi-agent modelling.

WFSE Steering Committee (SC) meeting was organised in San Jose 10 June 2013 in conjunction with the IUFROLAT Congress. Glenn Galloway, Chair of the WFSE SC (University of Florida) chaired the meeting that focused on the current and future activities of the project. The other SC members who attended the meeting were Jari Varjo (METLA), Plinio Sist (CIRAD), Edgard Maravi (CATIE), Cesar Sabogal (FAO), Markku Kanninen (VITRI, University of Helsinki), Pablo Pacheco (CIFOR), Wil de Jong (Kyoto University), Gerardo Mery (WFSE Coordinator), Pia Katila (WFSE Deputy coordinator).

Two editorial meetings were held in Helsinki in September 2013. First, the authors of Part III of the forthcoming book met for two days to further

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develop the syntheses of the case studies that form the core of the new book and to extract the main conclusions from the analyses across the case studies.

During the following two days the authors of Part IV of the book met to discuss and agree on how to develop this future oriented part of the book that aims at putting the main findings from the book in the context of existing outlook and scenario work.



Authors of the future oriented Part IV of the forthcoming WFSE book met in Helsinki 26-27 September. From the left: Erik Kemp-Benedict, Pia Katila; Sinikka Västilä, Maxim Lobovikov, Plinio Sist, Gerardo Mery, Wil de Jong, Pablo Pacheco and Markku Kanninen.

Upcoming events

The **next Steering Committee meeting** will be held 14 February 2014 in CIRAD, Montpellier.

An **editorial meeting** bringing together the editors of the forthcoming book will be organised just prior to the Steering Committee meeting in CIRAD. This will be last editorial meeting for the current phase of the project and it will focus on finalising the forthcoming book and drafting the policy brief on the basis of the findings and conclusions of the book.



*MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR*

Thank you for your valuable support to the WFSE-project during the past year.

We look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration in 2014.

WFSE-team: Gerardo, Pia and Sinikka

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