GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS

IUFRO-led initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) since 2006

Supports forest-related intergovernmental processes by producing assessment reports on emerging global issues of high concern

CPF members:

Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP)

International Policy Processes

Scientific Information

- Independent Interdisciplinary Peer-reviewed Scientific Assessments
- UNFF, CBD
- UNFCCC, UN-SDGs

Science - Policy Interface

Global Forest Expert Panels

Global Forest, UN-SDGs
GFEP assessments - overview

- Assessments are undertaken by thematic **Expert Panels** – groups of internationally recognized scientific experts selected by the GFEP team, keeping in mind the scientific, regional and gender balance.

- **Panel Members** - scientists serve as Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) and Lead Authors (LAs) of chapters; Contributing Authors may be involved as needed.

- Scientific experts participate in their **personal capacity** and do not represent any organization or institution.

- Expert Panels **meet physically** at least 2-3 times during the assessment.

- No new research but assessment of **existing scientific literature and information** on given topic.

- Publication of results in comprehensive peer reviewed **assessment reports** and ‘**policy briefs**’ for decision- and policy-makers.
Six scientific assessments so far carried out by independent scientific expert panels

- Adaptation to Climate Change (2009)
- International Forest Regime (2011)
- Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+ (2012)
- Forests and Food Security (2015)
- Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade (2016)
- Forests and Water (2018)

All IUFRO-GFEP publications can be downloaded for free at:

https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/
GFEP assessments - completed

GFEP assessments - outcomes

- GFEP Expert Panels have triggered multi-disciplinary approaches:
  - Involvement of scientists from various disciplines
  - Increased collaboration with non-forest sectors

- No advocacy research but information basis for policy options

- Reports have been launched and study results have been disseminated within the framework of global policy processes (UNFCCC, CBD, UNFF)

- The publications have received considerable international media uptake worldwide (e.g. by BBC Online, Conversation, Mongabay, Voice of America, UN News Centre, Reuters, Science Daily, Deutsche Welle, and many others).
The outcomes of the GFEP assessments have served as:

- **Briefing documents** for negotiators at the global level (i.e. UNFCCC, CBD, UN-SDGs, UNFF etc.)
- **Guidance for strategic policy development** (e.g. for Global Environment Facility, GEF)
- Comprehensive, interdisciplinary and scientifically sound **information source for scientists and communicators**
- **Teaching materials** for universities and courses
GFEP - selected impacts

Biodiversity, Forest Management and REDD+ (2012)

- Briefing of REDD+ negotiators at UNFCCC COP-18 in Doha
- The Expert Panel’s work contributed to the discussions on REDD+ and biodiversity and was acknowledged in CBD decision XI/19
- Guidance to Global Environment Facility (GEF) in developing its SFM strategy in the GEF-6 replenishment process

Forests and Food Security (2015)

- The report served as a basis for the work of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
- Contribution to discussions on SDG 2 on food security during UNFF-12 (May 2017). Three of the five panelists presenting in the session were members of the GFEP Expert Panel on Forests, Food Security and Nutrition.
Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade (2016)

- Presentation of assessment process at the CITES COP-17 during INTERPOL’s 27th Wildlife Crime Working Group Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2016

- Report and policy brief launched during High-Level Segment of the CBD COP-13 in Cancun, Mexico in December 2016; Policy Brief distributed to all the country delegations (187)

- CBD COP-13 formally recognized the need to address the problem of illegal logging and timber trade in the framework of the CBD - paragraph 57 of the adopted CBD decision XIII/3

- Presentation of findings of the report at the 11th meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT) in February 2017


A Global Assessment Report

GFEP on Forests and Water

- GFEP Expert Panel on Forests and Water commenced work in early 2017

- Task: comprehensive global scientific assessment report on interactions between forests and water to inform relevant policy processes, especially the discussions on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

- Scientific Expert Panel involved 19 internationally renowned scientists from Canada, Indonesia, South Africa, Sweden, Spain, Kenya, Nepal, Australia, United States, Switzerland, United Kingdom and China (List of Panel Members)

- In total, around 50 scientists from more than 20 countries contributed to the peer reviewed assessment report

- Launch of the report and policy brief during UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2018) in New York, USA (9-18 July 2018)
GFEP on Forests and Water

Policy context:

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to forest/water relations

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality

6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals

Balancing development and equity

Matching demand- and supply-side controls

Forest/water interface with UNFCCC (SDG13)
- Paris Agreement climate change
- Bonn Challenge on forest landscape restoration

Forest/water interface with UNCCD (SDG1+15)
- Aichi Targets for biodiversity conservation

Forest/water interface with UN CBD (SDG14+15)

Source: Authors’ own elaboration

GLOBAL RELEASE – 10 July 2018

LAUNCH: Side-event during United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2018)

Photo by IISD/ENB | Natalia Mroz
GLOBAL RELEASE – 10 July 2018

LAUNCH: Side-event during United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2018)

Photos by IISD/ENB | Natalia Mroz

Official coverage of the launch by IISD/ENB:

GLOBAL RELEASE – Media uptakes

The press releases and the study were picked up by several international news portals and media (few examples):
GLOBAL RELEASE – Media uptakes

The news were shared by many of our partners around the world:
GLOBAL RELEASE – Media uptakes

Members of GFEP were giving interviews on television and radio:


- **FAO INTERVIEW WITH GFEP CO-CHAIR PROF. MEINE VAN NOORDWIJK DURING COFO-24 IN ROME, ITALY**

- **INTERVIEW OF CGTN AFRICA WITH MEINE VAN NOORDWIJK**

- **INTERVIEW WITH PROF. CAROLINE A. SULLIVAN ON ABC RADIO IN AUSTRALIA (11 JULY 2018)**

- **INTERVIEW WITH DR. EMMA ARCHER IN THE JOHN MAYTHAM SHOW ON RADIO CAPE TALK (SOUTH AFRICA)**

GFEP Forests and Water - impact

- Contribution to the 13th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF-13) in May 2018 in New York, USA. GFEP Panel Members were invited to the “Panel Discussion on the Contribution of Forests to the Achievement of the SDGs and Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies”.

- A Coordinating Lead Author of GFEP was tasked by the UNFF to produce a background study on “forests and water”, presented at the UNFF-13. The study was mainly based on the GFEP report.

- Report and policy brief were launched at a side-event during UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF 2018) on 10 July 2018 in UN HQ in New York, USA.

- Presentations at the Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on “Sustainable Development Goal 15: Progress and Prospects” in May 2018; a pre-HLPF event on forests entitled “Forest-based Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies: Lessons Learned and Success Stories” in July 2018; and a high-level session at the 24th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 24) in July 2018.
GFEP on Forests and Water

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