In late 2017 WFSE initiated the work on the new topic: Sustainable Development Goals: Their Impacts on Forests and People.

The contributions of forest towards reaching the SDGs have received considerable attention. Little attention, however, has yet been focused on possible and likely impacts that efforts undertaken in different sectors to advance towards the 17 SDGs will have on forests, forest ecosystem services, forest-related livelihoods and human wellbeing, and how these impacts, in turn, will contribute or undermine the contributions of forests to climate and development. These are the issues that the book will focus on from the point of view of each of the SDG.

The book will be launched at the WFSE Sub-plenary session in the XXV IUFRO World Congress 29 September–5 October 2019 in Curitiba, Brazil.

The development of this publication is a collaborative effort of about one hundred scientists and experts from different parts of the world. The lead authors and the editors of this publication have convened twice during 2018 to develop and discuss the content of the book.

FAO-WFSE workshop 6-7 March 2018 in Rome

The FAO-WFSE Workshop "Sustainable Development Goals: Their impacts on forests and people" was organized at the FAO Headquarters in Rome 6-7 March 2018. The event brought together the lead authors and editors of the publication and colleagues from FAO to discuss the forests and SDGs interactions. The two-day workshop focused especially on the potential and likely impacts of the SDGs and their implementation on forests and related socioeconomic systems.

WFSE workshop 25-26 September 2018 in Alghero, Sardinia

The second workshop for developing the new publication was organized in conjunction with the European Forest Institute’s Annual Conference and Scientific Seminar in Sardinia. This workshop concentrated on the main findings from the SDG chapters and the contextual conditions that influence how the SDGs are taken up and prioritized.
Preliminary results presented at EFI Scientific Seminar

Carol Colfer (CIFOR and the Southeast Asia Program of Cornell University), one of the editors of the new book, presented preliminary results from the new publication in the EFI Scientific Seminar Forests: Interconnecting Sustainable Development Goals to Action in Sardinia 27 September 2018.

New article on community and smallholder forestry and SDGs

The article titled Community Forestry and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Two Way Street analyses the contributions of community and smallholder forestry (CSF) to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs). A CSF-SDG positive feedback model is proposed; a model that holds that successful CSF positively contributes to 13 SDGs and 31 SDG targets.

Recent CSF meta-studies have scrutinized factors leading to CSF success and found some 10 factors and conditions that contribute to that objective. If efforts towards reaching the SDGs support or enhance these factors leading to the greater success of CSF, this in turn would boost CSF contributions to the SDGs and their targets. As a result, CSF or active support for CSF, focusing on the 10 CSF factors that favor success, can be linked to 48 unique SDG targets.

The analysis suggests that there is a significant opportunity to explore win-win options for efforts to support CSF and contribute to SDGs, but also for efforts to pursue the SDGs and targets that favor CSF, which will in turn boost the contribution of CSF to the SDGs. The case of CSF and its feedback links with the SDGs suggests that it may be relevant to identify interactions between the SDGs and other socio-ecological realities and related research.

Wil de Jong, Benno Pokorny, Pia Katila, Glenn Galloway and Pablo Pacheco. 2018. Community Forestry and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Two Way Street. Forests 2018, 9(6), 331; The article is available at: https://doi.org/10.3390/f9060331

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SEASON’S GREETINGS

Thank you for your valuable support to WFSE during the past year. I look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration in 2019.

Pia