



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

ANNUAL REPORT 2010



OVERVIEW



Risto Päivinen

During 2010 we witnessed how EFI is rapidly developing into an international science-based policy advice institution. We added the new Policy Advice function to our overall strategy, and activities in this field now need to be effectively organised and made more prominent within EFI with a long-term perspective. At the same time, our FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) activities grew considerably, while in late 2010 a new EU facility was granted to EFI in the shape of the REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) facility. We have combined these two important facilities into the same organisational unit – the FLEGT-REDD Unit – in order to streamline our organisation more effectively.

The constant change in our organisation shows that we are dynamic and flexible. We are able to res-

pond to our target groups' varying present needs, and also anticipate future developments related to forests. This means we can offer the best possible research and expertise to create concrete benefits for our Member countries, member organisations and the European forest community as a whole. But being flexible and adapting to constant change is also a challenge. We still want to keep our family spirit even though we are increasingly spread around the world and our work has more varied thematic focuses than ever before.

Science will remain our guiding principle as we embark on increasing activities in the field of policy advice, and we will maintain a purposeful balance between research and policy advice. The external evaluation which we initiated in 2010 will include an analysis of the internal and external needs which EFI will willingly strive to meet.

IN 2010

- *EFI's strategy was updated to encompass our new Policy Advice function.*
- *Five regional offices were running.*
- *Our personnel increased by 28%.*
- *An external evaluation of EFI was initiated.*

IN 2011

- *We will establish a new EFI Policy Advice Office in Barcelona, Spain.*
- *Representatives from EFI's Member countries will gather at the Council meeting in June.*

NETWORKING

Our goal is to bring together European research capacities so we can respond to emerging needs and facilitate cooperation with other relevant fields of research.

EFI is itself a network organisation, so networking is one of our primary activities. In 2010 our five regional offices increased their activities and strengthened their regional networks. All of them currently have more than twenty partner organisations in their networks.

EFI's Annual Conference was held in Dresden, Germany in September 2010. The conference attracted nearly 140 participants, making it EFI's largest networking event. The Annual Conference's Scientific Seminar, on Biomass from Forests and other Wooded Lands – Production and Use, was organised immediately after the conference by The Technische Universität Dresden and EFI.

EFI continued to seek further collaboration with relevant organisations working in the forest sector and in other sciences. Cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (UNECE-FAO) continued, especially in the field of information services, and EFI also continued to collaborate with the Joint Research Centre's European Forest Data Centre (JFC EFDAC).

The first Mediterranean Forest Week (MFW) was held in April 2010 in Turkey. The event successfully brought together stakeholders working with Mediterranean forests and forestry, and provided a dynamic platform for the scientific community, policy-makers and key stakeholders to network and debate strategic issues and policy-related questions.



The EFI Board: J. Bo Larsen, Jean-Marc Guehl, Harald Mauser, Liisa Saarenmaa, Miroslav Benko, Jim Lynch OBE and José Antonio Bonet Lledós



The Scientific Advisory Board: Bill Slee, Marco Marchetti, Jean-Luc Peyron, Leena Paavilainen, Hubert Hasenauer, Kristina Blennow, Emil Cienicala and Andrey Filipchuk

POLICY ADVICE

EFI will increasingly provide support for decision-makers, based on unbiased information and analysis, to shape the global forest policy landscape. Through the FLEGT and REDD facilities EFI is helping the European Union, its Member States and partner countries to tackle the crucial global issues of illegal logging, the trade in illegal timber, forest governance and climate change.

EFI has successfully developed a strong policy advice role as host of the EU FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) facility. We are continually supporting negotiations and implementation work related to the Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) established under the EU's FLEGT Action Plan. These trade agreements aim to combat the illegal timber trade and promote good forest governance. With EFI's assistance the EU is now working with a growing number of countries in Africa, Asia and Central and South America. Ghana, the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Liberia, Indonesia and the Central African Republic have already concluded VPA negotiations and are currently developing the agreed systems for legal compliance. VPA processes received new momentum from the EU Timber Regulation, which was adopted in late

2010 to prohibit the entry of illegally-produced wood products onto European markets from early 2013. This legislation is seen as a major incentive for more governments to start negotiations to improve and ensure their market access in the long run.

EFI has also positioned itself to increasingly work on FLEGT-related analysis and research for the purposes of policy advice, and also to support the EU on other issues related to the EU FLEGT Action Plan, such as the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation.

In 2010, EFI was also appointed as the host of the newly founded EU REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) facility. The EU FLEGT and REDD facilities will assess linkages and strengthen synergies between the EU FLEGT programme and REDD, the key international programme that is being developed to combat climate change in the forestry sector.

EFI's research-related policy advice activities have included a number of studies designed to help the EU and EFI's member countries to address issues including climate change, energy needs, sustainability impacts, political and economical capacity-building, and the future potential that Europe's forests represent.



FLEGT ASIA: Gao Ya, Matthias Lameris, Anne Anantom, Vincent van den Berk, Aimi Lee, Tom ter Horst and Chen Jian



Aljoscha Requardt, Jo Van Brusselen, Gert-Jan Nabuurs



Marcus Linder, Matias Pe

RESEARCH

Research at EFI complements the research done at many national institutes. Our focus is on network-based research that serves policy-making.

During 2010 we launched several new initiatives. Concerted action on profitability commenced, with a winter-summer school scheduled to address these issues in 2011, with the aim to ensure coherent collaboration on forest-related economic research around Europe. This will involve several of our regional offices, and various Associate Members as well as EFI HQ. By involving senior experts alongside junior researchers and PhD students we can help to shape the future of forest research in this important field favourably.

Another significant ongoing research network project is Rok-FOR, which connects forestry sectors of the five partnering European regions within the fields of bio-energy, bio-based products and wood construction. Rok-FOR creates a European Joint Action Plan (JAP) to organize research, change of information, new production and project financing.

European-scale analyses carried out together with Associate Member organisations continued to support decision-making within the European Commission. This work involved producing maps, historical analyses, ground validations, insights on resources, and surveys of the availability of biomass for bioenergy. There was also a strong focus on climate change impacts, with work continuing in the fields of monitoring (REINFFORCE) and the modelling of adaptive forest management (MOTIVE).

The end of a project should not mean the end of the related collaboration or the shelving of a tool developed during the project. The role of networked research organisations is particularly vital in this context. To make the most of the fruits of the EFORWOOD Project, for instance, the

subsequently formed ToSIA Management User Group (TMUG) is now looking after the long-term maintenance and operability of the tool produced by EFORWOOD, as well as the related database.

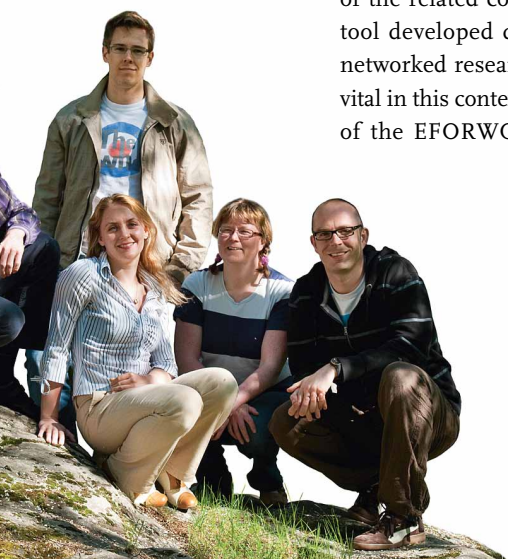
Disturbances such as fires and storms continually generate significant impacts in forests around Europe. The Fire Paradox Project played an important role in generating pro-active management methods that aim to anticipate fires, while the MASSIF Project assessed the socioeconomic impacts of forest fires.

The field of new economics has been receiving ample attention around the EFI network. The EXIOPOL Project has been dealing with new environmental accounting frameworks, and a Mediterranean profitability study has examined the value of the ecosystem services provided by forests, including soil protection and water protection – also looking into possible regional structures through which compensation for the provision of such ecosystem services could be paid to forest-owners.

Our regional offices play an important role in capacity building. The FOPER II project, which is running in the Southeast European Region, will expand research networking further across Europe by developing joint research projects on issues with policy implications. The AGORA Project, coordinated by EFI's Mediterranean Regional Office (EFIMED), aims to advance scientific knowledge on the sustainable management of forests in Tunisia and Morocco through scientific cooperation, networking and targeted capacity-building.

Another of our tasks is to identify future research topics. This is done through our foresight activities, which are now conducted across EFI with the active involvement of many stakeholders.

Forest research today faces many considerable challenges in Europe and elsewhere. There is a need for highly flexible teams capable of working in different settings with a variety of member organisations and other institutes. Research topics will become ever broader, and expertise on forests will increasingly be needed within multidisciplinary teams.



s Pekkanen, Diana Vötter, Marja Kolström and Hans Verkerk



Robert Mavsar, Andreas Schuck



Jerker Brolén, Emi Pesonen, Virve Huovinen, Petri Hukka, Arto Lemettinen, Jarkko Heikkinen, Paula Ratinen, Pirjo Kakkonen, Kirsi Loisa, Riitta Sorri and Tiia Viitamäki



Natasa Lovric and Doni Blagojevic



Satu Ikonen-Williams, Maria Jalavisto, Minna Korhonen, Ulla Vänttinen and Anu Ruusila

INFORMATION

In 2010 we continued compiling and disseminating information on European forests and forestry for a wide range of users working at different levels, including policy-makers, forest researchers, educators, the forest development and management community and other stakeholders.

Our visibility on the internet was increased through new unit and project websites and other web-based services such as the Fire Intuition Platform and the Database of Innovation Cases. The EUROFOREST Portal continued to be our main gateway to forest related information in Europe, and we also started working in social media.

The EC 6th Framework Programme Integrated Project 'Fire Paradox' now provides the best scientific knowledge on prescribed burning applications, offering a departure from traditional fire management concepts. These advances are highlighted in our Research Report 23 'Towards Integrated Fire Management – Outcomes of the European Project Fire Paradox' and Research Report 24 'Best Practices of Fire Use – Prescribed Burning and Suppression Fire Programmes in Selected Case-Study Regions in Europe', which present the latest scientific knowledge and

practical experiences in fire management. Our new Policy Brief, published in seven languages, stresses the need to develop a European Framework Directive on Fire building on integrated fire management as a unifying concept. Such a framework directive is considered by Fire Paradox as an appropriate legal instrument at the European level to allow for a common approach which EU Member States can follow using the means they consider most appropriate.

A new brochure series 'Making a Difference – from Science to Policy' was launched in 2010. Its first two issues, 'Forest protection and wood energy – balancing the conservation of biodiversity with the increased need for wood for bioenergy' and 'Sustainability Impact Assessments', spotlighted the EFI's activities and other current trends in these two highly topical research fields.

EFI organised or co-organised tens of different events during 2010, ranging from regional stakeholder events such as EFIATLANTIC's Annual Meeting and its associated Scientific Seminar on Climate Change – Challenges After Copenhagen, to Final COST E51 Conference: The role of policy in European forest-based innovation – Bridging sectoral and territorial approaches.



Mercedes Rois, Yves Birot, Elena Gorriz,
Herve Jactel, Marc Palahí and Santiago Gonzalez



Päivi Pelli and Mika Mustonen

ADVOCACY

EFI continued to play an active role as a representative of the European forest research community in line with the needs of our members. We promoted science-based decision-making and policy-making while also enhancing research capacities around Europe.

We also continued to collaborate with international processes such as Forest Europe's work to create a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in the Pan-European Region, and preparations towards the Forest Europe Ministerial Conference. We utilised publicity events to target policy-makers such as the EU Standing Forestry Committee and the European Parliament, and also attended the meetings of the European Commission's Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork aiming to strengthen interactions between science and policy. This group also provides a useful channel for contacts with stakeholders

including Associate and Affiliate Members of EFI.

EFI's COST Foresight action sought synergies with other sectors and organisations, including the EU Commission's Standing Committee for Agricultural Research (SCAR) and the UNECE/FAO European Forest Sector Outlook Studies (EF-SOS II). EFI was also represented in the Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) and in several UNECE/FAO Joint Working Parties.

Regional Research Agendas are prepared to respond to emerging policy-relevant research needs, as powerful tools for advocating for resources for research. The EFI Mediterranean Regional Office (EFIMED) took the lead in preparing a Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA) that describes a joint vision on the main challenges for Mediterranean forests, as well as the main research priorities to address those challenges in the period 2009–2020.

EFI is the leading institution conducting and advocating forest research and facilitating forest research networking at the pan-European level.

EFI is an acknowledged provider of and a major contact point for unbiased, policy-relevant information on European forests and forestry.



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