Changing Paradigms in Forestry: Repercussions for People and Nature

Coordinating convening lead author: Gerardo Mery
Convening lead author: René Alfaro, Markku Kanninen, Maxim Lobovikov

Forests in the Global Balance – Changing Paradigms
IUFRO World Series Vol. 17
Outline

The IUFRO-WFSE project
(Slides 3-8)

The changing paradigms approach
(Slides 9-11)

The themes of the book
(Slides 12-13)
The objectives of IUFRO-WFSE (1)

• In 2001, the World Forests, Society and Environment (WFSE) project became a Special Project of the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO).

• The IUFRO–WFSE project has several objectives:
  – to collate and critically analyse existing knowledge on selected issues related to the interrelations between forests, society, and the environment
  – to provide an innovative forum for analysing changing paradigms, and challenging and testing new ideas using a scientific approach
  – to disseminate and distribute the project’s findings worldwide.
The objectives of IUFRO-WFSE (2)

- There is currently no global mechanism to raise issues of importance and give expert advice on forest-related issues.
- Policy-makers often make decisions that are not based on reliable information or sound scientific evidence.
- There is an urgent need to enhance the interface between science and policy.
- IUFRO-WFSE aims at contributing to filling the gap between science and policy.
IUFRO’s Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment

IUFRO-WFSE partners

The project consists of nine partners, who establish the guidelines and collaborate to perform the agreed activities.
The worldwide open network

The broad and open network of researchers and experts who collaborated with the project is a valuable asset of IUFRO-WFSE. The network consists of more than 150 authors from around the world.

Convening lead authors
Contributing authors

Samuel Chopo
The IUFRO-WFSE process

The IUFRO-WFSE process is an innovative and unique effort, based on the highest quality, objectivity, and scientific independence. The process has consisted of the following steps:

- The identification of globally relevant topics of current concern related to forests, the environment and societies.
- The identification of recognised scientists and research groups, who carried out the critical review.
- The preparation of objective assessments and critical analyses of the crucial issues, both globally and by region.
- The dissemination of the output to a wide audience of scientists, professionals, policy makers, and the public.
The main outputs of IUFRO-WFSE

The book, *Forests in the Global Balance – Changing Paradigms* (in English)

The policy brief, *Forests for the New Millennium – Making Forests Work for People and Nature* (in English, French and Spanish)
The changing paradigms approach (1)

The ways in which forests are perceived, conserved, and used have changed dramatically in recent years. A new set of assumptions, theories, and beliefs – scientific paradigms – have been gradually developing. Currently forests are seen as:

• complex ecosystems and not only as a source of timber for societal needs

• valuable natural resources that provide a range of products, environmental services, as well as maintain biodiversity and healthy ecosystems

• significant resources that provide livelihoods to billions of people and can importantly contribute to poverty alleviation and rural development.
The changing paradigms approach (2)

These new views on the role of forests emerged due to:

• the increasing societal pressure for more equitable socioeconomic development, without threatening local and global environments in the long term

• the need of promoting a sustainable social development considering the well being of present and future human generations, based on holistic collective agreements by all the involved stakeholders.

The chapters of the book analyse and discuss the changing paradigms within specific themes, at the global level, and the current situation and changing paradigms in the forestry sector in different geographical regions.
The changing paradigms approach (3)

The new social perceptions pursue a sensitive equilibrium between an equitable social development and the sustainable use of natural resources and nature conservation.

- Policy makers have been pressured by these new social paradigms and have had to look for urgent agreements, programmes, and plans of action.
- Numerous international, regional and national processes have been launched.
The book *Forests in the Global Balance – Changing Paradigms* has four parts and consists of altogether 17 chapters. The themes analysed and discussed in the first three parts can be summarised in the following groups:

- Forests as source of livelihoods and human well-being
- Healthy ecosystems for sustainable forest management
- Integrating forestry with other sectors
- Sharing forest benefits more equally
- The need of a better governance of forest resources
The themes of the book (2)

Part IV, the Regional Forum, consists of regional analyses, and discussions of the resulting global, national, and local repercussions.