



Global Scientific Assessment on Forests and Water off to a Good Start

As the world's population is expected to grow rapidly water is becoming an even more scarce resource in the future, thus stressing the need to tackle the problem of water quality and availability through holistic approaches. In order to support policy and decision makers with the best available scientific information on the topic, IUFRO was tasked by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) to carry out a global scientific assessment on the interlinkages between forests and water in the frame of the Global Forest Expert Panels initiative (GFEP).

Following the successful Scoping Meeting of the Expert Panel in March 2017 in Rome, Italy, the GFEP coordination team invited internationally recognized scientific experts to join the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Water. The Panel convened for the first time in the elegant Lucy Cavendish College in Cambridge, United Kingdom from 26-29 June 2017. The meeting was attended by twenty-three participants, including sixteen Panel Members, observers and the GFEP team.

The purpose of the 1st Expert Panel meeting was to introduce the Terms of Reference to Panel Members; to agree on key concepts and methodological approaches; to develop a comprehensive annotated outline of the assessment report and its chapters; to clarify the roles and specific contributions of Panel Members in their role as authors; to identify areas of expertise that require the involvement of additional scientific experts; and to refine the schedule of Panel Meetings and the assessment in general.



During the meeting Panel Members decided on chapter teams, allocated the roles of authors within the chapters and designated Prof. Irena Creed (Western University, Canada) and Prof. Meine van Noordwijk (ICRAF) as the co-chairs of the Expert Panel.

The chapter groups started their scientific work and are expected to deliver draft manuscripts by early October 2017. The 2nd meeting of the Expert Panel on Forests and Water is taking place from 18-20 October, 2017 in Leeds, United Kingdom.

Participants of the 1st Expert Panel meeting. Photo: A. Hackett-Pain

The main goal of the assessment is to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs by exploring the interactions between SDG 6 on “water” and SDG 15 on “forests”. The outcomes will provide input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and its session in 2018 (HLPF 2018) and will be of high relevance also to other international forums and bodies.

More information about the GFEP assessment on Forests and Water, including the agenda and the minutes from the 1st Expert Panel meeting in Cambridge can be accessed here: <http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/forests-and-water-panel/>