

21 March 2023

# FORESTS AND HUMAN HEALTH ASSESSMENT



## IUFRO-GFEP Webinar

### **Forests and Trees for Human Health:** *Pathways, Impacts, Challenges and Response Options*

A Global Assessment Report

**21 March 2023**

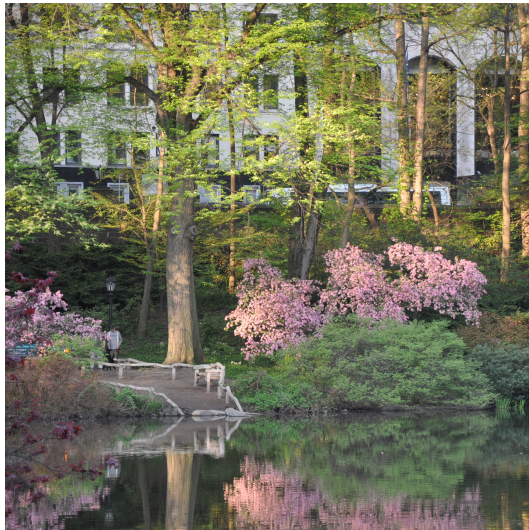
**15:00 – 16:15 (CET)**

Register at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_hbaGHJlpTxOclflPeiOPAA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hbaGHJlpTxOclflPeiOPAA)

*There is growing evidence that nature, particularly forests, contributes to physical and mental well-being and can notably improve human health. The Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is launching a comprehensive assessment of the scientific evidence on the complex relationship between forests and human health, highlighting available response options to utilise synergies and address trade-offs.*

*Join us on this International Day of Forests 2023 for  
the launch of this important global report!*

Visit for more information: <https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/gfep-initiative/panel-on-forests-and-human-health/>



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## Programme

15:00

### Welcome

**Christoph Wildburger**

*IUFRO-GFEP Programme Coordinator*

15:05

### Keynote: Forests and Trees for Human Health

**Cecil Konijnendijk**, University of British Columbia

*Chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Human Health*

15:20

### Panel Discussion

**Matilda van den Bosch**, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)

*Coordinating Lead Author*

**Payam Dadvand**, Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal)

*Coordinating Lead Author*

**Agnes van den Berg**, Twente University

*Coordinating Lead Author*

### *Questions from the audience*

16:00

### Reflections on Implementation and Decision-Making

**Zhimin Wu**

*Chair, Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)*

*Director, Forestry Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)*

**Cristina Romanelli**

*Programme Officer, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization (WHO)*

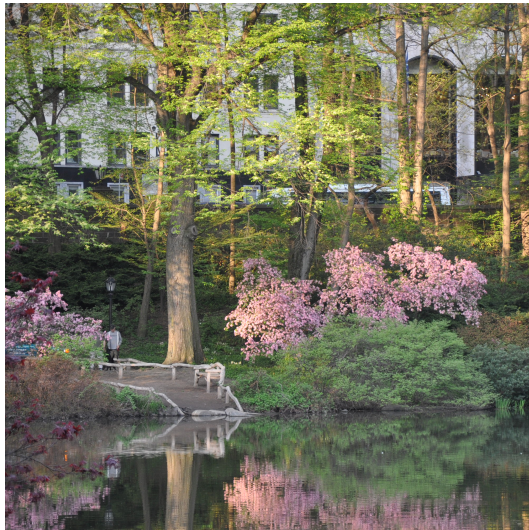
16:15

### Closing Remarks

**Christoph Wildburger**

*IUFRO-GFEP Programme Coordinator*





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### Moderator and panellists



#### Christoph Wildburger

*Christoph Wildburger is the Coordinator of IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme. He has served as the Programme Coordinator for more than a decade and has over 25 years of working experience at the science-policy interface. Christoph's core areas of expertise include environmental policies, conservation biology and forest ecology, as well as in-depth knowledge of related international processes and institutional frameworks. Christoph holds a PhD and a Master's degree from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.*



#### Cecil Konijnendijk

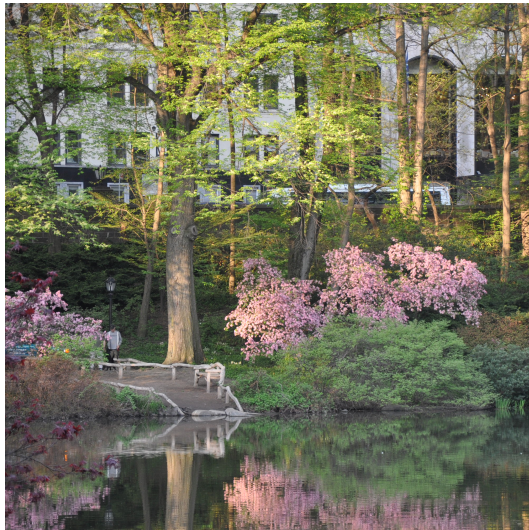
*Cecil co-directs the Nature Based Solutions Institute, a think tank supporting the evidence-based greening of cities. He is also an Honorary Professor at the University of British Columbia. His work involves the studying, teaching, and advising on aspects of urban forestry and nature-based solutions. A Dutch national, he has lived and worked in Europe, Asia, and North America. Cecil helped found the leading academic journal Urban Forestry & Urban Greening and edited textbooks such as The Routledge Handbook of Urban Forestry. He has advised international organisations such as FAO, as well as national and local governments in over 30 countries.*



#### Matilda van den Bosch

*Matilda van den Bosch has a background in medicine and has since more than ten years studied the impact of nature on human health and wellbeing and was the main editor for the first textbook on nature and public health. Her research has gained notable attention and she is leading several international projects around nature and health. She is committed to translating science to policy and practice and has worked with a number of UN organisations, such as WHO and the UN Environmental Programme, to communicate the links between healthy environments and healthy humans. Much of her research has focused on cognitive and mental health benefits for children of urban nature, but she is also investigating human health co-benefits of forest-based climate change mitigation strategies.*





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**Payam Dadvand**

*Payam Dadvand is a medical doctor by training and has a PhD in environmental epidemiology. He is currently an associate research professor and team member of the initiative on Urban Planning, Environment and Health at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal). Together with his multidisciplinary team, he applies state-of-the-art GIS-based techniques, spatiotemporal modelling approaches and remote sensing data to conduct pioneering studies on the impacts of both environmental stressors (e.g. air pollution) and environmental mitigation measures (e.g. green spaces) on human health across the life course. Among other recognitions, he has received the prestigious Rebecca James Baker Award awarded by the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology. In 2020, 2021, and 2022 he was named in the list of Highly Cited Researchers by Clarivate™, Web of Science™.*



**Agnes Van den Berg**

*Agnes van den Berg is an environmental psychologist who specializes in research on health benefits of nature. She is a pioneering and leading researcher in her field, with a track record of nearly 30 years. Her research interests encompass fundamental and applied issues related to the causes, mechanisms and health consequences of people-environment interactions. Van den Berg has authored over 100 publications on the importance of contact with nature for various groups, including residents of deprived neighborhoods, children, and hospital patients. Van den Berg is a member of various scientific advisory boards and regularly serves as a reviewer in assessment committees. From 2012 - 2022 she has held a chair in Nature Perception and Health at the University of Groningen. She is currently owner of research company Nature for People. Through this company she participates in national and international research projects in which she collaborates with colleagues from academic and applied organizations.*



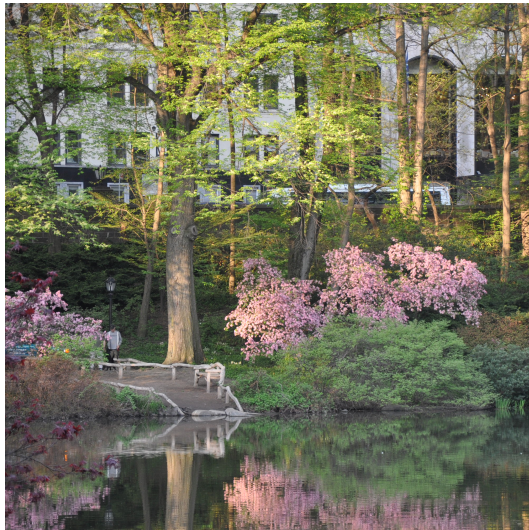
**Zhimin Wu**

*Mr Wu, a national of the People's Republic of China, holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology from the Chinese Academy of Forestry in China, a Master of Forestry from the Australian National University in Australia, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature from Zhengzhou University in China.*

*Prior to joining FAO, Mr Wu has been serving as Director General of the Department of Wetland Management of China National Forestry and Grassland Administration (NFGA) and Director General of the Ramsar Administrative Authority of China in Beijing, China, since August 2019. He was also Alternate President of the COP 14 and Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.*

*Mr Wu started his career in 1984 as Programme Officer, and later as Deputy Division Director and Division Director in the Department of International*





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*Cooperation of China Ministry of Forestry/State Forestry Administration in Beijing, China. From 2004 to 2011, he served as Deputy Director General and Board Secretary of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) headquartered in Beijing. Between 2011 and 2017, he served at China State Forestry Administration as Deputy Director General/ Executive Director General of the International Forestry Cooperation Center (IFCC), and later as Director General of the Department of International Cooperation and Concurrent Director General of the IFCC. He also served as Trustee of the INBAR Board. Between 2013 and 2017, he served as the Vice Chairperson of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). In 2018, he joined China National Forestry and Grassland Administration where he served as Director General of the Department of Wildlife Conservation and Executive Director General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Management Authority of China.*

### Cristina Romanelli



*Cristina Romanelli is an environmental scientist with over 20 years of post-graduate experience in interdisciplinary research, policy evaluation and development, multi-stakeholder engagement, capacity-building, and high-level scientific and policy advice in both research and regulatory-compliance settings. Her specializations include: global environmental and health policy; biodiversity conservation and management; mainstreaming biodiversity and health in national and regional policies and strategies; One Health; nature-based solutions; sustainable and healthy food systems; the provision of ecosystem services; and climate change.*

*Her current work focuses on strengthening the science-policy interface at the nexus of global environmental changes (notably including biodiversity loss and climate) and human health with an emphasis on nature-based solutions, sustainable and healthy food systems, and integrated approaches to health for a healthy and green recovery from COVID 19.*