**Resources for the Future: Transformation in Forest Use**

**Task Force Coordinator**
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**Task Force members**

Dr. David Brand, New Forests, Australia and USA. Dr. Brand is an expert on the development of innovative mechanisms to address competition over forest resources, including the development of the first Orangutan Conservation Banking arrangement. His company has over $2 billion dollars under management for forest ecosystem services. His role would be as an advisory member to the Task Force for the development of market based approach to forest ecosystem services.

Dr. David Cohen, Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Canada. Dr. Cohen is an expert on forest products marketing and firm transformation. His knowledge on forest transformation to meet the demands of firms and consumers will be crucial. Dr. Cohen will be the Sustainable Forest Products and Firm Transformation expert member to the Task Force.

Dr. Hosny El-Lakany, Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada. Dr. El-Lakany will bring diverse experience and knowledge including his work on REDD+ and his extensive network, to the Task Force. Dr. El-Lakany will be an advisor to the Task Force.

Dr. Rob de Fegeley, President Institute of Foresters of Australia. Dr. de Fegeley works as a forester in Australia and Oceania (including Papua New Guinea). His work experience and technical expertise, particularly relating to plantations, will provide useful insight to the Task Force, and how it frames tensions between plantations and intact forest landscapes. Dr. de Fegeley will the Plantations expert member on the Task Force.

Dr. Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Alterra and Wageningen University, Netherlands. Dr. Nabuurs is Deputy Coordinator of 4.02.07 - Large-scale forest inventory and scenario modelling. Dr. Nabuurs will provide insight to European forests. His work on fibre supply and climate change will bring an important perspective to the Task Force. Dr. Nabuurs will be an advisory member to the Task Force.

Dr. William Nikolakis, Faculty of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Canada [Deputy Coordinator] (william.nikolakis@ubc.ca). Dr. Nikolakis is a legal practitioner[[1]](#footnote-1) in Australia and Canada. Dr. Nikolakis has advised firms, industry associations and government on industry transformation. Dr. Nikolakis is Deputy Coordinator of the Task Force. Dr. Nikolakis will coordinate Task Force activities and support the Coordinator in driving the Task Force’s direction.

Dr. Ian de la Roche, Adjunct Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada. Dr. de la Roche will provide useful insight into government support and the involvement of research institutions in transformation. Dr. de la Roche brings a wealth of experience in operating a research institution, FP Innovations, as well experience with the policy/science interface. Dr. de la Roche will be an advisory member to the Task Force and can provide valuable input into ways in which research institutions can adopt the Task Force findings.

Dr. Sven Wunder, CIFOR, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr. Wunder has published extensively on market based approaches to forest environmental services, with particular focus on Latin America. These market based approaches can enable a sustainable transformation in forest use by compensating values that are diminished in favor of other competing values, particularly around the conflict between protection and livelihoods values. Dr. Wunder will be the Forest Ecosystem Services expert to the Task Force.

Dr. Lukas Giessen, Chair Group of Forest Policy, Faculty of Forest Sciences, University Goettingen, Germany and representative for IUFRO Division 9 and Unit 9.05. Dr. Giessen will be the Forest Governance advisor to the Task Force.

Dr. Anne-Helene Mathey, Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa, Canada. Dr. Mathey is a Forest Economist and Forest Management Planning expert, currently working for the Canadian Government. Dr. Mathey has extensive experience on implementation of forest policy, particularly around forest industry transformation. Dr. Mathey will be the Forest Economics and Management Planning expert member on the Task Force.

Dr. Sonia Akter, Asst. Professor, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Dr. Akter has published extensively on the design of institutions to encourage resilience and economic approaches to address vulnerability. Dr. Akter has considerable experience working with communities, with particular focus on the developing world, including her native homeland of Bangladesh. Dr. Akter will be the Local Communities and Resilience expert on the Task Force.

Jens Peter Skovsgaard, Coordinator, Division 1, IUFRO Forest Operations, Dr. Skovsgaard will provide valuable expertise on forest operations and silviculture to the Task Force.

Dr. Cori Ham, Professor Forest Policy and Economics, Stellenbosch University, South Africa. Dr. Ham is a Professor of Forest Policy and Economics with focus on Africa. Dr. Ham will provide insight into to the Task Force on African forestry.

Rene Reyes, Instituto Forestal de Chile, is a forest engineer and his research focus, including a PhD thesis, has been on forest resources and energy in Latin America. Reyes will bring important insight to Latin American forests to the Task Force.

We will invite other experts as the project evolves. We will actively seek to include political scientists and political economists.

**Brief overview of the rationale, goals, and objectives of the proposed Task Force**

The rationale of this Task Force is to understand the transformation of forest use that is occurring in response to the pressures of globalization, population growth, resource scarcity and ecological degradation (“the challenges”). Transformation involves a distinct change in our relationship with forests. This change occurs at different levels within forests, from forest planting and forest harvesting and operations, to forest use and forest products. In particular this Task Force will look in a focused way at changes in how we use and value forests, a direct result of the rapid economic, social and ecological change experienced globally. The focus will be on more advanced forms of forestry such as those practiced in developed countries on an industrial scale, and on industrial-scale forestry and plantations in developing countries. Changes in the subsistence use of forests, while of interest, will not be a major focus of the Task Force. Today, forests produce a complex array of products from forest ecosystem services to timber and bio-products. Increasingly, a market value is being attached to forest ecosystem services, and this is changing the value systems associated with forestry. Critics argue that quantifying the products coming from forests serves to commodify and diminish the value of forests (including spiritual and cultural values). However, without a price affixed to these values, they are at risk of being ignored by policy makers and industry.

The Task Force will aim to generate insights about the pathways that can be adopted to encourage a sustainable transformation in forest resource use, including:

(1) identification of the institutions, governance structures, policies and instruments that can help policy makers and stakeholders address problems and capitalise on opportunities brought about by rapid change;

(2) description of the potential benefits and implications from the development of these institutions, governance arrangements, policies and instruments, in terms of equity, effectiveness and efficiency; and

(3) development of recommendations for forest research institutions to build understanding for, and facilitate implementation of, these institutions, governance arrangements, policies and instruments that can support successful transformation in forest use.

**Description of specific proposed Task Force activities, deliverables and timelines**.

A roundtable of experts will be formed to discuss and further dialogue on sustainable transformation in forest use, entitled ‘Resources for the Future: Transformation in Forest Use.’ Invitees will include leading global experts from government, industry, academia, NGOs and Indigenous groups, to be held in Dehradun, India, University of British Columbia, in 2016. Invitees will not be restricted to IUFRO affiliates, since we wish to engage not only scientists, but also practitioners, decision makers and policy makers.. Coordinators (or their chosen delegates) of relevant IUFRO Working Parties and Research Groups will be invited to this meeting. Potential participants (identified to Research Group only) are listed in the following table:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unit | Name | Unit | Name |
| 1.00.00 | J.P. Skovsgaard\* | 5.12.00 | R. Deal |
| 1.03.00 | S. Chauhan | 6.01.00 | F.S. Jensen |
| 3.04.00 | W. Chung | 6.10.00 | D.H. Anderson |
| 3.05.00 | S. Berg | 8.02.00 | A. Mosseler |
| 4.04.00 | R. Marusak | 9.02.00 | M. Kallio |
| 5.07.00 | H.J. Bae | 9.04.00 | S. Kant |
| 5.10.00 | E. Hansen | 9.05.00 | L. Giessen\* |
| 5.11.00 | A.L. Hammett |  |  |

An edited book will be published from the Roundtable proceedings in 2016, subject to a publisher being identified. This book will follow on W. Nikolakis & J. Innes (2014) *Globalization and Forests, Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Development*, Routledge, UK.

A special issue will be prepared in June 2016, for the journal *Environmental Conservation*, focused on the development of payments for forest environmental services and other institutions that enable a transformation in forest use. The journal has already agreed to provide this opportunity

**Budget table listing major activities and funding sources, if known – indicate if these funds are already secured.**

At present, no funding has been secured. Funding for the activities of the proposed Task Force (specifically the Round Table) will only be sought after it is known that IUFRO has approved its creation.

Locally, there are various funding sources available, including through the University of British Columbia, the Province of British Columbia and Natural Resources Canada, but these can only be accessed once the Task Force has been confirmed. It is likely that multiple funding sources will be needed as the cross-sectional nature of this Task Force means that very different groups are involved (for example, the funding from British Columbia and Canada is restricted to understanding the transformation of the Canadian forest sector, and could not be applied to understanding transformation in other parts of the world. (It is precisely this narrow-minded approach that the Task Force is seeking to change).

**Narrative**

The 2- year Task Force will work from the premise of ‘interconnecting forests, science and people”, by actively encouraging inter-disciplinary thinking. The Task Force will be focused on outcomes. These will aim to identify ways to directly address social, economic and ecological dynamics through the creation of institutional and governance arrangements to encourage successful transformation in resource use to address the challenges confronting forests. The Task Force will aim to support the ideal of evidence-based policy by actively linking forestry practitioners, scientists and policy makers. In doing this, the Task Force will support the institutional goals of IUFRO’s 2015-2019 Strategy, these being: research excellence, network cooperation, and policy impact. A particular emphasis of the Task Force will be the linking of individuals from different parts of the forest sector, especially forestry practitioners and policy makers. In a previous Task Force, a good working model was established, and it is intended to maintain the momentum that this has established.

Cooperation with the IUFRO Divisions and their various sub-groups, as well as with some of the other structures within IUFRO (such WFSE), will be essential. With email communication being less successful than anticipated, the April Board meeting will be used to develop further contacts with the existing IUFRO structures. The anticipated involvement of Divisions in different aspects of the Task Force is described below.

With its focus on developing adaptive and transformative institutions and governance structures, as well as instruments, the Task Force will encourage knowledge mobilization on forest governance, forest for livelihoods, and social values for forests, which are emphasis areas in the theme, ‘Forests for People.’ This will bring together IUFRO Divisions 1, 4, 5, 6, and9.

The Task Force will also bring insight to ways to adapt to climate change, a focus of theme ‘Forests and Climate Change’. In particular, the Task Force will help identify adaptation and mitigation strategies in the development of institutions, as well, with its focus on market-based instruments, the Task Force will bring insight to ways to deal with biodiversity and invasive species, and identify pathways to address the impacts of climate change for forest-dependent peoples. This part of the Task Force will bring together IUFRO Divisions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Market-based instruments, which are an important focus for the Task Force, and the results from which will be published in a special issue of *Environmental Conservation*, will also address the themes of ‘Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Biological Invasions’ and ‘Forest, Soil and Water Interactions.’ The Task Force will draw on the expertise and experience of forestry practitioners and policy makers who have developed payments for forest environmental services programs, and identify lessons in the design of such arrangements. The development of payments for forest environmental services represents a transformation in the recognition of what were once non-market values, now being recognised and treated as market values, in decisions over resource use. This approach has the potential to enhance sustainability, especially economic and social outcomes for forest-dependent peoples involved in these programs, and ecological outcomes as externalities are priced into decisions over resource use. This part of the Task Force will bring together IUFRO Divisions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9.

The Task Force will identify institutions, governance arrangements, policies and instruments that can influence forest resource use, with focus on transformation in the kinds of forest products derived from forests, which comes under the ambit of ‘Forests and Forest-based Products for a Greener Future’. This includes products to compete in the bio-economy with non-renewable products, in response to the challenges facing the globe and its forests. This part of the Task Force will draw on the work of industry experts, scientists and policy makers, and their experiences, in order to understand the kinds of institutions and instruments that can help facilitate a transition to the bio-economy. This part of the Task Force will bring together IUFRO Divisions 2, 5, 6, and 9.

While the Task Force will draw on the wealth of experience and knowledge in the Divisions of IUFRO, it will not attempt to replace or duplicate the knowledge that is being developed by them. Instead, it will focus on working primarily with forestry practitioners and policy makers, with a particular interest being to bring the extensive knowledge that has been developed outside the academic environment to the scientific community. Experience indicates that this is a seriously neglected area, yet for forest science to be useful, it must be applicable. In recent years, there has been a divergence between the work undertaken by much of the scientific community and on-the-ground forestry (in areas as diverse as REDD+, climate change adaptation, community forestry, forest governance, GMOs, etc.), and the Task Force will focus on bringing together these disparate groups.

The Task Force will link in with broader processes with governments, and institutions such as the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and Australian and Canadian Government initiatives, and the Commonwealth Forestry Association. The Task Force will also link in with the FAO’s State of the World’s Forests: Enhancing the Socioeconomic Benefits from Forests in 2016; the World Forestry Congress 2016, where we plan to hold an event entitled: ‘Resources for the Future: Transformation in Forest Use’; and the European Union Forestry Strategy. Opportunities exist to collaborate with other policy processes or interdisciplinary science-policy initiatives such as Natural Resources Canada’s Pulp and Paper Green Transformation Program, and climate change initiatives.

1. By practitioner, we mean somebody who actually practises in a given profession, as opposed to doing research or policy making. We also use the terms ‘decision maker’ (for somebody who makes decisions, often within a statutory context) and ‘policy maker’ (for somebody that actually formulates policies, most of which may then become legally binding). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)