



Global student networking and green jobs in the forest sector project

A joint EFI-IFSA-IUFRO capacity development project

Concept note for the Experts Workshop on forest sector employment, green jobs and forest education

Project background

The significant changes experienced in the forest sector are driven by several factors originating from within and without the sector. Globalization, climate change, demographic changes, urbanization and technological advancements, are some of the drivers. In different parts of the world, these developments have greatly changed the nature of employment. New careers are emerging beyond the traditional industry and jobs related to forest industries. There has been a shift towards societal awareness for forest ecosystem services, environmental education, recreation, tourism and nature protection among others. New concepts such as green economy and green jobs have emerged as a result of the need for addressing economic needs as well as ecological and environmental issues. The forest sector has a great role to play as a critical driver in the transition process with a potential of offering diverse economic, social and environmental benefits in multiple countries. However, sufficient information on the state of forest education globally as well as career options for forestry students after graduation is lacking.

The joint project is hosted by the European Forest Institute (Bonn, Germany) in collaboration with the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) and International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA). The objectives of the project are:

- Providing insight into the future labour market including changing professional skills through systematic analysis of the development of employment in the forest sector globally.
- Facilitating global networking amongst the young generation of future forest leaders.
- Developing capacities of current forest students and young scientists in necessary skills (bridging science, education and policy making) via a traineeship and outreach/dissemination programme.

The workshop

Date: 18-19 November 2019, with extended students stay of up to 22 November 2019

Venue: European Forest Institute (EFI), Bonn/Germany

Co-hosts: European Forest Institute (EFI), Bonn Office
IUFRO: International Union of Forest Research Organizations
IFSA: International Forestry Students' Association

Aims and outputs

- Elicit overall trends in forest sector employment in different world regions and focus countries
- Identify main drivers of changes in employment
- Gaining insights into forest sector employment, including green jobs, in six selected focus countries and identify employment trends

The workshop will provide inputs to a co-authored report on the future of forest sector employment, envisaged to be published as an academic paper and presented in relevant events.

Focus countries

The workshop will focus on a selected set of six countries. These cover all continents, include countries with high importance of forests and the forest sector, and data availability. The focus countries are: Brazil, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, South Africa and United States of America.

Expert tandems

From each of the focus countries, we aim to involve a senior expert on forest sector employment, presenting his/her expertise and available country data during the workshop. In the run up to the event, these country experts will be paired with a junior expert, who is an IFSA student from the respective country.

The senior experts will prepare a presentation to be delivered during the workshop as well as an overview of the state of forest sector employment in their country.

The junior experts will be expected to report on higher forest education in their country and their personal perspective on changes employment fields and needed skills and competences. In the follow-up to the workshop, the junior experts will be able to further carry out data mining under the guidance of the senior expert and prepare a short country report. As an option, we encourage the use of these insights for students' thesis.

Other experts

In addition to the country-specific expert tandems, other individual experts will be drawn from related organisations and networks on forest sector employment, green jobs and related education. This working group setting will facilitate discussion of overall trends also beyond the focus countries.

In total we expect a maximum of 20 participants.

Workshop structure and activities

A draft programme and contribution guidelines will be out by the end of September 2019.

Costs

The travel costs for the selected experts and students will be covered by the project. This includes economy class flight and train tickets and accommodation.

Donors

The workshop is funded by the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture



And the Swiss Government through the Federal Office for the Environment, Forest Division.