

## IUFRO WFSE

# Special Project: World Forests, Society and Environment

Coordinator Pia Katila

[www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse](http://www.iufro.org/science/special/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

### Forests and development: From development discourses to providing data for decision making - International seminar in Helsinki 1st of March 2016

The seminar was organized jointly by IUFRO WFSE and FAO-Finland Forestry Programme and supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. It presented the results of both projects and showed how research and natural resource assessments and monitoring can provide important information for enhancing sustainable development.

This one day event discussed from different perspectives some of the important topics in forest-related development and the provision of forest-data for advancing sustainable development. The topics discussed included

- implications of sustainable development goals for forests
- environmental concerns in the bioeconomy discourse
- how the problem of illegal logging and its solutions are perceived across the globe
- equity discourses around REDD+
- the relationship between REDD+ and agricultural intensification
- the implications of the Paris climate agreement COP21.

Sustainable forest management (SFM) can be achieved only if forest policy and management decisions are based on a monitoring system which produces up-to-date and statistically robust evidence on forest resources and their changes. Integrated land use assessment in Zambia and national forest resources assessment and monitoring in Tanzania were presented as examples. Standardization and transparency of forestry data and information is paramount. A good example of how to achieve this is the Open Foris soft

ware developed within the FAO-Finland Forestry Programme.

Most of the presentations given in this event are available on the IUFRO WFSE www-pages:

<http://www.iufro.org/science/special/wfse/wfse-news/>



Mr. Pekka Puustinen, Director General, Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland opened the seminar.



The presentation of Dr. Maria Brockhaus focused on the evolution of equity discourses in REDD+ and its implications for policy making.

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### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

#### Special Issue for Forests “Incentives and Constraints of Community and Small-holder Forestry”

This Special Issue brings together case studies of communities that have been subjected to specific efforts for promoting community forestry, or communities that have adapted to new opportunities for transforming forest management activities as a strategy for improving their own livelihoods. It will include case studies from tropical Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The Guest Editors for this Special Issue are Wil de Jong, Pia Katila, Glenn Galloway and Pablo Pacheco.

Seven papers of this special issue are already available at:

[http://www.mdpi.com/journal/forests/special\\_issues/community\\_smallholder](http://www.mdpi.com/journal/forests/special_issues/community_smallholder)

#### Special Issue on Shifting global development discourses: Implications for forests and livelihoods

Approximately 15 papers are currently being developed on this theme for the Special Issue in *International Forestry Review*. The Guest Editors for this Special Issue are Pia Katila, Wil de Jong, Glenn Galloway and Pablo Pacheco.

### COMING EVENTS

#### IUFRO Regional Congress for Asia and Oceania 24-27 October, 2016 in Beijing, China

The call for abstracts (papers, presentations and posters) is now open. Abstract submission deadline is May 15, 2016. For further information please visit: <http://www.iufro-ao2016.org/en/>

In this congress WFSE will organize a session *Towards a green economy in Asia: Inserting forests into the sustainable development goals*.

#### WFSE Steering Committee meeting 2016

Preliminary announcement: The IUFRO WFSE Steering Committee meeting 2016 will convene in connection with the IUFRO Regional Congress in China, October 2016.

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