



IUFRO Conference on Gender and Forestry

November 16th till November 19th 2008

**Gender issues in natural resources management –
perception and experiences in different parts of the world**

On behalf of the IUFRO units *Gender Research in Forestry and Education, and Gender and Forestry*, the Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun, India, will host the conference.

Second announcement (July 2008)

Background

The lives of women and men - their work, responsibilities, challenges and opportunities, experiences and also fulfillment are different – in different countries and different occupations. Differences are also found in forest management and the use and management of natural resources management in general.

Gender studies as a discipline has been in existence for only about 30 years. There has been increasing recognition of gender issues within forestry research and education. But in forest sciences, with a few exceptions, there has not been much empirical or theoretical work applying a gender perspective until recently.

The establishment of a research group “*Gender and Forestry*” within IUFRO has been an important step in that direction. Another formal group that has formed after a workshop at the FAO Forest World Congress in 2003 is WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & NRM) which is a global network of professional women and men engaged in agriculture and

natural resource management who are committed to organizational change for gender equality and environmentally sustainable development.

A significant conference on Gender and Forestry in Africa sponsored by FAO and cosponsored by IUFRO was held in Ghana in 2007 to share the findings of case studies on the situation of women and gender within the forestry sector of five countries in Francophone and five in Anglophone African countries.

Large scale shifts in debates on climate change and the decentralization of natural resources and sustainability of our societies have taken place in recent years – both internationally and within many countries. So there are ample reasons to update and share our collective knowledge about research and teaching experiences in the named issues in relation to gender issues, also considering regional differences. After a number of successful conferences in Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe since the establishment of the “*Gender and Forestry*” group of IUFRO in Kuala Lumpur in 2000 this conference is to take place in India for the first time .

The conference

The conference will explore experiences with gender sensitivity and gender analysis in forest management and organisations in the forestry sector as well as challenges to the sustainable livelihoods of forest dwellers and users all over the world.

Conference days are planned for November 17 and 18, followed by a field trip on November 19. Participants should plan to arrive on November 16 at the conference venue. Bus transfer from New Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport + New Delhi Railway Station) starting on the morning of November 16 will be organized. Those with more time are welcome to spend time in this traditional place of forestry education and research in India before or after the conference .

The conference invites papers and posters to explore the significance of these shifts on forest resources and its gendered environments. These include how forest users, national and international forestry departments and organizations respond to these changes and align themselves in different ways in an increasingly connected world. Challenges to sustainable livelihoods of forest dwellers, the politics of gender, class and ethnicity in forest communities and beyond are important themes that will be investigated at the conference.

The programme will comprise key notes, paper and poster sessions and short workshops as well as a visit of the education and research institutions in Dehradun.

Call for contributions

We invite you to participate in the conference and to prepare a presentation in closer or wider connection with the theme of the conference.

Please pre-register as soon as possible by simple e-mail to Ernst Kürsten, copy to Siegfried Lewark. Registration will be through the conference website open in August of 2008, where you will also find information about cost for participation and accomodation. There will be accommodation in rooms of different cost levels on campus.

Please send a summary of up to 300 words by e-mail to the Ernst Kürsten, copy to Siegfried Lewark till July 31 2008 (extended deadline).

The organizing committee will decide on contributions; all applicants will be informed before August 15 2008.

Student participation is encouraged.

Information about fees and transport as well as more details on the programme will come out in August 2008 on the conference website and directly by e-mail to those who have pre-registered.

The conference website will be updated regularly.

More information from the **Organisation Committee**, please contact:

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