Partners
GFEP is a joint initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) including the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Secretariat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF Secretariat), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD Secretariat), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF Secretariat), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC Secretariat), the World Agroforestry (ICRAF), and the World Bank.

Donors
GFEP is supported through financial contributions by interested governments and organizations, and in-kind contributions by the participating CPF Members. Operational and technical support is provided by IUFRO Headquarters.

GFEP publications
- Enhancing Complexity: Meeting the Challenges of International Forest Governance. GFEP assessment report published as IUFRO World Series 28 (2011)
- Policy Brief: Making Forests Fit for Climate Change (2010)

The publications can be downloaded from the GFEP website www.iufro.org/gfep or requested from IUFRO Headquarters.
The GFEP Initiative
Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) are established within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), an informal, voluntary arrangement among 15 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programs on forests. The Initiative was launched in 2007, and is led and coordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

www.cpfweb.org; www.iufro.org

GFEP’s mission
The mission of GFEP is to support forest-related intergovernmental processes by assessing available scientific information in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, objective, open and transparent way and by producing reports on forest-related issues of high concern, including emerging issues.

GFEP activities
The Initiative produces assessment reports on key issues that reflect state-of-the-art understanding of the subject matter. Rather than conducting new research, GFEP is designed to consolidate available scientific information and expertise in relevant fields. The reports are prepared by thematic Expert Panels consisting of internationally recognized scientific experts in their fields. All reports undergo rigorous peer review.

Bridging the gap
There is a strong need to connect scientific expertise and advice with decision-making in order to meet today’s critical challenge of environmental governance. GFEP aims at strengthening the science-policy interface for forests and forest management.

Covering complexity
Forests and their management are closely linked with other global issues such as climate change, biodiversity conservation and livelihood protection. GFEP provides latest interdisciplinary scientific knowledge to elucidate such complex relationships.

Responding to information needs
There are various information requirements of intergovernmental processes related to forests and trees in order to ensure sustainable decision-making on forests. GFEP responds to these requirements at a global level. Thus, GFEP has considerable impact on forest-related agreements and their implementation.

FAQs
Who selects GFEP themes?
As coordinator of the Initiative, the International Union of Research Organizations (IUFRO) collects suggestions for GFEP themes provided by scientists, stakeholders, and donors. Based on these suggestions, IUFRO develops proposals for consideration by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) that approves themes for assessments.

How often are assessments published?
The number and frequency of GFEP assessment reports is determined by the information needs and requests coming from intergovernmental processes. To date assessment reports have been published on forest adaptation to climate change, on international forest governance, on REDD+, biodiversity and people, on food security and nutrition, on illegal logging and timber trade, and on the forest-water nexus or forests and water.

Who participates in Expert Panels?
Participation is open to scientists. Based on Terms of Reference, which are approved by CPF, GFEP establishes temporary thematic Expert Panels. Members of the Expert Panels are selected so as to cover the required expertise from natural and social sciences and reflect cultural and geographical diversity and gender balance. IUFRO’s GFEP coordination team manages this process.

Where can I get information about GFEP?
Information is available on the GFEP website at www.iufro.org/science/gfep or can be obtained from IUFRO Headquarters in Vienna, Austria. The GFEP Terms of Reference, all GFEP assessment reports and related policy briefs are available online.

How can I get involved in GFEP?
If you are interested in participating in GFEP’s work and/or in supporting particular assessments, please contact IUFRO Headquarters. IUFRO coordinates the implementation of GFEP activities.