





Connecting knowledge to action

26 August 2020

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Connect with us:    

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your families could enjoy a relaxing summer.

It has been a while since I sent my last Director's letter, and I would like to share with you some reflections as result of the last few exceptional months.

First of all, let me tell you that despite the extraordinary circumstances, at EFI we have been doing well and we have managed to keep our work pretty much as planned. In fact, it has allowed many of us to accelerate the transition to a more digital working environment and to realise that a lot can be done via virtual meetings and events. Not all, but certainly at EFI we will rethink the way work in the future, especially in terms of travelling, meetings and events.

On a more fundamental level, I believe that the Covid pandemic has provided an opportunity to reflect, pause and reimagine our world. But as Winston Churchill used to say ***we should not waste a good crisis***, and hopefully transformational actions will take place if we wish for a better world after Covid-19. I think that the current pandemic has made it clear to many that the simultaneous health, climate and biodiversity crises we are facing are just different faces of the same fundamental problem: our economic system. A system addicted to fossil resources and to growth at all costs, that has failed to value and incorporate our most important capital and basis for human health and wellbeing: **Nature**. In fact, science has been clear about the fact that biodiversity loss is a main factor explaining the emergence and transmission to humans of zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19.

Having arrived at the present tipping point, we clearly need a new economy to reset our world on a sustainable path. A new economy where life (**BIO**) is at the same time its engine and reason for existing. What some of us call a circular **BIO**economy. In this context, EFI and its network has a lot to offer in terms of knowledge and connecting the dots... Last May we successfully organized our first Thinkforest virtual event to discuss the EU Green Deal and how forests, key for biodiversity and a European circular bioeconomy could better contribute to realise its potential. In June, I had the opportunity to moderate a virtual roundtable hosted by His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales on the circular bioeconomy potential within The Great Reset initiative. We are now discussing with His Royal Highness future action within this topic.

We are also about to start a new Network Fund project on the theme of Biocities which will provide

the basis for a new EFI Facility. I also would like to thank you all for being so proactive and requesting EFI's support and partnership for so many projects!

Finally, I encourage you to [register for our Annual Conference](#), which this year will be virtual, so that you can get to know our most recent developments and plans for the future!

With my warmest regards,
Marc

