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To the Members and member organisations of EFI

December 2021



Dear colleagues,

The year 2021 is almost at an end and I would like to thank you all: EFI staff, member organizations and member countries as well as EFI Board and Scientific Advisory Board for your commitment and support in another challenging year!

A new [Strategy Implementation Plan for 2022-2025](#) has been developed with your help, which provides guidance regarding the research and policy questions that we would like to address in the coming years in collaboration with our network. It also describes the diversity of EFI structures (Programmes, Facilities and Research Networks) that will populate the EFI organizational ecosystem by 2025, including the new [Biocities Facility to be established in Rome](#) in 2022. It also describes two “new” Facilities on International Partnerships, and Forest Genetics that will be developed based on two important existing initiatives, our FLEGT-REDD Unit and EUFORGEN. The rapid development of EUFORGEN within EFI exemplifies well what EFI as a science-policy platform can offer to talented and committed scientists and countries. In late November in Brussels, the [launch of the Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe](#) under EFI-EUFORGEN leadership was an very important milestone.

This month we have also started [the largest ever EFI-led project, SUPERB](#), which will play a central role in connecting the dots between science and practice to demonstrate how we can scale up forest restoration in Europe addressing both biodiversity and bioeconomy questions.

Finally, I am really happy that one of the main outcomes in COP26 has been the unprecedented [Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#). Two years ago, together with my colleagues the Directors of CIFOR, Robert Nasi, and ICRAF, Tony Simons, we wrote an [Open Letter to Heads of State](#) calling for a Forest Summit to place forests at the centre of the global agenda. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales was the first leader to react back in 2019 when he invited me to discuss the matter and learn more about our ideas in that respect. Two years later the COP26 World Leaders Summit 'Action on Forests and Land Use' took place in Glasgow with a crucial role by The Prince of Wales. I recommend you watch the [opening speech by HRH at the Forest Summit](#) to hear his insights.

Hoping to see you (finally) in 2022 - I wish you a happy Christmas!

Marc



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