



UNECE/FAO Joint Forestry
and Timber Section

FOREST INFORMATION BILLBOARD

Issue 1, 2023



**I. TODAY'S
HIGHLIGHTS**



**II. WHAT'S NEW
IN THE UNECE/FAO
FORESTRY AND
TIMBER SECTION?**



**III. PUBLICATIONS,
ARTICLES,
REPORTS,
REGULATORY
UPDATES**



**IV. FOREST
COMMUNITY:
PROJECTS AND
ACTIVITIES**



V. PAST EVENTS



**VI. UPCOMING
EVENTS**



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I. TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS



Why trees? UNECE short film reminds us that trees in cities are part of the solution

Premiered at the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, "[WHY TREES?](#)" reminds viewers of the 'brilliant living technology' growing in their park, boulevard or back yard.

From flood mitigation to cooling of urban heat islands to the formation of critical spaces for biodiversity and recreation, the contributions of trees to healthy and resilient cities are well documented. With growing awareness of the many benefits they provide, now is the time to integrate urban trees and forest into local and national plans as solutions to tackle challenges like climate change, food security and biodiversity loss.

A new short film produced by UNECE highlights this need. In an accessible format, through poetry, interviews and dance, "WHY TREES?" reminds viewers of our critical connection to, and reliance on, trees in cities. The film weaves a spoken word poem with interviews responding to the film's titular question. Produced with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the film invites viewers to support long-term planning, management and investment in trees in cities, and invites mayors to join the UNECE [Trees in Cities Challenge](#).

UPCOMING UNECE/FAO JOINT FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION MEETINGS:

44th session of the Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

The meeting will be held from 31 May to 02 June 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland

Documents are available on the meeting [website](#)

The meeting will be held as an in person only event and the registration can be accessed [here](#)



Rooted in Forests – Regional action for global impact

Organized by UNECE, this in-person UNFF18 side event on 8 May 2023 features insights, tools, opportunities for concrete actions and interventions to support our forests.

Join us to learn about UNECE's global "Trees in Cities Challenge", the INForest online forest sector data and knowledge platform, as well as forest products and trade trends presented in the annual "Forest Products Annual Market Review".

Further information will be made available via the event [website](#)



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II. WHAT'S NEW IN THE UNECE/FAO FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION?

Forests as Pharmacy: a campaign to mark the International Day of Forests (IDF)

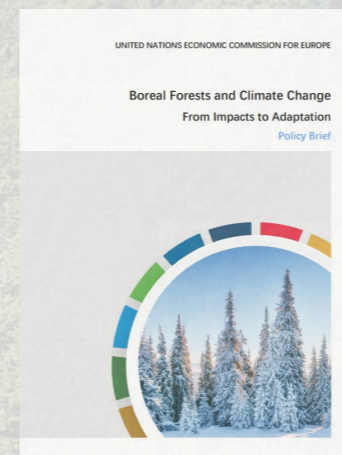


This year's International Day of Forests, 21 March 2023, put the spotlight on the many ways in which forests are indispensable to human health: they purify the water we drink, clean the air we breathe, improve our mental health, provide us with healthy food, and are a source of life-saving medicines.

UNECE's *Forests as Pharmacy* campaign highlighted that hidden in the bark, stems and leaves of the trees and plants growing in our forests are key ingredients used in the prevention and/or treatment of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), in particular cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

For more information, visit UNECE's dedicate [webpage](#)

Just Released: "Boreal Forests and Climate Change – From Impacts to Adaptation"



Boreal forests, also known as snow forests and taiga, represent about 30% of the global forest area, constituting one of the planet's largest carbon sinks holding 20% of the world's carbon emissions. However, climate change and extreme weather events are threatening the critical role of boreal forests in global climate regulation.

The latest UNECE policy brief outlines the main expected environmental and economic impacts of climate change on forests, emphasizing the urgent need to find effective ways to adapt policy and legislative frameworks, climate smart forestry practices, forest restoration activities, and research to strengthen boreal forest resilience and adaptation to possible climate change scenarios.

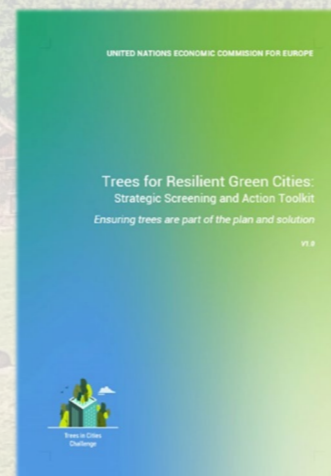
Access the policy brief [here](#)

New UNECE toolkit supports cities to strategically integrate urban trees and forests into planning and action

Optimising the services and benefits provided by trees and forests in urban and peri-urban areas requires a strategic and comprehensive approach to planning and management.

To support cities with implementing this approach, UNECE developed the *Trees for Resilient Green Cities: Strategic Screening and Action Toolkit* with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. Designed to help stakeholders responsible for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban trees and forests, the toolkit helps cities to ensure that trees and forests are accounted for and well-integrated into relevant planning, management and governance activities at the local level.

Designed for cities, this toolkit includes a scorecard, template implementation scheme and resources to support planning. It is now available for download [here](#).



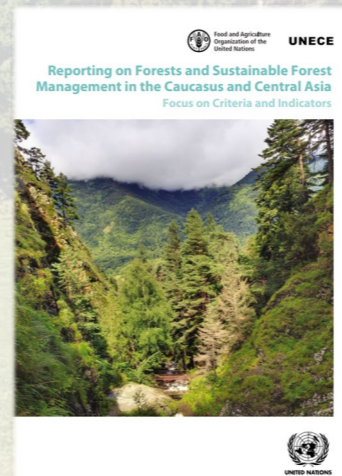
Criteria and Indicators in Support of Reporting on Forest and Sustainable Forest Management in Caucasus and Central Asia

The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has published a study on forest reporting and sustainable forest management in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The study presents results of a capacity-building project to improve forest monitoring and reporting systems, primarily through criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. In addition to the general overview of forest reporting, the study introduces national sets of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management developed by five project countries.

Criteria and Indicators are often understood as a tool for forest statistics, however, the extent of their application is much wider, ranging from data collection, through forest information systems, forest-related communication, to forest policy making. The study explores these areas of application and shares best practice.

For more information: [link](#)





III. FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 1/3

60 new forests and water capacity building demo sites



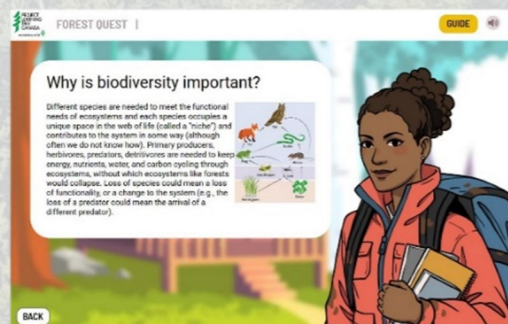
Demonstration site at the Håltjärn's creek, county Västmanland, Sweden

In Grip on Life, we increase knowledge and capacity to restore and protect wetlands and streams in the forest landscape. We promote best practice and develop new methods, which are demonstrated in the field.

The aim is to establish 60 demonstration sites, distributed from the north to the south. Partners responsible for setting up the sites are Swedish Forest Owners' Associations, the Swedish Forest Agency and County Administration Boards. At most sites, the focus is on showing examples of adapted forest management and environmental consideration close to streams and wetlands, highlighting ecosystem services such as biodiversity and forest products.

For more information: www.gripnolife.se

Quest: Online Game Encourages Youth to Explore Forests and Green Careers



Forest Quest is a new educational and career resource from Project Learning Tree Canada, a project of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. This free interactive online experience guides youth ages 14+ through a virtual forest, helping them understand why forests matter, the benefits of sustainable forest management, and the impact of forests on people's lives.

Along the way, they'll meet various professionals who provide insights into green career paths. Forest Quest, which was funded in part by the government of Canada, is intended for use by environmental educators, high school or university faculty, career/guidance counselors, and mentors.

Source/for more information: <https://pltcanda.org/en/forest-quest/>

FEP is launching its Parquet Refinishable Program

FEP Parquet Refinishable Program is a voluntary certification program aiming at promoting parquet which is at least twice resandable thanks to its minimum 2.5 mm real wood top-layer. FEP wants to put forward this inherent advantage of parquet compared to other floorings. Parquet is a long-life wood product whose durability can be extended through refinishing. Refinishing also allows renovation to update colour and style.

This Program has been developed in cooperation with our North American colleagues from NWFA – the National Wood Floors Association – who have recently launched their own Program. To encourage an international norm, both programs are aligned.

More information: FEP Refinishable Program, www.parquet.net



Landscape Resilience in the Mediterranean

Faced with the growing impacts of climate change, our landscapes are increasingly vulnerable. For this reason, it is now crucial to increase landscape resilience and understand its potential in mitigation strategies.

ResAlliance is a new project which aims to support foresters and farmers in the implementation of solutions to improve landscape resilience, especially against climate change hazards.

Through the LandNet – an international network on landscape resilience – and the LandLabs – located in different countries – the project wants to facilitate accessibility and knowledge exchange on landscape resilience, with a focus on the Mediterranean basin.

For more information: <https://www.resalliance.eu/>



Vital Initiatives by Ukrainian Foresters

In 2022, even in conditions of war, Ukrainian foresters continued the implementation of the environmental program of the President of Ukraine "Green Country".

The program envisages planting 1 billion trees in 3 years and creating 1 million hectares of forests in 10 years. During this year, Ukrainian foresters planted 182 million trees.

In total, during the implementation of the program (1 year), they planted almost 243 million seedlings. You can track the progress of the program on the special "Green Country" [website](https://green-ukraine.com.ua/).



Promoting effective forest PES through the EU financial and state aid programs



Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) are considered a promising instrument to diversify the income of forest owners and rural communities, but their application is often limited.

The LIFE ProForPES project aims to collect, synthesize and integrate knowledge on PES and PES-like schemes, with the objective of promoting their application, also through European funding instruments. The project brings together universities and specialized companies with extensive experience in the field. Learn more!

For more information: [link](https://liferesources.eu/)

Young Leadership Programme 2023: Land abandonment and cultural landscapes



The recently published Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2030 identifies land abandonment as one of the overarching challenges for the future of the region. This topic is the starting point for the 2023 Mediterranean edition of the European Forest Institute's Young Leadership Programme (YLP MED 2023).

The programme, organised in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean, will provide an in-depth understanding of the complex interplay between land abandonment, Mediterranean forests, and cultural landscapes. The YLP MED 2023 takes place in October at EFI's Barcelona Office in the Sant Pau Art Nouveau site and it's open to young professionals from around the region and beyond, whose work is related to Mediterranean forests and rural landscapes.

For more information: <https://efi.int/ylp-med-2023>





III. FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 1/2

History hidden inside a forest



Bukta forest in Lithuania/credit: Jonathan Perugia, FSC

Winding through agricultural fields, a dirt road ends at a wall-like Bukta forest. Certified by FSC, this key woodland habitat is home to many protected species. Blossoming and humming, they are waking up from their winter slumber.

Right on the edge of the forest, past the pinching thickets, lays a circle of sunlit tombstones. Forty-five of them dot the forest floor, barely peaking above wildflowers. This is the last resting place of German soldiers, who died on the frontlines of World War I (WWI) in 1915.

For more information: [link](#)

Brazilian woman wins international prize of the Blue Sky Young Researchers and Innovation Award



Ivana Amorim Dias won the Blue Sky 2022-2023 Young Researchers and Innovation Award, promoted by the International Council for Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) and coordinated by Ibá. Graduated in Forestry Engineering from the Federal University of Recôncavo da Bahia, master and doctoral student from the Federal University of Paraná, the researcher carried out her project under the guidance of Prof. Doctor Pedro Henrique Gonzalez de Cadematori, in partnership with Suzano. The objective was to develop sustainable processes for obtaining products with a high added value, which transform wood residues by burning, generating bio-oil with a high potential for application.

The winner is invited to attend the ICFPA CEO Roundtable event in Amsterdam on 26 May 2023 and receive the award in person.

For more information about the project, visit the [website](#)
For more information: [link](#)

Promoting social INNOvation to renew multi-level and cross-sector WATER governance



Water crises are, more than anything else, governance crises. In the face of increasing water scarcity, water governance agreements and cooperation become more critical than ever.

InnWater is a new project that aims to develop methodological, technological, and participatory tools to improve the governance of the drinking water sector in Europe, starting in five pilot areas across the continent.

Learn more!

For more information: [link](#)

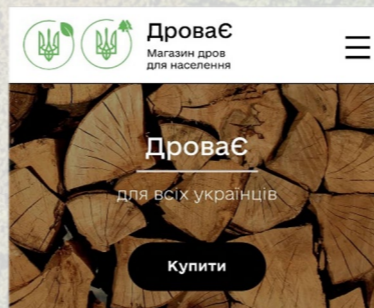
Harnessing the full potential of Sustainable Forest Management in carbon schemes



Sustainable Forest Management holds the potential to double forests' climate change mitigation impact by 2050. Still, its carbon sequestration capacity is far from being reflected in most carbon standards due to a series of technical difficulties.

Carbon accounting expert Julia Grimault and her team at the Institute for Climate Economics are gathering insights from research and practice on how to make sustainable management fully count towards carbon credits as part of the INFORMA project. She explains how in this [video interview](#).

Vital Initiatives by Ukrainian Foresters

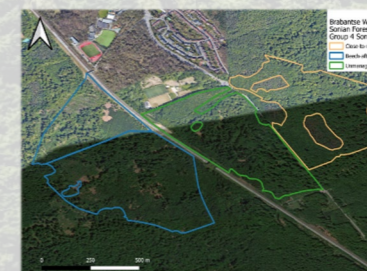


Due to the Russian bombing of the Ukrainian energy system, the demand for firewood for the population has increased several times.

For the convenience of purchasing firewood, the team of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine has created an official Firewood Online Store 'DrovaYe'.

Now Ukrainians can buy firewood without leaving their homes. In the first three days after the launch of the online store 300,000 people had already visited the [website](#).

Managing your forest or not? Find out with the INFORMA Forest Management Platform



When should a forest be managed and when should we let nature run its course? Answers from science are ambiguous, depend on management objectives and the trade-offs between different ecosystem services.

To help forest managers decide what to do with their forests, the EU-funded [INFORMA project](#) is conducting an unprecedented comparison between 300 managed and unmanaged forest patches across Europe's main forest regions.

The result will be a new, large database specifically designed to answer Sustainable Forest Management-related questions for European forests.

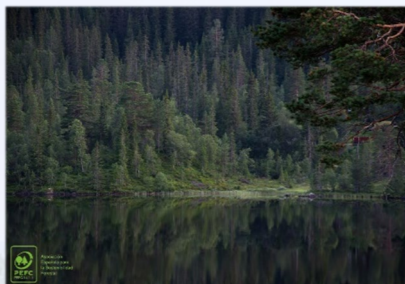
[Find out more details](#)





III. FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 1/3

PEFC forest certification grows in 2022 and positions itself as a benchmark in sustainability



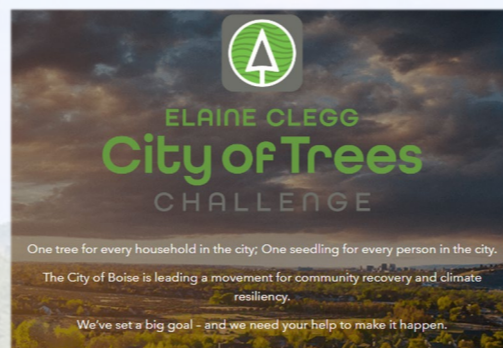
In Spain, the PEFC forest certification system had registered 2,689,271 hectares of certified area and 56,114 foresters and forestry managers, representing a net growth of 8.44% and 14.28% respectively. Moreover, 29 new companies implemented the certification of the Chain of Custody, and the year came to a close with a total of 1,675 PEFC certified companies.

This means that there is more forest area managed and there are more foresters who look after their forests and their ecosystem services. It is clear the commitment of companies to demonstrate the guarantees of sustainability in their productive processes.

PEFC continues to be the leading forestry certification in Spain, covering more than 96% of the total certified national forest area.

For more information: [link](#)

City of Trees Challenge in Boise, ID USA



The challenge began in 2020 with a call to climate action from our City Council President.

Our team has grown this into a statewide initiative that we believe has the opportunity to be replicated across the USA and the world.

You can learn more at www.CityOfTreesChallenge.org.

Trade balance for the Brazilian planted tree sector grows 38%

cenáriosibá



The data from Cenários Ibá reveal an increasingly stronger trend among consumers searching for sustainable everyday products.

The bulletin also reports that pulp production advanced 10.4% between January and September of 2022 over the same period of the previous year, while paper categories including packaging, printing and writing, and sanitary purposes expanded 3.6% over the same comparative period.

For more information: [link](#)

In an innovative route, companies in the cultivated tree sector invest R\$610 million in startups



With more than 50 years of uniting sustainability and a vision of the future, the cultivated trees sector has been increasing its efforts to bring innovation inside and outside its operations. Many companies in the sector have strategies in their business model that aim to work with startups and large investors.

According to a [survey](#) by the Brazilian Tree Industry (Ibá), forest-based organizations have ongoing investments worth R\$610 million for partnerships with startups.

For more information: [link](#)





IV. PUBLICATIONS, ATICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 1/3

The State of Canada's Forests Annual Report 2022



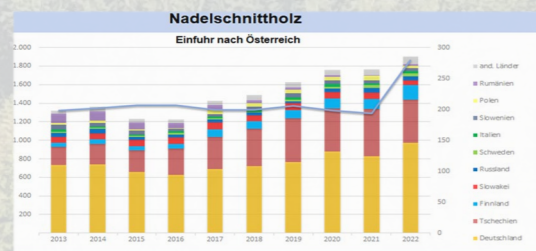
Released in December 2022, The State of Canada's Forests Annual Report is online and available to download! With a theme of Diverse forests for a diverse Canada, this year's report explores topics such as:

- how the variety of methods used to report on wildland fires and carbon emissions help promote forest ecosystem resilience and climate adaptation,
- how international collaboration in firefighting and scientific wildfire research helps ecosystems and communities prepare and adapt in response to shifts in wildfire frequency, severity, and size, and
- how Indigenous-led conservation initiatives such as Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas can help restore and preserve nature as well as Indigenous leadership, culture, and knowledge systems.

For more information: [link](#)

To be notified when the next report is ready, sign up [here](#)

A 7-th Statistical Yearbook covering the external trade of all EU-countries of their most important wood products



Sample: Austrian Imports of sawnwood

The Statistical Yearbook includes i.a. data on exports or imports of sawnwood from Sweden or imports of logs to Germany. For each product there are tables with the amount, the value and the price of the imported or exported product for all 27 EU-countries.

The Excel-tables and graphics (which [are also available as pdf files](#)) provide the most important information about the international trade of wood products.

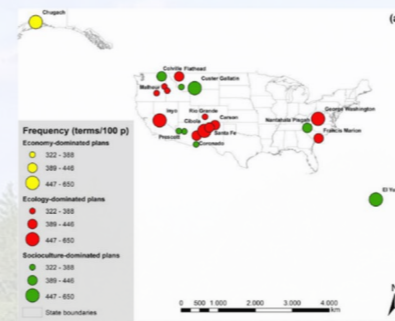
Order your copy from: www.holzmarktinfo.de or by [e-mail](#)

A comparative study investigating the economic, ecologic, and social aspects of sustainability in forest management plans from the US and Türkiye

A research paper named "Sustainability Language in Forest Management Plans: A Comparative Analysis for Public Forests of the US and Turkey" has recently been published in Forests. The purposes of the paper were to (i) extract terms/statements that suggest sustainability will be achieved and (ii) assess whether there exist statistical differences between the two countries' plans and the emphases of the findings.

The findings suggest that ecological aspects are dominant in forest plans from both countries. The study's outputs provide a blueprint for forest managers, planners, and the public in both the US and internationally to identify and verify a focus on sustainability—or lack thereof—within current and future forest management plans.

To open-access paper: [link](#)



The Journeys of Black Professionals in Green Careers

A new first-of-its-kind resource, Black Faces in Green Spaces: The Journeys of Black Professionals in Green Careers, was recently released by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Project Learning Tree (PLT), and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS).

The book highlights 22 Black Americans who share their personal stories about finding their passions and overcoming challenges, and offer advice to the next generation about exploring their own careers in the US forest and conservation sector. The project was overseen by an SFI-MANRRS Advisory Committee, and Black-owned businesses were hired as consultants, designers, content writers, and photographers.

For more information: [link](#)



Ibá launches Annual Report 2022

The 2022 edition (base year 2021) of Ibá's Annual Report is now live, with data and information that show in practice the work carried out by the cultivated trees sector based on the ESG concept.

Some highlights of the report are:

- Cultivated area: 9.93 million hectares;
- Conserved area: 6.05 million hectares, area equivalent to the territory of Switzerland or the state of Rio de Janeiro;
- Energy: 88% of the energy generated in the industry comes from renewable sources | sector generates 74.6% of the electricity that is used, enough quantity to supply a city of 1.37 million inhabitants;
- Jobs: direct: 553 thousand | direct, indirect and income effect: 2.97 million;
- Sector revenue: R\$244.6 billion.

The complete material can be accessed at this [link](#)



Not just about trade

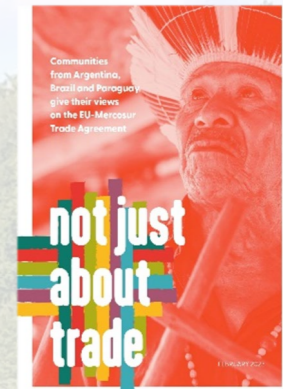
This is a joint briefing from Fern, the Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM) and the Instituto Socioambiental (ISA).

It summarises the key themes that emerged from a series of workshops and interviews about the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement with representatives from local organisations, collectives, and Indigenous and traditional communities in Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay.

It provides valuable insight into the positions and preoccupations of community members across Mercosur.

The briefing is available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

For more information: [link](#)



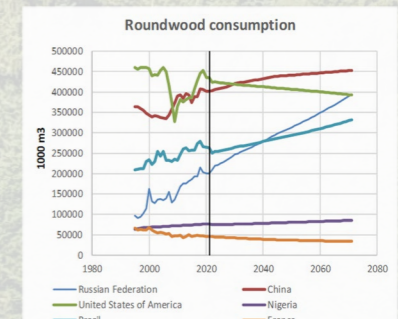
Global forest products model (GFPMX) with projections to 2071

The GFPMX is a model of the global forest sector based on the Cobweb theorem. It has been updated with the latest FAOSTAT statistics for 2021. The model projects, up to 2071 and for 180 countries, including the US:

- Forest area
- Forest stock
- Production, consumption, import, export, price for:
 - Industrial roundwood
 - Fuelwood
 - Sawnwood
 - Panels
 - Wood pulp
 - Paper and paperboard

The GFPMX works entirely with EXCEL®, without macro.

The model with the projections, and a paper describing the methods are available [here](#)



How can we stimulate the development of urban forests?

Urban forests are crucial contributors to greener, healthier, more resilient and liveable cities. However, today the implementation of urban forestry solutions still faces many challenges, such as lack of funding and of cooperation across different sectors.

Produced by Uforest, the report "Unlocking the Potential of Urban Forests" provides background and guidelines for the development of effective urban forestry solutions.

In addition, the report analyses the many benefits of urban forests, highlighting their potential also for health, social, and economic challenges, besides environmental ones.

For more information: [link](#)



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and Timber Section

FOREST INFORMATION BILLBOARD

Issue 1, 2023



IV. PUBLICATIONS, ATICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 2/3

Nova Scotia, Canada, Publishes New Policy on Conservation of Old-Growth Forests



Old-growth hemlock and spruce in Nova Scotia

In August 2022, the Government of Nova Scotia released a new Old-Growth Forest Policy. The Policy ensures conservation of **all** Old-Growth Forest (OGF) on Crown land, whether known today or not. The OGF definition shifted from a tree species approach to a forest ecosystem approach and has unique ages for each ecosystem type.

Replacement provisions are stringent when OGF on public land is required for rare and exceptional provincially significant infrastructure. Field assessments are mandatory to detect possible old-growth conditions whenever development proposals need government approval. The province commits to working with private landowners to develop approaches for conserving their OGF.

For more information: [link](#)

Trillion Trees just released Impact Report for 2022

This 2022 edition documents our contribution to the global effort to achieve the shared trillion trees vision, detailing the progress our own 'joint venture for forests' has made in the last 12 months, especially in partnership with organisations who are playing such an important role in mobilising the private sector.

We've continued our 'digital first' approach so readers can see the results and case studies from the field more easily. This report pivots from our headline numbers [83.2m hectares into protection and restoration since inception, 38.6bn trees protected and restored] to highlight the benefits of the work and results on the ground in protection and restoration - for people, for biodiversity and the climate.

A more detailed pdf can be found [here](#).



An EU strategic framework for working with countries to achieve deforestation-free production

This paper outlines options for partnerships to accompany the new EU Regulation on deforestation-free products.

Why should the EU pursue such partnerships? Partnerships would reduce some of the risks the Regulation hasn't solved, such as that products would continue to drive deforestation for other consumer markets and that smallholders would bear the cost of implementing the Regulation. Partnerships with producer countries would also maximise effectiveness of the Regulation and help decrease global deforestation.

The paper was co-developed by several NGOs and it's available in English and French.

For more information: [link](#)



A new publication by IUFRO: "Forest Related Nature-Based Approaches: Review of Terms and Concepts from Afforestation to Forest Landscape Restoration"



A new [publication](#) by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations seeks to clarify how seven common terms and concepts are used in the scientific literature, namely Nature-Based Solution, Ecosystem Based Adaptation, Integrated Landscape Management, Forest Restoration, Forest Landscape Restoration, Afforestation and Rewilding, and how to use them more effectively to support forest landscape restoration implementation.

Nature-based concepts have been embraced by different scientific disciplines and operationalized by practitioners in different ecological, social and historic contexts. Rewilding and Forest Landscape Restoration originated in the academic world and were embraced by policy organizations and popularized by NGOs; other terms, such as Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Nature-Based Solutions, followed the opposite path, from the policy vernacular to the scientific.

[Read more](#) or [download](#) the publication.

What is the potential of NbS to make cities more resilient against climate change?

For the first time in history, more than 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas (UNDESA). This rapid urbanisation leads to various environmental, social and economic challenges, with negative impacts on the health of citizens and the environment.

In this context, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly recognised as an extremely effective tool to respond to the challenges brought by urbanisation and climate change. With the aim of better understanding the potential of NbS, in this study evaluates four different NbS scenarios and how they can help protect against climate change risks in the urban area of Turin. Read the publication!

For more information: [link](#)



Online Courses in Indigenous Rights and Relationship-Building in the Forest Sector



A series of online courses in Indigenous rights and relationship-building in the forest sector are now available from Sault College, of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

Learning outcomes include: Learning about and recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Aboriginal, treaty, and title rights; understanding how to use and integrate traditional forest-related knowledge into forest planning, projects, and operations; developing customized communications approaches that foster respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities; and more.

The courses were developed by Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada), an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), in collaboration with Sault College.

For more information: [link](#)

FSC Strategic Framework on Diversity and Gender



Workshop participants in Ukraine/FSC Ukraine

This framework analyses the role of diversity and gender in FSC, both as a system and as an organization and lays the foundation for FSC to become a truly diverse and gender-inclusive organization. It lays out FSC's values, provides key focus areas, sets both high-level and strategy-specific goals, and establishes a timeline for a stepwise approach to implementation.

Long-term goals focus on the implementation of mainstreaming diversity and gender within FSC by 2026, and on the full recognition of the multifunctionality of forests driven by the active and equal participation of all actors resulting in gender transformative change.

For more information: [link](#)





IV. PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 3/3

Policy brief: Reducing wildfire risk in Europe through Sustainable Forest Management

POLICY BRIEF REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK IN EUROPE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT



Climate change is affecting the resilience of pan-European forests and is particularly responsible for the increasing frequency of forest disturbances like wildfires. Adaptation is necessary to fulfil and maintain the multiple functions for healthy forests. Therefore, FOREST EUROPE, the European Forest Institute and Ph.D. PyroLife students have developed a policy brief presenting nine policy recommendations.

By implementing the short- and longer-term strategies outlined in this policy brief, sustainable forest management can help prevent fires, reduce fire intensity and severity, and regenerate forest landscapes more quickly and effectively after fires.

Read the policy brief [here](#)

Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2030 now available in French and Spanish



The Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA) 2030 has been translated into French and Spanish, to expand the reach of this strategic document.

Developed by experts and stakeholders from around the Mediterranean network, it defines four priority areas: forest resilience in a context of global change related forest disturbances; conservation and management of biodiversity and genetic resources; forest management addressing trade-offs and synergies between multiple ecosystem services; social and business innovations and policy instruments to implement the forest-based bioeconomy.

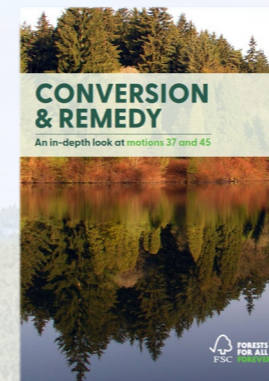
Download the MFRA 2030: [link](#)

An in-depth look at key motions passed at the FSC General Assembly 2022

The FSC General Assembly (GA), held in Bali, Indonesia in October 2022, brought together members and partners from diverse interests to set global benchmarks for forest stewardship and deliver meaningful results for the forests and the people who depend on them.

Each day during the GA, FSC members participated in the Member's Assembly, where they voted on key motions to make critical changes to the FSC system. Fourteen motions were passed, including the much-anticipated Motion 37: Required changes to the FSC Principles and Criteria to implement the Policy to Address Conversion, and Motion 45: Enhance and Improve the Conversion and Remedy Package to Protect FSC's Credibility.

For more information: [link](#)



Interaction between the SDGs related to forestry

According to the study "Forests and Forestry in Support of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Bibliometric Analysis", the main body of terrestrial ecosystems, forest ecosystems play an important role in supporting the completion of SDGs. SDG15 (life on land) directly involves forestry protection, restoration and sustainable forest management, and forestry also has direct or indirect impacts on other SDGs.

The relationship between SDGs is complex, including synergies or trade-offs. For example, forests can promote SDG7 (renewable energy) by providing biomass energy and protecting watersheds for hydropower generation. However, pursuing SDG7 may have adverse effects on forests. Forests are important for water conservation, and the protection of forests can also promote the realization of SDG6 (clean water).

For more information: [link](#)

	SDGs on Land			
	15	13	12	11
1 No Poverty	1.1	-1	0	0
2 Zero Hunger	2.1	-1	0	0
3 Good Health and Well-being	3.1	-1	-1	-1
4 Quality Education	4.1	0	0	0
5 Gender Equality	5.1	-1	0	0
6 Clean Water and Sanitation	6.1	-1	0	0
7 Affordable and Clean Energy	7.1	-1	0	0
8 Decent Work and Economic Growth	8.1	0	0	0
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	9.1	-1	0	0
10 Reduced Inequalities	10.1	-1	0	0
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities	11.1	-1	0	0
12 Responsible Consumption and Production	12.1	-1	0	0
13 Climate Action	13.1	-1	0	0

Interaction direction:
Goal A affects B
Goal B affects A
No interaction

Goal Scoring:
+3: Indivisible
+1: Enabling
-1: Constraining
-3: Canceling
+2: Reinforcing
0: Consistent
-2: Counteracting

An open letter calls on MEPs to support the ITRE Committee's agreement on the EPBD revision

The cross-party compromise on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) revision was achieved after many months of detailed discussions and represents a fair and balanced deal that will deliver for all Europeans.

The compromise agreement will:

- Tackle climate change and ensure that EU citizens enjoy better-quality buildings
- Create 3.3 million high-quality green jobs in the EU each year
- Decrease dependence on Russian gas and bolster energy security
- Bring 35 million EU citizens out of energy poverty

For more information: [link](#)



International on-site postgraduate course: "Forest Management and Biodiversity across Europe"



Europe's forest resources harbour important biodiversity. They host diverse ecosystems and are under different management styles and land tenure and governance systems

The course welcomes PhD candidates from ELLS partner institutes to:

- compare divergent views regarding European forest resource management and biodiversity conservation
- engage with multiple disciplines and goals
- cover ecological and social aspects, as well as economics, silviculture, and governance
- resolve conflicts

Participants will propose and develop strategies to protect and enhance biodiversity while maintaining other forest uses and values.

For more information: [link](#)

Woodworking and furniture European Social partners welcomed the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe



JOINT STATEMENT

Brussels, 08 February 2023

The European Woodworking and Furniture Social Partners welcome the new EU forest strategy passed by the European Parliament on 13 September 2022: A new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe

The report rightfully recognises the role of forests and the entire forest-based value chain in protecting the climate and biodiversity while contributing to the achievement, by 2050 of a sustainable and climate neutral economy. It also highlights the role of wood in construction as a solution to the climate change as well as the importance of sustainably managing multifunctional forests.

Social partners, CEI-Bois, EFIC and EFBWW welcomed particularly the emphasis on skills, employment and creating quality jobs. Forests play a significant role in the creation of green jobs in rural areas.

For more information: [link](#)



V. PAST EVENTS

Ibá's participation during COP27



November 2022, COP27 was held in Egypt, with the active participation of the delegation from the cultivated trees sector, led by Ibá. During the entire year leading up to the Conference, the entity, alongside its associates and specialized consultants, dedicated itself to the climate agenda in its thematic Committees. As in other years, the preparation also included extensive articulation with other sectors and business entities and also with the Brazilian Government.

For the first time, Ibá promoted parallel events at the COP. The events were held in partnership with the Australian Forest Products Association. The importance of products based on cultivated wood in terms of CO2 sequestration, carbon storage and the substitution of raw materials and other items of fossil origin were discussed.

For more information: <https://www.iba.org/>

Workshop on "Communicating the Important Role of Sustainable Forest Management in Preventing Forest Fires"



The meeting representatives from the woodworking and furniture industries, trade union and VET, discussed how to set up effective and meaningful cross-border cooperation in the sectors aiming at contributing to the social right of vocational education and adapting training schedules and curricula to future skills needs.

The prospect of creating special courses on innovative aspects that are changing in economic processes and company functions as for example circular economy, sustainability, and applications of climate-friendly material such as wood were also raised. Promoting cross-border exchange has the potential to increase the attractiveness of the sectors and improve the industries' image.

The meeting was held on **13 February** in the context of the [European Year of Skills](#)

For more information: [link](#)

The High-level meeting the common challenge of staff shortages, as well as skills and training needs



About 50 participants from 23 organizations attended the workshop in Barcelona, Spain, **from 7-9 February**.

The objective of the workshop was to explore professional communication tools and methods for wildfire management. Foresters, forest fire experts, researchers, policy makers, communication experts, media professionals and journalists were invited to develop recommendations for effective and attractive communication about forest fire prevention and the related importance of sustainable forest management for different target groups.

The workshop was jointly organized by FOREST EUROPE, the European Forest Institute, the Pau Costa Foundation, and the Forest Science and Technology Center of Catalonia (CTFC).

Find all relevant lessons-learned as take-home-messages [here](#).

Forests and Trees for Human Health – A Global Assessment by IUFRO-GFEP



Photo Helsinki Hallainvuori by Heli Virtanen

On the International Day of Forests, **21 March 2023**, the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Forests and Human Health presented the most comprehensive scientific assessment to date and a related policy brief on the links between forests, trees, greenspaces and human health. The assessment was carried out in the frame of the IUFRO-led Joint Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

A total of 44 scientists and experts from around the globe contributed to this assessment, with a core Expert Panel of 16 scientists with diverse expertise, including forestry, ecology, landscape design, psychology, medicine, epidemiology and public health.

Find key messages, download links and more at: [link](#)

Workshop on forest fires prevention in Ukraine in times of war



Over 100 participants followed FOREST EUROPE's invitation to the online capacity-building workshop "Ukraine forest fire prevention in times of war" on March 1st. International renowned fire experts presented their experiences in fire management in contaminated areas, and Ukrainian colleagues highlighted the actual situation, main challenges and needs. A fruitful exchange took place leading to concrete outputs and follow-up activities. A second Ukraine expert's workshop is planned for March 23rd.

FOREST EUROPE also launched a video campaign on social media, showing real-life examples of Ukrainian people working in the forest sector, illustrating how their lives and relationship with forests have been affected by the war.

Find more information on our social media channels or [here](#)



VI. UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Opening of EFI's Biocities Facility & Cities in the Age of Forests



Cities in the Age of Forests: a cross-sectoral international seminar providing a new vision to rethink our urban environment with the transformative power of trees.

More info on the [programme](#) and registration [here](#)!

We hope to see you on April 20th!

Dr.FOREST final event



For the past two years, [Biodiversa+](#) funded [Dr.FOREST](#) research project has been:

- Studying the effects and underlying mechanisms with which tree diversity in temperate forests influences human health and well-being;
- Working to understand and predict the effects of global climate change, air pollution and other change factors on biodiversity-related health issues;
- Evaluating and defining tree diversity benefits to human health and well-being, and communicating these findings to various stakeholders

In the spring of 2023, the project is coming to an end and the research results are mostly in. We warmly welcome you to [register](#) by the **20th of April** for the International Stakeholder Event on **Thursday 11th May at the Vlaamse Hoeve at the Meise Botanical Garden**.

Besides the Dr.FOREST researchers discussing their results, together with you we will focus on the opportunities and limitations of integrating forest diversity-related risks and benefits into health and biodiversity policies.

Call for Abstracts: Forests & Society Towards 2050 - IUFRO World Congress 2024



The 26th IUFRO World Congress on **23-29 June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden**, will focus on Forests & Society Towards 2050. The Congress offers a collaborative global platform with great opportunities for knowledge sharing and getting access to the latest forest-related science and research. The Congress Scientific Committee welcomes submissions of abstracts for presentations in sub-plenary, technical and poster sessions. Please observe the **2 June 2023 deadline**!

Find out more: [link](#)

International Softwood Conference 2023 to take place in Vienna, Austria 11th-12th of October



The Association of the Austrian Wood Industries (Fachverband der Holzindustrie Österreichs), together with the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) and the European Timber Federation (ETTF), are inviting you to Vienna for the International Softwood Conference 2023 – one of the most awaited events of the year in the wood world.

The conference will be held once again in a hybrid format. While this will give the possibility to attend the conference online to people who cannot travel, the organizers' wish is to host as many physical participants as possible.

For more information: [link](#)

Call for the 14th Southern Forestry and Natural Resource Management GIS Conference



The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and the University of Georgia invite researchers and other professionals in forestry and natural resources management to a conference devoted to issues and advances in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related spatial technologies.

Research presentations and technology demonstrations will be delivered by geospatial professionals from throughout the southern United States and beyond on theoretical and practical applications of spatial technologies used in the evaluation and management of natural resources.

Awards will be offered for Best Student Presentation, Best Student Paper, and Best Poster (open to anyone).

Conference website for details: <http://soforgis.uga.edu/>



Forest Information Billboard – template

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Source/for more information: link (Roboto bold, 6)

The purpose of the Forest Information Billboard is to gather news from the forest sector in one place: from forest reporting, new publications, and upcoming events. The contribution to the Billboard is voluntary. Please use our attached template and send it to billboard.ece-faoforests@un.org.

Kindly specify the category of your contribution (project/activity, publication, event, etc.)

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