



MINUTES OF THE 1st EXPERT PANEL MEETING

6-7 June 2024 (virtual)

The Global Forest Expert Panel ([GFEP](#)) on Forests for Social and Economic Resilience convened virtually for the first meeting on 6-7 June 2024. Eighteen participants, including fourteen Panel Members and the IUFRO Science-Policy Programme (SciPol) team, attended the meeting. It was moderated by SciPol Coordinator Christoph Wildburger and the Scientific Chair of the assessment, Craig R. Allen. A full list of participants is annexed to the minutes.

1) Opening of the meeting

Christoph Wildburger, SciPol Coordinator, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants on behalf of the GFEP initiative and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). He informed the participants that the meeting was recorded, and their names and affiliation would be published on the [IUFRO assessment webpage](#) as Panel Members for this assessment.

2) Brief introduction of participants

All participants, including the SciPol team, introduced themselves in a *tour de table*. C. Wildburger informed the participants that Prof. Craig R. Allen will serve as the Expert Panel's Scientific Chair. He also introduced the Panel Member who could not attend the meeting due to other conflicting commitments (Amy Duchelle, Team Leader Forests and Climate, FAO).

3) Introduction to the assessment

C. Wildburger briefly introduced the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Initiative and the "GFEP Rules of Procedure". He briefed the participants on the composition and modalities of work of the Expert Panel. He highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the Panel Members: the Panel Chair is responsible for overseeing the assessment report and coordinating the Introduction and Conclusions chapters; Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) are responsible for delivering integrated chapter manuscripts for designated chapters; Lead Authors (LAs) produce designated chapter sections; and Contributing Authors (CAs) assist with preparing chapter sections and elements.

V. Belohrad then highlighted the key points in the "[Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel on Forests for Social and Economic Resilience](#)" and tasks of the 1st Expert Panel Meeting. She noted that the primary goal of this Expert Panel is to carry out a comprehensive assessment of scientific knowledge regarding the relationship between forests and social and economic resilience and to produce a comprehensive peer-reviewed scientific report and associated policy brief on the topic by mid-2025. V. Belohrad then outlined the tasks of the two-day meeting. The tasks of Day 1 were to discuss the thematic outlines and related conceptual approaches and methodologies, as well as allocate panel members to the chapters and to refine and further develop the chapter outline for the framing chapter. Day 2 focused on further refining all the chapter outlines in breakout groups and discussing the organization of work and next steps.

4) Discussion on the key concepts and annotated outline of the assessment

C. Wildburger then handed over the moderation to C. Allen, the Scientific Chair of the Panel, who thanked the participants and explained the development so far, particularly in light of the previously held [scoping meeting](#). Participants discussed the framing and scope of the report and the chapters, as well as the use of terminology and definitions (e.g. "forests", "tree-based systems", "resilience", "social resilience", "economic resilience" etc.). The panel members also discussed potential additional topics that were not explicit in the outline yet and cross-cutting issues.

5) Allocation of panel members to chapters

All Panel Members were then invited to express their interest in one or more chapters in a *tour de table*.

The assessment report is structured into the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Framing
3. Relationships Between Forests and Social and Economic Resilience
4. Assessing Resilience
5. Governance and Institutional Analysis
6. Response Options
7. Conclusion

The provisional list of chapter allocations including designation of Coordinating Lead Authors (CLAs) was discussed with all Panel Members.

6) Continuation - Discussion on the key concepts and annotated outline of the assessment

Given the complexity of the issues and the need for a shared understanding of concepts and framing, additional time was allocated for a plenary discussion of key concepts and the annotated outline. The separation of social and economic resilience and relations to human wellbeing and forest resilience were some of the discussion topics. To ensure consistency of framing across the assessment, the group discussed in more detail the draft outline of the framing chapter. It was agreed that a balanced author composition in each chapter is essential to bridge social and natural science perspectives and that the framing chapter outline should be finished earlier to guide the work of the other chapters.

7) Summary of first day's discussion

C. Wildburger briefly reviewed the main discussion points from Day 1 of the meeting. He then confirmed with the Expert Panel the allocation of Panel Members to the chapters and the composition of break-out groups.

8) Break-out groups

The Expert Panel split into break-out groups according to the chapters to further elaborate the content and outlines of each chapter of the assessment and the organisation of work within the respective chapter group.

9) Reporting back from break-out groups

The Panel Members then met in plenary, and the designated CLAs of each chapter reported the outcomes of their discussions in the break-out groups.

10) Discussion of emerging issues

The Panel then discussed several emerging issues, including overlaps and the necessary intersection among different chapters. Conceptual approaches, terminologies, and framing of the assessment report, as well as chapters, were also addressed. Panel Members who could not join the break-out group expressed interest in certain sections of other chapters.

All CLAs were also asked to engage the Panel Members who could not join their break-out group or the meeting in their chapter work as soon as possible.

11) Organization of work

C. Wildburger gave an overview of the tentative timeline and key milestones of the assessment. The Panel agreed on the next milestone as 15 July 2024, when the annotated chapter outlines are due. The CLAs then decided to meet virtually at the end of July to discuss the first annotated outlines. The deadline for the first drafts of chapter manuscripts was set to 30 September 2024, followed by the 2nd meeting of the Expert Panel on 8-9 October 2024 in Rome.

The SciPol team also informed the participants about logistical and technical support. Each Panel Member will get remuneration for their work, depending on their role in the Panel. All Panel Members will be added to an MS Teams space for coordination. V. Belohrad will follow up with all panel members regarding their contract and other logistical details.

The list of Panel Members, minutes of the Panel Meetings, and additional relevant information for the public will be uploaded to <https://www.iufro.org/science/science-policy/gfep-initiative/panel-on-forests-and-resilience/>.

The revised tentative timetable of the assessment was set as follows:

1st meeting of the Expert Panel	6-7 June 2024
Detailed chapter outlines	15 July 2024
First draft of the chapters	30 September 2024
2nd meeting of the Expert Panel (back-to-back with FLARE in Rome)	8-9 October 2024
Final draft of chapters for peer review	Mid-November 2024
Peer and expert review of chapters	Mid-December 2024
3rd meeting of the Expert Panel	January 2025
Final revision of chapters	End of February 2025
Editing of the Assessment Report	March 2025
Development and editing of the Policy Brief	March 2025
Layout of the Assessment Report and Policy Brief	April 2025
Printing of the Assessment Report and Policy Brief	May 2025
Launch	TBC 2025

12) Closing remarks

On behalf of IUFRO and the SciPol team, C. Wildburger thanked the participants for their commitment to this assessment and closed the meeting.

Annex 1: List of participants

Scientists:

Kofi Akamani

Professor of Forest Recreation and Conservation Social Science
Southern Illinois University, USA

Craig R. Allen

Professor & Director of Center for Resilience in Agricultural Working Landscapes
University of Nebraska-Lincoln, USA

Rachel Carmenta

Lecturer, Climate Change and International Development
University of East Anglia, UK

Saudamini Das

Professor
Institute of Economic Growth, India

Maria del Mar Delgado-Serrano

Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Cordoba, Spain

Shalini Dhyani

Senior Scientist
Critical Zone Research Group National Environmental Engineering Research
Institute, India

Ida Djenontin

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography
Pennsylvania State University, USA

Joice Ferreira

Researcher
Embrapa Amazônia Oriental (Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation), Brazil

Santiago Izquierdo-Tort

Associate Research Fellow, Institute of Economic Research
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Mexico

Anne Larson

Team Leader - Governance, Equity & Wellbeing
CIFOR-ICRAF, USA

Kathleen McGinley

Research Social Scientist, International Institute of Tropical Forestry

United States Forest Service, USA

Mani Nepal

Lead Economist

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
& Program Coordinator South Asian Network for Development and Environmental
Economics (SANDEE)

Juan M. Pulhin

Professor, College of Forestry and Natural Resources
University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Philippines

Juan Rocha

Researcher, Stockholm Resilience Centre
Stockholm University, Sweden

Members of IUFRO's GFEP team:

Christoph Wildburger

Coordinator, Science-Policy Programme
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Austria

Nelson Grima

Deputy Coordinator, Science-Policy Programme
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Austria

Viola Belohrad

Project Manager, Science-Policy Programme
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Austria

Eva-Maria Schimpf

Administrative Manager, Science-Policy Programme
International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Austria