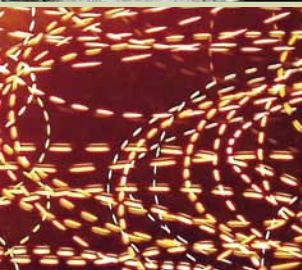


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# EFI *news*



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## Excellence in research – the cornerstone of EFI

Research and Development have been the cornerstones of EFI. Without excellence in R&D, EFI may fail in fulfilling its other strategic activities: networking, information and advocacy. We have to keep this in mind as Regional Offices are being established as integral parts of the Institute. Regional Offices pose new challenges to EFI: increasing the presence of EFI at the Pan-European level, maintaining the scientific quality of the research conducted, as well as the coordination of the Headquarters, Regional Offices and Member organisations.

The EFI Board, EFI Scientific Advisory Board, and the EFI Annual Conference have to adapt their work and take these changes into consideration. EFI Council,

and especially the Council Chairman, has also an essential role in this new phase, calling for improving the communication with the country members, and also in refining and guiding the development of the EFI policy framework. EFI Annual Conference has the major role in transmitting EFI's and its Member organisations achievements to society.

There are no shortcuts to be taken in producing scientific knowledge as a basis for the development of the forest sector. Selection of the best staff members, specialization of the different Regional Offices and, rigorous scientific evaluation should continue to be of uttermost importance for EFI.

Challenges lay ahead for EFI in the next future. In some, EFI has actively been involved both at the pan-European and regional level. Meeting of these challenges, for example through the elaboration Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda and Strategic Research Agenda for the Forest-Based Sector and their implementation is an achievement that could be stressed. EFI should address such challenges in adopting the new policy framework in its next ordinary Council meeting in 2011.

*Ricardo Alia  
Chairman of the Council*



## Network Speaks

### Carbon saturation!

In hindsight 2009 finished in the shadows of Copenhagen with the focus on climate change and carbon. After overcoming the disappointments in Copenhagen the political focus will move forwards to new challenges and leave climate change with much lesser political attention.

My guess is that one of the potential topics that will arise in the next decade is water. Water in broad terms i.e. freshwaters, groundwater, flooding, pollution, quantity and quality will all be important political topics. And it is well known that forest plays a crucial role in relation to the above mentioned topics.

Water will be a crucial resource which will be in high demand all over Europe in the years to come. It is therefore evident that new policies will be introduced to regulate the use and safeguard the water

resource. Also new policy measures in relation to forests and water will be introduced as forest is so closely linked to water. Because of this increased focus we need more research in this field.

Without knowing the full research picture in relation to forest and water I believe that in at least three areas more research is needed:

- Forest management and its link to water – both groundwater and freshwaters needs much more attention. What kind of forest management should be given priority if there is scarcity of water? How to improve the quality of water through active forest management? How is the link between flooding control and forest management of existing forests or afforestation of new forest to prevent floodings?
- Payments for water services provided by the forests must be further developed.

How to create systems which encourage forest management which supports the societal demand for water? So far the water services from the forests have been taken for granted and there have been no or little incentives to create more or better quality of water from the forest.

- The methodology for assessing the water usage in production processes must be developed and consensus must be achieved on what methodology to use. In particular forest based products could be put in a bad light if the wrong application will be chosen.

There is plenty of need for research on forest and water and I hope that EFI will take the lead on this important topic.

*Morten Thorø  
Secretary General, CEPF – Confédération  
Européenne des Propriétaires Forestiers*



# Linking the Regional and Global

In the era of globalization, combining efforts in forest research and education at the national level in order to identify the global niche is crucial, says Prof. Dr. Niels Elers Koch. Only after that can we proceed to the division of work at the regional level and obtain synergies and avoid overlapping R&D work. Here regional research bodies like EFI could play an important role, he points out. (read more on page 9)

In order to strengthen the regional links in its forest research network, EFI has established Regional Offices throughout Europe. These Regional Offices have a great potential for bringing together forest research resources at the European level. This development will also help us to address supranational policy-relevant research issues proactively and dynamically.

In this issue of EFI News, we focus on the North and Central-East European Regional Offices.

## EFINORD starting up

EFI's North European Regional Office EFINORD is starting up its activities during this summer, and a launch event is scheduled for autumn. EFINORD has its premises at the Danish Forest and Landscape Research Institute (S&L) in Copenhagen and it has its main focus on the Nordic region of Europe including partners from the Baltic Sea region as well as the North Atlantic area. The relationship between the Nordic countries and their neighbours is historical, political and cultural, and the region at large shares similar geo-physical conditions.

The purpose of EFINORD is to tie a closer link from the region to EFI and to add a European dimension to the well-established Nordic forest research co-operation. By strengthening the networking and co-operation in forest research between the participating research organisations in the Nordic countries and their neighbouring partners in the Baltic Sea Region and North Atlantic area, EFINORD will have a solid base for regional collaboration. Moreover, EFINORD has the capacity to

interact with the rest of the EU especially in policy related issues and thereby integrate the forest research of the Nordic region better into Europe.

The main aims of EFINORD are:

- to strengthen Nordic forest research and networking in Europe and encourage Nordic forest researchers to take part in pan-European and international projects
- to increase regional synergy within forest research by e.g. task forces, support to networks, research meetings, projects, joint utilisation of unique research facilities
- to contribute to EFI's strategic core competences; research, networking, information provision and advocacy
- to initiate and facilitate communication of research results, thereby supporting EFI's strategic aim of providing information on Europe's forests to stakeholders.

## Mika Mustonen appointed as EFINORD Head of Office



Metla / Erkki Oksanen

Mr. Mika Mustonen, M.Sc. (Agriculture & Forestry) has been appointed Head of Office of EFINORD. Mr. Mustonen started his term in April 2010. The post of the Head of EFINORD is seconded by the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), and the post was

internally announced at Metla.

Mr. Mustonen has worked as a Senior Researcher at the Finnish Forest Research Institute, Metla, for the

past six years. He has been the Project Manager of the 'Metinfo' Statistical Database which is Metla's forest statistics service on the Web, a country correspondent for international forest statistics questionnaires, Co-editor of the Statistical Yearbook of Forestry and a Specialist on roundwood market statistics. During 2001–2004, Mr. Mustonen worked at EUROSTAT, where he took part in the conceptual development of Community forestry statistics in collaboration with UN/ECE, FAO, ITTO and OECD within the Intersecretariat Working Group (IWG) on Forestry Statistics, and was managing and supervising the development and implementation of database for managing and storing forestry statistics.

## EFINORD and SNS join forces

EFI News talked with Prof. Dr. Niels Elers Koch, the Director of Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning at the University of Copenhagen and the IUFRO Vice President about the new co-operation and its expected benefits.

*As EFINORD is partially based on SNS funding, what, in your opinion, is the added value of EFINORD to the regular activities of SNS?*

“SNS, the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee, very much looks forward to the cooperation with EFINORD. SNS contributes funding to EFINORD in two ways. A smaller part is a cash contribution, which is earmarked to payment of fees to EFI, and a larger part with is the ‘donation’ of the existing SNS research networks to EFINORD. The conditions of and future expectations related to this donation will be discussed between EFINORD and SNS in the coming months.

The added value of EFINORD to SNS is like a spring board, which provides SNS extended access to the European forest research network. SNS expects EFINORD to bring added value to regular SNS activities by:

- strengthening the Nordic forest research and networking in Europe and encourage Nordic forest researchers to take part in pan-European and international projects
- increasing the regional synergy within forest research by e.g. task forces, support to networks, research meetings, projects, and joint utilisation of unique research facilities

A very good example of a collaborative effort, which has started even before EFINORD is officially opened, is the activities within the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, where EFINORD and SNS together helps forest research projects from the whole region to form a sound flagship project. Another good example is a project in the pipeline,

where SNS and EFINORD together launch an information portal on Nordic-Baltic forest research, freely available to all. You can expect to hear more about this interesting and useful project later this year.”

*“EFINORD is like a spring board for extended access to the European forest research network.”*

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### Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee, SNS

Forest resources in the Nordic countries are substantial with 60 million hectares of forest land, 6.2 billion m<sup>3</sup> of growing stock and 53 million m<sup>3</sup> of net annual increment (FAO 2005). Forests have a key role in terrestrial ecosystems, and the forest-based sector is a major business sector in the Nordic region. In the Baltic Sea Region at large, forestry is important to the economy and sustainable development. Keeping the sector profitable and competitive is a key factor in securing the future sustainable development of the region.

The region has a long tradition of co-operation within forest research via SNS, the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee. SNS is an institution within and financed by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The overall purpose of SNS is to promote research into the diverse functions of the forests in sustainable forestry, as well as to advice the Nordic Council of Ministers on questions concerning forests and forestry research.

# Central-East European Regional Office – EFICEEC launched

The latest EFI Regional Office to open its doors is the Central-East European Regional Office – EFICEEC in Vienna, Austria. EFICEEC will strengthen implementation of the EFI's strategy 2022; and it is foreseen as a catalyst to foster networking, research, information, advocacy, and capacity building on a regional scale in the Central-East Europe. The launch of EFICEEC was held on 12 April at the BOKU University. More than 60 distinguished guests joined the opening ceremony.

EFICEEC receives base-funding from the University of Natural Resources and Applied Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, and Water Management, the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research, and the City of Vienna. EFICEEC Regional Office is located in Vienna and hosted by the BOKU University and it has a network of 11 core partners and 17 network partners from 11 countries. In addition to providing funding, core partners are committing personnel and infrastructure to EFICEEC.

Following the activities from EFI's Project Centre INNOFORCE, EFI's Regional Office EFICEEC is expanded towards an inter-disciplinary focal point that builds on three work areas:

1. "Forest sector policy and economics" continues activities in forest policy analysis, innovation research, and sustainability research.
2. "Land Use Change" is dedicated to land use modelling with special regard to climate change and bio-energy.
3. "Forest Ecosystem Management" is dealing with forest management under changing environmental and societal conditions with special focus on mountain forests.



Martin Faiss

Back row from left: Gerhard Mannsberger (Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria), Martin H. Gerzabek (Institute of Soil Science, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences – BOKU, Vienna) Karl Högl (Head of Institute of Forest, Environmental and Natural Resource Policy, BOKU); (front row) Július Novotný (Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic), Risto Päivinen (Director, EFI), Hubert Hasenauer (Head of Institute of Silviculture, BOKU) at the launch event of EFICEEC.

## Bernhard Wolfslehner to lead EFICEEC



Dr. Bernhard Wolfslehner, PhD (Forestry) has been appointed Head of Office of the Central-East European Regional Office of the European Forest Institute (EFI). Dr. Wolfslehner started his term May 1, 2010. EFICEEC has its premises at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna.

Dr. Wolfslehner has worked previously as Researcher at the Institute of Silviculture, University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna where he has been involved in a number of international projects as a leader or co-leader. He has also worked as an advisor for the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests (MCPFE) as well as in the Austrian Forest Dialogue. He has been also involved in the establishment of the EFI-CEECE since 2009.

Dr. Wolfslehner's expertise covers the fields of sustainable forest management, criteria and indicators (C&I), non-timber forest products and services, biological diversity, and multi-criteria decision support.

## EFICEEC expected to act as a local catalyst

*Prof. Dr. Július Novotný, the Director General of the Forestry and Wood Processing Section at the Ministry of Agriculture in the Slovak Republic, where do you see the role of EFICEEC in the development of forestry sciences and forest and land-use policy and practice in Central Eastern Europe?*

"The Central Eastern Europe has a long history and rich tradition in forestry and forest research. Collaboration and partnership are the key factors for the progress of forest research in the CEE region. The CEE forest research has ambitions to be strong, more successful and fully competitive in the European research scene and therefore the countries and forest research institutes in the region are motivated to build new networks and collaborative partnerships.

I believe that EFI Regional Offices are a very important new tool for strong and pragmatic cooperation and collaboration at the regional level. The main benefits will come from building institutional networks amongst forest related research institutions. The main profit for the region is the fact that EFICEEC will act as a catalyst in developing research and capacity building projects and increase the potential for funding, which is of key

importance. EFICEEC should promote and support to build strong multidisciplinary research teams which will be able to prepare excellent research project important for forestry in the CEE region and apply for EU funds based on EU research funding system.

The thematic orientation EFICEEC is very relevant for the forestry policy makers in Central Eastern European region. Forest sector policy and economics, land use change in the context of climate change and bioenergy, mountain forests and forestry are extremely important topics for the regional forestry sector. Proposed main thematic issues are very strongly reflected in National forest programs in the majority of CEE countries.

The result of high quality research in forestry is needed for progress in forestry sector. Policy makers want to use the intellectual capacity of research institutes and universities to bring new knowledge and ideas in to the national forestry policies, making the role of regional research teams valuable.

I am convinced that EFICEEC will prove to be valuable for all parties. These Regional Office activities can be very important for the development of forestry sciences and for forest and land-use policy and practice overall."

*"EFICEEC is an important tool for strong and pragmatic collaboration in the region."*

# EFICIENT Observatory for European Forests celebrated its official inauguration

By establishing the Observatory for European Forests (EFICIENT-OEF) in Nancy, as an integral component of the European Forest Institute (EFI) and its Central Regional Office EFICIENT, France is actively supporting international forest research and information provision for different policy needs. The official inauguration of OEF was celebrated with French donors on 9 April 2010.

One of EFI's main aims is to be an acknowledged contact point for researchers, decision-makers and the public seeking unbiased and policy-relevant information on European forests and forestry. "The Observatory in Nancy supports the EFI particularly in this work by establishing a research-related, demand-driven and policy-oriented forest information platform," states Dr. Aljoscha Requardt, Manager of OEF. "We aim to foster the linkages between information processes and policy decision making processes at national and pan-European level, and serve policy making with improved information." The main working areas are:

- 1) Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management;
- 2) Information needs and policy decision support;
- 3) Timber and socio-economics;
- 4) Networking, research capacity building, advocacy.

The OEF implements its activities primarily at pan-European level and its activities are closely coordinated with those of the EFI Headquarters in order to gain the

best synergies and avoid overlaps. Current activities at the Observatory include research on improving international forest products price information and Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. OEF supports international organisations or policy processes, like UNECE Timber Section and FOREST EUROPE (former MCPFE) in collecting and analyzing various data as on policies and institutions in Europe. For example, within the framework of research capacity building, the OEF jointly organised with INRA (Nancy), a PhD course on "International Forestry and Global Issues" on 17–21 May 2010.

Core funding for the OEF is provided by four donors: the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Urban Community of Greater Nancy, the Regional Council of Lorraine and the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA). The direct institutional support, via the Observatory, allows EFI being more active and present in the international and regional research and policy arena. The core funding provided is crucial for the development and maintenance of high level information products, high quality research and long term European and international networking and cooperation.

Further information:

Dr. Aljoscha Requardt, Observatory Manager,  
firstname.lastname@efi.int



EFI Director, Dr. Risto Päivinen (right) together with the representatives of the French donors: Mr. André Rossinot, Mayor of Nancy and Chairman of the Greater Nancy Community Council (third from right) and Mr. Patrick Hatzig, Vice-President of the the Regional Council of Lorraine (third from left).

The core team at the Observatory in Nancy: Paul Rougieux (left), Aljoscha Requardt and Ibrahim Favada.



## Regional to global



Forest & Landscape Denmark

*Prof. Dr. Niels Elers Koch, the Director of Danish Centre for Forest, Landscape and Planning at the University of Copenhagen and the IUFRO Vice President: Globally, regional research bodies like EFI are emerging – how do you see their role between global IUFRO and national institutes?*

“In an era of globalization it is in my opinion important that you on the national level try to combine or merge all your efforts in forest research and education in a country, and on that basis identify your global niche, i.e. in which areas your country want to be among the leading in the World in forest research and education.

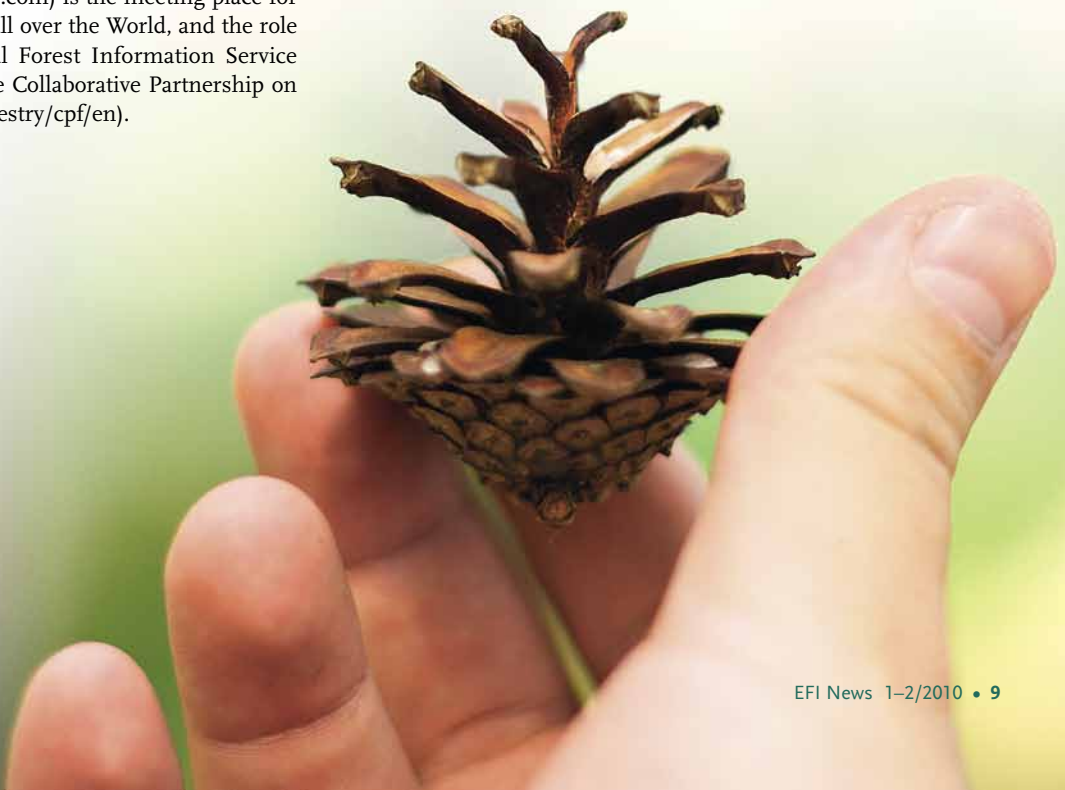
Based on that we should on the regional level be able to make a division of work and a specialization where one country takes the lead in a specific research area, and the other countries draw upon this expertise. In doing so it is possible to obtain synergies and avoid overlapping R&D work while keeping the extra administrative work at a minimum, i.e. to use the total R&D resources within a given subject area in the most efficient /optimal way thus increasing the return on the R&D funds invested. Here regional research bodies like EFI could play an important role, especially because EFI is also the voice of forest research at EU’s Standing Forest Committee.

Regional and global research bodies fulfil complementary roles and provide different benefits related to the scope of the global or regional level for national members. IUFRO, as the global network for forest science cooperation, is in my opinion the ideal network to help us all in adapting to an era of globalization on the global, regional and national level. Just to mention three examples: The IUFRO World Congress in August 2010 in Seoul ([www.iufro2010.com](http://www.iufro2010.com)) is the meeting place for forest researchers from all over the World, and the role of IUFRO in the Global Forest Information Service ([www.gfis.net](http://www.gfis.net)) and in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests ([www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/en)).

### IUFRO 2010 World Congress, Seoul

The XXIII IUFRO World Congress from 23-28 August 2010 in Seoul, Korea, will be a great opportunity for researchers and decision-makers to learn, to share best practices, and to synthesize the newest and most innovative thinking on the forest challenges that affect all of us. The Congress is hosted by the Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI) and organized by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Leading professionals and expert scientists in all fields of forestry from all over the world will discuss the latest knowledge on critical forest issues and how that knowledge can be used to underpin wise and workable decisions for sustainable forest management and sound policy initiatives.

[www.iufro2010.com](http://www.iufro2010.com)





# EU Forest Action Plan at its Mid-term: Launching Discussions on the Future EU Forest Action

Päivi Pelli and Ilpo Tikkanen | EFI

The implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan (EU FAP 2007–2011) has reached its mid-term. In 2009 a team of external evaluators coordinated by EFI<sup>1</sup> carried out a mid-term evaluation of the Action Plan for the Commission DG Agriculture and Rural Development. The evaluation is based on interviews and questionnaire surveys of altogether 14 Commission Directorate Generals, EU Member States and several stakeholders.

## Improving coordination and coherence in the EU

The evaluation includes an extensive inventory of activities by the Commission and the Member States in 2007–2008. Based on the results of the surveys of the evaluation, the EU FAP implementation is on track. There is progress with regard to improved co-ordination across different policy areas, more coherent action within the Commission, enhanced implementation in the Member States, and increased awareness of the different situations and questions that relate to forests and forest-sector development in different parts of the EU. The EU FAP contributes to a more co-ordinated approach for forest-related actions in the EU.

However, after only two years of implementation, the effects of the EU FAP in achieving its specific goals – improving competitiveness, enhancing protection of environment, contributing to quality of life and improving coordination and coherence – cannot be expected to show up. The impacts remain to be assessed in the future.

## Communication is a key cross-cutting issue

The evaluation concludes a number of recommendations to improve effectiveness of the implementation. Strengthening the links with other policy areas as well as between the EU FAP and national forest programmes is called for. More efficient communication is a key cross-cutting issue throughout the EU FAP implementation.

Furthermore, the evaluation report suggests launching discussion on the future of the EU Forestry Strategy and the follow-up of the EU FAP. The findings of the evaluation will be considered in planning of the Standing Forestry Committee (SFC) activities in 2010–11 and in discussions about the post-2011 period.

1 The evaluation study “Mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the EU Forest Action Plan” has been financed by the Commission of the European Communities and produced by an external evaluation team of European Forest Institute EFI (coordinator), University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences BOKU, Centre Tecnològic Forestal De Catalunya CTFC and University of Hamburg, Institute for World Forestry UHH/vTI.



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## Forest policy deliberations ongoing in Europe

The Commission Green Paper on “Forest Protection and Information in the EU: Preparing forests for climate change” has been opened for public consultation in March – July 2010. The debate is about how climate change is modifying forest management and protection in Europe and how EU policy should evolve to enhance its contribution to Member State initiatives.

The pan-European MCPFE process was reviewed in 2009. FOREST EUROPE (former MCPFE) has entered the stage of preparing options for decision by ministers on a possible legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. A Working Group has started developing a non-paper.

EFI is actively participating in the forest policy deliberations and calls for an active contribution from the forest research community. EFI is drafting a response to the Green Paper, which has been circulated for all Associate Members in the beginning of June. EFI is also participating in the FOREST EUROPE Working Group on Legally Binding Agreement. Working Group convened in February to discuss the draft proposal by Co-chairs, and will have two more meetings before Expert Level Meeting to be held in December, 2010, in preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference in June 2011 in Oslo.



silver-john / www.fotolia.com

## COST Strategic Workshop Series on “Foresight on Future Demand for Forest-based Products and Services” Launched in 2010




The forest sector has developed methods and tools for making projections on the future, and several future oriented exercises are ongoing both at national and interregional level. Often the emphasis in the forest sector studies has been laid on the supply side, with only a flavour of demand, for example, related to wood-based products. There is a need to explore new emerging topics with regard to the futures of forests and forestry in a wider demand context, taking into account the anticipated changes e.g. in global population, consumer markets and consumption patterns, public opinion and related societal demands, as well as the potential effects of climate change and the developments in related policy deliberations.

In 2010–2011 EFI will be coordinating together with the COST Domain “Forests, their Products and Services” (FPS) a wide-angle foresight exercise to:

- investigate the role that forests play in the future societies, the new needs and demand for forest-based products and services, as well as the drivers behind these developments (up to year 2050) and
- build capacities in foresight and networks enabling new foresight exercises in / for the forest sector.

Several key stakeholders e.g. the Forest-based sector Technology Platform (FTP), the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the UNECE/FAO European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS) team as well as national foresight exercises will be centrally involved in the project. If you are interested in the foresight exercise, contact: Tuula Nuutinen, [firstname.lastname@efi.int](mailto:firstname.lastname@efi.int)



Andreas Schuck | EFICENT

Francisco Rego | Centre of Applied Ecology “Prof. Beata Neves”, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal

Eric Rigolot | National Institute for Agricultural Research, Avignon, France

Cristina Montiel | Research Group Forest Policy and Socioeconomics, University Complutense of Madrid, Spain

Daniel Kraus | Fire Ecology Research Group, MPI Chemistry, Freiburg, Germany

Marc Castellnou | GRAF, Department of Internal Affairs, Barcelona, Spain

# Fire Paradox Project Proposes Moving towards Integrated Fire Management

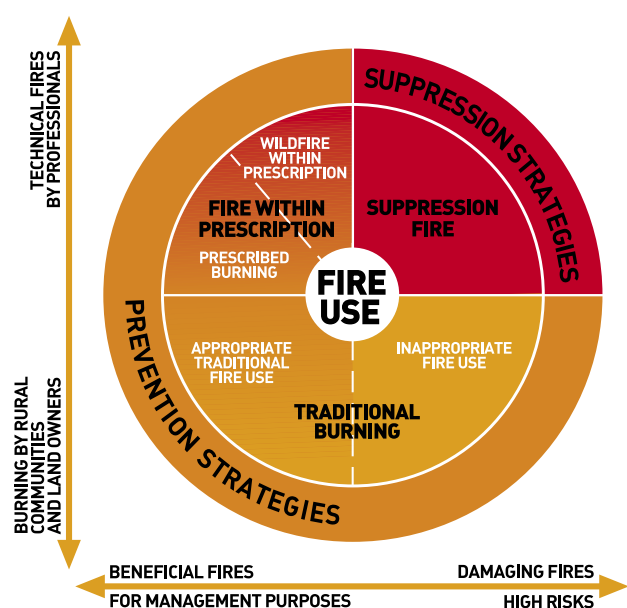
Pedro Palmeiro

Every year on average half a million hectares of forests and other rural areas are burned by wildfires. In southern Europe, land use changes during the last decades and the increase of mean temperatures and frequency of droughts due to climate change have accelerated this development. Southern Europe has experienced a number of catastrophic fires in recent years as seen in Portugal, Spain and Greece, destroying large forest areas, properties and costing many lives. The Greek fires of 2007 consumed nearly 300 000 hectares of forest and other rural land, more than 60 lives were lost and a large number of homes destroyed. Damages were estimated in billions of euros. In order to confront such catastrophic events, new and innovative concepts for landscape management, including targeted management measures in forests, are needed to mitigate fire danger and intensity. This approach of fire prevention is often described as integrated fire management.

Preventing the current disastrous social, economic and environmental consequences of wildfires in particular in the Mediterranean region was the objective of Fire Paradox, an EU 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme Integrated Project (2006–2010). Its approach was based on the paradox expressed in a Finnish proverb that fire can be both a “bad master and a good servant”. This required to consider the negative impacts of wildland fire regimes (understanding initiation and propagation), the benefits of using fire as a tool for vegetation management and mitigation of fuel loads (prescribed burning, traditional fire practices) and combating wildfires by using suppression fire techniques all of which being cornerstones of integrated fire management.

Prescribed burning can be applied to achieve different management objec-

## INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT



THE CENTRAL ROLE OF FIRE USE IN INTEGRATED FIRE MANAGEMENT

tives. It is mostly used for fuel reduction to mitigate the likelihood of wildfires. Applications have broadened towards other management objectives, including nature conservation, maintenance of open landscapes and management of endangered habitats. Fire Paradox compiled a handbook on best practices on fire use in which applications of prescribed burning are presented for different European regions. Exchanges between fire professionals and the organisation of training camps allowed to present prescribed burning techniques and resulted in introducing those to some regions where they had so far not been used (Sardinia and Campania in Italy). A scientific investigation showed that prescribed burning is an option to mitigate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by reducing wildfire hazards, especially in countries where fire incidences are high.

### Suppression fires complements fire-fighting

Suppression fire – the application of fire to accelerate or strengthen the suppression of fire – has been applied by local populations to protect their own lives and assets long before its use by fire-fighting services. The catastrophic wildfires of the last years, have overpowered fire-fighting organisations in their efforts of suppressing fires by conventional means. Therefore, increased interest is given to the use of suppression fire as a complementary tool for fire fighting. Suppression fire, being a complex technique, needs to be carried out by highly experienced and trained professionals, requiring knowledge on the physical processes behind the behaviour of interacting fire fronts. Fire Paradox has

provided scientific input through the development of fire models and simulators and elaborated training material including video documentaries. The exchange of personnel was initiated to share knowledge on the use of suppression fires in different countries and regions.

Based on its outcomes Fire Paradox proposed Integrated Fire Management as a unifying concept taking into consideration the European scale of the fire issue and its varying impacts. The embedment of such management principles within EU legislation, e.g. through a Framework Directive on Fire, could allow for a common approach under which objectives are pursued with the means considered appropriate by each Member State.

Dissemination of Fire Paradox results is essential. Besides numerous publications the Fire Paradox information management platform, Fire Intuition ([fireintuition.efi.int](http://fireintuition.efi.int)), supports this role. Constructed as an information superstore it provides access to core products including catalogues of demonstration sites for prescribed burning and suppression fires, fire modelling and simulation tools, GIS applications, databases on legislations and traditional fire use, an extensive media base and project deliverables.

In conclusion, Fire Paradox has raised awareness that the wise use of fire within forest and wildland management is a sound and effective tool to reduce the risks of severe fire events. The dialogue and co-operation of experts from fire research, fire managers and fire-fighting personnel, the implementation of training courses and exchange programmes and the extensive use of multimedia tools resulted in better understanding of the roles of all involved. Speaking with one voice resulted in the expression of a need for an integrated fire management approach and political action. This spirit was reflected in the final conference held in Freiburg, Germany, 25–26<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 with 200 participants from science, policy and practice.

[www.fireparadox.org](http://www.fireparadox.org)  
[www.fireintuition.efi.int](http://www.fireintuition.efi.int)

# Climate Change Effects on the Alpine Forest Need European Attention

The European mountains are home to more than 90 million people whose welfare depends on stable forests and their vital functions for people and nature. Affected by above-average warming and increasing weather extremes the Alps are one of the regions most affected by climate change. The alpine forest, which is the predominant land cover occupying about 40% of region, will react to it with changes that impact its composition, growth and stability, and jeopardize its economic and ecological functions. However, dimensions, speed and ecological consequences of these changes are still largely unknown. Serious and incalculable risks compromise not only the alpine space, but also pre-alpine foothills and adjoining lowlands.

Mountain forests grant ample and vitally important functions for people and nature. They protect against natural hazards, offer recreation space for the public, provide refuge for animals and plants, harbour a biological diversity of European significance, produce timber as working material and fuel, and play a significant role in carbon sequestration. To secure their sustainable use and protect their multiple functions there is need for interdisciplinary work. The Center of Forestry Weihestephana has prepared a position paper, which identifies priority research fields and actions and addresses topics as Forest Growth, Regeneration and Genetics, Water and Nutrition Balance, Humus Supply, Carbon Cycles, Tree Species, Protection Forests, Biodiversity, Natura 2000, and Socio-economic and Political Aspects.

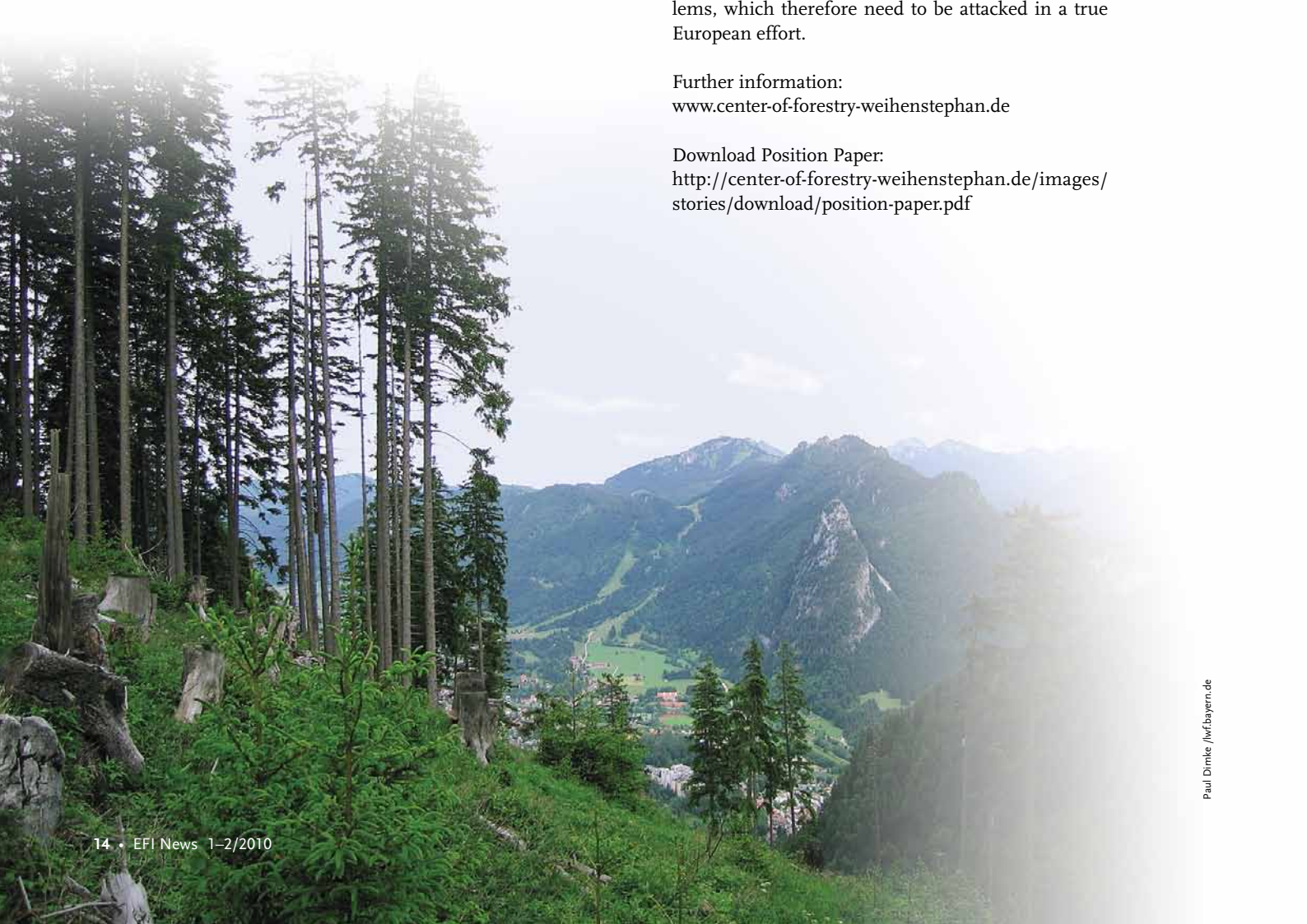
The paper has been written with focus on the forest in the Bavarian Alps, Germany, but is relevant to all alpine forests. They all face equal or similar problems, which therefore need to be attacked in a true European effort.

Further information:

[www.center-of-forestry-weihenstephan.de](http://www.center-of-forestry-weihenstephan.de)

Download Position Paper:

<http://center-of-forestry-weihenstephan.de/images/stories/download/position-paper.pdf>



# Climate Change and Biodiversity in European Protected Forests: Policies for Adaptation

Sophie R. Lewis | Imperial College London

Climate change may develop into one of the main drivers of forest biodiversity loss in Europe throughout this century.

The projected impacts of climate change: species range shifts, increased frequency and severity of extreme events, increased outbreaks of pests and diseases, and species phenological change, are likely to affect the current European efforts to conserve forest biodiversity and halt forest biodiversity loss.

Integrating climate change adaptation measures into European policy for Protected Forest Areas (PFAs) and Natura 2000 (N2000) sites, may aid in reducing the loss of forest biodiversity due to the projected impacts of climate change.

Adaptation strategies that are suggested in scientific literature, recommend adapting the management and design of PFAs and N2000 in order to build in resistance and resilience against the impacts of climate change. In line with recommendations, the European Commission (EC) is currently drafting "Guidelines on dealing with the impact of climate change within the management of Natura 2000 sites" which may support countries in introducing adaptive management to their PFA and N2000 sites.

It has also been recommended in scientific literature that the extent of PFAs throughout Europe may need to be increased to prevent climate change related species extinctions. A recent survey conducted by EFI indicated that most EU member countries did recognise the need to establish more PFAs as a climate change adaptation strategy.

Yet climate change projections show that species bioclimatic envelopes could shift beyond the boundaries of PFAs. In response to this the concept of corridors linking PFAs, therefore enable species migrations between PFAs, has been suggested. Most of the EU member countries are planning to build or increase their network of corridors as a strategy to halt biodiversity loss and/or as an adaptation strategy to climate change projected range shifts. However there is much debate in scientific literature surrounding the effectiveness of corridors as an adaptation strategy to aid in species migration.

When all adaptation strategies have failed in enabling species to persist in their current range, the concept of human assisted species migrations has been discussed. There is however no mention of assisted migration in current European policy. This is most probably due to the ongoing debate in scientific literature surrounding the validity of assisted migration as an adaptive strategy. Nevertheless we may see the idea of assisted migration brought into future policy discussions.

Currently European policy appears to be at a transitional stage. While the EU and its member countries are beginning to integrate adaptation to climate change into PFAs and N2000 plans, a coherent policy plan on adaptation has yet to emerge.

*Ms. Lewis spent three months in 2009 on an internship at EFI working on her Master's thesis.*





# Working on the Future of European Forest Monitoring

Jo Van Brusselen and Tim Green | EFI  
Sharon Gomez and Markus Probeck | GAF AG, Germany

The 'Global Monitoring for Environment and Security' (GMES) is a concerted effort of the EU and European Space Agency (ESA) to bring data and information providers closer together with users. In 2009, the GMES Service Element for Forest Monitoring (GSE FM) delivered a final set of forest mapping products to the European Environment Agency (EEA) through its pan-European forest monitoring service. The results were well received and they have been used in e.g. the EEA report "European forests – ecosystem conditions and sustainable use". While being complementary to existing information, the service offered advantages such as in terms of production timeliness, level of detail and accuracy. The forest monitoring service is having a partial follow-up within the FP7-funded GMES Land core project geoland2.

Information provision to existing policy processes has been one of the aims since the very start of the service development, and in particular for the pan-European forest monitoring service case for EEA. EEA is responsible for producing integrated environmental data and indicator sets, assessments and thematic analyses at the European and regional levels. The process "Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators" (SEBI 2010), has several indicators that benefit from timely and accurate information on forest area, forest types and the changes in these characteristics. The information should at the same time conform to the requirements from the main European and global forest policy processes such as the reporting in the context of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in

Europe (MCPFE) and the FAO's Global Forest Resource Assessment (FRA).

This forest monitoring service is having a partial follow-up within the continental component of the Land Monitoring Core Service (LMCS), which is being designed by the FP7-funded GMES Land core project geoland2 in close collaboration with EEA, EIONET and mandated European users. The project undertakes to develop "sustainable operational services" in the GMES Land domain. The sustainable aspect requires that the information needs have to be long-term and that the technical specifications conform to the existing requirements from policies and user organizations, while being flexible enough to adopt new scientific and technical developments and adapt to evolving policy and user requirements. The products have to offer a good balance between the costs and the benefits. The operational aspect means that the service has to be able to deliver high quality products in a timely manner across a vast service area spanning very different ecological conditions.

Currently, there is a joint effort in geoland2 to re-focus the perimeter of the whole continental LMCS component, which implies the development of 5–6 pixel-based, high-resolution thematic land use / land cover Layers (HR Layers) with quantitative information. The focus currently is on pan-European HR Layers for Impervious Areas, Forest, Water, Grassland and Wetlands. All products shall be produced at 20 meter pixel

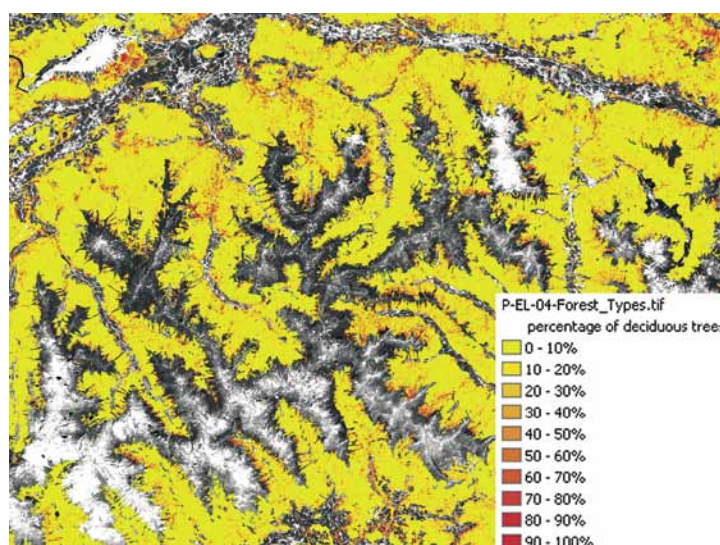
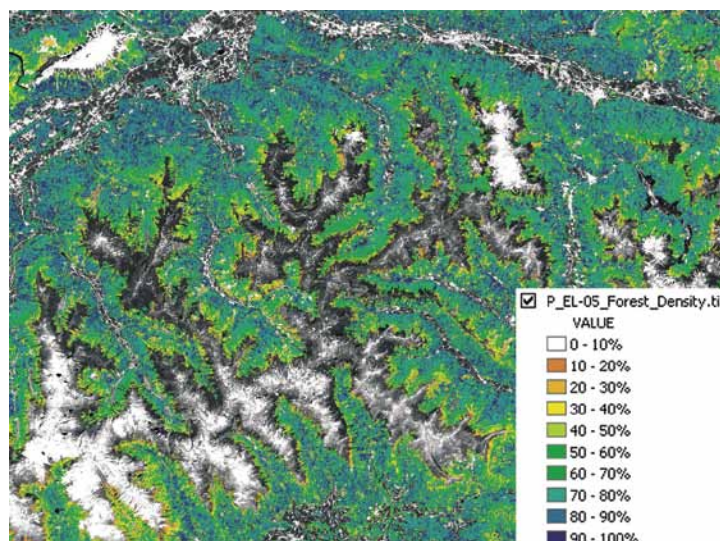


Mark Ross / www.fotolia.com

resolution, and will be validated on a 1 hectare basis. The geoland2 Forest Team is embedded in these activities by developing and testing an integrated HR Forest Layer, comprising information on Forest Crown Cover Density, Forest Types (broadleaf, coniferous and mixed forest) and Forest Area Change.

The Crown Cover Density is a major innovation, as it allows forest maps to be compiled, which suit both national and international forest definitions – it provides Member States with a systematic method for establishing harmonisation functions to convert their national forest area information to be in compliance with international definitions, and vice versa. The HR Forest Layer will also give the basic inputs to pan-European Core Information and Downstream services, which will deliver policy relevant information of trans-national importance on European and global issues, such as information on landscape pattern, fragmentation and change indicators, allowing, for example, identification of forest change hot spots, protected area monitoring, etc. The project is developing, testing and demonstrating operational processing lines for European-wide production in test areas that are situated representatively across Europe's biogeographical regions. Results of the first year demonstration can be explored online at [www.geoland2.eu/portal/](http://www.geoland2.eu/portal/).

More information:  
Tim Green, [firstname.lastname@efi.int](mailto:firstname.lastname@efi.int)



A first example of the HR Forest Layer products as derived for the Alpine Forest test site of geoland2. Crown Cover Density and Forest Type information are derived together in a consistent and pixel-based fashion. (Credits: Joanneum Research, Austria)

## Benefits for users upon European service roll-out

- Crown Cover product offers maximum flexibility to suit various definitions of forest area
- Up-to-date forest type and forest area (change) information
- Up-to-date information for sustainable forest management due to regular update cycles
- Time and cost efficiency through centralised production approach
- Validated and standardised products with high thematic accuracy, targeting requirements for reporting obligations
- Basic information for planning, policy making & decision taking and for reviewing of the implications of political measures and actions on forest biodiversity and on the protective functions provided by forests
- Close integration with other relevant programs of European scope such as INSPIRE and SEIS

# Ensuring Timber's Legality

## – EFI Assists in Implementing Bilateral Trade Agreements

Ralph Ridder and Lena Yadlapalli | EU FLEGT Facility

Since 2005, the EU negotiates trade agreements with tropical timber countries to ensure legal timber trade and promote reforms of forest management. The first Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) have been concluded under the EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). Their implementation provides new perspectives for EFI's engagement.

Negotiations between the EU and tropical timber countries are supported by the EU FLEGT Facility, which is hosted and managed by EFI. The mandate has been awarded to EFI based on its inter-governmental status. This year, EFI will be available to provide support to VPA implementation. The need for input is currently clarified with concerned partner countries and the Commission, who leads negotiations for the EU.

So far, VPAs have been concluded with Ghana and the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville) as well as recently with the Republic of Cameroon. These countries are now facing challenges of implementation of the trade agreement, including capacity building activities, law reforms, the development of a wood tracking system as well as the Legality Assurance System to distinguish between legally and illegally produced forest products.

But the investment costs for national wood tracking or Legality Assurance Systems are rather high. Therefore, VPA implementation is costly for these countries. In order to assist, EFI currently acquires the required funding resources for implementation. Fur-



Jade Saunders / EFI

thermore, EFI revises its rules and procedures to provide technical and in certain cases also financial assistance as well as goods, e.g. IT equipment, to enable legality assurance and services like capacity building to these countries.

In view of VPA implementation, EFI is extending the EU FLEGT Facility team. Furthermore, it will publish an open tender to identify potential subcontractors, EFI Associate Members or external resources, to assist EFI's EU FLEGT Facility in the VPA implementation.

## FLEGT Asia Launched

Aimi Lee and Nisha Santhar  
FLEGT Asia, EU FLEGT Facility

The official launch of FLEGT Asia was witnessed by an impressive turn up by European and Southeast Asian ambassadors. Also present were members of FLEGT Asia's Regional Advisory Group, Malaysian government officials, representatives from the private sector, non-government organizations as well as the media.

The Programme, which will focus primarily on countries in the Mekong region (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand) and China, will support the EU on Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) negotiations, a binding agreement between the EU and the partner country. VPAs will support timber producing partner countries in dealing with the issues of

illegal logging and help to ensure the legality of exports of timber and timber products, contributing to sustainable forest management.

In order to advance its work, FLEGT Asia will focus on communications on emerging trends for tropical timber, especially on the new EU legislation, expected in 2012, to guarantee trade in legal timber on the European market. FLEGT Asia aims to raise awareness and facilitate trade in legally-verified timber from the region.

FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) Regional Support Programme in Asia has is supported by the European Commission and facilitated by EFI.



EFI FLEGT Asia Office

H.E. Vincent Piket, Head of EU Delegation to Malaysia; Vincent van den Berk, FLEGT Asia Programme Coordinator and H.E. Tapio Saarela, Ambassador of Finland to Malaysia at the launch event on January 25.

# Joining Forces for Renewable Energy, Bio-based Products and Sustainable Construction in Europe

Europe's research driven clusters in sustainable forest management and wood based industries will get new co-operation opportunities within the ROKFOR project. This cooperative action project 'Sustainable Forest Management Providing Renewable Energy, Sustainable Construction and Bio-based Products' (ROKFOR) joins forces in five European regions in order to create both individual and regional research agendas and action plans in the fields of renewable energy, bio-based products and sustainable construction. The project is based on each region's current strengths in the forest sector and it aims to strengthen and promote competitiveness within the forest sectors without jeopardizing sustainability.

The regions involved are Baden-Württemberg in Germany, Aquitaine in France, Basque country in Spain, Catalonia in Spain, North Karelia in Finland, as well as Croatia and Serbia. Each participating region is represented by a cluster consisting of enterprises, regional policy makers and researchers.

The sectors covered by the project (bioenergy, biobased products and wooden construction) are based on the Lead Market Initiative being instituted by the European Commission. The market demand is thus the decisive factor to which the activities are targeted. All of the sectors covered by the project are significant for the bio-based economy and for adaptation to climate change.

The three-year ROKFOR project is funded by the EU's 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme (Capacities/Regions of Knowledge).



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## Four Million Trees Planted by ENO-Environment Online!

ENO-Environment Online is a global virtual school and network for sustainable development and environmental awareness. Environmental themes are studied within a school year on a weekly basis. Thousands of schools from 150 countries have taken part and consequently tens of thousands of school children have become more aware of their environment. One of the regular activities for the schools is to plant trees, and 22 May is an annual campaign day for tree planting. Already over four million trees have been planted within this non-profit, volunteer programme.

The main idea is to lay emphasis on the local environment and to see it in a global aspect: act locally – think globally. Information is gathered from local communities and shared globally on the ENO website. Learning

is student-centred with both online and offline activities. At the end of each theme there is a campaign week during which the results of learning are raised in local communities and on the website. Students eventually become ambassadors for the environment of their respective local communities and regions.

Regular themes and activities have been forests and tree planting days, climate change, ecological footprint and different cultural themes.

ENO logo is a kite. It symbolizes challenges in learning as well as freedom and equality in learning, despite boundaries. ENO makes us one, through our environment.

For more information check out: [www.enoprogramme.org](http://www.enoprogramme.org) and [www.enotreeday.net](http://www.enotreeday.net)



ENO Programme

# Experience Saxon Hospitality with EFI!

EFI Annual Conference  
15–17 September, 2010  
Dresden, Germany



The Department of Forest Sciences of Technische Universität Dresden welcomes you to the EFI Annual Conference 2010 in Dresden, Germany, and its beautiful surroundings!

Dresden has long been considered synonymous with art and culture. World-famous buildings such as the Zwinger or the Frauen-Kirche, many museums, as well as the Kreuzchor and the Semper Opera House with the Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden are a vivid testimony of tradition for centuries. The River Elbe and the gently rolling landscape between Saxon Switzerland and Meissen determine the nature in which the city on the river is embedded. The residents of Dresden are also known for their own special charm, Saxon hospitality.

With 63 % of its area devoted to woods and green spaces, Dresden can be considered one of the greenest cities in Europe. For example, the urban area of Dresden has four protected nature areas with 350 hectares and 12 protected landscape areas with 11 500 hectares.

The EFI Annual Conference on 15 September and scientific seminar (16 September) will take place in the Deutsche Hygienische Museum conference centre. The field trip on 17 September will take you to the most interesting places around Dresden. “Integrated Multifunctional Forestry in Urban Agglomerations” will introduce you to the miracles of Saxon nature, expertise and cuisine!

## “Integrated Multifunctional Forestry in Urban Agglomerations”

FIELD TRIP | FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

During this one-day field trip we are pleased to introduce the delegates to aspects of “Integrated Multifunctional Forestry in Urban Agglomerations” in the surroundings of Dresden. We will experience Saxon nature while visiting the national park “Saxon Switzerland”. The challenge of mapping forest functions will be the topic of our short visit in the research center of “Staatsbetrieb Sachsenforst”, the regional state forest service in Saxony. Further, we will be introduced to the forestry development conception of the Moritzburg castle area, an impressive baroque hunting lodge, surrounded by stretches of water. A visit to the castle, game reserve, and close-by recreation forest will be also in the agenda. The trip will conclude with a visit to the forest park “Weißer Hirsch” followed by culinary expedition of one of a kind.

For more information, registration and up-dates, visit [www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int)  
– you will find a shortcut to the Annual Conference site directly from the EFI main page.

## **“Biomass from Forests and other wooded Lands – Production and Use”**

SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR  
THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

The need to reduce green house gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion and enhancing energy security has led to a significant increase of bioenergy utilization in most of the European countries. Among all biomass feedstock, wood is the most important source for heat production and has become more important in electricity production. The European Union aims to increase the share of renewable energies to 20 % by 2020 and biomass is supposed to play a major role in it. Consequently, 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 demands might cause a threat to sustainable forestry.

Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) and Agro-Forestry Systems (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.

The Scientific Seminar on “Biomass from Forests and other wooded Lands – production and use” will address the current state of wood production regarding bioenergy from forests, SRC and ASF in Europe. The first session, chaired by Prof. Bo Larsen from University of Copenhagen will focus on sustainable wood resources from forestry. The second session will focus on production and utilization aspects of SRC, the chair will be Elisabeth Le Net from FCBA.

## **News from EFI Member Organisations**

### **Combating Climate Change – a role for UK forests**

A major report assessing the science about climate change and forestry in the UK was launched in London in November 2009. “Combating Climate Change – a role for UK forests” was commissioned by the UK Forestry Commission and is believed to be the first national assessment of its type in the world. It was written by an independent panel of scientists chaired by Professor Sir *David Read* of the Royal Society in London. The Read report analyses the scientific evidence about forestry's potential to mitigate climate change and to help adapt to its impacts. It estimates that if the UK's forest cover were to increase from 12% to 16%, the forest sector in the UK could lock up 10% of the UK's GHG emissions by the 2050s. The report has been welcomed by the UK Government and has received wide media publicity. It is hoped that it provides an example for other countries to follow.

Further information: Pat Snowden, [firstname.lastname@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:firstname.lastname@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

### **Climatic Centre in Norway**

The Norwegian government has requested the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute to develop its functions towards those of a climatic centre for forestry, agriculture and land-use. The centre should have the responsibility for reports and development and methods. This corresponds with proposals from the Institute to the authorities empowered to make grants, as well as proposals to measures in the white paper on agriculture and climate in 2009.

Further information: Severin Woxholt, Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute

### **Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

*Martin Čermák and Pavlína Pancová Šimková*

To mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno (Czech Republic), experts from across Europe were invited to attend the international conference “Forest Based Sector – Towards Progressive Future”. The event was held from 8–10 October 2009 at the University Congress Centre of the Křtiny Chateau. The aim was to present and discuss the latest research findings, trends and approaches in the areas of forestry and use of wood raw material. The presentations covered a wide range of topics relating to forest management, including the use of biomass as a substitute for fossil fuels and impacts of forest management practices on carbon storage. Speakers also addressed socio-economic issues such as the current status of forestry and wood processing sectors on a global scale and their potential future development. Attention was also paid to the problems related to nature conservation. Research and experimental development in the forestry sector was presented from a European perspective and attendees became acquainted with the role of the Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform representing the interests of the sector in Europe.

The conference was accompanied by a musical performance of Trumpeters from the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, which took place in the adjoining Pilgrimage Church of the Name of Virgin Mary. Conference participants had the opportunity to learn about Czech forestry during the field excursion to the Training Forest Enterprise Masaryk Forest Křtiny which is a special-purpose facility of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno.

The conference was organised by the Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the European Forest Institute (EFI) and Lesnická práce Journal.

## Mediterranean Forestry Week

The first Mediterranean Forest Week highlighted that the future of Mediterranean forests requires both, sound science-based information and a fluent, transparent and interactive science-policy dialogue. The Mediterranean Forest Week offered a unique opportunity for a strong integration of all international initiatives dealing with Mediterranean forests as well as a unique voice expressing the importance and needs of such valuable ecosystems.

One of the concrete outcomes of the week was the position paper "Contribution of forests and other wooded lands to food security in the Mediterranean" which will be submitted for endorsement to the forthcoming session of the FAO European Forestry Commission for onward submission to the Ministers of Agriculture for adoption at the next Ministerial Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) on Food security, Agriculture and Rural Development in June 2010, in Cairo, Egypt.

The experts involved in the position paper highlighted the importance of Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands and their significant contribution to poverty alleviation and food security as well as the increasing human pressures exacerbated by climate change driving their degradation and loss. They emphasized the need for greater investment in avoiding deforestation and in sustainable forest management in the Mediterranean and recommended the following as urgent actions to be undertaken:



EFIMED team joined the other participants in planting cypress trees during a field trip to a wildfire fighting training center currently being built.

- developing an integrated strategy for the sustainable management of Mediterranean forests and other wooded lands to ensure the provision of goods and environmental services relevant to food security,
- implementing the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2010–2020 (MFRA) by developing a European Research Area (ERA)-NET scheme,
- organising a high-level Mediterranean conference with all relevant stakeholders in 2012 to develop a shared vision on this regional integrated strategy.

The Mediterranean Forest Week was held in Antalya, Turkey in April 2010. Jointly organized by EFIMED, FAO, SILVA Mediterranea and AIFM, the week gathered more than 130 participants. The second Mediterranean Forest Week will be organised in Avignon, France by INRA, Ministry of Agriculture of France, EFIMED, FAO, Silva Mediterranea, AIFM, ARCMED and the Mediterranean Forest Model Network.

## REINFFORCE Looks into Trees' Adaptation to Climate Change

The REINFFORCE is a 4-year project co-financed by the European Union program FEDER-INTERREG IV Atlantic Space, where a total of 12 regional, national and international organizations, from Portugal, Spain, France and United Kingdom are working for building a forest resources related infrastructure for making research on adaptation of the Atlantic forest to Climate Change. The project is coordinated by EFI's Atlantic European Regional Office EFIATLANTIC.

One of the main actions for this infrastructure is to set along the Atlantic Coast a network with a total of 33 arboreta from Altentejo in Portugal to South Eastern Scot-

land. The members of the project have selected 32 species that will be produced in a common nursery and later planted in the arboreta. Additionally, a common database of long term trials with several species has been set up. Also there will be a network of 33 demonstration sites, where different options of management will be compared to observe differences in adaptation among traditional practices and more climate change oriented ones. Finally common protocols in phenology, forest growth and sanitary aspects will be created for the whole network and will be shared with interested stakeholders in these topics.



Sven Weber / www.fotolia.com

## MOTIVE goes online

MOTIVE (Models for Adaptive Forest Management) has launched a discussion forum, which brings together research, practice and policy. The forum connects professionals working in forest research, forestry and the forest-based sector as well as in policy and decision making and in non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate discussions on the impacts of climate change and options for adaptation in European forestry.

The forum operates under LinkedIn and can be found by searching for "Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in European Forestry". Further information is also available at the MOTIVE website, [www.motive-project.net](http://www.motive-project.net)

## Check out [www.fefr.org](http://www.fefr.org)

Foundation for European Forest Research – FEFR – has launched its new website at [www.fefr.org](http://www.fefr.org). The new site gives full information on the FEFR activities, including awards and grants. "The site contents will be developed during the year to include also information on the research carried out with the grants", says Dr. Kalle Eerikäinen, the Executive Secretary of FEFR.

## Event Calendar

### EFI Events

#### ■ EFI 2010 Annual Conference

15 September 2010  
Dresden, Germany

#### Scientific Seminar in the connection to the EFI Annual Conference: Biomass from forests and other wooded lands – production and use

16 September 2010  
Dresden, Germany

#### ■ Opportunities and risks for Douglas-fir in a changing climate

18–20 October 2010  
Freiburg, Germany

### EFI Associated Events

#### ■ Forest ecosystems in the conditions of climate change: biological productivity, monitoring and adaptation

28 June–2 July 2010  
Yoshkar-Ola, Russia

#### ■ FAGUS 2010: Is there future for beech – changes, impacts and answers

27–29 October 2010  
Varaždin, Croatia and Zala County, Hungary

#### Further information

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## FAGUS 2010:

### Is there future for beech – changes, impacts and answers

27–29 October 2010  
Varaždin, Croatia and Zala County, Hungary

We're witnessing significant habitat changes which have crucial impact on abundance and development of different tree species in related forest assemblages. European beech's importance in Central and Southern Europe is based on its dominance in overall portion and economic value. European beech forests are an important ecological base though their distribution areas within the natural habitat have dimin-

ished by various activities and needs of human kind. Beech forests have still managed to preserve their natural forest structure and the ability of natural rejuvenation. FAGUS 2010 symposium will be organized with the hope that it shall lead to stronger perception of vital problems that affect beech nowadays and necessity of its further analysis, to avoid potential risks and provide adequate answers.

Further information:  
[www.sumins.hr/fagus2010/index.html](http://www.sumins.hr/fagus2010/index.html)

## Opportunities and risks for Douglas-fir in a changing climate

18–20 October, 2010  
Freiburg, Germany

Since the introduction of the first "exotic" Douglas-fir individuals in Europe in the 19th century, the species has received increasing interest as a forest tree. It has rapidly developed into the most widespread non-indigenous tree species of major economic importance in Germany and France. The reasons behind this amazing track record are the species' tremendous growth potential, its valuable timber, and robustness. In Germany, in the context of climate

change Douglas-fir is again receiving increased attention. This conference is intended to provide a platform for the exchange of state-of-the-art knowledge on Douglas-fir in particular dealing with opportunities and risks related to European climate change issues. This includes the species' potential for adaptation, growth, biotic disturbance factors, and effective silvicultural management strategies.

Further information:  
[douglas-fir2010.de/](http://douglas-fir2010.de/)



# AGORA Builds Capacities in Forestry in Morocco and Tunisia

AGORA project brings together scientists and policy-makers to build new forest research capacities in Tunisia and Morocco based on effective transfer of scientific knowledge from Portugal, Italy, Spain, France and Turkey. As a result, forestry and forest research in Tunisia and Morocco will be reinforced, becoming more ready to face the challenges stemming from the climate change, population growth and loss of forest land in the non-European Mediterranean countries.

This situation calls for a coordinated approach throughout the Mediterranean basin to develop reliable information and tools based on sound science, in order to improve forest management and policy-making. The sustainable management of Mediterranean forests should consider the three dimensions: environmental, economic and social as well as their spatial and temporal evolutions related to land-use and climate changes. Consequently, the AGORA project concentrates on three main topics which are both scientifically crucial and highly relevant for policy-making:

1. Understanding the role of genetic diversity in the adaptive response of forest tree species;
2. Valuing forest goods and services, designing financing mechanisms and income generation strategies to ensure their sustainable provision;
3. Developing participatory tools for optimizing and adapting forest management in a context of multiple-use-landscapes and changes in land-use and climate.

Forest managers and policy makers in Tunisia and Morocco will have a key role in voicing their needs and challenges they face. Once concrete issues are identified, training and exchange of knowledge on the issue will take place. One of the very concrete measures of capacity building in AGORA is a mobility programme which allows exchange of scientists between twin institutions in Morocco and Tunisia and the European partners.

Further information:

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