

EFI Trust Fund for Policy Support: Annual Report 2024

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Photo: Digital Vision Lab / AdobeStock

Executive Summary

What is this document?

This document is the Annual Report of the **European Forest Institute (EFI) Policy Support Facility Trust Fund** (hereafter **Trust Fund**) for 2024. It presents the activities, outputs, impacts and budget of the Trust Fund for 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The past year was the fourth year of the new five-year cycle of Trust Fund (2021-2025). The Annual Report aims to provide transparent information, which can also be used to assess and evaluate the performance and impact of the Trust Fund work.

Facility management

Helga Pülzl, EFI Assistant Director coordinates the Trust Fund project activities, supported by Communications Officer Maria Schloßmacher, Communications Assistant Shanqing Gao, Trainee Emmie Letourneur, Head of Communications Rach Colling, Administrative Officer Jarkko Haltia and Brussels Liaison Officer Harald Mauser. In addition, other EFI staff resources and outside subcontracting have been used to carry out the activities during 2024.

Facility funding and costs in 2024

In 2024, the Trust Fund consisted of the following 10 Trust Fund countries: *Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Slovenia and Spain*. The total financial contribution from the countries to the Trust Fund by the end of 2024 was **391,555** Euros. The total amount of expenses in 2024 is estimated to have been **419,976** Euros. It should be noted that when writing this on 27 February 2025, the EFI accounts for 2024 had not yet been finalized.

Summary of activities

The highlights of activities and outputs from 2024 include high-level ThinkForest events, both online and in person, as well as the dissemination of publications and their wide use.

ThinkForest events remain the flagship event series organized by the Trust Fund. One high-level ThinkForest events were organized on October 24th in Brussels, titled [*'What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?'*](#). It was followed by a closed dinner event entitled *'Ask a Scientist Carbon Farming as a promising practice to enhance carbon storage in European Forests?'* and held on the same date with attachés from Estonia, Austria, Italy, Finland, Poland, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic. In addition, we hosted two webinars on sustainable finance and biodiversity. The first, [*'Sustainable Finance, Forests, and Biodiversity'*](#), was held on April 29, 2024. The second, part of the new webinar series *'Ask a Scientist'*, took place on September 24th and was titled [*'Ask a Scientist: Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity'*](#).

In 2024, a series of publications and policy briefs were released, addressing a wide range of timely aspects and topics of European Forestry. Noteworthy publications include **two editions of the From Science to Policy series**: [*'Sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria'*](#) (FSTP 16), which explores an EU Taxonomy that sets minimum requirements for biodiversity conservation in forest-related investments, and [*'Carbon farming in the European forestry sector'*](#) (FSTP 17), which examines forest management practices that enhance carbon sequestration and storage in European forests.

Through the Policy Support initiative, EFI launched in 2022 a new **Policy Brief series**. By the end of 2024, a total of 11 Policy Briefs have been published, including four new briefs this year (PB 8, 9, 10, and 11). Notably, PB 11, developed in collaboration with the SUPERB project, explores strategies to strengthen the

European forest carbon sink through a combination of active restoration and adaptive forest management.

Summary of impacts

Publications were widely promoted and distributed in digital forms in 2024, and the electronic copies of both newly published and back catalogue publications again proved popular. Think Forest events and webinars served among others as official launching or promoting dates for the publications, generating more visibility for them. In 2024, the highest number of direct downloads from the EFI website was reached with From Science to Policy series on [“Sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria”](#) (FSTP16) . Since its publication it has been downloaded 874 times.

ThinkForest event participation: The ThinkForest in-person events and webinars were generating high interest. The online format of the webinar allowed for a high number of participants from many different countries. Diverse topics attracted various stakeholder groups. Feedback surveys conducted after the events have shown **very high satisfaction** (4.3/5) and **insightful content** for participants' work (4.2/5). The diversity of scientist-specific topics, the engaging presentations and panel discussions, as well as the overall organization, were highly appreciated by the participants. The webinars were promoted and, in the aftermath, made available on different social media channels after the events had happened. In 2024, 210 people took part in the ThinkForest webinar, [“Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity”](#), published on April 30, 2024, and 648 people viewed the recording. The ThinkForest Ask a Scientist webinar, [“Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity”](#), was published on September 13, 2024, with 102 participants participating in the event, and its recording has been watched 130 times. Additionally, 62 participants attended the in-person ThinkForest event, [“What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?”](#). The recording of this event was published on October 22, 2024, and has been viewed 189 times in 2024. In total, 374 participants attended the ThinkForest webinars and in-person event organized in 2024, and the recordings of these events have been watched 967 times until December 31, 2024.

Media impact: The work of the Trust Fund was actively promoted, in particular to highlight new publications and advertise ThinkForest events, as well as to promote ongoing work such as the Forest Questions. In addition to direct communication with journalists, social media channels such as LinkedIn, X, Facebook and YouTube were frequently used to promote the Trust Fund policy work. In 2024, considerable audience growth and engagement again took place on LinkedIn, with growth of around 6,000 followers. 9 press releases/news items were published on the EFI website on timely, relevant topics, with those relating to carbon farming receiving the most coverage in the media.

Expert presentations, hearings and statements: The authors of the From Science to Policy series (not only of those that were published in 2024), including the Policy Briefs were invited to online and in-person meetings to present their study and to provide expert statements at various occasions, including several high-level forum and events.

Feedback from the network: Overall, the events and outputs have been considered to be timely and of high relevance as they were tackling topical issues high on the political agenda. In particular, participants have appreciated the variety and selection of speakers, representing different regions and institutions, and additional science-based information has been provided by the publications and ThinkForest webinars. In addition, the ThinkForest online events have been highly valued by meeting participants.

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1. Introduction and background

1.1 EFI Policy Support Facility Trust Fund

The objective of the EFI Policy Support Facility Trust Fund (Trust Fund) is to support the operationalization of the activities of the EFI Policy Support Facility. The Trust Fund has started a new 5-year-period at the beginning of 2021, so 2024 marks the fourth year of this 5-year period.

The Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body of Trust Fund. The Steering Committee approves the Trust Fund work programme and related budget. The main aims and responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to provide *strategic guidance* on the activities of the Facility funded by the Trust Fund. It receives information from the EFI secretariat and gives feedback regarding the outputs, outcomes and impacts resulting from the activities of the Facility. The Steering Committee does not take part in the operation and management of the Trust Fund policy support work, science-policy studies, or the selection of the scientists conducting the studies. This is in line with the principle of safeguarding the scientific integrity of the actual science-policy work. However, the Steering Committee members can *comment* the science-policy study manuscripts, but they *do not review* them. That is, the decision how to incorporate, or not to incorporate, the possible Steering Committee comments to the studies, rests on the scientists.

The Steering Committee consists of a representative of each Member state and the Director of EFI or his authorized representative. The Chairs of the EFI Board and EFI Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), or a designated Board/SAB member, take part in the meetings as an observer. The membership of a Trust Fund member ends 12 months following the last contribution of the donor. The Steering Committee meets at least once a year, and maintains an active interaction through correspondence, and can meet informally in connection with other international meetings.

In 2024, the Trust Fund Steering Committee members were:

1. Harald Aalde, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway
2. Steven Dörr, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany
3. Viktor Harvio, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
4. Tomas Krejzar, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic
5. Nerijus Kupstaitis (until March 2024), Ministry of Environment, Lithuania
6. Aurimas Saladžius (from April 2024), Ministry of Environment, Lithuania
7. Robert Mavsar, EFI
8. Fergus Moore, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
9. Enrico Pompei, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests, Italy
10. Simon Poljansek, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, Slovenia
11. Daniel Roures (until May 2024), Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain
12. Marta Álvarez Moreno (from June 2024), Ministry of Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge, Spain
13. Benjamin Stadler, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism, Austria

The Trust Fund policy support work is managed and administrated by the EFI Policy Support Facility.

The actual implementation of the science-policy studies is based on the work by EFI staff, its Associate Members, and the science community in general. The aim of the work is to:

- respond in a timely manner to policy makers' information needs with scientific-based analysis and information in an easily understandable and policy-relevant format and scale;
- support the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable policies and strategies relevant for the European forest-based sector;
- communicate effectively and consequently build a better understanding of forest-related issues, proactively involving policy makers, scientists and stakeholders.

The above objectives are carried out in particular through EFI Trust Fund science-policy publications (*From Science to Policy* reports and *What Science Can Tell Us* reports) and ThinkForest forum high-level science-policy seminars and online events. The ThinkForest forum events are usually chaired by its President.

Janez Potočnik, the former EU Commissioner for both Science and Research, and Environment, served as the ThinkForest President from July 2019 to 2023. Since June 2023, the Trust Fund Steering Committee decided not to immediately appoint a new ThinkForest President for the next term, choosing instead to experiment with operating without one for the time being. The effects of this approach will be evaluated and discussed at a Steering Committee meeting in early 2025.

1.2 Trust Fund funding and management

Funding: The members of the TF in 2024 were 10 countries: ***Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania¹, Norway, Slovenia and Spain.*** The total contribution of donors in 2024 was **391 555** euros. The expenses of Trust Fund activities during 1 January to 31 December 2024 is estimated to have been **419 976** euros (*including 13% overheads; the exact amount will be known when the EFI accounts for 2024 are finalized in 2025*).

According to the Trust Fund Guidelines, funding can be used to finance the following categories of expenditure:

- Policy Support Facility staff costs and travel expenses;
- EFI staff costs, consultant and expert fees and related expenses (including but not limited to travels) to coordinate and conduct studies and implement products and services;
- Costs for contracting EFI Associate and Affiliate Members and other relevant organizations for carrying out scientific assessments, policy studies, etc.;
- EFI staff costs and travel expenses related to the negotiations of the Trust Fund, its establishment and enlargement;
- Communication and media expenses, including publications (e.g. *From Science to Policy*, *What Science Can Tell Us* studies, policy briefs, EFI policy support newsletter, etc.), translations, and video and electronic media, media conferences, etc.;
- Workshop, conference, webinar and meeting expenses, including costs associated with presenters, publicity, translation and reporting; exchange of experts, training and demonstration events, etc.;
- Equipment;
- Office running costs;

¹ Note that Lithuania was not able to make a financial contribution in the year 2024.

- Costs for auditing of the Trust Fund and external evaluation of the Facility;
- Costs related to the Facility or the Trust Fund, not included above, that have the approval of the Trust Fund Steering Committee.

Management: The Trust Fund policy support work is managed and administrated by the *EFI Policy Support Facility*. It initiates, coordinates, carries out and disseminates science-based analysis and synthesis assessments for policymakers, stakeholders, media and the public at large. It supports science-policy dialogue and functions as a go-between scientists and policymakers. One of the main activities is also the managing and operation of Think Forest Forum, the high-level science-policy information, discussion and information-sharing forum.

Based on feedback from the Steering Committee members, EFI prepares an annual work plan and an associated budget which is approved by the Steering Committee. The team responsible for managing and administrating the Trust Fund policy support work in 2024 was:

Helga Pülzl, Assistant Director, EFI

Rach Colling, Head of Communications, EFI

Shanqing Gao, Communications Officer, EFI

Jarkko Haltia, Administrative Officer, EFI

Emmie Letourneur, Trainee, EFI

Harald Mauser, Brussels Liaison Officer, EFI

Maria Schloßmacher, Communications Officer, EFI

2. Activities and outputs

The activities under the Trust Fund for Policy Support were of many different types during 2024. The flagship activities remain the ThinkForest events and science-policy publications. In addition, a number of related and supporting activities were carried out, such as policy brief infographic, regular updates on the policy support webpage, social media activities, expert statements and presentations in policy forums/webinars, and efforts to get new countries to join the Trust Fund. This chapter gives more detailed information about these activities.

2.1 Publications

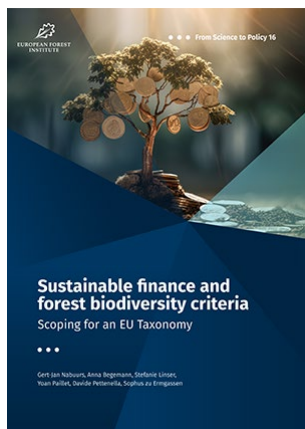
2.1.1. Science-policy studies

PSF publications build on existing EFI series, with the aim of creating a cascade of products, targeted at different audiences and purposes. Their main objective is to synthesise existing science analysis and results, and draw policy implications based on these, to inform policy making and stakeholders' work. The text is accordingly written in a format that is easily accessible to these target groups. To help wider distribution and impact, the studies or their Executive Summaries are also translated to other languages, when needed. So far, the translations include Chinese, Czech, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish editions.

To ensure maximum impact and findability, from 2019 onwards all EFI publications have been given Digital Object Identifier or **DOI references**. This is a string of numbers, letters and symbols used to identify an article or document and link it to the web. A DOI helps a reader easily locate a document and makes the publications more citable.

EFI series	No of pages	Purpose
<i>What Science Can Tell Us</i> (WSCTU)	80-100	Synthesis of large scope studies. Main target groups: civil servants, policy makers' assistants, stakeholders, experts, researchers
<i>From Science to Policy</i> (FSTP)	28-50	Synthesis of a specific topic, carried out within a short timeframe (typically in 4-8 months). Main target groups: civil servants, policy makers' assistants, stakeholders, experts, researchers
<i>Knowledge to Action</i> (K2A)	12-60	Presents the results of research (or topic synthesis), an initiative or project in an attractive format. Main target groups: society, stakeholders, policy-makers, media.
<i>Policy Briefs</i> (PB)	2	Brings together a summary of scientific knowledge on a policy-relevant topic.

In 2024, two From Science to Policy publications was published, as well as four Policy Briefs. In addition, translations of Policy Brief 9 and 10 were made available in Italian.



From Science to Policy 16: Sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria.

<https://doi.org/10.36333/fs16>

The report was coordinated by Gert-Jan Nabuurs from Wageningen University and Research and written by 7 authors from 6 institutions across 5 countries. It was published in May 2024.

Author affiliations	Countries represented
Wageningen University and Research* European Forest Institute University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)* National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE) University of Padova* University of Oxford	Netherlands Austria France Italy United Kingdom

*EFI Associate or Affiliate Member organization



From Science to Policy 17: Carbon farming in the European forestry sector.

<https://doi.org/10.36333/fs17>

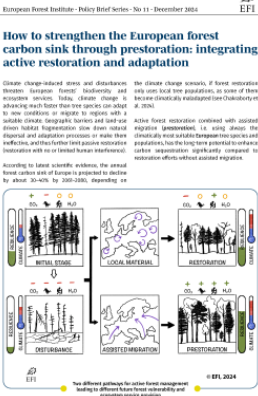
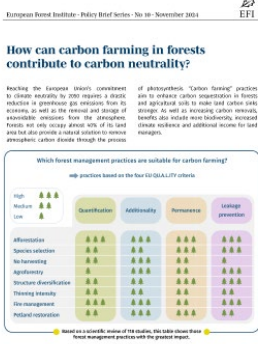
The report was coordinated by Tommaso Chiti, University of Tuscia and Ana Rey, National Museum of Natural Sciences (MNCN), National Spanish Research Council (CSIC). It was written by 9 authors from 9 institutions across 7 countries. It was published in October 2024.

Author affiliations	Countries represented
University of Tuscia* National Museum of Natural Sciences (MNCN), National Spanish Research Council (CSIC) National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE)* Oeko-Institut University of Ljubljana* AgroParisTech*	Italy Spain France Germany Slovenia France

Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)* Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW) University of Alcalá	Finland Austria Spain
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*EFI Associate or Affiliate Member organization

Four Policy briefs were published during 2024.

Policy briefs 2024	
	<p>How to strengthen the European forest carbon sink through pre-emption: integrating active restoration and adaptation. EFI Policy Brief 11, 2024.</p> <p><i>Chakraborty, D., Schüler S., Ciceu, A., Bauhus, J., Bou Dagher, M., Đodan, M., Kramer, K., Svensson, J., Schatzdorfer, E.</i></p> <p>https://doi.org/10.36333/pb11</p>
	<p>How can carbon farming in forests contribute to carbon neutrality?. EFI Policy Brief 10, 2024</p> <p><i>Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., Frings, O., Lehtonen, A., Schindlbacher, A., Zavala, M. A.</i></p> <p>https://doi.org/10.36333/pb10</p> <p>Also available in Italian: https://doi.org/10.36333/pb10it</p>

European Forest Institute - Policy Brief Series - No 9 - July 2024

Combating health problems with urban forests

Urbanisation is rapidly transforming our societies, posing challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation, all major threats to human health. Another issue is that cities (being characterised by high density, high energy use, and lack of physical activity) have changed the global disease burden, now being dominated by non-communicable diseases (NCD), such as obesity, heart disease, diabetes, and depression.

These interconnected challenges can partly be addressed by nature-based solutions, such as urban forests, which have the potential to improve both the city environment and human health. Urban forests can be broadly defined as any tree and its related ecosystem in and around cities.

Urban greening contributes to health promoting behaviours, reduces the negative impact of climate change, and stimulates a healthy development of the urban system.

Urban trees are a multifaceted solution to several challenges. By prioritising the integration of trees into urban planning and policy, cities can create healthier, more resilient, and sustainable urban environments for current and future generations.

Combating health problems with urban forests.
 EFI Policy Brief 9, 2024.

van den Bosch, M.
<https://doi.org/10.36333/pb9>

Also available in Italian: <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb9it>

European Forest Institute - Policy Brief Series - No 8 - May 2024

How can we make Payments for Environmental Services work?

Given the healthy global costs of climate change and biodiversity loss, identifying forest owners to improve their forest management has become more important. Payments for Environmental Services (PES) are a tool to incentivise forest owners to improve their forest management and to provide environmental services, such as enhanced protection or carbon storage. They are defined as **voluntary transactions between providers** (i.e. forest owners) and **beneficiaries**, and are considered an important instrument to address environmental challenges. PES can also be used to support other forest owners with multiple stakeholders involved and supply chains. Identifying the forest owners for payments is the first step.

- **Private schemes** entail direct payments to private forest owners, e.g. those willing to enter to high-ecological companies, and their contribution into an environmental finance tool.
- **Public schemes** refer to a variety of payment beneficiaries including individual landowners or nature managers.

PES schemes have been around for a few decades, but have expanded much during the last decades.

However, with environmental challenges, e.g. the increasing pressure on biodiversity and climate change, PES, some private and public forest PES and PES-like schemes exist, e.g. through carbon offsets or PES for forest management programs support to forest owners. In Italy, PES have been used primarily to incentivise forest conservation, paying forest owners to deliver low.

PES success = incentives + impact + support

Programs for environmental services (PES): principles, procedures, and best practices.

How can we make Payments for Environmental Services work?.
 EFI Policy Brief 8, 2024.

Wunder, S.
<https://doi.org/10.36333/pb8>

2.1.2 Policy support mailings

The *Policy Support Highlights* mailing list sends information to subscribers about ThinkForest events and TF-funded studies, in addition to more general news items on current TF themes. Subscription was actively promoted during the year (e.g. during registration for events), and by the end of 2024, the list totalled some c.1415 subscribers. Information about events was also cross-posted to the general EFI Highlights mailing list. More detailed information is available in the Annex, under Online Statistics.

2.2. ThinkForest events

EVENTS IN 2024

Event 1: Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity, 29th April

Online Webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LZRQK9jZGo>

<https://efi.int/news/sustainable-finance-forests-and-biodiversity-2024-05-03>

Our ThinkForest webinar on 29 April focused on the links between finance and forest biodiversity, in the context of the EU Taxonomy. The EU taxonomy is a complex topic, and the event aimed to bring clarity on how to set biodiversity indicators and potential thresholds that will lead to greener investments.

Prof Gert-Jan Nabuurs from Wageningen University and Research presented highlights from the EFI science-policy study on *Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity Criteria*. He discussed how to make forest biodiversity operational within the context of the EU Taxonomy – forest-related activities have been addressed under the Taxonomy’s climate change mitigation and adaptation criteria, but are yet to be included in the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems objectives.

The study proposes a set of 26 quantitative indicators for biodiversity and provides examples for thresholds, together with monitoring and compliance options. However, Prof Nabuurs emphasised that there cannot be a one-size-fits-all threshold for indicators – there has to be some flexibility due to forest diversity and variation of biodiversity over space and time.

This was echoed during a panel discussion which dived into the opportunities – biodiversity is becoming more and more interesting for investors – and some of the challenges. Our speakers represented different viewpoints: investment perspectives from Cornelia Frentz (European Circular Bioeconomy Fund) and Wendelin von Gravenreuth (MEAG); science expertise from Esa-Jussi Viitala (LUKE); and forest owners from Fanny-Pomme Langue (CEPF).

The discussion highlighted again that biodiversity criteria need to be ambitious yet flexible, to take account of differing environmental and social conditions, including the motivation of forest owners. The feasibility, accuracy and costs of monitoring, and the timeline of some activities should be considered – it is essential that all pieces of the puzzle are easily implementable, and that it fits with other policies and standards and their reporting requirements.

However, there are also opportunities to leverage private funding for biodiversity enhancement. This could be short-term investment in innovations that help forests to protect against pests, for example, rather than longer-term activities.

Summing up, EFI’s Assistant Director for Policy Support Helga Pülzl emphasised that the coordination of policy instruments is key to decreasing the barriers to investment in forest biodiversity. Stronger policy integration (at national and EU levels) may help to decrease uncertainty and risks for investment, especially for long-term issues such as biodiversity protection.



Event 2: Ask a Scientist webinar: Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity, 11th September
Online Webinar

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHeLm1xhj1Q>

<https://efi.int/news/ask-scientist-sustainable-finance-and-biodiversity-2024-09-13>

How can we encourage sustainable investments in forests that ensure biodiversity? What can science tell us about indicators and measurements, targets, and thresholds? How does all this relate to the EU Taxonomy and other green finance initiatives?

The ThinkForest Ask a Scientist webinar on 11 September unpacked some of these key issues, allowing the audience to tap into the expert/scientific knowledge of the authors of EFI's From Science to Policy study on [Sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria](#).

Davide Petenella, University of Padova, explained the two major drivers of the development of sustainable investment in the forest sector: on the demand side an informed civil society, and on the supply side the threat of potential loss of reputation by companies. This leads to a push for investments, including biodiversity protection. But investments in all types of forests have unique challenges, compared to other forms of investment, including long-term timeframes and disruptive factors like storms, fires, pests and floods.

Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Wageningen University and Research, explained that as financing sustainable activities has become a priority, particularly within the European Union, initiatives like the EU Taxonomy have aimed to create a common way to classify sustainable economic activities for investors. Investments will have to meet certain requirements and criteria – but those for biodiversity in forest-related activities are not fully defined yet.

Yoan Paillet, INRAE explored the interplay of biodiversity and forest management, and how Closer to Nature Management can promote biodiversity in managed forests by focusing on composition (eg tree species diversity), structure (eg allowing large and monumental trees) genetic diversity and enhancing functional aspects.

These attributes shall then be measured via criteria and indicators – a topic which was explained by Stefanie Linser, BOKU University. The study sets out proposals for biodiversity-friendly indicators, giving monitoring options, and how they are linked and aligned with existing international laws, goals and indicators. For example, vertical biodiversity (ie including the large and monumental trees) can be measured via management plan inventories and remote sensing.

Gert-Jan Nabuurs pointed out that squeezing the variety of management options and indicators into targets, thresholds and monitoring remains a challenge for legal texts. Forests are diverse, and dynamic over time and space, but some flexible thresholds could be set eg for deadwood, soil disturbance, clearcut size. And there are now novel technologies available to help with monitoring, including LIDAR and modelling.

Finally, Sophus zu Ermgassen, University of Oxford, explored the wider world of green finance and financing green. The EU Taxonomy is only one of a big portfolio of initiatives – EU, public, and private - to focus on investment in biodiversity, many of which overlap.



Panel Discussion of the webinar

www.efi.int/policy-support

Event 3: What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?, 16th October
The Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union, Brussels (in person)

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07ojCcVLDpI>

<https://efi.int/news/carbon-farming-can-also-rejuvenate-forests-and-improve-resilience-2024-10-18>

What is carbon farming, and can it help us reach the EU’s commitment to climate neutrality by 2050? The ThinkForest event in Brussels on 16 October unpacked some of the complexities around the topic.

“Carbon farming” practices aim to enhance the carbon storage in forests and soils, explained Ana Rey, co-lead author on EFI’s latest science-policy study, [Carbon Farming in the European Forestry Sector](#), which was launched at the event. Sustainable forest management practices that are suitable for carbon farming include afforestation, agroforestry, species selection and peatland restoration – and these have important co-benefits other than just carbon storage, including increasing forest resilience, improving biodiversity and providing additional income for land managers. Co-lead author Tommaso Chiti compared these forest management practices to the EU’s QUALITY framework, which focuses on Quantification, Additionality, Long-term storage and Sustainability.

“All practices have pros and cons that need to be carefully evaluated, as well as regionality taken into account”, he said. He took a deep dive into forest management practices in the Mediterranean to show the trade-offs – for example longer rotation periods increase carbon storage considerably but can give rise to risk for fires because of the increment in biomass. He also touched on some of the main challenges for carbon farming – long and variable timescales vs short-term/long-term climate goals, and the difficulties of establishing reliable systems for setting baselines, measuring and verifying carbon removal.



The moderators and speakers at ThinkForest event on carbon farming. Photo by Shanqing Gao / EFI

A lively panel discussion explored the opportunities and challenges of forest carbon farming, concurring that a solid framework to measure and verify additionality is vitally important, as well as ensuring that co-benefits like improved forest resilience are generated. Jurij Krajcic from DG Clima explained how an expert group is currently working on the methodologies for carbon certification, to try to make this as operational as possible. “The resilience component is central to these methodologies”, he emphasised.

Trust, clarification and transparency on criteria were seen as important to get buy-in, not only from forest owners but also from investors. Julia Grimault from the Institute for Climate Economics explained how things had been done in France, where the Label Carbone had been created in a bottom-up process. It has created its own certification methodologies together with stakeholders, and is now state-operated by the French Ministry of Ecology.

The link between science, policy and practice is also important, said Piotr Borkowski, from the European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR). Capacity-building and finance would be needed for forest owners, to implement innovative (and often more expensive) methods of silviculture. This funding could be a blend of EU (e.g. CAP funding for agroforestry), state funding and private-sector finance.

Margherita Miceli, from the Confederation of European Paper Industries (Cepi) also pointed out that we shouldn't look at carbon farming in isolation, and that a broader picture including industry providing economic viability to sustainable forest management (e.g. genetic improvements, management of risks), is needed.

Event 4: Ask a Scientist Carbon Farming as a promising practice to enhance carbon storage in European Forests? (Closed dinner event)

16th October, Sofitel Brussels Europe, Brussels

On the evening of the same day as Event 3, we hosted a closed dinner event named ‘*Ask a Scientist: Carbon Farming as a Promising Practice to Enhance Carbon Storage in European Forests*’. This event was invitation-only and provided a more intimate setting for meaningful discussions, allowing participants to engage directly with the authors of FSTP 17. Attendees were forest and environmental attachés from Estonia, Austria, Italy, Finland, Poland, Slovenia, and the Czech Republic, who joined the study's authors to exchange insights and perspectives on advancing carbon farming practices in European forestry. Attendees liked this closed dinner setting and suggested to continue with this format in the future.

At the initiative of the EFI Director a new event series – **Helsinki Forest Talks** with ambassadors as well as permanent representatives to the European Union was launched in 2024. This new closed event series exclusively designed for Helsinki diplomats, carefully selected scientists and government representatives. It serves as a platform for a constructive dialogue between diplomats and scientists, focusing on important forest-related issues. It not only aims to build interaction between scientists and diplomats but also to create a network within the diplomatic community of those working on forest-related topics. Always two ambassadors together with EFI organise the meeting and invite the diplomatic community. Opening words of the hosting ambassador are followed a quick keynote and a panel discussion with open dialogue session to exchange ideas and perspectives. Networking coffee offered by the host provides an informal setting to continue discussions and exchanges.

So far three events were organised: Helsinki Forest Talk 1 with the German and French ambassadors on the topic of “combatting climate change with technical/natural solutions”; Helsinki Forest Talk 2 with the Greek and the Spanish ambassadors on the topic of “why Europe’s wildfires” are growing and how to combat them”; Helsinki Forest Talk 3 with the British and the Swiss ambassadors on the topic of “Forests at the limit: climate change and the future of forests”. Given the success of this talk series, it will be continued throughout 2025.

These events were also used to introduce ambassadors and high-level representatives to the Trust Fund work and engage them in dialogue at the science-policy interface.

2.3. Other outputs

2.3.1. Online activities

The EFI website is an important tool in policy support communication activities, as it acts as a central, easily accessible and durable source of information about activities. Whether arriving via Google search or via social media channels, users can easily find more information, eg via the:

- Policy Support Facility page (www.efi.int/policysupport)
- ThinkForest events page (www.efi.int/policysupport/thinkforest)
- Dedicated subpage for each new ThinkForest event including mini-biographies of key speakers, programme, background information etc (this is updated after each event to include relevant news releases, photos, presentations and videos).
- All publications are deposited in the site-wide Publications Bank (www.efi.int/publications-bank).

Forest Questions

As reported previously, in 2021 a sub-site (www.efi.int/forestquestions) was set up for materials from the Key questions on forests in the EU report (K2A04), providing an extended answer for each question, with detailed referencing. This has since been extended with new questions, many based on policy brief materials.

Visitor traffic to this section of the website continued to be extremely high in 2024, with particular interest in questions on [forests and the water cycle](#), [forest ownership and management](#), [how EU decision-making works](#), and [forest resources](#).

Highlight - Web pages	Page views 2024	Page views 2023	Page views 2022
Forest questions (/forest questions) plus subpages	24,854	23,075	19,978

What is series

During 2024, we prepared a new *What is series* that offers insights into important forest-related topics: What is closer-to-nature forestry, urban forestry, sustainable forest management, forest governance etc. Each one-pager provides an easy-to-read to read introduction to the topic to support the interested reader in understanding the essence of these complex subjects. The series, grounded in both scientific research and expert insights, briefly addresses also the status of knowledge and sometimes provides in-depth insights into what is not yet known. Renowned scientists and experts often accompanied by a communication expert have written those texts. All texts are accompanied by visuals.

The different topics will be launched throughout 2025 and its update will be closely monitored.

Website

Access to the policy support and ThinkForest pages on the website remains high. Visitors arrive at the website from social media, with particularly high interest in ThinkForest events and activities.

Web pages	Page views 2024	Page views 2023
Policy support main landing page (policysupport/)	1,269	1,022
Our work (policysupport/ourwork)	215	326
ThinkForest: (policysupport/thinkforest/) plus subpages eg for events	4,399	7,360

Videos

In 2024, the recording of three ThinkForest events, including two webinars and one in-person event in Brussels, were published via the EFI YouTube channel, giving a lasting record of ThinkForest discussions.

Videos	Published	Recording views 2024
ThinkForest webinar, Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity	30.04.2024	648
ThinkForest webinar, Ask a Scientist: Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity	13.09.2024	130
ThinkForest event, What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?	22.10.2024	189

More details are available in the Annex, in the Online Statistics section (Table 2).

Previous videos published before 2024 are constantly watched and produce ongoing impact. In our media/social media communications we also promote these older videos and publications as well.

Social media

During 2024, TF-funded policy support work was promoted via EFI’s social media channels, to reach a geographically widespread and diverse set of audiences. Ongoing issues with X (formerly known as Twitter) has seen a widespread decline in follower growth and engagement on this channel, however as there is as yet no clear mainstream alternative the EFI account remained active in 2024.

Considerable audience growth and engagement again took place on LinkedIn in 2024, and there are indications that this is becoming the channel of choice for engagement on professional topics.

Social media channel	Number of followers (31 Dec 2024)	Number of followers (31 Dec 2023)	Number of followers (31 Dec 2022)	Number of followers (31 Dec 2021)
X (formerly Twitter), main EFI account	14,796	14,773	13,759	11,950
Facebook	11,093	10,620	10,000	9,560
LinkedIn	32,778	26,637	20,691	14,830
YouTube	2,758	2,230	1,870	1,553

Enlarging the Trust Fund

The Trust Fund started in January 2015 with 8 countries: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Sweden. In 2016 Spain joined, in 2017 the Czech Republic and in 2018 Lithuania. However, at the end of 2018, France stepped down from the TF, and at the end of 2024, Sweden discontinued financial contributions and left the TF.

Currently Central-, Northern-, Southern and Eastern Europe are all represented in the TF. During 2020-21, active efforts to engage more European countries in TF were taken by the EFI Director and Assistant Director, and in 2021 Slovenia joined. Poland albeit being interested in joining the TF for a considerable time informed EFI that they were no longer able to become a member. Discussions with three European countries in and outside the European Union are held to encourage them to join the TF. More countries are to be approached during 2025.

3. Impacts

The EFI Trust Fund for Policy Support work has continued to receive a lot of very positive feedback during 2024 as it has reached a wide audience through its various activities, both online and on-site. The impact indicators given in this Report show a robust continuation of Trust activities impact (see Appendix). More direct positive feedback on the activities in the ThinkForest networking events as well as in larger face-to-face meetings with policy-makers and stakeholders, etc, was received during 2024, which is hoped to be continued in 2025.

The feedback given during and after webinars and as well as in person during ThinkForest meetings and other events was very positive. Especially the webinars provided a platform that allowed the participants to interact, raise questions and proceed in high-level discussions. The online format permitted bigger audiences, hence more visibility for the publications including the reach-out to new persons that have never participated before. However, in-person events also showed to be particularly important as meeting places to exchange on forest-related topics between policy-makers, stakeholders and scientists are not manifold enough in Europe.

An increased number of downloads of the publications is a very positive sign and underlines the continuous interest in the selected topics both from policy-makers and the scientific community. Given that policy-makers and policy advisors have less time available, the new EFI Policy Brief series, successfully launched in 2022, aims at meeting those target groups also with shorter texts and graphics. Again, download rates of the 4 policy briefs published in 2024 indicate the need to have those shorter reading formats. We have also started to produce our policy brief series into easy-to-digest infographics, starting from PB1 in 2024. With the updated forest questions and translating them to different languages a new audience can be reached. Even shorter texts with visuals were developed throughout 2024 and included in a new series (What is....?) that is being launched in 2025. These very short texts are meant to provide even easier access to forest-related topics than the forest questions. Some of them have been distributed already on paper to policy advisors and diplomats and very positive feedback was received.

During multiple personal meetings and discussions that EFI’s Director, Assistant Director and Brussel’s Liaison Officer had during 2024 with European Parliament MEPs, European Commission staff, national ministries and stakeholders, very positive feedback was given for the Trust Fund policy support work. Overall, these impacts show that this form of policy support provides not only a unique, but needed platform for pan-European forest-based sector science-policy work.

3.1 Downloads

The electronic copies of these studies again proved very popular. A detailed overview of the downloads of all major Trust Fund publications produced to date (2015 onwards) can be found in the Annex, p. 48ff. In 2024, **two From Science to Policy reports and four policy briefs** were published in English, and two policy briefs were translated to Italian.

Title	Publication date	No of electronic copies downloaded 2024*	DOI resolutions 2024	Lifetime copies downloaded
FSTP17 (Carbon farming)	Oct 2024	824	2212	824
FSTP16 (Sustainable finance)	May 2024	874	1610	874
PB11 (Prestoration)	Dec 2024	196	644	196
PB10 (Carbon farming) (EN, IT)	Nov 2024	83	311	83
PB9 (Health & urban forests) (EN, IT)	Jul 2024	301	810	301
PB8 (Ecosystem services)	May 2024	413	683	413

* This is of course a snapshot of one segment of usage, as the publications are also available in e.g., ResearchGate, authors’ institutional repositories, organisations’ own libraries etc.

** DOI resolutions: shows the number of people who have clicked on the DOI address for a publication

3.2. Impact and feedback from stakeholders and network

Amidst the ongoing reliance on virtual platforms, the Trust Fund maintained a continuous online presence, engaging with representatives from member states, European Commission services, international forest stakeholders, members of parliament, non-governmental organizations, and research. The dissemination and discussion of Trust Fund publications during these virtual exchanges were well-received. Several face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders involved in Trust Fund activities were held also. These meetings were also organised back-to-back to other meetings in order to save time and money. We can also report proudly in 2024 that publications that were supported by the TrustFund (e.g. FSTP 1 and FSTP2) were uptaken and well cited in EU Commission documents and used as reference manuscripts including in international meetings.

The EFI Director continues the exchange with high-ranking decision-makers in the European Union. In summary, both the direct and indirect impacts of the Trust Fund work carried out in past years and in 2024 have had an impact at a high level of policy.

ThinkForest webinars & recordings of ThinkForest events

The events in 2024 have been widely regarded as timely and highly relevant, addressing pressing issues at the forefront of the political agenda. Participants particularly appreciated the diversity of speakers, who represented various regions and institutions, enriching the discussions with a range of perspectives. Furthermore, the publications and ThinkForest webinars provided valuable science-based insights, further enhancing the impact and credibility of the events.

a. ThinkForest webinar: Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity

By 21 January, a recording of the event had been watched 650 times.

The feedback from participants this year underscored the success and impact of the webinar. While a formal survey was not conducted, we received quite some positive comments via email and in-person interactions. For instance, a senior expert from the European Commission wrote to EFI director that this webinar was "very good and useful."

b. ThinkForest Ask a Scientist webinar: Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity

By 21 January, a recording of the event had been watched 131 times.

Feedback (examples) from participants

What did you like most about this webinar?

- "The way the event and the questions were organized, with one question block in the middle of two sessions so it was not heavy on the presentations neither on the questions part."
- "The focus of the seminar and diversity of scientists specific topics."

The feedback survey reveals overall satisfaction (4.3/5) with the event's organization. Many participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the communication before and during the webinar, with responses like "Very satisfied" appearing frequently.

The majority of participants found the webinar's content applicable to their work (4.2/5), with many either strongly agreeing or agreeing that the insights provided were useful. This aligns with the open-ended feedback praising the quality of the presentations and the relevance of the topics discussed. Nevertheless, the feedback suggests that consistency among speaker preparation and delivery could further enhance the event's impact.

c. ThinkForest event: What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?

By 21 January, a recording of the event had been watched 191 times

Feedback (examples) from participants

- "The topic is very pertinent and current so thanks for your focus on this."
- "Very well organised to the smallest detail, excellent panel discussion, great interest by the audience, very relevant contents related to the report CONGRATULATIONS!!!"
- "great panel participants, interesting questions by the moderator"

The event received very positive feedback, with an average rating of 4.7 out of 5. Participants appreciated the clear communication and smooth moderation. They described the event as "very well organised to the smallest detail" and praised the "excellent panel discussion" and "relevant contents."

The content was also highly valued, with an average usefulness rating of 4.7 out of 5. Attendees liked how relevant the topics were and highlighted the panel discussions and the interesting questions from the moderator. Comments such as "great panel participants, interesting questions by the moderator" show how much the audience enjoyed the speakers and their expertise. Many participants suggested having a longer session on this topic for future events.

3.3. Expert presentations, statements and hearings in 2024

In 2024, authors of the From Science Two Policy Series and the EFI Policy Briefs presented the publications in various occasions and in different formats. The following table provides an overview of this presentations. They include both scientific and technical presentations and were targeted at different audiences, including policy-makers, stakeholders and scientists.

Publication 2024	Presenter / event
<p>“Carbon farming in the European forestry sector”</p> <p>From Science to Policy 17 (Published in October 2024)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diaci, J. Lecture for MSc students in University of Ljubljana. “Carbon farming”. 26 November 2024, Ljubljana, Slovenia. <i>Audience: MSc students</i> 2. Frings, O. Lecture for Master level students at AgroParisTech. Regulation of Ecosystem Services – Market-Based Instruments and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). 27 November 2024, Nancy, France. 3. Rey, A. Neutralità carbonica in Europa: quale ruolo per il carbon farming forestale? Seminario Carbon-Farming per le foreste europee e italiane. 19 novembre 2024, Roma, Ministero Agricoltura, Sovranità Alimentare e Foreste <i>Audience: policy-makers, scientists, practitioners</i> 4. Chiti, T. Gestione forestale e Carbon farming. Seminario Carbon-Farming per le foreste europee e italiane. 19 novembre 2024, Roma, Ministero Agricoltura, Sovranità Alimentare e Foreste <i>Audience: policy-makers, scientists, practitioners</i>
<p>“Combating health problems with urban forests”</p> <p>Policy Brief 9 (Published in July 2024)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. van den Bosch, M. Well-being and Health Promotion Day, organised by the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare. https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://thl.fi/ajankohtaista/tapahtumat/tapahtumakalenteri/2024-11-28/hyvinvoinnin-ja-terveyden-edistamisen-paiva1&data=05 02 Shanqing.Gao@efi.int a96af2526ed343b6714508dd1aae359b 76f498dbd149402c9c09707cb0a4a20d 1 0 638696057702568453 Unknwn TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUuIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOIjoiTWFpbClslldUIjoyfQ== 0 &sdata=aYVKvxpPSLe/qinEPeCR4ERsNhnf2A/P/3JtenNR5o4=&reserved=0 “Planetary Health and Wellbeing”. 28 November 2024, Helsinki, Finland, hybrid. <i>Audience: Public administration, municipalities, state administration, universities and colleges, organizations and communities, welfare areas</i> 2. Martuzzi, M. COP29, session Green and Blue Infrastructure: Nature-based solutions. “Climate and Health co-benefits of NBS”. 18 November 2024, BAKU, Azerbaijan <i>Audience: very broad audience ranging from researchers to government representatives, international organisations (e.g. WHO, FAO), NGOs, civil society, media, private sector representatives, indigenous groups, etc.</i>

<p>“How can we make Payments for Environmental Services work?” Policy Brief 8 (Published in May 2024)</p>	<p>1. Wunder, S. KfW, KC Jobs, Economy and Rural Development. “Payments for Ecosystem Services. Concepts and Lessons Learned”. 14 June 2024, Frankfurt (M), Germany. <i>Audience: Development assistance and bankers, policy makers, practitioners in the env sector</i></p>
<p>“Sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria” From Science to Policy 16 (Published in May 2024)</p>	<p>1. Petenella, D. Investimenti delle imprese in campo forestale con impatti positivi sulla biodiversità. Ecomondo Workshop, Rimini, 7.11.2024 <i>Audience: forest practitioners, policy makers, civil society</i></p> <p>2. Petenella, D. Un quadro delle iniziative dell’UE nel campo della finanza sostenibile. Accademia dei Georgofili and Italian Association of Chartered Foresters and Agronomists online Workshop on Sustainable finance in the forest sector, 9.10.2024 <i>Audience: forest consultants and practitioners</i></p> <p>3. Petenella, D. Overview of investment barriers in forests, forest management and ecosystem services. EFI, EIB Workshop, Bruxelles, 13.9.2024 (with Anna Biasin) <i>Audience: forest practitioners, scientists, policy makers</i></p>

Presentations based on several TF studies were also provided. This included the following ones:

1. Mauser, H. Wald & Holz – das politische Umfeld auf EU-Ebene (Forest & Wood – the EU Policy Environment), 27. Waldforum-„Der European Green Deal und seine Bedeutung für die Forst- und Holzwirtschaft in Österreich“ (Austrian Forest Forum on the European Green Deal and its Relevance for Forestry and Wood Industry in Austria), 2 February (invited presentation, online)
2. Mauser, H. Das waldpolitische Umfeld auf EU-Ebene (EU Forest Policy Environment), PEFC Germany Study Tour to Brussels, 7 March (invited presentation)
3. Mauser, H. Forest-based Sector related recent and upcoming EU Legislation-Strategies-Initiatives, Deputy Permanent Representatives Like-Minded Group Friends of Sustainable Forest Management, 19 March (invited presentation)
4. Mauser, H. Wald & Holz – das politische Umfeld auf EU-Ebene (Forest & Wood – the EU Policy Environment), Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft-Expertengruppe Internationale Forst- und Holzthemen (Austrian Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management-Expert Group International Forest and Wood Topics), 8 April (invited presentation)

5. Mauser, H. Das walddpolitische Umfeld auf EU-Ebene (EU Forest Policy Environment), Rohstoffausschuss des Fachverbandes der Holzindustrie Österreich (Raw Material Committee of the Association of the Austrian Wood Industries), 9 April (invited presentation, online)
6. Mauser, H. Das walddpolitische Umfeld auf EU-Ebene (EU Forest Policy Environment), Hauptausschuss des Österreichischen Forstvereines (General Committee of the Austrian Forest Association), 15 April (invited presentation, online)
7. Mauser, H. EU-Policy Making and the Forest-based Sector, 10th International Hardwood Conference, 8 November (invited keynote)
8. Mauser, H. Der Wald und die EU-Politiken (Forest and EU Policies), Generalversammlung des Kärntner Forstvereines (General Assembly of the Carinthian Forest Association), 11 November (invited keynote)
9. Mauser, H. EU-Policy Making and the Forest-based Bioeconomy, Presidency Meeting of the European Bioeconomy University, 20 November (invited presentation)
10. Pülzl, H., EU-Walddpolitik: Was kommt im Sektor an? (EU forest policy, what arrives in the forest sector). Winterkolloquium University of Freiburg, Germany, 25 January, (invited keynote)
11. Pülzl, H. How to govern forests in the European Union. USSE event, San Sebastian, Spain, 14 March (invited keynote)
12. Elomina, J; Zivojinovic, I; Pülzl, H. Understanding forest-related conflicts and solutions based on local realities: Gällivare, Sweden, June 26th IUFRO World Congress 2024.
13. Ivanović, S; Živojinović, I; Tošković, O; Pülzl, H; De Vreese, R; Davis, C; Winkel, G; Roitsch, D; Derks, J; Krajter Ostoić, S; Vuletić, D; Kronenberg, J; Lovrić, M; Basnou, C; Tyrväinen, L; Da Schio, N; Tomičević Dubljević, J. Exploring Urban Forests in Europe: Access, Usage Patterns and Insights from 33 Countries, June 26th IUFRO World Congress 2024.

Please note that many of the other studies supported by the Policy Support TrustFund are continuously presented and used including in policy discussions. These presentations were not included here to keep this list size readable.

3.4. Media impacts

There was active contact with the media during 2024. 9 press releases/news items were published on the EFI website and EFI blog, on timely, relevant topics.

28.04.2024 [Helsinki Forest Talks inspire scientists and diplomats](#)

03.05.2024 [Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity](#)

13.05.2024 [How can we encourage sustainable investments in forest biodiversity?](#)

20.05.2024 [New EFI policy brief explores payments for environmental services](#)

09.07.2024 [New EFI policy brief explores how trees and urban forests combat health problems](#)

13.09.2024 [Ask a Scientist: Sustainable Finance and Biodiversity](#)

16.10.2024 [New report on carbon farming in the European forestry sector](#)

18.10.2024 [Carbon farming can also rejuvenate forests and improve resilience](#)

11.12.2024 [How to strengthen the European forest carbon sink integrating active restoration and adaptation to climate change](#)

Our reports and studies were also featured via other platforms (see Annex Table 4), such as:

20.22.2024 hiilikompensaatioinfo.fi (in Finnish)

[Uusi raportti: Kestävä metsänhoito etusijalle](#)

12.12.2024 SUPERB project website

[How to strengthen the European forest carbon sink integrating active restoration and adaptation to climate change](#)

In 2024, we engaged [Browning Environmental Communications](#) to launch From Science to Policy 17 (Carbon farming).

Browning developed, coordinated, and executed the following tactics to gain European media coverage of the report amongst target audiences, and position the report as a key support resource for policymakers. This included:

- Development of key messaging to gain resonance and interest with media
- Creation of a European-wide press release with quotes from key authors
- International media outreach under embargo in the runup to EFI's in-person event in Brussels
- Management of spokespeople availability and a briefing tracker
- Facilitation of media interviews

This resulted in extensive coverage in EU-level (including Politico, ENDS-Europe, and Carbon Pulse), national and trade media (see Annex Table 5 for the full list).





Experts warn against relaxing EU's anti-deforestation regulation

Europe should reward sustainable forestry practices rather than profit-seeking from logging activities, researchers have said, echoing calls from left-wing lawmakers in the European Parliament who reject a recent proposal to delay the EU's anti-deforestation regulation by one year.



5. Current and emerging forest-related policy issues and trends in Europe

According to the TF Guidelines “EFI will provide on a yearly basis a broad overview (summary) of the current and emerging European forest-related policy issues and trends”. This chapter seeks to fulfil this objective. It describes important developments in the EU framework relevant for forest and wood related policies that took place in 2024 and comments on the new EU policy cycle 2024-2029.

5.1 Changes in forest policy related governance

While the different EU institutions continued their work during 2024, the European Parliament (EP) elections in June impacted the decision-making process. The EP stopped its work during the election campaign and decision-making slowed also in the European Commission (EC) and Council. A large number of new members of Parliament started their term shortly after the election, and mid-year Ursula von der Leyen was selected as president of the European Commission for a second term. A new college of Commissioners was proposed by Member States and confirmed together with the new president by the EP in November.

The Directorate General for Environment (DG ENV) continued to take the lead in handling forest-related topics in the EC. The Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) became more engaged in policy discussions related to the forest-based sector within its industry transition and circular economy-oriented activities. In addition to its role in chairing the “Expert Group on Forest-based Industries and Sectorally Related Issues”, it promoted generating and marketing bio-based products, also originating from forest biomass (for example a workshop on “Next Steps in Advancing Bio-based Products and Materials”). DG GROW also participated in the “Clean Transition Dialogue on Forest-based Bioeconomy”, led by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič, in which EFI’s Director Robert Mavsar delivered the keynote.

To simplify forest governance and create a coherent dialogue with Member States, in the “New EU Forest Strategy for 2030” the EC proposed merging the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) with the Working Group on Forest and Nature into one single expert group, with the mandate to reflect all the environmental, social and economic objectives. In November 2023 the EC presented a proposal to amend Council Decision 89/367/EEC of 29 May 1989 setting up the Standing Forestry Committee. The Council agreed in June 2024 on its general approach on this legislative proposal, but the EP started its discussion only in December 2024. Consequently, the SFC has continued to work under its current rules of procedure. The DG ENV-led Working Group on Forest and Nature still exists formally, but no meeting took place in 2024. Its dedicated email address was used only to share information with its members.

The Council established an “Ad hoc Working Party on Forest Monitoring” at the beginning of 2024 to discuss the legal proposal on forest monitoring (COM(2023)727). This Working Party consists of representatives from the Council Working Party on Forestry and the Council Working Party on the Environment, enabling members of forestry and environmental ministries to participate.

On 1 December, the new EC started its work. The political guidelines² of the von der Leyen Commission II were published and the mission letters for the new commissioners³ made available. Together they define the upcoming political agenda and provide an overview of several relevant political priorities for the years

² See https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

³ https://commission.europa.eu/about/organisation/college-commissioners_en

2024-2029. The mission letters of 21 out of the 26 members of the new College include tasks and deliverables of potential relevance for the forest-based sector and for EFI. None of the letters refers explicitly to forest-related issues and therefore it remains to be seen which members of the new College will address these planned actions that may be relevant for forestry and a forest-based bioeconomy, and how EFI can efficiently contribute to their work. The competences have also changed in comparison to the previous Commission - for instance the leadership for updating the EU Bioeconomy Strategy has moved from the Directorate General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD) to the Directorate for Environment (DG ENV).

5.2 Expanding number of policy proposals relevant for the forest-based sector

From the start of 2019 until the end of 2024, 40 new EU legislative acts and 27 non-legislative strategies and resolutions with direct relevance for forests, forestry and/or the forest-based bioeconomy entered into force. Ten of these were completed in 2024. Another 13 legal proposals relevant for the forest-based sector were debated by the co-legislators (EP and the Council). These include the legal proposals on the composition of the Standing Forestry Committee and on forest monitoring. However, the negotiations in the EP on both files started only in December.

For one legal proposal (Revision of the Regulation on Packaging and Packaging Waste) discussed by the co-legislators, an agreement during the trilogue negotiations was reached and formally approved. However, the final legislative act was not published in the Official Journal of the EU before the end of 2024. For two other proposals (Soil Monitoring and Resilience, Amendments to the Waste Directive (incl. textile waste)), trilogue negotiations are still ongoing. The Annex to this report compiles all recent legislation and strategies.

Before the end of its previous mandate, the EP approved its positions on four more legislative proposals (Green Claims Directive, Plants obtained by new Genomic Techniques, Plant Reproductive Material, Forest Reproductive Material) by plenary voting, and these are therefore ready for trilogue negotiations. With regards to the Green Claims Directive, the Council agreed only on a general approach, but again trilogue negotiations did not start before the end of 2024.

Although during its previous mandate period the Commission announced it would present several additional proposals for legislative acts with potential relevance for the forest-based sector in 2024-25, it has not followed up. It remains to be seen which of these will be included in the new 2025 work programme expected to be published in February 2025.

For the implementation of the EU Taxonomy Regulation, the EC must define technical screening criteria for six environmental objectives through delegated acts. One of these is objective 6 on “the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems”. The Platform on Sustainable Finance supports the EC in preparing the delegated acts. One pending task for this Platform is the development of recommendations for technical screening criteria for forestry regarding environmental objective 6. However, the EC did not present a draft delegated act before the end of its previous term. A new timetable for this process is not available yet.

5.3 Challenging implementation of EU legal acts and policies recently come into force

In 2024, the rapid increase in new EU policies and legal acts relevant to the forest-based sector continued. In the history of the EU, there has never been a decision-making period (2019-2024) that resulted in so many new rules and policy objectives relevant to the forest-based sector in countries and regions interested in establishing or expanding a forest-based bioeconomy. The volume of work in implementing these legal acts, guidelines and strategies is expected to continue to grow soon. In addition, the newly

established Commission is expected to work on several new initiatives that will pose additional implementation needs for the forest-based sector (see chapter 5.4). Effective implementation will need science-based support in several cases, in particular for managing practical implementation challenges (e.g. the implementation of the Nature restoration law vs meeting the energy policy objectives) when legal obligations have to be fulfilled most cost-effectively amidst the highly diverse EU setting that characterises the forest-based sector.

It is still unclear how the many trade-offs nourished by different interests and objectives of all these new EU initiatives are to be handled in consistent ways during implementation. Member Countries as well as EU-neighbouring countries also have their own pre-existing practices and traditions on how to handle forest-related policies and their targets, which may further complicate implementation. These trade-offs reach beyond the forest-based sector. This will lead to different implementation patterns across countries. Given that forests and the forest-based industries differ across the EU, a diversified set of practices may not necessarily be bad. It will, however, not result in the equal implementation format that the EU institutions may look for. Comprehensive large-scale scientific/expert assessments of how this can affect forests, and the forest-based sector are still lacking but will become more demanded in future.

The many new legal rules and policy targets agreed to since 2019 which affect the forest and wood related value chains have established more requests and obligations for all actors concerned. A comprehensive cumulative assessment of the impacts of all the new legislation and strategies is still missing. To analyse these impacts, an assessment is required that includes a broad range of agents affected: 1) all actors of the forest-based sector itself (different types of forest owners and managers, public forest administrations at different levels, forest contractors, advisory services, forest training and education, wood-processing and trading industries, NGOs); 2) other economic sectors interested to change to renewable biobased feedstock (also from forests) in their transition to a more sustainable and climate-friendly business model (e.g., energy, plastics, chemicals, textiles); 3) regions interested in establishing or expanding a forest-based bioeconomy; 4) Member States and the EU regarding increasing resilience of the economy as well as fostering strategic autonomy by reducing dependency on raw material imports from third countries. The assessment should compile all tasks and activities requested from the different actors, linked to the individual new legislation or strategy. It also needs to investigate the resources needed (staff, infrastructure, skills), costs and funding opportunities as well as the requirements for effective and efficient governance to manage all tasks. Such a comprehensive assessment would help to deregulate where needed, to provide targeted assistance for different types of actors, to better design upcoming legislation and strategies and to win support for their effective implementation. Furthermore, this assessment would provide the data basis to monitor how far the reduction of 25% or 35% of reporting obligations has been achieved as announced in the political guidelines 2024-2029 of President von der Leyen (see chapter 5.4). Such an assessment should be conducted in the first phase of the new legislative cycle to support the proper design of new legislation and strategies during the rest of the mandate.

5.4 Outlook on the EU policy cycle 2024-2029

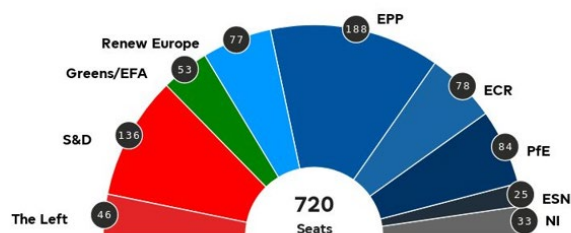
In 2024, a new EP and EC started their mandates. To strategically guide EU policy making in the new cycle, the Council approved a “Strategic Agenda 2024-2029”, and the re-elected President von der Leyen presented her “Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024–2029”.

The result of the elections to the EP only partly confirmed the forecasts. The clear winner was the European People’s Party (EPP) which, contrary to the forecasts, increased its number of seats and is well ahead of the S&D group (Social Democrats and Socialists) which almost maintained their number of seats. The liberal RENEW group, and the GREENS lost heavily. The right-wing conservative ECR group (European

Conservatives and Reformists) and the radical right-wing Identity & Democracy group (IDG) emerged stronger than before. After the elections, the regrouping of national parties of the right-wing political spectrum resulted in the establishment of two new political groups in the EP, the Patriots for Europe (Pfe, which assimilated the IDG) and the more radical right-wing group of Europe of Sovereign Nations (ESN). Pfe and ECR are now the third and fourth biggest political groups in the EP, ESN the smallest one.

European Parliament 2024 - 2029

Constitutive session



Source: Provided by Verian for the European Parliament



Link: <https://results.elections.europa.eu/en/>

As the biggest parliamentary grouping, EPP is in a more privileged position to lead policy-making processes. It now has more flexibility in organising majorities on both sides of the political spectrum as compared to other groupings. In some of the first plenary votes in the new term it already sided with political groups from the right-wing. However, the EPP participated in the majorities that blocked Pfe and ESN from leading roles in the EP's governance system, including chairs and vice-chairs of committees. For the moment, the *cordon sanitaire* regarding not providing access to right-wing groups to positions in the EP's structures works, but not regarding votes on amendments on draft reports. This may change during the coming years. The new EP composition also indicates that policy positions that show a tendency to the left (e.g. forest protection and non-use of forests) may be harder to agree to than in the previous term. The total number of political groups and the share of new MEPs has clearly increased as well.

It can be expected that this increased number of political groups and a higher share of new MEPs will result in a more dynamic and volatile decision-making process in the EP that is even harder to predict than before. The building of winning majorities will be done more on a case-by-case basis with changing coalitions, depending on the topic. Unlike the national context where MEPs are in line with party politics (=party discipline), in the EP this is not the case; national or individual standpoints clearly prevail to satisfy their respective constituencies and safeguard re-election in the future, over European political grouping positions. Within national groupings of the same party there may also be differences in voting behaviour and no national unity can be expected. Within each political group, there are quite diverse views of MEPs on specific topics. MEPs that act as swing voters (i.e. pick and choose the topic to their liking) are likely to make the difference to win majorities. Everyone who aims to contribute to the EP's decision-making process by presenting evidence to MEPs will have to engage with a much bigger number of MEPs. This will impact also the policy support activities of EFI.

The more fragmented composition of the EP will lead to changing majorities on new legislation supporting European Green Deal policy objectives. Some of the recently approved legislative files would not be supported anymore. For example, it is very likely that the Nature Restoration Law would have been rejected given the new composition of the EP. If revisions are initiated in the first phase of the new term of the EP, some recently established legislation might be changed.

On 1 December, the new EC started its work. In the College of Commissioners, there is a bigger fragmentation regarding political families and policy areas than in the previous term, albeit with strong representation of commissioners (and the President) from the EPP family. All Member States put forward one person for the Commission and most often the winning coalition or the stronger government party has a bigger say in who this person is. Given that in the more recent past member country governments have experienced a swing to the right, the new commissioners are a direct representation of this. Several portfolios have been restructured to better address strategic priorities with their greater emphasis on economy and industry, security and defence, and competitiveness. This restructuring of portfolios also goes hand in hand with the new set of main priorities and clearly differs from the von der Leyen I Commission. In general, there are many cross-cutting themes and overlaps between the portfolios of commissioners. It remains to be seen how this structure of portfolios will impact the decision-making processes in the Commission, who will have the authority to take particular policies forward and how trade-offs and synergies between portfolios will be addressed during the next years.

The political guidelines of President von der Leyen and the mission letters for all Commissioners strongly aim to make the EU more competitive on the global stage and to foster strategic autonomy. This will impact the speed and ambitions to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal that still remains valid. The global set-up including the change of presidency in the US will clearly also take its toll on setting the Commission's priority including on trade. The analysis of mission letters for 21 of the 26 members of the new College revealed that the terms "forest(s)", "forestry", "tree(s)", "timber" and "wood" are not mentioned at all. The term "bioeconomy", "biotechnology", "bio-based" and "biodiversity" are mentioned only a few times. In addition to the mission letters, all Commissioners-designate had to answer written questions by the EP and answer additional questions in their hearings in the EP committees. While in the mission letters, forest-related terms are not mentioned, they were addressed in the written questions and answers and in particular during the hearings, mainly with the Commissioners-designate for Agriculture and Environment. In the hearings, bioeconomy and biotech were addressed also by several other Commissioners-designate.

The 21 mission letters analysed announce more than 70 new legally binding and non-legally binding initiatives that are of potential relevance for the forest-based sector and/or for EFI. They address quite different topics, ranging from bioeconomy to water resilience to a new Strategy for European Life Science to a new Pact for the Mediterranean. These initiatives will not be of the same level of relevance for forestry, the forest-based bioeconomy, and the work of EFI. Therefore, policy initiatives with high relevance may be selected and monitored more closely to prepare for the provision of specific insights and specific engagements in the future.

In the EU, the forest resource base, the industrial power and the innovation capacity of the forest-based sector offer a high potential to become a central pillar of the post-fossil economy. But this role needs to be supported in a new policy cycle. Here are a few examples to showcase these ideas:

- Bioeconomy, biotech and biobased materials are explicitly addressed in the strategic agendas and the mission letters.

- The update of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy will be under the responsibility of the Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy. In her very diverse portfolio, this Commissioner is also responsible for the enforcement and implementation of existing legislation related to the environment and biodiversity, and several other nature-oriented objectives.
- Furthermore, there will be ambitious 2040 GHG reduction goals that will affect the LULUCF sector, and forests in particular. Meeting the sink capacity that was originally planned will be quite difficult, given that forests are also under constant threat from pests, diseases and disturbances due to climate change and global warming.

Therefore, it is not clear at this moment what specific contributions the forest-based sector will be able and asked to provide to the foreseen industrial transition, the circular bioeconomy, and the increased competitiveness of the EU in view of the climate and biodiversity related goals that are also part of agendas and mission letters or enshrined in already existing legislation.

One important objective for the new EU policy cycle is simplification. In all the mission letters, under the main topic “Making Europe simpler and faster”, President von der Leyen requests each Commissioner to contribute to reducing administrative burdens and simplifying legislation.

- This should be done in a close dialogue with stakeholders, including two implementation dialogues every year. With 26 commissioners, this would result in 52 dialogues, one per week on average. These dialogues might benefit from the science-based evidence that could be provided by EFI and its Associate Members when addressing forest-based sector-relevant processes.
- Reporting obligations stipulated by EU legislation should be reduced by at least 25% and for SMEs by 35%. This raises the question on the type of data used to measure the 25% or 35% reductions. It also raises the question of the setting of a baseline (e.g. before the EUDR or only afterwards coming into force).

The cumulative impact assessment proposed in chapter 5.3 could provide helpful data for monitoring the reduction progress.

By end of 2024, there were many new office holders in the EU policy-making institutions who follow strategic priorities different from those that guided decisions in the previous term. Their understanding of forests and the forest-based sector will vary remarkably. To enable them to perform sound decision-making, solid information and evidence on the complexity, diversity and long timeframes of forest issues and of the forest-based circular bioeconomy will be needed to support proper assessment of the implications of new legislation and strategies.

Informing, raising awareness, disseminating and communicating evidence-based information to the new EP, EC and Council members on the multiple roles forests play for EU society will continue to be important, especially in the first phase of the new term. This offers various opportunities for EFI, in particular its Policy Support Facility, to help empower EU policy-makers in establishing a framework that enables the forest-based sectors to contribute to the new policy objectives in the strongest way possible. Last but not least, reinforcing a trustful relationship, facilitating dialogue between members of all three institutions and supporting the overcoming of the polarisation between protection and use of forests will remain an important task for the future decision-making process in the EU including for policy support at EFI.

Annex to Chapter 5 – Recent EU legislation and strategies

(selection of policy initiatives relevant for the forest-based sector)

Year	Recent Legislation and Policy in Force	
	Legislative	Non-Legislative
2019	Plant Health Delegated and Implementing Regulations Taxonomy Regulation	EU Action Plan on Protecting and Restoring the World's Forests
2020	Plant Health Delegated and Implementing Regulations	A New Industrial Strategy for Europe
	2030 Climate Target Plan	New Circular Economy Action Plan
	Delegated Regulation on Forest Reference Levels	A Farm to Fork Strategy
	Implementing Regulation on Green House Gas Reporting	Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
	CAP Transitional Provisions	A Renovation Wave for Europe
2021	Horizon Europe	New EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
	European Climate Law	Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy
	Amending the Aarhus Regulation (better access to justice)	A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas
	Civil Protection Mechanism	New EU Forest Strategy for 2030
	CAP Horizontal Regulation	New European Bauhaus
	CAP Strategic Plan Regulation	Soil Strategy for 2030
	Taxonomy Delegated Act on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	Restoring Sustainable Carbon Cycles (incl. Carbon Farming Initiative)
	Taxonomy Delegated Act on Disclosure	
	LIFE Regulation	
LIFE Multiannual Work Programme 2021-2024		
2022	Vertical Block Exemption Regulation ('VBER') accompanied by the new Vertical Guidelines	Sustainable Products Policy Initiative
	General Union Environment Action Programme to 2030	Strategy on Sustainable Textiles
	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive	Bioeconomy Strategy Progress Report and Re-framing within the new Context
	Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2023-2024	European Parliament Resolution on Illegal Logging in the EU
	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive	Policy Framework on Biobased, Biodegradable and Compostable Plastics
	Implementing Regulation on Integrated National Energy and Climate Progress Reporting	
2023	State aid – exemptions for small amounts of aid (de minimis aid) (update)	
	Revision of the LULUCF Regulation	A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age
	Revision of the Effort Sharing Regulation	Ensuring resilient and sustainable use of EU's natural resources
	Regulation on Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism	Revision of the EU Pollinators Initiative - A new deal for pollinators
	Regulation on Social Climate Fund	
	Regulation on Deforestation and Forest Degradation	
2024	Revision of the Renewable Energy Directive linked to REPowerEU	
	Directive on Improving Environmental Protection through Criminal Law	Towards an ambitious Industrial Carbon Management for the EU
	Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive	Securing our future - Europe's 2040 climate target
	Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation	Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership
	Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence	Managing Climate Risks
	Regulation on Nature Restoration (Restoration Law)	Building the future with nature: Boosting Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing in the EU
	Regulation on Introducing new Environmental Economic Account Modules	The Clean Transition Dialogues - stocktaking - A strong European industry for a sustainable Europe
	Regulation on Carbon Removal Certification	
	Revision Plant Health Regulation	
	New Regulation on Construction Products	
Regulation on Deforestation and Forest Degradation - Postponement		
Co-Legislators currently working on Legislative Proposals from the European Commission		
	Regulation on European Green Bonds	
	Revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directive	
	Update of EU Rules on Sustainable Use of Pesticides	
	Review of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive	
2023	Green Claims Directive	
2023	Taxonomy Delegated Acts on 4 Environmental Objectives and amending Climate Change	
2023	Directive on Soil Monitoring and Resilience	
2023	Regulation on the production and marketing of forest reproductive material	
2023	Regulation on plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques	
2023	Directive on Textile Waste	
2023	Delegated Regulation on Sustainability Reporting Standards	
2023	Regulation on a monitoring framework for resilient European Forests	
2023	Decision amending Council Decision on setting up a Standing Forestry Committee	

6. Conclusions

The year 2024 was the 4th year of operation of the new cycle of Trust Fund (2021-2025). Two ThinkForest webinars with a high number of participants, one in-person ThinkForest event with exciting and lively and high-level panel discussions and a closed ThinkForest event with forest and environmental attaches were organised with the financial support of the Policy Support Trust Fund in the past year.

Two new editions of "From Science to Policy" were released and made accessible online. One explores an EU Taxonomy that sets minimum requirements for biodiversity conservation in forest-related investments (*'Sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria'* - FSTP 16) and the other one examines forest management practices that enhance carbon sequestration and storage in European forests (*'Carbon farming in the European forestry sector'* - FSTP 17). In addition, four Policy Briefs were published, so the EFI Policy Brief series contain 11 editions by end of 2024. These briefs addressed diverse topics within the scope of EFI's scientific work. An assessment of all forest-related policy targets in the EU legislation and strategies was performed. The mapping results are planned to be made available in Q2 in 2025.

All of this coupled with the continual rise in streams and downloads, underscores the sustained significance and demand for interdisciplinary forest-related studies that speak to policy-makers' demands as well as the well maintained high-level science-policy platform at the European level to engage in dialogue and exchange between decision-makers and scientists. New ways to communicate at the science-policy interface with new products that can reach out to again larger audiences, but also support policy-makers and scientists will be launched in 2025 (what is series). Ambitions and work to enlarge the number of countries have continued throughout 2024 and will be pursued further during 2025. The dialogue, both during bilateral and joint meetings, with Trust Fund member countries to learn about country priorities was further intensified during 2024.

Annexes

Table 2: Online statistics

Table 3: Number of ThinkForest participants according to background

Table 4: Stakeholder follow-up articles related to events and publications

Table 5: Media coverage

Table 6: Publication citations

Table 2: Online statistics

Publication statistics

The electronic copies of these studies again proved very popular. Included in the table below are details of downloads of all major Trust Fund publications produced to date (2015 onwards) from the EFI website. This is of course a snapshot of one segment of usage, as the publications are also available in e.g., ResearchGate, authors' institutional repositories, organisations' own libraries etc.

Limited copies of From Science to Policy publications were printed in 2024 for use at events in Brussels.

*Electronic copies downloaded: Google analytics tracks the numbers of visitors who go to a page on the EFI website, and then download the publication. These numbers do not include direct downloads from the EFI website server, downloads from ResearchGate, authors' institutional repositories, organisations' own libraries etc.

DOI resolutions: shows the number of people who have clicked on the DOI address for a publication, such as <https://doi.org/10.36333/fs11>

Title	Publication date	No of electronic copies downloaded 2024*	DOI resolutions 2024	Lifetime copies downloaded
FSTP17 (Carbon farming)	Oct 2024	824	2212	824
FSTP16 (Sustainable finance)	May 2024	874	1610	874
PB11 (Prestoration)	Dec 2024	196	644	196
PB10 (Carbon farming) (EN, IT)	Nov 2024	83	311	83
PB9 (Health & urban forests) (EN, IT)	Jul 2024	301	810	301
PB8 (Ecosystem services)	May 2024	413	683	413
FSTP15 (EU forest strategy goals)	Sept 2023	265	587	703
PB7 (Soils)	May 2023	169	233	484
PB6 (Wood buildings)	Apr 2023	58	45	198
PB5 (Wood-based textiles)	Apr 2023	30	106	112
PB4 (Forest disturbances)	Mar 2023	109	370	309
K2A06 (Wood-based textiles & modern wood buildings)	Jan 2023	96	427	557
PB3 (Forest ecosystem services)	Jan 2023	75	143	411

PB2 (Forests and wood use to reach climate goals), (EN, ES, DE, FR, IT)	Sept 2022	58	268	861
FSTP14 (Climate change mitigation potential)	Sept 2022	239	835	1,819
PB1 (Forest biodiversity in Europe) (EN, ES, DE, FR, IT)	Aug 2022	100	485	851
FSTP13 (Forest biodiversity in Europe)	May 2022	336	864	2,472
K2A04 (Forest questions)	Mar 2021	178	256	2,930
FSTP11 (China-Europe bioeconomy)	Dec 2020	9	164	424
K2A03 (Public perception)	Oct 2020	70	418	857
FSTP10 (Forest governance)	April 2020	67	347	1,012
FSTP9 (Plantation forests)	Dec 2019	53	474	916
FSTP8 (Bark beetles) (EN, CZ)	Apr 2019	190	491	5,783
FSTP7 (Substitution effects of wood-based products)	Nov 2018	96	818	5,556
FSTP6 (Climate-Smart Forestry)	Mar 2018	176	258	4,243
WSCTU8 (Forest-based bioeconomy), plus Summary	Dec 2017	60	n/a	8,809
FSTP5 (Circular bioeconomy) (EN, CN, RU)	Oct 2017	39	295	7,588
FSTP5 Summaries (EN, FR, DE, IT, ES, CN, RU)	Nov 2017-Apr 18	0	n/a	4,067
WSCTU7 (Natura 2000) plus Summary	Sept 2017	39	n/a	4,400
FSTP 4 (Forest bioeconomy indicators)	Nov 2016	23	152	8,466
FSTP 3 (Forest biomass, carbon neutrality)	Oct 2016	58	219	17,604
FSTP 2 (A new role for forests)	Dec 2015	74	163	11,937
FSTP 1 (EUTR-FLEGT)	Apr 2015	16	55	8,892

Policy support mailings and event invitations

Several policy support-related mailings were sent in 2024, relating to publications and events.

Mailings	Number of subscribers	% open	Click on links in message
EFI Policy Support Highlights: New report on carbon farming in the European forestry sector, 16.10.2024	1,164	43.1%	11.2%
EFI Policy Support Highlights: What do we know about carbon farming in European forests? 16.10.2024	1,155	40.1%	15.4%
EFI Policy Support Highlights: Ask a Scientist, Sustainable Finance & Forest Biodiversity, 11.9.2024	1,155	38.1%	9.3%
EFI Policy Support Highlights: New report on sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria, 14.05.2024	1,146	40.0%	8.6%
EFI Policy Support Highlights: Webinar - Sustainable Finance, Forests & Biodiversity, 29.04.2024	1,145	44.0%	13.7%

Social media channels

By the end of 2024, the EFI X (formerly Twitter) account had 14,796. This represents an increase of 23 new followers during 2024. EFI's subchannels (@efiresilience, @efigovernance, @efimedfacility, @efibioregions, @EFIPartnerships, @EFIForestPolicy) were also used where appropriate to multiply the messages.

Due to the decline of engagement on X, during 2024, increasing use was made of the EFI Linked In channel (32,778 followers) to share policy support information.

Videos

Three policy support videos were published on the EFI YouTube channel in 2023:

Video	Published	Recording views 2024
ThinkForest webinar, Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity	30.04.2024	648
ThinkForest Ask a Scientist webinar, Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity	13.09.2024	130

ThinkForest seminar recording, What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?	22.10.2024	189
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Website

Web pages	Page views 2024	Page views 2023	Unique visitors 2024	Unique visitors 2023
Policy support main landing page (policysupport/)	1,269	1,022	911	679
Our work (policysupport/ourwork)	215	326	136	209
ThinkForest (policysupport/thinkforest/) plus subpages	4,399	7,360	2,917	4,481

Both page views and unique visitor numbers for the general policy support and ThinkForest pages tend to depend on activities during the year (ie showing peaks when publications are published, or in the run-up to events). The general trend is still for people to first engage on social media or the event registration page, rather than on the EFI website.

In 2021, a dedicated sub-site was made available on the EFI website for materials from the *Key questions on forests in the EU* report. This has been further expanded with additional questions from 2022 onwards.

Web pages	Page views 2024	Page views 2023	Page views 2022
Forest questions (/forest questions) plus subpages	24,854	23,075	19,978

Table 3 Number of ThinkForest and other participants according to background

Table 3.1 ThinkForest webinar: Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity

Participant background (registered participants*)	ThinkForest webinar: Sustainable Finance, Forests and Biodiversity
European Parliament	-
European Commission	6
Council of the EU	-
Ministry/ embassy	38
Forest industry	51
Forest owner	26
NGO	61
Research/ university	195
Other (e.g. international org. incl. EFI)	EFI 9 Other 84
Media	4
TOTAL	474*

*474 participants registered to the webinar.

Table 3.2 ThinkForest Ask a Scientist webinar: Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity

Participant background (registered participants*)	ThinkForest Ask a Scientist webinar: Sustainable Finance and Forest Biodiversity
European Parliament	-
European Commission	6
Council of the EU	-
Ministries	19
Forest industry	30
Forest owner	16
NGO	57
Research/ University	92
Other (e.g. international org. incl. EFI)	EFI 11 Other 94

Media	3
TOTAL	328*

*328 participants registered to the webinar.

Table 3.3 ThinkForest event: What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?

Participant background (signed up participants*)	ThinkForest event: What do we know about carbon farming in European forests?
European Parliament	-
European Commission	10
Council of the EU	-
Embassy or Permanent Representation	8
Ministries	4
Forest industry	4
Forest owner	7
NGO	6
Research/ University	10
Other (e.g. international org. incl. EFI)	EFI 5 Other 7
Media	1
TOTAL	62*

*62 participants who signed up at the in-person event.

Table 4: Follow-up articles by stakeholders related to events and publications

Carbon farming in the European forestry sector: Publication (FSTP) and ThinkForest event		
Publisher / Stakeholder	Specified, article name	Link
www.notre-environnement.gouv.fr	Favoriser les pratiques de gestion améliorant le rôle de puits de carbone des forêts européennes	https://www.notre-environnement.gouv.fr/donnees-et-ressources/ressources/publications/article/favoriser-les-pratiques-de-gestion-ameliorant-le-role-de-puits-de-carbone-des

INRAE (FR)	Favoriser les pratiques de gestion améliorant le rôle de puits de carbone des forêts européennes	https://www.inrae.fr/actualites/favoriser-pratiques-gestion-ameliorant-role-puits-carbone-forets-europeennes
INRAE (EN)	Encouraging forest management practices to increase European carbon sink capacity	https://www.inrae.fr/en/news/encouraging-forest-management-practices-increase-european-carbon-sink-capacity
University of Ljubljana (SI)	BF soavtorica novega evropskega poročila o trajnostnem gospodarjenju z gozdovi v Evropi	https://www.bf.uni-lj.si/sl/izpostavljenavsebinske/2024101609240238/bf-soavtorica-novega-evropskega-porocila-o-trajnostnem-gospodarjenju-z-gozdovi-v-evropi/
Latvian Forest (LV)	Oglekļa apsaimniekošana Eiropas meža nozarē	https://www.lmsp.lv/oglekļa-apsaimniekosana-eiropas-meza-nozare
CSIC (ES)	Invertir en resiliencia forestal: esencial para cumplir con los objetivos europeos de neutralidad climática en el 2050, según un nuevo informe	https://www.csic.es/es/actualidad-del-csic/invertir-en-resiliencia-forestal-esencial-para-cumplir-con-los-objetivos-europeos-de-neutralidad-climatica-en-el-2050-segun-un-nuevo-informe
Florestas (PT)	Cultivo de carbono florestal: reservatórios e créditos mais robustos	https://florestas.pt/noticias-e-agenda/cultivo-de-carbono-florestal-reservatorios-e-creditos-mais-robustos/
Hiilikompensaatio Info (Luke) (FI)	Uusi raportti: Kestävä metsänhoito etusijalle	https://hiilikompensaatioinfo.fi/uusi-raportti-kestava-metsanhoito-etusijalle/
Sherwood (IT)	Pillole forestali dall'Italia #46 - Conferenze internazionali, tecnologie innovative e altre notizie di ottobre	https://www.rivistasherwood.it/t/pillole-forestali/pillole-italia-46.html
DGB Group	Mediterranean nations lead EU in forest carbon capture potential	https://www.green.earth/news/mediterranean-nations-lead-eu-in-forest-carbon-capture-potential
CREA (IT)	Foreste e carbon farming: sfide e opportunità future per il settore	https://www.crea.gov.it/-/foreste-e-carbon-farming-sfide-e-opportunit%C3%A0-future

Table 5: Media coverage related to events and publications

Carbon farming in the European forestry sector: Publication (FSTP) and ThinkForest event		
Article	Publication	Link
October 2024	Politico EU newsletter	n/a
New report on carbon farming in the European forestry sector	Renewable Carbon News	https://renewable-carbon.eu/news/new-report-on-carbon-farming-in-the-european-forestry-sector/
Experts warn against relaxing EU's anti-deforestation regulation	Carbon Pulse	https://carbon-pulse.com/330171/
EU must ditch 'short-term profit' forestry practices to meet climate goals, report warns	ENDS Europe	https://www.endseurope.com/article/1892550/eu-ditch-short-term-profit-forestry-practices-meet-climate-goals-report-warns
Kai Mykkänen on Finland's green goals and its greatest challenges	ENDS Europe	https://www.endseurope.com/article/1893431/kai-mykkanen-finlands-green-goals-its-greatest-challenges
Metsänomistajille pitää saada taloudelliset kannustimet hiilensidonnan lisäämiseen	Maaseudun Tuulevaisuus (FI)	https://www.maaseuduntulevaisuus.fi/metsa/b73f01d6-5a85-475b-80ce-fdfae4af2e2c
Tutkimus: Metsänomistajille pitää saada taloudelliset kannustimet hiilensidonnan lisäämiseen	Tietopankki (FI)	https://tietopankki.cnet.fi/fi/uutiset/tutkimus-metsanomistajille-pitaa-saada-taloudelliset-kannustimet-hiilensidonnan-lisaamiseen/
Favoriser les pratiques de gestion améliorant le rôle de puits de carbone des forêts européennes	La Gazette du Laboratoire (FR)	https://www.gazettelabo.fr/breves/16358puits-carbone-forets.html
La importancia de invertir en resiliencia forestal	Ecoticias (ES)	https://www.ecoticias.com/sostenibilidad/resiliencia-forestal
Resiliencia forestal: esencial para cumplir con los objetivos europeos de neutralidad climática	novaciencia.es (ES)	https://novaciencia.es/resiliencia-forestal-esencial-para-cumplir-con-los-objetivos-europeos-de-neutralidad-climatica/
Instituto EFI pide nuevo sistema de créditos carbono para proteger bosques a largo plazo	EFE (ES)	https://efs.efeservicios.com/en/texto/instituto-efi-pide-sistema-creditos-carbono-protoger-bosques-largo-plazo/55015024963
Piden incentivar a los dueños de los bosques para elevar su resiliencia en lugar de apostar por créditos de CO2	EFE Verde (ES)	https://efeverde.com/piden-incentivar-duenos-bosques-para-elevar-su-resiliencia-en-lugar-apostar-por-creditos-co2/
Invertir en resiliencia forestal: Clave para la neutralidad climática de la UE en 2050	Ambientum (ES)	https://www.ambientum.com/ambientum/medio-natural/resiliencia-forestal-ahorro-energetico-la-clave-para-reducir-el-impacto-ambiental-este-21-de-octubre.asp
Instituto EFI pide nuevo sistema de créditos carbono para proteger bosques a largo plazo	Infobae (ES)	https://www.infobae.com/america/agencias/2024/10/21/instituto-efi-pide-

		nuevo-sistema-de-creditos-carbono-para-proteger-bosques-a-largo-plazo/
Invertir en resiliencia forestal: esencial para cumplir con los objetivos europeos de neutralidad climática en el 2050, según un nuevo informe	buenasnoticias.es (ES)	https://buenasnoticias.es/2024/10/21/invertir-en-resiliencia-forestal-esencial-para-cumplir-con-los-objetivos-europeos-de-neutralidad-climatica-en-el-2050-segun-un-nuevo-informe/
Invertir para salvar a la naturaleza	Ecobiz (ES)	https://ecobiz.com.ar/nota/399-Invertir-para-salvar-a-la-naturaleza
Instituto EFI pide nuevo sistema de créditos carbono para proteger bosques a largo plazo	ABC.com.py (PT)	https://www.abc.com.py/internacionales/2024/10/21/instituto-efi-pide-nuevo-sistema-de-creditos-carbono-para-proteger-bosques-a-largo-plazo/
Instituto EFI pide nuevo sistema de créditos carbono para proteger bosques a largo plazo	Swissinfo (CH)	https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/instituto-efi-pide-nuevo-sistema-de-creditos-carbono-para-proteger-bosques-a-largo-plazo/87771209
Poročilo o trajnostnem gospodarjenju z gozdovi v Evropi	CNVOS (SI)	https://www.cnvos.si/aktualno/10657/porocilo-o-trajnostnem-gospodarjenju-z-gozdovi-v-evropi/
South EU nations hold biggest potential for afforestation in region: paper	Quantum intelligence commodity	https://www.qcintel.com/carbon/article/south-eu-nations-hold-biggest-potential-for-afforestation-in-region-paper-30909.html
Forest questions		
Article	Publication	Link
Satellite imagery identifies concerning phenomenon occurring in forests around the world — here's what experts are saying	Yahoo News!	https://www.yahoo.com/news/satellite-imagery-identifies-concerning-phenomenon-101538015.html?guccounter=1

Table 6 Publication citations

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<p>Policymakers since publication</p>		
<p>European Parliament. Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs Directorate-General for Internal Policies. November 2021</p>	<p>Internal and external dimension of illegal logging: legal issues and solutions</p>	<p>https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/700009/IPOL_STU(2021)700009_EN.pdf</p>
<p>European Environment Agency Report No 5/2016 (Published 29.04.2016)</p>	<p>European forest ecosystems - State and trends</p>	<p>http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-forest-ecosystems</p>
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From Science to Policy 2: A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets
 Published 1 December 2015
<https://doi.org/10.36333/fs02>

Citations 2024

9 citations in academic journals and 1 book in 2024. Journals included Sustainability, and Journal of Environmental Management.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&sciodt=0,5&cites=6450676439301988647&scipsc=

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Grafton, R., et al. (2021). OECD Environment Working Papers, No. 185, OECD Publishing, Paris	A global analysis of the cost-efficiency of forest carbon sequestration	https://doi.org/10.1787/e4d45973-en
European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) policy report 32, April 2017	Multi-functionality and sustainability in the European Union's forests	http://www.easac.eu/fileadmin/PDF_s/reports_statements/Forests/EASAC_Forests_web_complete.pdf
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Alterra "Contribution of Forests to Climate Change Mitigation", EUSTAFOR/EP Intergroup seminar, European Parliament 24.01.2017	"Forests & Climate: The impact of forests and forestry on the EU Climate and Energy policy"	http://ebcd.org/event/forests-climate-impact-forests-forestry-eu-climate-energy-policy
Staatsbosbeheer, Netherlands (Published 10.2016)	Actieplan bos en hout	https://www.staatsbosbeheer.nl/~media/09-nieuws/actieplan_bos_en_hout.pdf?la=nl-nl
Marcus Lindner, EFI "Landwirtschaft und Umwelt": Wege für mehr Klimaschutz, BMEL, Berlin. 13.12.2016		http://www.bmel.de/DE/Landwirtschaft/Nachhaltige-Landnutzung/Klimawandel/_Texte/FachtagungKlimaschutzgutachten.html
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Rupert Oliver, Forest Industries Intelligence	Cited in: Overview of European wood market	https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetin

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European Environmental Bureau	Benefits of a Forest Monitoring Law	https://eeb.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Benefits-of-FML_FINAL.pdf

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<p>International Energy Agency Bioenergy</p>	<p>Technology Roadmap: Delivering Sustainable Bioenergy</p>	<p>http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/Technology_Roadmap_Delivering_Sustainable_Bioenergy.pdf</p>
<p>John M Bryden, Nicholas Clarke, Anders C Hansen, et al. NORDREGIO Policy brief 2017:3, published May 2017</p>	<p>Bioenergy and rural development in Europe: Policy recommendations from the TRIBORN research and stakeholder consultations, 2014-17</p>	<p>http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1095928/FULLTEXT01.pdf</p>
<p>European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) policy report 32, April 2017</p>	<p>Multi-functionality and sustainability in the European Union's forests</p>	<p>http://www.easac.eu/fileadmin/PDFs/reports/statements/Forests/EASAC_Forests_web_complete.pdf</p>
<p>European Environment Agency Report No 30/2016 (Published 09.12.2016)</p>	<p>Environmental indicator report 2016 – In support to the monitoring of the 7th Environment Action Programme</p>	<p>http://www.eea.europa.eu/airs/2016/natural-capital/forest-utilisation</p>
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Göran Berndes, EU Bioenergy Sustainability Policy –seminar, Finnish Permanent Representation in Brussels, 07.10.2016	Bioenergy and its impact on greenhouse gas mitigation – science and policy implications	http://tem.fi/en/eu-bioenergy-sustainability-policy

From Science to Policy 4: Forest bioeconomy – a new scope for sustainability indicators

Published 15 November 2016

Citations 2024

8 citations in academic journals and books in 2024, including Forest Policy and Economics, Industry and Innovation, and Industrial Crops and Products.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=1275407427355107783&scipsc=

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FAO and UNECE. ECE/TIM/SP/49 Forestry and Timber Section, Geneva, Switzerland	Circularity concepts in forest-based industries. GENEVA TIMBER AND FOREST STUDY PAPER 49	https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Circularity%20concepts%20in%20forest-based%20industries%20ECE_TIM_SP_49.pdf
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European Commission, 2021	Science for Environment Policy Future Brief 25: European Forests for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/issue-25-2021-11-european-forests-for-biodiversity-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation.pdf
José A. Vega, Stéfano Arellano-Pérez, Cristina Fernández, et al. Consellería do Medio Rural, Xunta de Galicia	OS INCENDIOS FORESTAIS DO CAMBIO GLOBAL XA ESTÁN AQUÍ. UN DESAFÍO E UNHA OCASIÓN PARA LOGRAR UNHA RESPOSTA SOCIAL CONSENSUADA	https://doi.org/10.17075/unxl.2021.002

Technical Paper prepared for IEA Bioenergy Task 45 and the Global Bioenergy Partnership (GBEP) Task Force on Sustainability	Sustainability governance of bioenergy and the broader bioeconomy	http://www.globalbioenergy.org/fileadmin/user_upload/gbep/docs/TFS/Bioeconomy/IINAS_2021_Sustainability_governance_of_bioenergy_and_bioeconomy_-_final.pdf
COFORD Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Sept 2017	Growing the Irish Forest Bioeconomy	http://www.coford.ie/media/coford/content/publications/cofordarticles/COFORDBioeconomyReport290917.pdf
Stakeholders 2024		
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From Science to Policy 5: Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy

Published 31 October 2017

Citations 2024

22 citations in a wide range of academic journals and reports in 2024, including Environmental Development, Cleaner and Circular Bioeconomy, Journal of Science and Policy Technology Policy Management.

Full citation list:

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Forestry Ministerial Advisory Group, New Zealand	Strategic rationale for a bio-pilot plant hub for New Zealand	https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/34011-strategic-rationale-for-a-bio-pilot-plant-hub-for-new-zealand
OECD Observer / OCDE L'Observateur	Why Finland's running circles around us / Les cercles vertueux de la Finlande	http://oecdobserver.org/news/fullstory.php/aid/6155/Why_Finland_92s_running_circles_around_us.html
Lauri Hetemäki. In: The forest industry around the Baltic Sea region: Future challenges and opportunities. Centrum Balticum, BSR Policy Briefing series, 1/2020	The outlook for Nordic-Baltic forest bioeconomy to 2030,	https://www.centrumbalticum.org/files/4638/BSR_Policy_Briefing_2020.pdf#page=14
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Valentina Elena TÂRȚIU, Mihaela ȘTEFĂNESCU, Ana-Maria PETRACHE, Cătălin Răzvan GURĂU. Institutul European din România	Tranziția către o economie circulară. De la managementul deșeurilor la o economie verde în România	http://ier.gov.ro/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Final_Studiul-3_Spos-2018_Economie-circulară-1.pdf
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Varho, Vilja; Rautiainen, Aapo; Peltonen, Mikko; Niemi, Jyrki; Ovaska, Ulla. Publications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Finland) 2018	Biopaths to Carbon Neutrality	http://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/160591
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Citations 2024

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Full citation list:

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Bart Strengers and Hans Elzenga. PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency	Availability and applications of sustainable biomass. Report on a search for shared facts and views.	https://www.pbl.nl/sites/default/files/downloads/pbl-2020-availability-and-applications-of-sustainable-biomass-report-on-a-search-for-shared-facts-and-views_4205.pdf
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From Science to Policy 7: Substitution effects of wood-based products in climate change mitigation

Published 28 November 2018

Citations 2024

57 citations in a wide range of academic journals, reports and books in 2024, including Global Change Biology, International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment, and Global and Planetary Change.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=10352444947082714643&scipsc=

Policymakers since publication

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European Environment Agency, EEA Report No 8/2023	The European biomass puzzle	https://doi.org/10.2800/834565
Verkerk, P.J., Hassegawa, M., Van Brusselen, J., et al. FAO	Forest Products in the Global Bioeconomy: Enabling substitution by wood-based products and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals	https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7274en
European Commission, 2021	Science for Environment Policy Future Brief 25: European Forests for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/issue-25-2021-11-european-forests-for-biodiversity-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation.pdf
World Economic Forum	The Future of Nature and Business Policy Companion: Recommendations for policy-makers to reset towards a new nature economy	https://www.weforum.org/reports/the-future-of-nature-and-business-policy-companion
UNECE/FAO	Geneva Timber and Forest Study Paper 51: FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDY 2020-2040	https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/SP-51-2021-11_0.pdf
Jonsson, Ragnar; Robert, Nicolas; Grassi, Giacomo et al. Joint Research Centre (European Commission)	The use of woody biomass for energy production in the EU	https://doi.org/10.2760/831621
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Sustainable Forest-based Industries. February 2021.		0e38ca10d38e2365e0080eb0e00dd3a41d.pdf
Grassi, G., Fiorese, G., Pilli, R., Jonsson, K., Blujdea, V., Korosuo, A. and Vizzarri, M. European Commission, 2021, JRC124374. Sanchez Lopez, J., Jasinevičius, G. and Avraamides, M. editor(s)	Brief on the role of the forest-based bioeconomy in mitigating climate change through carbon storage and material substitution	https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC124374/brief_on_role_of_forest-based_bioeconomy_in_mitigating_cc_online.pdf
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UNECE, February 2019	UNECE/FAO Timber Section Forest Sector Outlook Studies III background paper: Selected Scenarios and Preliminary Results	http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/2019/20190214/Paper-Nepal-Prestemon-2019-FSOS-BGD.pdf
Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs, Quebec	Rapport, Groupe de travail sur la forêt et les changements climatiques (GTFCC)	https://mffp.gouv.qc.ca/documents/forets/Rapport_fina_l_GTFCC.pdf
Henrik Välja The forest industry around the Baltic Sea region: Future challenges and opportunities. Centrum Balticum, BSR Policy Briefing series, 1/2020	Breakthrough or digression of forest industries: Challenges and potentials of future.	https://www.centrumbalticum.org/files/4638/BSR_Policy_Briefing_2020.pdf#page=69

From Science to Policy 8: Living with bark beetles: impacts, outlook and management options

Published 4 April 2019

Citations 2024

40 citations in a wide range of academic journals and reports in 2024, including Nature, Journal of Pest Science, and Molecular Biology and Evolution.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=11578630249762937581&scipsc=

Policymakers since publication

European Environment Agency	EEA Report No 8/2023, The European biomass puzzle	https://doi.org/10.2800/834565
Forest Europe	Policy brief: Managing bark beetle outbreaks in the 21 st century	https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Policy-brief-Managing-bark-beetle-outbreaks-in-the-21st-century.pdf
University of Ljubljana to Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	Strokovni predlog možnih ukrepov za preprečevanje širjenja podlubnikov iz gozdnih rezervatov v okoliške gospodarske gozdove (Expert proposal of possible measures to prevent the spread of beetles from forest reserves to the surrounding commercial forests)	https://repozitorij.uni-lj.si/Dokument.php?id=143996&lang=slv
European Commission, 2021	Science for Environment Policy Future Brief 25: European Forests for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/issue-25-2021-11-european-forests-for-biodiversity-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation.pdf
USNESENÍ VLÁDY ČESKÉ REPUBLIKY ze dne 17. února 2020 č. 116 RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC No. 116 of 17 February 2020	Koncepci státní lesnické politiky do roku 2035	http://www.silvarium.cz/sklad/Koncepce_2035.pdf
Regjeringen.no	Store barkbilleangrep i Sverige og Sentral-Europa	https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/store-barkbilleangrep-i-sverige-

		og-sentral-europa/id2689163/
Regjeringen.no	Insektskader fører til at skogen i Europa dør	https://www.regjeringen.no/aktuelt/insektskader-forer-til-at-skogen-i-europa-dor/id2640164/
Stakeholders 2024		
IUFRO World Series Volume 42. Vienna.	Europe's wood supply in disruptive times. An evidence-based synthesis report.	https://www.iufro.org/media/fileadmin/publications/world-series/ws42.pdf

From Science to Policy 9: Plantation forests in Europe: challenges and opportunities

Published 10 December 2019

Citations 2024

20 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Global Change Biology, Biodiversity and Conservation, and Forest Ecosystems.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&sciodt=0,5&cites=4628740354990524723&scipsc=

Policymakers since publication

Fintan Kelly, Coillte, Ireland	Environmental Pillar (2022) Coillte's Strategic Vision For Its Future Forest Estate	https://environmentalpillar.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Environmental-Pillar-2022-Coilltes-Strategic-Vision-For-Its-Future-Forest-Estate-Consultation.pdf
PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency. Stefan van der Esch, Annelies Sewell, Michel Bakkenes et al.	THE GLOBAL POTENTIAL FOR LAND RESTORATION: SCENARIOS FOR THE GLOBAL LAND OUTLOOK 2 Policy Report	https://www.pbl.nl/sites/default/files/downloads/pbl-2022-the-global-potential-for-land-restoration-glo2-4816.pdf
European Commission, 2021	Science for Environment Policy Future Brief 25: European Forests for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation	https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/issue-25-2021-11-european-forests-for-biodiversity-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation.pdf
UNECE/FAO	Geneva Timber and Forest Study Paper 51: FOREST SECTOR OUTLOOK STUDY 2020-2040	https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/SP-51-2021-11_0.pdf
Lauri Hetemäki Centrum Balticum, BSR Policy Briefing series, 1/2020: The forest industry around the Baltic Sea region: Future challenges and opportunities.	The outlook for Nordic-Baltic forest bioeconomy to 2030,	https://www.centrumbalticum.org/files/4638/BSR_Policy_Briefing_2020.pdf#page=14

From Science to Policy 10: European forest governance post-2020

Published 29 April 2020

Citations 2024

7 citations in academic journals and books in 2024, including Forest Policy and Economics, and Forest Science.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=10880911266287005965&scipsc=

Policymakers since publication

Jonsson, Ragnar; Robert, Nicolas; Grassi, Giacomo et al.
Joint Research Centre (European Commission).

The use of woody biomass for energy production in the EU

<https://doi.org/10.2760/831621>

Stakeholders 2024

IUFRO World Series Volume 43. Vienna.

International Forest Governance: A Critical Review of Trends, Drawbacks, and New Approaches

<https://www.iufro.org/media/fileadmin/publications/world-series/ws43.pdf>

IUFRO World Series Volume 42. Vienna.

Europe's wood supply in disruptive times. An evidence-based synthesis report.

<https://www.iufro.org/media/fileadmin/publications/world-series/ws42.pdf>

From Science to Policy 11: China-Europe forest bioeconomy: Assessment and outlook

Published 9 December 2020

Citations 2024

2 citations in academic journals in 2024 in Journal of Sustainability Research, and Forest Policy and Economics.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&sciodt=0,5&cites=14379295593957262874&scipsc=

Policymakers since publication

Verkerk, P.J., Hasegawa, M., Van Brusselen, J., et al. FAO, 2021

Forest Products in the Global Bioeconomy

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7274en>

From Science to Policy 12: Closer-to-Nature Forest Management

Published 8 April 2022

Citations 2024

40 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Nature Communications, and Global Change Biology.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=9963082216276042660&scipsc=

Policymakers since publication

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland	DAFM Policy and Strategic Studies Research Call (PSSRC) Call Specification April 2024	https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwim1Y7Wh-aKAXbFxAIHXINNJO4ChAWegQIFRAB&url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.gov.ie%2F290732%2Ffe72452d5-a533-4b8a-b8fe-1c6c2d45804b.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1tmD0NQChaclZRjBI_TVXI&opi=89978449
COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Guidelines on Closer-to-Nature Forest Management	Brussels, 27.7.2023 SWD(2023) 284 final	https://environment.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/SWD_2023_284_F1_STAFF_WORKING_PAPER_EN_V2_P1_2864149.PDF
European Environment Agency	The European biomass puzzle, EEA Report No 8/2023	https://doi.org/10.2800/834565
Stakeholders 2024		
Nova Scotia Forest Matters		https://nsforestmatters.ca/ns-triad/triad-lit
The Conversation	How we're breathing new life into French forests through green corridors	https://theconversation.com/how-were-breathing-new-life-into-french-forests-through-green-corridors-214010

From Science to Policy 13: Forest Biodiversity in Europe

Published 30 May 2022

Citations 2024

19 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Climate, Forest Ecology and Management, and Journal of Environmental Management.

Full list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cites=2985225936480163733&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&hl=en

Polymakers since publication

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT Guidelines on Closer-to-Nature Forest Management	Brussels, 27.7.2023 SWD(2023) 284 final	https://environment.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-07/SWD_2023_284_F1_STAFF_WORKING_PAPER_EN_V2_P1_2864149.PDF
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Stakeholders 2024

AFRY MANAGEMENT CONSULTING 2024	Substitution potential and climate impact in the EU forest value chain	https://afry.com/sites/default/files/2024-04/fam_executive_booklet_eng.pdf
IUFRO World Series Volume 43. Vienna.	International Forest Governance: A Critical Review of Trends, Drawbacks, and New Approaches	https://www.iufro.org/media/fileadmin/publications/world-series/ws43.pdf

From Science to Policy 14: Forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation in Europe

Published 20 September 2022

Citations 2024

26 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Climate Policy, and Forest Policy and Economics.

Full list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cites=6681286588585431114&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&hl=en

Policy makers since publication

Commission de l'économie du développement durable (CEDD)	Rapport particulier sur l'adaptation au changement climatique Février 2024	https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/publications/CEDD_Rapport_adaptation.pdf
„Capacity building courses for climate change adaptation of the forestry sector in the Republic of Moldova”	Contract 68/23PRR/11.09.2023 implementat de ONF International, în cadrul Proiectului de Reziliență Rurală (IFAD VII), implementat de Unitatea Consolidată pentru Implementarea Programelor IFAD (UCIP IFAD)	https://www.ucipifad.md/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Manual-pentru-personalul-silvic.pdf

From Science to Policy 15: Meeting the European Union’s Forest Strategy goals: A comparative European assessment

Published 26 September 2023

Citations 2024

9 citations in academic publications and reports in 2024, including Forests Monitor, and Trees, Forests and People.

Full list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cites=8325630032718298470&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&hl=en

Stakeholders 2024

Forest Declaration Assessment Partners	Summary for Policymakers: 2024 Forest Declaration Assessment. Climate Focus (coordinator and editor). Accessible at www.forestdeclaration.org .	https://forestdeclaration.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/2024SummaryforPolicymakers.pdf
IUFRO World Series Volume 43. Vienna.	International Forest Governance: A Critical Review of Trends, Drawbacks, and New Approaches	https://www.iufro.org/media/fileadmin/publications/world-series/ws43.pdf

From Science to Policy 16: Sustainable finance and forest biodiversity criteria

Published 13 May 2024

Citations 2024

3 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Forests Monitor.

Full list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?as_ylo=2024&hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=8082291373099333416&scipsc=

From Science to Policy 17: Carbon farming in the European forestry sector

Published 16 October 2024

Citations 2024

1 citation in academic journals and reports in 2024, in Trees, Forests and People.

Full list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cites=11704221751474187588&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&hl=en

Policymakers since publication

Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency

Analys av förutsättningarna
för EU:s medlemsländer att
klara sina 2030-åtaganden
under ESR- och
LULUCF-förordningarna

<https://www.naturvardsverket.se/4ac97a/contentassets/82ba32d8069a4e619c123f587c0aa197/nv-analys-av-ms-forutsattningar-att-klara-2030-ataganden-esr-och-lulucf-slutligv2.pdf>

What Science Can Tell Us 7: Natura 2000 and forests: Assessing the state of implementation and effectiveness

Published 27 September 2017

Citations 2024

4 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Forestry.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=12747159662510476992&scipsc=

Polymakers since publication

European Commission, 2021

Science for Environment Policy
Future Brief 25: European
Forests for biodiversity, climate
change mitigation and
adaptation

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/issue-25-2021-11-european-forests-for-biodiversity-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation.pdf>

What Science Can Tell Us 8: Towards a sustainable European forest-based bioeconomy – assessment and the way forward

Published 20 December 2017

Citations 2024

7 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Forests, and Small-Scale Forestry.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?oi=bibs&hl=en&cites=9816515102311536785&as_sdt=5

Policymakers since publication

<p>FAO and UNECE. ECE/TIM/SP/49 Forestry and Timber Section, Geneva, Switzerland</p>	<p>Circularity concepts in forest-based industries. GENEVA TIMBER AND FOREST STUDY PAPER 49</p>	<p>https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Circularity%20concepts%20in%20forest-based%20industries%20ECE_TIM_SP_49.pdf</p>
<p>European Commission, 2021</p>	<p>Science for Environment Policy Future Brief 25: European Forests for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation</p>	<p>https://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/issue-25-2021-11-european-forests-for-biodiversity-climate-change-mitigation-and-adaptation.pdf</p>
<p>International Labour Organization</p>	<p>Promoting decent work and safety and health in forestry. Report for discussion at the Sectoral Meeting on Promoting Decent Work and Safety and Health in Forestry (Geneva, 6–10 May 2019)</p>	<p>https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_dialogue/---sector/documents/meeting_document/wcms_679806.pdf</p>
<p>European Commission, October 2018</p>	<p>A sustainable bioeconomy for Europe: strengthening the connection between economy, society and the environment. Updated Bioeconomy Strategy.</p>	<p>https://ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/ec_bio_economy_strategy_2018.pdf#view=fit&pagenode=none</p>

Knowledge to Action 03: Public perceptions of forestry and the forest-based bioeconomy in the European Union

Published 27 October 2020

Citations 2024

9 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Forest Policy and Economics.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&cites=13814773726907538881&scipsc=

Policymakers since publication

Giuseppe Cardellini (VITO), Joren Mijnenonckx (VITO). ETC CM Report 2022/01, EEA	Synergies, energy efficiency and circularity in the renovation wave Bio-based products for the renovation wave	https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6530825
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Knowledge to Action 04: Key questions on forests in the EU

Published March 2021

Citations 2024

4 citations in academic journals and reports in 2024, including Environment International.

Full citation list:

https://scholar.google.com/scholar?cites=7736902567898264786&as_sdt=2005&scioldt=0,5&hl=en

Policymakers since publication

IPCC (Bednar-Friedl, B., R. Biesbroek, D.N. Schmidt et al.)	Europe. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_Chapter13.pdf
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland	Working Towards Ireland's Shared Vision for Forestry and a New Forest Strategy, Supporting Document	https://assets.gov.ie/219112/f734d9b3-9521-4608-9b34-f69846f14244.pdf
Swiss Federal Council / Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft	Adaptation de la forêt aux changements climatiques Rapport du Conseil fédéral donnant suite à la motion 19.4177 Engler (Hêche) du 25 septembre 2019 et au postulat 20.3750 Vara du 18 juin 2020	https://www.news.admin.ch/news/message/attachments/74213.pdf
Swiss Federal Council / Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft	Anpassung des Waldes an den Klimawandel. Bericht des Bundesrats in Erfüllung der Motion 19.4177 Engler (Hêche) vom 25.09.2019 und des Postulates 20.3750 Vara vom 18.06.2020	https://www.news.admin.ch/news/message/attachments/74194.pdf
Estonian Ministry of the Environment, 2021	Metsanduse arengukava 2030 Metsakasutuse kujunemine	https://envir.ee/media/4901/download
OSKA Coordination Council, Tallinn, 2021	OSKA TRENDIKAARDID: TÖÖJÕU- JA OSKUSTE VAJADUST MÕJUTAVAD TULEVIKUTRENDID 2030 LÜHIÜLEVAADE (Trend Maps: Future trends affecting labor and skill needs 2030)	https://oska.kutsekoda.ee/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/OSKA-trendikaardid_Lyhiylevaade.pdf

Grassi, G., Fiorese, G., Pilli, R., et al. European Commission, 2021, JRC124374. Sanchez Lopez, J., Jasinevičius, G. and Avraamides, M. editor(s)	Brief on the role of the forest-based bioeconomy in mitigating climate change through carbon storage and material substitution	https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/bitstream/JRC124374/brief_on_role_of_forest-based_bioeconomy_in_mitigating_cc_online.pdf
Anke Herold, Hannes Böttcher, Sabine Gores, et al. Öko-Institut	2030 Climate Target: Review of LULUCF Regulation Background paper for the workshop of the ENVI Committee on 25/05/2021	https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/233827/Background_paper_LULUCF_Regulation_2030_Climate_target.pdf
Petajoule podcast, 21.05.2021 Austrian Energy Agency	S03E05 Energie aus dem Wald: Auslaufmodell oder wichtiger Baustein der Klimaneutralität?	https://petajoule.podigee.io/32-energie-aus-dem-wald
EIP Agri Newsletter	Edition 96 November 2021	https://mailchi.mp/eip-agri/newsletter-on-agriculture-innovation-edition-96-nov2021?e=bfec7bb85a
Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació, Generalitat de Catalunya	Newsletter, ND0259/2021 Abril 2021	http://agricultura.gencat.cat/ca/departament/estadistiques/publicacions/butlletins/novetats-documentals/nd-0259-2021/

Knowledge to Action 06: Wood-based textiles & modern wood buildings

Published 31 January 2023

Citations 2024

1 citation in 2024 in academic journals, in Sustainability.

Full citation list: https://scholar.google.com/scholar?q=%22Wood-based+textiles+%26+modern+wood+buildings%22&hl=en&as_sdt=0,5



This Report has been compiled by Helga Pülzl (Assistant Director), Rach Colling (Head of Communications), Harald Mauser (Brussels Liaison Officer) and Shanqing Gao (Communications Officer), EFI