



## International Union of Forest Research Organizations

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**CPF**  
Collaborative Partnership  
on Forests

### CPF GLOBAL FOREST EXPERT PANELS

**2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE EXPERT PANEL ON  
FORESTS AND FOOD SECURITY  
CAMBRIDGE, UK  
14-16 JULY 2014**

## Minutes of the meeting

**22 July 2014**

The Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Forests and Food Security convened for its second meeting on 14-16 July 2014 at Lucy Cavendish College in Cambridge, UK. Nineteen Panel Members participated in the meeting, which was moderated by Bhaskar Vira, Chair of the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security. A list of participants is annexed to these minutes.

### 1. Opening of the meeting by the GFEP Coordinator

Christoph Wildburger, GFEP Coordinator, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He noted that this is the fourth GFEP panel and reminded the group that the aim of the GFEP initiative is to provide comprehensive scientific information on issues of high concern in international forest discussions and fora.

C. Wildburger also highlighted that GFEP produces peer-reviewed assessments that are distributed at a wide range of inter-governmental processes. For the current report, the intention is to launch it at the 11th session of the UNFF in May 2015. Preliminary results will already be provided at the UN General Assembly in September, FAO's World Committee on Food Security in October, CBD COP12 in October and at the UNFCCC COP20 in December 2014.

### 2. Introduction of participants

All participants briefly introduced themselves in a *tour de table*.

### 3. Overview on state of the assessment and next steps by the panel chair

Bhaskar Vira, Panel Chair, welcomed the participants to Cambridge. He emphasised that the intention of the three days was to take advantage of the time together to be drafting chapters and focusing on working time rather than spending a lot of time in plenary.

### 4. General discussion draft texts and chapter alignment

There was a general discussion among participants on the overall report and chapters and some points of clarification were raised.

C. Wildburger informed the group that the main audiences will be those involved in inter-governmental processes related to forests (e.g. advisers to policy makers, decision makers, scientists preparing background papers, scientists more generally etc.).

On dissemination of the report, C. Wildburger emphasised that the report will be distributed to all policy-makers at relevant inter-governmental fora and that a public relations agency will support IUFRO in ensuring that the report will be widely distributed to the media. He also emphasised that Panel Members will have an important role to play in using their own national and regional networks to distribute and promote the report.

The issue of evidence sources was discussed again (it had already been raised at the first panel meeting). It was agreed that there are several sources of evidence and it is the group's responsibility to use a diversity of sources (i.e. not exclusively peer reviewed literature, but also grey literature, surveys, testimonials, indigenous knowledge etc.), but also to assess the quality of evidence and to be transparent about this. It was noted that this is precisely one important dimension of the report and that as long as there is clarity where the evidence is solid, and where it is more tenuous, then all reasonable sources should be used.

C. Wildburger also noted that a glossary of terms will be developed for the assessment report.

## 5. Overview of each chapter

The Coordinating Lead Authors Ramni Jamnadass, John Parrotta, Daniela Kleinschmit and Henry Neufeldt presented an overview of progress on their chapters.

The importance of chapter 1 in framing concepts and definitions was noted. Bhaskar Vira stated that he envisaged Chapter 1 raising key issues on forests and food but then clearly identifying the boundaries of the report. Several elements of the discussion referred to content for **chapter 1, which** should provide the conceptual framework for the report.

## 6. Framing the importance of the report

In relation to framing the report, the group split up into smaller groups to brainstorm reasons why this is an important report and also topics that could contribute to the overall conceptual framework.

In the ensuing discussion on the utility of this document, some points that warrant highlighting are:

- This topic is high on the development agenda (importance of positioning forests in relevant international debates, opportunity to bring forests into policies related to food and nutrition at all levels, need to feed a growing population etc..).
- The contribution of trees in food has been neglected and investment has been low, this is an opportunity to establish the link between food systems and forest management.
- Opportunity to address malnutrition/under-nutrition,
- Food and nutrition are basic needs/rights, yet those living in and around forests have worse food security.
- Recognition that there are rapid changes and increasing pressures (migration, climate change etc.) on natural resources and people living in and around forests are affected so it is opportune to look at this issue.

- The landscape level approach allows discussion across the continuum and promotes better integration between forests and agriculture (allowing to balance nutrition, income, ecosystem services etc..).
- The report promotes a holistic approach to food, nutrition and food diversity.
- There is a scarcity of evidence on many aspects, so the report will generate further interest in the contribution of forests to food and nutrition (initiate further work and research).
- Importance of recognising trade-offs and choices across food/forests.
- Planning for a transition to sustainable futures.
- Need for a greater appreciation of the importance of diversity of food production systems (in the face of globalisation and homogenous of production systems).
- So far, direct links between forests and food are missing (indirect links present) so contributing to this is appealing and necessary.
- Allows us to employ land-use rather than a sector perspective.
- Identifying drivers of change.

It was noted that food products from the forests came out as the second most important products from forests in the recent analysis of the significant data set collected by the Poverty and Environment Network (PEN).

## **7. Discussion on overlaps**

The group broke out into sub-groups to further flesh out the chapters and look in particular at potential overlaps among chapters. It was agreed that the issue of overlap would be revisited once the chapters have more substance.

## **8. Discussion on introductory chapter**

At the start of day 2, B. Vira took the group through the outline of chapter 1. It was noted that as a framing chapter, it will evolve as the report starts to take shape. However, the current outline provides a good framework for the chapters to keep in mind.

The group then discussed possible sequencing of sections within and across chapters. It was noted that sequencing may also be further revisited once we have more text. Currently the priority is to develop the sections and make sure that no section falls through the cracks. The Panel may then reconsider where different sections may need to be placed.

## **9. Break out groups**

After the coffee break, the panel split once again in its chapter groups to continue working on the substance of the individual chapters.

## **10. Schedule, editorial guidelines and workspace on IUFRO website**

In the afternoon, the Panel reconvened to look at the schedule and editorial guidelines. C. Wildburger went over the detailed schedule between now and the final publication in May 2015. Authors were asked to also inform IUFRO should there be any other key meetings which they will be attending where it would be useful to present assessment findings.

The date for the second full draft of chapters (ready for peer review) was shifted by two weeks, to 15 September, date at which chapters will be submitted to the Chair of the Panel with copies to C. Wildburger, Renate Prüller, IUFRO Secretariat, and Stephanie Mansourian, GFEP Editor.

This would signify that the double-blind peer review would take place during the month of October. For this reason, and to ensure that authors have time to consider the review comments, it was proposed to move the next panel meeting from early November, to either the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November or 23-25 November. IUFRO was asked to request availability from the Panel so that the following morning a final date could be set.

S. Mansourian briefly reminded the panel about key points in the editorial guidelines, in particular the length of chapters, the reference style and the need to consider early on any figures, graphs and photos. She also drew attention to the fact that each chapter should have an abstract, and that authors could already keep in mind the key messages and key conclusions as they are drafting their chapters so that these can be captured in the policy brief and the final chapter of the report. Where authorisations are needed for use of particular photos, graphs or figures, authors should inform IUFRO (R. Prüller) early on so that IUFRO can obtain the necessary authorisations.

R. Prüller informed the Panel Members about the space on the IUFRO website where they can share relevant documents. It was agreed that the editorial guidelines and the schedule would be placed on the dedicated site by the end of the meeting, as well as the chapter drafts.

B. Vira and C. Wildburger opened the last day of the meeting by presenting the results of the doodle poll for the date of the next meeting which will be **23-25 November 2014**.

## **11. Dissemination of the report**

There was a brief discussion about the dissemination of the report, in particular in academic circles. It was noted that the fact that the report is peer reviewed sets it apart from other reports. Members of the previous GFEP panel also reported that chapters from previous reports have been used as the basis for papers in scientific journals. IUFRO noted that it will have a major media campaign to disseminate the report, notably in social media.

C. Wildburger reminded those present to inform him and R. Prüller of any additional opportunities (meetings) to distribute and present the report.

## **12. Discussion on conclusion chapter**

The Panel Chair led a short discussion on the conclusion chapter. He reminded authors that this chapter would mirror issues identified in the introductory chapter, present key conclusions from each chapter (to be provided by the CLAs of each chapter), as well as those from the cross-cutting themes. It will also alert readers to the consequences of different pathways without explicitly making prescriptive recommendations.

It was noted that the current drafts of the chapters will be circulated to the whole Panel.

### 13. Final summary by the Chair

In summarising the meeting's outcomes the Chair outlined the next steps:

- Names of potential reviewers should be sent by end of next week (i.e.: **by 25 July**) to Bhaskar Vira, Christoph Wildburger and Stephanie Mansourian (cc. Renate Prüller)
- Panel Members should start to identify key terms for the glossary so that a first draft of the glossary (which will be a working document) can be ready by **end of July**.
- Equally, members should start to collect a list of “myths and misconceptions”
- R. Prüller will place the schedule, the chapters and the editorial guidelines on the internal GFEP workspace on the IUFRO website for ease of reference
- The date (23-25 November) and venue (New Delhi, tbc) of the next Panel meeting will be confirmed shortly.

### 14. Closure of the meeting

The full panel meeting was officially closed by Bhaskar Vira before lunchtime. Christoph Wildburger thanked the Panel Chair once again for receiving the GFEP members at Cambridge.

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