

THE ONLINE INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE GLOBAL FOREST SCIENCE NETWORK

Raising Gender Awareness in Forestry

By Gun Lidestav, Coordinator of IUFRO 6.08.01,
Simmoné Rose, and Carol J. Pierce Colfer

Raising gender awareness in forestry was a main objective of the Gender and Forestry Seminar and Workshop held in Umeå, Sweden, from June 17 – 21, 2006. The Seminar marked the end of a 2-year assignment from FAO/ECE/ILO to a Team of Specialists (ToS) on Gender and Forestry in Europe and North America. The result of the work of the ToS is a "state of the art" report entitled "[Time for action - Changing the gender situation in forestry.](#)" In the workshop of [IUFRO 6.08.01](#) that followed the seminar, the focus was widened to include Asia and Africa.

Since forestry has always been regarded as an arena mainly for men's work, business and governance, there is a huge lack of gender awareness in the sector. **Gender invisibility** has many forms: Statistics, for example, do not inform sufficiently on the involvement of women and men in the forestry sector. Information on women's involvement in family forestry, both as part of the workforce and as owners, is scarce. The differences between women and men in the relationship to, and the uses and management methods of natural resources, also need to be studied more closely.

Although women are significant users of forest products, they rarely make an input into **forestry decision making**, neither at the macro nor at the micro level. Even though some countries have introduced policies to improve the representation of women in the forestry sector, little has been done to encourage and/or follow up on these policies and, thus, the situation often remains unchanged. In most countries men dominate the forestry sector workforce, for example, and usually earn more than their equally qualified female counterparts.

In some countries, female representation within the forestry sector seems to be heavily influenced by the traditional values and perceptions of the role of women in society. Policies geared towards **equal opportunities** seem to have been impotent to break this general pattern. Even when women hold the majority ownership of private forests they are still marginalized in the decision making process.

Men and women have **different relationships to forests**. Women are credited with being more critical of forest management strategies, perhaps because they are more ecologically and socially aware of forestry issues.



The new vice-chancellor of SLU, Lisa Sennerby-Forse (center), discussing the report "Time for action" with Team of Specialists leader Gun Lidestav (right), and keynote speaker Carol J. Pierce Colfer (left).
(Photo: Sven-Olov Bylund)

Women in forestry have been organizing themselves for more than 20 years. These networks, mainly of female forest owners, have proved to be very useful and important forums for women to discuss common problems and provide information and support to each other.

There was a general consensus that for any improvement to be made to the current gender imbalance in the forestry sector in Europe and North America, gender issues should be put on the agendas at **all levels of discussion**: the international community, governments and private and public sectors. To this end, the seminar concluded with the presentation of several specific recommendations targeted to each of these groups.

The IUFRO workshop following the seminar took a **more global perspective** with the emphasis being rather on women living in and managing the forests in their areas informally/traditionally than on gender issues in the formal forestry sector. At the business meeting of IUFRO Working Group 6.08.01 it was decided to extend the ToS analysis to Africa and Asia, to suggest gender-related themes to the World Forestry Congress, and to participate (via a panel) in the 2007 IUFRO Division VI Symposium, *Integrative Science for Integrative Management*, in Saariselka, Finland.

Seminar and Workshop on Gender and Forestry; sponsored by FAO, UNECE, Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, SLU, Sveaskog, Husqvarna, SkogsNolia and Formas; organized by Faculty of Forestry, SLU and IUFRO 6.08.01 Gender Research in Forestry; 70 participants from 17 countries. Proceedings from the Seminar and Workshop will be published in late autumn 2006. [Web site](#)

Mourning for Dr. Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer

The news of the [tragic helicopter crash](#) that claimed the life of our colleague **Dr. Jillian Bowling Schlaepfer** on September 23 in the mountainous far-east of Nepal filled us with great sadness.

None of the twenty-four passengers - prominent WWF conservation leaders, government officials, representatives of other agencies, journalists and the crew members - survived.

Jill Bowling Schlaepfer, Conservation Director, WWF UK, was a keen promoter of the cooperation between WWF and IUFRO. She also was the driving force behind the establishment of a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. Many of you, especially former IUFRO Board members, will remember her well from the several Board meetings that she used to attend.

Our deepest sympathy goes to her family and friends.

Traditional Forest Knowledge and its Contribution to Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation of Cultural Heritage

By Mauro Agnoletti, Coordinator of IUFRO Research Group 6.07.00 "Forest and Woodland History", and John Parrotta, Coordinator of the IUFRO Task Force on Traditional Forest Knowledge

Traditional forest knowledge and innovative forest management practices developed by rural communities over the centuries have contributed significantly to the world's **natural and cultural heritage**, not only by creating and maintaining landscapes of outstanding beauty, but also by helping to sustain production of multiple goods and services that enhance livelihood security and quality of life.

The role of traditional knowledge in sustainable forest management and conservation of cultural heritage was the focus of a conference held from 11-15 June 2006 at the Italian Academy of Forestry Science in Florence, Italy.

The meeting entitled "Cultural heritage and sustainable forest management: the role of traditional knowledge" was sponsored by the [IUFRO Task Force on Traditional Forest Knowledge](#) and [Research Group 6.07.00 "Forest and Woodland History"](#). It was supported by the University of Florence, the USDA Forest Service and the Liaison Unit of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) in cooperation with the Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest Policies, the Regional Government of Tuscany, UNESCO, and the European Society for Environmental History.

The conference represented a further step in the implementation of the **Vienna declaration n.3 of the MCPFE** concerning "Preserving and enhancing the cultural dimension of sustainable forest management in Europe", aiming to develop specific indicators concerning cultural values to improve the existing set of criteria for Sustainable Forest Management enhanced by MCPFE. In this respect the collaboration established among the Research Group on Forest History, the Task Force on TFK and the MCPFE is a very important achievement.



Meeting participants in monumental chestnut orchard (Photo provided by Mauro Agnoletti)

The theme of the conference reflected the significant overlap of interests between the holders and users of traditional forest knowledge and a number of policy and planning issues and initiatives within the European Union, the broader European region, and the global forest policy community. These relate to:

- increasing recognition of the importance of traditional forest management practices in maintaining cultural landscapes;
- development and refinement of social/cultural criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;
- the increased recognition of the contributions of traditional forest knowledge to sustainable forest management reflected in recent deliberations of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); and
- ongoing activities of numerous intergovernmental organizations, regional bodies, individual governments, communities, research organizations and NGOs worldwide focused on the protection and development of traditional ecological knowledge and its application to sustainable natural resource management.

The proceedings of the conference will be published in October 2006 by the Liaison Unit of the MCPFE in Warsaw, Poland. [Full report.](#)

Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development

By Peter Herbst, Coordinator of IUFRO 6.13.00

The 8th International Symposium on "Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development" was held in Istanbul (Turkey), May 10 - 14, 2006. It was hosted by the Faculty of Forestry, Istanbul, University of Istanbul, under the auspices of the Directorate of Forests in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Turkey, and supported by the



*Symposium participants in Istanbul
Photo provided by Peter Herbst*

host organizations, the Association of Turkish Foresters, the Scientific and Technological Research of Turkey, the Forestry Cooperatives Central Union of Turkey, the Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, as well as the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland.

Not unexpectedly, May 2006 in Istanbul, turned out to be a good choice to gather researchers and practitioners active in forest law and environmental legislation in Eastern and Central European countries for an extended exchange of information: Negotiations with Turkey on its accession to the European Union had officially started some months ago and reached relevant technical levels by then, and at the same time, the final – though at that stage not yet officially approved – version of the new EU Forest Action Plan was available.

Presentations and discussions were focused on the balance between forestry and nature conservation at public and/or private property level as well as collision between regulations in forest laws and environment related legislation. The high relevance of this meeting was emphasised by the presence of the Turkish Minister of Environment and Forestry, Osman Pepe. [Full Report.](#)

The proceedings of this meeting will be published by Prof. Dr. Sedat Ayanođlu (Dept. of Forest Law, Faculty of Forestry, Istanbul University). Their availability will also be announced on the IUFRO home page ([Research Group 6.13.00](#)). The 9th International Symposium on "Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development" will held in Zikatar (Armenia), in June 2007.

IUFRO All Division 5 Conference China-Taipei, Oct 29th – Nov 2nd, 2007

The next IUFRO [All-Division 5 conference](#) will be held in Taipei, the capital of China-Taipei in late 2007. In order to promote interaction between the IUFRO Division 5 and the Local Organizing Committee on conference preparations, the Chinese Forest Products Association (CFPA) invited IUFRO Division 5 officeholders Dave Cown and Bernie Dawson to visit Taiwan. The trip was organized by the two local hosts, CFPA and the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute (TFRI), and sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Having the 2007 IUFRO All Division 5 Conference in Taipei will not only promote the interaction among professionals in the research areas of forest utilization, wood engineering, and marketing of wood- and bio-based products, but will also offer a great opportunity for scientists to develop collaboration and networks across national boundaries.



Left to Right: Dr. Eugene Wang (Division Chief – Wood & Cellulose, TFRI; Local Organizing Committee); Dr. Dave Cown (ensis, New Zealand; IUFRO Division 5 Coordinator); Dr. Bernie Dawson (ensis, New Zealand; Conference Scientific Committee); Sharon-May Dawson (New Zealand); Susan Shiau (Chief Coordinator of the conference); Dr. Ying-Shen Wang, Division Chief – Forest Utilization, TFRI)

Equator Prize 2006

Closing Date for nominations: 30 October 2006
Agency: United Nations Development Programme,
Equator Initiative

The [Equator Prize](#) is awarded to recognise and celebrate outstanding community efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation of biodiversity. Five prizes will be awarded. Winners will each receive a prize of US\$30,000. Contact: [EquatorInitiative\(at\)undp.org](mailto:EquatorInitiative(at)undp.org)

Training Course

The Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus (BTU), Germany, Research Center Landscape Development and Mining Landscapes, is organizing a Training course intended for post-graduate students and/or post-docs who are working in the field of forest ecology.

[More information](#)

IUFRO Meetings

The following list of meetings is not complete. For a full list of IUFRO events, please visit our [online calendar](#). Find more details on the [homepages](#) of IUFRO Units involved.

8 October 2006

Nondestructive Testing of Wood - 2006 joint Seminar of CRIWI and IUFRO Working Party 5.02.01

Beijing, China

Contact: Xiping Wang, USDA Forest Products Laboratory, email: xwang@fs.fed.us, fax: +1-608-231-9508

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-5/50000/50200/50201/activities/>

11 October 2006 – 7 February 2007

Internet course:

Gender roles in environmental management

IUFRO 6.08.02 – Education, gender and forestry

Contact: Siegfried Lewark,

email: siegfried.lewark@fobawi.uni-freiburg.de

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-6/60000/60800/60802/activities/>

14 – 16 November 2006

II Congreso Chileno de Derecho Forestal-Ambiental

Talca, Región del Maule, Chile

Organized by: Corporación Nacional Forestal, Universidad de Talca, IUFRO 6.13.01

Contact: Francia Saavedra N.,

email: congreso@conaf.cl

<http://www.congresodfa.cl> ; <http://www.conaf.gob.cl>

1-6 April 2007

International Mountain Logging and 13th Pacific Northwest Skyline Symposium: Global Competitiveness - Implications and Sustainable Approaches for Mountain Forest Harvesting

Corvallis, Oregon, USA

Organized by the Department of Forest Engineering, Oregon State University

Co-sponsored by [IUFRO Division 3](#)

Contact: Loren Kellogg, loren.kellogg@oregonstate.edu

<http://www.cof.orst.edu/cof/fe/skyline2007/>

17-20 April, 2007

4to Congreso Forestal de Cuba

La Habana, Cuba

Co-sponsored by IUFRO 1.02.02

Contact: César Sabogal, email: c.sabogal@cgiar.org

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10200/10202/activities/>

17-20 May 2007

2007 Annual Meeting and International Symposium on Building Insights of Managerial Economics and Accounting towards Sustainable Forest Management

Lviv, Ukraine

Co-sponsored by IUFRO 4.05.00, 4.05.01 and 4.05.02

Contact: Lyudmyla Maksymiv, National Forestry University of Ukraine, email: maksymiv@forest.lviv.ua

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-4/40000/40500/activities/>

3-7 June 2007

Improving the Triple Bottom Line Returns from Small-scale Forestry

Ormoc City, Leyte, the Philippines

IUFRO 3.08.00 and 6.11.02

Contact: iufro@uq.edu.au

<http://www.uq.edu.au/forestry/>

11-15 June 2007

Sharing Indigenous Wisdom: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development 2007

Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA

IUFRO Task Force on [Traditional Forest Knowledge](#)

Contact: Dale Kakkak, email: dkakkak@menominee.edu

<http://www.SharingIndigenousWisdom.org>

29 July - 2 August 2007

Complex Stand Structures and Associated Dynamics: measurement indices and modeling approaches

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada

IUFRO [4.01.02](#) and [1.05.00](#)

Contact: Peter Newton, peter.newton@nrcan.gc.ca

<http://www.iufrosault.org>

3-5 September 2007

Role of Norway Spruce in Conserving European Forest Ecosystems. Adaptability under Changing Environment

Cracow, Poland

IUFRO Working Party 2.02.11

Contact: Janusz Sabor, email: wles@ar.krakow.pl

<http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-2/20000/20200/20211/activities/unit/2.02.11/>

18-21 September 2007

Natural Disturbances and Natural Hazards in Mountain Forests: Challenges and Opportunities for Silviculture

Trento, Italy

IUFRO [1.01.05](#) and [1.05.00](#)

Contact: Renzo Motta, email: tn07@unito.it

<http://www.sisef.it/sisef/iufro.php>

Non-IUFRO Meetings

2 November 2006

Forum on Renewable Resources – Sustainable Future Helsinki, Finland

Project Coordinator: Eeva Hellström, Director of Forest Academy for Decision-Makers

Contact: renewableresources@smy.fi

<http://www.smy.fi/renewableresources/index.html>

13-15 November, 2006

Workshop on pan-European understanding of forest classification

Slovenia, Bled

Contact: Malgorzata Buszko-Briggs,

email: m.buszko-briggs@lu-warsaw.pl