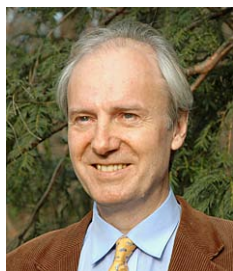




Towards More Dialogue PAGE 3

EU Timber Regulation Study
Evaluates Best Practice PAGE 12



Era of change

According to the rota system my five-year term as a member and a Chairman of the SAB will be finished by December 2011 and I am pleased to hand over my obligations to Professor *Marco Marchetti* from Italy.

Over the past five years EFI has gone through enormous changes, mainly due to its growth. The establishment of five Regional Offices in Europe and the rapid and financially important developments in the Policy Advice area have resulted in substantial alterations. In addition to the existing programmes, two new Assistant Directors and the new Heads of our Regional Offices have been hired to oversee these very positive but also challenging tasks.

Given these recent developments the role of the SAB as a body to support the Board has also changed. Our active role

in the assessment of the Regional Office proposals and the ongoing first mid-term reviews are indications that independent scientific advice for all the EFI activities are of increasing importance. Another activity we accomplished during my term as Chairman was the establishment of a regular reporting system for the different EFI units to address two main aims: (i) that the SAB gets a better insight into ongoing activities and (ii) that we provide a platform and discussion forum for our Heads of Programmes and Regional Offices to interact with SAB members.

After five years I am pleased to see that EFI is an exciting, growing organisation and it will be interesting to see what might come next. I am grateful to my fellow colleagues in the SAB – it was great to work

with you. I thank the Board and my Chairmen – Prof. *Konstantin von Teuffel* and Prof. *Jørgen Bo Larsen*. Thanks also to EFI Director Dr. *Risto Päävinen*, Assistant Director Dr. *Gert-Jan Nabuurs* and in particular to Ms. *Leena Roihuvuo* for her excellent and very helpful support in handling all SAB matters which was always greatly appreciated.

EFI is a fascinating and successful organisation established for the benefit of its Member Countries and Member Organisations: the EFI 'family'. This should remain the key driving force for any future development, to retain the significant international credibility that we have achieved.

Hubert Hasenauer
Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

Photo competition winner announced!

Mr. *Igor Kolar* from the Croatian Forest Research Institute has been chosen as the winner of EFI's Our Forests photo competition. His winning photo, "*Crataegus oxyacantha* in embrace of morning dew", was unveiled at EFI's Annual Conference in Uppsala, Sweden on 28 September.

Mr. Kolar was unable to accept his award in person, as he is currently on educational leave, studying for an Advanced Masters at AgroParis-Tech. He said: "I am overwhelmed with delight and cannot hide my surprise – it is indeed a great honour to receive such an award!"

Together with 11 other pictures, Mr. Kolar's photo will be used in EFI's Our Forests 2012 calendar, celebrating the beauty and unique characteristics of forests. A selection of the winning photos will also appear in EFI News.

The contest was open to amateur photographers from all EFI's Member organisations, and celebrates the International Year of Forests 2011.



Igor Kolar

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

PROGRAMME

14.30 Item 9 Grants and Awards
- Winner of the EFI Photo Contest



Maria Jalavisto, EFI



Maria Jalavisto, EFI



Viktor Wränge, SLU

Towards More Dialogue

This year's EFI Annual Conference presented the latest developments in EFI to the Associate and Affiliate Members in Uppsala, Sweden. It also highlighted the need for even more dialogue between EFI and its member organisations. This could involve, for example, preparing joint research agendas, locating the best

experts in different fields for research consortia and asking for input on issues related to the visibility of forest research in international arenas. The networking session held on the morning of the conference was particularly welcomed. Existing networks were strengthened and new ones were built.

Annual Conference September 2011, Uppsala, Sweden



Maria Jalavisto, EFI



Maria Jalavisto, EFI

Europe 2020 Strategy and the role of forests

The afternoon seminar focused on the Europe 2020 Strategy and the role of forests in it. Knowledge lies at the heart of the European Union's Lisbon Strategy to become the "most dynamic competitive sustainable knowledge-based economy in the world". With the launch of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Innovation Union Flagship Initiative, a strategic approach to innovation is now on the European agenda.

EFI's Assistant Director for Policy Advice, *Marc Palahí*, spoke about positioning forest science in Europe at the frontier of knowledge by building a European forest-based research area as a core pillar of the future EU Forestry strategy. The European forest-based research area will be a key contributor to a sustainable European society that fully realises the value of European forests and benefits from the wide variety of products and services they provide.

As he pointed out, "We have substantial capacities in Europe to do this. At the same time we have a fragmented research community. We are now in a time where we should aim to have a dynamic and open

European forest research area." There are excellent capacities and initiatives that should be taken into account, as well as possibilities for synergies. There has already been an increase in funds for forest-related research in the EU Framework Programmes, and a lot of it is thanks to the Forest-Based Technology Platform (FTP), in which EFI is involved and where it can put forward the input from its member organisations. It was noted from the audience that partnering access is a key issue in this financial situation, and EFI is indeed instrumental in this networking aspect.

"Bioeconomy and forest angels are needed"

Tim Hall, Head of Unit, DG Research in the European Commission, spoke about the potential role of forest research in contributing to the Europe 2020 Strategy. There are three flagship initiatives: Smart growth, Sustainable growth and Inclusive growth. Within these initiatives, 'Innovation Union' and 'Resource Efficient Europe' are particularly relevant to the forest sector.



Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden from 1996–2006, (third from the right) will chair ThinkForest, an international high-level discussion forum on forests coordinated by EFI. In his speech at the Annual Conference, Mr. Persson urged the sharing of the European forest science community's knowledge with decision makers such as the European Parliament and the European Council. "I look forward to co-operation with this group of distinguished scientists and European structures that I am familiar with", he stated. "The new discussion forum will offer the Parliament a good forum on research and development and forestry."

One of Innovation Union's key measures is European Innovation Partnerships. These are challenge-driven solutions which bring together different sources of existing funding. The Partnerships provide EU value added, pursue a cross-sectoral approach and facilitate the pooling of resources from EU, national, regional, public and private sources. The Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability is particularly relevant to the forest community, and we will hear more about it at the end of this year.

Tim Hall also emphasized the fact that the bioeconomy is a key issue for Europe, and European Commission's DG Research is preparing a European Strategy and Action Plan for innovating for sustainable growth: 'A Bioeconomy for Europe'. The bio-based economy represents over 20 million jobs in Europe. According to Mr. Hall, the forest sector is an important part of the bioeconomy, and it already operates with a holistic approach and sets a good example to other sectors. Mr. Hall concluded by stating that 'bioeconomy and forest angels – such as EFI network – are needed' to promote these sectors.

Horizon 2020 is the EU's next financial Framework to support Research and Innovation.

Michał Jarczyński of the Forest-Based Technology Platform (FTP) gave a presentation about the new FTP Strategy. The main areas of the revised strategic research agenda (SRA) are climate change, raw material supply, bio-based economy and industrial leadership. The revised SRA will be available in June 2012. Mr. Jarczyński also pointed out the positive impact that the FTP has had on the number of forest sector relevant projects in the 7th Framework Programme.

He encouraged scientists to be more marketing-oriented in order to change the perception of how the sector is perceived.

Finally, Mr. J.P. Solano presented the latest news about the Forest Europe process after the Oslo Ministerial Conference in June. According to him, EFI has an important role in Forest Europe as a research and advice network providing knowledge input, as an observer organisation giving policy input and as part of the Forest Europe Intergovernmental Negotiations Committee secretariat.

Some of the Scientific seminar speakers:
Antoine Kremer, Pär Ingvarsson,
Stefan Jansson, David Neale
and Haru Wu



Jenny Svemtås-Cillner, SLU



Viktor Wrangé, SLU

Scientific Seminar: Active Forestry with Responsibility

Jan-Erik Hällgren | SLU

The last 20 years of technological developments allow genomes of conifers to be fully sequenced. The possibilities for understanding the genetics of long-lived organisms like pines and spruces have therefore dramatically changed. New hypotheses can be formulated and tested. New challenges especially connected to the breeding of trees and understanding genetic diversity are occurring. Since one trait is never controlled by one gene alone, the merging of molecular genetics and quantitative genetics was a big topic. The breeding of trees differs from the breeding of animals or crops. The new technical advancements will influence breeding strategies in all fields. They will also increase our understanding of similarities and differences between species, ecotypes and provenances of trees.

Forest management principles and goals differ between countries and different parts of the world. Biodiversity is still threatened even if measures have been taken. Forests can play a very important role, even if forest management will not solve all problems. Active forest management can influence the increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere if it replaces oil and other non-renewable fuels and if trees are protected and planted to increase carbon sequestration. Possibilities exist, one example is the substitution effect that is probably underestimated, but to be an effective change in current forest policy, political thinking and behaviour is needed. The actions that must be taken to mitigate climate change are real challenges to Europe and other continents, since it will affect the economic and the political sectors.

Something has changed

Erik Viklund | Skogforsk

Once upon a time in Swedish forestry, pine and spruce almost wanted to be cut. But something changed. The meaning of sustainability has switched from productivity to environmental concerns, according to *Jan-Olov Westén*, researcher at Skogforsk.

“Is there a threshold for how much forest needs to be set aside and how many trees need to be retained in order to slow the loss of biodiversity?”, he asked.

40 researchers from 15 different countries took part in a discussion about the issue, which was one of the main topics of the EFI Annual Conference field trip.

“The interest in Swedish forestry, our challenges and opportunities are obviously very high. We are so pleased that so many people joined us and took part in the discussions”, said the excursions moderator, Dr. *Jan Fryk*, director of Skogforsk.

The field trip theme was “How to use, without over-use”. During the day the participants were introduced to the challenges of Swedish forestry. Besides the issue of environmental concerns, efficient forest management planning, methods for gentle logging operations close to water, how to drive productivity and the effects of the rapid growth in forest biomass use were also covered, during this final day of the EFI Annual Conference 2011.



Skogforsk | Erik Viklund

Koli Forum Focuses on Bioeconomy

The growing importance of the bioeconomy, and Europe's competitiveness in the light of global development were the focus of the 2nd Koli Forum, which took place from 14–16 September 2011. The forum brought together top politicians, researchers, business leaders and decision-makers from Europe and beyond, to consider the sustainable and innovative use of natural resources.

A set of proposals for actions – two theses – were drawn up, which were presented at the World Resources Forum in Davos, Switzerland on 19 September. They will also be presented to the European Commission, the UN Climate Conference in South Africa 2011, and subsequently the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

The first thesis proposes that the bioeconomy should become a driver for European sustainable competitiveness. This could be achieved by promoting biomass-based new products and energy, creating global criteria for the sustainable bioeconomy sector, and ensuring

that a minimum of 20% of public building and construction is wood-based. The second thesis emphasises education as a key measure for raising awareness of bioeconomy opportunities, and calls for a strengthening of the academic-industry partnership in research and education, and for the bioeconomy approach to be prioritised in the 2014 EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

Speakers at the Forum included Dr. *Rajendra Kumar Pachauri*, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), who also challenged participants to find new ways of measuring wellbeing, in addition to GDP. Mr. *Dacian Ciolos*, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. *Eduardo Rojas-Briales*, Forestry Director for FAO, and Professor *Jørgen Bo Larsen*, Chairman of the Board of EFI were also among the presenters.

More information:
www.koliforum.fi



Varpu Heiskanen / UEF



Dr. Pachauri questioned in his keynote speech whether the Rio Declaration has been taken seriously.

Dr. Pekka Hallberg, President of the Supreme Administrative Court of Finland, Tarja Halonen, President of Finland and Dr. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, Chairman of IPCC were the leading figures of this year's Koli Forum.

Core group members: Sabine Augustin, Anders Baudin, Douglas Clark, Paola Deda, Matthias Dieter, Gustaf Egnell, David Ellul, Hermann Englert, Ivonne Higuero, Franziska Hirsch, Ragnar Jonsson, Marcus Lindner, Udo Mantau, Alex Moiseyev, Jeff Prestemon, Ulrike Saal, Jesus San Miguel-Ayanz, Peter Schwarzbauer, Florian Steierer, Hans Verkerk, Holger Weimar & Christoph Wildburger

EFSOS II Launched

Sector outlook studies are a major component of the integrated programme of work of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission. The European Forest Sector Outlook Study II (EFSOS II) is the latest in a series of studies, which started in 1952, to provide a regular outlook report for the European forest sector. All these studies have aimed to map out possible or likely future developments, on the basis of past trends, as a contribution to evidence-based policy formulation and decision making. EFSOS II was completed in September 2011 and presented to the combined meeting of the UNECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission in Antalya, Turkey, October 2011. The intention of EFSOS II is to help policy makers and other actors to make well-informed choices, by providing them with objective analysis on which they can base these choices.

Scenario approach

EFSOS II is based on scenario analysis, quantified using several complementary models and methods. A reference scenario and four policy scenarios have been prepared for the European forest sector between 2010 and 2030, covering the forest resource (area, increment, harvest, silviculture) and forest products (consumption, production, trade). All calculations are at the national level, but aggregated in the main report into five country groups for presentation purposes. Country-specific results will be available from the UNECE website. The starting point of the analysis is a Reference scenario, which provides a picture of a future without major changes from the past: current policies remain unchanged, and current trends continue. The policy scenarios address the consequences of strategic policy choices, based on an analysis of current policy issues. These 'what-if?' scenarios are not meant to give predictions of what will happen in the future, but to give insights into the behaviour of the system and how it could be influenced. The four policy scenarios are as follows:

- Maximising biomass carbon: explores how much carbon could be stored in the European forest by changing silvi-

cultural methods, without affecting the level of harvest.

- Priority to biodiversity: assumes that decision makers give priority to the protection of biological diversity.
- Promoting wood energy: explores what would be necessary for wood to contribute to achieving the ambitious targets for renewable energies adopted by most European countries.
- Fostering innovation and competitiveness: explores the consequences for the sector of a successful strategy of innovation, leading to improved competitiveness. This scenario is treated in a qualitative way.

Increasing wood demand

Under the assumptions of the reference scenario, consumption of forest products and wood energy will grow steadily and wood supply will expand to meet this demand. All components of supply will have to expand, especially harvest residues. Projections show a steady rise in prices of forest products and wood over the whole period, driven by expanding global demand and increasing scarcity in several regions. However, if wood is to play its part in

reaching the targets for renewable energy, there would have to be a strong mobilisation of all types of wood and supply would have to increase by nearly 50% in 20 years (Promoting wood energy scenario). However the mobilisation of such high volumes would have significant environmental, financial and institutional costs. To increase European wood supply from outside the existing forest sector, it would be necessary to establish short rotation coppice on agricultural land. This could significantly reduce the pressure on the existing European forest and help to build the share of renewables in energy supply, but at the cost of trade-offs with other land uses and, depending on site selection processes, landscape and biodiversity. Also supplies of landscape care wood (e.g. from urban and highway trees, hedges, orchards and other wooded land) and post-consumer wood have the potential to increase by about 50%, reducing waste disposal problems for society as a whole. Europe is, and will remain in all scenarios, a net exporter of wood and forest products: significant net exports of products outweigh relatively minor net imports of wood, even in the Promoting wood energy scenario.

The climate challenge

Forests are affected by climate change, calling for adaptive management, but at the same time they can make a significant contribution to climate change mitigation. To maximise the forest sector's contribution to climate change mitigation, the best strategy is to combine forest management focused on carbon accumulation in the forest with a steady flow of wood for products and energy (Maximising biomass carbon scenario). In the long term however, the sequestration capacity limit of the forest will be reached,



yoshiyayo / www.fotolia.com

and the only potential for further mitigation will be regular harvesting, to store the carbon in harvested wood products or to avoid emissions from non-renewable materials and energy sources.

The European forest will have to adapt to changing climate conditions, whose effects will vary widely by geographic area and forest type. Forest management needs to support the adaptation process either by increasing the natural adaptive capacity (e.g. by enhancing genetic and species diversity) or with targeted planned adaptation measures (e.g. introducing an adapted management system or other species). To manage this adaptation process, more scientific and forest monitoring information is needed. For decisions now, the further development of existing regional forest management guidelines is important, as well as the implementation of decision-support systems.

The biodiversity challenge

An increased supply of wood and harvest residues from the forest could potentially be in conflict with biodiversity conservation issues, shown in a reduction of deadwood and share of old forests in most of the scenarios. If biodiversity were given priority, for instance by setting aside more land for biodiversity conservation and changing forest management to favour biodiversity, the supply of wood from European forest would be 12% less than in the Reference scenario. This would necessitate reduced consumption of products and energy, and/or increased imports from other regions and/or intensified use of other sources like landscape care wood and wood originating from conservation management and short rotation coppice (Priority to biodiversity scenario). One of the main challenges for

the forest sector will be to reconcile an increased extraction of woody biomass with appropriate conservation levels of forest biodiversity.

Potential for innovation throughout the forest sector

A more innovative approach in all parts of the sector could create, defend or expand markets, create new opportunities, reduce costs and increase profitability (Fostering innovation and competitiveness scenario). Forest management also needs innovative approaches. Developing a culture of innovation is a complex challenge, going far beyond the boundaries of the forest sector.

The institutional challenge

Forest sector policies, institutions and instruments in Europe are in general stable,

recent and effective, and increasingly enjoy public support through the participatory nature of national forest programme (NFP) processes. However the challenges posed by climate change, energy and biodiversity issues are exceptionally complex and long term, and require quite profound changes if they are to be satisfactorily resolved. It will require a very high level of sophisticated cross-sectoral policy making, sharply focused policy instruments and strong political will to mobilise enough wood for energy, to implement the right balance between carbon sequestration and substitution and to conserve biodiversity without sacrificing wood supply, and thereby to make the best possible contribution to the sustainable development of society as a whole.

The study concludes with recommendations for policy makers, international organisations and researchers. The study is available at: <http://live.unece.org/forests/outlook/welcome.html>

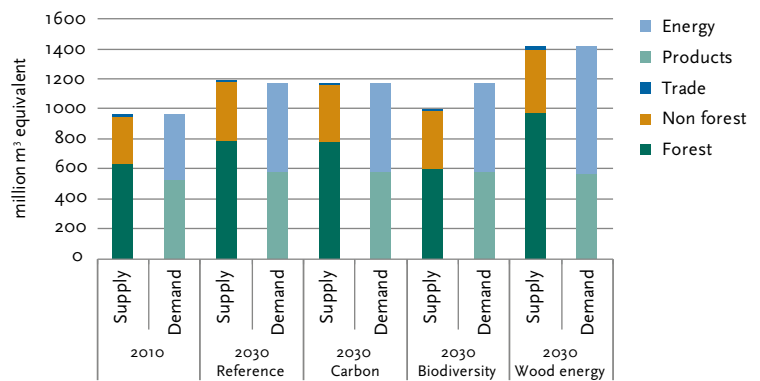


Figure 1 Supply/demand balance in quantified EFSOS II scenarios



Impacts of Changing Forest Management Strategies on Water Yield from European Forests

The world is a changing environment. Land use transitions are occurring at an ever increasing pace, responding to the changing conditions of the global market and society. Sound management of energy sources, climate adaptation and mitigation, and changing urban-rural relationships will all have large, hardly predictable impacts on land use. We need to develop a vision for how we manage these land use transitions in a responsible, informed way.

The Vision of Land Use Transitions in Europe (VOLANTE) project aims to provide European policy and land management with clear visions of how to reduce the large variation in possible future land use scenarios to a manageable set. It sets out to identify policy options for the various landscapes of Europe, from a short and long-term perspective. The consequences of these policies in terms of providing landscape and ecosystem goods and services will be comprehensively evaluated, to produce a Roadmap for Future Land Resources Management in Europe.



EFI is one of the 14 partners in the VOLANTE project, which runs from 2010–2015. As part of EFI's contribution, *Yitagesu Tekle*, an MSc student of European Forestry at the University of Eastern Finland, has been working with the Sustainability and Climate Change research unit on his thesis.

Yitagesu's research has looked at how changing forest management strategies can impact on the water balance of forests, using a modeling approach. His work has linked forest development and hydrological models to help determine the extent to which the development and management of forests results in changes in water yield.

The two models used were EFISCEN and LPJ. Based on forest inventory data, the European Forest Information SCENario model (EFISCEN) simulates the development of forests for different forest management scenarios. The Lund-Potsdam-Jena (LPJ) model simulates the hydrological processes in the forests.

Three forest management strategy scenarios were used, focusing on a particular aspect of policy: (i) giving priority to biodiversity, (ii) maximizing carbon sequestration in European forests and (iii) prioritizing wood energy. The simulation periods extended from 2005 to 2030.

The results of the simulations showed that changing forest management strategies can have consider-



able impacts on the water balance of forests. Generally, water use by forests or evapotranspiration (ET) increases with increasing biomass and leaf area index (LAI).

Two of the forest management scenarios – biodiversity and carbon – decreased the water yield compared to the reference scenario. However, the wood energy scenario increased the water yield slightly above the reference scenario. This was due to less standing biomass (i.e. few individuals) and more young trees, as a result of frequent stem wood harvest for wood energy.

Forest management strategies resulting in an increasing standing biomass and leaf area index – for example the scenario which gave priority to biodiversity – can have a significant impact on the water yield of forest catchments. As a consequence, adaptation strategies for forest management are necessary, to mitigate the adverse effects on the water balance. This is highly beneficial and necessary in the Mediterranean region of Europe where water is a scarce resource and forests are water-limited most of the time.

Water yield is one of the forest goods and services that will be analysed within VOLANTE – others include, for example, wood production, biodiversity, carbon sequestration or recreational use. The project will study how management changes affect the provisioning of a broad range of such goods and services from

different land use systems in Europe. EFI is responsible for analysing trade-offs between different ecosystems services. Moreover, EFI will coordinate the assessment of alternative land use scenario visions to identify pathways to (un)wanted land use futures which maximise environmental benefits while avoiding less desirable trade-offs. Yitagesu's results on trade-offs with water yield will be considered in the analysis, and help identify the roadmap for future land resources management in Europe.



EU Timber Regulation Study Evaluates Best Practice

The final report of the EUTR Support Study, which looked at the most effective ways of meeting various requirements of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), was published in July 2011. It provides background information for the further, secondary legislation needed before the Regulation comes into force in March 2013, taking into account existing best practices. EFI acted as coordinator of the project, working with Indufor, Finland and the University of Padova, Italy.

Background

Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 is designed to counter trade in illegally harvested timber and timber products as part of the fight against deforestation, and complements and reinforces the FLEGT Action Plan. It covers solid and composite wood products such as flooring, plywood, furniture, pulp and paper, but does not include recycled products and printed papers (books, magazines and newspapers). The Regulation will mean that operators (all entities who place timber or timber products on the EU market for the first time) have to prove that the timber or timber product is from a legal source. This process is called 'due diligence'. The trader will have to have access to information about the timber/timber products (eg country of harvest, species, details of the supplier), and then based on the gathered information must assess the risk level of the supply.

The EUTR study focused on two main areas – what the 'due diligence' systems (DDS) for operators could look like, and how third party monitoring organisations, who will be responsible for assisting operators to meet the EUTR requirements, can be accredited.

Due diligence systems

Collecting first-hand information from selected study subjects, organizing stakeholder meetings and interviewing traders and national associations enabled the team to analyze up-to-date information on risk assessment and risk mitigation procedures. Many companies and industry associations have these in place already to ensure that only legally harvested timber or timber products enter the supply chain, and several categories of risk assessment tools and methodologies were identified.

However, the team found that the variety of operators (who could be anything from a small garden centre to a global-sized corporation) made one single and unified DDS a difficult proposition. The development of the particular DDS should be tailored to the operator's conditions and resources. Clearly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have different needs and fewer resources to spend on verifying legality than big companies.

The study showed a need for information services to ease the administrative burden of risk assessment and support the evaluation of the relevant evidence. This would give a more consistent approach, and make it less costly and more efficient for SMEs to develop/implement their own DDSs.

Another problem is that very few SMEs are aware of EUTR (even membership of a trade association holds no guarantee that information would reach them). The report found that many SMEs will be considered as "traders" according to the EUTR (in this case only traceability is required) and therefore are not at risk of having to change their normal business methods. However, small importers/merchants with lots of complex product lines and high-risk timber sources (eg tropical hardwood) are more vulnerable. The situation is worse for



Act Now – Forests matter!

Over 4,000 students and teachers from more than 60 countries, a variety of international speakers and a singing frog gathered together at the Act Now! Forests for Future – ENO conference in September to highlight the importance of forests and celebrate their diversity. They heard how we need to think globally and start work locally to protect forests, with all sectors of society cooperating and working together.

Run by the global virtual network Environment Online (ENO), the conference focused on children and youth, exploring and explaining the potential of forests, the importance of protecting them and what can be done to 'act now'.

EFI's Assistant Director, *Gert-Jan Nabuurs*, chaired a panel discussion on the 'Sustainable use of forests today and tomorrow'. The panellists focused on the benefits of forests – for example in mitigating the effects of climate change – and debated how we could work together in the future to preserve them. They called for everyone to become an activist, to make a difference locally.

Schools and organisations (including an EFI team representing the MOTIVE project) held hands-on workshops, using everything from games and paper crafts to jewellery-making and virtual forests to promote information about forests in their home country.

ENO schools have planted 6 million trees in 7 years, and aim to plant 100 million by 2017 when Finland reaches its 100th anniversary. A highlight of the conference was a visit to Koli National Park, where students planted trees with the Finnish president *Tarja Halonen* and Dr. *Rajendra Pachauri*, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Echoing the theme of thinking globally and acting locally, MEP *Sirpa Pietikäinen* said at the conference: "If we can do one single thing, we can plant a tree – the beauty is everyone can do it."

MOTIVE workshops

EFI is a partner in the MOTIVE (Models for Adaptive Forest Management) project, which ran hands-on interactive workshops at the event. The team's main aim was to get across the message of how we can adapt our forests to climate change.

Students could try their hand at a crossword in Finnish and English, have a go at a climate change threats game, or gain an overview of forests in Europe with EFI's massive forest map jigsaw puzzle. *Ulla Vänttinen* said: "It's a complicated issue to pass onto teenagers, which is why we're trying hands-on methods. The kids have been very patient and listened, and have made a real effort with the puzzle."

More information:
www.actnow.fi

small-scale retailers, whose business only partly overlaps with the Regulation. So there is an urgent need for awareness raising. This may require temporary and innovative capacity building, where the various sector specifics should be considered.

Recognition of monitoring organisations

Part 2 of the study looked at monitoring organizations (MOs), and the requirements and procedures for their recognition. It analysed existing practices which have been developed by NGOs (especially membership-based organizations) and national governments, particularly in relation to issues surrounding conflict of interest. It also recommended a procedure for the recognition process.

The study's recommendations will be considered by the European Commission, which is due to adopt more detailed rules on risk assessment, risk mitigation measures and monitoring organizations by 3rd June 2012.

More information:
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Hubert Inhaizer
(firstname.lastname@efi.int)

Link to report: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/timber_regulation.htm

Disclaimer

This project was carried out with financial support from the European Union. The contents of this article can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

AGORA Project Reaching Mid-term



Elena Corriz, EFIMED

Coordinated by the Mediterranean Regional Office – EFIMED, the AGORA project aims to develop the scientific capacities of Moroccan and Tunisian forest institutions in three key areas identified by local stakeholders. Since 2010, North African institutes (ENFI and INRGREF) have benefited from the new recruitment of experienced researchers and the mobility measures to partners that excel in their fields (ISA, KTU, UniPD and INRA).

Recently an international workshop on “New marketing techniques and Payments for Environmental Services” was held in Fez, Morocco with the attendance of 18 young researchers from diverse Mediterranean

countries. In December, Morocco will also host the workshop “Methods and tools for participatory and adaptive forest management”. Preliminary results will be presented during the AGORA Final Conference in Tunis, Tunisia in 2012.

More information:
www.efimed.efi.int/portal/agora/



EFI News met two AGORA researchers...



of cork oak (*Quercus suber*) and its reaction to climate change.

I am *Zouhair Nasr* and work at the National Research Institute on Rural engineering, Water and Forests (INRGREF) in Tunisia. I have studied in Tunis and Paris and my current research work aims at gaining understanding on the water and carbon balances

Being involved in AGORA means an opportunity to collaborate within a large Mediterranean researchers group dealing with common topics and problems about forest ecophysiology and genetic diversity of this region. Currently, I work jointly with the experts from INRA Avignon, from whom I have learned methods and related tools needed to measure i.a. transpiration rate or leaf area index. My expectations are mainly long-term collaboration with Mediterranean teams and publication of scientific papers.



productivity on a climate gradient in Tunisia using new indicators of growth'. This is particularly important in view of climate change. I have already identified the most vulnerable zones, in particular the ecotonal

I am *Amel Ennajah*, a Tunisian biologist with post-doc experience in Montpellier, France. I have been recently recruited through the AGORA project at INRGREF, where I am conducting my research on 'spatial and temporal *Quercus suber* forest

zone of southern cork oak distribution (the Kroumirie forest).

With AGORA project, I hope to develop this approach by using other methods and by trying to respond to other problems like cavitations and genetics characters of these oak populations. It is an opportunity to enter the world of research as an official researcher in my institute and I think that it is a good beginning to my scientific career. In the end, AGORA is certainly an enriching experience which has allowed me to deepen my research areas and also to benefit from the help of students and future researchers.

First Steps for Implementing Payments for Environmental Services

The SylvaMED project aims to respond to the challenge of the supply and financing of environmental services provided by forests. Partners from different Mediterranean countries will test public-private schemes of Payments for Environmental Services (PES), focusing on the most crucial non-marketed forest goods and services from their area.

SylvaMED is an international project under the MED Programme (co-financed by the European Commission through the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), coordinated by the Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia (CTFC) and involves partners from different Mediterranean countries. The Mediterranean Regional Office (EFIMED) is advising on PES design and com-

munication among Mediterranean forest stakeholders. EFIMED has also edited the book "Water for forests and people in the Mediterranean" as a guiding tool for decision-makers and practitioners in the Payments for Watershed Services.

Further information:
www.sylvamed.eu



Project Part-Financed
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Bioenergy: Building Regional Cooperation and Clusters for New Opportunities

The importance of demonstrating concrete examples to stakeholders and of listening to end-users were two of the practical themes to emerge from the second RoK-FOR conference on renewable energy and clustering, held from 26–28 October in the Croatian capital of Zagreb.

RoK-FOR is a three-year 1.7 million euro EU FP7 project, which aims to connect the forestry sectors of five partner European regions (North Karelia, Croatia-Serbia, Baden-Wurtemberg, Aquitaine-Basque country and Catalonia). It focuses on the fields of bio-energy, bio-based products and wood construction.

The conference programme included:

- a mentoring seminar for Croatian-Serbian stakeholders on regional cluster development
- a day of presentations and discussions about forest biomass for renewable energy
- a partnering event for consortium members to plan activities for the remaining 18 months of the project.

Presentations from Serbian and Croatian stakeholders at the conference emphasised the importance of not just talking, but of using contacts in the real world and showing stakeholders and businesses concrete examples of biomass projects in action. Dr. *Dijana Vuletić*, from conference organisers the Croatian Forest Research Institute, made the point that it was so important "to see your neighbour doing it – it's the practical examples and ability to see it in action which is important".

There was an inspiring panel discussion with representatives from the partner regions. Mr. *Joan Martí Estévez* (Government of Catalonia, Spain) emphasised the role of private businesses in clusters and called for the involvement of other sectors to generate innovation. In his opinion, a forestry 'cluster' should think about the end product – markets and business models were as important as new technology. In the view of Dr. *Julije Domac* (North West Croatia Regional Energy Agency), stakeholders and their own resources needed to be mobilised: "Only when it's the action plan of our mayors, our industry, our forests can implementation be successful."

The emphasis on practicality and sharing experiences (both good and bad) between regions in different stages of development continued in the partner discussions. RoK-FOR has developed four common themes or challenges between the regions, and has put together a Joint Action Plan with concrete goals for action. Study tours are planned to Austria and North Karelia, and the next RoK-FOR conference in February 2012 in the Basque country will include practical workshops to promote best practice examples.

Dr. *Timo Hokkanen*, RoK-FOR project coordinator summed the conference up, by saying it had been "a very rewarding meeting".



Negotiations on Legally Binding Agreement Started



Roni Ilonen / R&S Grafics

In June, The Oslo Ministerial Conference decided to launch a negotiating process towards a Legally Binding Agreement (LBA) for European forests. It also decided to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC) and the Bureau for this Committee and invited EFI, together with UNECE, FAO, UNEP and the Forest Europe Liaison Unit to form jointly the Sec-

retariat to service the negotiating process. The first Bureau meeting of the INC was hosted by EFI on 5–6 September 2011. The chairman of the Bureau is Mr. *Jan Heino* from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland.

The Legally Binding Agreement is expected to ensure the sustainable use and management of forests. As an example can

be mentioned maintaining forest resources and health, and the vitality of forests in Europe. The goal is to finalise the Agreement within two years. 46 European countries are taking part in the negotiations.

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EFI Council Met in Zagreb



Igor Kolár

The highest decision making body in EFI, the Council, met on 22 June in Zagreb, Croatia. Fourteen EFI Member Countries were represented at the meeting which, among other things, elected two new Board members to the EFI Board. The Council also approved EFI's Policy Framework which sets the overall direction for the Institute.

Event Calendar

EFI Events

■ RoK-FOR regional event

22–24 February 2012
Basque Country, Spain

■ COST FP603 Final meeting: Forest models for research and decision support in sustainable forest management

1–2 March 2012
Pierroton (Bordeaux), France

■ IUFRO All-Division 9 Confer- ence: Governance of Change

9–11 May 2012
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

■ Tackling Climate Change: The Contribution of Forest Scientific Knowledge

21–24 May 2012
Tours, France

■ Joensuu Forestry Networking Week 2012: Green Growth Based on Forests – New Wooden Products and Construction

21–25 May 2012
Joensuu, Finland

EFI Associated Events

■ Forests 2011: Conservation and Management of Forests for Sustainable Development: where Science meets Policy

23–24 November 2011
Leuven, Belgium

Further information

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EFI EU FLEGT/REDD Unit News

EFI's EU FLEGT/REDD Unit inaugurated its new office this summer in Barcelona at the historical site of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau – Recint Historic de Sant Pau i Santa Creu.

Hosting team members from both FLEGT and REDD, as well as Unit Head, Communications, and IT, the new office is part of a larger EFI Policy Advice office that includes EFI's Mediterranean Regional Office – EFIMED. EU FLEGT/REDD Administration, Operations and Analysis will work from EFI Headquarters in Joensuu.

"Thanks to the generous contribution of the government of Spain, EFI's EU FLEGT and REDD Unit has the opportunity to gather its technical staff under one roof, which will strengthen our capacity to support the EC and EU Member States in their FLEGT and REDD related policy implementation" said *Jussi Viitanen*, Acting Head of the EFI EU FLEGT and REDD Units.

Built between 1901 and 1930 and designed by the Catalan modernist architect *Lluís Domènech i Montaner*, the Recint Historic de Sant Pau i Santa Creu has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1997. A functioning hospital from the XIVth century until

June 2009, most of the complex is undergoing restoration for use as a museum and cultural centre, as well as for the offices of several international organizations besides EFI.

Besides the new office, the EU FLEGT/REDD Facility's work programme gained momentum with the announcement of two new Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with Liberia and Indonesia this past summer. To date, six countries are developing the systems agreed under a Voluntary Partnership Agreement: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia and Republic of Congo (Brazzaville).

VPA negotiations are underway in another four countries in Africa and Asia. In addition, the Facility has opened offices in the Republic of Congo, Vietnam, and China, with a view to promoting FLEGT and encouraging other aspects in its implementation, including encouraging South-South cooperation. To this end, a FLEGT team also undertook an extensive learning mission to Brazil, with a view to understanding its timber tracking systems and aspects of its environmental regulations that relate to FLEGT.

Forest Matters Magazine

EFI's EU FLEGT Asia Regional Programme has launched "Forest Matters", a one-off magazine dedicated to forests and forestry issues in Asia to commemorate the 2011 International Year of Forests.

"Forest Matters" includes stories on livelihoods, animals, archaeology, climate change, competing land uses and trade. Using the voices of people on the streets as well as timber traders, conservationists, forestry experts, community leaders and researchers across

the region, it relays diverse points of view from Asia and beyond on the topic of forests and forestry-related issues.

Originally published in English, the magazine also has language versions for Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. The magazine is available online on the EU FLEGT/REDD portal.

<http://www.euflegt.efi.int>



Doni Blagojevic

1st Winter-Summer School Week at the FOPER House a Success!

2011 Winter-Summer School (WSS) Theme: MAKING VALUES WORK – exploring multiple perspectives in understanding the valuation of forest ecosystems

Margaret Shannon | EFI

Twenty students gathered in Varazdin, Croatia at the FOPER House and Office in September for the 2nd Week of the 2011 WSS. The second week of the WSS was based upon the presentations of the work of the students since week one, along with a short interactive introduction to the day by the teachers. During group work, the students summarized the key points of the presentations and worked to develop the structure and content of their Common Paper, which represents the joint product of the WSS. This year the students prepared a poster that was featured at the EFI

Annual Conference – only three days after the end of the WSS!! Good work!

Why is the WSS important to EFI?

New problems and challenges related to forests in Europe are emerging more rapidly than ever. EFI's mission of research, networking, and policy advice depends upon capacity building to create and animate research communities focused on these emerging concerns. The overarching purpose of the EFI WSS is



Doni Blagojevic



Margaret Shannon

The second week of WSS was hosted by the FOPER II project and all the lectures were held in the FOPER office.

Participants of the 2nd week of the 2011 WSS

to build new European networks of young researchers around topics of emerging importance.

The EFI WSS model fulfills this need by drawing together doctoral students around Europe who are interested in these emerging topics. The WSS explores a diverse range of theories appropriate to the topic as well as new methodological approaches. Products of benefit to the EFI research network result from every course and contribute to building the Research Infrastructure for the EFI network.

The integrative theme of the WSS is MAKING VALUES WORK. In 2011, the WSS focused on: "Exploring multiple approaches in understanding the valuation of forest ecosystems." In 2012–2012, the WSS will focus on "sustaining multiple values in managed forests."

Teaching approaches for the WSS are active engagement, and thus depend, most importantly, on the teachers being in residence with the students for the entire week and for some teachers from the 1st week to participate in the 2nd week. This kind of sustained contact allows for building relationships between senior and junior researchers, resulting in a research network with high capacity and long-term sustainability.

The WSS programme is financed by the EFI Headquarters so as to provide accommodation and meals

for all students and teachers. The students are expected to fund their own travel, with assistance from EFI Regional Offices and EFI Associate Members as well as other funding sources for mobility travel.

The EFI Regional Offices will alternate in initiating, supporting and sustaining the WSS networks. This means that each RO would sponsor a WSS each decade. Ideally, each RO will sponsor at least one student to attend the WSS each year.

"The innovative design of the EFI WSS has demonstrated multiple advantages. It is a two-week event where students qualify for the second week by accomplishing the tasks set in week one. EFI's junior staff are involved in the event both for logistical support and as students, providing a connection between the students and EFI. And last, but not least, students created bonds among themselves during the first week that made the difference in the atmosphere and working capacity during the second week," says *Doni Blagojevic* WSS student and FOPER Project Officer.

Student Joint Paper: Making forest values work: enhancing multi-dimensional perspectives towards sustainable forest management (available in December 2011)



Andreas Gradin / www.fotolia.com

Northern Forests Leading the Way to Sustainability – at the Final Conference of Northern ToSIA

Marja Kolström and Diana Vötter | EFI

Currently northern forests are sustainably managed. However, how can they be managed in a sustainable way in the future? Which options are more sustainable than others, and how do they compare to other alternatives?

Sustainability impact assessments can help decision makers quantify and assess the options available. In August 2011, the final seminar of the Northern ToSIA (Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment) project discussed the experiences of using sustainability impact assessments as a decision-support tool in three different regions: Finland, Sweden and Scotland.

Around 40 stakeholders (including local policy makers, reindeer herder associations, industry, NGOs, research and national bo-

dies) from Scotland, Norway, Sweden and Finland took part in the seminar, which was held in Rovaniemi in Finnish Lapland.

The seminar programme encouraged participants to discuss sustainability issues across different sectors, and offered the opportunity to learn about forestry, tourism, reindeer herding and bio-energy production across the different countries and exchange best practice and common experiences.

The Northern ToSIA project (www.northerntosia.org) was financed by Northern Periphery Programme, and aimed to promote the regional development of Northern regions, and lead the way to sustainability. This region's forests are used in many ways, and resource planners have to perform a demanding balancing act to ensure economic, social and environmental

sustainability at local, regional and national level. One way of doing this is to assess the impacts of decisions on forestry-wood chains using the ToSIA tool. In a case study in North Karelia, Eastern Finland, public organisations used the ToSIA tool in the context of the local regional development strategy to examine the impacts of increased use of forest wood chips for heating. Forest wood chip is a local fuel, the use of which creates more benefit to local people because of increased employment and income to the region. However, care needs to be taken that intensive harvesting does not threaten the biodiversity of forests or disturb their multiple uses (hunting and berry picking are both popular in the region).

In a case study in Malå Sámi village, in Northern Sweden interactions between

Stakeholder voices

“During the Northern ToSIA project we applied ToSIA and its Multi-Criteria-Analysis part to prepare the Regional Forestry Programme. The ToSIA approach opened novel discussion among the Regional Forestry Council, even though the members of the council were confused with the new tool. ToSIA might be ahead of its time and should be developed for the needs of practical users. Northern ToSIA project lasted three years; from a practical point of view shorter and more intensive projects are preferred.”

*Heikki Karppinen,
Forestry Centre of North Karelia, Finland;
a partner of Northern ToSIA*

“We have not yet seen the effect of ToSIA in policy decision and practical management. Although the project of course has developed the knowledge and skill of the different project members, and has also created networks between universities and forestry in and between researchers from a number of countries. ToSIA can and is used as a powerful tool when discussing more complex management problems and different demands on forest land. In conclusion, ToSIA and its successors will contribute to better decisions and be a tool when forming policy concerning multi-use/ ecosystem management etc. in forestry.”

*Pelle Gemmel,
Chief Forester, SCA, Sweden*

“This research is providing much-needed evidence to support consultations and decision making regarding woodland expansion in the Cairngorms National Park. ToSIA and related spatial planning tools help provide a common language and framework to develop and assess the relative benefits of land use options. Although we overestimated the importance of indicator assessment, the outputs of species suitability mapping are being used within formal consultations for the Cairngorms National Park Plan 2012, for example by providing evidence for discussion at Land Managers Forums.”

*Hamish Trench,
Strategic Land Use Director for the
Cairngorms National Park*

forestry and reindeer husbandry in the same forest area were assessed, to find out what impacts different forest management practices might have, and if it was possible to identify mutual benefit to both. A new ‘chain’ was built to describe the material flow of reindeer (as opposed to wood-based) products, including reindeer herding, slaughtering and production of meat products. The analysis and results have paved the way for continuous dialogue between industry and the indigenous people.

In the Cairngorms National Park, Scotland, the first sustainability impact assessment results activated a new way of considering park usage planning. Forests within the park have many different owners and usages. In addition to timber and biomass, recreational use of the park is significant, with many enterprises dependent on recreation services. Here, the ToSIA tool was used as a decision support tool for the new Cairngorm’s National Park Plan 2012–2017, enabling stakeholders to use a common language and framework to plan the use of the park.

All these experiences show that the ToSIA methodology of building forest-wood chains and its data collection are a valuable starting point for discussion among different stakeholders, and for assessing the impacts of different options. In the future, the use of forests, and more generally land use, will have multiple values and new targets, thus planning will be more challenging. Tools like ToSIA are needed to support planning and decision making when several interest groups are involved.

Conference dinner and excursion: Traditional attire welcome!

The excursion and international dinner expressed the same spirit as the whole conference: Nordic, regional, transnational, sustainable, and multi-dimensional. A platform for an equal and sustainable understanding: Northern Forests Leading the Way to Sustainability.



Diana Vötter, Judith Slagt and Marja Kolström

Andy Kennedy



High-level Policy Makers Engaged in Science-policy Dialogue

European and Global Forests – Which Way for the Future? focused on the challenges of sustainable management, conservation and development of forests in Europe and across the world. The event was held at the European Parliament in early September to celebrate the International Year of Forests 2011. It brought together over 250 participants, including high-level experts from international, European and national institutions.

At this event, Dr. *Marc Palahí*, Assistant Director of Policy Advice, briefed high-level policy makers on EFI's plans for ThinkForest – a European high-level forum on the future of forests. His presentation was part of a round-table discussion on the role research, knowledge-base and information-sharing can play in the sustainable use of forests.

Participants heard that education and knowledge sharing were crucial for a common understanding of problems, and for a coherent approach to the challenges faced. Dr. Palahí's presentation outlined how in a complex and changing environment there is a clear need to strengthen communication, collaboration and partnership building between the science community and key policy makers in the EU and European Parliament.

ThinkForest – a Brussels-based discussion and information-sharing forum for high-level policy makers – aims to meet this need by generating a fluent and dynamic science-policy dialogue. Dr. Palahí said “research-based information and knowledge should be the basis for sound policy making in the current fragmented policy environment”.

Echoing the theme of Dr. Palahí's presentation, Dr. *Sjur Baardsen* from COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) stressed that dialogue between the scientific and the political world should be fostered, while host *Gaston Franco*, MEP,

called for “a holistic approach towards forests involving all players and including all policies”.

ThinkForest facilitates discussion

ThinkForest is a forum that aims to promote communication, collaboration and partnership building between high-level policy makers and the science community, via the identification and discussion, based on evidence-based information, of forest-related issues and policies. The forum will also

identify policy-related information needs and provide the latest knowledge based on the capacities of EFI and its large network to address emerging strategic forest-related issues, to help all parties gain a better understanding of cross-sectoral challenges.

“The forum will help policymakers to navigate the sea of information, and provide them with the best available expertise and the latest research-based information from EFI's networks”, states Marc Palahí. The forum will be launched in early 2012 at the European Parliament in Brussels.

See also page 5.



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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.

