The first comprehensive examination of the links between human health and forests

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Authored by world-leaders in the field

Hundreds of millions of people live and work in forests across the world. A vital, yet largely unexamined aspect of their lives are the issues and challenges of protecting and enhancing human health in forested areas and the unique relationship between the health of forests and the health of people.

This book, written for a broad audience, is the first comprehensive introduction to the issues surrounding the health of people living in and around forests, particularly in Asia, South America and Africa. Part I is a set of synthesis chapters, addressing policy, public health, environmental conservation, and ecological perspectives on health and forests including women and child health, medicinal plants and viral diseases such as Ebola, SARS and Nipah Encephalitis. Part II takes a multi-lens approach to lead the reader to a more concrete and holistic understanding using case studies from around the world that cover issues as important as the links between HIV/AIDS and the forest sector and diet and health. Part III looks at the specific challenges to health care delivery in forested areas including remoteness and the integration of traditional medicine with modern health care. Generous use of boxes with specific examples add layers of depth to the analyses and the book concludes with a synthesis designed for use by practitioners and policymakers to work with forest dwellers to improve their health and their ecosystems.

Human Health and Forests is a vital addition to the knowledge base of all professionals, academics and students working on forests, natural resources management, health and development world-wide.

Carol J. Pierce Colfer is Principal Scientist in the Governance Division of CIFOR, in Bogor, Indonesia, where her work aims to improve the lives of people living in and near forests. She is co-editor of the Politics of Decentralization (2005).

Published with People and Plants International and CIFOR

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- Contains compelling evidence on the profound impact that reducing hunger and improving health has at critical junctures in life as well as the benefits to national economies

Hunger and Health explores the multiple relationships between hunger and poor health, and how they affect the growth of individuals, physiologically and psychologically, constraining the development of nations both socially and economically. Examining the profound effect that hunger has on health, including disease prevention and treatment, it gives special attention to access to quality food and healthcare, in particular for the marginalized and poor. It also identifies critical junctures in the human life cycle when the benefits of reducing hunger and improving poor health have a profound impact. It demonstrates how aligning of hunger and health interventions can offer proven solutions that reach those most in need, and contains compelling evidence which confirms that hunger and poor health are solvable problems today. It encourages those involved in policy, programming and advocacy to take action to address some of the most urgent hunger and health problems. Essential reading for anyone concerned about eliminating hunger.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) was set up over 40 years ago to provide emergency food aid, to stop hunger and thus help break the cycle of poverty. In 2006, WFP food aid reached 90 million people in 78 countries.

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