



UNECE/FAO Joint Forestry
and Timber Section

FOREST INFORMATION BILLBOARD

Issue 2, 2023



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I. TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS:

Save the date for FORESTA 2023



We are delighted to inform you that the 2023 Joint session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission "Foresta 2023" will be hosted by the government of San Marino in San Marino from Monday 20 to Thursday 23 November 2023.

The meeting will be in-person only (with some side events taking place in hybrid format).

All further information including agenda, documents, focal point as well as logistics will be made available over the next weeks at [link](#)





II. WHAT'S NEW IN THE UNECE/FAO FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION? 1/2



Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management

Ms. Paola Deda, Director of the Forests, Land and Housing Division, ECE, welcomed delegates on behalf of both ECE and FAO in the renovated historical Palais des Nations in Geneva. She highlighted the tasks ahead for the Joint Working Party which included giving guidance for the next years based on the important achievements of the past. She highlighted the plans to improve data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination as well as the crucial role of the Joint Working Party in defining the review process of the Joint Programme of Work. She thanked member States for their excellent cooperation.

The session focused on the secretariats ongoing work on assessing forest damage, supply and use of wood energy and how to start the digital transformation of forest data collection, processing and dissemination.

We would like to inform you that all presentations as well as all documents – including the meeting report have been made available on the website: [link](#)

UNECE seeking partners to pilot new digital tool to support access to food in cities

What if the trees and forests in our cities provided healthy, locally grown food? What would be possible if that food was integrated into local food systems? Urban food forests have the potential to multiply the benefits of urban greening.

Digital tools can help bring this food into local supply chains and ensure the food grown by food forests is accessed and eaten, including by those who need it most.

To support this, UNECE launched **NaturEaTown (NET)**, a blockchain-enabled resource management tool to help find, track and use food that may otherwise be wasted.

Built to support collaboration, NET can support the exchange of products at scale and collect data related to these exchanges. *UNECE is currently seeking partners to pilot NET at the local level.*

For more information, please visit the [Forests4Food website](#) or contact us at info.ece-faoforests@un.org



New release: urban forests in the spotlight of the first episode of the UN Forest Podcast



The first episode of the UN Forest Podcast – “Urban forests hosted by Stefano Boeri” – is now available on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Amazon Music](#) and [SoundCloud](#).

In this episode, architect and professor at Politecnico di Milano, Stefano Boeri, and Cecil Konijnendijk, professor of urban forestry researcher and contributor to many UNECE urban forest publications, discuss how we can expand green space areas across cities that are often very dense and how can we guarantee that the benefits of urban forests are provided in a sound and inclusive way.

For more information: [link](#)



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II. WHAT'S NEW IN THE UNECE/FAO FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION? 2/2



CIRCULARITY CONCEPTS IN WOOD CONSTRUCTION



New UNECE/FAO publication *Circularity concepts in wood construction is out*

This study examines the benefits of wood as a construction material and discusses practices applied in the wood construction sector from the perspective of circularity, sustainability, and climate change mitigation.

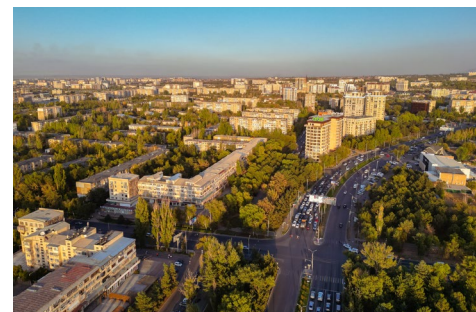
It analyses how circularity concepts can be applied in the construction industry using different construction methods and at different stages of value chains.

The study describes how different construction techniques and practices contribute to the renewal and sustainability of construction value chains.

The analysis is supported by examples of good practice in UNECE member States.

For more information: [link](#)

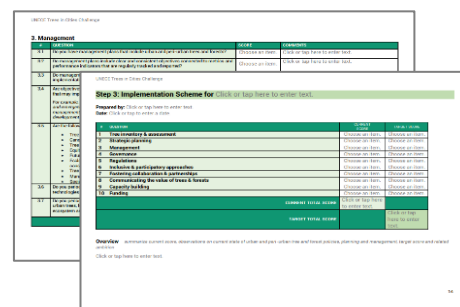
Kyrgyz cities pledged more than 240 thousand trees to the UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge



The Climate change and the current urbanization trends make city resilience a clear priority and the value of urban trees and forests is increasingly well-recognized. Urban green spaces benefit people's quality of life, and they effectively tackle larger city problems, such as heat islands, biodiversity loss, and air pollution. 15 Kyrgyz cities are among many other cities around the world intending to expand their tree coverage. Since its launch in 2019, 80 cities from over 30 countries and 5 continents have joined the Trees in Cities (TiC) Community. The latest pledges bring the overall commitment under the TiC Challenge to over 11 million.

More details on the initiative and on how to join: [here](#)

UNECE toolkit helps grow resilient, green cities



Since its launch in March 2023, cities in the UNECE region are using the Trees for Resilient Green Cities Strategic Screening and Action Toolkit to ensure trees are part of the solution. Made possible thanks to the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the toolkit includes a scorecard, implementation plan template, and resources. Together they provide an opportunity to review and enhance the planning, governance and management architecture related to trees in cities. To learn more and to download the toolkit, please visit [our website](#).

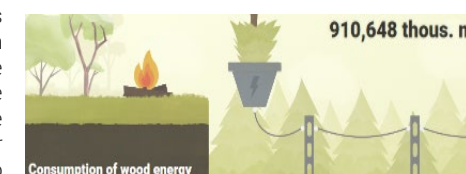
Have you tried the toolkit? Tell us how it helped and how it can be improved: info.ece-faoforests@un.org

INForest features new data on forest products

The INForest– data and knowledge platform serves as the central tool for the dissemination of information on forests, sustainable forest management and the forest sector in the UNECE region. The platform aims at sharing forest-related data with stakeholders from within and outside the forest sector, as well as the general public. **INForest is a living tool, developed thanks to the contribution of national and international experts.**

The recent version updates key trade data for 2021 on industrial roundwood and sawnwood consumption, as well as import and export data in the ECE region. With refreshed information and website modifications, the platform seeks to expand usership and continues the accessibility of national and regional time series in the ECE region. INForest provides a set of tools for supporting communication and analysis – feel free to use them to enhance your visuals, captivate your audience, and elevate your content with embedded INForest graphics on your website and social media.

For more information: [link](#)



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III. PUBLICATIONS, ATICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 1/2

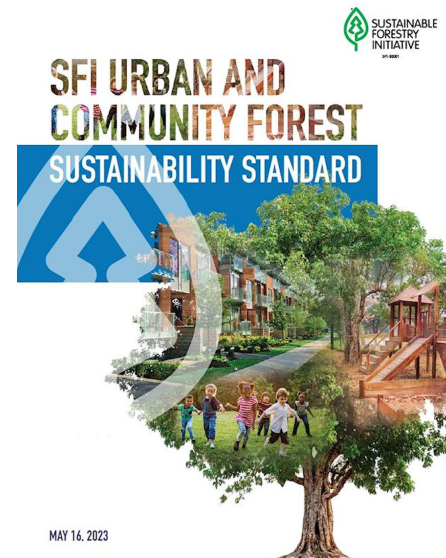
PEFC launches the new PEFC Alliance 2030 Strategy



The PEFC Alliance, at its 28th General Assembly in Vancouver, Canada, voted to approve the **2030 Strategy**. Developed collectively by the entire Alliance, the Strategy outlines how PEFC aims to move forward and continue to address the evolving expectations that stakeholders place on certification and its ability to demonstrate its impact. Developed through reviews, discussions, and projections with members and stakeholders, it is built on a strong framework of four strategic pathways and fourteen KPIs. More externally orientated and impact focused, it will help contribute to healthy forests and vibrant forest communities whose livelihoods depend on sustainably managed forests.

For more information: [link](https://www.pefc.org)

The SFI's Board of Directors approves the Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard



The Sustainable Forestry Initiative's Board of Directors recently approved the **first-of-its-kind Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard (UCFSS)**.

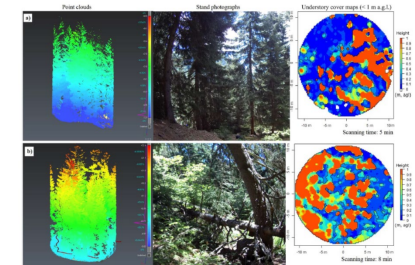
The standard includes 16 certification objectives, such as Forest and Tree Health and Vitality, Human Health and Well-being, Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity, and Climate-Smart Management.

The UCFSS is appropriate for organizations of any size that own, manage, or are responsible for urban and/or community forests, including, but not limited to: governmental organizations (i.e., municipalities, counties, states, provinces), non-governmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, community groups, healthcare organizations, educational organizations, and corporate organizations.

Four thematic certification options also are available.

For more information: [link](https://www.sustainableforestry.org/ucfss)

A novel study investigating the applicability of mobile laser scanning systems for inventory of structurally complex forests



A **research paper** named "Assessing the potential of mobile laser scanning (LiDAR) for stand-level forest inventories in near-natural forests" has recently been published in *Forestry*. The overall results suggest that many quantitative forest attributes (mean DBH, basal area, growing stock, dominant height, understory cover, and the number of trees) can be successfully estimated using a handheld mobile laser scanner even in structurally complex forest plots. Diameter distribution of stands and tree maps can also be extracted from point cloud data. Estimation accuracies generally increase with stand maturation, but there is still a need for traditional field surveys to capture qualitative attributes, such as species mixture and timber quality.

Free access link to the paper: [link](https://doi.org/10.1093/forestry/cfz011)

New results of the Swiss National Forest Inventory



A fieldworker during the surveys of the fifth Swiss NFI

The weather extremes of recent years have left clear traces in the Swiss forest. There are more damaged and dead trees. In addition, fewer young trees are growing up. The interim results for the **survey** years 2018 to 2022 of the current fifth Swiss National Forest Inventory show this.

The Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL) and the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) are conducting the inventory jointly.

For more information: [link](https://www.bafn.ch/en)

Enhancing safe and secure workplaces in FSC-certified operations



Responsible forestry does more than protect the health and resilience of forests—it also protects the well-being of the people who live and work in them. These people include workers whose livelihoods depend on forest products. When forests are FSC certified, their managers commit to ensuring the social and economic well-being of workers and local communities. During the last General Assembly, FSC members approved additional **requirements to improve and secure worker fundamental rights** which include health and safety requirements.

For more information: [link](https://www.fsc.org)

New World Bank Study on Landscape Restoration Opportunities in the Kyrgyz Republic

This **report** outlines the main results of the study based on the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) conducted in the Naryn River Basin, the Kyrgyz Republic.

This assessment identifies degraded forest and pasture areas, considers the potential correlation between land degradation and sedimentation in hydropower reservoirs, and proposes feasible and effective landscape restoration measures for the Naryn River Basin.

The study also presents several recommendations to fast-track the implementation of proposed interventions for the Naryn River Basin and scale up to other degraded areas throughout the country.

For more information: [link](https://www.worldbank.org/kyrgyzstan/landscape-restoration)



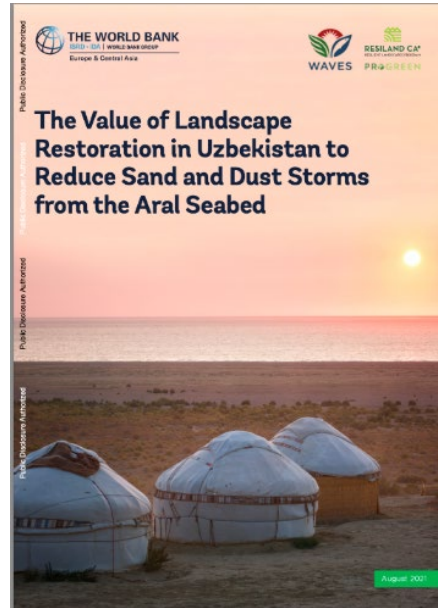
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III. PUBLICATIONS, ATICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 2/2



New World Bank Report on Sand and Dust Storms in Uzbekistan

Central Asia experiences frequent sand and dust storms (SDS), which have been made worse by human activity.

The main objective of this recently released **study** is to provide an economic analysis of the **benefits of afforestation of the former Aral Seabed in Uzbekistan**. The objective of this study is to estimate economic benefits attributed to afforestation of the former Aral Seabed in Uzbekistan.

Proper estimation and categorization of economic benefits associated with each scenario of landscape restoration enables the Government of Uzbekistan and local authorities to allocate limited resources in an efficient way, supporting promising rehabilitation techniques and practices.

For more information: [link](#)

PEFC's active engagement in the new EU Deforestation Regulation



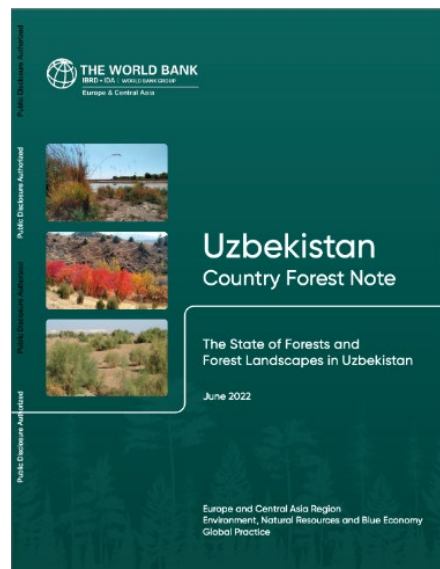
A recent PEFC webinar presented **the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and PEFC's related work**. The webinar emphasizes PEFC's support to the EU objectives and the impact EUDR will bring globally, shows how companies can take advantage of PEFC certification to demonstrate compliance with the Regulation, and how EUDR needs to have a positive impact on smallholders. Voluntary certification can support the regulation and can be used as part of the due diligence procedure. Already in the framework of the EU Timber Regulation, PEFC ensured a global application and implementation of its provisions by integrating them in the PEFC standards.

[Watch the recording to hear more about PEFC's engagement in the EUDR.](#)

FOREST EUROPE's experience with wildfires at the 8th International Conference on Forest Fires



FOREST EUROPE proudly participated in the 8th International Conference on Forest Fires in Porto from, where the **Landscape Fire Governance Framework** was successfully disseminated. This framework provides guiding principles and translates science and practice into policy to address the increasing severity and impacts of landscape fires. The framework emphasizes the importance of integrated fire management, stakeholder engagement, and international collaboration to achieve sustainable development goals and reduce losses from wildfires. The event was a perfect opportunity to present our work at FOREST EUROPE where we will also continue to work on wildfires beyond Pilot Phase #1 of the Pan-European Forest Risk Knowledge Mechanism (FoRISK). Learn more about [FoRISK](#).



New World Bank Report on Forest Landscapes in Uzbekistan

This **Country Forest Note** offers an in-depth picture of **the forest sector of Uzbekistan**, viewed through a forest landscape lens, and provides guidance to help define goals and identify opportunities for the continued development of the sector.

Despite a large number of current challenges, forest landscape management presents opportunities for sustainable development: increasing the forest area will provide additional benefits in terms of climate change.

A holistic approach to soil degradation is required that includes improved livestock husbandry, soil management, and agricultural practices, all of which have a role to play.

For more information: [link](#)

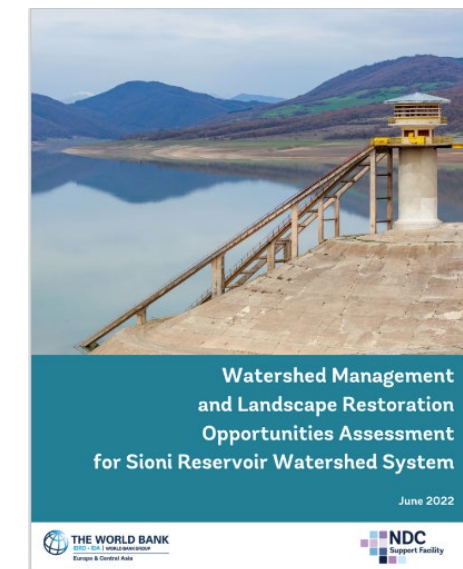
New World Bank Report on Landscape Restoration Opportunities in Georgia

This **assessment report** presents the results of a study focused on the **Sioni Reservoir watershed**, which is subject to seasonal sediment loads affecting the sustainability of water for hydropower generation and irrigation.

The study reveals the major causes of landscape degradation within target watershed and sediment loads to the Sioni Reservoir affecting the suitability of water for irrigation and the lifetime of the dam.

The study also identifies the main interventions for landscape restoration and provides a brief analysis of the institutional and policy gaps and recommendations that are applicable for other watersheds in the region as well.

For more information: [link](#)





IV. FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 1/2

PEFC General Assembly welcomes two international stakeholder members



Mayr-Melnhof Holz and Mercer International were accepted by PEFC as international stakeholder members during the 28th PEFC General Assembly. "We are delighted to welcome two new members to the PEFC Alliance," said PEFC International CEO Michael Berger. "PEFC can benefit from the great expertise and longstanding experience of the two companies, and we are looking forward to working with them." International stakeholder membership is open to companies, organizations and associations with principles and objectives in line with PEFC. International stakeholder members are part of the PEFC General Assembly, the organization's highest decision-making body, which sets its strategic direction.

For more information: [link](#)

\$30M for Work Experience and Training in Canada's Forest and Conservation Sector



Kathy Abusow and Julie Dabrusin

On World Environment Day 2023, Julie Dabrusin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, announced CAD\$30 million for Project Learning Tree Canada to create 960 green jobs and training opportunities for youth over the next two years. The funding is via NRCan's Science and Technology Internship Program, part of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment and Skills Strategy to increase the employability skills of young adults aged 15 to 30 and invest in building a diverse and inclusive workforce in the natural-resources sector.

For more information: [link](#)

From the forest to your screen: real-life stories of Ukrainian forestry workers



10:55 AM - Feb 27, 2023 3,078 Views

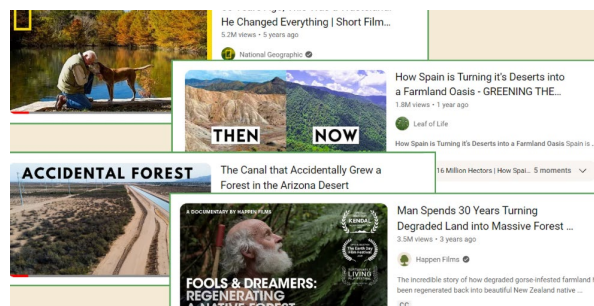
View 1 user: merydian

19 Retweets 3 Quoted Tweets 29 Likes

To further increase awareness of the [Ukraine initiative](#), FOREST EUROPE launched a video campaign on 24 February, the day of the first anniversary of the conflict in Ukraine. The campaign aims to show real-life examples of Ukrainian people working in the forest sector (e.g., research, wood industry, national authority, environmental fields), and how their lives and relations with forests have been affected within this year. They talk about their direct experiences and what they need and hope for in the future.

To watch the campaign and to find out more, [follow us on social media](#).

Stories as enablers for forest restoration



Science is the key to the future of our forests. Without it, we cannot restore and make forests resilient to climate change. But is science really all we need? What about the role stories play in forest restoration and, thinking even bigger, in systems change? If we want to change a system and foster lasting improvements in our society, we need to tackle the root cause of societal issues. Through the [SUPERB project](#), we are ultimately aiming at systems change by collectively restoring forests and biodiversity in twelve locations in Europe. Part of this work involves exploring how people see, feel and value these places in their neighborhoods so that the work can continue beyond the project.

Check out Rina Tsubaki's [blogpost](#) and get inspired how storytelling can enable system change.

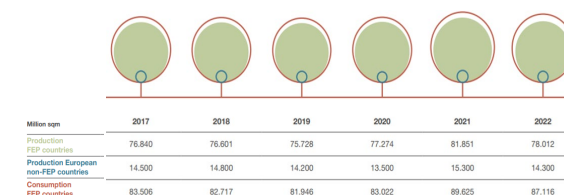
Maine SFI Committee Honored for Climate-Smart Forestry, Fire Resilience, and Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value



Patrick Siros accepting the 2023 SFI Implementation Committee Achievement Award

The Maine Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee (SIC) recently received SFI's 2023 SIC Achievement Award for its collaborative leadership in addressing key enhancements to the SFI Forest Management and Fiber Sourcing Standards related to climate-smart forestry, fire resilience, and forests of exceptional conservation value. The award recognizes SICs for outstanding work in fostering community engagement by strengthening the connections between sustainable forests, thriving communities, and responsible purchasing. The award is designed to provide a positive incentive for SFI Committees to go above and beyond required efforts to increase SFI's visibility across the U.S. and Canada. For more information: [link](#)

The European parquet market showed resilience in 2022



While, earlier that year, a significant decrease in parquet consumption was expected for 2022 as a whole, consolidated figures depict a moderate decline by 2.8% and the second highest level of consumption of the last 10 years.

After a booming year in 2021 (+8.0%), the European consumption of parquet fell by almost 3% in 2022, especially during the second part of the year.

Most of the countries report decreases in consumption but not the main European market – Germany – which still progressed in 2022.

For more information: [link](#)



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EU Associations launch coalition for a more competitive, and ambitious, EU Bioeconomy



**CIRCULAR CHOICES
FOR A COMPETITIVE
EU BIOECONOMY**

Growing a circular future

The Cross-sectoral Coalition for Circular Choices for the EU's Bioeconomy offers biobased, renewable and carbon-neutral products and solutions that contribute to European resilience and enable the transition towards a circular bioeconomy.

From the logs, wood products and renewable energy, to our key role in the construction and furniture sectors, to the innovations we are driving in the pulp, packaging, board, tissue, and printing sectors, we are committed to the sustainable management of our forests, the delivery of sustainable products, the transition to net zero and the creation of long-term jobs.

For more information: [link](#) and [link](#)

New World Bank Investments on Landscape Restoration in Central Asia



Central Asia has some of the most rapidly degrading and climate-vulnerable areas in the world. In response to these challenges, The World Bank has recently approved several national projects in the region to strengthen the capacity for identifying and implementing forest and landscape restoration approaches. These board approved projects in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan are a part of a regional program, RESILAND CA+, which aims to catalyze transboundary collaboration across Central Asia's shared borders for improved connectivity of natural resources and increased resilience of transboundary communities and regional infrastructure against the impacts of land degradation, and greenhouse gas mitigation.

For more information: [link](#)

In Amsterdam, Brazilian researcher is awarded first place in the Blue Sky Award



Brazilian researcher Ivana Amorim Dias was the winner of the Blue Sky Young Research and Innovation Award 2022-2023, promoted by the International Council for Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA), with the support of Ibá (Brazilian Tree Industry). Blue Sky awards solutions to expand the forest sector's contribution to the low-carbon economy. The award ceremony took place in Amsterdam, Netherlands, during a meeting of the CEOs that make up the global organization. Supported by Suzano, Ivana's research aimed to develop sustainable processes to obtain products with high added value, which transform, via burning, wood residues, generating bio-oil with high application potential.

For more information: [link](#)

PEFC Spain and Sylvestris Group join forces to encourage sustainable forestry management and CO2 absorption



The partnership between these two leading bodies in sustainability aims to strengthen the impact of their actions and develop new methodologies for the certification of CO₂ absorption. This alliance is a milestone in the fight against climate change and encouraging the responsible use of forestry resources. The agreement establishes a series of projects in which both entities will work together, such as the analysis of certified areas in which plantings promoted by Sylvestris have been carried out, the restoration of certified areas damaged by fire or pests, and the study of the possible development of a methodology for certifying the absorption of CO₂.

For more information: [link](#)

Payment for Environmental Services Project



The Brazilian forest-based companies adopt a set of good environmental practices, including a preservation of vast native areas. In this sense, Ibá and 13 associated companies started a sectoral project looking for opportunities on Payment for Environmental Services. Using innovative methodology, the project has been developed by a consultant company composed of a multidisciplinary team. In 2021, Brazilian Government approved the Law 14.119, which established the National Policy for Payment for Environmental Services. This policy recognizes fiscal and/or legal incentives that encourage the maintenance, remediation, or improvement of ecosystem services.

For more information: [link](#)

Joe, Robertson, and Robitaille Receive SFI Award for Leadership in Advancing Indigenous Relations



Scott Robertson, Lennard Joe, and Paul Robitaille recently received the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's 2023 President's Award for Leadership for their foundational, governance, and programmatic contributions in advancing SFI's Indigenous Relations objectives. Joe is CEO of the British Columbia First Nations Forestry Council and an SFI Board Member; Robertson is an Aboriginal Rights Lawyer with Nahwegahbow Corbiere LLP; Robitaille is SFI's Senior Advisor, Indigenous Relations. "SFI is committed to building forest-focused collaborations rooted in recognition and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional knowledge," said Kathy Abusow, President and CEO of SFI.

For more information: [link](#)



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V. LOOKING BACK: A GLANCE ON FORESTRY EVENTS FROM THE FIRST HALF OF 2023 1/2



(c) Elvira Guzeeva

Human and Forest Health – ways to keep and strengthen

International workshop and media-conference held by FAO LOR and Federal Forestry Agency of Russia on International Day of Forests (21st March) brought together over 180 participants from around the world.

Experts from international organizations, scientists, policy-makers and young foresters exchanged experience on how to better contribute to human health through healthy forest management. Comprehensive work includes efforts on protecting forests against fires, pests and diseases.

Nature friendly upbringing, capacity-building and research in forestry are of no less importance. Forestry is a unique sphere where cutting-edge and traditional knowledge can be brought together to bring best results.

For more information: [link](#)

Webinar about the EUDR & FSC



On 23rd March FSC has organized a webinar which attracted over 1000 participants to shed light on the EU anti-deforestation (EUDR) and its main requirements. Speakers included representatives from EU Commission, Preferred by Nature, CEPI and Danish Environmental Protection Agency. They discussed the role private certification schemes can play in the EUDR, how the industry and competent authorities are getting ready for its implementation, and how FSC, with its +10 experience on the EUTR, can provide the foundation to build compliance with the Regulation whilst being an effective tool to fight deforestation and degradation.

You can watch the recording here [link](#)

FOREST EUROPE's Think Tank on the future of SFM



On 21st April, the third meeting of the Think Tank convened to discuss how to keep SFM fit for the future as a leading paradigm for forest management in Europe. Mr. Kit Prins, former Chief of UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section presented a background paper that critically touched upon the key points of SFM. While the principles of SFM are generally valid, also in the international context, the focus will be on the further development of indicators and monitoring. It will be important to find new narratives on forest management that go beyond sectoral boundaries. The Think Tank will have a main advisory role for inputs to the 9th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference in Bonn, 2024.

For more information: [link](#)

Wood you find it? Discussing the geo-location requirement of the new EU regulation on deforestation-free products (EUDR)

FSC convened +180 representatives of NGOs, policymakers, companies, voluntary sustainability standards, producing countries, EU Competent Authorities, forest owners, and journalists.

Together they networked, debated and imagined a world in which we know exactly where every piece of wood comes from.

The event took place on 25 April in Brussels and focused how the EUDR and its geo-location requirement can play a role in the wood sector.

You can read the key take-home messages here: [link](#)



Wood value chains under climate change



Climate change poses a threat to European Forests. As a result, disturbances like windstorms, fires and bark beetle outbreaks are increasing. What does this mean for the wood value chain? What can the forest industry do to boost the resilience of European forests, and what innovations are needed in the value chain?

In our panel at [LIGNA fair](#), (held on 15th May) we discussed these questions with 3 experts: Annechien Hoeben (Resilience research, University of Graz), Dominik Wolfschütz (VDMA e.V. Woodworking Machinery) and Timo Gelzhäuser (Gelzhäuser Forst), moderated by Gesche Schifferdecker (European Forest Institute) as part of [RESONATE project](#).

Here further [recommendations](#)

Forests: The Lungs of The Planet



What is the state of world forest resources and how to better assess forests? How important are forests for SDGs? What is new on the track of forest restoration and afforestation? How can we use forest digitalization to track timber? What are the trends and forecasts for forest fires?

These and other issues were discussed at roundtable held by Ministry of Nature Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and Federal Forestry Agency at X Nevsky International Ecological Congress in St Petersburg on 25th May, 2023. Over 200 participants from around the world contributed to discussions in person and online.

More information is available here [link](#)



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2nd Exchange of Experts in Poland: Fuelling the Policy



On **27-29th May** more than 100 participants from 22 countries gathered in the Polish forest to attend the SNEP (EN: Association of Independent Fire Expert) Forest Camp, an initiative supported by EFI, PCF and IAWF and co organised by the WKR Project (Germany). This is not only a great number, but it also proves the incredible teamwork of the forest fire community, where instructors share knowledge and capacity to train future experts and trainers of forest fire management. The forest fire community consists of more than people actually fighting the fire. Next to firefighters, foresters, policy advisors, scientists, students, and journalists attended.

For more information: [link](#)

EUFORGEN webinar now available online: Estimating Effective Population Size (Ne) for forest genetic resources conservation

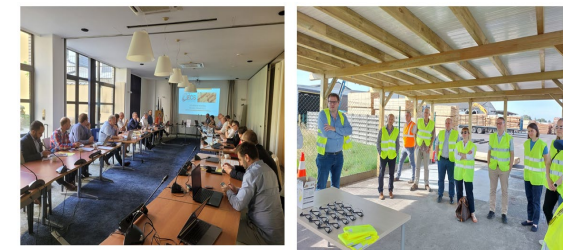


EUFORGEN presented a new webinar series where key topics in forest genetic resources (FGR) are open for public debate.

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) held a webinar on **13 June**, attended by more than 120 participants, to foster public debate on key issues related to forest genetic resources (FGR), bringing together leading scientific experts to address from different angles the following topic: "Estimating effective population size (Ne) for FGR conservation". The session is available on [EUFORGEN's YouTube channel](#) and featured presentations and insights from Sean Hoban (The Morton Arboretum, USA), Juan José Robledo-Arnuncio (ICIFOR-INIA, CSIC, Spain) and Bruno Fady (INRAE, France).

For more information: [link](#)

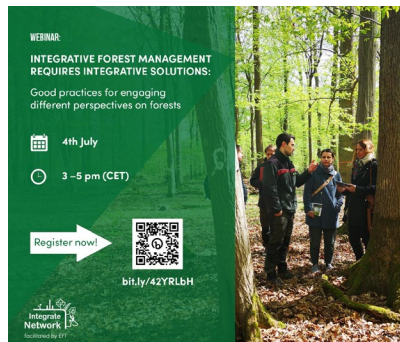
The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry - EOS Summer General Assembly Brussels



The summer General Assembly of EOS, the European Organization of the Sawmill Industry, took place in Brussels on **19-20th June 2023**, hosted by the EOS Belgian Member Confédération Belge du Bois – Belgische Houtconfederatie. The delegates were drawn from across EOS' membership, which spans 12 countries and represents about 77% of European sawnwood production. Several guests' presentations enriched the programme of the Assembly and provided a comprehensive overview of the most important issues for the sawmill industry presently being discussed by European policymakers. The EOS Secretariat presented the just-published EOS Annual Report, which will be freely downloadable from the 3rd July on the EOS website at the following address: [link](#).

For more information: [link](#)

Webinar: Integrative forest management requires integrative solutions: Good practices for engaging different perspectives on forests



How can we manage our forests in the best way – both beneficial for nature and people? How can we integrate different forest functions and ecosystem services, and address trade-offs in forest management? How can we improve the communication and knowledge exchange between with potentially conflicting interests? With this webinar, which took place on **4th July**, we would like to stimulate a solution-oriented discussion on best practice approaches for overcoming silos and integrating the wide range of interests in forest ecosystems.

For more information: [link](#)

The 2023 PEFC Photo Contest is open – vote for your favourite



The PEFC Photo Contest was back in June– this year looking for the best of the best. Over the last six years, hundreds of photographs have entered the contest. This year, the winning photo was in the hands of the public, as everybody was invited to vote for their favourite. The photos in the finals were a selection of amazing and truly inspiring images from all over the world, showing all types of forest and their different meanings and functions. From gorgeous forest landscapes and work and sports in the forest to animals living in it, the 14 finalists had it all. **The finalists will be featured in the 2024 'Experience Forests, Experience PEFC' photo calendar**, on the PEFC International and our members' websites, and potentially other places throughout the year.

[Read more about the Photo Contest](#)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: a journey under constant construction in the Brazilian Tree Industry



In 2023, Ibá has started a new journey, aimed at working on the internalization of the DE&I agenda. The new format, dedicated to members, promotes an inspiring environment. Companies from outside the forestry sector were invited to talk about their experiences from the perspective of challenges, opportunities and suggestions. In the first two meetings, whose themes were "Diversity and Inclusion Strategy" with Marina Leal, from Natura, and "Inclusion of Minority Groups in the Operation" with Amanda Macedônio, from Ambev, more than 160 people and 30 associated members participated. The last meeting's theme will be "Diversity in the Supply Chain".

For more information: [link](#)



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VI. UPCOMING EVENTS

Be part of the solution –
Share your knowledge about green jobs in the forest sector!



FOREST EUROPE's Green Jobs Workstream survey aims to better understand the potential of the forest sector to increase the quantity and quality of green jobs, develop sustainable forest management practices, and highlight the benefits and socio-economic needs that forests provide. Help us increase knowledge about potential new jobs in the forest sector and shape the future of green jobs! Make your mark on the forest sector by taking this survey.

The deadline is September 2, 2023 - don't miss it! [Participate now!](#)

32nd Meeting of the Montreal Process Working Group



The 32nd meeting of the Montreal Process Working Group (MPWG) will be held from 5 to 7 October 2023 in Sydney, Australia.

The Working Group serves as a forum to advance the development of internationally agreed criteria and indicators for the conservation and sustainable management of temperate and boreal forests at the national level.

For more information: [link](#)

Basque Bioeconomy Innovation Day



Image: Photo by [Mikel Arrazola](#), Irekia-Gobierno Vasco

On 4 October 2023, join the [Basque Bioeconomy Innovation Day](#) in Bilbao, Spain, to discuss the latest science and innovative solutions in the bioeconomy. The Government of Basque Country,

EFI's Bioregions Facility and partners, invite you to connect with researchers, forest owners and policymakers, and discover new opportunities to drive sustainable growth. Stay tuned for more exciting news, sessions and speakers! We invite start-ups, research groups and entrepreneurs in the field of forest-based circular bioeconomy to express their interest in pitching their solutions to potential funders and key stakeholders during the event. [Apply here](#)

Register now for the International Softwood Conference 2023 in Vienna, Austria, 11th-12th of October



71st International
SOFTWOOD CONFERENCE
Vienna 2023, 11th – 12th 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 the marvellous city of Vienna for the International Softwood Conference 2023 – one of the most awaited events of the year in the wood world. Online participation possible.

What to expect: study tour (modern timber construction in Vienna) and welcome reception in Vienna City Hall on 11th October, main conference on 12th October, afterwards networking evening (Weitsicht am Cobenzl). An attractive partner programme is offered on 12th October.

For more information and registration: [link](#)

The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry - EOS
Summer General Assembly Brussels



The Next General Assembly of The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) will take place in Vienna on **October 13**, the day after the International Softwood Conference (ISC) 2023.

For more information: [link](#)



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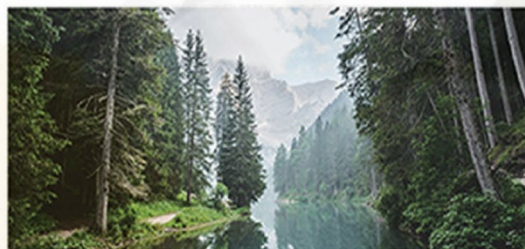
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Forest Information Billboard – template

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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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