





Connecting knowledge to action

12 February 2021

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Connect with us:    

Dear Colleagues,

At EFI we are starting the year with fresh ideas and new initiatives to engage our network!

First of all, I would like to announce that a new grant of 200,000 EUR from the EFI Network Fund is now available to member organisations ([link](#)), to carry out a study on European forest monitoring. The study should synthesise existing scientific knowledge on different forest monitoring tools and approaches as well as reflect on why, what and how to build a robust and harmonized system for Europe. Last year, the state and development of European forests, including the trends in harvested areas and natural disturbances got substantial political attention in the context of the EU Green deal and the post-2020 EU Forest Strategy discussions. I believe that our study can make an important contribution towards a better-informed policy debate on forest monitoring in Europe.

The recently published [Dasgupta Review](#) on the economics of biodiversity has also sparked debate, with its call for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world. This is an issue which EFI and the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance have been talking about over the past year, for example in the [10-point Action Plan for a Circular Bioeconomy of Wellbeing](#). In a new blog post, Tony Ofori, Janez Potočnik and myself [argue why and how nature and natural capital should be valued](#) and integrated better in economic and financial policy decisions.

Next month we are celebrating the International Day of Forests (21 March) with a series of events on a number of interesting topics. We will co-organise with our friends from [CIFOR](#), [ICRAF](#), [Sitra](#) and the [Global Landscapes Forum](#) a half-day digital event to discuss the [role of forests, trees and landscapes in creating a global circular bioeconomy](#). This event will be the first one to look at the challenges and opportunities that the global south faces to transition from a fossil economy to a circular bioeconomy, and we are pleased to welcome the Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen to open our forum.

The following week we will shift the discussion to urban forests and biocities as we organise the [Urban Forestry Days](#). If you want to learn more about the [economic relevance and potential of non-wood forest products in Europe](#) we also welcome you at our Incredible Policy Forum.

Finally, I would like to remind you that we have [an open call for a new EFI Scientific Advisory Board member](#). We are particularly looking for expertise in relation to forest biodiversity and adaptive forest

management.

I wish you a very healthy transition to the spring season!

Marc

