

IUFRO's Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment

Heidi Vanhanen¹ and Gerardo Mery²

¹ Researcher, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland, Heidi.Vanhanen@metla.fi

² Coordinator of IUFRO-WFSE, Finnish Forest Research Institute, Helsinki, Finland, Gerardo.Mery@metla.fi

WFSE is an open network collating, critically analyzing and disseminating the existing scientific research knowledge related to crucial issues on the interrelations between forests, society and environment. The mission of the global WFSE network is to amend the existing gap between policy-makers and scientists in the formulation and application of policies in forest-related issues, in support of well-being of people and making development more sustainable.

The guiding principles in our open, active network:

- ✓ To boost the innovative and critical approach
- ✓ To incorporate the multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach
- ✓ To maintain the global view, with regional analysis
- ✓ To emphasize the view to the future
- ✓ To guarantee quality scientific research
- ✓ To act in a non-governmental, objective way on all forums.

The backbone of the network consists of 10 internationally reputed research institutes, both in the North and the South, with the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla) of Finland acting as the Coordinator.