



Non-wood forest products for people, nature and the green economy: Recommendations for policy priorities in Europe

Panel Session
23 November 2021
13:15 – 14:45 CET

Side event during the [European Forest Week](#), celebrated in conjunction with [Foresta 2021](#), the joint Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the 41st FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)

Non-wood forest products (NWFP) such as cork, natural resins, mushrooms, medicinal plants and nuts and berries provide key socio-economic and environmental benefits to the European economy that are in the same order of magnitude as the total revenues from roundwood. In 2015, the estimated value of NWFP collected in Europe reached some €23 billion. Furthermore, Europe is a central player in international trade of NWFP, importing €4.2 billion (50% of the global imports) and exporting €3.4 billion, equal to 40% of global exports. Moreover, NWFP are embedded in daily life in Europe with 90% of European households regularly consuming NWFP, while 26% collect some type of NWFP at least once a year, for self-consumption or sale. More than 60 million European foragers, often organised in associations, take part in these activities.

Acknowledging the contribution of NWFP to the green economy in Europe, the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have jointly issued a White Paper, based on lessons learned from around the Mediterranean on “[Non-wood forest products for people, nature and the green economy. Recommendations for policy priorities in Europe](#)”. The Paper identifies key areas that require urgent policy attention and suggests concrete actions that could be undertaken by decision makers, key stakeholders, and societal actors at various levels in Europe and other parts of the world.

During this side event, the White Paper will be officially launched and its key findings and recommendations will be presented and discussed. The side event will address, among others, the following key questions:

- What are the key contributions of NWFP to socio-economic development in Europe in support of a transition towards a green economy?
- What are the key actions required to further enhance the contribution to the European Green Deal and other core policy objectives?
- What can FAO and other international organizations do to further promote the sustainable consumption and production of NWFP?

Register at:

https://fao.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cnCTkQRVRRi1BX9ApKNR4A

(Interpretation: English; Russian)

Draft Programme

Time	Item	Speakers
13.15	Opening remarks	Guillermo Fernández Centeno , General Director of Forest & Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain Mette Løyche Wilkie , Director, Forestry Division, FAO Robert Mavsar , Deputy Director, EFI
13.30	Presentation of White Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facts and figures: the contribution of NWFP to socio-economic development in Europe • Key actions to further enhance the contribution of NWFP to the Green Deal and other core policy objectives 	Inazio Martinez de Arano , Head of the Forest Institute Mediterranean Facility Sven Walter , Senior Forestry Officer, FAO
13.55	Panel session: Unlocking the full potential of the non-wood forest-based bioeconomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation through policies – key policy action in Italy to promote NWFP • The cork value chain- a key contribution to healthy landscapes and resilient livelihoods • Voluntary standards and certification to promote sustainable and beneficial trade in wild NWFPs • National Programmes for NWFPs in Turkey 	Davide Pettenella , Professor, University of Padova Conceição Santos Silva , Coordinator of R&D and Innovation, UNAC, Mediterranean Forest Union (Portugal) Anastasiya Timoshyna , TRAFFIC and IUCN Species Survival Commission - Medicinal Plant Specialist Group İsmail Belen , Foundation of the People CARing for FUture (CARFU) and Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of Turkey
14.40	Closing remarks	Chadi Mohanna , Director of Rural Development and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture of Lebanon, and Chair of Silva Mediterranea

For more information, please contact: Sven.Walter@fao.org or Giulia.Muir@fao.org