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EFI *news*



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Chairman's Column

At the end of the four-year period as the Chair of the EFI Board, I want to look back and give a personal assessment of the recent development of the institute. EFI has come a long way since 2005 when it became an international organisation with the signing of the EFI Convention which grants the Member Countries of EFI an important and influential role in the organisation.

During 2005–2007, one of the most important and also time consuming exercises was to develop, structure, promote and finally implement the Regional Offices. The vivid and partly controversial discussion at the Annual Conference in Orvieto, Italy was

fruitful and important. The main reasons for establishing Regional Offices were, on the one hand, possibilities to enhance EFI's core funding structure, which has proven to be very successful. On the other hand, one can argue that the Regional Offices provide for better possibilities to strengthen contact with the EFI Member Countries. This particular opportunity remains to be improved during the coming years.

The most important and recent development of EFI is the broadening of EFI's scope of tasks. In the future, EFI will no longer be a primarily research oriented institute but more and more a membership driven research and international, intergov-

ernmental policy advice institution. Thus EFI can be a forest policy instrument serving forest related policy initiatives and providing for science based information on forests and research project results in the field of forestry. The discussion at the Annual Conference 2010 in Dresden, Germany, was a milestone for the development of EFI.

EFI can serve the forests in Europe even more than before with this broader set of tasks. Good luck EFI for the future!

*Konstantin von Teuffel
Chairman of the
EFI Board in 2005–2010.*

Welcome to Uppsala in 2011!

The EFI Annual Conference 2011 will be held on 28–30 September in Uppsala, Sweden. The main host is the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and co-organisers include Swedish Associate Members, such as the Skogforsk. The title for the scientific seminar to be held on 29 September is "Active forestry with responsibility".



Conny Sjostrom / www.fotolia.com

A large, leafy tree with some yellowing leaves is in the foreground on the left. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees, possibly pines or firs, on a hillside. The sky is overcast and grey.

EFI Annual Conference: for Decision-Making and Networking

The EFI Annual Conference gathered EFI Member Organisations and key partners to Dresden for decision-making and for networking in mid-September. As an outcome, two issues are of highest priority for EFI: nurture its committed membership network and move forward with policy advice activities.



Prof. Dr. Tomasz Zawila-Niedzwiecki from the Forest Research Institute, Sekocin Stary, Poland, chaired the Conference with success.



Heike Neumann, PtJ Projekträger Jülich GmbH and Thorsten Hinrichs, Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer-Protection (BMELV).



Prof. Dr. Bas Art from the Wageningen University, the Netherlands.



Our warmest thanks go to Prof. Dr. Norbert Weber and Ms. Pia Böhnke from the Technische Universität Dresden, for their fantastic input in organising this year's annual conference.



Newly appointed chairman of the EFI Board, Prof. Jørgen Bo Larsen from the Forest & Landscape Denmark, and Prof. Dr. Peter Spathelf, University of Applied Sciences Eberswalde, Germany.



Prof. Jan-Erik Hällgren from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).



Magnus Ksiązek

Member organisations gave their input to the strategic decision making. Prof. Ted Farrell from the University College Dublin giving his view.



Policy advice a new strategic function for EFI

Member organisations took decision on expanding EFI strategic activities to include policy advice. This means that EFI will embark increasingly on activities that provide enhanced support for decision takers and policy makers. Forestry is a global business and the forestry agenda is increasingly connected to the high importance political issues such as climate change, trade relations, good governance and poverty reduction. In this context the policy makers require best possible knowledge and science-based information. EFI is well placed to cater for these needs and for the past three years it has had a strong policy advice role already by hosting the EU FLEGT Facility which supports the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process in developing countries, related to the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. The EU FLEGT Facility assists the European Commission and the EU Member States in their joint effort of its implementation.

External evaluation: challenges and opportunities ahead

The participants also heard the mid-term results of the external evaluation the Institute is currently undergoing. The mid-term summary of the report is a thorough analysis of EFI and among the issues raised

are strengthening the strategy with policy advice and future role of EFI, compiling a research agenda covering all the research activities in EFI and funding issues and the decision making processes. The panel continues its work after discussing with EFI network representatives during the annual conference, and the final report will be available at the end of the year.

Board Chairman and two new members elected

Prof. *Jørgen Bo Larsen* from Denmark was elected as Chair of the EFI Board. He has been a member of EFI Board since September 2009. Dr. *Liisa Saarenmaa*, Finland, continues as Vice-chair of the Board. Prof. Dr. *Jean-Marc Guehl*, INRA Nancy, France, and Prof. Dr. *Michael Köhl* from the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Germany, were elected as new Board members for the period 2010–2013. The EFI Board members are: Dr. *José Antonio Bonet Lledós*, Spain; Dr. *Miroslav Benko*, Croatia; Prof. Dr. *Jean-Marc Guehl*, France; Prof. Dr. *Michael Köhl*, Germany; Prof. *Jim Lynch*, United Kingdom; Dr. *Harald Mauser*, Austria; Dr. *Liisa Saarenmaa*, Finland and Prof. *J. Bo Larsen*, Denmark.

The outgoing Board members are previous Board chairman Prof. *Konstantin von Teuffel* from Germany and Prof. *Andrey Selikhovkin* from Russia. EFI expresses its sincerest thanks for their valuable contribution and commitment to the EFI during the past years.





Biomass from Forests and other Wooded Lands – Production and Use

Norbert Weber and Pia Böhnke | Technical University Dresden, Germany

In the context of the EFI Annual Conference 2010, Technische Universität Dresden hosted a Scientific Seminar on “Biomass from forests and other wooded lands – production and use”. An international audience of 115 participants discussed the state of the art of wood production for bioenergy from forests, Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) and Agro-Forestry-Systems (ASF) in Europe.

The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion and enhancing energy security has led to a significant increase of bioenergy utilization in most European countries. Among all biomass feedstock, wood is the most important one for heat production and becomes more important for electricity production, as well. The European Union intends to increase the share of renewable energies to 20 % by 2020 and biomass is supposed to play a major role. Thus, the current trend of increased wood utilization for energy production is likely to continue.

The demand for energy wood from the forests is likely to grow in the future. But at the same time, the demand for other forest services like providing habitat and biodiversity, recreation and purifying water and

air also become more and more important. These multiple and increasing demands might cause a threat to sustainable forestry. SRC and AFS promise to become reliable additional wood sources and may soften the pressure of utilization on sustainably managed forests. Large potentials for establishing such non-forest “wood-lands” can especially be found in Eastern European countries with a high share of underutilized agricultural land.

Availability of sustainably produced wood resources

The first session focused on the availability of sustainably produced wood resources from forestry. In particular the actual situ-

ation of the biomass sector as well as expected market developments were picked out as central topics. The presentations outlined (i) the availability of wood in Germany and Europe with its current status and outlook (*Hubert Röder*), (ii) opportunities of and barriers to short rotation coppice (*Werner Große*) and (iii) the role of network initiatives in regional clusters and national benchmarks in the forest sector (*Uwe Kies*).

During this session chaired by *Bo Larsen*, it became apparent that there will be an increasing gap between wood availability and demand for wood in Europe as well as in Germany. Short rotation coppice on former agricultural land, but also wood residues from forest and landscape in general might help filling part of this gap. However, potential conflicts between intensive wood/fiber production and other forest functions and services have to be settled.

Although often undervalued by society and political decision makers, forest clusters play a major role in macro- and regional economics. Though the economic figures are promising, the clusters are mostly



Andrei Merkulov / www.fotolia.com

not well developed and there is a great potential for improvement.

Technical aspects of production and utilization of SRC

The second session, chaired by *Elisabeth Le Net*, was dedicated to technical aspects of production and utilization of SRC. Four presentations gave an overview of operating experience and expertise of SRC processing and Agro-Forestry-Systems in the European area. Russia, Austria, Italy and Sweden were chosen as case studies to characterize the state of the art in different parts of Europe. Specific topics were the energetic utilization of wood in Northwest Russia (*Anton Orlov*), the status quo of SRC and AFS in Austria (*Ferdinand Deim*) and Sweden (*Martin Weih*), and techniques and technologies for short rotation coppice production in Italy (*Gianni Picchi*).

The exchange of expertise between different countries became the formative aspect of this session and interesting discussions with the audience emerged. Especially harvesting

technologies and the selection of suitable planting material for biomass production are difficult tasks in operating SRC. In addition, it became clear that different climatic conditions, e.g. between Italy and Sweden, as well as varying political and regulatory frameworks make it difficult to transfer experiences from one region to another.

Outlook and further challenges

As a presenter of the concluding remarks, *Marcus Lindner* (EFI) summarized important topics of the seminar, using four headlines:

- Resource potentials – do we have enough wood in Europe?
- Changing forest cluster and demands for woody biomass
- Imports from Russia – an emerging source for bio-energy?
- Challenges in implementation of short rotation forestry and coppice systems for providing woody biomass.

He highlighted the sizeable knowledge about theoretical and technical potentials

for biomass utilisation in Europe. However, he also identified some blind spots with regard to economical aspects. Especially research on cost-efficiency of bioenergy alternatives is needed. Besides that, policy makers need realistic information about implementation potentials that consider cost and market constraints.

According to Lindner, in the following years the question how to steer towards a climate friendly implementation of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) targets will be challenging. There is a need to conduct comprehensive GHG impact assessments. These should include forests, harvested wood products and substitution effects. Increasing energy-efficiency is a key to sort out this problem. It is necessary to consider sustainability impacts of the changes in woody biomass use inside and beyond European forests and land use sectors.

The presentations of the seminar are available at http://www.efi.int/portal/news___events/events/extra/2010/efi_2010_annual_conference_and_scientific_seminar/scientific_seminar/scientific_seminar_programme/

Future Forest Policy Directions in Europe

Päivi Pelli | EFI

The afternoon seminar of the Annual Conference on future forest policy directions in Europe and EFI's potential contributions sparked off a vivid discussion. In this context there were presentations by representatives from the European Commission DG Agriculture and Rural Development and DG Environment as well as from Forest Europe.

Mrs. *Hilkka Summa* from the Commission DG Agriculture and Rural development presented the state-of-the-play with the policy framework for forestry in the EU. The forestry strategy and the EU Forest Action Plan (FAP) are "soft" instruments – what can be achieved depends on the interests, position and activity of forest administrations. Deliberations are ongoing in several fronts, including for example, preparation of CAP after 2013. The investigations about the follow-up of the EU FAP are already starting in the Standing Forestry Committee (SFG) with representative from the EU Member States. The final evaluation and report on the EU FAP implementation will be presented for the Council and the European Parliament by the end of 2012.

Mr. *Ernst Schulte* from the Commission DG environment explained the Green Paper on forest protection and information, and the possible follow-up of the public consultation carried out earlier this year. There were over 250 responses submitted in for the consultation, but there are still several opinions coming in; The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and

Committee of the Regions (CoR) already in September, while the opinion of the European Parliament is expected later this year. Commission sum-up of the responses will be available at the verge of 2010/2011, and depending on the responses, the Commission would present a communication (white paper) preceding a regulation proposal later in 2011. There are, however, several scenarios how the future could evolve: to EU regulation, or continuing with soft law instruments, or combination of these two e.g. by regional solutions or topical issues.

Mrs. *Berit Hauger Lindstad*, FOREST EUROPE Liaison Unit Oslo described the preparations for the Sixth Ministerial Conference to be held in Oslo, 14–16 June 2011. There is a working group preparing options for a decision by ministers on possible legally binding agreement (LBA) on forests in Europe. National consultations are ongoing, and depending on the outcome of the Ministerial Conference, the more detailed negotiations would start after the conference. The audience was interested on how the EU legal framework and pan-European legal agreement on forests would fit together. Mrs. Summa explained that the legal aspects have been preliminary investigated already, and the combination would be possible.

Mr. *Ilpo Tikkanen* explained EFI's role and activities so far in science policy interface. He introduced the Brussels Think Tank: Foresight for Forests in Europe. This means a high-level communication and information sharing forum between EFI's Member Organisations' expertise network, European Parliament, EU Commission and key stakeholder groups.



Wenke Franz

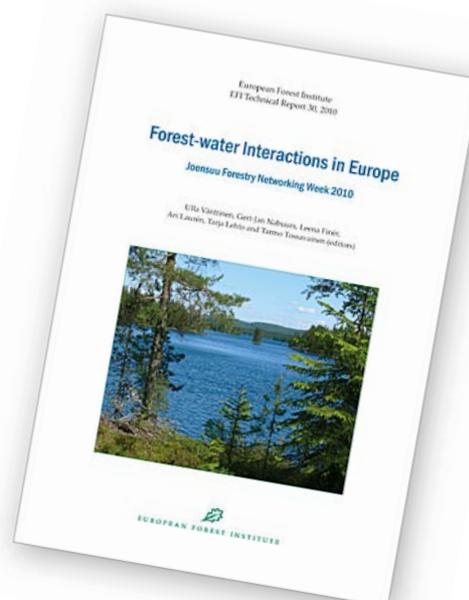
Joensuu Forestry Networking Week

Joensuu Forestry Networking Week 2010 focussed on forest-water interactions in Europe. The event, organised in May 2010, was divided between lectures, workshops and an excursion. The topic of the week was discussed in four working groups addressing special conditions in Mediterranean, Temperate, Alpine and Boreal areas. The results have been now published in EFI's Technical Reports series. The book can be downloaded at the EFI website: www.efi.int/portal/virtual_library/publications/technical_reports/30/

"I would like to think that the connections I have made during the JFNW 2010 will benefit me in the future. Only time will tell! The relaxed and friendly atmosphere during the week only encouraged us to get to know one another which can only be good for the future."

Hugh Feeley, University College Dublin

The Joensuu Forestry Networking Week is a yearly event organised jointly by the European Forest Institute, the Finnish Forest Research Institute, University of Eastern Finland and North Karelia University of Applied Sciences. JFNW 2010 was sponsored by the Foundation of European Forest Research, Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation, Finnish Ministry of the Environment, Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, OP-Pohjola Group, Regional Council of North Karelia and City of Joensuu.



Mark your calendars for Joensuu Forestry Networking Week 2011: Forests and Energy

22–27 May 2011, Joensuu, Finland

The Joensuu Forestry Networking Week 2011 discusses science and policy used in decision making concerning the role of forests in energy questions. The fast growing population together with industrial development and still increasing poverty in developing countries has created a huge need to increase the energy production. When this fact is combined to increased carbon emissions (energy accounts for 80% of all greenhouse gas emissions in the EU), declining amount of fossil fuels and general concern about the environmental and human welfare, we are facing the important problem: how to produce enough and pure energy preferably using renewable resources. Forests and forest energy, together with solar, water and wind power, are the most referred sources seen as a possibility to solve the problem and "save the world".

Further information

www.efi.int/portal/news___events/events/extra/2011/jfnw2011/



Veipu Heiskanen

Among the JFNW 2010 participants were (from the left): Hugh Feeley, University College Dublin, Ireland; Joanne Finnegan, National University of Ireland, Ireland; Lenka Zajíčková, Czech University of Life Sciences, Czech Republic; and Josef Urban, Mendel University Brno, Czech Republic.

Udo Mantau and Ulrike Saal | University of Hamburg, Centre of Wood Science
Hans Verkerk, Jeannette Eggers and Marcus Lindner | European Forest Institute
Perttu Anttila and Antti Asikainen | Finnish Forest Research Institute
Jan Oldenburger and Nico Leek | Probos, The Dutch Institute for Forestry and Forest Products
Florian Steierer and Kit Prins | UNECE/ FAO, Forestry and Timber Section
Ragnar Jonsson | Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Future Forests Programme

Will There Be Enough Wood (for all)?

The demand for wood is expected to increase due to targets defined by the European Commission to nearly double the share of renewable energy in the total energy consumption to 20% by 2020. Wood and wood waste have traditionally played an important role and represent currently about half of all the renewable energy sources in the European Union. According to the EUwood project, coordinated by the University of Hamburg, there is a risk that there may not be enough wood to meet all the demand in the future. This is a significant challenge, but one that, with strong input of time and political will, governments and stakeholders in co-operation could overcome.

The EUwood project aimed to match the demand for wood for energy and for products with the potential supply of wood from forests and other sources for the 27 EU member states. This was done using a novel approach called the Wood Resource Balance. The approach was based on available production and trade statistics as well as a consumption analysis supplemented with data from field research where available. It facilitates assessing inter-sectoral material flows and estimates demand for wood and possible supply of wood simultaneously taking into account multiple use of wood.

Wood demand for energy use

Wood energy is currently the most important single source of renewable energy in the EU. Any policy striving to increase the share of renewable energy could result in a strong increase in the demand of wood for energy. EUwood energy calculations indicate that wood consumption for energy use in the EU 27 countries could grow from 346 million m³ (2010) up to 566 million m³ (2020) and might reach up to 749 million m³ in 2030. These volumes already imply that member states successfully implement overall substantial energy efficiency improvements of 20% by 2020. It is also anticipated that other renewable en-

ergy technologies are likely to evolve faster. Consequently, the study assumes that wood energy decreases its share in the renewable energy portfolio to 40% in 2020.

Wood demand for products

The demand for roundwood for material uses was projected, based on an economic modelling approach for a high (A1) and a low (B2) economic development scenario. For that purpose the quantities of produced goods were estimated for sawmill industry, wood-based panel industry and pulp production. The demand for wood for material use is expected to increase by 15 to 35% between 2010 and 2030, for the B2 and A1 scenarios resp. However, compared to energy use, the market share of wood for material use represents about 55% of the demand in 2010, but its share could decline up to 44% in 2030 according to the A1 scenario, as energy use must grow faster to meet the official targets.

Potential supply from forest woody biomass

To satisfy the demand for wood, forests will play the central role. Based on detailed forest inventory data, a maximum harvest

Dimensions of woody biomass in Europe (EU 27) in the year 2010

686 mill. m³
331 mill. t o.d.
5,973 PJ
70%



Forest woody biomass

Paco Ayala / www.fotolia.com

485 mill. m³
229 mill. t o.d.
3,994 PJ
57%



Material use

Steven Belanger / www.fotolia.com

308 mill. m³
166 mill. t o.d.
2,686 PJ
30%



Other woody biomass

Tom Mc Nemar / www.fotolia.com

346 mill. m³
173 mill. t o.d.
3,017 PJ
43%



Energy user

Denis Pepin / www.fotolia.com

All calculations in the wood resource balance are based on solid wood equivalents. Thus, the volume of forest resources is reduced to about 92% because bark is transferred into solid wood equivalent.

potential was estimated using the large-scale EFISCEN model. This potential was reduced taking into account multiple environmental, technical, and social constraints that limit the amount of wood that can be extracted from forests. This was done for three mobilisation scenarios, which differed in environmental concern and the effective implementation of existing recommendations on wood mobilisation. It was estimated that the realistic potential for 2010 is 686 million m³ solid wood and could range between 581 million m³ and 839 million m³ in 2030 depending on the mobilisation scenario.

Potential supply from other woody biomass

Besides forest resources, landscape care wood, post-consumer wood and industrial wood residues play an important role in wood fibre supply. Assessing available volumes and potentials of these sources depends very much on regional data, model studies and comprehensive industry data. Available area or per capita data of landscape care wood potential and post-consumer wood for some countries were applied for the 27 EU countries. Industrial wood residues, however, as side product of the highly developed processes of sawmill-

ing, pulp and wood-based panel production and further processing depend very much on the measurable consumption of wood. Altogether, these sources account for about one third of the wood fibre supply.

Wood resource balance

Finally, the supply and demand of wood fibre were combined in the Wood Resource Balance. Contrasting demand and supply revealed that enough wood could be supplied from forests and other sources of wood in Europe until 2015 or 2025, depending on the mobilisation scenario. This means that without additional measures, forests and other sources of wood in Europe cannot maintain their current share in renewable energy sources without leaving a shortage for the forest-based industries. Wood imports and short rotation coppice plantations were listed as options to overcome a possible gap between demand and supply.

Policy options

The study has shown that it is difficult, but not impossible, to supply enough wood to satisfy the needs of the industry and to meet the targets for renewable energy.

Without additional measures, there is very likely not enough wood to satisfy the combined needs from the forest based industries and the wood energy producers from domestic sources in 2030.

To increase supply, a large number of policy measures should be implemented to mobilise wood from the forest, trees outside the forest and post consumer wood, in the context of a much more intensive management of the sector. However, such measures are of a technical, social and economic nature and must be based on a sound understanding of the vulnerability of natural ecosystems, to avoid damage to soils, sites and ecosystems. Furthermore, measures will involve resolving a number of complex trade-offs, notably with increasing biodiversity and carbon sequestration in forests.

On the other hand, it is as important to manage the demand for wood. This could be addressed notably by stressing energy efficiency and the development of other, non-wood, sources of renewable energy.

After publication, the EUwood methodology report and final report can be found from the web pages of the European Commission.

This study was commissioned and funded by the the European Commission DG Energy.



FLEGT Strengthening Links to Research

The construction of a Research Agenda for FLEGT issues (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) has been started by EFI's EU FLEGT Facility. The first event in this participative process was a consultation organized for EFI Associate and Affiliate members during the EFI Annual Conference week in Dresden, Germany in September. A meeting facilitated by Mr. Tomi Tuomasjukka collected the views and ideas of interested EFI members and EFI staff, to be used as inputs in the forthcoming formulation process, which is aimed at submission of the Research Agenda to the policy and decision makers in summer 2011.

The policy context for the Research Agenda is the EU FLEGT Action Plan which is a joint effort by the European Commission and the EU Member states to curb illegal logging at global level. It recognizes the role of EU as an important market for tropical timber. As earlier there has been no discrimination against illegal timber, it is evident that illegal material from countries with poor governance in the forest sector has been and is still entering the EU markets, thus creating an important driver. The action plan is gradually taking force with the establishment bilateral voluntary trade agreements (so called Voluntary Partnership Agreements) between the EU and timber producer countries. A key step forward has also been the passing of the Illegal Timber Regulation by the European Parliament, which will be implemented in 2013 and onwards. The regulation prohibits placing of any illegal timber on EU market.

The Action Plan is under its first review, which provides a good moment for drafting of a Research Agenda, which is aimed at identifying the current and future research needs in the context of implementation of the Plan. The Agenda will be addressing the priorities of research in the fields of forest policy and governance, forest products marketing and socio-economics, among others. The Agenda will be also identifying the timing aspects of the research needs – what is urgently needed now, what can be tackled on longer term.

Research Agenda aims at awareness raising

Ultimately the Research Agenda will aim at raising awareness on the FLEGT

research among policy makers, research funding agencies and academic community at pan-European level. Once available, the Agenda will be submitted to the European Commission and will be kept by EFI as a key discussion point in the policy-practice-science context through the Advocacy function.

The formulation of the FLEGT Research Agenda will be involving all relevant stakeholders in Europe and beyond. Scientific experts will be in key position in organizing the collected inputs into a meaningful and scientifically valid agenda. Collaboration with other related processes will be maintained. EFI Associate and Affiliate Members as a part of the scientific community are an important stakeholder group and are expected to provide important inputs to the formulation process.

EFI facilitates the process

EFI has established a task force to take the responsibility of facilitation of the formulation process. The Task Force is led by EFI's Assistant Director, Dr. *Gert-Jan Nabuurs* and includes key EFI staff, bringing in their experience from similar processes and relevant scientific fields. The members of the task force are Dr. *Margaret Shannon*, Dr. *Marc Palahi*, Dr. *Aljoscha Requardt* and Mr. *Ilpo Tikkanen*. Mr. *Tomi Tuomasjukka* and Mr. *Jo Van Brusselen* will provide a direct linkage to the EU FLEGT Facility at EFI. Mr. Van Brusselen will act as the secretary of the task force and can be contacted for further information or to express your wish to be kept informed about the advancement of the consultation process.

FLEGT News from Asia

The FLEGT Asia Regional Programme has recently been involved in many activities in Asia. Through its supporting role in the implementation of the FLEGT Action Plan, the programme can support all countries in Asia. However, the main focus is on countries in the Mekong region (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam) and China.



FLEGT Asia

The Mekong region and China are important sources of timber products that supply international markets. Processing countries such as China, Vietnam and Thailand currently export forest products to the EU market with an estimated value of over US \$ 7 billion. China is the EU's largest supplier of timber and timber products, with a round wood volume estimated export of about 10 million cubic metres in 2009. Even though less than 10% of EU timber consumption is from imported timber, it is this timber – and tropical timber in particular – that is often associated with a variety of concerns over biodiversity, human rights, poverty, climate change etc.

A new EU illegal timber Regulation, probably effective in January 2013, prohibits the placing of illegally harvested timber on the EU market. EU operators will have to use a due diligence system to minimise the risk of placing illegal timber on the market. In essence this means that the operators have to be able to trace their

imported products to the source where the timber is harvested and to minimise the risk of that timber being illegal. FLEGT Asia supports the EU in raising awareness about this Regulation in Asia.

Recently, FLEGT Asia has commissioned two baseline studies about trade and the forest sector in the region. The results of these studies will be available in October. The studies will provide a starting point for policy dialogue. In addition, FLEGT Asia has supported numerous conferences, training workshops and dialogues in the region. To mention a few:

- a workshop co-organised with Transparency International Malaysia on Indonesian and Malaysian timber trade and adaption of forest governance integrity tools;
- a side event together with ITTO and Chinese Academy of Forestry at the IUFRO World Congress in Seoul informing the participants on the

opportunities and challenges with regards to FLEGT;

- the International Conference “Forests, Markets, Policy & Practice – China 2010” in Beijing in September. This conference was co-organised with the Center for International Forest Products Trade, The Nature Conservancy, International Forest Cooperation Center, USAID, Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Program, Rainforest Alliance, WFF – Global Forest & Trade Network and The Forest Trust;
- a fact finding mission and awareness raising activities in Shenzhen and Shanghai (co-organised with WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network and Traffic); and
- a ‘Mekong Road Show’, supporting EU Delegations in Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia with FLEGT awareness events such as organising VPA training workshops, dialogues and informative seminars.



Frank Jacobs, EuropeAid

In June, Roberto Ridolfi, Head of Unit in EuropeAid-F-3 of the European Commission, and Risto Päivinen, EFI Director, signed a new contribution agreement about an additional support of 5 million EUR to the EU FLEGT Facility, hosted by EFI to fight illegal logging.

During the FAO Forest Week held in Rome (October 4–8) the EU FLEGT Facility and the ACP-FLEGT Program of the FAO co-organized a side event on FLEGT. The event was directed to the delegates of the Committee on Forestry, as well as the scientists participating in the conference on Emerging Economic Mechanisms: Implications for Forest-Related Policies and Sector Governance, held parallel to the COFO. The speakers of the event highlighted the basics of the FLEGT Action Plan and recent progress in its implementation. Mr. *Samuel Ebia*, Head of Forestry of Cameroon was in an excellent position to describe the progress of his country in the VPA, as the formal agreement had been signed in Brussels one day earlier. A positive position by the representative of Italian timber processing industries was presented by Mr. *Michele Alfano* from Fedecomlegno. The brief discussion, chaired by Mr. *Adrian Whiteman* of FAO, brought up a variety of issues ranging from the role of forest science in implementation of the Action Plan, linkages to REDD+ and avoiding circumferrence.

The EU-financed research programme EFORWOOD, is now finished. Its most central deliverable is ToSIA, a computerized decision-support tool that helps private and public decision-makers to make sound and reliable decisions on sustainable development in forestry and forest products manufacturing and consumption. EFI and many of its Associate Members have been driving forces in the development of ToSIA that provides objective information on how changes in forestry and the forest products industry influence factors such as employment, economy, biodiversity, and greenhouse-gas emissions.

EFORWOOD ends, ToSIA continues

“From past experience, I know how important it is, right from the start, to spell out exactly what ToSIA does not do,” says *Kaj Rosen* (Skogforsk), who has coordinated the research programme. “It is not an instrument for predicting the future, and nor is it a means of determining whether something is good or bad.” The term Value chain is central to ToSIA, and covers all the steps from forest to finished product, through to recovery, and end of life. Another central term is “sustainable development”, which includes three key elements: the economy, the environment, and social aspects. ToSIA uses indicators to describe these elements and how they change over time.

Data collection

ToSIA can be seen as a calculator that, given certain conditions, can determine the wood and fibre flow in a value chain. Each process in the chain is described by means of a sustainability indicator. The data-collection work is intensive. The scale of the ToSIA analysis is optional. Geographically, an analysis could cover a single, individual property or region or be aggregated up to EU level. An analysis can be made of an entire value chain or just one part of it. It is also possible to limit the number of

pre-defined indicators, thereby simplifying data collection, but this means that the assessment of sustainability impact will be incomplete. The program itself is free, but it will usually require the help of a consultant from the project consortium to run an analysis.

Weighing and evaluation of indicators

Interpretation of the results from ToSIA is not straightforward. How, for instance, can you weigh an increase in employment against a reduction in biodiversity? To find solutions to these kinds of questions we have worked on a variety of techniques in the research programme aimed at helping the user to interpret the results. One such technique is multi-criteria analysis (MCA). This technique enables the user not only to put the various indicators into order of precedence but also to combine the indicators into a balanced outcome – a sustainability index – that makes it easier to put the various options into an order of precedence for sustainability. The analysis work can be carried out independently or in a group. In the latter case, the group results should be seen as the average outcome based on the values and assumptions of

the participants. The method used can be seen as a model for negotiation, in which a group of decision-makers and other stakeholders in an interactive process vote on the importance of the different indicators, such as employment, and greenhouse-gas emissions.

Case studies

The testing of ToSIA involved four case studies.

1. The Scandinavian case, in which we analysed the effect on sustainable development if new technologies were introduced in sawmills (e.g. lumber-scanning).
2. The Baden Wurttemberg regional case, which analysed effects on the forestry sector if the newly adopted EU policy on renewable energy (the 20-20-20 policy) were to be fully implemented in the region.
3. The Iberian consumption-driven case focussed on consumer behaviour
4. The EU case, in which we analysed what would happen to the sustainability of the European forestry sector if the nature conservation directive (Natura 2000) were implemented on a more ambitious scale in the EU.

ToSIA Management and User Group (TMUG) welcomes new members!

Now that the EFORWOOD project has been completed, ToSIA and its databases will be maintained for and developed further by a network of previous partners, future users and other interested parties, the ToSIA Management and User Group. One of the active users and developers of the tool is the Northern Periphery Programme-project "Northern ToSIA" (www.northerntosia.org).

TMUG was launched in Helsinki in early September 2010, and its coordination is hosted at EFI. This is the central point for further tool development and applications using ToSIA. Organisations interested in learning more about ToSIA or TMUG, or wanting to join as a TMUG member, are welcome to contact tosia@efi.int or diana.votter@efi.int.

Improving Forest Products Price Information in Europe

Ibrahim Favada, Paul Rougieux and Aljoscha Requardt | EFICIENT-OEF

Market transparency is the key to efficient timber and timber products markets. Both buyers and sellers should have relevant and timely information to effect transactions with minimum costs. Hence, price information in domestic and international timber and timber products trade is important. Yet, the only internationally and freely available price data are limited to few products and countries, and not up-to-date. In close cooperation with UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section timber section, the Observatory for European Forests in Nancy, France, initiated and coordinated the feasibility study on improving forest products price information resulting in a forthcoming portal featuring more than 400 different information sources from more than 50 countries.

Economists agree that demand and supply forces determine an equilibrium price. This implies that both buyers and sellers should have perfect information on the market. In wood raw material market, for example, the forest industry has often better information than the individual forest owner does. To reduce this informational asymmetry, forest management associations assist forest owners by providing them price information.

At the international level, UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section started price series since 1960 intended for short- and long-term market analyses. These price

series were regularly published in the UNECE Timber bulletin. Since 1999, the series have been disseminated as a downloadable Excel file from the UNECE website. However, the current international forest products price data is not up-to-date, limited to few products and countries, and not user friendly. In order to improve the current data, the Observatory for European Forests (OEF) is co-ordinating a feasibility study on improving international forest products price information, in close cooperation with the UNECE. This project was planned in the context of improving cooperation among EFI, UNECE and FAO.

The study is carried out in the UNECE region (Europe, CIS, and North America) and aims to provide the best options for improving the international forest products price information. The main outcomes are a final report, which will give concrete proposals for improving international forest products price information, and a metadata portal, which will facilitate a search for forest products price information sources.

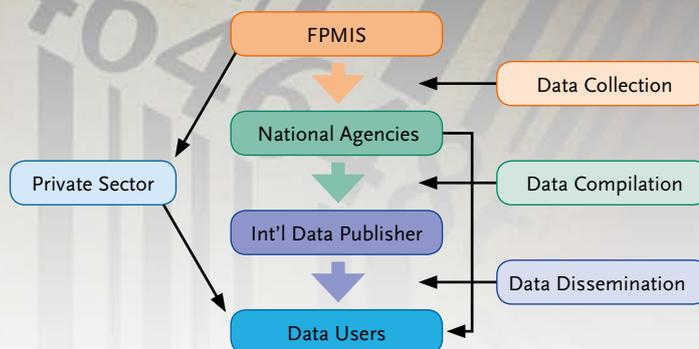
Forest products market information system

The study assumes the existence of a forest products market information system (FPMIS) in the study region through which price and other market information can be obtained. National statistical or forestry agency (e.g. Finnish Forest Research Institute) obtains price data from various sources (e.g. Finnish Forest Industry Federation). These data are reported to an international data publisher (e.g. UNECE), which make data available to different users. Private sector (e.g. consulting firm,

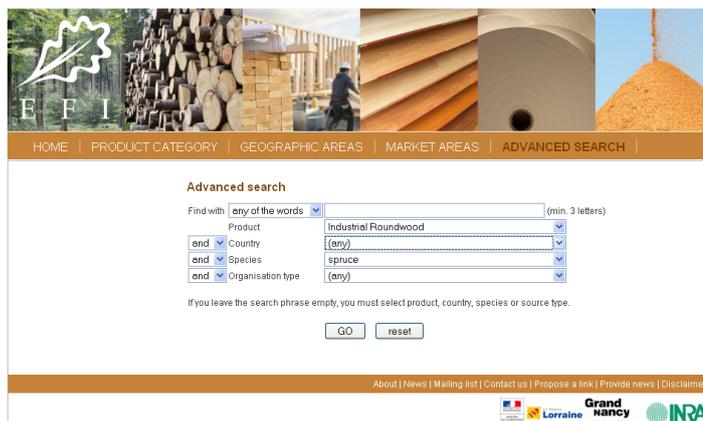
timber marketplaces) also obtain data from various sources, process them, and distribute to users through subscription (such as e.g. woodprices.com, risi.com, euwid.com and lesprom.com).

Following an internet search for price information sources, a survey was conducted for three types of stakeholders: researchers and market experts, national data collection agencies, forest industry and forest owner association. Its main purpose was to identify user needs for forest products price information in Europe.

The forthcoming metadata portal will offer an ease in searching for information on forest products prices, especially in Europe. Users can search by product category, geographic areas and species category. The advanced search allows using a keyword or key phrase with or without a combination of other search criteria such as country, species category and source type. The portal consists of more than 400 different information sources from more than 50 countries. It provides an overview and links to various price and timber market-related information sources/databases. The portal will be available online in early 2011.



Data source, collection and dissemination of forest products prices.



Search interface of the portal, which will be available in early 2011.

The IFSA-EFI partnership strengthens communication between students and the professional world

Ida Mikkelsen and Cathrine Pater | IFSA

The International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) is a non political and non-profit organisation of tertiary level forestry students around the world. IFSA is dedicated to organise extracurricular activities and to enhance global cooperation among forestry students. Furthermore, IFSA encourages collaboration with international partner organisations and to gain practical experiences with a wider and more global perspective. The membership is currently comprised of 76 local committees, inclusive associate members, of universities in 52 countries. The activities of IFSA take place in International Forestry Students' Symposiums, seminars, commissions, publications, etc.

IFSA has recently established a new commission on Forestry Education in order to play an active role towards a better forestry education. Within the commission a Global Action Plan for Forestry Education (GAPFE) has been created, and it is hoped that the work will continue towards a joint GAPFE amongst the different players in Forest Education worldwide. Today IFSA's initiative within the GAPFE is the Students Action Plan for Forestry Education (SAPFE), where IFSA is focusing on



what students can do for forestry education worldwide. When EFI mentions "Education and capacity building" as a new area of activity for EFI in the 2025 strategy, it is of great importance to IFSA. This envisages that universities are going to work in joint programs on European level. IFSA embraces this initiative and emphasises that EFI can rely on IFSA's contribution in this work.

The IFSA-EFI partnership, maintained through an IFSA Liaison Officer for EFI, is important as it strengthens communica-

tion between students and the professional world. It promotes trainees in research organizations and favours an involvement in international meetings. IFSA's attendance in EFI's annual conference, events, and meetings is a first step for IFSA to maintain and develop the cooperation, giving students an understanding of EFI, as well as serving as an incentive for students to get involved with EFI in the future.

To stay updated with IFSA's activities please visit www.ifsa.net

EFI Research Scholarships for EFI member organisations in 2011

EFI welcomes applicants from young researchers, PhD students or advanced scientists for Scholarships for EFI Member Organisations in 2011.

The scholarship is granted for three months, and the successful candidate will be based at EFI headquarters or one of the Regional Offices. The amount of the scholarship is 750 Euro per month. EFI will also cover the travel expenses in economy class as well as accommodation.

The announcement and the selection criteria can be found at EFI website: http://www.efi.int/portal/about_efi/human_resources/careers/open_posts/

Deadline for applications: 31 March 2011

Annual Conference in Turkey in 2012!

Hosting of the 2012 Annual Conference was granted to Turkey by the 2010 Annual Conference. Istanbul University Faculty of Forestry and Poplar and Fast Growing Forest Trees Research Institute (PFGFRI) will be the organisers of the event.

Ireland ratified the Convention on EFI

Ireland has ratified the Convention on the European Forest Institute. The Convention on EFI has now been ratified by a total of 22 European countries. The ratifying countries are now Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the UK.

The ratifying countries meet every three years in EFI Council. The next Council meeting is scheduled for 2011 and it will be held in Croatia. Also the chairmanship of the Council will shift from Spain to Croatia.

Future Forestry and Research Activities of Russian Universities Discussed in Yoshkar-Ola

Eldar Kurbanov and Sergey Leznin | Mari State Technical University

In June 2010, the Mari State Technical University in Yoshkar-Ola hosted an international conference on the topic of “Forest ecosystems in the conditions of climate change: biological productivity, monitoring and technologies for adaptation”. The event offered important new knowledge especially for the students and young researchers, who will work in the forest sector in the near future. Also modern technologies were utilized as several speakers delivered their presentations via videoconferencing.

Presentations focused on the estimation of the biological productivity of forest ecosystems, the use of remote sensing for forest management and research, and adaptation technologies in the conditions of climate change. Prof. *Olga Krankina* (IPCC member) from Oregon State University presented important information about NASA’s projects on land cover, land use changes in different parts of the world, as well as about possible consequences of climate change on the territory of Russian Federation. Prof. *Valentin Shalaev* (Moscow state forest University) dedicated his presentation to the issue of international cooperation in the field of forest education and research in the framework of IUFRO and EU programs. Young scientists from Mari State Technical University presented ongoing research of the Center for Sustainable Forest Management on estimation of the forest invasion on the abandoned agricultural lands in the Republic Mari El by the use of satellite ALOS images. Such lands are taken mainly by birch and pine species.

Site visits to the experimental plots were a part of the event and participants were acquainted with the highly productive birch stands grown on the carbonated soils in the experimental forests of the Mari State Technical University. While moving towards to the Zavolgie sandy lowlands there is very comprehensive transition from mixed broadleaved forest stands to the conifer pure pine stands. Another interesting type of sites were young pure and mixed forest stands formed after the severe forest fires of 1972 in different parts of the Republic.

Modern communication technologies guaranteed the success of the conference as seven presentations were delivered through videoconferences from EFI, Dresden University of Technology, University of Copenhagen, University of Padua, as well as Ukraine NUBiP and Lviv National Forestry University. Prof. *Andreas Bitter* and Prof. *Sven Wagner* from Tharandt shared with the conference participants in Yoshkar-Ola their views on “Planning of target forest types in a changing envi-

ronment” and “Silvicultural responses to predicted climate change in Germany”. *Marcus Lindner* from EFI gave an interesting overlook on the “Impacts of Climate Change on European Forests and Options for Adaptation”. Prof. *Cecil Konijnendijk* from Copenhagen University made an important presentation “Urban forests and climate change: challenges and opportunities”. Encouraged by the experiences in using videoconferencing, the centre of sustainable forest management of the MarSTU will continue to develop such useful communication facilities to be applied during the future conferences and projects.

At the last day conference participants prepared a conference resolution with concrete suggestions for improving the situation in forestry and research activities in Russian universities. The following important challenges were raised for the future: to develop regional strategy for adaptation of forest sector to the climate change, which should include risks of vulnerability and positive impacts of the changes to the economy, forestry and social particularities of the region; to extend the international cooperation and networking with international forestry organizations in the field of research and education; the importance of natural regeneration of main forest species with respect of their sustainability; more wide use of GIS and satellite images for estimation of biological productivity and monitoring of forest resources.



Eldar Kurbanov



Lail Leng Yiap / www.fotolia.com

Targeting for an Increased Visibility for RoK-FOR Regions

Päivi Pelli | EFI

RoK-FOR (Regions of Knowledge for Forestry) coordination project connects the forestry and environment sectors of five regions in Europe. The project will create new partnerships for actors of the regions and it will link the economy and know-how of the regions in the chain of production based on environment and natural resources. The first RoK-FOR conference in October gathered over 90 participants from forestry sector, bioenergy, wood construction and bio-based products to share ideas about developing research-driven clusters in accordance with the European Lead Market Initiative.

Especially the hosting region, which crosses borders between France and Spain, was well represented with both businesses, research institutions and regional administration involved. The conference in Biarritz was a good start-up for the Aquitaine and the Basque Country cross-border cooperation – the next step, meeting between the regional authorities' representatives has already been agreed upon. In their opening speeches both Mr. *François Maitia* (Regional Council of Aquitaine) and Mrs. *Amaia Barrena* (the Basque Government) underlined the importance of the forest-based sector for the regions and regional development.

The conference was organised by EFIATLANTIC in partnership with Aquitaine and Basque regions and

pole of competitiveness Xylofutur. Mr. *Jean-François Nothias* from the Xylofutur was satisfied how the conference succeeded in mobilising the members of the competitiveness cluster for wood and forest industry in Aquitaine. “By learning about the other regions in Europe, we can better position Aquitaine among the other regions in Europe. RoK-FOR project is an opportunity to improve visibility of our sector also in the European level platforms, as well as to explore different ways to cooperate and e.g. participate in European calls for project proposals.”

A local entrepreneur, Mr. *Sébastien Eloir* from the Ménard-Darriet-Cullerier (MDC), which produces forestry machines, confirmed this viewpoint: “Participating in the conference was an efficient way for us to gain information about regions in different parts of Europe and to make contacts with research and companies, compared with the situation that I'd need to start this information collection on my own.”

There are several research and development (R&D) activities ongoing in bioenergy, wood construction and bio-based products. The conference audience got brief introductions to Forest-based Technology Platform national research agenda work in France and Spain, and also the German platform was presented in the poster session. “It is important to connect the regional agenda building with contacts to the national FTP groups”, Dr. *Ignacio López* from the Forest Technology Centre of Catalonia



Päivi Pelli

Poster session in the conference gave the organisations and regions possibility to introduce themselves and to find out more about each other.

(CTFC) pointed out. The regional aspect of the technology platforms can be strengthened through RoK-FOR.

The next step in the project is to continue with the regional stakeholder panels in all RoK-FOR regions in order to work out regional priorities for a Regional Research Agenda. Joint activities between the regional clusters will then be defined based on the outcome of the regional stakeholder consultations. The Biarritz conference gave new motivation for all participating regions, and the next step to share regional practices will be the international workshop taking place in the beginning of February 2011 in Freiburg, Germany.

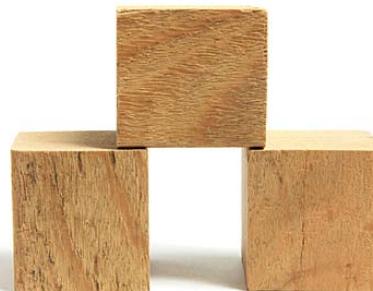
In addition to the active stakeholder consultations in the regions, also the connection from the RoK-FOR project to policy making both at national and EU levels is an important target for the project – not only in forest policy and R&D policy, but also in sectoral policies having impact on the development of the three Lead Market areas and sustainable forest management, says Dr. *Timo Hokkanen* from the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Karelia, Finland.

www.rokfor.eu

The RoK-FOR project is financed through the FP7 Capacities/Regions of Knowledge

The RoK-FOR (Regions of Knowledge for Forestry) project creates research-based clusters in sustainable forest management, renewable energy, sustainable construction and bio-based products in the participating regions Aquitaine–Basque, Catalonia, Baden-Württemberg, North Karelia and cross-border cluster Croatia–Serbia. The project is financed through the FP7 Capacities/Regions of Knowledge. The total financing is 1.7 M€.

The project duration is three years (2010–2012) and Dr. *Timo J. Hokkanen* from Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Karelia, Finland (timo.hokkanen@ely-keskus.fi), coordinates the project. EFI Regional Offices are centrally involved in the implementation of the project.



Lai Leng Yiap / www.fotoia.com

Event Calendar

EFI Events

■ **Nematode Day: How to Eradicate or Limit Propagation of Pine Nematode in Europe?**

13 January 2011
Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain

■ **COST Foresight Strategic Workshop**

(by invitation only)
22–23 February 2011
Barcelona, Spain

■ **Winter-Summer School: Making Values Work – Exploring Multiple Perspectives in Understanding the Valuation of Forest Ecosystems**

20–26 March 2011
Freiburg, Germany
2nd half of September 2011
Varaždin, Croatia

■ **The II Mediterranean Forest Week**

5–8 April 2011
Avignon, France

■ **Joensuu Forestry Networking Week 2011: Forests and Energy**

22–27 May 2011
Joensuu, Finland

EFI Associated Events

■ **International Seminar: Modelling in Forest Sector – An Effective Tool for Sustainable Development**

30 November – 1 December 2010
Saint-Petersburg, Russia

■ **Floodplain Forest Ecosystems in Europe – Ecosystem of High Priority for Protection**

2–5 May 2011
Zidlochovice, Czech Republic

Further information

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WES2011 – Wood Energy Solutions 2011

31 January – 4 February 2011
Koli, Finland

WES2011 is the third Wood Energy Solutions conference held in Koli. A practical approach to wood energy solutions together with study tours will enlighten the current situation of wood fuels in Europe and elsewhere. Speakers will include experts, entrepreneurs, authorities and umbrella organization representatives addressing the issue of green businesses

and their driving forces. The topics of the conference will include e.g. efficiency in processes, using image as a marketing advantage and Russian wood energy business environment. One of the three study tours heads to Russian Karelia.

Register by 31 December 2010.

Further information
www.wenet.fi/eng/?ID=1731

The II Mediterranean Forest Week

5–8 April 2011
Avignon, France

Mediterranean forests require special attention because they play a key role in the welfare of urban and rural Mediterranean societies, and they constitute a unique world natural heritage in terms of biological diversity. Also their conservation and management affects the availability of soil and water resources, and their future is seriously endangered by rapid and drastic climate and land-use changes. The Mediterranean

Forest Week brings together the forest research community and relevant stakeholders (policy-makers, managers, forest owners' representatives, NGOs, etc.) to improve the science-policy dialogue.

The focus of the EFIMED scientific seminar is on "Biodiversity of Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems: changing the paradigm of conservation".

Further information
www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/mfw2011/

Nematode Day – How to limit propagation of Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) in Europe

13 January 2010
Pontevedra, Galicia, Spain

The aim of the meeting is to provide decision makers and forest sector organisations up-to-date information about the Pine Wood Nematode problem in the Iberian Peninsula. The scientific presentations will give unbiased information on the nematode and its vectors (cerambycid beetles in the genus *Mono-*

chamus). The participants are able to analyse harmonized monitoring and management measures, and to propose scientific, technical and legal improvements to limit the spread of nematode. The meeting is targeted to all who are involved in biotic risk management.

Further information
www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/nematode_day/

AGORA workshop focused at adapting Mediterranean forests to climate change

The AGORA project held its first international scientific workshop recently in Hammamet, Tunisia. Under the title “Adapting Mediterranean forests to climate change: Genetics / Economics / Management”, the workshop focused on

- The adaptive diversity of Mediterranean forest genetic resources facing climate change;
- Economic evaluation of forest goods and services; and
- Forest inventory and modelling

This workshop, which gathered 78 participants from 11 Mediterranean countries, provided a unique platform to foster the cooperation and networking within AGORA beneficiaries from Tunisia and Morocco, and other networks like FOPER II (Forest Policy and Economics) project which operates in the Balkan area.

AGORA aims at advancing research capacities in the Mediterranean. During three years the National School of Forest Engineers (ENFI) from Morocco and the National Research Institute on Rural Engineering, Water and Forests (INRGREF) from Tunisia will benefit from a scientific twinning action plan with five European institutions: University of Padova (Italy), Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Portugal), Black Sea University (Turkey), National Research Institute of Agronomy (INRA) and EFIMED.

Further information
www.efimed.efi.int/portal/agora

AGORA project is funded by the European Commission FP7.



Elena Corriz

New Ways to Value and Market Forest Externalities – NEWFOREX

Those various forest goods and services which are not marketed, and yet have value to many people other than the forest owners, form the so called externalities. Methods for assessing these values are incomplete, and so is the understanding of who in society benefits the most from them. Furthermore, as they are not marketed forest owners are not rewarded for providing them to others, and may thus take decisions resulting in a lower provision of these goods and services than is optimal for society.

Can we contribute to the increase of societies' welfare by developing new ways to enhance the provision of such forest goods and services? This and similar questions are being resolved in the NEWFOREX project (New Ways to Value and Market Forest Externalities).

Across Europe there is a huge variation in forest types, landscapes in which forests are situated, degree

of urbanisation, importance of forest goods and services, and socioeconomic context. Consequently, there are significant variations in the demand as well as the value of forest externalities, their cost of provision and options for their marketing. Therefore NEWFOREX will base its work on a set of carefully chosen European case studies representing a range of these variations. In addition, a comparative case study in a developing country Brazil, is carried out.

Further information
<http://newforex.org/>

Newforex is supported by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development.

Risto Päivinen re-appointed as Director of EFI

The Board of EFI has re-appointed Prof. Dr. Risto Päivinen as Director of EFI for the years 2011–2015. During his term as Director, the Institute has grown considerably and diversified its activities both thematically and geographically. In addition to its Headquarters, the Institute has five Regional Offices in Europe and a FLEGT Asia Facility Office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This year, the budget will have grown to 8.5 million euro and activities will include policy advice in fields such as EU FLEGT. EFI News asked Risto Päivinen how he envisages the Institute's future.



What are in your opinion the key issues for EFI to address at this point in time?

I see that there is a need to look for increased involvement of our Country Members and Member Organisations in all of our activities. It is necessary to develop, research and policy advice in a balanced way. Both of these functions need each other. Moreover, the prerequisite for being successful in these fields is to carry out active networking, advocacy and information services. These are key overall issues for us all to keep in mind.

Now that policy advice is one of the strategic functions of EFI, how do you foresee EFI's role in this field?

EFI as an international organisation and with the focus on forests and on Europe, is well placed in serving its Member Countries and the European Community as whole in the wide field of policy advice. EFI can re-

ally bring forest related issues of high importance to the attention of policy makers and have an impact on decision making. We have a role to play in improving the interaction between scientists and decision makers. This can be done by maintaining the high quality of research and bringing the scientific information to policy makers in a right format. EFI networking, information services and objective research can bring added value in the activities within policy advice.

How do you see EFI's future?

In the coming years EFI will provide better services to its Member Countries, Member Organisations and to the European Community. I foresee paths for growth both in facilitating research and the policy advice of European relevance. The main challenge is to maintain the integrity of the EFI while it is expanding both geographically as well as thematically.



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The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation established by European States. EFI conducts research and provides policy advice on forest related issues. It facilitates and stimulates forest related networking as well as promotes the supply of unbiased and policy relevant information on forests and forestry. It also advocates for forest research and for scientifically sound information as a basis for policy-making on forests.

