

FOREST INFORMATION BILLBOARD

ISSUE 2024/1



UNECE/FAO FORESTRY AND TIMBER
SECTION



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I. TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTS: IDF 2024

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS: FOREST TALK UNVEILS INNOVATIONS FOR A GREENER FUTURE

Wood-based solutions are revolutionizing industries and climate action. On **International Day of Forests**, UNECE brought together experts and stakeholders from various industries to explore the transformative potential of wood innovation in addressing climate challenges.

From low-carbon construction to the production of adhesives derived from lignin, an organic material found in wood, and man-made cellulosic fibres (MMCFs), the event showcased pioneering initiatives, including "Glacial Threads: From Forests to Future Textiles". This wood-based geotextile aspires to offer a sustainable, circular alternative to environmentally harmful plastic-based products for glacier and snow protection.

Responsible forest management emerged as a central theme throughout the event, emphasizing the importance of striking a balance between preservation and meeting growing demands.

Read further in our [press release](#) for more information.

45TH SESSION OF THE JOINT FAO/UNECE WORKING PARTY ON FOREST STATISTICS, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

The Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPFSEM) will meet on 22 – 24 May 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Venues:

22 May - Room H207 (H-Building)/ hybrid (English only)
23-24 May - Room III (A-Building)

For more information: [here](#)

Annotated provisional agenda (EFR): [here](#)

*Image: (c) AI-generated image Adobe Firefly

JWPFSEM-45 THEMATIC FOCUS: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS

The **climate change and forests session** will be held during the 45h session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management on 23 May 2024.

The delegates will be invited to highlight the current and anticipated future threats that climate change poses to their forest resources and showcase the actions they are taking to respond to these challenges.

The outcome of the discussion may feed into the preparations for the 29th and 30th Convention of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

For more information: [here](#)

*Image: (c) AI-generated image Adobe Firefly

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

THE TREES IN DRY CITIES COALITION

The **Trees in Dry Cities Coalition** champions urban trees as vital climate solutions, fostering policy coherence and sustainable urban forestry practices globally, specifically in dryland cities. Through city-level pilots and national policy dialogues, it facilitates knowledge exchange and collaborative efforts to address climate change challenges. Notably, at COP28 in Dubai the Coalition engaged distinguished participants from ministerial and local levels, development banks, and UN bodies. Supported by nations like Italy, Jordan, Azerbaijan, Brazil, and cities such as Denver and Istanbul, alongside UNCCD, the Coalition is open to local, subnational and national governments, non-governmental organizations, research and civil society institutions, financial institutions, international organizations, and the private sector.

For more information: [here](#)

UNLOCKING THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY: UNECE/FAO TEAM OF SPECIALISTS MEETS IN CYPRUS

The UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management was established almost 30 years ago. In an era of a triple planetary crisis, it has gained heightened significance in shaping the work on the future of our forests.

From April 17-19, 2024, the Team will gather in Larnaca, Cyprus. The Team's mandate is to provide expert guidance on monitoring and assessing the progress towards sustainable forest management - a critical task in the 21st century. By bringing together leading national and international experts, this meeting will discuss a broad portfolio of topics on forest reporting, innovations in developing forest information systems, assessing forest damage and disturbance. The meeting is hosted by the Department of Forests of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus.

For more information: [here](#)

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LATEST NEWS FROM CSFM

Discover our latest content drop on our webpage! Dive into new blog posts partially informed by our recent partnership with the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) based in Montana.

We talk about the importance of reforming the **Endangered Species Act** and the **benefits of biomass energy**.

We also invite you to watch **California's Watershed Healing**, a documentary that establishes the current conditions of the forest and presents viable solutions for the benefit of forest health.

Join us now in our journey to promote sensible forest management practices.

See you there!

For more information: [here](#)

III. PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 1/4

FOREST MONITORING MUST RESPECT SUBSIDIARITY PRINCIPLES AND BUILD ON EXISTING SYSTEMS

EUSTAFOR sees good reasons for **reestablishment of an EU-level forest monitoring** to ensure accurate, digitalized, timely and accessible data on EU forests, provided that it is well governed by Member States and the Commission together and supported by a wide group of stakeholders.

This system must be developed with respect to ownership of information, data sensitivity and societal needs.

But most importantly, with respect for proper policy designing and objective setting by competent authorities.

Read our full position [here](#)!

Image: Photo by Jason Blackeye on Unsplash

STONE PINE'S FASCINATING GENETICS

The **stone pine**, a tree native to coastal Mediterranean regions, is genetically very uniform and very successful, despite having less genetic diversity than other species.

This challenges the current conservation dogma, which suggests that genetic diversity is essential for adaptation to changing conditions and environments.

This blog article by EUFORGEN (European Forest Genetic Resources Programme) addresses the **species' anomaly in the study of forest genetics** which, for example, prevents researchers from discovering whether provenances with larger or tastier nuts are the result of ancestral selection or simple mutation.

For more information: [here](#)

NEW EPISODE OF BRANCHING OUT EXPLORES FOREST-SOCIETY CONNECTIONS

The fifth episode of **Branching Out: the forest podcast**, takes listeners on a captivating 30-minute exploration into the role of forests in shaping sustainable societies.

This edition, featuring extended content, offers a deeper dive into the connections between nature, people, and sustainable development. It sheds light on crucial aspects of the IUFRO World Congress theme "Forests for Sustainable Societies".

From nature-based solutions (NBS) and links between forests and human health to power and equity in the forest sector and the complexity of forest governance, this episode unravels the multifaceted tapestry of challenges and opportunities for sustainable societies.

For more information: [here](#)

DROUGHT EMERGENCY UNDERLINES NEED FOR COORDINATED ACTION ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

Drought emergency on both rims of the Mediterranean has led to water use limitations, jeopardising the region's unique ecosystems and underlining the need for urgent and coordinated action.

Following the recent launch of the latest report (Drought in the Mediterranean region - January 2024) published by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, EFIMED researcher Mercedes Caron shares her analysis and insight highlighting the need for greater collaboration in forest conservation and adaptive management practices and cites **European Forest Institute's Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA 2030)** as a **roadmap** for addressing the region's challenges through collaborative and holistic approaches.

For more information: [here](#)



EU'S DEFORESTATION INFORMATION SYSTEM IS IN NEED OF SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT

The Commission and Member States' authorities are working on securing pre-conditions for the implementation of the **Deforestation Regulation** which will be applicable as of 30 December 2024. EUSTAFOR members have participated in the pilot project, and based on their conclusions EUSTAFOR issued a press release.

It stresses a need to review the IT-systems in place, data security needs to be guaranteed and stakeholders along the value chain need to be involved to further develop a suitable system to fulfil the EUDR objectives and the DDS requirements.

The full press release can be found on the EUSTAFOR website.

For more information: [here](#)

MORE BIODIVERSE FORESTS - THE BIODIVERSITY ROADMAP FOR THE FINNISH WOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

The biodiversity roadmap is a strong expression of the will to take care of Finnish forest nature, to strive for nature positivity and to contribute to the achievement of international and national biodiversity goals.

The roadmap is also an invitation to forest owners, various sectors, policymakers and NGOs to engage in dialogue as well as an initiative for increased cooperation with research organisations.

The roadmap is based on an extensive research project that surveyed the current state and future development of forest biodiversity and keys to promote biodiversity as part of the active and timely forest management.

For more information: [here](#)

WILDFIRE RISK PLANNING AND PREVENTION: INNOVATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND BEYOND

The EFI Mediterranean Facility (EFIMED) has recently released the document '**Wildfire risk planning and prevention – Innovations in the Mediterranean and beyond**', prepared in collaboration with Barcelona's Provincial Council (DIBA).

This publication presents 11 case studies from the Mediterranean and further afield that show successful forest fire prevention instruments implemented by local authorities, research centres, NGOs and other organisations, with potential for replication elsewhere.

The document, available in English and Spanish, is aimed at land managers responsible for forest fire risk management.

For more information: [here](#)

NEW PUBLICATION: EUROPE'S WOOD SUPPLY IN DISRUPTIVE TIMES (IUFRO WORLD SERIES VOL. 42)

The new study titled "**Europe's wood supply in disruptive times**" - IUFRO World Series 42 - captures the factors identified in numerous scientific studies influencing wood supply from European forests.

It outlines the impacts of climate change and also considers other factors, including policy incoherence and socioeconomic developments.

Bridging the gap between science and application of insights, it highlights practical implications and response measures for the wood-based industry, forest management and policymakers.

The study compiles findings of a wide range of scientific papers and research. Perspectives of different stakeholders have also been evaluated during the process.

For more information: [here](#)

IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

The study aims to identify **high conservation value forests (HCVFs)** in Moldova, which are crucial for biodiversity and provide long-term benefits.

These forests account for 80 percent of the country's biological diversity and have social, economic, climate, hydrological, and erosion control benefits.

The study provides a comprehensive overview of Moldova's forestry sector that includes forest cover, ownership, functions, structure, and production.

It also includes information on forest management and the institutional framework.

The primary objective is to protect valuable forest ecosystems and establish discussion platforms with stakeholders for conservation and long-term resource management.

For more information: [here](#)

REVISION OF FOREST REPRODUCTIVE MATERIAL NORMATIVE DOCUMENTATION

The European Commission's revision of normative documentation for forest reproductive material (FRM) production and marketing has sparked debate within the genetic resources community. The proposal amends Regulations 2016/2031 and 2017/625, repealing Council Directive 1999/105/EC.

As outlined by the European Commission, the proposed normative documentation rests on two key pillars:

- (i) the harvesting of FRM from registered parent trees (referred to as basic material) to ensure traceability;
- and
- (ii) the certification of FRM to guarantee the high quality of seeds.

The EUFORGEN (European Forest Genetic Resources Programme) community is engaged in dialogue to address concerns and propose modifications, aiming for improved regulation.

For more information: [here](#)

III. PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 2/4

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STANDARDS OF PRACTICE TO GUIDE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

On 5 February 2024, **new guidance for maximizing the benefits of ecosystem restoration** was jointly published by the FAO, IUCN CEM, SER, and 22 other organizations, contributing to the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030. This comprehensive publication offers over 300 recommendations and introduces key principles crucial for the success of restoration projects across various ecosystems, from forests to oceans. It underscores the restoration process's five critical phases: assessment, planning and design, implementation, ongoing management, and monitoring and evaluation, emphasizing a non-linear approach where phases may overlap. The guidance highlights the importance of broad engagement, information sharing, and adaptive management across all phases to ensure long-term sustainability and success of restoration efforts, addressing global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and enhancing livelihoods.

For more information: [here](#)

CHINA STUDY 2024 RELEASED

The annual China Study (2024) for chemical and high-yield market pulp imports is available. It includes data and multiple charts.

The report analyses imports by grade and source country. Included are charts that show imports as a percentage of a country's overall sales, China's market share by grade and many more.

Historical figures also presented.

For more information:

[here](#) or contact [email](#)

ADVANCING FOREST INVENTORYING AND MONITORING

Global change is rapidly altering forest ecosystem structure, functioning, and associated services. Current inventorying and monitoring programs are often either disjointed, too narrow in scope and/or do not operate at fine enough temporal resolutions, which may hinder their ability to respond to the new information needs placed by global change.

Advanced inventorying and monitoring (AIM) of forests at national and regional scales is necessary to favour change detection at finer spatial and temporal resolutions, and improve scientific understanding, optimal use of resources and policy responses. This is underway in Switzerland by integrating existing ground-based initiatives, Earth Observation and modelling (SwissAIM).

For more information: [here](#)

Image: (c) Fulvio Giudici

DISCOVER FOREST EUROPE'S LATEST PUBLICATIONS ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY!

Exciting news from FOREST EUROPE's Think Tank on Sustainable Forest Management: our latest publications are ready for you.

Check out our short paper on **forest biodiversity and indicators**, also authored for the European Forest Alliance, and which is now [available on our website](#).

Look out for the upcoming full **background report** on the further potential **development of biodiversity indicators** by Dr. Stefanie Linser (BOKU Vienna), as well as a summary report of our Think Tank activities, both coming soon [on the Sustainable Forest Management section of our website](#).

SWISS NFI: RESULTS QUERY THROUGHOUT IN FOUR LANGUAGES

Over 140,000 result tables can be queried with the query **system of the Swiss National Forest Inventory NFI**. The system is now available in four languages from A to Z.

After the latest updates users can also read all definitions and explanations in German, French, Italian and English, and not only query the results in these languages.

Furthermore, we will add a guide for the interpretation of the statistical results of the Swiss NFI, using practical examples for explaining how to determine differences or changes between results.

For more information: [here](#)

III. PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 3/4

UKRAINE IMPLEMENTS NATIONAL LEGISLATION IN LINE WITH THE EU REQUIREMENTS ON FOREST REPRODUCTIVE RESOURCES

Forest reproductive resources are a strategic factor in maintaining the stability of the biosphere, preserving biodiversity, and developing the economy of Ukraine. The functionality of these resources is ensured by the **Law of Ukraine "On Forest Reproductive Resources"**, registered in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (registration number 9116). The main purpose of this Law adoption is the legal regulation of relations arising from the circulation of forest reproductive material in Ukraine, its import/export, attracting investments, new technologies and approximation of national legislation closer to European requirements on forest reproductive resources, in particular Council Directive 1999/105/EU of 22.12.1999. It is based on the implementation of state policy to fulfill the conditions of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union.

For more information: contact Mr. Ihor Budzynskyi - head of the Department of Forestry and Forest Regeneration of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine

THE STATE OF CANADA'S FORESTS ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Released in March 2024, The State of Canada's Forests Annual Report is online and available to download!

With a theme of **"Relationships for resiliency: Interconnections between people, nature, and the long-term sustainability of Canada's diverse forest-based values"**, this year's report contains stories on:

- sustainable forest management initiatives from across Canada.
- how sustainable forest management can help the forest to adapt to climate change and help mitigate its impact.
- Indigenous leadership in protecting and sustainably managing the forest.
- the role of Canadian forests in providing multiple ecosystem services that provides benefits.
- human linkages throughout the forest sector supply chain.

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

For more information: [here](#)



NEW HARMONIZED FOREST STATISTICS AND MAPS FOR EUROPE

A dataset and an accompanying article developed in collaboration by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and European National Forest Inventory experts was published in Nature Scientific Data.

The dataset presents harmonized statistics and maps of forest area, biomass stock and their share available for wood supply in the year 2020, and statistics on gross and net volume increment in 2010-2020 for 38 European countries.

What makes this dataset so unique is the considerable effort in harmonizing the sample-based National Forest Inventory data, generally differing in terms of timing, methods and definitions. The experts established and applied common definitions and approaches to produce comparable statistics and maps across Europe.

For more information: Article: [here](#); Data: [here](#)

VALUING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE: A CASE STUDY OF THE VAKHSH RIVER BASIN, TAJIKISTAN

[Valuing Green Infrastructure: A Case Study for the Vakhsh River Basin, Tajikistan](#) outlines the main results of a study on the potential role of landscape restoration/nature-based solutions/green infrastructure in the Vakhsh River Basin, Tajikistan, to reduce the impacts of soil erosion on the hydropower cascade, increase agricultural productivity, improve livelihoods, and inform about investment opportunities.

It assesses sediment sources and loadings in the Vakhsh River Basin, considers the potential correlation between soil erosion and sedimentation in hydropower reservoirs, proposes cost-effective landscape restoration measures, and estimates the value of ecosystem services provided.

It also presents recommendations that can be scaled up to other degraded areas throughout the country.

For more information: [here](#)

STATISTICAL YEARBOOK TO COVER THE EXTERNAL TRADE OF ALL EU-COUNTRIES

Now for the 8th time a statistical yearbook is available which covers the external trade of all EU-countries with regard to their most important wood products. For example, there you can find exports or imports of sawnwood from Sweden or imports of logs to Germany: for each particular product there are tables with amount, value and 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 with wood products. Though written in German, everything is relatively international and easy to understand. Nearly 1.000 pages, 1.000 graphics 3.000 tables.

Order your copy from: [here](#) or by e-mail: [here](#)

FORISK PILOT PHASE A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Following a thorough external evaluation, it is evident that the pilot of the Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK) served as a vital, cross-border platform for information and networking.

It has successfully developed valuable tools to support practitioners and policymakers, while also enhancing communication with the public. This pan-European knowledge facility for forest risks has correctly identified its niche to complement and support existing national systems.

The FoRISK pilot started in September 2022 and ran for 1.5 years, focusing on addressing three critical forest threats: wild-fires, spruce bark beetles, and storms.

Keen to explore further? [The full report is available here](#)

III. PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 4/4

HOW TROPICAL TIMBER FROM THE CONGO BASIN KEEPS AMSTERDAM AFLOAT

From Owendo to Amsterdam, our newest latest story dives into the fascinating journey of tropical wood from the Congo Basin to the Netherlands, and highlights the importance of responsible forest management.

The story is told via an immersive **Story Map** where you can find beautiful photography and two episodes of a **documentary film** exploring the lock gates and the origin of Azobe, a wood they are made from.

Euronews picked it up in their 'Green' section [The good foresters inside the Gabonese forest supply wood for Amsterdam's lock gates.](#)

For more information: [here](#)

ARMENIA FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION NOTE

The note in [English](#) and in [Armenian](#) synthesizes multiple reports produced under World Bank support to the Government of Armenia in landscape restoration opportunities assessment and provides a detailed overview of opportunities and challenges in the forestry sector.

It explores how the country can reverse landscape degradation and increase its contribution to post-pandemic economic recovery.

The report's findings and recommendations have informed [Armenia Integrated Resilient Landscape \(RESILAND\) Improvement Project](#), a part of the regional RESILAND South Caucasus project.

Supported by GEF and co-financed by the [Government of Sweden](#), the project aims to strengthen community engagement and improve the management of forests, wetlands, and protected areas.

For more information: [here](#)



IV. FOREST COMMUNITY: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 1/3

THE THREAT TO ITALY'S ICONIC STONE PINES

The stone pines of Rome and Naples are infested by the **pine tortoise scale**, a small insect that feeds on the sap of the trees.

The insect secretes an excess of sugar in the form of honeydew, which encourages the formation of soot, weakens the tree and favours the appearance of other fungi and pests.

Researchers are studying the genetics of this species to determine whether certain provenances and individuals may be more resistant to the pest.

There is also concern that the pest could infect other European trees, so coordinated research is needed across southern Europe to tackle this destructive insect.

For more information: [here](#)

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC RESILIENT LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT

On February 27, 2024, the World Bank approved a \$45 million financing package for the [Kyrgyz Republic Resilient Landscape Restoration Project](#), which is a part of the regional umbrella [RESILAND CA+ Program](#).

The project will be complemented by a \$5 million grant from the Global Partnership for Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes (PROGREEN) and a \$2.4 million grant from the Korea-World Bank Partnership Facility (KWPF).

The project aims to increase the coverage of the areas under sustainable landscape management in the Kyrgyz Republic and promote regional collaboration among Central Asian countries on transboundary landscape restoration.

For more information: [here](#)

Image: (c) Getty Images

ASSESSING URBAN ANALYTICS FROM THE SPACE FOR BETTER URBAN PLANNING, HEALTH AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY: THE EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE'S BIOCITIES FACILITY, THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY AND GMATICS LAUNCH URBANA

EFI's Biocities Facility in Rome announces a new partnership with ESA and GMATICS on URBANA, an innovative pilot project **using satellite data** to assess and evaluate urban analytics related to the state of the green in different European cities, for better urban planning, environment, health and efficiency. The project consists of designing, developing and verification of urban analytics, and specifically:

- Better data for urban planning (Green Asset Assessment such as analysis of urban green data on tree position, species, dimension, structure; Green Asset Evolution; Green Planning such as the Identification of priority and potential areas for new tree planting in urban and peri-urban areas);
- Better urban environment and health (Tree Health Assessment - City Parks Quality Assessment; Thermal Stress Assessment; Air pollution Assessment; Environment & Health Assessment; Water Quality Assessment);
- Better urban energy efficiency (Cool/Green Roof Planning, Temperature Impact on Energy Grids).

For more information: [here](#) or contact Mr. Livia Podestà, Communications Manager, European Forest Institute- Biocities Facility, [email](#).

Image: (c) Rome from the satellite Airbus DS (2023) processed by ESA

FSC-CERTIFIED TYRES DEBUT IN F1

The Championship's tyres will be marked with the FSC logo until 2027, certifying that their natural rubber (15% on tyre weight, on average) complies with FSC's strict standards for sustainable forestry.

The FSC-certified Formula 1 tyre is a significant step towards sustainable natural rubber.

Sourcing rubber from FSC-certified smallholders ensures fair wages, protects forest ecosystems, and upholds community rights.

This market-ready solution demonstrates that sustainability and performance can coexist.

For more information: [here](#)

Image: (c) Pirelli

IBÁ'S MISSION TO BRUSSELS, TO ENGAGE WITH EUROPEAN AUTHORITIES REGARDING THE ANTI-DEFORESTATION LAW

Ibá organized a mission to Brussels, to engage with European authorities regarding the **anti-deforestation law**, the EUDR.

The delegation included 18 members, including CEOs, executives from ten associated companies, and government officials from Mato Grosso do Sul State.

Ibá emphasized its longstanding commitment to deforestation-free practices but underscored the need for a sound and timely implementation of the EUDR to avoid disrupting supply chains across the EU.

The mission highlighted the potential for broad industry engagement on pre-competitive issues, enhancing the sector's international representation.

For more information: [here](#)

INTRODUCING: FSC EUDR ALIGNED EARLY ADOPTER PROGRAMME

FSC has been dedicated to strengthening its system and developing new technologies to support certificate holders to meet EUDR requirements.

FSC EUDR Aligned will provide a set of integrated tools to help companies meet EUDR legality, sustainability and due diligence obligations.

The FSC EUDR Aligned Early Adopter Programme will invite selected FSC certificate holders to test-drive our innovations.

For more information: [here](#)

Image: (c) Forestry Department, Jamaica



INTERCEDE PROJECT KICKS OFF: SEEKING MARKET SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT FOREST BENEFITS AND SERVICES!

The INTERCEDE project aims to improve forest ecosystem service provision in Europe by developing novel policies and instruments to support forest owners.

This is a new Horizon Europe-funded initiative, involving the European Forest Institute, which aims to increase the value of European forests by identifying and expanding market-based instruments for forest ecosystem services such as carbon removal, biodiversity protection, improved water management, and recreational services.

The project kicked off in March 2024 and will host, at its core, a trans-disciplinary forum that links science to policy and practice, giving decision-makers advice and guidance at national and EU-wide scale.

For more information: [here](#)

IV. FOREST COMMUNITY: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 2/3

FAO AND TÜRKIYE COLLABORATE TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY TRAINING CENTER

Final preparations have been completed for implementation of the project "Enhancing the Capacity of the Turkish International Forestry Training Centre".

The project, developed under the FAO-Türkiye Forestry Partnership Programme will establish an internationally recognised training hub to provide capacity building in forestry through vocational training.

The project aims to increase the capacity of the existing International Forestry Training Centre in Antalya, Türkiye, which is currently focusing on forest fire management by enriching its training curricula with gender-sensitive content and using case studies to illustrate best practices.

The project has a budget of USD 1,000,000.

Over 36 months, it will target the needs in the forestry sector formulated by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

For more information: [here](#)

Image: (c) Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Türkiye / General Directorate of Forestry

MOLDOVA WATERWISE FOR WATERSHED IMPROVEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTS

Covering 59% of Moldova's land, the Dniester River Basin plays a vital role in the economic growth.

Agriculture is the main nitrogen emitter in the basin, harming forests, soil, and water quality due to the absence of riverbank ecosystems or filtration systems.

This project targets coastal pollution reduction in the Black Sea from various sources like agriculture and industry in the Dniester district.

It combines investments in capacity-building and nature-based solutions like reforestation to mitigate eutrophication and hypoxia.

By enhancing environmental and socioeconomic outcomes, the project aims to benefit the Black Sea region by targeting the reduction of coastal pollution.

For more information: [here](#)

Image: (c) UNDP

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF FORESTS AS CARBON SINKS: INNOVATIVE TOOLS TO MEASURE FORESTS' CLIMATE MITIGATION POTENTIAL

How can we maximise the carbon stocks and carbon sequestration potential of forests - by managing or not managing them?

And how can carbon Monitoring, Reporting and Verification be made effective and affordable as part of the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework regulation?

The EU-funded project INFORMA is answering these complex questions using different high-tech, innovative tools, including the Arboreal App, an iPad with LIDAR and a computer model based on satellite and field data.

For more information: [here](#)

URBAN FORESTS: APPROACH FOR A GREEN ISTANBUL

Istanbul with its dense development needs more breathing spaces, undoubtedly.

While favorable environmental conditions allow for the spread of nature, urbanization threatens the green areas of Istanbul.

With its slogan "Nature, the Best Project!", Green Istanbul aims to meet the recreational needs of residents by preserving the natural environment, and becoming the trademark of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

Since 2019, Green Istanbul has established 5 urban forests with a total of 6.800.000 m², and aims to reach 12.500.000 m² by adding 6 more by 2029.

These urban forests, as essentials to reunite humans with wildlife, promote biodiversity and enhance the ecosystem.

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



YOUR PASSPORT TO GLOBAL TIMBER TRENDS - ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS, EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS, INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

Timber Exchange's Market Data Hub tracks on a monthly basis how the global timber supply chain is actually performing. It tracks monthly production, inventories, exports, consumption and prices of timber in key markets globally.

150+ market indicators give you unparalleled coverage of the global timber market.

The platform also offers webinars and podcasts featuring industry leaders discussing the market.

For more information: [here](#)

PEFC FORESTRY CERTIFICATION IN SPAIN: A LEADER IN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

During 2023, PEFC forestry certification saw continuous growth, with 80,220 hectares, 10,231 foresters and 70 companies becoming certified.

The PEFC-certified forest area in Spain totalled 2,769,490 hectares, managed by 66,345 forest owners, which is an increase of 3% in the certified area and 18% in the number of forest owners, reflecting how stakeholders in the sector have recognised forest certification as a fundamental tool in driving sustainable practices that contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

PEFC Chain of Custody certification remains crucial to companies, ensuring sustainable origin of forestry products.

In 2023, 70 new companies were awarded certification, with the total number of PEFC-certified companies rising to 1,745.

For more information: [here](#)

WENATOUR - THE EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION IN WELFARE, NATURE AND TOURISM

Introducing WeNaTour, a European project funded by the Erasmus+ program aimed at offering high-quality training opportunities in the field of sustainable tourism and connected emerging markets such as welfare, green care and accessible tourism.

The learning targets are both students and professionals, providing an innovative blend of theory, and practical experience in the field.

Results and opportunities will be spread at the European level through an extensive international knowledge Alliance in the field of sustainable tourism which will gather a unique mix of universities, education institutions, businesses and associations.

The project started in 2023 and has a duration of 3 years.

For more information: [here](#)

IV. FOREST COMMUNITY: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 3/3

EU4ENVIRONMENT

EU4Environment Program, funded by the EU and implemented by the World Bank, OECD, UNECE, UNEP, and UNIDO with a budget of EUR 20 million, aims to help Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine preserve their natural capital by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The World Bank' support under EU4Environment aims to help these countries preserve their biodiversity and protect natural habitats as part of the Emerald Network, advance regional collaboration and data exchange with EU member states and raise public awareness about sustainable use of natural resources.

For more information: [here](#)

Image: (c) Alexander Hovhannisyan/Unsplash.

A NEW AFFORESTATION METHOD IS APPLIED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ALBANIA

"Pishe-Poro" is a "Protected Landscape", category V (IUCN), EMERALD and IBA network - lies in the sandy dunes of the Ardiatic coast in Fieri region, Albania.

In 2023, as a result of wildfires, about 800 hectares were completely burned.

In order to support the **regeneration of this burned area**, for the first time in Albania, the method of planting with seed balls was applied, for testing purposes.

For this reason, 2000 stone pine seeds were inserted into the soil balls.

This method of afforestation is also considered as a 'Nature based solution', we hope that this pilot-project will be successful and the burned area will be regenerated through this method.

For more information: [here](#)

DIGITALISATION IN THE FORESTRY SECTOR. THE SINTETIC PROJECT

The core objective of Sintetic is to set up and demonstrate a **traceability system for trees, logs and boards based on ICT**.

To achieve these expectations, it will be based on a set of **hardware** and applications designed to generate a **unique ID physically attached to each item and digitally transmitted** to a central Geodatabase.

The latter will relate each ID to the data produced along the supply chain, with the unprecedented capacity to span from the forest inventory to the final sawnwood products.

It will allow to relate yield and quality output of any process in the value chain with all the previous steps, including historical climatic data, silvicultural treatments, and forest stand descriptors.

For more information: [here](#)

FOREST INFORMATION BILLBOARD

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REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION IN CENTRAL ASIA (28-30 NOVEMBER 2023)

Regional Dialogue on Transboundary Conservation in Central Asia held on November 28-30, 2023 in Tashkent, made a significant stride in advancing transboundary conservation agenda.

Organized jointly with IUCN under RESILAND CA+ Program, the event brought together nearly 100 government representatives from Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and many national and international organizations.

Ecosystems that are divided by borders are often subject to different policy, management and governance structures.

Transboundary conservation is a way to overcome these differences by promoting cooperation between relevant parties of the involved countries.

For more information: [here](#)

EU4ENV: REPORT LAUNCH IN MOLDOVA

February 16 2024, Chisinau, Moldova - The World Bank jointly with Moldovan Ministry of Environment and EC discussed the findings and recommendations of the latest study, [Identifying forests of high conservation value in in the Republic of Moldova](#) completed under the [European Union for the Environment](#) (EU4ENV) Program.

Completed at the request of the government of Moldova, the study aimed to protect valuable forest ecosystems and establish discussion platforms with stakeholders for conservation and long-term resource management.

It examined Moldova's forestry sector and identified approximately 175,500 ha of forest land, accounting for 47.3% of the total forested area as high conservation value forests (HCVFs).

For more information: [here](#)

V. PAST EVENTS 1/2

CONTINUOUS COVER FORESTRY: ONLINE TRAINING AND WEBINAR (19 FEBRUARY/12 MARCH 2024)

The ForestMoocForChange, a 8-week long online training on Continuous Cover Forestry, started on 19/02/2024 and was made available in English, French and German.

The training contains videos, quiz, exercises to do in the field, which could be followed at your own pace. A new chapter is put online every week to discover this innovative forest management approach.

Webinar: in addition to the training, a webinar was held on 12/03/2024: From Policy to practice: the European guidelines for closer-to-nature forestry and their application by CCF foresters across Europe.

For more information on the training: [here](#)

For more information on the webinar: [here](#)

ON THE PATH TO EUDR ALIGNMENT: WATCH THE PEFC WEBINAR

On 27 February, PEFC shared all the latest developments on the path to EUDR alignment.

Four PEFC experts explained the advances made in aligning the PEFC sustainable forest management and chain of custody standards with EUDR requirements, as well as looking at the vital data and integrity elements. If you missed it, [check out the recording](#).

For more information:

See the [webinar takeaways](#)

See the [FAQ, based on the questions asked during the webinar](#)

CENTRAL ASIA WORKSHOP ON NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS AND PEACE PARKS

Workshop on regional cooperation in Central Asia "Leveraging synergies for integrative land-biodiversity-climate action and Development of the Peace Forest Initiative for land restoration, prevention of sand and dust storms and shared natural resources" was organized in Tashkent jointly by UNCCD Global Mechanism, in partnership with the World Bank, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC), Korea Forest Service, GIZ GmbH, ICARDA, and the International Rice Research Institute.

The participants conceptualized regional cross-border cooperation with potential financing opportunities and explored linkages to regional priorities, national and regional restoration/LDN goals, SDGs, and other relevant objectives.

For more Information: [here](#)



V. PAST EVENTS 2/2

WEBINAR ON PIONEERING SOLUTIONS IN THE FOREST SECTOR (14 MARCH 2024)

Innovation at its best! The Forest Europe webinar “The roots of innovation. Setting the course for innovation and sustainable growth in the forest sector” took place on 14th March 2024.

The event featured representatives of innovation networks in the sector sharing their insights about innovative start-ups (How to detect a wildfire early? And how to map forests using AI?). The event also focused on how these topics were addressed at the policy level in Austria and Spain.

The webinar gave an opportunity for participants to showcase their innovative start-ups or projects in the forest sector and be part of the conversation!

For more information: [here](#)

OXIGENATE BRAGA (21 MARCH 2024)

As World Forest Day is celebrated on the 21st of March and World Water Day on the 22nd in Braga (Portugal), the “Oxigenar Braga” event was created, with the municipality offering fruit and riparian trees, with sessions to raise awareness (some in person others online) about the use of herbicides, to protect bees and save water and ways to prevent forest fires.

The event also offered several practical activities with volunteers collecting waste from rivers and controlling invasive plants.

Involving diverse audiences and very varied partners, the aim of the event was once again to highlight the value of water and forests.

For more information: [here](#)

V. UPCOMING EVENTS

I-TREE CONFERENCE & URBAN RELEAF PLENARY IN DUNDEE, SCOTLAND (19-20 JUNE 2024)

Find out how data is being used across Europe to value our urban forests, engage communities, and secure funding for tree management and strategic planning.

This conference (19-20 June 2024, Dundee, Scotland) is aimed at local authorities, consultants, NGOs, academics, students, and anyone else interested in urban forest data and how it can provide an evidence base for strategic urban forest planning.

This is a great opportunity to connect with experts and practitioners from across Europe, and to learn about i-Tree and other urban forest valuation methods.

There will be two days of talks and workshops, with an optional coach tour on day three. The conference dinner will be held at Dundee's iconic V&A Museum of Design. We hope you will join us!

For more information: [here](#)

CALLING ALL FUTURE FOREST STEWARDS TO JOIN FOREST EUROPE'S CONSULTATION WORKSHOP (3 MAY 2024)

FOREST EUROPE is hosting its first-ever intergenerational dialogue, “Seeding Youth-led Opportunities for the Future of Europe's Forests,” during the 9th Ministerial Conference on October 1-2, 2024.

Emerging leaders in the forest sector will present a position paper from a youth perspective on the implementation of the actions outlined in the 2024 Ministerial documents.

We invite youth representatives to contribute their insights and perspectives during our upcoming online consultation workshop on 3rd May 2024, at 3 PM CET.

If you care about shaping the future of forests, get involved and contact us via this [email](#).

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL HARDWOOD CONFERENCE 2024 IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA (7-8 NOVEMBER 2024)

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 Hardwood Conference 2024.

On 7th of November, a study tour and afterwards a welcome reception will take place.

The main conference day will be the 8th of November. An attractive partner programme is offered at the same time, and the event will close with a gala dinner in the evening.

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

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