

International and National Efforts to Reduce Illegal Timber Trade Need to Factor in the Major Dimensions of Unlawful Forest Uses

Illegally harvested and traded timber continues to strongly impact our environment, societies and economies, including endangering biological diversity and climate change mitigation.

Despite long-standing international efforts to combat illegal logging and related trade, these phenomena seem to be persistent at the global level. This is mainly because stricter regulations in some countries re-route illegal timber to less regulated markets, and the majority of illegally harvested timber is traded domestically. Also, organized criminal networks are increasingly involved in illegal logging.

These are some of the key messages of a new study that was successfully launched on 3 December in Cancun, Mexico, in the context of the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP13).

The new report "Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade - Dimensions, Drivers, Impacts and Responses" is the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on illegal logging and available response options. More than 40 renowned scientists from around the world collaborated on the study, coordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

"Policies must embrace the major dimensions of the problem, namely illegal forest conversion, informal logging and all other illegal forest activities including forest crime", said Daniela Kleinschmit, University of Freiburg, and the Chair of the assessment on "Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade", which has been undertaken by IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative.

"In view of these various dimensions we must also recognize that illegal logging is not merely a forest-related problem to be



Press Briefing on 3 December in Cancun, Mexico, in the context of CBD COP13 (Photo © IUFRO). Participants from left to right: Alexander Buck, IUFRO; Raimundo Deusdará Filho, Brazilian Forest Service; Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD; Daniela Kleinschmit, University of Freiburg, Germany; Paolo Omar Cerutti, CIFOR; Erik Solheim, UN Environment; Eva Müller, FAO

resolved by the ministries dealing with the forest and environment sectors alone", said Alexander Buck, IUFRO Executive Director. Illegal conversion of forests to agricultural land is an example that clearly shows the need for a broader cooperation, in this case between forestry and agriculture. After all, it is estimated that almost one-third of tropical timber traded globally is illegal conversion timber.

This assessment report and the accompanying policy brief provide an authoritative

source of information for policymakers and stakeholders involved in the fight against illegal logging and associated timber trade, in order to support effective action in tackling this pressing global problem.

Just published:

Daniela Kleinschmit, Stephanie Mansourian, Christoph Wildburger & Andre Purret (eds.), 2016.

Illegal Logging and Related Timber Trade - Dimensions, Drivers, Impacts and Responses. A Global Scientific Rapid Assessment Report.

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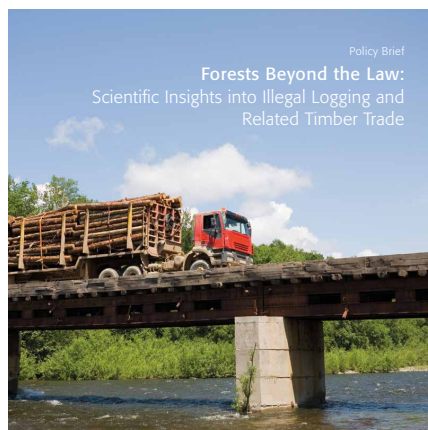
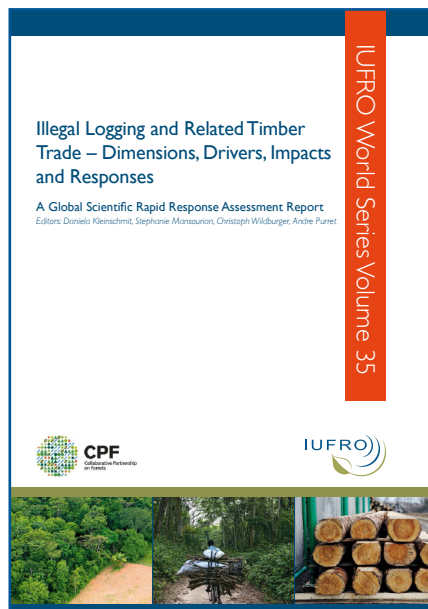
Published by International Union of Forest Research Organizations

The report and the policy brief are available for download at:

<http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/illegal-timber-trade-rapid-response/report/>

For information about IUFRO-GFEP, please visit:

<http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/>



Forest Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Day at CBD COP13



This full day event on 13 December 2016, jointly organized by several members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), had the following objectives:

To provide a forum for countries and organizations to showcase planning and implementation measures and their degree of coordination to reduce forest habitat loss, deforestation and forest degradation;

To showcase countries that are championing coordinated actions and regional initiatives that are fostering a process of mutual learning amongst parties on how they might be best able to reach their restoration targets in a coordinated manner;

To present good, replicable methodologies to assess restoration opportunities and to monitor impact with a view to assess benefits in terms of biodiversity, ecosystem services and climate resilience;

To generate a better understanding of the role of partnerships in supporting ecosystem restoration and CPF's role in build coherence among them; including the presentation of a joint CPF message;

To discuss how to build momentum around the concept of ecosystem and climate smart restoration, leveraging climate financing options within forest ecosystem restoration planning and implementation.

IUFRO organized a session on country experiences in which experts from Brazil, Ethiopia, Finland, Guatemala and the Philippines showed knowledge and experiences and discussed options for scaling up best practices.

For details of the side event and the session moderated by IUFRO's Deputy Executive Director Michael Kleine, [click here](#).

Further reading:

IUFRO World Series Vol. 34

Forest Landscape Restoration as a Key Component of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

By John A. Stanturf, Promode Kant, Jens-Peter Barnekow Lillesø, Stephanie Mansourian, Michael Kleine, Lars Graudal, Palle Madsen

[Link to the publication](#)

Governance Training for Students

By Sandra Rodríguez, Coordinator, IUFRO-IFSA Joint Task Force on Forest Education

As part of the efforts to bring together stakeholders, scientists, and students, the [IUFRO-IFSA Joint Task Force](#) organized a **training course in forest governance** on 10 November during the *X Congreso Latinoamericano de Derecho Forestal y Ambiental* (10th Latin American Forest and Environmental Law Congress) hosted by RELADEFA (Red Latinoamericana de Derecho Forestal Ambiental) a IUFRO Member, in Bogotá Colombia, from 8-10 November 2016.

The Congress organizers (RELADEFA) kindly granted the opportunity to students to attend the Congress sessions as well. IUFRO material was distributed at the IUFRO booth and provided to students.

The course was prepared by four governance experts who had met four times online to write the program:

M.C. Liz Villarraga – Professor of Forest Economics at Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, Bogotá Colombia.

M.C. Blady Naydhú Bohórquez Carvajal – Regional Consultant to UE-FAO_FLEGT Program. Regional Office for Mesoamerica

S. Ing. F. Rosa Alejandra Ruíz – Forest Governance expert to Ministry of the Environment, Colombia

Ph.D. Sandra Rodríguez – IUFRO-IFSA JTF on Forest Education Coordinator

The course started with an introduction to IUFRO and the Joint Task Force on Forest Education. An ice-breaking spider web activity (see photo) was conducted to introduce students to some definitions and their interconnection.

Photo by Blady Naydhú Bohorquez (Ingeniera Forestal Universidad Distrital FJC, Colombia)



Then a role playing case study was performed to teach students about the role of institutions and legislation to export timber from Colombia to Mexico. An introduction to the economic relation to governance was provided, and students were also able to get familiar with indicators of governance according to the FAO framework. Finally, a review of Colombian efforts to achieve forest governance was presented. A questionnaire for evaluation was distributed at the end of the class to obtain feedback from students. 19 Colombian and 2 Mexican forestry students attended the course. They were all unfamiliar with the concepts of forest governance and especially enjoyed the role playing activities.

Read the full report, listen to interviews: <http://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/forest-education/activities/>

Abies 2016: The 15th International Conference on Ecology and Silviculture of Fir

Report by Toshiaki Owari, Deputy Coordinator of [WP 1.01.09 Ecology and silviculture of fir](#)

The international Abies 2016 conference took place from 21-24 September, 2016 at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan, organized by IUFRO WP 1.01.09 *Ecology and silviculture of fir* and the Boreal Forest Society, Japan, together with the National Land Afforestation Promotion Organization and the University of Tokyo Hokkaido Forest.

Meeting website: <http://www.uf.a.u-to-kyo.ac.jp/hokuen/Abies2016/index.html>

IUFRO Working Party 1.01.09 *Ecology and silviculture of fir* originated from a unit focusing only on European silver fir (*Abies alba* Mill.). The unit now covers the whole *Abies* genus, including a wide range of forest communities with *Abies* species as their component.

This is the first overall fir conference that aims to stimulate research activities and exchange of knowledge of various scientific disciplines (ecology, silviculture, management, environmental sciences and many others) related to fir species and forests across the global scale. This is also the first *Abies* conference which took place in the Asian region.

A total of 59 participants from different continents and various disciplines - ecology, silviculture, management, environmental sciences and many others - gathered in Sapporo, Japan, to "Bring Knowledge on Fir Species Together", which was the main theme of the conference. Three symposium lectures, three keynotes, 20 oral presentations in five sessions, 32 poster presentations, and two conference tours during the conference period allowed participants to share scientific knowledge on different levels of biological organization of fir species and fir forests - from gene, species, and population level to the community and ecosystem level.

Key issues discussed:

- a) Recent achievements and future prospects of fir research in Europe were addressed in the open symposium on the first day of the conference.
- b) Three keynotes were presented:
 - *Abies*: an overview of the firs of the world (by Aljos Farjon),
 - Species interactions, neighborhood dynamics and complexity science: management options for North American *Abies* forests (by K. David Coates), and
 - *Abies* species in Japan, and natural stands and plantations of *A. sachalinensis* in Hokkaido (by Masato Shibuya).
- c) Paper presentation covered the following topics:
 - Biogeography and phylogenetics of fir species,
 - Demography and mycology of fir forests,
 - Effects of ungulate browsing on fir forests,
 - Climate change and natural disturbances in fir forests,
 - Fir forest management.



Both oral and poster presenters have an opportunity to submit their paper to the 'Abies Special Issue' of *Forestry* (Oxford). Deadline for the paper submission is the end of January 2017. Selected papers will also be published in a special issue of *Journal of Forest Research*. The next fir meeting will be held in 2018 in either Florence (Italy) or Warsaw (Poland).

Visit: <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-1/10000/10100/10109/activities/>

International Conference on Sustainable Forest Development in View of Climate Change 2016

The Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) organized the International Conference on Sustainable Forest Development in View of Climate Change (SFDDC2016) on 8-11 August 2016 at Hotel Bangi-Putrajaya, Malaysia, in collaboration with IUFRO Research Groups [3.07.00](#) and [3.03.00](#) and attracted some 200 participants from 17 countries. Find a meeting report at: <http://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-3/30000/30300/activities/>



90th Anniversary of Walter Liese - Celebrating an Outstanding Researcher and Science Diplomat

Officials, colleagues and friends from Germany and abroad met in November 2016 at a special colloquium to honor and celebrate one of the most accomplished forestry researchers of our times, Professor Walter Liese, who turned 90 this year.

In a career spanning more than six decades, Walter profoundly advanced research on wood and bamboo and championed the use of new and innovative technologies, resulting in numerous scientific breakthroughs and reflected in his more than 500 scientific publications. In doing so, Walter also came to be a highly successful research manager, international networker and science diplomat.

From 1977 to 1981 Walter served as President of IUFRO. Walter himself recently described these years as the most important ones of his professional career internationally. And, indeed, his Presidency also had a profound impact on IUFRO. He made it a priority to expand the IUFRO network further into Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Early on Walter also realized that the global expansion of IUFRO requires an effective mechanism for developing the capacities of researchers in less developed regions, which led to the establishment of the IUFRO Special Programme for Development of Capacities. IUFRO has every reason to be thankful to Walter Liese who continues to be very active and has only recently co-edited two new publications on bamboo and trees.

By Alexander Buck, IUFRO Executive Director

Publications

Sustainable Forest Management - From Concept to Practice

Edited by John L. Innes, Anna V. Tikina

The book provides a major new synthesis which will serve as a textbook for undergraduates of forestry as well as those from related disciplines such as ecology or geography who are taking a course in forests or natural resource management. Visit: <https://www.routledge.com/Sustainable-Forest-Management-From-Concept-to-Practice/Innes-Tikina/p/book/9781844077243>

Nepal Forestry Handbook (Third Edition)

Compiled by: Swoyambhu Man Amatya, Ph.D.; Kanhaiya Raj Shrestha, M.Sc.; Edwin Cedamon, Ph.D. Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research and Nepal Foresters' Association. November 2016. 553 p. For copies contact: Nepal Foresters' Association, P.O. Box 2761, Babar Mahal, Kathmandu, Nepal; nfa(at)mail.com.np <http://www.geocities.com/nepalforesters/>

Positions

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/position-announcements/>

Assistant Professor, Applied Tree Ecophysiology

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management, invites applicants for a tenure-track position in Applied Tree Ecophysiology at the Assistant Professor level.

Location: Syracuse, NY, USA

Submit application by:

1 February 2017

Details: <https://esf.interview-exchange.com/jobofferdetails.jsp?JOBID=78817>

Postdoctoral Research Associate - Plant Systems Biology

The Plant Systems Biology group within the Biosciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) seeks up to four postdoctoral researchers with experience in plant

molecular biology, molecular genetics and biochemistry.

Organization: Plant Systems Biology group, Biosciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)

Location: Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA

Submit application by: 30 January 2017

Details: <http://bit.ly/2flem3Y>

Faculty Position in Tropical Forestry and Food Security

The Faculty of Forestry at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Vancouver, Canada seeks a tenured position at the Associate or full Professor level in tropical forestry and food security. The position will be in the Department of Forest Resources Management or the Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, depending on qualifications and research interests.

Location: Vancouver, Canada

Submit application by: 16 January 2017

Details: <http://www.forestry.ubc.ca/2016/12/faculty-position-in-tropical-forestry-and-food-security-deadline-january-16-2017/>

Post doctor in Forest Policy and Planning: Decision Processes in Family Forestry

The Southern Swedish Forest Research Centre of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) is offering a post-doc position in Forest Policy and Planning.

Location: Alnarp, Sweden

Submit application by: 10 January 2017

Details: <http://www.slu.se/en/about-slu/jobs-vacancies/read-more/?eng=1&Pid=2750>

Upcoming Meetings

Search our online calendar for a full list of meetings:

<http://www.iufro.org/events/calendar/current/>

Find non-IUFRO meetings on the IUFRO Noticeboard:

<http://www.iufro.org/discover/noticeboard/>

Also search for forest-related events in GFIS at:

<http://www.gfis.net>



Walter Liese and Alexander Buck
Photo by Christina Waitkus