



Division 6

## Social Aspects of Forests and Forestry



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Meet the Coordinators...

*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!

Another year has started and unfortunately it seems as if the global pandemic will still keep us in its grip for some time.

However, there are signs of hope, including the ongoing vaccination campaign.

It has been really interesting to hear from you how you have been coping and adapting, and sometimes even benefiting from

the restrictions and lockdowns.

Many of you have spent more time with your families, have had less hectic travel schedules, and have also had time to spend more time in (nearby) nature.

Many studies are coming out that show the immense importance of forests and other nature during the pandemic.

We have benefitted from our local gardens, parks, forests, and even street trees and indoor plants, and they have helped us maintain our sanity.



This will also be the topic of the first of a new IUFRO Division 6 webinar series, on Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 14-15 hours Central European time. Please reserve the date – and more information will follow soon.

(Cont'd from page 1)

In general work within IUFRO seems to be picking up, and the planning for postponed or new events has started. In many cases events are still virtual, but some careful steps towards 'hybrid' events with an in-person component are being made.

I am sure that we all miss the actual 'in real life' interactions, the social networking, the informal talks after conference sessions.

Our Division has a really good virtual meeting of its officeholders, held in two sessions during December 2020. You can read a brief report from this meeting in the newsletter.

You'll also find an interview with Deputy Division Coordinator Taylor Stein, a real 'IUFRO veteran', and an update from our newest Research Group.

The coming year will be an exciting one, also for IUFRO.

A complete overhaul will happen of the IUFRO website and implementation of the new Strategy and Action Plan will gain momentum. Let's make sure that the social aspects of forests and forestry are well represented!

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your commitment to IUFRO, and for all the voluntary hours you contribute to our organization.

Stay safe and healthy.

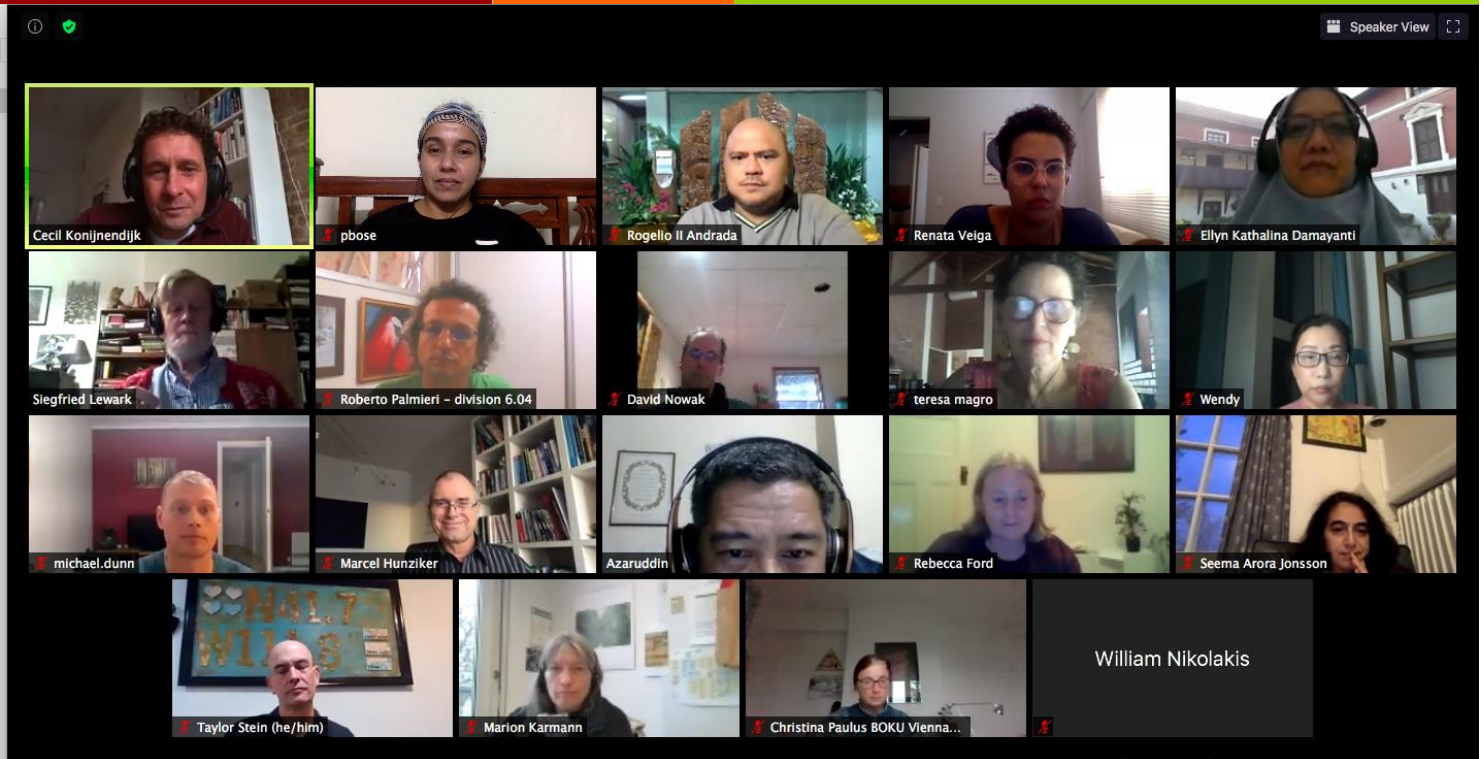
## Report from Virtual Division 6 Officeholder Meeting

During early December 2020, an online meeting of all Division 6 officeholders was held. To accommodate different time zones, two sessions were held. In all, 27 Division officeholders participated, which was a great turnout. A special welcome was extended to William Nikolakis and Renata Veiga, officeholders of the new Research Group 6.10.01 on 'Social return on investment: insights and lessons for forest governance'.

The meeting addressed the impact of the current Covid-19 pandemic, which obviously has been really challenging for all of us, and activities in Division 6 (and IUFRO in general) have been quite low. IUFRO's European Regional Conference in Moscow had to be postponed until 2022, for example, and the same holds true for a host of other meetings and events. However, during the meeting's brief introductory round it also became clear that we all have found our own ways to draw some benefit from a challenging situation. Many of us have had more time with our families, less hectic travel schedules, more time for writing and reflection, and sometimes also the opportunity to acquire new skills. Moreover, we have all enjoyed our local nature and green spaces, highlighting once again the importance of these areas.

The meeting discussed the new IUFRO Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2024, which e.g., highlights items such as improving communication (for example through a revamped website) and refocusing some activities due to the new Covid19 reality. A process was underway to collect inputs from the Division for the Action Plan and each unit was asked to select a few prioritised actions and ways they would address these during the coming years.

IUFRO is also encouraging Divisions to have a dedicated Communications Office. Deputy Division Coordinator Purabi Bose was thanked for doing a lot of communication work, and particularly for initiating and editing the Division's new newsletter. *Cont'd pg. 3*



## IUFRO Division 6 Officeholder Virtual Meeting; December 2020

- Planning for the IUFRO 2024 World Congress in Stockholm had been progressing. Elyn Damayanti was confirmed as our Division's representative in the Conference Scientific Committee. Purabi, apart from her communications work, had also agreed to represent Division 6 in the Honours and Awards Committee for this IUFRO term.
- Plans for the coming year were discussed, including setting up a new webinar series on current topics of relevance to the Division, such as the renewed focus on forests and green spaces during the current pandemic. All were encouraged to come up with topics for the webinars, which would start in March and be held every two months or so.
- A few upcoming events with involvement from our Division were highlighted, such as the 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas (<https://www.nmbu.no/en/events/mmv10>) and the annual European Forum on Urban Forestry (<https://efuforg.wordpress.com/>). In many cases, events are planned as hybrid events, with limited

on-site activities combined with online participation. The recreation colleagues are also planning an event in Krakow, although the timing is still unclear.

- The gender group could report a new project in Poland, and there would be opportunities for collaboration with our Division. The education group had been involved in the first ever comprehensive survey of forest education at all levels. See for example, [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/rap/Asia-Pacific\\_Forestry\\_Week/doc/Stream\\_5/ST5\\_24Feb\\_Rekola\\_AP-FECM.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rap/Asia-Pacific_Forestry_Week/doc/Stream_5/ST5_24Feb_Rekola_AP-FECM.pdf). Mika Rekola and his colleagues were looking for people who are willing to participate in expert panels.
- Finally, the idea was brought up to set up a One Drive or similar for our Division, e.g., to have an up-to-date overview of our activities. The intention is to organise this type of virtual officeholder meeting at least twice a year, with a next edition in May or June.

## Featured Article

### Social return on investment: insights and lessons for forest governance

In July 2020, the IUFRO Board approved a new Working Party in Division 6: Social return on investment: insights and lessons for forest governance (WP 6.10.01).

The Working Party will be led by Dr. William Nikolakis (University of British Columbia) and Renata Veiga (INPE, Brazil).

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a relatively new concept that measures social outcomes generated from an investment. SROI for forestry can, for example, quantify wellbeing outcomes from an investment in Indigenous fire management program to mitigate wildfire.

SROI are increasingly being used to support the 'business case' for government investments into forest conservation and are creating opportunities for traditional peoples to steward and restore forests and degraded landscapes.

Social outcomes are often so unique that these are difficult to quantify – putting a price on cultural values is problematic and likely misleading. Therefore, social

outcomes are typically only estimates, and methodologies to better determine these are being developed.



*Indigenous Fire Management in Tsilhqot'in Territory, BC, Canada. The aim of this work is to reduce forest fuel loads to mitigate wildfire. The social benefits from this work are identified as important, yet there are no well used evaluation frameworks to measure these.*

*Photo credit: Josh Neufeld/Gathering Voices Society ([www.gatheringvoices.com](http://www.gatheringvoices.com))*

This WP aims to develop a general SROI framework for forestry. A Steering Committee is currently being established, and will include representatives of Indigenous peoples, forestry professionals, policy makers and academics from across the world. A report will be prepared to synthesize literature, critically evaluate measurements and methods, and identify stakeholders' perspectives on SROI.

For further information; contact Renata Moura da Veiga  
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## Upcoming Events 2021

### NEW!! WEBINAR SERIES

Division's first webinar is titled 'Forests, nature and public space during the global pandemic' will be on **Friday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 14.00-15.00 hrs** Central European Time. A few of our guest speakers are:

*Francesca Ugolini, Italy, presenting an explorative global study on the importance of forests and nature during the pandemic.*

*Sreetheran Maruthaveeran, Malaysia, presenting similar work from Malaysia (with focus on changing public perceptions of urban green space)*

*Jordi Honey-Rosés, Canada/Spain, presenting a discussion paper on the changing planning and design of urban public space as a result of the pandemic*

*Clara Pregitzer, New York, will talk about the use and role of urban nature in the US during the pandemic.*

More information will be send out soon with a registration process.

**Next webinar:** Purabi has agreed to help with a 2<sup>nd</sup> seminar later in spring, on gender-related topics.

Save the Date:

**October 23th to 27th, 2021.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on Forests for Public Health will take place in Korea!**  
Contact Dr. Christos Gallis  
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## Blog: 'Meet the Coordinator'

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

My name is Taylor Stein, and I am a professor of ecotourism and natural resources management in the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences at the University of Florida in the US. I happily serve as a deputy for IUFRO in a few areas. I am one of three Deputy Coordinators for Division 6, overall, but I also happily serve as Deputy Coordinator for Working Group 6.03, Nature Tourism, where I had previously served as Coordinator.



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

In the late 1990's, as a Ph.D. student, I had the opportunity to take part in a student tour, sponsored by Division 6, which allowed graduate students to learn about the social aspects of forestry in Europe, where we toured Germany, Austria, and Italy. I met outstanding IUFRO leaders, who I am still good friends with. In 2005, I participated in my first IUFRO World Congress in Brisbane, Australia and was subsequently asked to be a Co-Deputy for the Nature Tourism Working Group.

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

I am a social scientist who works to best integrate recreation into management of conservation areas. I focus on the benefits recreation and tourism can provide to society and the environment. I do my best

to identify how land managers can provide opportunities for people to attain these benefits, while simultaneously conserving and protecting sensitive natural resources.

### *What are you passionate about?*

I strongly believe the world will be a better place as more people have active, beneficial experiences with the natural environment and identifying innovative and sustainable ways to provide recreation access to those areas for diverse audiences is essential. Recreation of natural areas is too often an afterthought in natural resource planning, but I want to make it a priority. When I am not fighting for sustainable recreation and tourism, I focus on my other passions: family, movies, and the Beatles.

### *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. Now natural areas are some of our safest places for leisure. 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.

### *Do you have some 'wellbeing tips & tricks' for your colleagues?*

I find that I must remind myself why I got into this profession – to work in forests. However, I find myself tied to the computer and office (or home office lately). My advice is to get outside!

### **Do contribute for our next newsletter!**

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



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