



More information and
Call for Expressions of Interests:

www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/forests-trees-humans/

Coordinator of the Task Force

Hannu Raitio

Professor, Director General

Tel. +358 10 211 2010, +358 50 391 2010

E-mail: hannu.raitio@metla.fi

Eeva Karjalainen

Ph.D., Research Advisor, Researcher

Tel. +358 10 211 2146, +358 50 391 2146

E-mail: eeva.karjalainen@metla.fi

The Finnish Forest Research Institute Metla

Unioninkatu 40 A

FI-00170 Helsinki, Finland

Tel. +358 10 2111

www.metla.fi



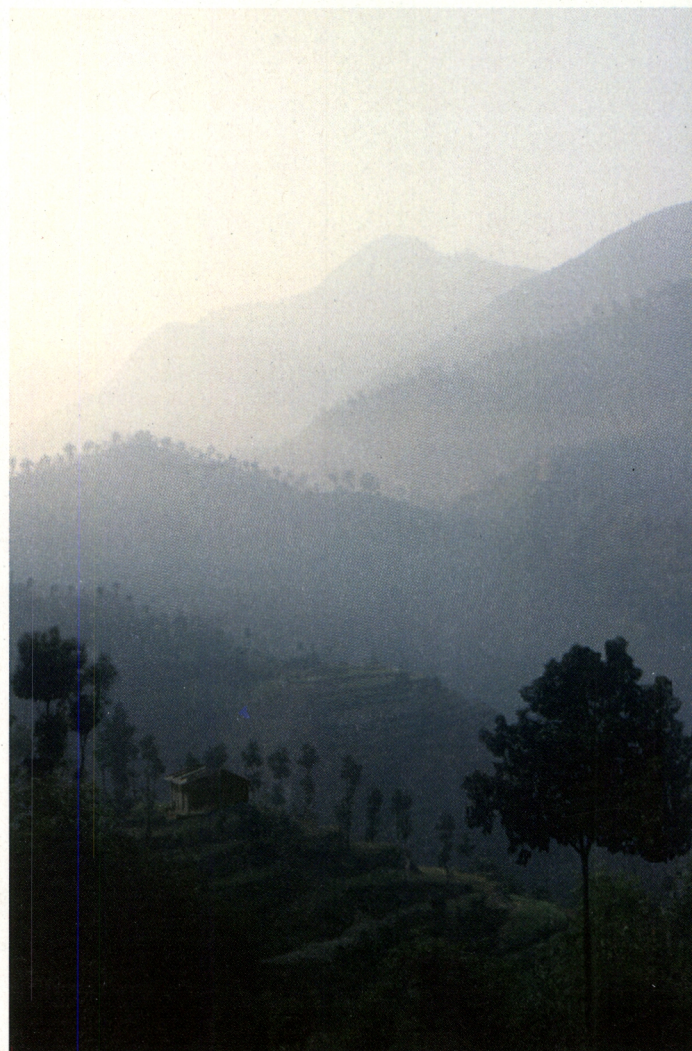
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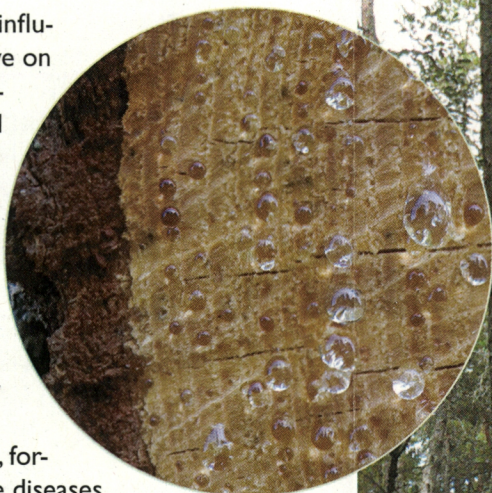
Task Force 2007–2011

Forests and Human Health



Forests and Human Health

It's amazing how great an influence forests and trees have on human health and well-being. They provide food and medicinal compounds and generate a range of ecosystem services. They are also a part of the aesthetic legacy of mankind and counteract stress in human beings, supporting our psychological capacity and mental health.



Yet, on the other hand, forests are also source of the diseases carried by wild animals. Often they are made worse by degradation and changes of land use that bring wild animals and human habitation closer each other. Sometimes forest products may also cause health problems due to poisoning, nutrient deficiencies and other factors.

Complex issues of this kind are related to the social sustainability of forestry, which is one of the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental - economic - social). It deserves greater emphasis than has so far been given in international forest policy.

As a result, IUFRO¹ has launched a new Task Force on Forests and Human Health. Its purpose is to support the cross-sectoral dialogue between the different players in this field, especially forestry and health professionals. It will bring a global perspective to the activities carried out at the European level².

The task force will have two priority areas:

- 1) food and medicinal products, and
- 2) Mental and physical health and well-being



¹IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations) is a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest sciences

²A COST Action E39 on Forests and Human Health operates at the European level. This network ends in 2008.