

# European Forest Institute



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*Connecting  
knowledge  
to action*



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## Item 1a

# Brief introduction to the decision- making session

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023



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# Item 1b

# Announcing the total number of participants and voters

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023



# Participants and voters

- Conference has 98 registered participants, representing **63** Associate Members with voting rights. There are 17 proxies and 13 of them are for the item 6a, Board member election.
- Roll call of voting Associate Members
- Representatives from the following member countries attend the session as observers: Germany, Italy, Serbia, Switzerland.



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# Item 1c

# Adoption of the agenda

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023

# Agenda

## **Item 1 Opening of the Conference decision-making session**

- a) Brief introduction to the decision-making session
- b) Announcing the total number of participants and voters
- c) Adoption of the agenda

## **Item 2 Election of the Officers of the Conference**

- a) Vice-chair of the Conference 2023 and 2024
- b) Minute checkers
- c) Vote checkers

## **Item 3 Board's report to the Conference**

## **Item 4 EFI Reports and Plans**

- a) Review and adoption of the Annual Report 2022
- b) Approval of the audited financial statements 2022
- c) Approval of the Work Plan for 2024

## **Item 5 Auditors of Accounts for 2024**

## **Item 6 Board members 2023-2026**

- a) Election of one Board member for the period 2023-2026

## **Item 7 Annual Conference venues**

- a) Venue of Annual Conference in 2024

## **Item 8 Conference and membership Issues**

- a) A welcome to new members
- b) Membership fees for 2024

## **Item 9 Any other business**



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# Item 2

# Election of the Officers of the Conference

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023

# Secretariat's proposal

## **The second Vice-chair of the ordinary session of the Conference in 2023**

- Marc Hanewinkel, University of Freiburg

## **The second Vice-chair of the ordinary session of the Conference in 2024**

- John Kettle, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)

## **Minute checkers of the Conference 2023 decision-making session**

- Radek Rinn, Czech University of Life Sciences
- Sofie Anderson, Nordic Forest Research (SNS)

## **Vote checkers of the Conference 2023 decision-making session**

- Bob Izlar, University of Georgia Langdale Center for Forest Business
- Ena Žarković, International Forestry Student's Association (IFSA)



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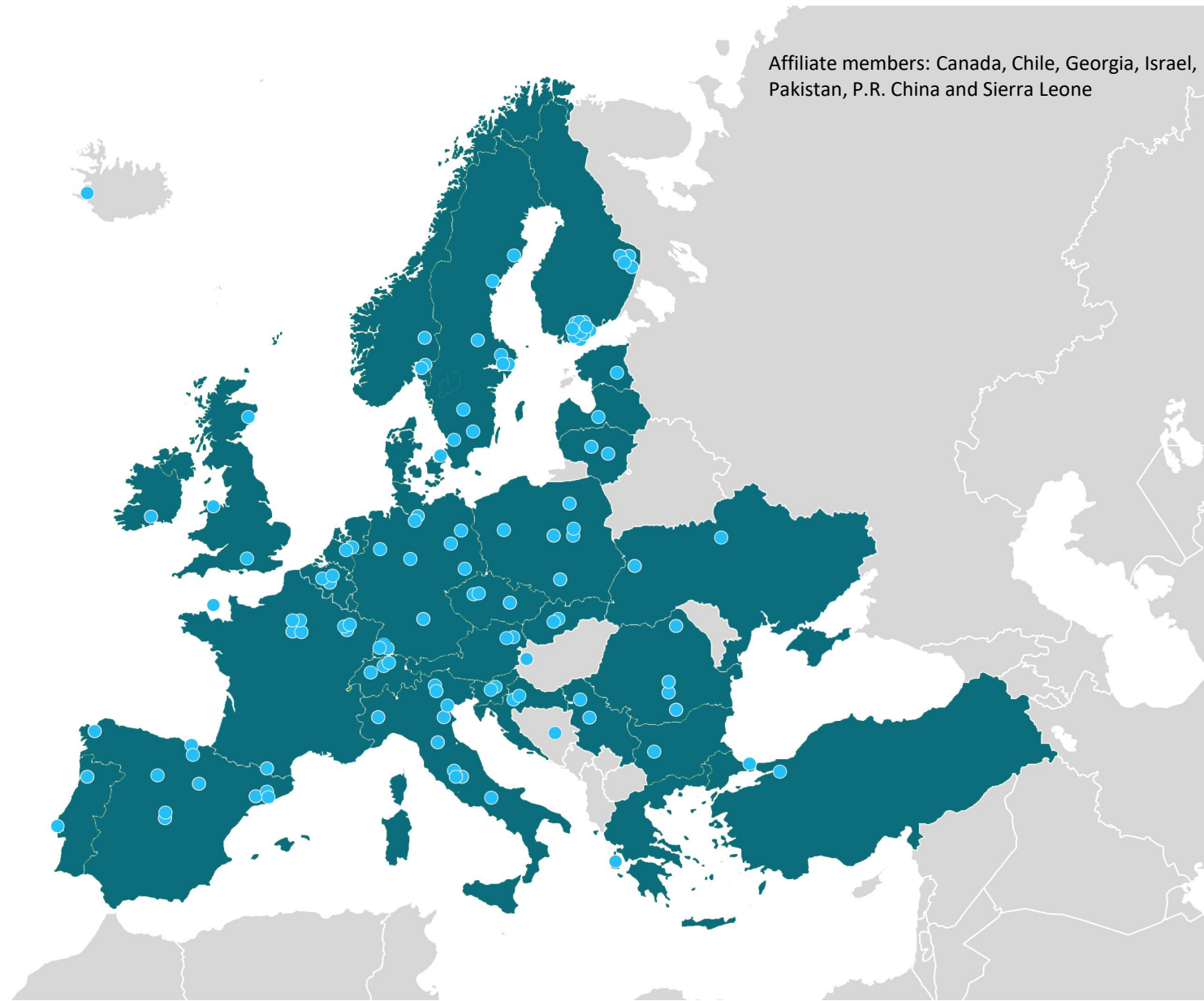
# Item 3

# Board's Report to the Conference

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023

# Owners of EFI

- Currently, **30 European States** have ratified the Convention on EFI.
- EFI has **130 member organisations** in **41 countries** (*as of 19th September 2023*)



Affiliate members: Canada, Chile, Georgia, Israel, Pakistan, P.R. China and Sierra Leone



# Institutional matters

- 7th Ordinary session of the Council of EFI on 19th April 2023 in Rome
  - First in-person session since 2017
  - EFI reported the progress made in the last three years
  - Three new Board members elected, and one Board member re-elected
  - The Czech Republic chairs the Council 2023-2026



Alessandro Natalizia



# EFI Board

- Prof. Marco Marchetti, Italy (*Chair*) (2017-2023) (*steps down on 20 Sept.*)
- Dr. Leire Barañano, Spain (*Vice-Chair*) (2018-2024)
- Prof. Margarida Tomé, Portugal (2021-2027)
- Dr Sanja Perić, Croatia (2022-2028)
- Prof. Verena Griess, Germany (2023-2029)
- Prof. Róbert Marušák, Czech Republic (2023-2029)
- Prof. Dr. Elena Paoletti, Italy (2023-2029)
- Maggie Charnley, UK (2023-2029)

MP Hanna Kosonen (Finland), Roland Daamen (Germany) and Dr. Erwin Dreyer (France) stepped down after two terms on 19 April 2023.



# Director's recruitment

- Marc Palahí resigned from his position as of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and Robert Mavsar was appointed as the Interim Director as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023
- The call for the position of Director was launched on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 with a deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- The Board Selection Committee interviewed candidates on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. and gave a recommendation to Board, which made a decision regarding the appointment on 5<sup>th</sup> Sept.
- The process to obtain Council's assent to the Board's decision on the appointment took place 7<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Sept.

**Are you an inspiring  
and committed leader?**

Apply to be EFI's new  
Director by June 26, 2023.

[www.efi.int/careers](http://www.efi.int/careers)





# Policy Support

- Opening of EFI's Biocities Facility and the ThinkForest seminar *Forests and the cities of the future* on 20 April 2023 in Rome



Alessandro Natalizia

# EFI Office in UK –under discussion

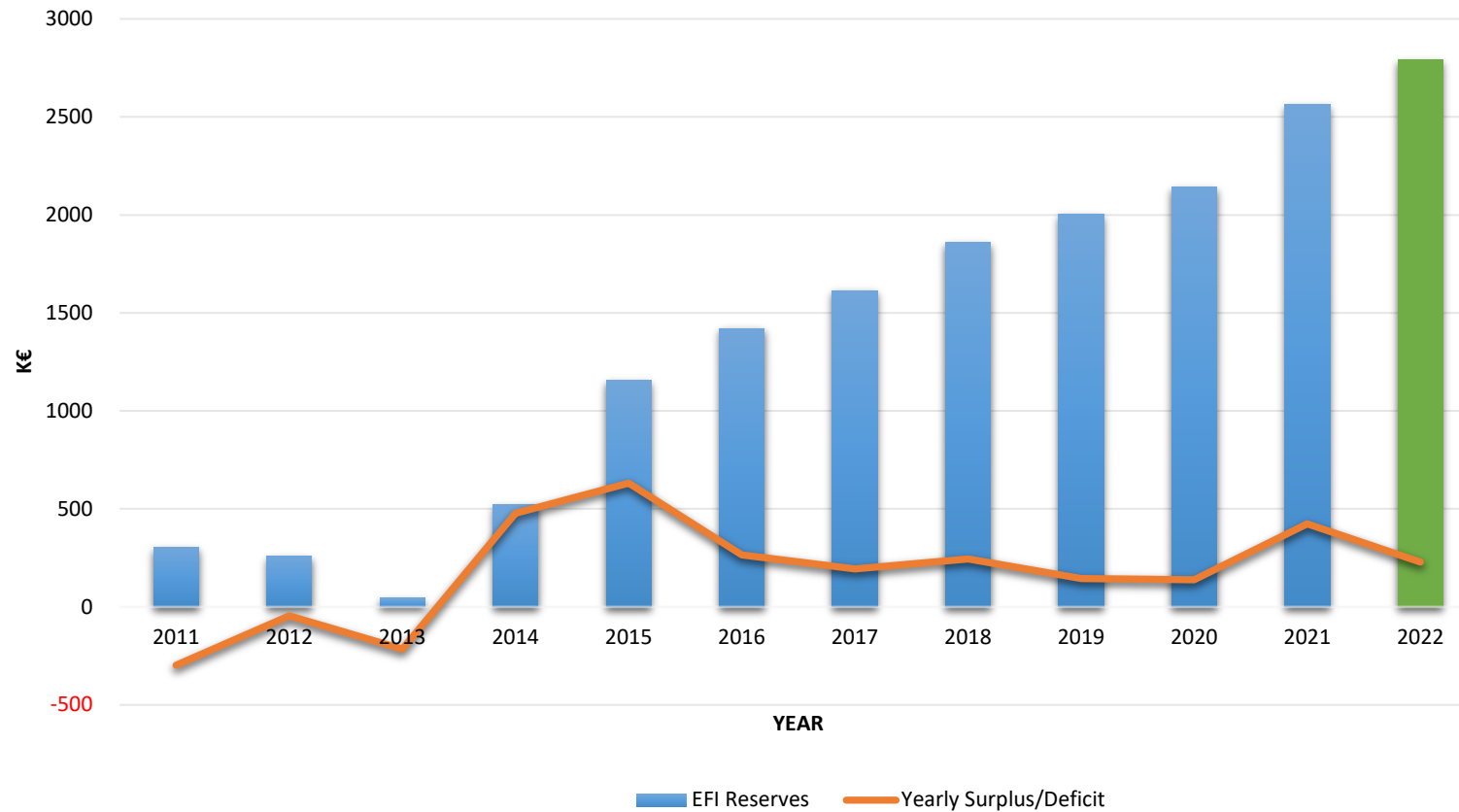
- UK government is a major donor of EFI-International Partnerships Facility
- UK's leading role in the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use within COP26
- Forests and Climate Leaders' Partnership launched in COP27
- Host Country Agreement (HCA) negotiations with the UK are in progress



Adobe stock - Iakov Kalinin

# EFI finances

## EFI Balance Sheet Reserves Development





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# Item 4

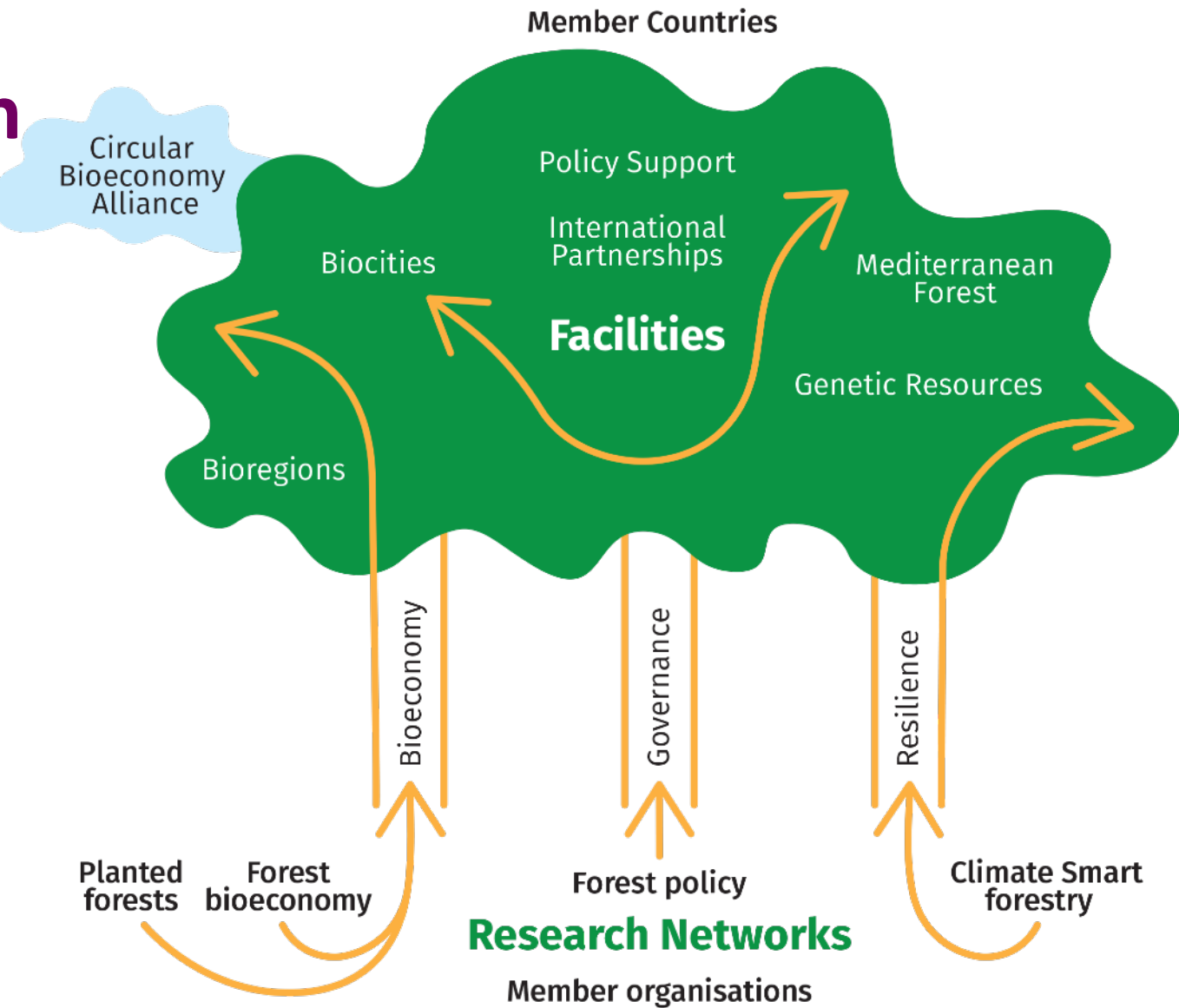
# EFI Reports and Plans

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023



# a) Annual Report 2022

# EFI Strategy Implementation Plan 2022-2025





**An ambitious European forest  
research and innovation area**

# European forest research and innovation

- EFI coordinates 4-year Horizon Europe **EUFORE** project:  
**EUropean FOrest Research and innovation Ecosystem**
- Aims to develop a European forest R&I agenda
- Implementation roadmap based on assessment of public & private funding commitments



**EUFORE**

# MFRA 2030

- Defines 4 priority areas for the next decade
- Aims to stimulate researchers & practitioners to further action
- A reference for policymakers & funding agencies
- Published in English, French and Spanish



# Network Fund

- Call for grants for **Ukrainian forest scientists** launched in September 2022
- **Supports mobility and capacity building in 2023**
- Gain new knowledge on **forest monitoring**
- Working at EFI Associate Member or EFI Office



Adobe Stock - Roman



# EFI Network Fund

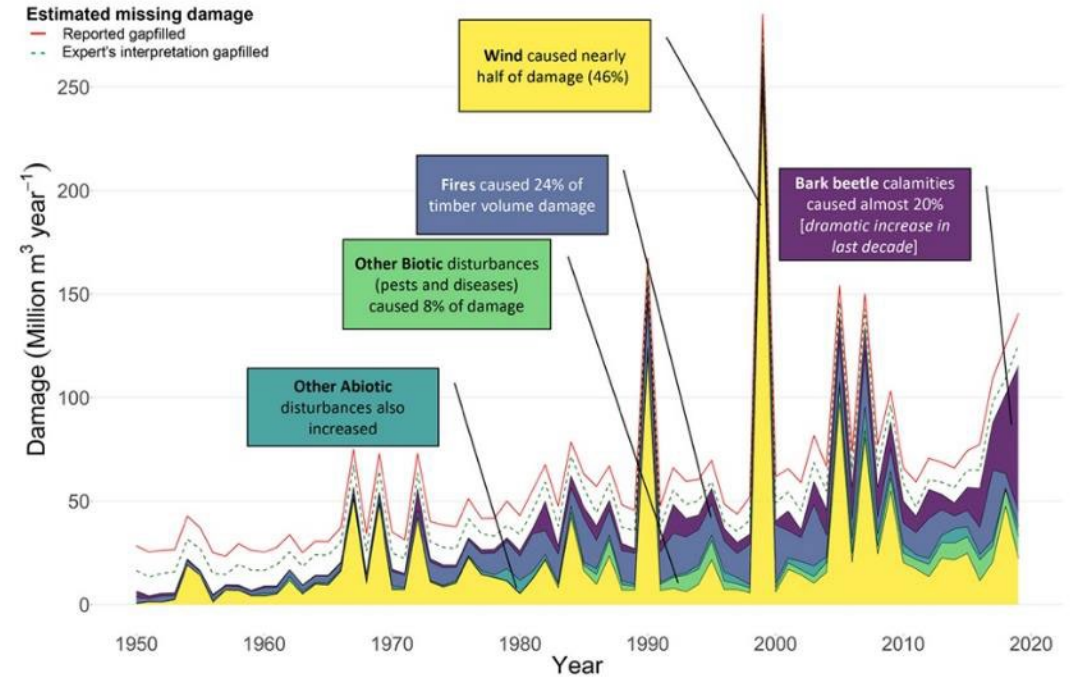
- Developing the concept of Biocities
- Transforming Biocities – Designing Urban Spaces Inspired by Nature (BIOCITIES consortium)
- Biocities Research Agenda (ReBio consortium)



j-mel – stock.adobe.com

# Research project highlight

- ForestValue project I-Maestro (2019-2022)
- Comprehensive update of the Database on Forest Disturbances in Europe
- Article by Patacca et al. in Global Change Biology, EFI Policy Brief 4



Patacca, M., Lindner, M., Nabuurs, G.-J. and Schelhaas, M.-J. 2023. Significant increase in forest disturbances since 1950s. Policy Brief 4. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb4>

**Figure 5: Total estimated disturbance damage and reported damage by disturbance agent. To gap-fill reporting data machine learning models (alone / in combination with disturbance experts' knowledge) were used.**



# Research project highlight

- Horizon Europe **ForestPaths** (2022–2027)
- Will co-design, quantify and evaluate holistic forest-based policy pathways to optimise the contribution of forests and the forest-based sector to climate change mitigation.



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**Science-informed policies to  
address societal challenges and  
opportunities**



# Policy Support Facility

4 new studies!

- Forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation in Europe
- Forest Biodiversity in Europe
- Closer-to-Nature Forest Management
- Substitution effect of wood-based solutions for textiles and construction

New EFI Policy Brief series launched

Timokleia Orfanidou,  
Mariana Hassegawa,  
Pekka Leskinen,  
Herbert Sixta,  
Pekka Oinas,  
Giuseppe Cardellini

06



## Wood-based textiles & modern wood buildings

Environmental impacts beyond climate change

# Policy Support

- ThinkForest event in Sibiu, Romania
  - EFI report on Forest Biodiversity presented
  - Kick-off of **SUPERB** project.
  - opened by the former Prince of Wales, now King Charles III





# Forest Europe

- German Presidency
- **EFI provides scientific and communications support** to Liaison Unit Bonn
- Focus on Sustainable Forest Management, forest risk, green jobs & education
- Webinar on forest genetic resource conservation in collaboration with EUFORGEN



Rosa Castaneda

# International Partnerships Facility

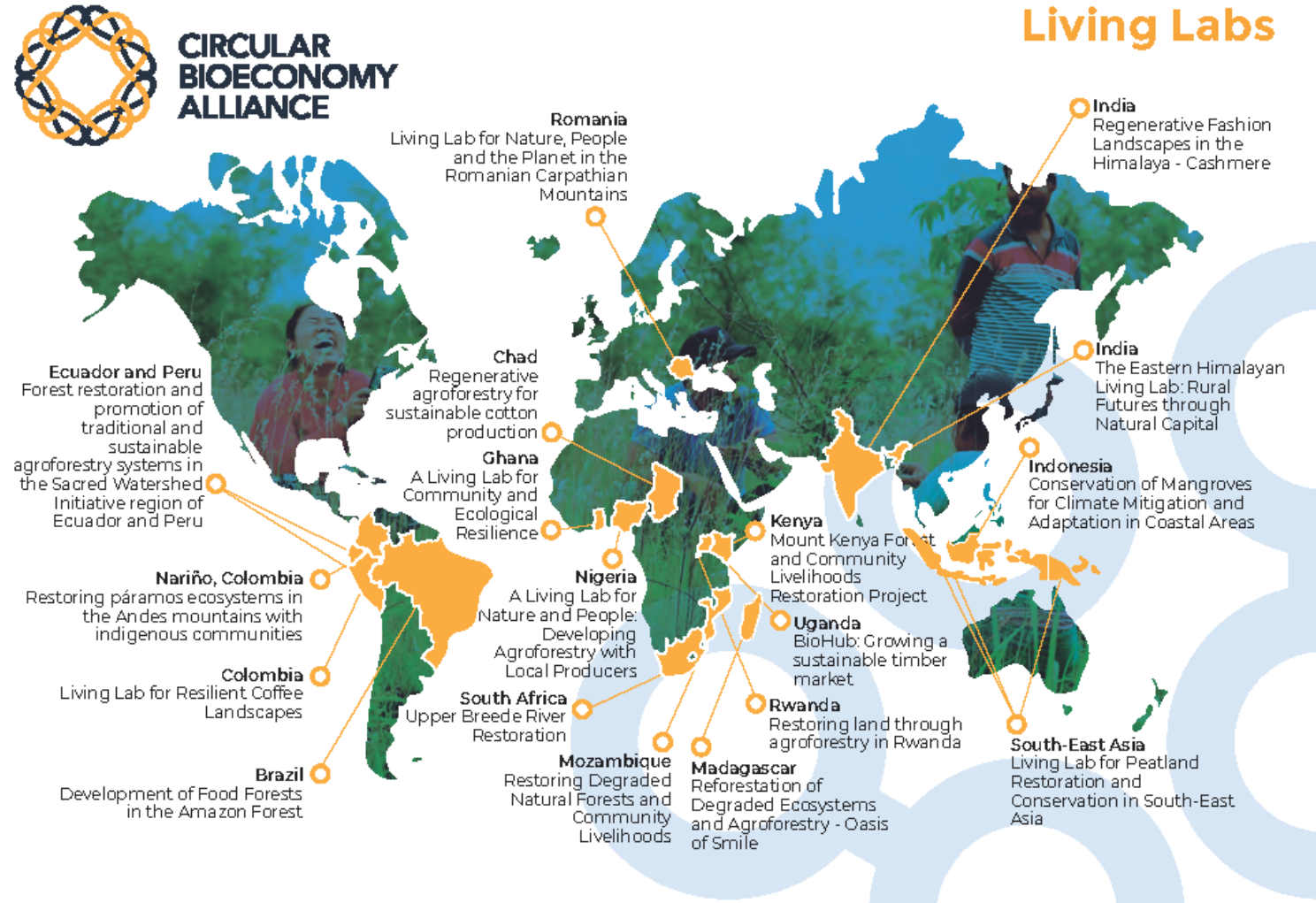
- Addressing deforestation in commodity supply chains
  - Sustainable Cocoa Program (Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana)
  - KAMI project – palm oil (Indonesia, Malaysia)





# Circular Bioeconomy Alliance

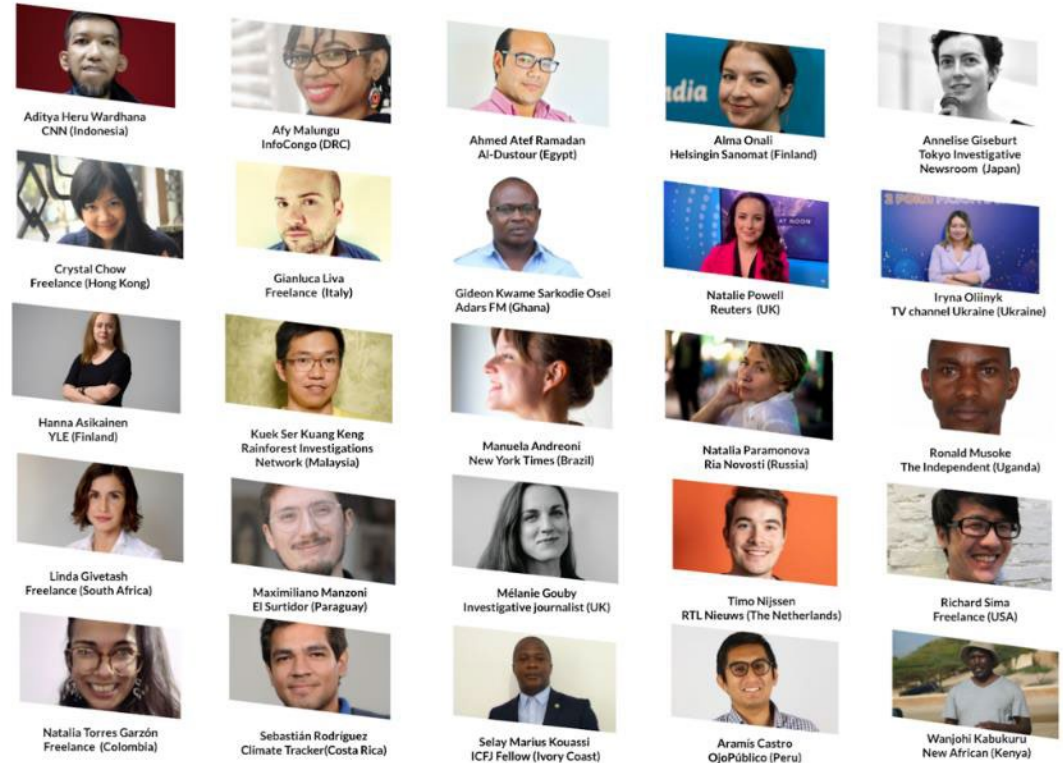
- 17 living labs established
- Chad Living Lab: new methods of sustainable cotton growing in Africa



**Awareness in society of the  
importance of forests**

# Exchanging perspectives

- **Working with Journalists:** Solution Hack on sustainable finance (Jan-Feb 2022)
- 25 editors and journalists
- Featured NEWGO! researchers





# Connecting with EFI's network

- Annual Conference and Scientific Seminar in Barcelona
- Organised with member organisations in Catalonia, coordinated by IAAC
- “Biocities: placing nature and people at the centre of the urban environment”



Michele Curel



# Capacity building

- Young Scientists session on Climate Smart Forestry
- 11 young scientists



# **b) Approval of the audited financial statements 2022**

# Auditors notes and reports

- Financial Statements prepared in accordance with EFI's Financial Rules and Finnish Accounting Standards.
- Institute's **internal control system is on adequate level.**
- Free equity has continued to increase
- Audit report **approved by the Members' Auditor** for 2022 accounts, Dr. Peter Spathelf, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development

# Finances

## Budget 2023

Income  
19.93 million€

Expenses:  
19.88 million€

Financial result:  
+0.05 million€

## Results 2022

Income  
**18.56 million€**

Expenses:  
**18.33 million€**

Financial result:  
**+0.23 million€**

## Results 2021

Income  
**16.73 million€**

Expenses:  
**16.31 million€**

Financial result:  
**+0.42 million€**

# c) Work plan 2024



**An ambitious European forest  
research and innovation area**

# European forest research and innovation

- EFi coordinates 4-year Horizon Europe **EUFORE** project:  
**EUropean FOrest Research and innovation Ecosystem**
- Draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
- Implementation roadmap based on assessment of public & private funding commitments



# Network Fund

- New grant call on **economics of closer-to-nature forest management in Europe**.
  - Comparative economic analysis between BAU and closer-to-nature in different regions
  - Impacts of the EU-wide application of closer-to-nature management systems on wood availability
- Complementing ***From Science to Policy 12***, published 2022



# Governance

- New Horizon Europe project **TRANSFORMIT** - Transforming forest management for multiple ecosystem services and nature conservation via the integrative approach
  - Coordinated by EFI
  - Links to Integrate Network



■ Adobe Stock - InputUX



# Bioeconomy

- Horizon Europe **FORWARDS** (2022–2027)
  - Develops a prototype for the ForestWard Observatory, a pan-European monitoring and assessment tool.
  - Grant calls of EUR 6 million to fund 50 projects



Adobe Stock – Lars Johansen

**Science-informed policies to address  
societal challenges and opportunities**



# Forest Europe

- 9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe, October
  - Forest Risk Knowledge Mechanism (FoRisk)
  - Rapid response mechanism on forest issues, cooperation with Ukraine and the future of forest reporting



Adobe Stock - ColdFire



# Apulia Regenerative Cotton project

- Development of an experimental agroforestry cotton site in Apulia, Italy
- Circular Bioeconomy Alliance Living Lab, in partnership with EFI (Biocities Facility), CREA, PRETATERRA, SMI Fashion Task Force
- Funded by Armani
- Launched in 2023



# International Partnerships Facility

- Increased focus on supporting the development of constructive solutions to the technical and political challenges raised by the implementation of the EUDR in third countries



**Awareness in society of the  
importance of forests**



# New EFI Communications strategy

- Provides an overarching, ‘EFI-level’ communications strategy
- Supports the EFI Strategy and Implementation Plan
- Covers both **external** and **internal** communications
- A **short and coherent document**



Pixabay



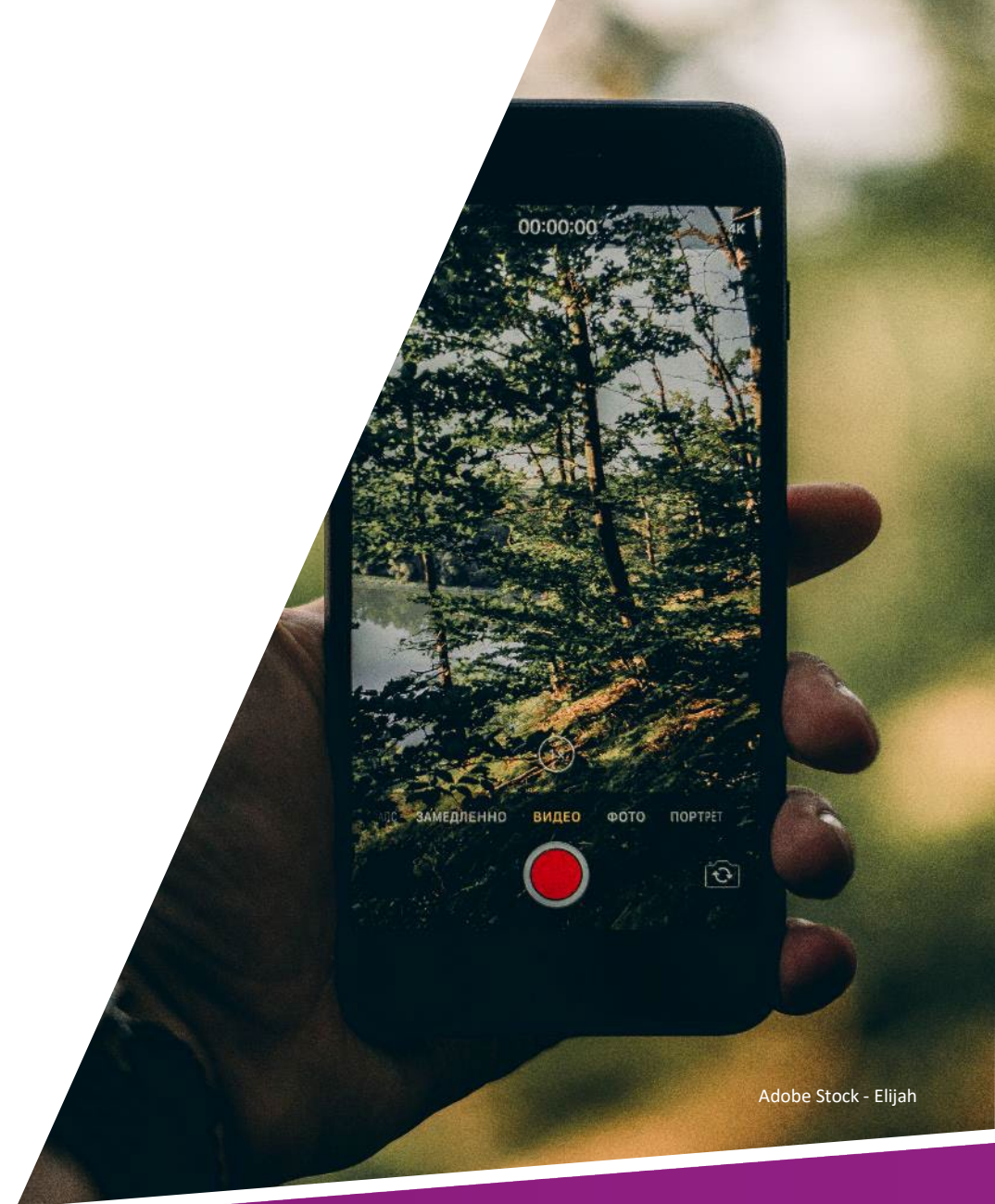
# Connecting with EFI's network

- 2024 Annual Conference in Bonn
  - Integrated Forest Management
- IUFRO XXVI World Congress in Stockholm



# Communications

- Research on how forest-related issues are communicated online/social media
  - Social media analysis e.g. in SUPERB project feeds into capacity-building with journalists / policymakers /scientists



Adobe Stock - Elijah



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# Item 5

# Auditors of Accounts for 2024

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023

# Auditors of Accounts for 2024

- Members' Auditor is **Zbigniew Karaszewski**, Wood Technology Institute, Poznań, Poland.
- **Pablo Sabin Galán**, CESEFOR, Spain, has presented his candidacy for the position of Deputy Members' Auditor.
- Auditors of the accounts of 2024 are Authorized Public Accountants (APA) **KPMG Oy**, and the audit is intended to be led by their **APA Mia Svensk**.





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# Item 6

## Board members 2023-2026

**a) Election of one Board member for the period 2023-2026**

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023

# Current Board members

EFI Board member	Nationality	Appointed for 1 <sup>st</sup> term	2 <sup>nd</sup> term renewal recommended	2 <sup>nd</sup> term ending	Appointed by
Prof. Marco Marchetti <i>(Chair)</i>	Italy	2017	2020 (re-elected)	2023	Conference
Dr. Leire Baraňano <i>(Vice Chair)</i>	Spain	2018	2021 (re-elected)	2024	Conference
Prof. Margarida Tomé	Portugal	2021	2024	2027	Conference
Dr. Sanja Perić	Croatia	2022	2025	2028	Conference
Maggie Charnley	United Kingdom	2023	2026	2029	Council
Prof. Verena Griess	Germany	2023	2026	2029	Council
Prof. Róbert Marušák	Czech Republic	2023	2026	2029	Council
Prof. Dr. Elena Paoletti	Italy	2023	2026	2029	Council

# Vote on the list of eligible candidates

## Candidates:

- Jyrki Kangas (Finland)
- Peter Spathelf (Germany)

Summary table of how each candidate fulfils the requirements for eligibility			
Candidate	<u>Requirement 1:</u> A letter of interest and commitment signed by the candidate / <u>Requirement 2:</u> A curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate	<u>Requirement 3:</u> Letters of support for the Candidate from at least two Associate Members ( <i>Associate Members indicated with italics</i> )	Eligibility for appointment based on the submitted documentation
Jyrki Kangas, Finland	YES / YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>University of Eastern Finland, Finland (nomination letter)</i></li> <li>• <i>Pellervon taloustutkimus PTT ry, Finland</i></li> <li>• <i>Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation, Finland</i></li> <li>• <i>Metsähallitus, Finland</i></li> <li>• <i>Stora Enso Wood Supply, Finland</i></li> <li>• <i>University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria</i></li> </ul>	Eligible for appointment
Peter Spathelf, Germany	YES / YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>University of Freiburg, Germany</i></li> <li>• <i>Wageningen University &amp; Research, the Netherlands</i></li> </ul>	Eligible for appointment

# Vote on the election of one Board member (2023-2026)

- **Vote will be conducted via closed ballot**
- **Candidates:**
  - Jyrki Kangas (Finland)
  - Peter Spathelf (Germany)





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# Item 7

## Annual Conference venues

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023



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# Item 7a

## Venue of Annual Conference in 2024

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023



# Introduction of Wald und Holz NRW

State Enterprise for Forestry and Timber of North Rhine-Westfalia





# North Rhine-Westphalia



[www.wald-und-holz.nrw.de](http://www.wald-und-holz.nrw.de)





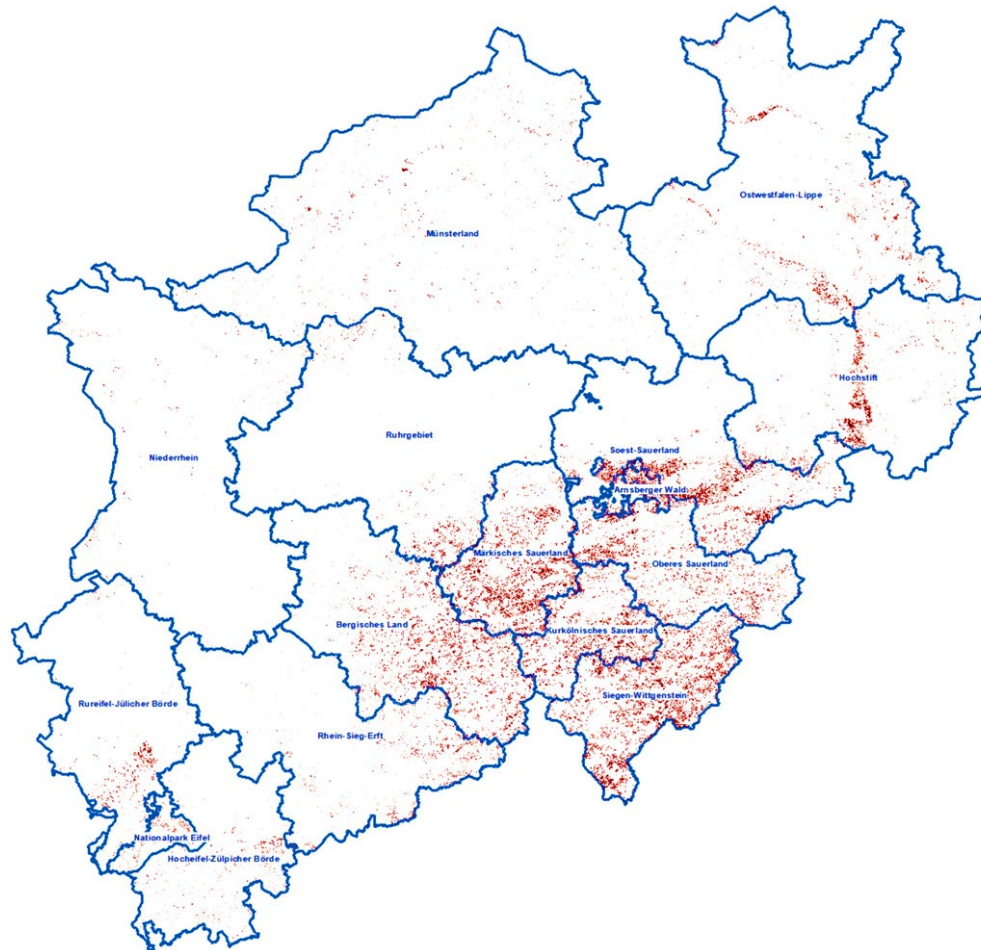
# North Rhine-Westfalia (NRW) and its forests

- **close to the Centre of Europe**
  - borders to the Netherlands & Belgium
- **most populated state in Germany**
  - ca. 18 Mio. people
- **urbanised & industrialised**
  - Cologne, Düsseldorf, Bonn, Ruhr region
- **forest cover by 27 %**
  - forest area of 935 000 ha
- **forest damages 2018 – today**
  - 141. 000 ha losses due to drought & bark beetles



**Forests are of multi-functional importance in NRW, but they are under high preassure!**

## Kalamitätsfläche Nadelholz



Aggregierte Nadelschadholzfläche  
Stand 07/2023: **141.000 ha**

→ ca. 60% Fichtenvorratsverlust

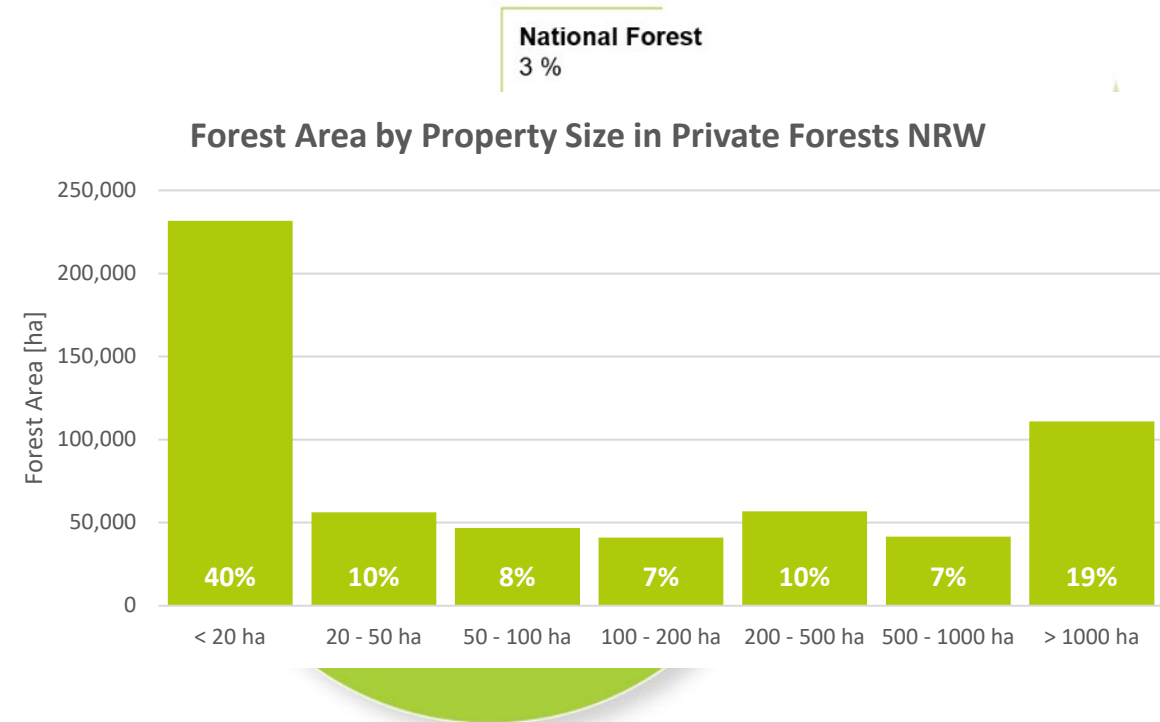


Bildautor: Christoph Hentschel, RFAL Soest Sauerland



# Private Forsts in NRW

- **highest share of private forests in Germany**
  - about 63 % of forest area
- **largest forest tenure type**
  - 545 000 ha of private forests
- **small scale forestry most common**
  - around 150 000 forest owners
- **private forest associations & cooperatives**
  - about 400



**Private forest play an important role in forestry policy in NRW!**





# Forestry Agency „Wald und Holz NRW“

- unified forestry agency
- 16 forestry departments
- total staff of ca. 1 200 employees

**One public institution to cover forest related issues in NRW!**







# Structure of Wald und Holz NRW



## Central Office

- Human Resources
- Finances
- Properties
- IT & GIS
- Vehicles



## State Forest Enterprise

- Forest Management
- Sale of Timber
- Hunting Management



## Private & Corporate Forests

- Forestal Advice
- Forestry Services
- Forest Cooperatives



## Regulatory Tasks & Protection Areas

- Regulatory Tasks
- Protection Areas
- Environmental Education



## Centre for Forest & Wood Science

- Research
  - Forestry Technology
  - Silviculture
  - Forest Protection
  - ...
- Education & Training



# Department „Private & Corporate Forests“



## Private & Corporate Forests

- Forestal advice
- Forestry services
- Forest cooperatives

- advising forest owners:
  - §11 of state forestry law
  - public service, for free
  - general information, e.g.:
    - nature conservation & silviculture
    - laws & subsidies
    - timber harvest
  - brief demonstrations of activities

### Aims:

- raising awareness of their forest ownership
- empowerment of forest owners







# Department „Private & Corporate Forests“

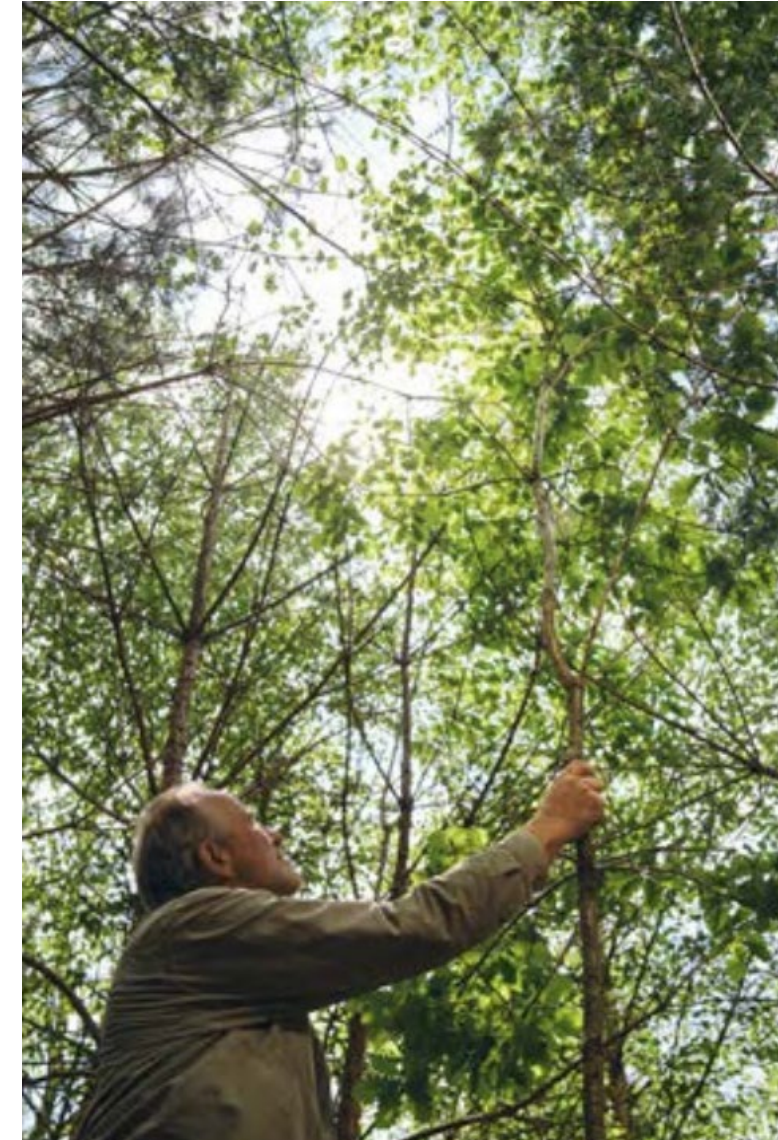


## Private & Corporate Forests

- Forestal advice
- **Forestry services**
- Forest cooperatives

- offering forestry services:
  - beyond advice
  - service costs are subsidised (80 %)
  - supporting owners & cooperatives
- services contain e.g.:
  - technical management
  - supervision of contractors
  - supporting timber sales (no selling)
- since 2021 in competition to private consultants

- about 300.000 ha under contract (60 %)





# Department „Centre for Forest & Wood Science“



## Centre for Forest & Wood Science

- Research
  - Forestry Technology
  - Silviculture
  - ...
- Education & Training

- Education & Training
  - theoretical & practical courses on different topics, e.g.:
    - taxes
    - nature conservation
    - handling of chain saw
  - Further information & support:
    - concept of silviculture
    - concept of reforestation (due to calamity)
    - geo-information online



- Wald und Holz is the most important forestry institution in NRW
- strong partner to private forest owners



## The image of foresters



What society  
thinks I do



What my mother  
thinks I do



What my critics  
think I do



What my friends  
think I do



What I think I do



What I really do



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# Item 8

## Conference and membership Issues

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023



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# Item 8a

## A welcome to new members

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023

# *New Members:*

## *New Associate Members:*

- National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry "Marin Dracea", Romania
- Andorra Research and Innovation, Andorra
- Center of Forestry Weihenstephan, Germany
- University of Sopron, Hungary
- Hellenic Agriculture Organization DIMITRA, Greece







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# Item 8b

# Membership fees for 2024

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023

# Proposal to increase membership fees

- The proposed new membership fee structure is presented in the table below.
- ***The collected membership fees are directed to the EFI Network Fund in their entirety*** and are subsequently redistributed to the member organizations through EFI Network Fund project calls.

<b><u>PROPOSED</u> new membership fee structure (as of 1 January 2024)</b>		
<b>Income level category (World Bank)</b> See listing at the <a href="#">World Bank</a> site.	<b>Associate Member fee</b>	<b>Affiliate member fee</b>
High Income	2000 €	1600 €
Upper Middle Income	1000 €	800 €
Lower Middle Income	500 €	400 €
Low Income	250 €	200 €

# Secretariat's proposal

The Board and the Secretariat propose to the Conference that ***the 2023 membership fees of the Ukrainian member organizations are waived.***

This concerns two Associate Member organizations:

- National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine, Kiev
- Ukrainian National Forestry University, Lviv



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# Item 9

## Any Other Business

Annual Conference, 20 September 2023





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# Thank you!

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