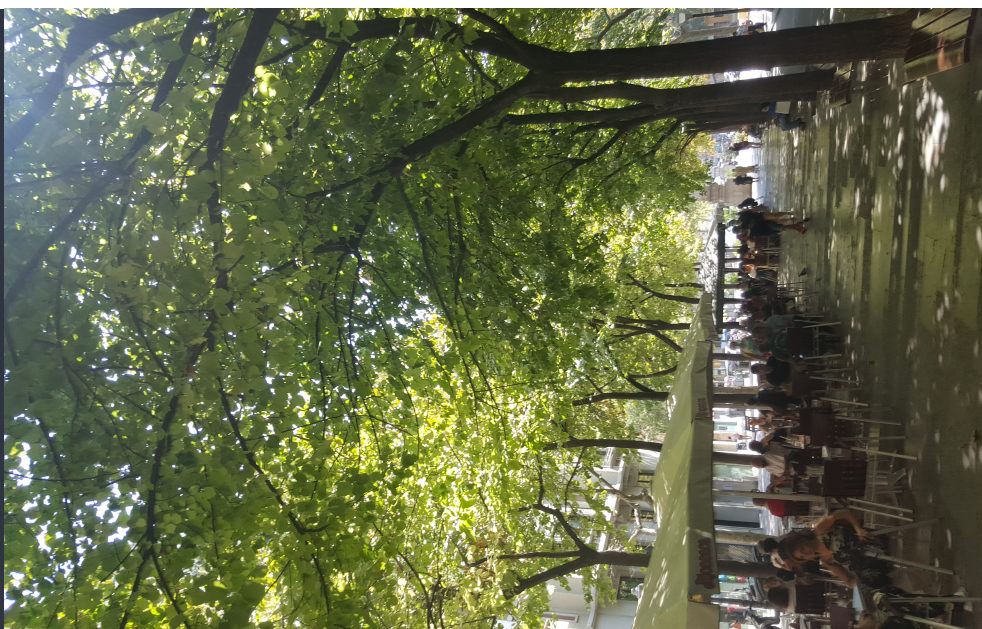


## 6

Social Aspects of  
Forests and Forestry

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Meet the Coordinators...

*A space to introduce yourself about your work, passion and challenges!*

## Welcome from the Division Coordinator's Corner

*Cecil Konijnendijk, IUFRO Division 6  
Coordinator's message from Barcelona, Spain*



Dear IUFRO colleagues!

I am really excited to welcome you to the very first edition of our new IUFRO Division 6 (Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry) newsletter. This newsletter, which is scheduled to appear three times a year, will keep you posted on activities within our Division, as well as other matters that could be of interest.

I am especially grateful to Purabi Bose, one of our Division's enthusiastic Deputy Coordinators, who took the initiative for the newsletter – and also agreed to edit it.

These are of course challenging times for all of us. Many of IUFRO's activities have had to move online, and we all get our fair dose of Zoom, Skype, MS Teams etc.

during these days.

Online meetings, seminars, and conferences can be challenging, but they also offer opportunities, for example in terms of making events available to a wider audience. Where a trip to a conference can easily run into the thousands of euros, online events are often much more affordable.

(Cont'd from page 1)

On the other hand, they don't provide the same type of opportunities for networking, social interaction, and the like. IUFRO is currently developing guidelines for online events, to assist officeholders and others planning events.

As I write this, IUFRO's first online Enlarged Board Meeting is just a few days away. I am sure that the meeting will spend quite a bit of time discussing the challenges we all face. IUFRO has had to refocus and redirect many of its activities.

However, although many events have been postponed, cancelled, or modified for online delivery, the world of forest research is still very much moving ahead.

The current pandemic has once again highlighted the importance of forests and trees, for example for food security and as green escapes that keep us healthy when our mobility gets restricted.

Many of these aspects link to the social dimensions of forests and forestry, so our Division is very much in focus.

Our Division, and this newsletter, relies on your active engagement. So please send us your contributions, such as news about events and publications, exciting research, or ideas you have for improving IUFRO's work. We will also feature an IUFRO Division 6 officeholder in each issue, so that we can get to know each other a bit better.

Thanks for contributing to our Division, to IUFRO, and to a better world in which forests and forestry play an essential role!

Stay safe and healthy.

## Report from the 59<sup>th</sup> Enlarged IUFRO Board Meeting

IUFRO held its 2020 Enlarged Board meeting during 9-11 September. This meeting was supposed to take place in Vienna, Austria, but had to be moved fully online because of the current global pandemic. The Enlarged Board includes over 90 people, so managing this type of meeting and still allowing for active participation of delegates is not an easy task. However, the IUFRO Secretariat and President did an excellent job in terms of meeting flow, maintaining a spirit of inclusivity, and keeping the meeting on track and within its time frame.

The Division Coordinators are part of the much smaller voting Board of IUFRO (which also includes e.g., the executive and Task Force leaders), while Deputies are part of the Enlarged Board. Our Division was very well represented during the meeting, with three of the four Division Deputies participating in large parts of the meeting.

Aside from the usual business on e.g., finances and reporting from Divisions, Task Forces, and programs, a few specific items merit a bit more attention:

- **Communications in IUFRO.** Quite some time was used to discuss the process of website development, with the newly designed site scheduled to be ready in 2021. Moreover, the proposal from the Divisions was discussed to have a dedicated Communications Officer in each division. This person could e.g., be one of the Deputy Coordinators, and would be responsible for communication activities related to the Division. A Division newsletter (like this one) would also be part of this person's portfolio. *Cont'd pg. 3*



- IUFRO Strategy and Action Plan.** After a long discussion and consultation process, the new IUFRO Strategy (2020-2024) was adopted. The strategy has three institutional goals: 1) Research Excellence: strive for quality, relevance and synergies; 2) Network Coordination: improve communication and embrace diversity; and 3) Impact: enhance visibility, outreach and education. These overall goals are broken down in specific objectives. Moreover, an Action Plan with over 50 suggested actions towards realising the Strategy was adopted as well. We will discuss the Strategy and its implementation in our Division in the near future.
- Meetings and activities in times of COVID-19.** As we all know, many conferences, seminars, and other activities have had to be cancelled or postponed due to the current pandemic. IUFRO

has been heavily affected by this and activity levels have decreased. A set of guidelines is being developed for online events and maintaining high levels of inclusivity. In about one year from now, the next large meeting (i.e. European Regional Conference) is supposed to take place in Moscow. We will look for future opportunities for our Division to meet, but especially encourage (online) activities at the Research Group level at this stage.

It was encouraging to see all the positive energy and good ideas during the Board meeting. President John Parrotta steered the discussions masterfully. He is very eager to see us explore new types of activities. As it is unclear whether larger in-person meetings will be possible also during the coming year, we all need to be creative and come up with meeting formats that are stimulating and inspiring.

The challenge (and opportunity) is ours!



## Publications

**Sandra Rodríguez-Piñeros et al.** 2000 'Innovations in forest education: Insights from the best practices global competition' in *Forest Policy Economics*. 118

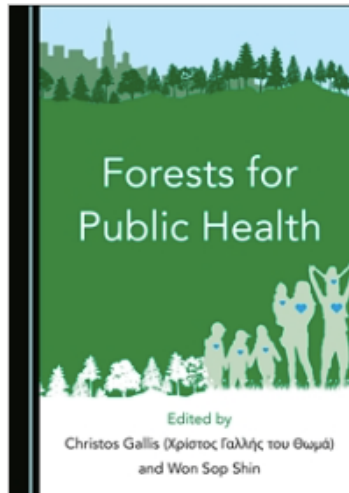
This publication presents a reflection for the Global Competition on Best Practices in Forest Education that took place in March 2019 to commemorate the International Day of Forest. The competition was organized by the Joint IUFRO-IFSA Task Force on Forest Education and the IUFRO unit 6.09.

*A few more contributions included here are from Gender and Forestry WG and Taskforce members*

Walker, H.M., **Reed, M.G.**, and Fletcher, A.J. 2020. Wildfire in the news media: An intersectional critical frame analysis. *Geoforum*. 114:128-137.

Walker, H., Culham, A., Fletcher, A., and **Reed, M.G.** 2019. Social dimensions of climate hazards in rural communities of the global North: An intersectionality framework *Journal of Rural Studies*.

Forthcoming Open Access book by Carol Colfer (2020) *Masculinities in Forests: Representation of Diversity*



**FORESTS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**  
Editor(s): **Christos Gallis\***, Won Sop Shin. 2020. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-1-5275-5029-2.

Forests have diverse values and functions that produce not only material products, but also non-material services. The health functions provided by forests have been used for a very long time, but they have only been emphasized in many fields of society in recent years. This collection of papers highlights up-to-date findings and evidence to reveal the beneficial effects of forests on human and public health. The findings provided here can be implemented in practice and policy using forests and nature for human and public health.

\*Cristos Gallis is coordinator of our Forests and Human Health RG

## Featured Research

**CLEARING HOUSE uses trees as a means to improve urban living in both Europe and China.**

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Our project addresses a global challenge that unites European and Chinese cities in their quest to develop more resilient cities and liveable societies in order to improve human wellbeing. Our main focus is on tree-based green infrastructure which is the basis for "urban forests as nature-based solutions". Website

<http://clearinghouseproject.eu/>

Together with 10 cities and urban regions, the project partners will develop an online application, a global benchmark tool, and guidelines that can aid in the design, governance and management of urban forests.

Clearing House analyze and develop the potential of NBS in general, and UF-NBS in particular – across China and Europe – in order to enhance the resilience of cities facing major ecological, socio-economic, and human wellbeing challenges.

## Upcoming Events

**April 12th - 14th, 2021**

Forests in Women's Hands – International Conference on Women in Forestry  
WALDCAMPUS Österreich,  
Traunkirchen I Austria



## Blog: 'Meet the Coordinator'

*What's your name and affiliation, and what's your role in Division 6?*

My name is Purabi Bose. I am based in the outskirts of Mumbai, India. For now, I am an independent researcher and filmmaker affiliated with my self-funded initiative, Landing Together Films.



Currently, I am Coordinator for Gender Research in Forestry Working Party (6:08:01), and I am honoured to join as Deputy Coordinator of Division 6.

*How and when did you get involved in IUFRO?*

IUFRO has been always a reference point for me ever since I embarked working on human dimensions of forests in the tropics. In 2014, during IUFRO Conference in Utah, I got involved as Deputy Coordinator for Gender and Forests (6:08:00). I continue to link Gender and Diversity aspects in Division 6 as a contributing member of the IUFRO Task Force on Gender and Forestry.

*What is the focus of your research and/or teaching?*

Forest, people and policy are my key research focus. Mainly my work highlights the human dimensions of natural resource management, forest governance, rights and equity, gender and diversity, forest food as livelihoods, traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous wisdom. Interdisciplinary evidence-based research with people-centric policy analysis is what I promote through teaching and mentoring.

*What are you passionate about?*

I am deeply passionate about learning the 'way of living' of diverse – linguistic, cultural, ethnic, landscapes – Indigenous peoples and local communities, hunting-gathering tribes, and nomadic pastoralists. Communication to bridge forest science and traditional knowledge is my other cherished passion.

*How have you dealt with the current pandemic?*

As a single woman, I have learnt to enjoy being alone. Therefore, Mumbai's lockdown now for seven consecutive months was no different. However, my neighbour used this lockdown to harass me. I moved away to settle nicely in my other family apartment. I documented migrant workers' pandemic related stories and learnt that 'urban space' can mimic rural landscape, for e.g., by introducing food trees such as Mango and Moringa. Our urban forest food can prove valuable safety net during pandemic times.

*Do you have some 'wellbeing tips & tricks' for your colleagues?*

One of the best wellbeing tips comes from a Dutch footballer Johan Cruyff: "Every disadvantage has an advantage." I used lockdown to my advantage by commencing to write a book, based on my global fieldwork, about Indigenous Knowledge in the Tropical Forests; for the Taylor and Francis publisher. Another trick is human touch: people are now collaborating more. I did not have to go too far, but found it within IUFRO. You can try this proven trick!

### Do contribute for our next newsletter!

Share any related work in a few words, for e.g. *photo(s) with stories, blog, upcoming events, training reports, field trip experiences, virtual meetings, publications, introduce yourself in 'Meet the Coordinator', discuss creative meeting formats, and ideas to collaborate.*



Contact

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Coordinator

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