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 Sofiia Parent. 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.

In this issue, find out more about:

- **Today’s highlight**: Foresta2021
- **What’s new in the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section?**
- Forest community: projects and activities
- Publications, articles, reports, regulatory updates
- Upcoming events
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TODAY’S HIGHLIGHT: FORESTA2021

Under the theme “The future of forests”, Foresta2021, the joint session of the UN Economic Commission for Europe’s (UNECE) Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and the United Nation’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) European Forestry Commission (EFC), convened experts, policymakers, business leaders, and national delegates from Europe, Central Asia, and North America in a hybrid format with the aim to increase the forest sector's visibility and influence pan-European and global dialogue on forests.

The event provided an opportunity to highlight innovative and strategic approaches for greater social, economic, and climate resilience as foreseen by the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030).

Foresta2021 highlighted the forestry industry’s opportunities to lead climate mitigation and adaptation efforts by shaping a green economy that promotes sustainable forest management and embraces the circular economy. During the sessions, participants pointed out that emissions reduction, clean air, biodiversity habitat, non-toxic clothing material, sustainable building products, and food production all depend on sustainable forest management.

Foresta2021 established a sustainability-focused framework to guide the next four years of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission’s work with the adoption of the new Integrated Programme of Work.

Read the Foresta2021 joint session report here.

Catch up on two of the side event highlights:

- Watch the “Future of Forests” panel recording here.
WHAT’S NEW IN THE UNECE/FAO FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION?

Join the Trees in Cities Challenge and Make a Pledge to Plant More Trees in 2022

Join a global campaign of mayors who are implementing tree planting pledges to make their cities greener, more sustainable and more climate resilient.

Scan to learn how

Join over 30 cities from across the globe who have joined the initiative to mitigate the effects of climate change, cool outdoor temperatures, improve public health, contribute to clean air and food security, foster biodiversity, build resilience, improve citizen wellbeing and create economic opportunities in their cities.

Learn how your city can make a Trees in Cities Challenge pledge:
https://treesincities.unece.org/contact-us/

Read more about the Trees in Cities Challenge and the Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry on page 7.

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Selected outputs from the COFFI/EFC meeting

**COFFI Market Statement.** This document reviews forest product market developments in 2020 and 2021 and summarizes the outlook for 2021 and 2022. It includes sections on economic and policy developments, wood raw materials, sawnwood, wood-based panels, pulp and paper, wood energy, and value-added products. It is drafted by consensus and was approved by the Joint Session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission at the November 2021 meeting.

**Country Market Statements.** These detailed documents provide extensive and specific information on general and forestry-related developments in a country. They cover 2020 and part of 2021.

**Timber Forecasts for 2021-2022.** A set of statistical data provides production and trade forecasts from 32 countries for 2021 and 2022 covering more than 30 forest products. These cover roundwood (logs, pulpwood and fuel wood), sawnwood (coniferous and non-coniferous), wood-based panels (plywood, particle board, OSB and fibreboard), pulp, paper and wood pellets. Summary tables provide detailed forecasts for Europe and North America.

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Boreal Forests in the Spotlight in 2021

2021 was a busy year for the boreal forest community. For the first time, the boreal biome was a centre of discussion at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE region which took place in spring. The event “Snapshot on Boreal forests’ contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals” (recording available in English and Russian), highlighted the fact that these vast intact forest and wetland ecosystems have received comparatively little attention for their important contribution to stabilizing the global climate, storing large amounts of terrestrial carbon and providing livelihoods to millions of people in remote and rural communities. Boreal forests are crucial in building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Read up about it in our brochure “Why boreal forests matter – the role of boreal forests in sustainable development”.

In summer, which coincidentally saw many wildfires in the boreal zone, the IBFRA Conference brought together experts from boreal forest countries in scientific sessions and side events, including a presentation of the results from the IBFRA Insight Process, and a side event on “The science and policy of wildfires in the boreal biome” organized by the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section in collaboration with its Team of Specialists on Boreal Forests.

COP26 in autumn, featured several major announcements on forests, including the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use, signed by 133 world leaders, who committed to work to halt forest loss and land degradation. Boreal forests are key to global climate change mitigation and will be heavily impacted by the impacts of rising temperature. For more information, read our Infographic on Boreal Forests and Climate Change.

Achievements – challenges – aspirations for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia

The meeting “Achievements – challenges – aspirations for forest landscape restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia” took place on 22 November 2021 as part of the 6th European Forest Week. National experts from the Caucasus and Central Asia countries – Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – discussed their countries’ progress on forest landscape restoration (FLR) efforts since the Ministerial Roundtable in 2018. The experts expressed interest to develop national policy guiding principles and strategies to scale up FLR activities, which will provide an enabling framework for the implementation and monitoring of successful and sustainable FLR activities in the region.

During the meeting, the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section also presented its newest FLR project – the preparation of a Knowledge Exchange Platform on Forest Landscape Restoration in the Caucasus and Central Asia and invited national experts to contribute. The Knowledge Exchange Platform aims to strengthen regional cooperation,
disseminate best practices, increase the visibility of the CCA region in global discussions on forest landscape restoration.

A follow-up Regional Policy Dialogue on Forest Landscape Restoration will be organized on 9 February 2022.

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Register Your Interest to Join the Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry

Trees and forests in and around urban areas are simple and cost-effective nature-based solutions to the climate emergency, providing vital benefits for health and wellbeing, climate adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity and resilience.

As part of the Trees in Cities initiative, UNECE has launched an Informal Network of Experts on Sustainable Urban Forestry (INESUF). The INESUF brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to identify shared challenges and share best practice experiences that can shape much needed policy actions to enhance sustainable urban forestry at the local, national, and regional levels. This includes both horizontal engagement across disciplines and sectors, as well as vertical engagement with various levels of government to provide support to practitioners to identify, share, and adopt best practices and replicable solutions.

The first meeting of the INESUF was held on 19 October 2021. The meeting began with a case study from Helsingborg Sweden that generated a lively discussion and exchange of ideas. Participants also identified topics of interest for discussion, exchange and collective action in future meetings of the network. Learn more about the first meeting here.

The second meeting of the INESUF was held on 8 December 2021 and focused on two of the themes of interest identified during the first meeting: sustainable urban forestry master planning and cross-boundary collaboration. Learn more about the second meeting here.

Whether you are a policy maker, practitioner, academic or passionate community leader, UNECE invites you to register your interest to join the INESUF for the opportunity to grow your network and identify opportunities for peer exchange and collaboration, including through regular meetings and joint activities through the network.

Register your interest here.

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FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Forest landscapes restoration in Ukraine

In June 2021, the President of Ukraine launched a large-scale Green Country project, under which 1 billion trees will be planted in the next 3 years and the country's forest area will be increased by 1 million hectares in the next 10 years.

This plan is quite ambitious, but it is quite real. From October 1st to November 30th, 2021, the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine has held an all-Ukrainian public action "Creating forests together" with aim to rise awareness and to involve as many people as possible for planting activities.

Today everyone can track the progress of forest planting by a special website, which is available at the link https://zelenakraina.gov.ua. In addition, everyone had the opportunity to join a large-scale eco-initiative. It was needed to fill out a special registration form to participate in the action "Creating forests together." Foresters provided all participants with the free planting material and conducted master classes on planting forests.

Almost 60 million trees have already been planted this fall. About 300 million seedlings will be planted in 2022, and another 330 million seedlings in 2023 and 2024.

Updating of the information on the website zelenakraina.gov.ua will continue until the goal is reached.

Forest creation is not only a powerful tool to combat climate change, but it also prevents soil degradation, pollution and shallowing of rivers, desertification, contributes to the conservation of biodiversity.

Introducing the ROSEWOOD4.0 Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation

The EU-funded ROSEWOOD4.0 project has launched a new repository of best practices and innovative digital solutions with the aim of revolutionising the European forestry and wood sector.

The Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation, a new open portal that collects best practices and digital innovations in the European forestry sector, is now available as a result of the ROSEWOOD4.0 EU project. This
initiative, funded by Horizon 2020, aims to harness digital solutions and boosts knowledge transfer connecting multiple actors along the forest value chain to reinforce the sustainability of forest resilience and wood mobilisation in Europe. The first public beta version is now online at www.forestinnovationhubs.rosewood-network.eu.

The platform is a “one-stop shop” that simplifies sharing knowledge about sustainable, efficient, and data-driven management of Europe’s forests. It is free to use for any forestry practitioner or other interested user, from the public and private sectors to policymakers and researchers, to any individual interested in forestry. The main objective of the Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation is to provide easy access to usable information in the form of 260 factsheets highlighting outstanding practices and innovations in forestry from more than 15 European countries.

The open access repository contains factsheets, videos, additional materials, and the contact details of the organisations who have developed these solutions. With this new tool, ROSEWOOD4.0 seeks to connect and facilitate exchange between the different regions for wider replication and uptake of practices across Europe.

The ROSEWOOD4.0 Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation was developed by Steinbeis Innovation gGmbH (Germany), InnovaWood (Belgium), CESEFOR Foundation (Spain) and the European Forest Institute (Finland), with contributions from 17 consortium partners from all over Europe.

Useful links
ROSEWOOD4.0 Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation
ROSEWOOD4.0 EU project website
ROSEWOOD4.0 Training Programme for forestry digitalisation

Genetics knows the answers

The St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute has developed a line of microsatellite markers to assess the genetic diversity of conifers in the forests of the southern taiga region of the European part of the Russian Federation.

One of the most powerful and relatively budgetary tools for obtaining information on genetic diversity and differentiation of tree species populations is considered to be microsatellite analysis for a number of neutral loci, that is, the use of nuclear microsatellite markers. The use of a genetic analyzer significantly increases the accuracy of the analyzes.

SPbNIILH (St. Petersburg Forestry Research Institute) scientists have developed
multiplexes of microsatellites and tested them on mass material: on 90 Norway spruce trees from three populations and on 117 Scots pine trees from four populations of the southern taiga region of the European part of Russia. In addition, multiplexes of loci of Norway spruce were tested on 30 individuals of Siberian spruce from Krasnoyarsk Territory, Tyumen, Tomsk, Irkutsk and Kemerovo regions.

Multiplexes, consisting of 18 spruce loci and 18 pine loci, make it possible to assess the genetic diversity of European spruce and Scots pine, calculate their population characteristics, and can be used to monitor the genetic resources of these species.

These studies are important not only for making reasonable decision in the management of forest resources, but also for the implementation of the national strategy for the conservation of biodiversity of forest plant species - an obligation that Russia assumed after the ratification of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.


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**Trends and opportunities in Green Care: an emerging market**

Among other things, the COVID-19 pandemic increased our attention to health and wellbeing. At the same time, the lockdown measures made us realise the importance of spending time outside, and particularly in natural environments. Therefore, today's growing interest in Green Care should not come as a surprise. The term Green Care refers to all those activities that promote health and wellbeing through the contact with nature and its elements. These activities can address physical or mental health issues, as well as social ones. Therefore, Green Care initiatives represent important opportunities for new businesses and green jobs, sustainable management of natural resources, and enhanced cross-sectorial cooperation.

With the aim to investigated these opportunities, Green4C, a project co-funded by the European Commission, has produced four Market Outlooks, one for each thematic sector: Forest-based care, Urban green care, Social agriculture, and Green care tourism.

The results of these studies indicate that each thematic sector is foreseen to grow, especially thanks to the inclusion of fundings for green and health-related activities in many national recovery plans. However, there are still some challenges hampering the full potential of Green Care practices. Interestingly, one challenge common to each sector is the lack of training and education to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in Green Care. This is largely connected to the need for official recognition of Green Care practices and their standardization at the international level.

Against this background, Green4C aims at promoting interdisciplinary skills, innovation, and entrepreneurship in Green Care to promote the development of this sector.
Download the EU Market Outlooks on Green Care at:


DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The Green4C a three-year project, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, innovating and promoting nature-based health and social care through university business alliances. Green4C consortium is made up of: University of Padua, Etifor, Elevate Health, the Universitatea Transilvania din Brașov, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Meath Partnership, Bundesforschungszentrum für Wald, the European Forest Institute, Wageningen University and Research, Forest Design, The University of British Columbia, The University College Dublin. Discover more about Green4C and subscribe to the newsletter on greenforcare.eu.

What do the urban foresters of tomorrow need?

Urban forests represent an efficient solution to two of the most concerning trends of our time: urbanization and climate change. However, their implementation presents a lot of challenge, mostly related to their interdisciplinary nature and the multitude of stakeholders involved in this type of projects. Today, there is an urgent need for more specific training on urban forestry, covering environmental, governance, communication, and urban planning concepts.

Uforest is a partnership of universities, organisations, businesses, and public bodies from different European countries. The aim of the Uforest is to develop new training opportunities, and support students and practitioners in the promotion of innovative urban forestry projects. In this regard, understanding the training needs of this sector is a key starting point.

In 2021 the Uforest team conducted a survey on the stakeholders involved in urban forestry, as well as their training needs - the so-called "Uforest Stakeholder Analysis and Training Needs' Assessment (TNA)". The main targets were university students, professionals, and citizens from different countries.
What topic are considered relevant for professional careers in urban forestry? According to the report, respondents mainly selected nature-based solutions (46%), biodiversity conservation (39%), and urban forest and green space planning (30%). On the other hand, interviewees expressed training needs mostly related to transversal concepts, and in particular management techniques, urban design and architecture, and cutting-edge technologies, such as mapping tools. In addition, particular interest was expressed in relation to urban food forests and related services. These results underline the interdisciplinary nature of the urban forestry sector.

Download our report and find out more!

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

Uforest (full name “European Alliance on Interdisciplinary Learning and Business Innovation for Urban Forests Project”) is a three-year Knowledge Alliance project co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission. The project is promoted by the ERSAF, Politecnico di Milano, Etifor, EFI, Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, CREA, Agresta, Transylvania University of Brasov, Forest Design, Trinity College Dublin, Nature Based Solutions Insitute, Green City Watch.

LINK TO THE REPORT AND UFOREST’S NEWS:


INFORMATION

info@uforest.eu

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European Confederation of Woodworking Industries, activity digest

1. **Wood Manifesto** – published on the occasion of the COP26 together with other international wood actors. It makes the case for Wood as a key player in reaching the carbon neutrality: available [here](https://example.com).

2. Once again on the occasion of COP26 the **European Woodworking Social Partners** express their support for the goals laid down in the European Green Deal and welcome the European ambitions to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The European Woodworking Industries play a fundamental role in the transition to a sustainable, green, and carbon-neutral Europe. A joint declaration has been issued: available [here](https://example.com).
CEI-Bois held its winter GA and issued a Press-Release: Wood industry aims to double the amount of timber used annually in the European built environment by 2050.

The European Confederation of the Woodworking Industry held its winter 2021 General Assembly on Friday 26th November 2021 in an online format.

During the meeting CEI-Bois presented its Advocacy Report, a comprehensive overview of its activities undertaken in 2021.

Mr Sampsa Auvinen the Chair of CEI-Bois ended the Advocacy Report by looking to the future and noting:

“We see significant potential to increase the amount of wood used in both new build and renovation. Currently 0.5Gt of CO2 equivalent is taken out of the European forest each year in the form of sustainable timber, of which we believe approximately 15% ends up in Long Life Harvested Wood Products. CEI-Bois thinks we should be aiming to at least double this figure by 2050 so that wood can play its full role in tackling climate breakdown by making a significant contribution to decarbonising the built environment. There is a very simple way to respect the environment and to preserve it for future generations: simply by choosing wood products one reduces greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere which has great benefits for the environment.”

The Assembly was addressed by guest speaker architect Anthony Thistleton of Waugh Thistleton Associates an architectural practice based in London specialising in building in wood. Earlier this month, on the eve of the COP in Glasgow, his colleague, architect Andrew Waugh launched the GLOBAL WOOD MANIFESTO, produced by a collaboration of European, North American, Australian and New Zealand wood and forestry organisations led by CEI-Bois. The manifesto makes the case for a significant increase in the use of wood in both construction and renovation as the only sustainable structural material that grows worldwide which can enable a substantial decarbonisation of the built environment - based on existing business models and proven technology; providing vast carbon sinks in our rural areas and carbon stores in our cities.

During the General Assembly, Anthony Thistleton challenged CEI-Bois members to:

“Accelerate the production of Cross Laminated Timber to have the capacity to drive the timber revolution. Timber is not only good for the environment timber is the way out of the climate crisis. The Woodworking Industry must work together more than ever to help deliver clear and simple messages that can correct existing misperceptions”

The Assembly also ratified the composition of the CEI-Bois Board Members for the year ahead (the full list is available here) and welcomes a new staff member Mr Sonda.

For any additional information please contact: info@cei-bois.org
The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. (NCASI) Partnered on Carbon and Water Tools that Help Address the Climate Change

SFI and NCASI announced the launch of the SFI-NCASI Carbon and Water Tools on December 1. These science-based tools will help increase understanding of how SFI-certified forests can be used as nature-based solutions to help mitigate climate change and ensure water conservation. These new measurement tools help quantify the contributions of the 370 million acres/150 million hectares of forestland certified to the SFI Forest Management Standard in addressing climate change and meeting the water needs of both society and ecological systems.

The interactive carbon tool shows forest carbon stocks, rates of sequestration, and long-term carbon storage in products and allows users to tailor their own queries. The carbon tool shows that each year, trees in SFI-certified forests in the United States remove 235.3 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. This is equal to the emissions from over 170 million cars a year.

The water tool also demonstrates that each year, 24 trillion gallons of water flow through SFI-certified forests, where water quality values are protected and monitored — enough water to supply the needs of a city like Los Angeles for more than 150 years. These 68 million acres of SFI-certified forestland in the U.S. include more than 203,000 miles of streams.

These tools will be most valuable for those interested in evaluating the importance of SFI-certified forests for addressing climate change and meeting water needs, including companies that use SFI-labeled products and academic and non-profit organizations seeking to better understand the climate and water values of SFI-certified forests. More information: https://www.forests.org/sfi-and-ncasi-partner-to-address-the-climate-challenge-with-carbon-and-water-tools/

Forest and Science Day was held on COP-26 UNFCCC margins

Forest governance under the changing climate and implementation of forest carbon initiatives were the key topics of ‘Forest and Science Day’ international roundtable. Event was organized by Federal Forestry Agency of Russia on November 4, 2021, on the margins of 26-COP UNFCCC in Glasgow.

Ivan Sovetnikov, Head of Federal Forestry Agency, pointed out - ‘The Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of preserving and increasing natural sinks and reservoirs of GHGs. The most important decision of this international agreement is recognition of contribution of forests into prevention of climate change. For Russia, this is of particular importance’.

Policy-makers, entrepreneurs and representatives of NGOs shared their perspectives on implementation of forest climate projects. Scientific views on relevant measures and working with data were expressed by All-Russian and St Peterburg forestry research
institutes, UK Forest Research as well as by experts from IIASA and IBFRA.

Participants also exchanged their views on current international trends in carbon-related markets and compensatory initiatives in forestry. Climate issues are likely to be increasingly reflected in future forest-related agendas – as observed by the findings of outlook studies developed by UNECE and presented at the event by Paola Deda, Director of UNECE Forests, Land and Housing Division.

Along with economic and ecological aspects of climate-oriented forest management, the roundtable featured social component of this work. Attention was paid to raising social awareness among people of all ages.

On-the-ground projects aimed at protection of forests against fires, pests and diseases, as well as at increasing the absorption capacity of forests, are quite a new tool of achieving the goals of Paris Agreement and other international decisions. To develop and ensure the efficiency of this work, a dialogue between stakeholders is important. The roundtable helped to open more opportunities to develop this conversation. More information and recordings are available at FFA website.

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**Bringing results of ‘Let’s Save the Forest’ national campaign**

More than 70 million trees planted in 85 regions of Russia and almost 1,300,000 participants – these are the main results of the new ‘Let’s Save the Forest’ season.

Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation Mr Sergey Anoprienko pointed out - ‘Let’s Save the Forest’ and similar initiatives should be the focus of attention for both authorities and ordinary citizens. Every year we see an increasing number of general public, youth first of all, who want to contribute as they realize that we should treat the nature and forests with care’.

Head of Federal Forestry Agency Mr Ivan Sovetnikov highlighted that special emphasis in 2021 was made on regions that had been affected the most by forest fires. Large-scale plantings were held in Yakutia and the Chelyabinsk region. Nationwide reforestation activities unite the state, society and business around achieving important environmental goals.

All-Russian campaign ‘Let’s Save the Forest’ has been held since 2019. It is one of the largest campaigns of the kind in Russia. In just three years, the number of trees planted has surpassed 150 million.

The campaign is held as a component of ‘Preservation of Forests’ federal project which is a part of ‘Ecology’ national project of Russia. Key organizers are Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Federal Forestry Agency of Russia and non-profit organizations. Volunteers traditionally are a key driver for ‘Let’s Save the Forest’ reforestation campaign.

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Forest education – key theme for autumn events in Russia

On September 22-25, 2021, Federal Forestry Agency of Russia held 6th All-Russian conference for school forest rangers.

The plenary session was attended by over 300 representatives from 63 regions of the country - heads and mentors of school forest ranger stations, representatives of federal and regional-level executive authorities, coordinators of school forestry movement.

School forest ranger stations in Russia are extracurricular educational classes where professional teachers and foresters help students to learn about forestry, biology, ecology and other natural sciences and take part in forestry activities. In Russia, there are about 1800 school forestries open for boys and girls aged 8-17.

Participants of the conference shared their experience, discussed new educational and methodological approaches and programmes. Workshops featured visits to training and manufacturing facilities.

Among annual contests held for school students in Russia – ‘Best school forest ranger station’, ‘Young growth’ as well as ‘Forest undergrowth’ summer camp weeks. Winners of All-Russian junior forest contest take part in annual International Junior Forest Contest. The Jury of XVIII International Junior Forest Contest (November 2021, Moscow, hybrid) consisted of representatives of the international organizations – UNECE, FAO, UNEP, BEAC as well as experts from various countries of the world – Armenia, Brazil, Finland, Georgia, Serbia, Switzerland, Russia. The Jury chose the following winners of XVIII International Junior Forestry Contest - students of Belarus (I place), Austria and Brazil (II prize), China and Russia (III prize). More information about International Junior Forest Contest is available at FFA website at https://rosleshoz.gov.ru/activity/education/international_junior_forest_competition

Global Log Markets. China imported 30% of its total volume of softwood logs from Europe in 2020 and 2021, thus surpassing supply from Russia and North America

(WRI Market Insights 2021 - a subscription service from Wood Resources International)

European softwood logs were practically non-existent at Chinese ports five years ago. However, a combination of a never-ending hunger for more wood in the country, reductions in shipments from previously significant trading partners, and an oversupply of timber in Europe have altered the log flow into China over the past four years.

New Zealand, Russia, and the US accounted for almost 75% of the total import volume to China in 2017. However, throughout 2020 and 2021, there were sharp declines in
supply from Russia and the US, while shipments from Europe and Latin America rose. During the first nine months of 2021, almost 80% of all imported logs came from New Zealand, Europe, and Latin America.

The European entrance into the Chinese market has been dramatic, increasing from less than 500,000 m³ of softwood logs in 2017 to an estimated 14 million m³ for the entire year in 2021, according to the Wood Resource Quarterly. Europe’s share of the total import volume is currently 30%, with Germany being the second-largest supplier to China, following New Zealand.

German shipments have surged from about 200,000 m³ of logs in 2018 to 3.8 million m³ in 2019, and estimates indicate import volumes may reach over 10 million m³ in 2021. Log imports from the Czech Republic grew rapidly in 2019 but have since levelled off, with the estimated volumes in 2021 likely to be substantially lower than in the two previous years (see chart). Shipments from Germany and the Czech Republic have accounted for the vast majority of the European logs entering China. Several other countries have increased their presence in the past three years, including Poland, France, and Slovakia.

Europe's oversupply of logs is beginning to diminish, and domestic demand is increasing. Thus, while the rise of European exports to China has been dramatic, the trend is unlikely to continue, making the high of almost five million m³ exported in the 4Q/20 a likely peak.

Are you interested in worldwide wood products market information? The Wood Resource Quarterly (WRQ) is a 75-page report established in 1988 and has subscribers in over 30 countries. The publication tracks prices for sawlog, pulpwood, lumber & pellets and reports on trade and wood market developments in most key regions worldwide. For more insights on the latest international forest product market trends, please go to www.WoodPrices.com

The Netherlands and Japan have increased their market shares of globally traded wood pellets substantially over the past five years

(WRI Market Insights 2021 - a subscription service from Wood Resources International)

In 2020, wood pellet production in Europe was up 4% y-o-y and was 34% higher than in 2016, according to data just released by the UNECE. Despite this increase, production has not kept up with consumption, resulting in higher net imports to the continent over the past few years.

To fill the supply deficit, Europe has imported almost 10 million tons of pellets annually from the US, Canada, and Russia in 2019 and 2020.

Overseas supply to Europe has been on an upward trajectory, doubling between 2013 to 2020. North America’s pellet production rose from 6.5 million tons to 12.2 million tons during this period, primarily driven by European demand.
Russia, while still producing less than the US and Canada, has dramatically expanded capacity over the last seven years, going from 700,000 tons in 2013 to almost 2.3 million tons in 2020. Shipments in 2021 may reach closer to 2.6 million tons, with most of the volume exported to power companies in Europe. Beyond Europe, the only other market that absorbed a significant amount of these additional shipments has been South Korea, which accounted for about 7% of the Russian export volume in the first eight months of 2021.

Global wood pellet trade has steadily increased over the past decade, reaching an all-time high in late 2020. The United Kingdom has been the primary destination for wood pellets globally since 2012, but import volumes have stagnated over the past three years (see chart). Instead, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Japan have increased imports substantially in recent years and, for the first time, imported more pellets than the UK in the 1H/21. Five years ago, the UK was the world’s largest market for wood pellet shipments, accounting for over 50% of global trade; in the 2Q/21, its market share declined to 34%.

Import prices for industrial wood pellets ranged between $160-200/ton in the 2Q/21 and were generally higher than in the same quarter in 2020 (see the latest issue of the WRQ). Denmark and the United Kingdom, the world’s two largest importers, had the highest pellet prices. The Netherlands, which increased imports dramatically from 2017 to 2021, has seen annual import prices rise from $150/ton to $190/ton over the past four years.

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Sawlog prices in the Baltic States and Poland grew faster than in the Nordics in 2021, following two decades of tightly bundled prices in the Baltic Sea market (WRI Market Insights 2021- a subscription service from Wood Resources International)

Sawlog prices in countries around the Baltic Sea have tracked each other closely for most of the past 20 years. In the first decade, sawlog prices in the Nordic countries were paid at a premium over other regions, and in the following decade, the South-eastern markets (the Baltic States and Poland) had the highest log costs.

However, in 2021 the relatively small price discrepancy between the countries in the southeast and the Nordic countries changed when the log costs in the southeast region rose considerably to record high levels, while the cost increases in the Nordic countries were more modest (see chart). In the 2Q/21, the sawlog price index (in Euro terms) for the Southeast Baltic Sea region was up 63% y-o-y, while the index for the Nordic countries was up only 16% over the same period, according to the Wood Resource Quarterly. For the nations around the Baltic Sea, prices rose the most in Latvia and Poland in 2021 compared to
In 2020, just over 4.3 million m$^3$ of softwood logs were shipped overseas between countries in the Baltic Sea region. A large share of the trade was from Estonia and Latvia to Finland and Sweden. There were also other significant trade flows from Norway to Germany, Finland to Sweden, and Germany to Lithuania. About half of the traded softwood log volume has been sawlogs, a ratio that has been relatively stable the past five years.

Softwood log exports from the Baltic States have trended downward since their 20-year peak in 2014, with estimated total shipments in 2021 being about 40% lower than in 2014. Instead, exports of softwood lumber have gone up during the same period, continuing a longer upward trend that started in 2008. As a result, the three Baltic States, less than 1% of Europe's forest area, now account for almost 10 percent of Europe's total lumber exportation.

Are you interested in worldwide wood products market information? The Wood Resource Quarterly (WRQ) is a 75-page report established in 1988 and has subscribers in over 30 countries. The publication tracks prices for sawlog, pulpwod, lumber & pellets and reports on trade and wood market developments in most key regions worldwide. For more insights on the latest international forest product market trends, please go to www.WoodPrices.com

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Drinking water and environment: towards a zero impact service

In the current context of climate crisis, the proper management of natural resources acquires strategic importance for adaptation. For this reason, in the drinking water sector, it is necessary to rethink how the Integrated Water Service is connected to the territory, and to follow up with the European principles of “full cost recovery” and “polluter/user pays” through the recognition in the tariff of the so-called Environmental and Resource Costs (ERCs). This is a political, cultural, and technical change that involves all the stages of management, from the source points to the users. Against this background, the Parco Fiume Brenta initiative - funded by the LIFE Brenta 2030 project of the European Commission - carried out an experimentation at the basin level to integrate this new type of costs into the tariff. The first Italian test was welcomed by the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA), and thus represents a pathfinder for other basins interested in developing this mechanism.
The aim of LIFE Brenta 2030 is to institute an environmental fund dedicated to mitigating/compensating interventions to address the negative impacts of the Integrated Water Service. The "Drinking water and environment: towards a zero impact service" report, written by Etifor, the University of Padova and the Consiglio di Bacino Brenta, provides an in-depth analysis of the Italian situation compared to the EU one, the problems of current water management. In addition, the report gives a detail description of our successful case study in the middle course of Brenta river in the Veneto Region, concerning the adoption of these payment mechanisms, which represent an innovative approach with regard to context and the methodology.

The goal? To transform one million euros invested by citizens to take care of drinking water sources, over a period of about three years, into benefits and services worth more than five million!

Find out more and download the report here: www.parcofiumebrenta.it/en/reports-and-publications/.

Institutes of the Łukasiewicz Research Network in Poznan (Poland) join forces

On January 1, 2022, Łukasiewicz – Wood Technology Institute will start operating under the Łukasiewicz Research Network – Poznań Institute of Technology. New Institute gathers five Poznań Institutes participating in the Łukasiewicz Research Network. Its Research Centers will operate in the areas of wood technology, metal forming, rail vehicles, agricultural and food technology, logistics, and information technology. This integration gives an opportunity to create a strong research unit with significant position on the international scene. The new Institute will employ approx. 700 people and consist of 6 Research Centers and over 70 unique research devices, making it the second largest Łukasiewicz Institute in Poland. Łukasiewicz – Poznań Institute of Technology will be able to raise more funds to finance its activities, e.g. for research, infrastructure modernization or talent development programmes. Combined competences from multiple disciplines increase the new entity's chances in European programmes and open up opportunities to advance in many commercialization areas.
BSB963-Protecting streams for a clean Black Sea by reducing sediment and litter pollution with joint innovative monitoring and control tools and nature-based practices

The project (with the acronym “Protect-Streams-4-Sea”) has a diverse partnership with partners from Greece, Romania, Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Turkey. The overall objective of the project is the environmental protection and reduction of pollutants and litter in Black Sea. This will be done by focusing on the inland pollutants and litter, specifically those that originated from the watersheds, are transported by the rivers that eventually end in the Black Sea. This includes a joint monitoring program on pollutants and litter to promote the coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction through the adoption of best management practices. The project will lead to sustainable growth and improve the welfare of the people of the region. The project has parallel activities in each country so each partner will perform the same methodologies in a different pilot area. The pilot areas are five different waterbodies with unique characteristics and are distributed in the five participated countries: a) Aggitis River Basin in Greece, b) Buzau River Basin and Siriu Reservoir in Romania, c) Debed River Basin in Armenia, d) Baltata River Basin in Moldova and e) Arhavi River Basin in Turkey (see Figure). The project is financed by the European Union through European Neighborhood Instrument (ENI) - Cross-border cooperation (CBC) - in the frame of the Joint Operational Programme BLACK SEA BASIN 2014-2020, Priority 2. Promote coordination of environmental protection and joint reduction of marine litter in the Black Sea Basin. Specific Objective 2.1 Improve joint environmental monitoring.

Figure. The pilot areas of the project: a) Aggitis River Basin in Greece, b) Buzau River Basin and Siriu Reservoir in Romania, c) Debed River Basin in Armenia, d) Baltata River Basin in Moldova and e) Arhavi River Basin in Turkey

Follow Protect-Streams-4-Sea on social! For more information please visit the Project’s website or send an email to protectstreams4sea@gmail.com! We are happy to meet you and join to our Neighborhood Network!
PEFC announces the Photographer of the Year

Last month, PEFC has announced the 2021 PEFC Photographer of the Year, chosen from 5000 photos entered into the ‘Experience Forests, Experience PEFC’ photo contest. The Award went to Vitalii Popkov for his image ‘The Man and the Forest’, taken in Zamagora Verkhovyna, Ukraine. The photo shows a man taking wood out of the forest with a horse.

“This photo is interesting for me, because it is like a window in the portal of time. Looking at it, you are immersed somewhere in the middle of the twentieth century, at least,” Vitalii explained.

“In general, forests have a powerful, even magical effect on me and my work.”

“The winning photo is amazing and timeless,” PEFC CEO Ben Gunneberg commented. “Harvesting wood with horses is becoming more common again, especially for small forest owners, bringing back an old tradition.”

The finalists and the winning image were presented on Facebook Live, where a photographer shared what makes the photo so special from a photography point of view, and why the jury chose it as the winner.

“The use of black and white in this photo is admirable, because it removes distraction from anything, except the subject. The white background created by the snow brings the man, his horse and the log out towards the viewer,” he explained.

Learn more

Best Use of Certified Timber Prize – WAF and PEFC announce the winner

The World Architecture Festival and PEFC have awarded the Best Use of Certified Timber Prize: Scion Innovation Hub, Te Whare Nui o Tuteata by RTA Studio/Irving Smith Architects.

Located in New Zealand, Scion Innovation Hub was chosen as the most outstanding of the eight shortlisted projects from around the world.
Proudly showcasing PEFC-certified timber in a unique diagrid structure, the building requires less material than traditional mass engineered timber buildings. The judges highlighted the focus of the project, away from gravity mass timber buildings to geometrically stiffened forms to help in earthquake conditions.

The project is a reinvention of the headquarter building of Scion, a Crown Research Institute that specialises in technology development for the forestry industry.

The project is named after Tuteata, an ancestor of the three local Māori subtribes. Three peaks in glulam timber standing proud and tall at the entrance represent the three subtribes.

"Scion Innovation Hub pays tribute to the local indigenous community and its history, as well as being a forestry research centre. Both are aligned with PEFC's principles around community respect and continuous innovation," highlighted PEFC Deputy CEO Michael Berger.

The building achieved embodied carbon zero at the time of completion, making it a cutting-edge showcase for engineered timber, not only in terms of the aesthetic but also what it contributes to a carbon-zero future.

The jury honoured Microlibrary Warak Kayu by SHAU Indonesia with a highly commended prize.

Learn more

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**Eduardo Rojas Briales elected as new PEFC Chair**

Eduardo Rojas Briales, former Assistant Director-General and Head of the Forestry Department at FAO and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, was elected the new Chairman of PEFC International at the 26th PEFC General Assembly.

"The past years have seen forests being put at the centre of key global debates, especially in combating climate change," said Mr Rojas Briales, following his election.

"This unprecedented fact provides huge opportunities to share broadly the expertise accrued in the PEFC family with key stakeholders in these deliberations."

"Although PEFC’s main instrument is certification, its mission and grounding values are much broader and go much further. Bottom up, locally anchored forest management by families, communities, or indigenous peoples, as well as by other private and public players, is the backbone of PEFC. There is no other organization world-wide that represents the forest community in an integrated manner like the PEFC."

"As a forest owner representative, a university professor teaching international forest politics, and a former Assistant Director-General of the FAO, Eduardo brings with him the knowledge and skills needed in today’s policy debates to amplify the role of sustainable forest management in tackling some of society's greatest climate challenges," said Ben Gunneberg, PEFC International CEO.

"Eduardo is keen to ensure the connection between the 'on the ground solution providers' in their forests and the local rural communities in which they live, together with all the actors along the supply chain, with the key political decision makers seeking solutions to the world's challenges, to ensure policy makers make the right decisions."

Learn more

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PEFC Spain celebrated the European Forest Week talking about the future of forests

Conferences, meetings, and dialogues were held in support to the European Forest Week involving all the forest sector to underline the role of forests for the green recovery.

During the European Forest Week, PEFC Spain organized the cycle of activities related to "The Future of Forests" and raise awareness of the current and the future needs of the forest sector in terms of sustainable forest management and certification. On Thursday 25th, it took place the meeting "The role of the active forester in forest management" to highlight the role of forests and sustainable forest management and its importance in the circular bioeconomy. In addition, videos and short films of the forest sector were shown to feed a productive debate among attendants and make relevant the people behind the forest management and their demands.

Some of the most interesting considerations were focused on the need to make forests profitable, to plan and give access to certification to the small properties and forest owners in response to the growing demand of certified product. In addition, throughout the day, PEFC Spain awarded the forest owners, holders of the regional PEFC certificate for their commitment to sustainable forest management.

On Friday 26th, the 71st Board of Directors of PEFC Spain discussed the different aspects of PEFC forest certification, its current situation, and the progress and future actions to face the challenges of the European Green Deal including the regulation on deforestation-free products, which affects forest products imported and exported from the EU.

To close the cycle of activities, there was the PEFC Forum "The forestry sector in the green recovery. Application of the Next Generation EU funds", in which the General Directors of Environment, Forestry, Biodiversity and Forestry Policy of some of the...
Spanish Autonomous Communities presented their forecasts and strategies in the application of these funds for green employment and green recovery. The forum was opened by Juan Carlos Suárez-Quiñones, Regional Minister of Development and Environment of the Regional Government of Castilla y León, who said: "The future is in the forests", a clear conclusion to drive sustainable management and PEFC certification as a solution for the climate change mitigation.

For any further information, please contact comunicacion@pefc.es // +34 91 591 00 88

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Poplar groves have great potential for production and sustainable development

*Improving PEFC forest certification system in poplar groves will help green recovery*

The Iberian Peninsula has a large range of regenerative and adaptative forest species with capacity to achieve the green recovery. Poplar groves are located, basically, in the basins of the Duero, Ebro and Genil rivers and 2/3 out of them within the region of Castilla y León. They are one of the most efficient forest species due to its high CO2 absorption values. The rapid growth of this species makes it ideal for maximizing CO2 storing and it is key to mitigating climate change: one hectare of poplar trees offsets approximately 11 tons of CO2 per year, which means 165 tons of CO2 per hectare every 15-year rotation.

In a time where decarbonization of the industry towards a forest-based bioeconomy is a need, poplars offer resources for a sustainable development. Likewise, in terms of population, it is estimated that 2 jobs are generated for every 2 hectares of poplar
groves management, so that it contributes directly to the demographic challenge by creating a stable, profitable, and sustainable socioeconomic context. It should be noted that the timber construction industry is growing, demanding more and more sustainably sourced wood. In this sense, poplars meet this demand, but they also have the competitive advantage of being a resource that can be used in its entirety, from the wood itself to plywood or bioenergy or even for recycling, so its use is very efficient.

In this context, PEFC forest certification plays a fundamental role in the sustainable management of these forests by ensuring environmental, social, and economic indicators and requirements which are necessary for the green recovery. In Spain there are 12,409 PEFC-certified hectares of poplar groves and 15 industries entitled with the PEFC Chain of Custody certification, making possible an economic growth with guarantees of sustainability and traceability. In this way, if poplar groves are managed responsibly, they have a great potential for turning into a strategic sector.

There are several projects running to promote the recovery of poplar groves in Spain. For example, LIFE Wood for Future, led by the Confederation of Spanish sylvicultors (COSE) is being carried out in the poplar groves of Vega de Granada (South of Spain). Its purpose is to mitigate climate change through sustainable forest management and to promote biodiversity and carbon sequestration in the long term. It aims to create a carbon credit market based on structural bioproducts, as well as to support and facilitate bureaucratic procedures for its achievement. This will be the driving force for the positioning of a sector that has much to offer.

Supporting poplar groves enhances their great environmental benefits, maintains the socio-economic activity of their hydrographic areas, and promotes an efficient industry which avoids rural depopulation.

For more information: comunicacion@pefc.es

If you want to read more news about PEFC and subscribe to our Newsletter, click HERE.

FSC is a robust certification scheme to complement EUTR due diligence according to new study

According to a report written by Preferred by Nature for the EU Commission, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification scheme is a robust tool to support Operators in meeting the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR) due diligence (DD) requirements. The findings show that FSC certification covers 90% of the criteria assessed by the study, either fully or partially – scoring highly in areas of quality assurance, risk-based approach to sourcing, stakeholder consultation and transparency.

FSC Applauds EU’s Pathway towards Deforestation-Free Products

“We know from our experience that mandatory approaches and voluntary ones are not mutually exclusive – but rather mutually supportive. FSC is ready to work further with the EU Institutions and governments across Europe to ensure that this regulation can make a real difference on the ground. FSC certification can play a role in the implementation of this regulation, as one of the most widely used tools,” says Kim Carstensen, FSC’s Director General.


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FSC Works to Address Sanitary Logging Issues in Russia

Two important events have taken place in Russia related to sanitary logging: the Russian FSC Forum and a practical field seminar for auditors and other parties involved in certification held by FSC Russia and Greenpeace Russia. In the meantime, ongoing investigations have led to the blockage of companies trading illegally-harvested sanitary timber. A special task force has reviewed the regulatory framework to ensure more detailed checks will cover this aspect.


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Green Jobs in the forest sector grows

The forest sector has an important mission to sustainably manage natural resources. And the most important actors to achieve this goal are the sector’s workers. There have been several outcomes related to Green Jobs recently. First, the release of the report Trends in forest-related employment and tertiary education: insights from selected key countries around the globe report by EFI-IFSA-IUFRO, then FOREST EUROPE kicked-off the webinar series From the roots to the canopy with How the heck did I end up here? in collaboration with IFSA during the European Forest Week, and finally, the FOREST
EUROPE Expert Group (subject matter experts appointed by signatories) met at the beginning of December to discuss the work plan for the upcoming years inspired by a questionnaire sent by the Secretariat. This event was also the perfect framework to have a preview of the ongoing report in cooperation with the Thünen Institute on the current situation of Green Jobs in the pan-European forest sector; and to introduce the upcoming Grow Green Jobs campaign. If you wish to read more and join the campaign, follow us on social media (do not miss our new Instagram account).
PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES

Forest Products Annual Market Review, 2020-2021

This publication provides general and statistical information on forest products markets in 2020 and early 2021 in the UN Economic Commission for Europe region (North America; Europe; and the Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian subregion), as well as market influences from outside the UNECE region. Written by leading market experts, it highlights the trends and policies affecting forest product markets. Numerous graphs illustrating trends and an extensive statistical annex and trade flow analysis accompany the publication.

The publication is available [here](https://example.com).

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Release of Forest Sector Outlook Study, 2020-2040

The joint UNECE-FAO Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020 –2040 was launched during Foresta2021. The first publication of its kind to cover the entire UNECE region, the study provides a holistic, evidence-based policy tool to support a sustainable balance between forest conservation and production.

The study applies detailed scenario modelling to address six key policy questions that focus on the structure of the global forest market and the anticipated impacts of climate change, which were developed in close consultation with industry stakeholders.

The study finds that increased production of sustainable wood-based products to substitute emissions-intensive materials in textile manufacturing and wood construction is projected to be nearly carbon neutral, as changes in the forest carbon sink counterbalance avoided emissions from other sectors. Yet, for the region’s forests to sustain multiple functions to sequester carbon and produce substitute products, complex trade-offs must be made.

The study provides transparent, objective analysis to support UNECE member states to navigate these trade-offs while maximizing the potential for innovation and recognizing the central role that forests play in the global carbon equation.

Read the Forest Sector Outlook Study 2020 –2040 [here](https://example.com).
Two large-scale forest scenario modelling approaches for reporting CO2 removal: a comparison for the Romanian forests.

An article by Viorel N. B. Blujdea, Richard Sikkema, Ioan Dutca and Gert-Jan Nabuurs

Background: Forest carbon models are recognized as suitable tools for the reporting and verification of forest carbon stock and stock change, as well as for evaluating the forest management options to enhance the carbon sink provided by sustainable forestry. However, given their increased complexity and data availability, different models may simulate different estimates. Here, we compare carbon estimates for Romanian forests as simulated by two models (CBM and EFISCEN) that are often used for evaluating the mitigation options given the forest-management choices.

Results: The models, calibrated and parameterized with identical or harmonized data, derived from two successive national forest inventories, produced similar estimates of carbon accumulation in tree biomass. According to CBM simulations of carbon stocks in Romanian forests, by 2060, the merchantable standing stock volume will reach an average of 377 m³ ha⁻¹, while the carbon stock in tree biomass will reach 76.5 tC ha⁻¹. The EFISCEN simulations produced estimates that are about 5% and 10%, respectively, lower. In addition, 10% stronger biomass sink was simulated by CBM, whereby the difference reduced over time, amounting to only 3% toward 2060.

Conclusions: This model comparison provided valuable insights on both the conceptual and modelling algorithms, as well as how the quality of the input data may affect calibration and projections of the stock and stock change in the living biomass pool. In our judgement, both models performed well, providing internally consistent results. Therefore, we underline the importance of the input data quality and the need for further data sampling and model improvements, while the preference for one model or the other should be based on the availability and suitability of the required data, on preferred output variables and ease of use.

Keywords: CBM-CFS3, Data harmonization, EFISCEN, Forest sink, NFI, Romania, Forests available for wood supply

The study is available here.

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New Focus Report Series from WRI and O'Kelly Acumen - 2021

Wood Resources International and O'Kelly Acumen have launched the "Focus Report Series" to provide quick and digestible insights into the most significant topics shaping today's global forest industries.

Regional market interruptions, unexpected political decisions, and financial uncertainties are increasingly impacting forest products markets both close to and far away from the epicenters of such events. The analyses in the Focus Reports are centered around reliable and current market information about the rapid changes in forest products demand, industry production, forest resource utilization, trade flows, and regional competitiveness.

The choice of topics for the Focus Reports is based on current events, both regional and worldwide, that significantly impact the usage of the world's forest resources and forest industry production.

Those who stand to benefit the most from the Focus Reports:

Producers of lumber, pulp, and wood pellets
Traders of forest products
Forest owners and timberland investors
Suppliers of equipment and technology to the forest industry
Companies in the logistics sectors
**Focus Report Facts:**

Regions covered: Worldwide

Products: Timber, Lumber, Logs, Wood Chips, Wood Pellets and Pulp

Number of reports per year: 5-6

Number of pages in each report: 60-80

Price per report: varies with report, ranges between US$1750 - US$1950

**Recent reports in 2021:**

- Russian Log Export Ban in 2022 - Implications to the Global Forest Industry
- European Pellet Outlook: Where will the raw material come from?
- Global Lumber Market - The Growing Role of European Lumber

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**Focus Report Series**

Hot topics in global forest industries

**New reports released in 2021**

**LOG TRADE**

**Russian log export ban in 2022**

*Implications for the global forest industry*

Russia has been a leading log exporter for decades and this may come to an end in 2022. A proposed export ban will have immediate impact on global trade flows of logs and lumber. China will be forced to explore new supply regions. Russia will strive to process the logs domestically into lumber and other forest products. This report highlights Russia’s major trade partners and the likely changes in global forest products trade as a consequence of the Russian log export ban.

**BIOENERGY**

**European wood pellets outlook**

*Where will the raw material come from?*

Europe is the largest market for wood pellets globally and will grow strongly to 2030 with EU renewable energy targets – requiring mobilization of new sources of wood raw materials, such as forest residues, recovered wood, and wood energy crops. This report provides a view on how the industry can source sufficient raw materials, the cost and potential of alternative materials, and the implications for suppliers, pellet buyers, and adjacent industries.

**LUMBER**

**Global lumber markets**

*The growing role of European lumber*

Global softwood lumber markets are in flux with growing supply shortages and price fly-ups. This report examines the forces driving tightness of global lumber markets, including the demand outlook in the US and China, and supply potential from Europe and other regions – including the outlook for European sawmill capacity, sawlog supply, and sawmill margins. It also summarizes the implications of tighter lumber markets for all players in the value chain.

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For more information, visit [www.woodprices.com/focus-report-series](http://www.woodprices.com/focus-report-series)

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European wood pellets outlook. Where will the raw material come from?

(Wood Resources International Focus Report series)

Focus Report series - Hot topics in global forest industries

European wood pellets outlook
Where will the raw material come from?
March 2021

Europe is the largest market for wood pellets globally and is set to grow much larger by 2030 as the EU raises its ambitions for renewable energy supply. This will drive tighter raw material markets and require mobilization of new sources of wood raw materials, such as forest residues, recovered wood, and wood energy crops. This Focus Report provides a view on how the European pellet industry can source sufficient raw materials, the cost and potential of alternative materials, and the implications for suppliers, pellet buyers, and adjacent industries.

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Example exhibits
EU targets for greenhouse gas emission reductions and renewable energy

Raw material mix in the European pellet industry, by country

European energy sector’s biomass demand and growth by region and plant type
Questions the report helps answer

- How is European demand for bioenergy and pellets specifically likely to grow in coming 5-10 years?
- In what bioenergy segments are pellets used, how will that develop?
- What is the raw material mix for pellet manufacture in Europe, and how could that change?
- What is the cost and availability of current and potential raw materials for pellet manufacture?
- What drivers raw material supply and cost?
- What implications will tighter raw material markets have for suppliers (e.g., forest owners, sawmills,) pellet manufacturers and consumers – as well as panel and pulp industries?

Who the report is most relevant for

- Suppliers of raw materials, e.g., forest owners/operators, sawmills, recyclers
- Pellet manufacturers in Europe, and in other regions exporting to Europe
- Players in adjacent industries, especially pulp & paper and wood-based panels
- Wood pellets buyers in Europe and globally
- Other consumers of bioenergy, e.g., dedicated biomass plants
- Investors in forestry, pellets, and bioenergy
- Analysts, consultants, financial institutions and industry associations

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Recent report: Russian log export ban in 2022 – Implications for the global forest industry.

Example exhibits

Untapped supply of recovered wood by region

Most untapped supply of recovered wood is in <region> and <region>

Cost structure of different forest residue types

Costs for <residue type> are lower than <residue types> because <difference in cost drivers>

Pellet production costs with different raw materials

Switching to alternative feedstocks such as <material> will cost more than current <material> costs, but cheaper than <material>

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Global lumbermarkets. The growing role of European lumber
(Wood Resources International Focus Report series)

Global lumber markets
The growing role of European lumber
June 2021

Global softwood lumber markets are in flux with growing supply shortages. While current price spikes are temporary, we expect permanently higher than normal prices for many years to come. This report examines the forces driving tightness of global lumber markets, including the demand outlook in the US and China, and supply potential from Europe and other regions – including the outlook for European sawmill capacity, sawlog supply, and sawmill margins. It also summarizes the implications of tighter lumber markets for all players in the value chain.

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5. Growing role of European exports
   - European lumber market balance over time
   - European lumber exports by source and destination
   - Sawmill capacity outlook
   - Sawlog supply potential
   - Price and margins development
   - European sawmill cost structure and outlook
6. Implications for global markets
   - Overview of implications throughout value chain
   - Examples of impact on log and residue markets, forest owner returns, sawmill technology and product innovation.

Example exhibits
Global softwood lumber demand development by region.

US softwood lumber demand by market segment and 2021 forecast.

Global softwood lumber trade flows in 2020, largest importers and exporters.
What next for tropical forest products?

If Europe sourced 100% verified sustainable tropical timber products, it would have positively impacted over 16 million hectares of semi and natural tropical forests and reduced CO2 emissions significantly in 2020. These are key findings from the latest study ‘Europe’s sourcing of verified tropical timber and its impact on forests: What Next?’, a third in a series, commissioned by IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative. This new study analyses the level of verified sustainable tropical timber imports and extends the recommendations that go beyond increasing demand for verified sustainable timber products.

The research, conducted by forest and timber sustainability advisors Stichting Probos and the Global Timber Forum, concludes that despite growing competition from less challenging markets, the European market remains the global leader in demanding verified sustainable timber products. With the 2020 dip in import levels expected to return to pre-Covid levels, Europe remains a stable market for tropical products. Mark van Benthem, Director of Probos: “Only 31 - 36% of Europe’s tropical timber imports are estimated to be exposed to certification of sustainable forest management and 30% to legality verification issued by a third party or a FLEGT-license. If 100% verified sustainable was demanded, it could have positively impacted over 16 million hectares of tropical forests and reduce CO2 emissions by at least 88 million metric tons in 2020.”

As deforestation has remained high in recent decades, the recommendations, highlight the need to add value to forests, such as improving competitiveness of tropical producers, and increasing the attractiveness of the European market to encourage producers to improve their forest management.

Willem Klaassens, Director of Markets & SourceUp at IDH, summarized, “For over two decades there have been measures to address deforestation, certification clearly has benefits and demand-side regulations, and policies are making an impact, yet we are still losing forests. With a recent promise of additional climate finance, increasing regulations aimed at deforestation-free commodities and newly emerging landscape approaches we call on governments, industry, environmental groups, and civil society to recognize the advantages and limitations of all measures, share lessons learned and honestly debate what is next for tropical forests?”

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Manual for Forest Genetic Monitoring

The impact of climate change on forest ecosystems has been recognised worldwide and its negative consequences are already visible. It has also been acknowledged that biodiversity at all levels helps forests to cope with climate change and other threats. The fundamental level of biodiversity - genetic diversity of forest trees is the basis of the long-term evolutionary processes, maintaining the adaptive potential of forests.

To an extent, the importance of genetic resources is reflected in EU policies. They, together with the new Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe (GenRes Bridge), and the Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe (EUFORGEN), provide a framework for effective genetic resources conservation and sustainable use in the region. In addition, a tool to assess information on genetic variation of forest tree populations in time is available within the Forest Genetic Monitoring system. A wide range of partners on international, regional, national, and local levels have developed and tested this system within the LIFEGENMON project. To facilitate the wide-scale implementation, the Manual for Forest Genetic Monitoring was prepared, including scientific procedures for the implementation of forest genetic monitoring, practice-oriented policy recommendations, and management guidelines.

To facilitate the fieldwork related to the implementation of forest genetic monitoring, dedicated Guidelines were prepared for seven European tree species and species complexes which are also available as stand-alone documents.

Electronic versions of the manual and the guidelines are available in four languages:

English:  http://doi.org/10.20315/SFS.167
Slovenian:  http://dx.doi.org/10.20315/SFS.168
German:  http://dx.doi.org/10.20315/SFS.172
Greek:  http://dx.doi.org/10.20315/SFS.177
Catalogue of Virgin and Quasi–Virgin Forests of Romania

In 2012, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (MoEWF) adopted the Ministerial Order (M.O.) no. 3397 that established the criteria and indicators of virgin and quasi-virgin forests from Romania.

The virgin forest is that type of forest that was formed and developed exclusively under the action of natural factors and in which ecosystem processes and their dynamics occur without any direct or indirect anthropogenic influence.

The quasi-virgin forest is a previously virgin forest which, meanwhile, has undergone observable anthropogenic changes but not significant in terms of structure, forest site conditions and ecosystem processes.

Four years later, the same authority (i.e. MoEWF) adopted the Ministerial Order (M.O.) no. 2525/2016 that established the Catalogue of Virgin and Cvasi-Virgin Forests of Romania. Based on this normative act, ALL forests that are included in the Catalogue are strictly protected.

The inclusion of the forests into the Catalogue is a participatory one and it is done based on studies conducted by forest engineers, ecologists, representatives of academia and research institutes, environmental NGOs in a strong collaboration with the forest owners and managers and the forest guards. Nowadays, the catalogue includes more than 62,600 hectares distributed across the country, mainly along the Carpathians. The process is still ongoing, several studies being under review at the MoEWF.

UPCOMING EVENTS
Forestry Faculty in Skopje is celebrating the 75th anniversary in 2022

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT: INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

75 YEARS of the HANS EM
FACULTY OF FOREST SCIENCES, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

Better forestry, for better forests, for a better planet.

DATE: 15th - 16th JUNE 2022
LOCATION: SKOPJE, REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Dedicated to the 75th Anniversary of the Hans Em Faculty of Forest Sciences, Landscape Architecture and Environmental Engineering (HEF), the international scientific conference “Better forestry, for better forests, for a better planet”, will take place on June 15th-16th, 2022 in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia.

Web page: www.sf.ukim.edu.mk/75HEF Predicted format: hybrid (on-line and in presence)
Aim & Scope

Already deep into the 21-st Century, well over 150 years since the first scientific evidence for the heat-trapping potential of CO₂, over 50 years since the initial alarms by climate scientists about climate change, and 30 years after the consensus that anthropogenic emissions are the cause of global warming, humanity still seems to be dumbfound and locked into inertia, as far away as ever from any meaningful and coordinated global endeavour to tackle the climate crisis.

Yet, the Global Climate Crisis is not the only civilization-threatening problem. The 6th great extinction of species; land erosion and soil loss; air, water and soil pollution; emergence of invasive species, all fall within this category of threats for civilization as we know it. All these processes and phenomena, along with many more, have one common thread - forests and forestry.

Is this clue aplenty enough for us to realize that this sector is a defining one, if not the most important in the resolution of the ongoing cataclysm human civilization has brought upon life on Earth?

Our Conference is foreseen as a platform for researchers in all areas of forestry, landscape architecture, environmental engineering and management, as well as related sciences, to present their latest findings and results. All research in these domains, by definition falls within the scopes of the conference and can serve as a topic for further discussions and debates, during its lifetime, and beyond.

Therefore, we are inviting authors to submit abstracts covering topics within the following broader subjects:

- Biodiversity and conservation;
- Environmental aspects of urban greenery/forestry;
- Forests and climate change;
- Forests and the environment;
- Forests and the landscape;
- Forests and water;
- Forest ecology;
- Forest governance;
- Forest health and protection (pathology, entomology, wildfires);
- Forest management;
- Forest techniques and operations;
- Forest wildlife and game;
The working language for all aspects of the conference (oral presentations, posters, abstracts, communications) is English.

**KEY DATES**

| Deadline for submission of title and statement of preference for ORAL PRESENTATION or POSTER | March 1st, 2022 |
| Deadline for ABSTRACT submission | April 20th, 2022 |
| Optional deadline for submission of digital format of posters and video presentations (in case of an online or hybrid conference format, due to Covid-19 circumstances) | May 15th, 2022 |
| Early registration (Regular fee) | February 15th - April 1st, 2022 |
| Late registration (Late fee) | until June 1st, 2022 |

The Book of abstracts will be published in English, prior to the conference.

**Registration fee:**

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* Students (graduate, postgraduate and doctoral) are eligible for a 50% discount.

The registration fee covers conference materials, coffee breaks and the jubilee cocktail party.

All correspondence for the conference will be done via:

75HEF@sf.ukim.edu.mk

For more details and up-coming announcements please use the following link:

www.sf.ukim.edu.mk/75HEF

With regards,

Dean

Prof. Dr. sc Kiril Sotirovski

Skopje, October, 2021
Important updates for the XV World Forestry Congress

The XV World Forestry Congress has extended the deadline for the early bird registration until **15 January 2022**, and welcomes all stakeholders in the global forest sector and members of the general public interested in forests.

Participants are invited to register [here](#) for special early bird rates.

A financial sponsorship programme has been launched for eligible participants, with priority given to those from low- to middle-income developing countries who would otherwise be unable to attend. Priority will also be given to participants who are session organizers, side event organizers, moderators, panellists, and authors of accepted papers, posters or videos.

The deadline to apply is **31 January 2022** through the following [link](#).

Finally, the Congress would like to announce that the deadline for reserving exhibition booths is **31 December 2021**. Organizations and institutions can book exhibition booths to showcase their policies and projects, present innovative technologies, network, and build partnerships. Various packages are available, and booths can be customized.

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

The host country is working hard to ensure a safe and healthy in-person Congress for all!