



EFFI *news*

NUMBER 1 | VOLUME 22 | MARCH 2014

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Balancing act

EFI's 21st year has started with plenty of outreach activities. We have already facilitated two ThinkForest events, which focused on having open dialogue between scientist and policy makers, and issued publications to support this dialogue. At the same time, our social media channels are followed by around 3000 followers. Whatever the media or tool, I wish we all had more time to absorb the available information and take

time in writing our messages, reading the reports, and genuinely listen to what others have to say.

Communications is a balancing act – on one hand it has to be capable of providing 'fast to absorb' info, and on the other hand provide well researched facts and thorough dialogue among various stakeholders. Here EFI's role is to make new findings and syntheses available in various formats for our audiences, and to bring different stakeholders closer to each other to facilitate discussions and networking. In doing this, we always aim to involve our member organizations and Member Countries in the core of the activities.

Face to face dialogue is always rewarding. For that purpose, the EFI Annual Conference will be held in Bilbao, the European Forest City 2014, on 9–11 September. With this title, EFI wants to bring forest issues closer to the general public, and the host city of the EFI Annual Conference will organize various activities throughout the year to highlight the significance of forests to us all. Only a few weeks later, the IUFRO World Congress will gather thousands of top forest researchers to Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. Reserve those dates for rewarding dialogues!

ANU RUUSILA,
EDITOR-IN CHIEF



Saku Ruusila



EUROPEAN FOREST CITY 2014

EFI wants to increase awareness amongst the general public and decision makers about Europe's forests – and promote their versatility, significance and social impact.

Therefore, from 2014 the European Forest Institute will grant the title of 'European Forest City' to the city which hosts the EFI Annual Conference.

The title will be given annually and will last for one year. During this year,

the city can utilize the title in its promotional materials and communications.

To meet the original goal of increasing awareness of Europe's forests, it is expected that the city will include other forest-related activities for professionals and the public in their programme for the year.

Bilbao is the European Forest City 2014.

EFI news

EFI NEWS IS THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE.

Editor-in-Chief: Anu Ruusila
Managing Editor: Satu Ikonen-Williams
Layout: Jouni Halonen / Kopijyvä Oy
Cover photo: Maksim Shebeko / Fotolia
ISSN: 1236-7850, 1458-4255 (online)

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Article ideas, letters to the editor and requests for advertising information should be sent to communications@efi.int

SUBSCRIPTION

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The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation established by European States. EFI conducts research and provides policy advice on forest related issues. EFI facilitates and stimulates forest related networking, as well as, promotes the supply of unbiased and policy relevant information on forests and forestry. It also advocates for forest research and for scientifically sound information as a basis for policy-making on forests.



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What Is the Future of European Forest Governance?

MARC PALAHÍ, EFI AND HELGA PÜZL, EFICEEC-EFISEE
PETER MAYER, AUSTRIAN FEDERAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTRE
FOR FORESTS, NATURAL HAZARDS AND LANDSCAPE

There are no specific provisions for forests and/or forestry in the EU, but there is a long history of EU legislating on issues, which are related or can affect in one way or another European forests. Examples where forests, forestry and the forest sector are affected by EU policy targets are abundant. Among those are halting biodiversity loss, reaching 20% share of energy from renewable sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020, increasing biomass energy from wood and ensuring legal compliance for wood or forest products imported in the EU. As a result, we have a fragmented policy framework with clear trade-offs and contradictory goals among policy targets with respect to the use of our forest resources.

In that context, EFI is working on a better understanding of European forest governance by stimulating an open science-policy dialogue on the subject. Last year we published a *What Science Can Tell Us* report and organized two major events in the European Parliament to promote the debate on the forest related policy framework. The events were organized under Think-Forest Forum, which aims to build a better understanding on European forest related policy issues by creating an open science-policy platform. In this issue, we wanted to give a voice to policy makers and a scientist to reflect the issue from their point of views.

Pülzl, H., Hegl, K., Kleinschmit, D., Wydra, D., Arts, B., Mayer, P., Palahi, M. Winkel, G. and B. Wolfslehner. (2013, eds.): *European Forest Governance: Issues at Stake and the Way Forward*. EFI Series: *What Science can tell us*. 100 p. http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/efi_what_science_can_tell_us_2_2013.pdf

Saku Ruusela



FOCUS ON THE COMPETITIVENESS OF EU FORESTRY

ELISABETH KÖSTINGER, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

What are the main contributions and challenges to forests and forest-based sector in the context of European policies and strategies?

On the 20th of September the Commission has finally published a Communication for a new EU Forest Strategy. It is important to have the Forest Strategy on the table and to begin debating the important issue. The increasing pressure on the forestry-based sector requires a strong and common response. The European Parliament has called for a new strategy for this important sector in the past, in order to address all aspects of sustainable forest management and to develop new perspectives for a vital economic sector. It is important to establish perspectives for European forestry that take into account both, socio-economic factors and environmental challenges.

Personally I believe that there must be a focus on the competitiveness of EU forestry, as this is a guarantee for growth and employment, especially in rural areas. Therefore, the increased mobilisation and use of wood as a renewable raw material are important targets and must also be included in a new strategy.

How does the new EU Forest Strategy solve those problems, and how can we ensure that the strategy becomes a successful instrument?

The EU Forest Strategy is a non-legislative framework that would follow a holistic approach taking into account all elements of forest management. The intention is to balance the increasing sectors' specific needs. But, the proposed EU Forest Strategy mainly addresses the issues of environment. Although the Forest Strategy has to be considered as positive, there are still some themes that need further consideration.

First, I want to point out that there is a lack of vision beyond 2020 and the proposal is not concrete in improving the EU forest policy governance. The role of private forest owners should be recognised more as most parts of wood in Europe are privately owned. Furthermore, the criteria for biomass, which are included in the proposal, needs to be discussed again and the cascading use of wood needs to remain a guiding principle only.

Are there challenges in implementation (such as lack of funding, bureaucracy)?

As mentioned, a new and improperly established element has come into the EU debate on forestry and bioenergy: the obligation to use the wood raw material in a certain order of priority according to the cascade principle. In my opinion, this cascade principle should not be made legally binding, as there are no economic or practical justifications that such provisions will promote huge bureaucracy. It is still questionable if this principle would work in practice in terms of definition, control mechanisms and legal instruments.

What would be the impact of having an EU Forest Strategy which is not legally binding?

Although the EU has no legal competence on forest policy, an increasing number of forest-related themes lead to the development of a more and more EU forced forest policy. Indeed, the new Forest Strategy will only be effective if properly implemented and recognised as a key reference by the Member States, the different EU institutions and services, as well as key stakeholders of the forest sector. Consequently, it will be of major importance to have a broad dialogue with stakeholders of all interest groups.

YEAR OF FOREST OPPORTUNITIES

STATE SECRETARY, MR. MAGNUS KINDBOM, SWEDEN

The year 2014 will be decisive for forest-related policy development – elections to the European Parliament, a new European Commission in the fall, a new EU Climate and Energy Package, and the first year of implementation of the new EU Forest Strategy. Moreover, the fate of a potential legally binding forest agreement for our region, and consequently FOREST EUROPE, will be finally sealed.

Our societies are faced with some fundamental challenges – how can we limit global warming? From where do we source our energy? And how do we care for the environment that provides the basis for all life? As the role of forest and the forest-based sector comes to the fore - the path towards a bio-based economy leads through sustainably managed forests. It will deliver renewable goods and services while simultaneously protecting precious natural resources. The Swedish Government's vision *Forest Kingdom*¹ encompasses these elements and the great potential we see in forestry.

With these many forest opportunities follow increasing demands on forests from other policy areas. In particular the development on the EU policy arena poses challenges for national forest policies. Here we have to balance different societal objectives in a rather fragmented policy environment. It is, however, not intrinsic only to forest issues. In fact, trade-offs between potentially conflicting demands and goals are inherent

to most policy areas. The pertinent question is rather how to manage the effects of different and sometimes divergent demands on forest.

The Swedish Forest Bill² has called for better coordination of EU policies directly or indirectly affecting Swedish forest matters. In comparison to national policymaking, coordination at EU level has been insufficient. We also believe preparatory work, including stakeholder consultations and impact analysis, could be strengthened. In light of this, the emphasis on improved coordination and a strengthened role for the Commission's Standing Forestry Committee, as a platform for dialogue and forest expertise from the Member States, are particularly positive features of the new EU Forest Strategy.

Our attention now turns to the implementation of this voluntary tool. Some concern remains around how we strike the balance between Member States' responsibilities for national forest policy and shared European ambitions in the transition to

a bio-based economy. We believe that the success of the Strategy depends on a structured approach where limited resources are put to their best use. This could be achieved by a plan of action, setting priorities and providing milestones, where the involvement of stakeholders at an early stage is essential.

The long-term effect of the Strategy will of course depend on the commitment by all parties to put it into practice. Nationally we will use our forest policy platform, particularly in the Government's vision *the Forest Kingdom* and a new national forest programme, to ensure successful implementation of the Strategy.

2014 will be a formative year for the future European forest-related governance structure. Looking at the societal challenges ahead – sustainable, inclusive growth in an era of sharp global competition – we can see forests are at the heart of these. My main message is not to go for outdated sectorial approaches, but to work smarter and more effective with forest-related issues within and beyond the institutional framework of EU-policymaking. With the reinforced tool for EU coordinated policymaking we have the platform to cooperate, innovate and generate green growth and jobs.

1 <http://www.government.se/sb/d/14980/a/171804>

2 Regeringens proposition 2007/2008:108 En skogspolitik i takt med tiden

THE EUROPEAN FOREST POLICY (DIS-) INTEGRATION PARADOX

GEORG WINKEL AND METODI SOTIROV,
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF FREIBURG, GERMANY

There seems to be a curse on European forest policy. On one hand, there is widely communicated dissatisfaction with the currently fragmented European forest policy arrangement, and a constant demand for “better integrated” and “holistic” approaches. On the other hand, several policy initiatives that were launched to achieve better coordination at the European level, including the EU Forestry Strategy and the Forest Action Plan, have rather reinforced the dissatisfaction – as they did not effectively coordinate the fragmented policy field. The recent drama surrounding the blocked Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe adds tellingly to this picture.

REASONS FOR POLICY FRAGMENTATION

Why is it so hard to achieve a “holistic” European forest policy framework? In recent years we have worked on this question within several research projects (e.g. www.befofu.org; www.integral-project.eu). As with most complex political issues, responses to a seemingly simple question can be difficult, and depend on perspectives. According to our data, there are three key reasons for continuing forest policy

fragmentation in Europe: First, forests and forestry are not the same across Europe. It is hard to compare Mediterranean dry forest management to boreal forestry, and the socio-economic importance of regional forest sectors differs greatly. This leads to divergent regional forest policy preferences that can hardly be integrated into one policy framework. Second, across Europe, there is a fierce sectoral competition over forest policy issues that is entrenched into competing land use paradigms and related sector interests (e.g., nature protection vs. wood production). This renders a cross-sectoral institutionalization of forest policy unlikely, as sectors try to defend what they consider to be their “institutional territory”. Third, in the absence of a substantially integrated European forest policy framework, many forest management issues are governed by the European (and global) markets. Consequently, strong market players can live with fragmentation, and may not have an interest in developing better integrated European forest policy institutions.



When brought together, this leads to the interesting situation we currently observe: Nearly everyone demands “better integrated” and “holistic” policies, but there is much less interest in actually achieving it across sectors. Integration and holism are something you pay lip service to, but are not something you want to do when you defend sector ideologies, interests and budgets day-to-day.

POLICY OPTIONS

Is there a way out of this? There are probably three policy options for the future. The first would be to live with fragmentation and consider the diversity of (and competition between) European forest related policies as nothing but normality in a pluralistic and democratic Europe. This option is more charming than what the current policy rhetoric suggests. We should not disregard, however, that a lack of coordination renders some policies (for instance environmental policies without

strong European budgets or SFM policies without strong European institutions) ineffective as compared to others, which may be concealed through integration rhetoric. The second option is to literally “re-start the whole system” by establishing a new, cross-sectorally integrated policy framework that builds on mutual understanding and willingness to compromise across interests and paradigms. Yet, such a comprehensive approach – e.g. by a European Forest Framework Convention or Directive that includes forest sector and environmental demands – can only work once important actors from different sectors and regions consider such an approach as truly necessary – and share similar understandings of the policy issues at stake, which is apparently not the case. The third option encompasses the development of integrated, holistic policy approaches from the “bottom-up”, e.g. at the landscape level, emphasizing stakeholder participation and mutual learning to manage trade-offs among competing forest land-uses. Even

then, however, a supportive European forest policy framework is needed.

In the near future, a continuation of the muddling through “living with diversity” and “work towards holistic (but sectoral) integration strategies” is the most likely scenario at the European policy level. Hence, the European forest policy (dis)integration paradox – that can quite anti-paradoxically be explained by the cleavage between opportune policy rhetoric and substantial sector interests – will prevail. Stakeholders are well-advised to work with, and make the best out of, this situation.

If you want to read more:

Winkel, G., Sotirov, M. (2013): Whose integration is this? European forest policy between the gospel of coordination, institutional competition, and new spirits of integration. Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy (accepted, in press)

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TAKING AIM AT AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

MR. JACQUES ANDRIEU, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, AGROFOOD AND FORESTRY, FRANCE

What are the main contributions/challenges to forests and forest based sector in the context of European policies/strategies?

Forests and their managers face numerous challenges. As policy makers, our role is to maintain a balance between the multiple productions of goods and services, through a holistic approach. Challenges arise with changes of the biophysical context, mainly climate change and increased risks, socio-economic changes with economic demands for new raw material sources and bio energy supply, lack of competitiveness of the wood industry and increasing concerns on climate change mitigation, biodiversity, human health and well-being. Those challenges are shared on the continental scale and cannot be solved on a national level.

How does the new EU Forest Strategy solve those problems, and how can we ensure that the strategy becomes a successful instrument?

Those challenges have to be taken-up by the European policies at the pertinent scales and for many aspects, the national and sub national actions should at least be coordinated in order to optimize their efficiency and maximize their results, promoting harmonization. The integrated market, climate change adaptation and mitigation, information on forest, research and innovation and risk management are clear examples where improvements in EU member states' coordination and synergies will make the difference.

Building a European strategy can be a concrete project to face those challenges if this strategy finds the way to be strong enough to give ambitious directions for the sector. Subsidiaries cannot provide an adequate political answer.

Are there challenges in implementation (such as lack of funding, bureaucracy)?

An effective implementation of EU Forest Strategy actions requires a long term action plan setting shared priorities and targets, exchanges of experiences and regular assessments. It needs adequate funding, not only, and probably not mainly, from the European budget. Unnecessary administrative

burden and heavy procedures must be avoided and advantage be taken of existing EU and MS tools and structures. But cost-effectiveness and simplicity should not undermine our fundamental objectives for forests, which are shared on the continent by actors and policy makers alike.

European Commission communication provides a frame for concrete and pertinent actions to be undertaken at EU level and/or national level. Our main aim is the effective implementation of the strategy. Nowadays, a pertinent forest policy, for the sake of the general interest of European citizens, cannot be limited to a mere sum of national forest policies, especially when the main EU policies (i.e. on energy, biodiversity, climate, green economy and research) include forestry within their scope. Forestry sector has to continue to be innovative and proactive, as it was when sustainable management indicators were initiated 20 years ago.

What would be the impact of not having a Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) on Forests in Europe?

The project of a Legally Binding Agreement on pan European level is still a nice and valuable challenge, shared by the ministers in 2011 in Oslo.

We have an ambitious and consensual draft text elaborated by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee under the light of the chairman, **Jan Heino**. We are confident that the institutional questions can be solved as parties agree on fundamental directions.

At this point, major steps are already done, with shared objectives, tools and provisions. Most of all, a real European voice has been expressed during these negotiation processes. European Union has shown a common approach to those questions. This is already a success and has to be capitalized.

Transferring Knowledge

from Scientists to Policy Makers

The ThinkForest forum has published two new policy briefs. These publications take the most recent knowledge and international expertise from EFI and its network of member organisations and translate this into concrete, science-based recommendations for policy makers.

Integrating biodiversity conservation in forest management by Daniel Kraus, Frank Krumm, Marc Palahí and Andreas Schuck, is based on the work of the INTEGRATE project, which ran from 2011–2013. It investigated how to integrate nature protection in forest management, and its relation to other forest functions and services. The policy brief sets out the four main pillars, which integrative approaches to biodiversity conservation in forests should follow: using a conceptual framework, retaining key biodiversity elements, demonstrating success with indicator species groups, and identifying key challenges such as climate change or invasive species.

Policy recommendations include:

- Using indicators to monitor the impacts of biodiversity policies – combining the monitoring of species, forest structures and habitats is important.
- Combining integration and segregation approaches for the successful conservation of biodiversity.
- Noting the importance of deadwood in forest ecosystems.
- Adapting conservation policies and management approaches – climate change will affect the suitability of forest habitats of various species.
- Valuing forest biodiversity – harmonized valuation frameworks and the development of suitable financial incentives to integrate biodiversity conservation into forest management need to be urgently adopted.

Forest Bioenergy in Europe: Reassessment needed by Lauri Hetemäki, Bart Muys, Paavo Pelkonen and Davide Pettenella focuses on the recommendations from the

forthcoming book in EFI's What Science Can Tell Us series, *Forest Bioenergy for Europe*.

The policy brief looks at forest biomass-based bioenergy, and emphasises the need to reassess current thinking about forest biomass demand, policy development and coordination, especially in the light of the new EU climate and renewable energy targets and policies for 2030, which will be decided this year.

Policy recommendations include:

- Reassess EU forest biomass demand – the future usage of forest biomass in the EU may not be as large as is often thought.
- Address the hidden impacts of policies and trade-offs – policy makers need to be better informed about the many impacts that policies may have.
- Tailor sustainability policies – simple solutions and widely applicable generalizations are not easily found for sustainability questions.

- Focus on energy efficiency, minimizing emissions and promoting new businesses. Policies should direct support to the most energy efficient and least emission-generating production processes.

Design a stress test for sustainability, to guarantee that forest biomass-based bioenergy production supported by subsidies or other policy means in the EU has an environmentally and economically sustainable basis.

Both publications are available to download from <http://www.thinkforest.efi.int/portal/publications/>



Göran Persson served as Prime Minister of Sweden from 1996 to 2006 and was leader of the Swedish Social Democratic Party from 1996 to 2007. Since leaving office, Persson has held various high caliber positions such as, Member of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation and a member of the board of the World Resources Institute. He is the President of the high-level discussion and information-sharing forum, “ThinkForest” since it began in 2012.

How do you see the strategic development of the European forest based sector in 21st century?

Before talking about the forest sector, I would like to remind you that I am both a farmer and a forest owner, just like 16 million other people in the EU. Let me start by emphasizing the fact that Europe does not have a strategic approach to rural development. I would say that not a single country has put forward a rural development policy/strategy that addresses the paradigmatic changes needed to make rural areas key contributors and beneficiaries of the new, smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

in Europe. In my opinion, it is crucial that we bring high-tech business to the countryside, as well as new products and markets. We need a green business-friendly and innovative countryside to attract entrepreneurs and new business opportunities. We also need to combine our traditions and cultural landscapes with the emerging societal demands. In the future forestry and agriculture are the core of rural development.

Forest sector has a great opportunity in becoming the bio-economy reference and a pillar of any rural development strategy. However, I am afraid that forest-based industries are lacking the financial muscle

to make the needed investments to position the sector into the strategic place that it needs to be. At the same time, many of the current discussions involve the questions “do we have enough forest resources to meet all demands?” I believe the real problem we will face is the lack of demand for our forest resources, which can turn to the abandonment of forest management, which could have severe consequences in delivering other important services and securing income for forest owners. The future of the forest-based sector will depend on a diversity of markets and potential demands.

Is the European Forest Policy framework addressing the right opportunities and challenges?

To avoid misunderstanding I need to make two clarifications. First, we do not need a common forest policy such as the CAP. Secondly, we already have a forest policy. However, the policy we have is not the result of



In the Footsteps of

Göran Persson

a proactive vision lead by the “forest actors”, but a mosaic made by policies derived from the demand, goals and expectations from other sectors. My view is that in the future the climate and nature conservation debate will have an important impact in our European forest policy framework and it would be wise to anticipate that by proactively bringing in the productive dimension of forestry. In Sweden, the forest sector is the backbone of our export economy. For economic reasons it has been vital in northern Europe to sustain rural areas and we could not afford a biased development of a forest policy promoted by those countries where the environmental or protective dimension is the dominant aspect. In that respect we need to find the right balance and have an open and honest discussion at the European level on what our forests are offering in different regions and the best ways to ensure those goods and services with the highest value for our society.

How is ThinkForest contributing to a more coherent policy framework?

To develop a coherent policy framework, we need a better understanding of the different dimensions of our forests in order to find flexible and effective balance between the different demands. Such understanding should be built by bringing together scientists, policy makers, business people and the people managing our forests. At the same time forest actors in the wider sense need to go out of the forest to explain our vision. Very often the attitude of “foresters” have been silent to avoid being under the focus, which could result in new “regulations”. ThinkForest is trying to promote a cross-sectoral discussion on forest issues, an open dialogue on the future of our forests, which is reflecting in a balanced way the economic, environmental and social relevance of this resource. I think the “European structures” will come sooner or later with a sort of forest policy

and therefore we need to put the basis for a balance approach based on a dynamic science-policy-business dialogue.

What is coming from ThinkForest in 2014?

EFI is now developing a policy study on the Future of the Forest Based Sector in Europe’s bio-economy, looking at the structural changes taking place in the sector. Such a study, finance by the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, will be the basis for our most important ThinkForest event in 2014 where we will present to the new Parliament and Commission what the forest sector can offer for green growth in Europe. In addition, in the coming months we will continue promoting the science-policy dialogue around the multifunctional nature of forests, by putting the focus on how forestry can contribute to two very different policy issues: biodiversity and bio-energy.

Enhancing *Forest Fire Prevention* Governance

ELSA VARELA AND ELENA GÓRRIZ, EFIMED AND CTFC

Paleo-ecological studies show that forest fires are natural phenomena in the Mediterranean. However, large and catastrophic fires in the Northern rim are relatively recent events. They account for most of the burnt area and socio-economic losses, while inducing abrupt ecosystem changes. Large wildfires are acknowledged to be more likely to occur when there is a high accumulation and continuity of biomass in the landscape. This is the result of a rural exodus and the abandonment of traditional agrarian practices and forest management due to decreasing profitability. Mediterranean landscapes have been shaped by millennia of land-use, resulting in cultural

landscapes hosting high levels of biodiversity. Land abandonment, far from restoring “wild” ecosystems, has brought increased landscape homogenization, loss of patchiness and increased biomass content that, when combined, increase the vulnerability of the landscape to forest fires.

CAUSE OF THE FIRES

Concerning ignition, over 95% of the wildfires in Europe are caused by human activity: mainly intentional fires related to agricultural practices (i.e. for pastoral burning of shrubs to induce the growth of forage), followed by negligence and arson (San

Miguel 2013). Often traditional practices (i.e. fire use as a tool for biomass control and landscape management) coexist with new uses of forest ecosystems. These new users include populations living in the wild land-urban interface (WUI) or those using forests for recreational purposes, who have poor fire knowledge while being more exposed to the fire hazard.

Half a million forest hectares burn in Europe every year, 85% located in the Mediterranean region. As a response to the fire problem, Southern European countries launched fire protection programmes funded by public administrations as part of their welfare state. Most



of these programmes have focused primarily on the suppression of forest fires, with high consumption of public resources and increasing rates of success in reducing the annually burnt area. Paradoxically, this has led to the proliferation of biomass in the landscape, paving the way for the occurrence of large wildfires that surpass extinction capacities. It is therefore increasingly acknowledged that further emphasis in fuel management at the landscape scale is needed to reduce the incidence of large fires.

PREVENTION

In contrast, the social dimension of prevention has attracted much less attention. There is important room for improvement in the strategies to prevent social causes and communicate the fire problem to the population. Interaction with social agents is usually limited to one-way awareness campaigns with broad, simplistic messages not tailored to specific audiences.

This situation calls for a redefinition of the fire problem, combined with appropriate policy interventions and corresponding performance criteria. Broadening the scope

in problem definition implies acknowledging that forest fires are no longer uniquely a suppression challenge. Instead, it is a problem with deep socioeconomic roots that needs to be tackled from a multidisciplinary perspective in order to promote social resilience to cope with the disturbance. Accordingly, evaluating the success of fire protection programmes should include an assessment of the fire severity as well as socioeconomic indicators.

Some initiatives are emerging in this respect through partnerships between public administrations and civil society. They aim at lowering the risk of forest fires at landscape level, but also at increasing auto protection of communities in rural areas, fostering co-responsibility:

- Forest defense groups in Catalonia and Andalusia (Spain) are coordinated associations of local volunteers (chiefly farmers and forest owners) and town councils that participate in planning and execution of municipal fire prevention activities. Moreover, they collaborate with firemen for fire extinction.
- Forest Intervention Zones (Portugal) gather small forest owners to jointly manage their land, preventing

land abandonment and upscaling interventions, with the final aim of maintaining fire resilient landscapes.

- Grazing agreements in Catalonia and Andalusia (Spain) establish contracts between extensive breeding shepherds and public administrations to develop biomass reduction activities with livestock, both in the forest and in the WUI.
- Plan 42 in Castilla-Leon (Spain) has promoted a cultural change in pasture management systems in common forest land, reducing fire incidence. Mechanical clearance was introduced for scrub control instead of the traditional fire use.

These initiatives complement existing wildfire measures and constitute good examples of social innovation, involving society in tackling the fire problem, bringing together social and technical concerns, and encouraging citizens' fire related knowledge.

Further info:

http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/research/in_focus/?bid=1513





Assessing biodiversity levels in the patches. Sorting out the invertebrates samples for follow up species characterization.

Edwin Brosens

The Provision of Forest Services amid Agricultural Landscapes

GUILLAUME DECOQ AND ALICIA VALDÉS, JULES VERNE UNIVERSITY OF PICARDY
KRIS VERHEYEN, GHENT UNIVERSITY
ELENA GÓRRIZ AND ELSA VARELA, EFIMED AND CTFC
AND THE SMALLFOREST CONSORTIUM.

Small deciduous forest remnants are found across Europe in intensively managed agricultural landscapes. The wide range of ecosystem services (ES) they deliver are not fully recognized but become more evident with time (e.g. wind speed regulation, bio-control services, source for non-timber products, game habitat). Furthermore, the alarming high rates of species decline in agricultural landscapes are partly due to the loss or degradation of these remnant patches. However, they are generally not formally protected, leaving their future unpredictable.

SmallFOREST is an ERANET BiodivERsA project on the relationships between forest biodiversity and ES in small forest patches embedded in agricultural matrixes. Its overall goal is to characterize and quantify biodiversity and ES at various scales along a SW-NE transect across temperate Europe. The forest patches studied are located in 5 x 5 km landscape windows in eight regions distributed over Sweden, Estonia, Germany, Belgium and France.

INTENSIVE SURVEYING

All forest patches in these windows have been intensively surveyed for vascular

plants in order to quantify the relative importance of local, landscape-level and global drivers in determining their local herb species diversity. Contrary to previous studies highlighting an important role of global climatic variables for plant diversity, we found that landscape attributes like the amount of forest and grassland around the fragment, and especially local variables like age or habitat heterogeneity of the fragment determined most of the variation observed in plant diversity in these small forest fragments. These results emphasize the importance of maintaining networks of small forest fragments in agricultural landscapes for the conservation of forest

flora, and also evidence the importance of the surrounding landscape. Other parts of the project have quantified the structural and functional diversity of forest fragments and different ES. The project also aims at quantifying economic and social values of the forest patches and analyse their relationship with policies. Finally, the different data will be integrated to perform a general scientific synthesis focusing on ecosystem multifunctionality, and derive suggestions for improving policies, landscape management and planning.

The project consortium consists of 12 partner universities and research centers from Sweden, Estonia, Germany, Belgium, France and Spain. The mixed unit EFI Regional Office – EFIMED and Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia (CTFC) leads the socioeconomic valuation task and the evaluation of policy instruments affecting the provision of ES in these patches.

Learn more about the project:
<http://www.u-picardie.fr/smallforest/uk/>

In Search of Excellence

TOMMI SUOMINEN, EFI

The scientific program **CASTLE** refines and improves state-of-the-art sustainability assessment methods and applies them to current sustainability challenges. **CASTLE** addresses research topics, which are bringing together societal, scientific and business perspectives in an innovative cross-linkage of complementary sustainability impact assessment methodologies. Targeted research studies are conducted in 14 individual research projects (each targeting a PhD degree) that address cutting-edge research questions highly relevant for policy, industry and the public. 14 full-time early stage researchers (ESR) have been working on their individual research projects for under a year now.

For the 14 ESRs **CASTLE** gives an opportunity for carrying out a PhD in motivating settings. While the students are responsible for the scientific progress of their own work, they have a strong community of peers, with whom they participate in the joint **CASTLE** training programme (see more in **EFI NEWS** 2/2013). The students have possibilities to conduct joint case

studies, write joint scientific papers and undertake joint dissemination activities aiming at non-scientific audiences. During the project, the students have an opportunity to collaborate with and visit participating institutes, universities or companies. For the research and accumulated knowledge of the ESRs to have a high impact and to contribute constructively to the European Research Area, the students are also given training in communication and stakeholder interaction, project management,

intellectual property rights and international and EU policies and agreements governing sustainability issues.

More on **CASTLE**: <http://www.castle-itn.eu/> and **ToSIA** <http://tosia.efi.int/>

This study has been supported by the EU through the Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN) action **CASTLE**, grant agreement no. 316020.



Saku Ruusila

Gediminas Jasinevičius holds a M.Sc. in Forest Sciences from the Swedish Agriculture University and B.Sc. from the Lithuanian Agriculture University. Before joining EFI, he worked at the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, Forest Department. Currently he is researcher at EFI and studies for PhD at the University of Eastern Finland.

Gediminas is developing his research on carbon assessment in harvested wood products using **ToSIA** (Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment). The aim of this study is to define national forest wood chains, quantify carbon flows and to develop scenarios for using harvested wood products in different forest based functional units. The latest wood product modeling approaches in compliance with UNFCCC accounting rules will be incorporated into **ToSIA**. Different

national **LULUCF** scenarios with alternative carbon mitigation strategies will be compared. The results of this study shall be useful to support political decisions in the future at national and regional levels.

*"Being involved in the **CASTLE** project means developing the skills necessary to deal with future challenges related to sustainability."*

Saku Ruusila



Salvatore Martire works as a researcher at EFI. He graduated in Environment Engineering at the Polytechnic of Torino in 2009. Previously he worked as a researcher at the University of Milano Bicocca. After that he has been enrolled as PhD

Candidate at the same University. His actual research aims to give clear specifications for **ToSIA** software development. His work is about dynamic indicator calculation using a framework for model linkage, in order to minimize data collection and to maximize result consistency. The work is carried out mainly through the application of **ToSIA** to different case studies and analyzing synergies with external models. *"Being at EFI, and being part of the **CASTLE** network provides*

benefits in many aspects: a stimulating and international environment, staying in touch with high level experts and researchers, contributing in bridging the gap between research and policy. But, the binding agent for making things work is the networking practice and exchange of view that give added value to this experience and will make it unique".

Assessing Bioenergy

and its EU-wide Impacts

DIANA TUOMASJUKKA, EFI

The demand for bioenergy from forests is increasing. Ambitious policy targets like the Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) demand more effectively provided biomass from Europe's forests. The challenge of the European Union Renewable Energy Programme is to mobilize the existing forest biomass in a cost-efficient and sustainable way.

INFRES aims to accelerate the technological development and to open paths to the EU's renewable targets by producing research-based knowledge, technological solutions and service innovations for forest residue feedstock supply. For this, INFRES develops innovative technological and business solutions, such as concrete machines for logging and processing of energy biomass together with transportation solutions and ICT systems to manage the entire supply chain. The aim is to improve the competitiveness of forest energy by reducing the fossil energy consumption and the material loss during the supply chains.

SUSTAINABILITY

What about sustainability? Is there enough biomass available to satisfy ambitious renewable energy targets and still safeguard productive, environmental and social functions? Is it economically feasible? These questions are assessed by using ToSIA (Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment,

Innovative and effective technology and logistics for forest residual biomass supply in the EU (INFRES) project aims at high efficiency and precise deliveries of woody feedstock to heat, power and biorefining industries. More info: www.infres.eu.

<http://tosia.efi.int>) at the European level for current biomass harvesting chains as of the year 2010, 2015 and 2020 scenarios. In comparison to the 2010 baseline, the new INFRES technology developments will be assessed in terms of their sustainability, and potential sustainability impacts are quantified at the EU level.

SCOPE OF VALUE CHAIN AND ASSESSMENT

From a forest production view, the current increment levels exceed the harvesting level considerably, despite increased biomass harvesting. To give some perspective, according to Eurostat (2013) for 2012, the net annual increment in EU28 was 775.75 Mio m³ over bark, of which only 433.65 Mio m³ under bark were harvested. From this amount of harvested timber only 21% was destined for fuelwood.

In INFRES the focus is on primary forest biomass. INFRES covers the complete value chain from the forest to incineration

in the energy facilities. Processes covered describe forest management, harvesting, processing, extracting, facility and terminal operations and incineration for coniferous and broadleaved primary wood products. Secondary biomass and recycling products are excluded.

Processes, products and their production paths are schematically, mass-based and defined in a chain topology. For this, a chain template was developed, describing typical processes and interlinking products. This template will be populated for each assessed European region, reflecting current and innovative technology alternatives.

WHICH REGIONS ARE ASSESSED?

All of EU28 will be assessed at an aggregated level, which allows aggregated assessments for four major European regions and their development potentials in terms of biomass harvesting with innovative technologies.



lav777 / Fotolia

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

Impacts from different scenarios and for all European regions need to be comparable among each other for the INFRES Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA). For this reason, the same indicators and indicator definitions are chosen. Indicator values are calculated for each process and aggregated per module and per chain alternative. Additional indicators (marked below in brackets), depend on data availability and will not be calculated for all regions.

In INFRES the following indicators have been chosen:

- Economic: Gross Value Added (GVA), Production costs, Production of goods and services, Labor productivity, (enterprises with new/improved products)
- Environmental: Certification, Energy generation and Energy use, Greenhouse gas emission, Carbon stock, Transport, Forest area and forest growth, (Soil condition), Biodiversity
- Social: Employment, Wages and salaries, (Accidents), (Provision of public services), (Animal husbandry stock), (Recreation and aesthetics), (Biodiversity perception).

INFRES will also calculate Life Cycle Analysis indicators and include European Sustainability Indicators for solid biomass in case the European Parliament requires these through the end of 2014.

The results for these assessments are expected in September 2015. INFRES has two biomass feedstock related sister projects: LogisTEC (www.logistecproject.eu) and EUROPRUNING (www.euopruning.eu). The goal of the sister projects' approach are to ensure that all three projects use at least one comparable indicator set and impact assessment method.

Further information

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INFRES has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 11881

NEW UPDATED ONLINE VERSION OF 'FOREST PESTS AND DISEASES'

HERVÉ JACTEL, INRA
BEATRICE CARNUS, EFIATLANTIC

A new online version of the guide on forest health in Europe, entitled 'Forest Pests and Diseases', has been launched. The guide was originally produced by IEFC and the partners of the Eurosilvasur project.

This directory of 89 illustrated fact sheets presents key information on the biology, symptoms, damage, and control methods of the major pests and pathogenic fungi affecting different tree species throughout Europe.

As a result of the BACCARA European project – with six EFI member organisations among the project partners – new criteria have been added to these fact sheets about the expected effects of climate change on the evolution of damage caused by pests and diseases. New fact sheets (in English only) of different pests have also been added, therefore ensuring a broader northern European coverage of the affected forests.

You can now consult this updated online version here. (http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/databases/pests_and_diseases/)

For more information, please contact
Hervé Jactel ([herve.jactel\(at\)pierroton.inra.fr](mailto:herve.jactel(at)pierroton.inra.fr)).



EVOLTREE ANNUAL MEETING



This year's EVOLTREE annual meeting will take place in Prague on Tuesday 26 August 2014. It will form part of the scientific programme of the IUFRO Forest Tree Breeding Conference (25–29 August).

EVOLTREE will have a full day slot comprising a morning scientific session and an afternoon administrative session.

The scientific session is open to all participants of the IUFRO conference, as well as EVOLTREE members. Following a general presentation about EVOLTREE, there will be talks by invited and voluntary speakers from the EVOLTREE network, as well as a presentation about the new open source project on the deep phenotyping of European reference trees.

For more information about the EVOLTREE annual meeting: www.evoltree.eu. For information about the IUFRO Forest Tree Breeding Conference, see <http://www.iufrobreeding2014.org>

GREETINGS FROM EFI COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Austria holds the Chairmanship of the EFI Council for the period 2014–2017. The Austrian Government has appointed Mr. Dipl.-Ing. **Martin Nöbauer** from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management as the **Chairman of EFI Council**. The ordinary meeting of the EFI Council will be held on 27 May 2014 in Vienna, Austria. Below you can read greetings from the Council Chairman.

In your opinion, in which issues/areas would EFI be most useful in creating added value for its Member Countries?

The support of research is needed to ensure that all European forests are managed according to sustainable forest management principles, in particular by contributing to balancing the manifold forest functions, meeting the multiple and often conflicting societal demands, and delivering vital ecosystem services. Furthermore, research is requested to provide a basis for forestry

and the whole forest-based value chain to be competitive and viable contributors to the bio-based economy as stated by the recently adopted new EU Forest Strategy.

Therefore EFI should continue its successful path of offering a forum for encouraging scientific debate on ensuring a sustainable provision of forest products and services, in particular by promoting interdisciplinary and cross-sector research, addressing policy-relevant issues at a pan-European or regional level as well as advocating for forest research within the forest sector, as well as beyond its borders.

How do you see EFI's role in the current European Forest networking?

As Europe's forests are playing a vital role for its rural as well as urban society by providing essential natural resources and multiple benefits, EFI should continue in light of the challenging demands as stated by the ongoing regional and global policy



Rita Neuman

processes to promote cooperation in forest-related research, to enhance the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests, as well as to disseminate scientific knowledge. By providing a platform for existing and future European networks for forest-related research, EFI contributes to overcome the fragmentation of European forest research and successfully serves the needs of researchers, stakeholders and decision makers.

SURF PROJECT CENTRE INAUGURATION

The inauguration of EFI's Project Centre "Supporting the Global Implementation of REDD and FLEGT (SURF)" took place on 26 March at the University of Hamburg.

SURF is jointly organized by the University of Hamburg and the University of Leuven, and it serves as a platform for EFI member institutions. The Project Centre will be focusing on the global initiatives, "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)" and "Forest Law Enforcement for Governance and Trade (FLEGT)"

Project Centre SURF will support the sustainable management of tropical forests and the abatement of illegal logging by engaging researchers from forest, social and environmental sciences in collaborations that encompass researchers from all EFI member institutions. It will work with affiliated scientists in order to carry out joint exploration of strategies in the scope of REDD and FLEGT.

Further info:

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EFIATLANTIC AND IEFC ANNUAL MEETING 2014



This year's annual meeting for European Institute for Cultivated Forests (IEFC) and EFIATLANTIC will take place in Bilbao on Tuesday 29 April. The agenda includes discussions about past and future IEFC/EFIATLANTIC activities and upcoming opportunities, the elections for IEFC and EFI member representatives and presentations on the main strategic actions for the coming years. The afternoon will be dedicated to an open session of presentations given by any network member.

FORRISK SEMINAR ON FOREST INSURANCE

The day after the EFIATLANTIC and IEFC Annual Meeting, a FORRISK seminar on Forest Insurance will be held in Bilbao on 30 April. Following a brief presentation on forest risks and vulnerability, speakers from all over Europe will explore a variety of topics; these will include the different types of existing forest insurance, how foresters can insure themselves and European trends related to this topic.

Further info and how to register: <http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/>

PHD COURSE ON “INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY AND GLOBAL ISSUES”

The PhD course “International Forestry and Global Issues” (IFGI) is aimed at promoting stimulating discussions and reflections with PhD students and young scientists whose research is on forest related topics, by giving them an opportunity to interact with internationally renowned experts and practitioners. IFGI-2014 will be held in Nancy, France on 19–23 May.

During one week, the course addresses in a transdisciplinary manner a range of forest issues which rank high on the

international forest and environmental research and policy agendas.

This year, the following topics will be discussed: “State of the World’s forests and overview of international policy”, “Production, trade and consumption of wood products in the bio-economy”, “Forest Ecosystem Services”, “Climate change and carbon sequestration”, “Regional development, forestry and society” and “The Science/Policy interface”.

IFGI-2014 is organised by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), the EFI’s Central European Regional Office (EFICENT) and AgroParis-Tech.

Further info:

<https://colloque4.inra.fr/globalforestrycourse>



Vladimir Vittek / Fotolia

OPERATIONAL TOOLS FOR IMPROVING EFFICIENCY IN WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION IN EU LANDSCAPES (FIREFFICIENT)

The FIREfficient project started with the kick off meeting held on 6 February 2014. The project aims to establish a sustainable knowledge and “lessons-learned” platform for use by stakeholders at the European level. The platform will share innovative tools and practices for integrating the predictions of fire events into land-use planning, to improve wildfire prevention and reduce the impacts of fires on civilians and properties in a cost-effective manner. The partners involved in the project are Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC), Department of Interior from the Catalan Government (GRAF), Fire Ecology and Management Pau Costa Alcubierre Foundation (FPC), Central European Regional Office – EFICENT and the King’s College London (KCL). Duration of the project will be of 2 years.

EVENT CALENDAR

■ EFIATLANTIC and IEFCA Annual Meeting 2014

29 April 2014
Bilbao, Spain

■ FORRISK Seminar on Forest Insurance

30 April 2014
Bilbao, Spain

■ EFINORD Annual Meeting

14–15 May 2014
Umeå, Sweden

■ EFICENT Annual Meeting 2014

16 May 2014
Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany

■ EVOLTREE Annual Meeting

26 August 2014
Prague, Czech Republic

■ JFNW2014: Non-wood products – an opportunity for bioeconomy

2–4 September 2014
Joensuu, Finland

Further information

Ms. Ulla Vanttinen
Email: ulla.vanttinen@efi.int
www.efi.int, under News & Events

Welcome to Bilbao, the 2014 European Forest City!

The 2014 Annual Conference and Seminar on the “Future of Bioeconomy in Europe” will be held in Bilbao, Spain on 10–12 September, 2014. A revamped programme structure will allow for more discussion, especially in a specific ‘Members dialogue’ session on 10 September. The new elements in the programme will make the Annual Conference an inspiring mix of discussion, decision making and networking.

The European forest-based sector is going through the largest structural changes in recent history. The next 20 years are likely to change the sector much more than the previous two decades. Many of these changes originate outside the sector itself,

such as the need to transform societies towards a more resource-efficient bioeconomy, the new economic role of Europe in a globalized world and the impact of new technologies. An open seminar on the “Future of Bioeconomy in Europe” on 11 September will address these issues.

The field trip on 12 September is something not to be missed! For more details, please check out the Annual Conference website at: http://www.efi.int/portal/members/annual_conferences/2014/.

The co-organisers are the Union of Southern European Forest Owners (USSE), the Basque Institute for Agricultural Research (NEIKER), the Bizkaia Forest Service, Corporación HAZI and HABC Wood.

Call for Presentations

EFI is committed to supporting a new generation of forest scientists in Europe who can address emerging scientific challenges and policy questions. The first EFI Young Scientists Session: “Building the future” will take place at the 2014 Annual Conference in Bilbao. It gives young researchers an opportunity to network and present their ongoing

contributions to forest research in an international setting. Deadline for applications is 2 May!

Further info:
http://www.efi.int/portal/members/annual_conferences/2014/programme/wednesday_10_September/Networking_session_with_young_scientists/