

## Background

WFSE was initiated by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), European Forest Institute (EFI) and United Nations University (UNU) in 1996.

In the following years several international research organisations joined the network. Successful networking and our novel approach resulted in the WFSE becoming a Special Project of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) in 2001.

The WFSE network has since further expanded and involves approximately 200 researchers.



### WFSE partners



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# WORLD FORESTS, SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT



A Special Project of the  
 International Union of Forest  
 Research Organizations

IUFRO - WFSE

[www.iufro.org/wfse](http://www.iufro.org/wfse)



### **WFSE is a global network focusing on the forest, society and environment interface**

We are an open, non-profit, collaborative network of scientists and experts steered by ten international research organisations. Our work is founded on objectivity and scientific independence.

### **WFSE supports sustainable development and human well-being**

On the basis of existing scientific knowledge, we look for innovative solutions to support and advance the formulation and implementation of forest-related policies that promote sustainable development and human well-being.

### **WFSE network shares scientific knowledge and participates actively in forest-related policy processes**

- \* We identify topics of global and regional concern on the interrelations between forests, society and the environment;
- \* address these topics in multidisciplinary, collaborative groups;
- \* produce objective evaluations and critical analyses on the crucial forest-related issues;
- \* focus on solving the identified current and foreseen problems;
- \* publish and disseminate scientific publications, policy briefs and capacity building material.

Through WFSE activities we promote regional and global cooperation in high quality research, and support policy development.

### **Achievements in 2002–2006**

- \* Executive Summary of the WFSE publications of 1999-2001 (2003)
- \* *Forests in the Global Balance – Changing Paradigms* (refereed book 2005)
- \* *Forests for the New Millennium – Making Forests Work for People and Nature* (Policy Brief in English, French and Spanish 2005)
- \* *Capacity building materials*  
Power Point summary presentations of each chapter of the book and CDs (in English and Spanish) with a collection of material produced by the WFSE (2006)

### **Activities in 2007–2010**

- \* *Policy Briefs*  
Making European Forests Work for People and Nature (2007), Policy Briefs on Latin America and Africa (forthcoming 2008), Policy Brief on Asia (forthcoming 2009)
- \* *Future of Forests – Responding to Global Changes* (tentative title of a book, to be presented at XXII IUFRO World Congress 2010)
- \* *Capacity building materials*

Networking, communication, dissemination and active participation in global and regional policy processes are our continuous activities.

Published material is available at:  
[www.iufro.org/wfse](http://www.iufro.org/wfse)

