
Preface

Forests under Pressure – Local Responses to Global Issues is the third major publication produced by the Special Project World Forests, Society and Environment (WFSE) of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). The two previous volumes are *Forests in Global Balance: Changing Paradigms* (Mery et al. 2005) and *Forests and Society – Responding to Global Drivers of Change* (Mery et al. 2010).*

IUFRO-WFSE is an open, independent network of scientists and practitioners steered by 10 international research organisations, involving more than 100 researchers from throughout the world. It supports sustainable natural resources management, sustainable development and livelihoods, and related policy processes, focusing principally in two main efforts: 1) collating, critically analysing, and synthesising existing scientific knowledge on topics of international relevance in the forest, society, and environment interface in order to draw out important lessons learned and recommendations and 2) undertaking new research to fill in crucial gaps in existing knowledge. WFSE addresses these topics in a cross-sectoral, holistic, and interdisciplinary fashion, encouraging innovative approaches and anticipating what will influence future forest-related development at different scales, from local to global.

The idea to produce this book originated from discussions in the IUFRO-WFSE Steering Committee (SC) meetings in Vienna (2011) and Helsinki (2012). The SC concluded that, despite the considerable attention devoted to advancing sustainable forest management (SFM), increased understanding of the aspects that foster or hinder progress towards SFM is needed. The sustainable management of natural resources, especially forests, is of vital importance to global, regional, and national efforts to achieve

sustainable development and should play a key role in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change and further low-carbon development.

The goal of this book, therefore, is to increase the understanding of the conditions and combinations of conditions that foster or hinder progress towards SFM and forest-related sustainable development. The book focuses on these conditions at the local level and also includes processes and influences originating at broader national and global scales. The book is divided into four parts: Part I introduces the rationale, overall structure, and analytical framework of the book; Part II consists of 27 local- and regional-level case studies from different parts of the world; Part III presents a synthesis of the case studies and the main findings derived from an analysis across the cases; Part IV is forward-looking and discusses several of the issues and findings from Parts II and III in the context of future outlooks and scenarios. We hope that this publication provides invaluable insights that may help advance SFM and forest-related livelihoods in different parts of the world.

Acknowledgements

This book is the product of collaborative work of 144 scientists and experts from IUFRO-WFSE partner organisations and other universities and research organisations who acted as authors in different capacities. Many of them contributed to this book on their own time, in addition to their primary duties and responsibilities. We sincerely thank all of them for the quality of their contributions, commitment, and outstanding efforts that made this publication possible.

The case study chapters of Part II and the chapters of Part IV were reviewed by renowned scientists and experts. Part III, which presents a synthesis of the case studies and the results of an analysis across the cases, was reviewed by the convening lead authors of the case study chapters. We especially acknowledge the crucial role of external reviewers of the different chapters of this book and offer our profound thanks for their generous contributions, which undoubtedly improved the quality of this publication.

* Mery, G., Alfaro, R., Kanninen, M. & Lobovikov, M. (eds.). 2005. *Forests in the global balance – Changing paradigms*. IUFRO World Series volume 17. Vienna. 318 p.
Mery, M., Katila, P., Galloway, G., Alfaro, R., Kanninen, M., Lobovikov, M. & Varjo, J. (eds.). 2010. *Forests and society – Responding to global drivers of change*. IUFRO World Series volume 25. Vienna. 509 p.

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A workshop held in Helsinki (2012) brought together the majority of the convening lead authors of the different chapters of the book and formally initiated the development of the book. It was fol-

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