



Division 6

## Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry



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Meet the Coordinators...  
Dr. Liisa Tyrväinen  
*A space to introduce yourself about your work, passion and challenges!*

## Welcome from the Division Coordinator's Corner

*Cecil Konijnendijk*

Dear IUFRO Division 6 colleagues!

Welcome to this third newsletter, once again expertly edited and compiled by Deputy Coordinator Purabi Bose.

Although there is some light on the COVID19 horizon with e.g., vaccinations ramping up, many of us are still faced with very challenging conditions. My thoughts go out to countries like India that have been especially

hard hit recently, as have many countries in the Global South.

Many of you attended our first Division 6 webinar in March, which focused on the importance of forests and nature during with current pandemic. We had four excellent speakers who presented some of the latest research on the crucial role of especially urban forests and other nature for recreation and our health and wellbeing.

The pattern was the same from all parts of the world: where people still had access to nature, they were using it more than ever for much needed restoration.

I am really happy to announce that our 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 14.00-15.00 CEST (Paris time).

In recognition of the challenges many of us have been facing, we decided to focus on the work and life of forest scientists during a global pandemic. How have people been able to cope and balance strenuous family conditions with e.g., home schooling and care of other family with advancing their science and careers? Where there

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any silver linings to the need to radically do many things differently? You will find more information about the webinar in this third Division 6 newsletter.

We have all got used to the online meeting format, and IUFRO will have a 24-hour event full of sessions and networking opportunities on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Our Division will be well represented at this event, with Deputy Coordinator Liisa Tyrväinen coordinating our inputs.

Planning for many other events – some at least partly in-person again – is underway, including the All-Division meeting in Moscow. IUFRO will also have a strong presence at the World Forest Congress in Seoul (May 2022). With a bit of luck I will perhaps even see some of you there.

Also as we are coming out of this pandemic, let's not forget to continue with some of the good things we learnt, such as spending more time in our local nature, but also making sure that events are truly inclusive.

I recently gave a talk at an arboricultural webinar in which people from 52 countries participated. There can be some silver linings even during very challenging times.

Stay safe and healthy.



## Report from Task Force Gender Equality in Forestry

Dr. Gun Lidestav, Task Force Coordinator

Thanks to a great commitment among original members, and a significant inflow of new ones, the work of the Task Force is progressing ahead of the initial work plan.

The main work comprises of 1) a mapping of gender representation among IUFRO officeholders, 2) a survey addressed to officeholders on gender balance and inclusion in IUFRO, and 3) an organizational analysis of the network. The survey was carried out in 2020 and will be repeated in 2022. Also, the actor composition of the latest IUFRO World Congresses has been analyzed with a focus on the dimensions of gender and geography. First results have been presented and discussed at three conferences organized/co-organized by different IUFRO units.

An even broader audience will be reached by a presentation at the IUFRO World Day in September. Five country case descriptions on gender equality initiatives within forest sectors are completed and published at the IUFRO website.

For further information refer <https://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/gender-equality-in-forestry/>



## First Webinar of IUFRO Division 6

### Forests, nature, and public space during the global pandemic

In his framing of the webinar event, Dr. Konijnendijk raised a number of questions:

How have our local green spaces helped us to cope with the public health crisis? Have we seen changes in the use and perception of urban nature? And will this affect the way in which we plan, design, and manage our urban green areas and public spaces, and perhaps even our cities?

The first presenter was Dr. **Francesca Ugolini** of the Institute of BioEconomy at the National Research Council of Italy, who proposed the question *“What can we learn from people’s usage and expressed need for urban green spaces during the lockdown?”* She reported the results of a novel exploratory survey carried out in six European countries during the first wave of the pandemic, when these countries had imposed different levels of restrictions on public activity.

Dr. **Clara Pregitzer**, Deputy Director of Conservation Science at the Natural Areas Conservancy in New York, followed with a presentation considering the *“Impacts of COVID-19 on America’s Urban Natural Areas.”* She acknowledged that outdoor activities are safe and healthy if they respect pandemic related rules, such as avoiding crowds and practicing social distancing.

Next up was Dr. **Sreetheran Maruthaveeran**, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Faculty of Design and Architecture of the Universiti Putra Malaysia. In his presentation on *“Coping with Mental & Physical Health during the Covid-19 Pandemic: Views from Malaysian Leisure & Recreational Users”*, he showed how the lockdown and self isolation have affected the routines and livelihoods of people in ways that may lead to an increase in loneliness, anxiety, depression, insomnia, harmful alcohol and drug abuse and self harm or suicidal behavior.

On March 19th 2021, IUFRO Division 6 hosted an online forum which highlighted cutting-edge research on the role of ‘Forests, Nature, and Public Space in Urban Areas during the Covid-19 Pandemic’.

The webinar, was introduced by Dr. Cecil Konijnendijk, the Coordinator of IUFRO Division 6 and Director of the Nature Based Solutions Institute in Barcelona, Spain. The event, which included four presenters and a lively discussion, was the first in a series of Division 6 webinars.

Dr. David Pearlmutter wrote an excellent summary of the first webinar. You can read his Special Report Article on this webinar in Urban Climate newsletter page 22 via link <http://www.urban-climate.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletter/IAUC079.pdf>.

An excerpt from this Special Report is presented here:

The presentation session was culminated by Dr. **Jordi Honey-Rosés**, Associate Professor at the School of Community and Regional Planning of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

In his presentation entitled *“The Impact of COVID-19 on Public Space: an early review of the emerging questions,”* he raised the question of what changes we may expect to see in the future regarding the design of public spaces, as well as their use and perception and the inequities they may evoke.

**A recording of the full webinar is available for viewing at:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/qcGrN9VI3OP6bumkalgagjwebMFpu55s3Vs2nvxXyjW5Qz2FACZiW9tIgu9esmhwCgw27rfJ7a3vm8UKYf.8jTPfkzh8gkoDOAV?startmTime=1616157678000>

## Upcoming Events 2021

**IUFRO World Day  
Digital Forest Science Forum 2021  
28-29 September**

You are welcome to share contributions and ideas for representing our Division 6 at this important IUFRO World Day event. Thank you for those who have already expressed your interest.  
<https://www.iufro.org/events/iufro-world-day/>

### Division’s Second Webinar

**June 25 at 14:00-15:00 CET time**

Advance registration for this meeting hosted on Zoom is required and that seats are limited.

#### Being a Forest Scientist during a Global Pandemic

This 2<sup>nd</sup> Division 6 webinar takes the format of a panel debate on the work and life of forest scientists during a global pandemic.

What have been the major challenges and how have people dealt with them? Was it possible to balance work and family? What are the impacts on careers and research? Has anything good come out of this?

Do expect a unique exchange of ideas and opinions from culturally, professionally and geographically diverse panellists.

Thanks to an excellent webinar moderator, Dr *Cecil Konijnendijk*, Coordinator of IUFRO Division 6 & Director of the Nature Based Solutions Institute, Barcelona, Spain.

Join us for a lively discussion with four inspiring panellists from across the globe.

*Dr Jerylee Wilkes-Allemann*  
Project leader and researcher  
University of Applied Science,  
School of Agricultural, Forest and  
Food Sciences HAFL, Bern,  
Switzerland

*Dr Purabi Bose*  
Author, researcher, filmmaker  
Deputy Coordinator of IUFRO  
Division 6 & Landing Together  
Films, Goa, India

*Sophie Nitoslawski, MSc*  
PhD student  
Department of Forest Resources  
Management  
The University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, Canada

*Dr Nic da Schio*  
Postdoctoral fellow  
Cosmopolis Centre for Urban  
Research, Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Brussels, Belgium

#### Register at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtdeyvrjlpGN2iOhXHEB4asEyj8gWtM06F> and receive joining details.

**IUFRO Division Coordinator  
Meeting  
18 June**

A virtual all IUFRO Division Coordinator’s meeting is planned for next month. We will share a summary of this meeting in our next newsletter.

## Blog: 'Meet the Coordinator'

*What's your name and affiliation, and what's your role in Division 6?*

My name is Liisa Tyrväinen.

I work as a research professor at the National Resources Institute Finland (Luke) in Helsinki. In IUFRO I work as a Deputy Coordinator of Division 6 and as a Chair of working group 6.12. Nature-Based Tourism.



*How and when did you get involved in IUFRO?*

Almost thirty years ago, in 1992, I got involved in IUFRO in a student excursion to Denmark. That time IUFRO Division 6 had biannual international excursion for students led by professor Ulrich Ammer. In 1995, I got more engaged in the IUFRO's activities when the 20<sup>th</sup> World Congress was held in Tampere Finland. I presented my work as a speaker in sessions. Soon after Tampere Congress I got involved in IUFRO's working group activities.

*What is the focus of your research and/or teaching?*

I have had quite broad research interests dealing with amenity benefits of forest. Currently my themes cover health benefits of forests and nature including virtual nature solutions, outdoor recreation trends, patterns and role in improving human well-being, sustainable outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism planning and business development. Nowadays I have a full professorship for research at Luke. I have earlier taught in three universities Joensuu, Helsinki and Lapland in Finland altogether for over 20 years.

*What are you passionate about?*

I am passionate about multidisciplinary research regarding amenity values and benefits of forests and, concretising these values for planning and decision-making with various scientific approaches. I hope to contribute to finding solutions for sustainable forest planning and management, nature conservation and improving human well-being as well as respect for forests through research initiatives both in urban and rural areas.

*How have you dealt with the current pandemic?*

I have dealt with the pandemic by going outside. I advocate that experiencing nature provides a wealth of benefits. Although I try to go into nature for fun, I took on a project with many collaborators to measure how people are using our trails during the pandemic. I've collected much of the data myself and enjoyed connecting with colleagues I normally would not have worked with.

*How have you dealt with pandemic? Do you have some 'wellbeing tips & tricks' for your colleagues?*

During the day I go to garden for a coffee break or cycle to grab take-away-lunch to be physically active and recover a bit from the work stress. I recommend my colleagues to include short visits to your favourite nature area or other easily accessible outdoor environment. Be creative in reducing sitting during a workday by having walking meetings with your colleagues or eliminating surrounding noise with nature sounds from headphones while you work.

### Looking forward to reading your contribution in our next newsletter!

Do share any related work, for e.g. *photo(s) with stories, blog, opinions, upcoming events, training reports, field trips, virtual meetings, publications, introduce yourself in 'Meet the Coordinator', discuss creative meeting formats, and ideas to collaborate.*



Contact

Cecil Konijnendijk, IUFRO Division 6 Coordinator

Email:

[cecil.konijnendijk@ubc.ca](mailto:cecil.konijnendijk@ubc.ca)