

All-IUFRO Conference 2022

Forests in a Volatile World – Global Collaboration to Sustain Forests and Their Societal Benefits

Forests and Human Health – A One Health Perspective

Organized by

IUFRO Division 6, Division 7, GFEP

in cooperation with other IUFRO Divisions

🕒 22 September 2022, 10:45 – 12:30 CEST

📍 Vienna, Hybrid Event

To join us, please register for the Conference: [Registration](#)

This plenary session discusses the many close relationships between forests and human health, from providing urban residents with restorative spaces and cool spots during heatwaves to the role forests play in the livelihoods of rural and forest-dependent communities.

Forest-human health relationships also relate to e.g., management of zoonotic diseases, health risks resulting from e.g., forest degradation and forest fires, and the importance of spiritual values of forests. The session takes a One Health perspective in the understanding that the health of all living beings is interconnected.

We need healthy forest ecosystems for people to be healthy as well. Preliminary findings from the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Human Health are presented, followed by a panel debate with experts within the topic of forests and human health, as well as One Health. This is followed by a series of flash talks that present research from across the globe.

Forests and Human Health

PROGRAM

10:45 – 10:50 am	Brief introduction to the session
10:50 – 11:05 am	Forests and Human Health: preliminary findings of the GFEP Expert Panel on Forests and Human Health (FHH)
11:05 am – 12:00 noon	Moderated panel debate
12:00 – 12:30 pm	<p>Flash talks</p> <p>“Indigenous and conventional knowledge integration for restoring degraded rangelands in northern Kenya” – <i>Amina Maalin</i></p> <p>“Towards a Quality-of-Life Approach to Valuing of the Benefits of Forests” – <i>Sjerp de Vries</i></p> <p>“Incidence of <i>Haematological malignancies</i> in French population living near forest areas: Pilot study” - <i>Sebastien Orazio</i></p> <p>“Human health benefits of walking forest trails – results from a field experiment in a nature park” - <i>Arne Arnberger</i></p> <p>“Traditional knowledge of wild mushrooms as ethnomedicine in primary health care among inhabitants of forest communities in Cameroon” - <i>Tonjock Rosemary Kinge</i></p> <p>“The relationship of the population with its forest. Results from a long-term socio-cultural forest monitoring in Switzerland” - <i>Boris Salak</i></p> <p>“Cycling in an urban and in a natural area. What is best for mental health?” - <i>Emerson Soldado</i></p> <p>“How are outdoor leisure and recreational users coping with physical and mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic in Malaysia?” - <i>Sreetheran Maruthaveeran</i></p> <p>“Effects and possibilities of Forest Therapy (FT) at local hospitals - Case studies utilized local abandoned artificial forest in Japan” - <i>Iwao Uehara</i></p>
12:30 pm	Session closing

Forests and Human Health

MODERATION & INTRODUCTION



Cecil Konijnendijk

Chair, GFEP FHH / Coordinator IUFRO Division 6, Spain

Cecil co-directs the Nature Based Solutions Institute, a think tank supporting the evidence-based greening of cities. He is also an Honorary Professor at the University of British Columbia. His work involves the studying, teaching, and advising on aspects of urban forestry and nature-based solutions. A Dutch national, he has lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and North America. Cecil helped found the leading academic journal *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* and edited textbooks such as *The Routledge Handbook of Urban Forestry*. He has advised international organisations such as FAO, as well as national and local governments in over 30 countries.



Christoph Wildburger

Coordinator, IUFRO GFEP Programme, Austria

Christoph Wildburger is the Coordinator of IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme. He has served as the Programme Coordinator for more than a decade and has over 25 years of working experience at the science-policy interface. Christoph's core areas of expertise include environmental policies, conservation biology and forest ecology, as well as in-depth knowledge of related international processes and institutional frameworks. Christoph holds a PhD and a Masters degree from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.

PANELLISTS



Alberto Santini

National Research Council, Italy

Alberto Santini is a senior researcher and research director at the Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, Italian National Research Council. Alberto does research in environmental science and plant protection and plant health. Alberto holds a PhD in Forest Pathology.



Rosaline Remans

Biodiversity International / GFEP FHH, Switzerland

Dr. Ir. Roseline Remans is a biosystems engineer, co-founder of the social enterprise *glocolearning*, and a honorary research fellow with the Multifunctional Landscapes Team of the Alliance of Biodiversity International and CIAT. Her research focuses on biodiversity in food systems for people and nature. Her approach emphasizes co-creation and co-learning, and has contributed to public and private sector applications, and over 100 publications. Remans previously worked as a senior scientist with the CGIAR in Geneva, Brussels and Addis Ababa, and as a Marie Curie fellow and associate research scientist at Columbia University in New York and Addis Ababa. She has a PhD in Biosystems engineering from KULeuven in Belgium.

Forests and Human Health



Sjerp de Vries

Wageningen Environmental Research, The Netherlands

Sjerp is an environmental psychologist at Wageningen Environmental Research in the Netherlands. He conducts quantitative research on cultural ecosystem services, including outdoor recreation, landscape appreciation, but especially the effect of contact with nature on human well-being. He co-authored several influential papers on this topic, dealing with empirical studies as well as with conceptual frameworks. He has been an adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO) on green space and human health in an urban context. One of his latest publications is a systematic review of research on which types and characteristics of green spaces are most beneficial for mental health.



Liisa Tyrväinen

Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finland

Liisa Tyrväinen works as a research professor at the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke). She has long-standing experience in studying amenity benefits of forests. Her research team has worked with measuring health and social benefits of forests as well as ways to integrate them in forest management and planning. Tyrväinen has strong international networks and she authored over 300 scientific publications. She is a member of editorial boards of the Urban Forestry and Urban Greening and International Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism journals. She has worked six years as a member of board of directors at Metsähallitus governing state-owned lands and is working in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.



Ranaivo Rasolofson

The Gund Institute, University of Vermont / GFEP FHH, United States

Ranaivo is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Duke University. He is interested in investigating the impacts of environmental programs and environmental changes on different social and ecological outcomes. He looked at the impacts of community forest management and protected areas on deforestation, economic, and subjective human well-being in Madagascar. Ranaivo also examined the links between forests, child nutrition and health in multiple developing countries. He explored links between fisheries, early childhood nutrition and development in the areas around Lake Victoria, Kenya. He currently works on a project that looks at the impacts of nature conservation on food and nutrition security.

FLASH PRESENTERS



Amina Maalin

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), Garissa, Kenya

Ms. Amina Aden Maalin is a female forestry research scientist working with Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI). She is currently based in Garissa office but works in the whole of the Northern region in the drylands of Kenya which accommodates the largest pastoral population in Kenya. She has both local and international research experiences. Her expertise is agroforestry and sustainable rural development and at the moment she is the only Somali female forestry researcher in both North Eastern Kenya and Somalia. Additionally, she is a member of the IUFRO Task Force on "Transforming Forest landscape for future climates and human well-being". The main focus of her research is on Forest Landscape Restoration.

Forests and Human Health



Sjerp de Vries

Wageningen Environmental Research, The Netherlands

Sjerp is an environmental psychologist at Wageningen Environmental Research in the Netherlands. He conducts quantitative research on cultural ecosystem services, including outdoor recreation, landscape appreciation, but especially the effect of contact with nature on human well-being. He co-authored several influential papers on this topic, dealing with empirical studies as well as with conceptual frameworks. He has been an adviser to the World Health Organization (WHO) on green space and human health in an urban context. One of his latest publications is a systematic review of research on which types and characteristics of green spaces are most beneficial for mental health.



Sebastien Orazio

Bergonie Institute, France

Sebastien has a master's degree in epidemiology and biostatistics and a PhD in statistics from the Institut de Mathématique de Bordeaux. He is a statistician and project manager in the epidemiological surveillance unit of the Bergonie Institute. The Bergonie Institute is a French comprehensive cancer centre. Its research activities are included in the Inserm EPIdemiology of Cancer and EnviroNmental Exposures (EPICENE) team of the Bordeaux population health research centre. In 2017 a health-environment study programme was launched to estimate the link between the risk of leukaemia/lymphoma occurrence and some environmental exposures such as UV, pesticides, electromagnetic fields.



Arne Arnberger

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria

Dr. Arne Arnberger is Associate Professor at the Institute of Landscape Development, Recreation and Conservation Planning, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, Austria. He is also a faculty member at the West Virginia University's Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Resources Program. He is vice-chair of the Austrian UNESCO Man & the Biosphere committee and involved in the Austrian communication platforms "Forests & Human Health" and "Forests & Tourism". He is co-founder of the Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas (MMV). His current research activities focus on outdoor recreation and effects of nature on human health.



Tonjock Rosemary Kinge

University of Bamenda, Cameroon & University of Bayreuth, Germany

Tonjock Rosemary Kinge is Associate Professor of Mycology, Conservation and Phytopathology at the University of Bamenda, Cameroon. She is a TWAS-CAS postgraduate fellow and a Fulbright Scholar. Rosemary is the technical and logistic secretary of the Cameroon Academy of Young Scientists (CAYS), she is an Affiliate of the African Academy of Sciences, an executive committee member of TWAS young affiliate network and a fellow of the African Science Leadership Programme. Rosemary is editor for Conservation Letters and reviewer for several Journals. Presently, Rosemary is an Alexander von Humboldt experienced research fellow at the University of Bayreuth, Germany.

Forests and Human Health



Boris Salak

Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), Switzerland

Boris Salak is a graduate landscape researcher at the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL in Switzerland. He completed his PhD in engineering at BOKU University, Vienna, where he also conducted research for almost a decade. At WSL he is focusing on sustainable landscape development, renewable energy infrastructures, human-nature interaction, concepts of place attachment and long-term forest monitoring. With regard to the latter, he and his colleagues have been involved in the third implementation of the Swiss Socio-Cultural Forest Monitoring, which will also be the focus of his presentation today.



Emerson Soldado

University of São Paulo, Brazil

Emerson graduated in Biological Sciences and holds a Master's degree in history of science. He is currently a doctoral student in Applied Ecology at the University of São Paulo. Emerson is undertaking the research project Ciclo Natureza in which he assesses the influence of different environments on the well-being of cyclists. He also holds a teaching position at the Federal Institute of São Paulo, working in high school, technical and undergraduate courses.



Sreetheran Maruthaveeran

Universiti Putra Malaysia, Malaysia

Sreetheran Maruthaveeran is an Associate Professor at the Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Design and Architecture, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). His main research interest lies in the social aspect of urban forestry, recreation and leisure sciences. Currently, he serves as an Editorial Board Member for Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism and Leisure Studies Journal. He is also the Editor-in-Chief for ALAM CIPTA International Journal of Sustainable Tropical Design Research. Currently, he is the Coordinator of the Urban Forestry Unit of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). He is also a Certified Arborist under the International Society of Arboriculture since 2007.



Iwao Uehara

Tokyo University of Agriculture, Japan

Iwao Uehara is a Professor at the Department of Forest Science, Tokyo University of Agriculture. He also serves as President of The Society of Forest Amenity and Human Health Promotion in Japan. Born in Nagano, Japan, in 1964, he started working in forest therapy at a special school in 1993. He has undertaken and presented my studies with people with disabilities and illnesses by surveying case studies. His topics of major interest include silviculture, forest therapy, and forest amenities.