



# *Forest Information Billboard*

The purpose of the Forest Information Billboard is to gather all news from the forest sector in one place: from forest reporting, new publications, and upcoming events. The contribution to the Billboard is voluntary. Please send your text (max. 250 words) including links to the full source of information as well as related photos or figures to [Milica Apostolovic](#). Please note that the editing of the texts is on the full responsibility of contributors, as well as the copyrights for images. Texts are published as received.

## Issue 2, 2021

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# What's new in the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section?

## New study: COVID-19 impacts on the forest sector in countries in the Western Balkans with a focus on Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia



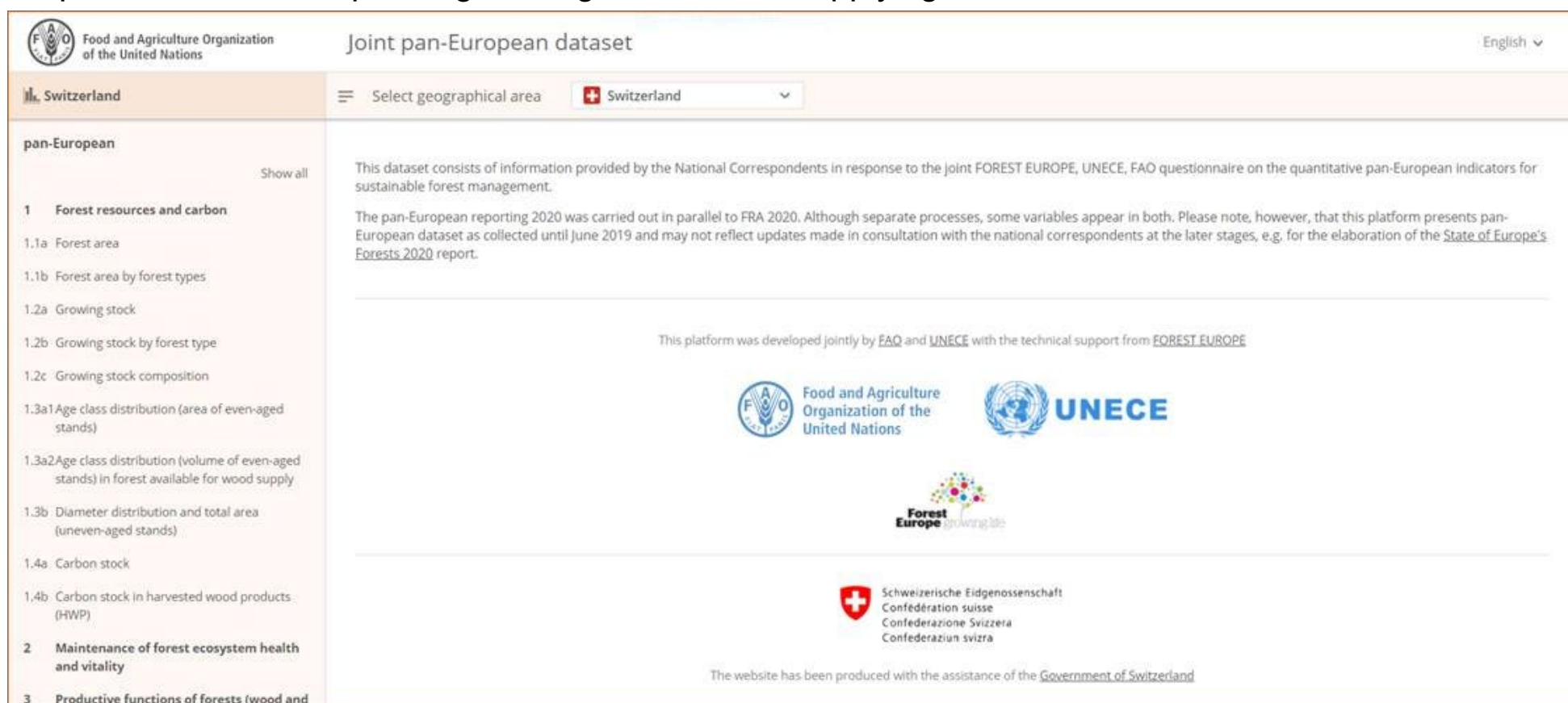
This report summarizes the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic had, during the first three quarters of 2020, in the forest sector of the countries in the Western Balkans (WB) (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), focusing on production, export, import, consumption, prices and employment of the main wood products: roundwood, sawnwood, woodbased panels, wooden furniture, paper and paperboards.

It also covers the recovery measures implemented by Western Balkan governments. Economic indicators for the period January-September 2020 were used, and data from various sources, such as official statistics, international data bases (COMTRADE, EUROSTAT, FAO, UNECE), domestic organizations, as well as interviews with forest products companies of all sizes were used for their views on the impact of COVID-19.

In general, it can be said that economic impacts of COVID-19 on the forest sector in the WB has thus far been relatively light. Timber harvest activities and the wooden furniture manufacturers both maintained employment and production, with only minor disruptions. There were small losses in production for sawnwood, wood-based panels and paper production, tied mainly to disruptions in trade and in some cases, a 2-3 week shut down for some mills. Government support assisted with employee subsistence and operating capital, and the industry was able to resume production and trade after the initial COVID-19 spike in infections. You can download the full publication [here](#).

## 2020 data on the pan-European forests are online

European forests are expanding, storing carbon, and supplying wood on a sustainable basis. The area of forests in Europe has increased by 9% over the last 30 years. At 227 million ha of forests, more than one-third of Europe's land surface is forested. The volume of wood and the weight of carbon stored in the biomass of European forests have grown by 50% over the last 30 years as forest area expanded and only a part of the increment has been harvested. About three-quarters of the net annual wood increment is felled.

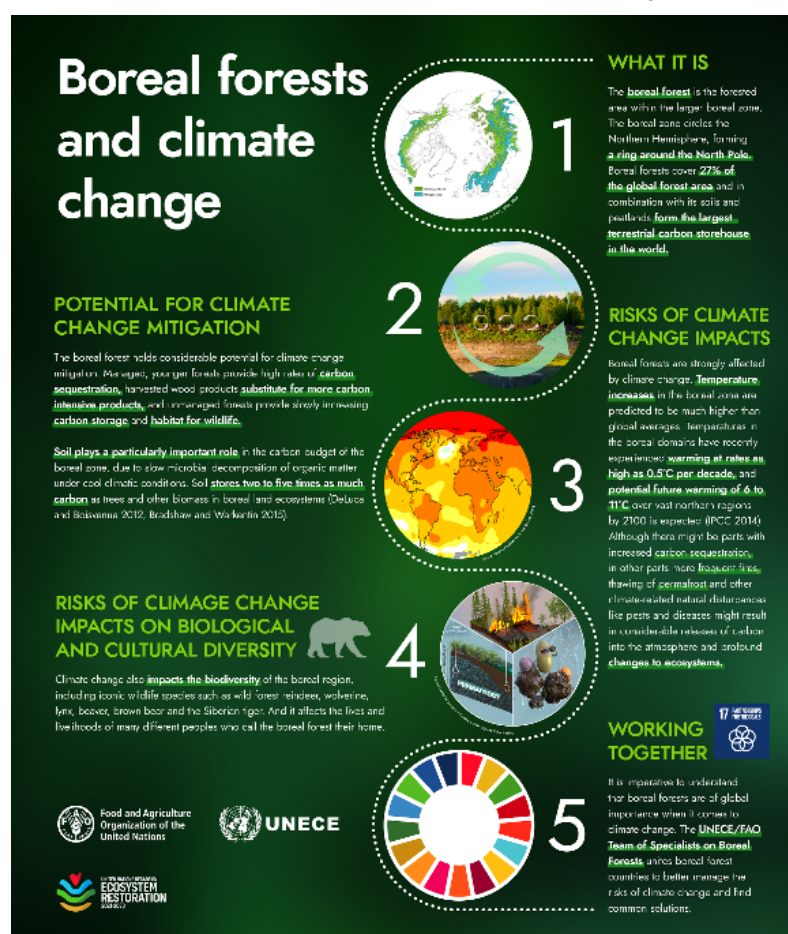


These and thousands of other pieces of information about European forests and their management in 1990-2020 were reported by countries through the data collection run jointly by FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO. In addition to general information about forests, their health, biodiversity, wood and carbon resources, the joint reporting covers forest products and services and social and economic aspects of sustainable forest management in Europe. All collected data is available online [here](#).

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## Boreal forests under the spotlight in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

As we enter the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, let us celebrate and restore those northern forests which play a crucial role in our fight against climate change: the boreal forests!



climate change: the boreal forests!

They circle the northern hemisphere, covering 27 percent of the global forest area and forming a ring around the north pole. And guess what? The boreal biome is the largest terrestrial carbon storehouse in the world, hosts unique wildlife such as the brown bear and Siberian tiger, provides livelihoods for rural and indigenous communities and long-lived wood products, which can substitute for more carbon-intensive materials in different sectors.

On the occasion of World Environment Day, the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests has published an infographic on the impacts of climate change on boreal forests, aiming to raise awareness about the opportunities of boreal forests to significantly contribute to climate change mitigation, while providing a range of important ecosystem services. You can download the infographic [here](#). For more information, contact [Ms. Leonie Meier](#), Secretary of the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests.



## Why are criteria and indicators important for SFM?



Criteria and indicators (C&I) for sustainable forest management (SFM) are an increasingly common policy tool to implement sustainable management of forests and monitor progress. They are crucial as they define specific targets for improving monitoring, reporting and assessment of key aspects of SFM.

However, there is a lack of knowledge among policy-makers on the use of C&I for various aspects of forestry.

The joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section together with the leading experts developed five policy briefs to inform about various important aspects of C&I for SFM application:

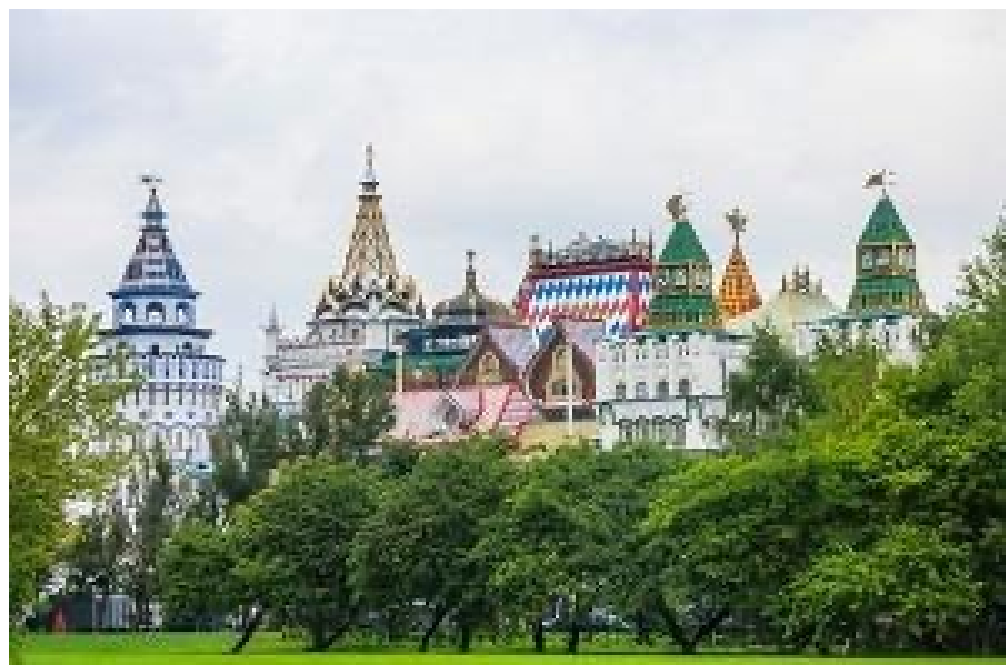
1. Criteria and indicators - a universal policy tool for Sustainable Forest Management
2. National Forest Inventory - tool for decision making
3. Information Systems - tool for better forest policy and management
4. Criteria and indicator-based international Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting (MAR)
5. Criteria and indicators for forest-related communication

You can read the policy briefs here: [Forest Assessment | UNECE](#).

Policy briefs were developed as a part of the capacity-building project on developing national C&I for SFM in the Caucasus and Central Asia. They are envisaged to support five countries of the project (Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan) that developed national sets of C&I for SFM, as well as other countries that developed their C&I, in advancing the implementation of this tool. More information about the project can be found at [Forest Monitoring in the Caucasus and Central Asia | UNECE](#).

## Moscow joins the Trees in Cities Challenge, bringing planting pledges to around 11 million trees

With a pledge to plant almost 83,000 new trees, Moscow became the first city in Russia to officially commit to the initiative launched by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2019. As one of the world's megacities with a population of over 12 million, Moscow is globally renowned for its architecture, historical sites, but too, its vast green spaces, parks and forests. The city not only ranked highly for the total area of green and recreational facilities per capita, but also their accessibility: some estimates suggest that around 90 percent of residents live within walking distance from such areas. Over the last decade, the local government worked with citizens to plant over 2.5 million trees and shrubs in a large-scale landscaping programme "Million Trees" launched in 2013. Now, under the "Trees in Cities Challenge", the leadership of Moscow has committed to adding new trees to its parks, squares and courtyards, and increasing monitoring of its urban canopy to counter the outbreak of pests and diseases.



Mr. Sergey Cheremin, Moscow Government Minister and Head of the Department for External Economic and International Relations of Moscow, said "For many years Moscow has been

striving to improve the well-being and comfortable living of its inhabitants. Our participation in "Trees in Cities Challenge" confirms Moscow's intention to evolve in urban greening and become one of the modern leading capitals in creation of favorable environment." UNECE Executive Secretary, Ms. Olga Algayerova, said "Mayors and urban leaders can play a pivotal role in joint efforts to deliver on the Paris Agreement. Localized climate action can have immediate impact on the ground: a single tree can store up to 150 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, while trees also regulate urban temperatures, help limit erosion and flooding, and increase biodiversity. I welcome Moscow's strong commitment and encourage urban areas of all sizes to join the Trees in Cities Challenge".

Over 20 cities from 16 countries already pledged to expand their tree cover and improve the management of their urban trees and forests, with total commitments to plant approximately 11 million trees. These include Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), Athienou (Cyprus), Barcarena (Brazil), Bonn (Germany), Chisinau (Moldova), Helsingborg (Sweden), Kfar Saba (Israel), Lakatamia (Cyprus), Malaga (Spain), Nof HaGalil (Israel), Tbilisi (Georgia), Tirana (Albania), Torino (Italy), Vancouver (USA), Victoria (Canada), Yehud-Monosson (Israel), Podgorica (Montenegro), Mexico City (Mexico), Sofia (Bulgaria), and others. Read more [here](#).

## Discover the stories behind the best photographs of UNECE global photo contest: "Humans locked down: Nature unlocked"

The COVID-19 pandemic spread around the world at lightning speed, devastating cities and communities and prompting a lockdown. The lockdown period also provided some respite for nature, resulting in memorable sights of 'nature unlocked' in our urban habitats.



To immortalize such sights and to mark World Environment Day 2020, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) launched a photography contest: "Humans locked down: nature unlocked" on 5 June 2020, aimed at raising awareness of the destruction of species' natural habitats that is taking place globally and promoting the preservation and restoration of ecosystems.

The photography contest attracted over 3 000 photographs worldwide. The final selection of the 13 best photographs, displayed in the online gallery below, showcases the most striking submissions to this photography contest.

Each of the photographs captures some of the most telling aspects of the lockdown experience. Some photos show how nature provided comfort to those experiencing solitude during the lockdown. For others, the breath-taking sights of animals occupying and exploring urban spaces served as a reminder of how blurred the boundaries between man-made and natural spaces often are. The power of these photographs, regardless of where they were taken, lies in their ability to re-create the moment which defined the year 2020: that of humans locked down and nature unlocked. See the photographs [here](#).

### **Join us at the upcoming Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge in Eastern and South-East Europe!**

The Ministerial Meeting on Forest Landscape Restoration and the Bonn Challenge will bring together decision-makers from Eastern and South-East Europe in order to discuss challenges, identify solutions and enhance commitments towards forest landscape restoration.



## **MINISTERIAL MEETING ON FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION**

and the ECCA30/Bonn Challenge  
in Eastern and South East Europe

The meeting will provide a unique opportunity to align national and regional efforts in Eastern and South-East Europe with the Bonn Challenge - a global effort to bring 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030.

Learn more about this meeting and secure your spot now:  
<https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/349092>



# Forest reporting

## SFI Announces New Standards Focused On Solving Some Of The World's Biggest Sustainability Challenges

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) announced on Earth Day that it developed new standards to support SFI's leadership in offering solutions to some of the world's most pressing sustainability challenges. SFI certification is a powerful tool to ensure healthy forests that mitigate climate impacts, are resilient to fire threats, and support a diversity of communities. SFI has the scale to make a difference with more than 375 million acres/152 million hectares certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard, and tens of millions more certified to the SFI Fiber Sourcing Standard. Some highlights on the new standards include:

- Requirements for a new SFI Climate Smart Forestry Objective: SFI-certified organizations will now be required to ensure forest management activities address climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.
- The SFI Fire Resilience and Awareness Objective: SFI-certified organizations are now required to limit susceptibility of forests to undesirable impacts of wildfire and to raise community awareness of fire benefits, risks, and minimization measures.
- Objective 8, Recognize and Respect Indigenous Peoples' Rights: Specific measures require that SFI-certified organizations are aware of traditional forest-related knowledge, such as known cultural heritage sites, the use of wood in traditional buildings and crafts, and flora that may be used in cultural practices for food, ceremonies, or medicine.

More information can be found [here](#).

## FSC's actions to mitigate risks on the ground concerning the "Silence Period" in Ukraine

The 'period of silence' is the time of the year when wild animals breed and it is prohibited to carry out activities that are a source of disturbance for them. Unfortunately, some forest managers in Ukraine have infringed the law by undertaking sanitary fellings, so FSC has escalated this evidence to the relevant certification bodies leading to one certificate being suspended. Other certificate holders breaching the rules risk the same consequences. This means the certificate holder cannot make any FSC claims on sales after the date of the suspension. Read more [here](#).

For further info, please contact FSC's Communication Manager for Europe and CIS, Ewa Hermanowicz at: [e.hermanowicz@fsc.org](mailto:e.hermanowicz@fsc.org)

## The World's First FSC-Certified Tyre Becomes a Reality Thanks to Pirelli and the BMW Group

A major breakthrough for sustainability has been achieved by Pirelli with the introduction of the world's first FSC-certified tyre. The new Pirelli P ZERO tyre, which will be equipped on the BMW X5 Plug-In Hybrid model, uses FSC-certified natural rubber and rayon as well as other materials.

Natural rubber is a basic material for many everyday products, such as rubber boots or mattresses. About six million smallholders worldwide are responsible for 80 per cent of the world's natural rubber production. They operate small farms of one to two hectares in size and under a wide variety of conditions in the so-called rubber belt in tropical regions. Addressing the social, environmental, and economic needs of these millions of smallholder farms is a major challenge. The implementation of FSC certification for natural rubber plantations, forests and chain of custody contributes to resolving this challenge by supporting responsible and sustainable natural rubber production. Read more about it [here](#).

## FSC: a Sustainable Ready-Made Tool to Support the upcoming EU Forest Strategy



FSC strives to support the EU Commission in developing a new EU Forest Strategy ensuring that environmental, social, and economic aspects of forests are equally valued. In a newly published brief, FSC has shared how robust forest certification schemes with strict sustainability standards, such as FSC, can complement the new strategy objectives on the ground. You can [read the brief here](#). For more info, please contact FSC's EU Advocacy Manager, Matteo Mascolo, at: [m.mascolo@fsc.org](mailto:m.mascolo@fsc.org)

## Russian Forestry in focus of IX Nevsky International Ecological Congress

IX Nevsky International Ecological Congress took place in St Petersburg on 27-28 May, 2021, under motto «Ecology of Planet — Sustainable Development». Its work was focused on national environmental strategies and projects, sustainable consumption and production, healthy and eco-friendly lifestyle.

Strategy for Russian forest sector development, as well as nexuses between forestry and climate agenda were key issues of the special roundtable.

In February, 2021, Russian Forest Code was amended to ensure digitalization of forest sector. The new federal law presupposes development of federal state forest information system for comprehensive traceability of timber from felling sites to warehouses and further to processing or export. All the operations with timber are to be registered in the system, so the documents are to go fully digital. Setting-the-scene period is scheduled through 2023. It started in 2021 with pilot projects in several regions of Russia. The new information systems is aimed at better interaction between state, business and social priorities for the common goal of sustainable forestry.

Technologies for forest restoration and wood processing were among other important issues of discussions at Nevsky roundtable, alongside with the issues of protecting forests against fires, pests and diseases.

To help fighting the outbreaks of Siberian silk moth (*Dendrolimus Superans*) Federal Forestry Agency of Russia allocated over 2 million USD of extra financing to Yakutia, that is additional to the regional budget. In 2021, the area of about 700 thousand ha is to be treated against pests.

## Garden of Memory campaign

The 'Garden of Memory' International Campaign is held around Russia and other countries of the world for the second year. The idea is to plant 27 million trees to commemorate Soviet victims in II World War. Each young tree is a symbol of life given for the peace and wellbeing of future generations.

The initiative suggested by volunteers received support from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation and Federal Forestry Agency. From March through June, 2021, tree-planting events were held.

Due to covid-restrictions, there were no large-scale events. But new ideas appeared. For example, school graduates joined the events on their Graduation days (can be followed at #СадПамятиВшколе).

Concept of the Garden of Memory campaign goes in line with the goals to protect and enlarge the forests of Russia which is stipulated by 'Preservation of Forests' federal project.

More information is available at official FFA website <http://rosleshoz.gov.ru/news/2021-05-31/n9824> or by email [ffaworld@mail.ru](mailto:ffaworld@mail.ru)

## Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are going to strengthen cooperation on afforestation of dried bottom of Aral sea

9-12 of June Uzbekistan met Kazakhstan delegation, led by Ms. Aliya Shalabekova, a Vice Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The purpose of this visit of our dear neighbors is to learn Uzbekistan's afforestation efforts in dried bottom of the Aral Sea. It is great honor for us to share our experience in reversing the consequences of the environmental disaster, which is the core principle and nice complement to the Uzbekistan President's initiative to declare the Aral Sea Region – a Zone of Environmental Innovations and Technologies, following the UN Special Resolution adopted on May 18, 2021.

The Kazakh delegation, consisting of experts and scientists, expressed satisfaction with the results of afforestation work, which began three years ago on 462,000 hectares, and expressed readiness to cooperate in launching similar works in Kazakhstan. From 2019 until now Uzbekistan did afforestation efforts on 1,65 mln ha. In 2021 Uzbekistan did afforestation on 400 thousand ha.

## Citizens pledge for Sensible Forest Management in the US West Coast

We have been witnessing a drying out of our lands on the US West Coast for several years now, with more intense and severe forest fires. After a devastating 2020 fire season with 4.1 million acres burned in California alone, a group of individuals gathered to form Citizens for Sensible Forest Management (CSFM, <https://csfm.net/>) in an effort to support those charged with the management of our forests.



Healthy forests are fundamental to addressing the climate crisis, and we must help them deliver their multiple benefits for the generations to come. A well-managed forest not only sequesters carbon but reduces losses to wildfire, pest, and disease. Our forests can no longer defend themselves against the ferocity of climate change.

What can we do? We must act now to solve this problem! The lack of efficient forest management did not occur overnight on the US West Coast but is over 30 years in the making. We need a change.

CSFM calls for collaboration, urging stakeholders to find common grounds for our forest to thrive. CSFM is looking for endorsement of those who genuinely want to support our forests' health, diversity, and productivity. We need to act together now!

Please read CSFM full position here: <https://csfm.net/csfm-position-paper>

## A worldwide record has been set on greening of the planet in 1 day



On April 10, 2021, the global environmental action "Greening the Planet" took place in 110 countries. The project "Greening of the Planet" was organized by the Charitable Foundation "Greening of Ukraine" with the support of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine and the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine.

The mission of the "Greening of the Planet" project was to plant trees and change the ecoconsciousness of people around the world to respect the nature, to gather the people of the planet to fight against climate change and global warming. According to the results summed up on April 22, 2021, on World Earth Day, 5,5 million trees were planted in 110 countries during the campaign. Countries that organized the largest number of planted trees are Ukraine, Canada, Great Britain, Belarus, Turkey, Moldova, Poland, Indonesia, Tunisia, Montenegro, Kuwait, Singapore. Total number of participants: 2,145,493 people. From Ukraine there are 559,044 people took part in the event. 4,124,590 trees were planted in Ukraine.

These results are recorded in the Book of Records of Ukraine as a world achievement - the most biggest tree planting in one day in 110 countries. Category: "Mass events. For the first time".

For more information, click [here](#).

### **Miel Muria, the only PEFC-certified honey in Europe**

Miel Muria signed recently the PEFC licence to communicate and visibilize their sustainable forest management certified. The company has a deep commitment to offer a high quality product and sustainability guarantees and it is also the only PEFC-certified honey in Europe and the first to be exported worldwide.

"The certification process has been easy and logical, as we had internal processes to guarantee the traceability of our honey," said Rafael Muria Martí, President of Miel Muria. Likewise, Pedro González Colilla, Director of Sustainability and Compliance of the certification body Bureau Veritas, said: "At Bureau Veritas, we have always been committed to promoting the value of all forest products through PEFC certification, including non wood based products. The responsible and respectful use of all the products that forests offer helps their economic sustainability and feeds back to the improvement of their management". In this sense, "forest owners and beekeepers have started this journey to guarantee their continuity and conservation", added Josep Maria Vila de Abadal, President of PEFC Catalunya.

Thus, this act means "A big step towards certification of new forest-based food. PEFC certified honey joins other certified forest products such as pine nuts, chestnuts or Iberian ham", said Juan Luis Abián Perruca, President of PEFC Spain.

The beekeeping company is located in Tarragona mountains of El Perelló in a responsibly managed forest area. They have been caring for bees since 1810, both promoting pollination that maintains biodiversity and favouring the benefits for the planet. This company joins the 1.569 companies in Spain that are certified in Chain of Custody by the PEFC system and represents a new impulse in the promotion of sustainable products adapted to the different markets.

For further information, to arrange interviews or to request artwork, please contact [comunicacion@pefc.es](mailto:comunicacion@pefc.es).

### **Significant potential of the renovation wave to store carbon in the European built environment confirmed by Club du Bois organisers**

Advancements in building at both height and scale in engineered timber has understandably drawn attention to the potential of new build in wood to store carbon – a significant necessity in the battle against climate change. Switching to wood on a wider scale can help bring emissions down as trees naturally sequester CO2 from the atmosphere and the carbon is then stored in the wood.

This potential lay behind Commission President von der Leyen's observation in her speech to the European Parliament in September 2020 where she stated, "We know that the construction sector can even be turned from a carbon source into a carbon sink, if organic building materials like wood [...] are applied." What has received less attention is the potential of the Renovation Wave to store carbon and likewise make a similar contribution to tackling climate change. Organised by the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois), the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) and the European Panel Federation (EPF) the Club du Bois met online on 27th May to consider the potential of the Renovation Wave to store carbon. Read the full news release [here](#).

### **Building together a greener future**

The Social Partners, the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) and the European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) are in favour of a Renovation Wave that accompanies and supports the Green and Digital transformations by creating the right opportunity to deliver in Europe equal access to working opportunities, education, training, fair income, safety in the workplace and social protection for families while increasing productivity, competitiveness of European Industry, reducing energy poverty and fostering innovation in the construction sector.

Governments' priorities in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic have been to overcome the health emergency and to implement rapid, durable, sustainable and resilient economic measures. The signatories of this joint paper are committed to "build back better" promoting solutions for better and healthier living spaces for the people that occupy buildings as well as the surrounding environment. There are strong synergies to be found between the Renovation Wave and the New European Bauhaus initiative with the Bauhaus focus on sustainability, affordability and beauty also being applicable to the Renovation Wave. Read the full press release [here](#).

### **Forest engineering for afforestation purposes**

Research and development work is being carried out in the St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute to improve the production processes of growing planting material with containerized plant system (CPS). One of the directions of scientific research is aimed at optimizing technological lines and equipment for forest greenhouse complexes and closed-type forest seed centers. These studies are aimed at solving problems of improving the production processes of growing planting material with containerized plant system, contributing to active import substitution in the field of forestry activities.

According to the current Rules for reforestation of the Russian Federation (2020), the share of the total volume of reforestation work using planting material with containerized plant system by 2030 should be at least 45%. Today in Russia there are more than 1,450 forest nurseries with an area of over 15,730 hectares. By 2024, it is planned to grow up to 879 million seedlings and planting stocks in them.

Thus, the need for planting material with RBTS will only increase, and the demand can only be met in one way - by creating new and modernizing existing forest selection and seed production centers and greenhouse complexes by equipping them with automated and semi-automated systems.

For example, the technological processes for sorting and packing planting material in most of our tree nurseries are often carried out manually, which leads to unjustified labor costs and an increase in cost. To determine the optimal design of the sorting and packaging system scientists of Federal State-Funded Institution "SPbNIIH" (St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute) carried out a comparative analysis of technical and operational characteristics, economic indicators, principles of operation, identified the advantages and disadvantages of existing units and equipment elements, taking into account the required volumes of provision subjects of the Russian Federation with end product. They took into account such properties of the system as ergonomics, versatility, pre-repair resource of seasonal operation, the complexity of modernization and a number of other aspects.

In each specific case, the optimal design of each of the technological schemes, including the systems of washing, preparation of the substrate, seeding, sorting and packaging, etc., should be determined taking into account the estimated production capacity of the greenhouse complex; include a number of subassemblies and elements that can be both universal and developed taking into account the peculiarities of forest nurseries, which, in turn, will allow the implementation in the near foreseeable future of the tasks of the Federal Project "Conservation of Forests" within the framework of the National Project "Ecology".

More detailed information on the developments of SPbNIIH is available here: <http://spb-niilh.ru/>

### Łukasiewicz – 2 years together for innovation

Nearly 400 additional business opportunities for research, products and services, new clients, higher profit and commercialization revenues, and strategy-oriented work of 4,500 scientists and engineers – this is how you can summarize 2 years of the Łukasiewicz Research Network activities in support of the innovative economy.

Łukasiewicz is a unique project of great commercial potential, an integrated market player providing attractive, comprehensive and competitive business solution. It is the third largest research network in Europe with 32 research institutes located in 12 cities across Poland. Łukasiewicz promotes business and supports the development of Polish companies. The Łukasiewicz Institutes operate in 4 directions: smart and clean mobility, digital transformation, health, sustainable economy and energy, that channel the work of scientists into areas strategic to the development of the economy and society. The founding of Łukasiewicz has increased the market reach of the Łukasiewicz Institutes' offering, enabled the creation of a business offering that encompasses the entire technology pipeline, amplified ability to raise funds to, and opened up opportunities for Łukasiewicz employees to advance in new research and commercialization areas.

Łukasiewicz – Wood Technology Institute is a part of the Łukasiewicz Research Network since 2019. It is the only research institution in Poland which deals in a comprehensive manner with the issues of wood processing, its application and creation of new wood-based composites. The Institute operates in "Sustainable Economy and Energy" and "Health" Research Groups. More information at [itd.lukasiewicz.gov.pl](http://itd.lukasiewicz.gov.pl)

### The Wood4Bauhaus Alliance

The [European Commission's New European Bauhaus](#) calls for a creative, interdisciplinary, novel movement embedded in the society to imagine together a **sustainable** future and to engage on a transformative path towards **affordable** and **beautiful** living spaces in the urban and rural environment. A key step is the transformation of the building sector into a circular model that can also counteract the escalating climate crisis. Buildings are accountable for 36% of the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU. Half of the final energy consumption in the Union is attributable to heating and cooling of which 80% in buildings. Rethinking our relationship and roots to nature within the framework of the New European Bauhaus brings genuine opportunity to enable the transformation of the construction ecosystem while co-creating sustainable, affordable and beautiful solutions for the well-being of citizen and to turn the built environment into a carbon sink by using more nature-based materials such as wood in construction and renovation.

In the words of Prof Schellnhuber from the [Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research](#) - who inspired the New European Bauhaus and who was keynote speaker at the [Wood4Bauhaus Conference on "How can the wood sector engage, contribute and co-create?"](#)-, if we are to meet the net zero objective by 2050, we ought to "reforest our planet and retimber our cities". The [Wood4Bauhaus Alliance](#) established itself as an ad hoc EU wood sector alliance and became official Partner of the New European Bauhaus in April 2021 to establish an open platform that brings together manifold stakeholders to co-create ideas and policy recommendations to promote wood in construction and showcase best practices and solutions. It comprises the following founding partners:

[InnovaWood](#) is EU network for wood science, research, innovation and education of 60 organisations in 28 countries, including RTOs, universities, VET centres and cluster organisations. The [European Confederation of Woodworking Industries \(CEI-Bois\)](#) is an umbrella organisation of 21 European and national organisations from 15 countries backing the interests of the whole wood sector. The [European Panel Federation \(EPF\)](#) represents 100,000 direct jobs and counts more than 5,000 wood-based panel manufacturing and furniture companies in 25 countries. The [European Federation of Building and Woodworkers \(EFBWW\)](#) is the European Trade Union Federation grouping 76 national free trade unions from 34 countries with members in the building, building materials, woodworking, forestry and allied industries and trades. The [European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry \(EOS\)](#) represents 35,000 sawmills in 12 countries. [BASAJAUN](#) and [WoodCircus](#) are R&D project consortia



fostering sustainable wood supply chains from forest harvesting to final buildings and Circular Economy solutions in the sector. They have received funding from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements no. 820892 and 862942.

Contact: [info@wood4bauhaus.eu](mailto:info@wood4bauhaus.eu) | Web: [wood4bauhaus.eu](http://wood4bauhaus.eu)

## PEFC launches the campaign "Caring for Forests" to celebrate the International Day of Forests

There is a lack of knowledge in society about the forest sector and the people who take care of the forests. Sometimes, these circumstances drive to doubtful public opinions about the adequation of forest management or the scientific or technical rationale behind the forest practices. It may even seem that workers and inhabitants of forest areas, are not acting in the best interest of the forests, despite forests are part of their environment and livelihoods.

PEFC Spain wants to join the celebration of the International Day of Forests whose theme this year is "Forest restoration: a path to recovery and well-being" by launching our most committed campaign: "Caring for Forests" We believe that it is very important to communicate the benefits that forests and their biodiversity bring to the society and the planet, for which, it is necessary to preserve them through sustainable management and human activities that promote sustainable ways of life. Therefore, we want to make visible the work of forest owners, forest workers, companies of the forest value chain, etc. and their important role in society to preserve not only forests, their multifunctionality and biodiversity, but also other important values

such as traditions, rural development, contribution to the rural depopulation challenge or the innovation.



We also want to promote confidence in the skills of forestry professionals, the importance and benefits of their work, sustainable forest management and certification, putting the forestry sector in value. Watch the campaign video [here](#). "Caring for forests" has the aim of making visible the importance of environmental care and preservation, the

climate change mitigation and the commitment of the active and permanent work of people throughout the forestry sector, essential to promote a decarbonised economy. We also want to raise awareness of the environmental, economic and social benefits provided by the work of the forest sector and its entire value chain, from the forests to the final products. We have developed different materials and videos which will show the values of the alliances (SDG17) to promote synergies between the different agents in the forestry sector. Therefore, we call on forest managers and owners, certified companies, consultants, auditors and professionals in the sector, the media, associations and public opinion to join this campaign to raise awareness and visibility of a sector that works tirelessly and cares for biodiversity and the planet's forests so that we can all enjoy them. Currently, PEFC certified forests reach 2.440.331 hectares and 43.727 forest owners in Spain, which represents a net increase of 16.969 hectares and 1.857 new members since the beginning of 2021. Likewise, in the drive to continue with the traceability of forest products from the forest to the consumer, 1.569 companies are already certified in PEFC Chain of Custody in Spain, guaranteeing the sustainable origin of their products. These growth demonstrates the interest in forest sustainability to conserve our forests for future generations. Let's keep working and let's take care of our forests, together.

## Segezha Group: first public forest company in Russia

Segezha Group PJSC, a subsidiary of Sistema PJSC and a leading Russian vertically integrated holding company in the forest industry performing a full cycle of operations from logging to advanced wood processing, announced on April 28, 2021 that trading in ordinary shares of Segezha Group had begun on Moscow Exchange. The stock trades under the ticker SGZH. The shares are included in MOEX's Level 1 List. Moscow Exchange Supervisory Board Chairman Oleg Viyugin, Segezha Group President Mikhail Shamolin, Sistema President Vladimir Chirakhov, Sistema Managing Partner and Segezha Group Board Chair Ali Uzdenov and Sistema Deputy Board Chair Anna Belova took part in a ceremony marking Segezha Group's start of trading. Segezha Group raised RUB 30 billion through its initial public offering (IPO), with the offer price set at RUB 8 per share. Mikhail Shamolin, President and Chairman of the Management Board of Segezha Group: "Segezha Group's successful IPO represents not just a milestone in the history of the company but also a landmark for the Russian forestry sector and Russian capital markets, as we become the country's first publicly listed company in the sector. We were able to build a strong book of international and Russian institutional investors, as well as generating significant interest from Russian retail investors. I would like to welcome all of our new investors, and look forward to a long and successful history as a publicly traded company on Moscow Exchange."

Read more [here](#).

## Publications, articles and new reports

**New study tackles 12 key questions on forests in the EU**



EU forests provide many products and services to society, benefiting citizens in numerous different ways. The expectations for forests are high – and they are subject to many and varied demands, not all of them necessarily compatible. Sound decision-making needs a solid and holistic understanding of the different roles forests play, the complex, diverse and long-term ecological processes which take place and the stakeholders directly or indirectly involved.

The European Forest Institute's new Knowledge to Action report aims to tackle the knowledge gap, compiling key research findings to answer 12 important questions about forests in the EU. Harnessing its ongoing monitoring of recent EU policy processes, EFI selected the following areas in particular: bioeconomy, civil protection, climate change mitigation and adaptation, forestry, impact on global forests, nature conservation, public health and regional development.

The questions include:

- How did EU forests develop?
- Who owns the forests?
- What do people think about forests?
- How has climate change affected forests?
- How does forest management affect biodiversity?
- How do forests improve health and wellbeing?
- How do forests contribute to prosperity?

Twenty-eight researchers from EFI and its network have contributed to the publication, which is available in two formats. A short version is freely downloadable as a pdf, while our Forest Questions webpages (<https://efi.int/forestquestions>) contain more detailed information and references.

### The state of mass timber in Canada report

The 2021 State of Mass Timber in Canada (SMTC) report is the first of its kind to systematically document domestic mass timber construction projects and production capacity in Canada. The report provides a glimpse into market trends and demonstrates the value for builders and designers to consider building with wood.

The Green Construction through Wood (GCWood) program produced the report to record, review and analyze the rise of mass timber construction in Canada. This report highlights the progress Canada has made in mass timber production, design and building, as well as the potential for our country's ongoing leadership in this area.

A key highlight of the SMTC report is an interactive map, which displays information on nearly 500 completed or under-construction mass timber projects from 2007 to 2019, representing over 1.5 million square metres (16 million square feet) of gross floor area. 21 mass timber manufacturing facilities across Canada, showing the growing capacity of domestic producers, are also displayed.



#### The rise of mass timber construction in Canada

The growth in mass timber construction across Canada can be linked to:

- progressive building codes
- new mass timber products
- innovative building systems
- a growing number of designers and builders with expertise
- increasingly affordable products and systems
- interest in green building materials and sustainable designs

With the wide range of mass timber uses and applications, as well as the increased availability of new building materials on the market, wood is a preferred option for low carbon/green construction.

In the SMTC report and interactive map, mass timber projects are defined as public and private industrial, commercial, institutional and multi-family residential buildings that are at least 300 square metres. These buildings use engineered wood components or assemblies in structural applications, such as walls, floors and roofs either in all-wood designs or as a key part of a hybrid system (with steel, concrete and/or light wood frame). The report and map also features other structures such as bridges, towers and agricultural buildings.

The full publication is available [here](#).

### Innovative bio-based products for a sustainable future: New Ceperi study on pulp & paper industry biorefineries in Europe

Ceperi presented the first Europe-wide study about pulp and paper industry biorefineries with a dedicated webinar attended by close to 100 participants from industry and press. The study carried out by NC Partnering identified 139 biorefineries spread throughout Europe, with the biggest number of them located in Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Sweden.

These biorefineries bring to the market new bio-based products for a myriad of industrial value chains such as aviation, civil construction, printing and publishing, packaging, food, automotive & batteries, cosmetics, personal hygiene, electronics, pharmaceuticals & medical applications, furniture, chemicals, textile, and energy. The most common bio-based products are man-made fibres, biodiesel and bio-naphta, liginosulphonate and tall oil products.

The purpose of this study is also to identify the value of these emerging bio-based products. The turnover generated is close to €2.7 billion, which corresponds to almost 3% of European pulp and paper industry sector turnover as a whole. Based on investment plans and R&D programs, we expect this share to grow in the future. The pulp & paper industry has the ambition to become the European hub for the bio-based economy, integrating wood fibre, bio-based products and novel recycling. The key will also be to use the entire potential of raw materials and by-streams of the forest-based sector - which also means paper for recycling - for a broad range of high added value bio-based products. "The EU Green Deal and the 2050 climate neutrality target require an ambitious shift in the way we produce and consume in Europe. Bio-based products offer solutions to many value chains,



also reinforcing the strategic autonomy of Europe by supporting Made in Europe businesses based on raw materials principally sourced in Europe.” commented Jori Ringman, Cepi Director General. Thanks to their immediate climate mitigation effect, bio-based products and the bioeconomy play an essential role in achieving the European Green Deal objectives such as climate neutrality (see Cepi study on the climate effect of EU Forest-based industries). EU regulation and the EU industrial policy can support industry transformation by creating the appropriate investment conditions for the European bioeconomy to thrive. Read the summary [here](#). The press release is available [here](#).

### **Steady growth in Dutch sustainably sourced timber market share**

Growth in Dutch market share of sustainably sourced sawn wood and wood-based panels flattened in 2017, according to the latest study by forest and timber sustainability advisors and analysts Probos, and this trend is seen continuing in later data. But the report, its sixth of the sector, undertaken in 2018 for the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV), still showed the share of both sustainably sourced sawn wood and wood-based panels and paper and cardboard placed on the Dutch market reaching 85%. Read full article: [http://probos.nl/images/pdf/bosberichten/BB20203\\_English\\_web.pdf](http://probos.nl/images/pdf/bosberichten/BB20203_English_web.pdf)

### **Growing secondary wood product demand to support tropical forests**

In 2019, 33% of secondary tropical wood products imported by the EU and UK were certified sustainable, positively impacting 763,000-925,000 ha of tropical forest, according to a new report from IDH – the Sustainable Trade Initiative (<https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/>). If importers sourced 100% certified sustainable, it concludes, this figure would rise to over 2 million ha.

The just-released publication, ‘Understanding sustainable secondary tropical wood products through data’, covers the four main types of tropical secondary products imported by the EU and UK – doors, mouldings, windows and other joinery. It was commissioned by IDH for the STTC and undertaken by sustainable forest management institute Probos (<https://probos.nl/en/>) and the Global Timber Forum (<https://www.gtf-info.com/>).

It builds on these partners’ 2019 report, which covered EU and UK primary tropical wood products imports, estimating that 28.5% were certified sustainable. Bringing the findings of the two publications together, the new report states that, if all these countries’ tropical timber imports were certified, 18 million ha of forest would be positively impacted. This, it says, could also cut global carbon emissions by 100 million tonnes per year.

Like the earlier report, it estimates volumes of FSC and PEFC-certified timber imports using the ‘exposure to certification method’. This takes the certified percentage of a supplier country’s total forest area and projects the share onto its exports to consumer countries. Read full report: <https://www.idhsustainabletrade.com/uploaded/2020/11/Understanding-sustainable-tropical-wood-products-through-data.pdf>

### **Thémis tool tracks European sustainable timber procurement**

Thémis, a new data gathering tool and online portal is being developed to enable various European timber trade federations to monitor, benchmark, communicate and so help increase verified sustainable procurement levels.

The project is being led by Netherlands-based international forest and timber sustainability consultant Probos (<https://probos.nl/en/>), which has over a decade’s experience of monitoring and reporting on verified sustainable procurement in the Dutch industry and for the Dutch and Belgian governments. It is working on Thémis with the International Tropical Timber Technical Association (ATIBT) and the timber trade federations (TTFs) of France, Belgium and the UK; Le Commerce du Bois, Fedustria and the UK Timber Trade Federation. Funding is being provided by IDH – The Sustainable Trade Initiative and the Congo basin Programme for Promotion of Certified Sustainable Forest Management (PPECF), plus the federations themselves. Though the focus of the main donors is on tropical regions, the tool will also cover softwood, temperate hardwoods, panels and some secondary timber products. “Growing the market for responsibly sourced timber”, says Probos Director and Senior Advisor Mark van Benthem, “is key to incentivizing uptake of verified sustainable forest management, in turn supporting maintenance of the forest and its critical climate stabilising role.”

Read full article: <http://www.europeansttc.com/themis-tool-tracks-european-sustainable-timber-procurement/>

### **New publication: The EU Blueprint on Green Care**

Green Care is an emerging concept referring to the “range of activities that promotes physical and mental health and well-being through contact with nature”. These initiatives provide many benefits to people while also providing opportunities for new businesses and green jobs, sustainable management of natural resources and enhanced cross-sectorial cooperation and innovation. The EU Blueprint on Green Care, published by Green4C project (co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union), brings together for the first time four different emerging sectors – Forest-based Care, Social Agriculture, Urban Green Care and Green Care Tourism – and reports on the opportunities and challenges for supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in these thematic sectors.

Using 20 case studies across Europe and Americas, the document looks at triggers, points of strength and weaknesses of Green Care innovation and business development and capitalises on the extensive research experience of the project partners. The analysis reveals that Green Care initiatives are challenged by uncertainties in funding policies and regulation, low public awareness and recognition of the role of such initiatives, lack of standards and integration into health care policies and practices. Nevertheless, they found their strengths in collaborative and multi sectorial attitude, strong networks and partnerships, the ability to provide inclusive and adaptive services and the increasing interest and demand for sustainable, inclusive, and green solutions to health and wellbeing. Download the EU Blueprint on Green Care to find out more: [www.greenforcare.eu/reports/](http://www.greenforcare.eu/reports/).



# Upcoming events

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## Join the International Boreal Forest Research Association for its 19<sup>th</sup> conference August 16-20 2021!

The 19<sup>th</sup> IBFRA conference will be virtual this year and is scheduled to be held from August 16-20<sup>th</sup> 2021.

The main goal of the conference is to foster and strengthen the dialogue between scientists, policy makers, managers, indigenous communities, representatives of the wood industry and civil society from boreal countries around the world. The conference will present and discuss the latest scientific understanding on the vulnerability and resilience of the boreal biome to climate change, and their socio-economic implications. [The program](#) of the conference covers a large range of themes, such as forest and wildfire ecology, bioenergy, forest management, public policy, citizen science, and co-production of knowledge.

The format of the virtual conference is quite diverse, mixing keynotes and formal presentations, panel discussions, breakout sessions for discussions around specific topics (e.g. wildfires in Siberia), art exhibits, poster presentations and short workshops. The conference is also organizing a short-video competition, to collect testimonies documenting how climate change is affecting ecosystems, wildlife and people of the boreal biome. If you are interested in becoming a witness of a changing boreal biome, please consider [joining the competition!](#)

You can register to the conference [here](#). More information on the conference can be found on our [website](#), or by contacting Dr. H  l  ne Genet at [ibfra2021@gmail.com](mailto:ibfra2021@gmail.com).

