

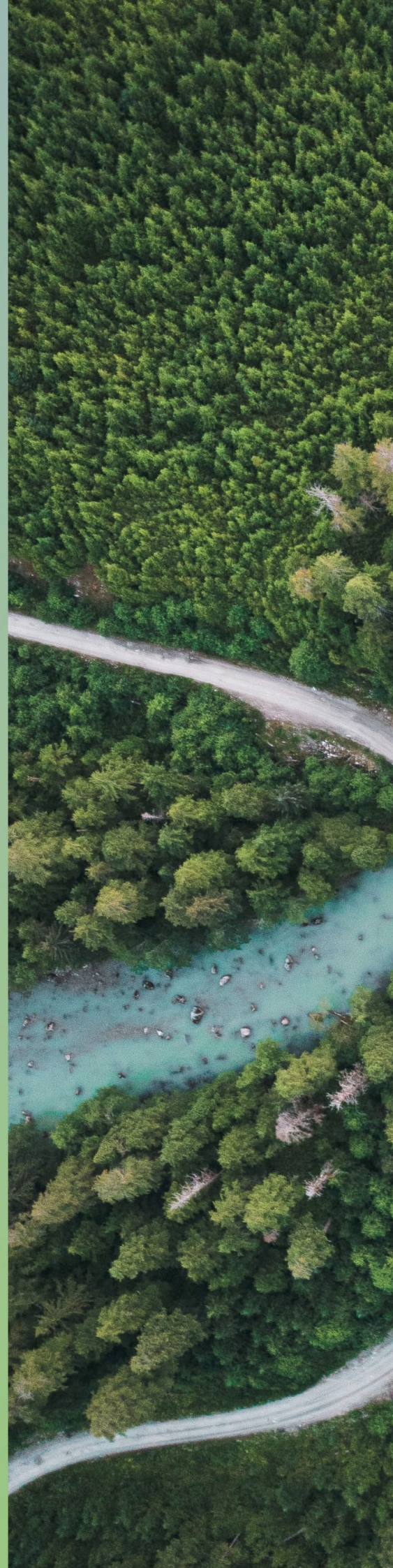
# FOREST INFORMATION BILLBOARD

Issue 1, 2022

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 **[billboard.ece-faoforests@un.org](mailto:billboard.ece-faoforests@un.org)**. 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:

- I. **Today's highlight: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS 2022**
- II. What's new in the UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber section?
- III. Forest community: projects and activities
- IV. Publications, articles, reports, regulatory updates
- V. Upcoming events





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# I. TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS 2022

The event took place virtually on 21 March 2022 between 10:00-12:00 and from 14:00-16:00 CET in EN/FR/RU

## AGENDA

(ENG | FRE | RUS - Zoom)

10:00-12:00

### PART 1 - Fashion

**Opening: Live from Milan with "In the Forest" - a new sustainable fashion collection**



**Simone Cipriani**  
Chair of the UN Alliance  
for Sustainable Fashion  
(moderator)



**Tiziano Guardini**  
Fashion designer  
and winner of the  
Green Carpet Award



**Carlo Covini**  
Project Manager  
Marketing Textiles  
Lenzing AG

**From forest to garment: opportunities for circularity**



**Ana Belén Noriega**  
Secretary-General  
PEFC Spain



**Vinicius Nonino**  
New Business Executive  
Officer, Suzano



**Janne Poranen**  
CEO and co-founder  
Sphinnova Plc.



**Juan Parés Boj**  
CEO  
Textil Santanderina



**Helena Claesson**  
Senior Project Manager  
Södra

**Beyond the garment: sustainability challenges and opportunities**



**Lindita Khafari-Salihi**  
Sector's Engagement Lead  
UN Climate Change



**Katia Vladimirova**  
Senior Research Associate  
University of Geneva

12:00-14:00

### BREAK

14:00-16:00

### PART 2 - Packaging

**Panel 1 – Sustainable paper and paperboard - global trade and e-commerce rely on it!**



**Angela Graham-Brown**  
Forest Solutions Group  
at WBCSD  
(moderator)



**Outi Marin**  
Head of sustainability  
reporting at Smurfit Kappa



**Michel Valois**  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer of  
Valois Vision Marketing



**Rene Eckhart**  
Senior Scientist, Graz  
University of Technology,  
Institute for Biobased Products  
and Paper Technology (TU Graz)

**Panel 2 – Why and how to further replace plastic packaging?**



**Angela Graham-Brown**  
Forest Solutions Group  
at WBCSD  
(moderator)



**Alicia Mateos Cárdenas**  
Postdoctoral Researcher at  
the School of Biological,  
Earth and Environmental Sciences,  
University College Cork, Ireland



**Paula Martinez**  
Senior Specialist,  
Business Development at  
Stora Enso's Innovation  
Centre Biomaterials

**Closing the loop**

Moderated discussion: How the forest sector can further improve the circularity of its products and further reduce the environmental footprint.



International Day of Forests

We live in a time when the effects of climate change and plastic pollution are felt more strongly than ever before. The rise of online shopping and food delivery services allows us to order anything to our door, but with low costs and convenience comes plastics-based fast fashion and high volumes of unrecyclable packaging. Forests are critical to disrupting this "buy, use and dispose" model of linear consumption as well as being key to achieving global climate change mitigation and adaption goals. Forest based fibres can produce innovative fashion and packaging products that will support the transition to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption within a circular bioeconomy.

Within this context, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe marked the International Day of Forests 2022 on 21 March with an online event that focuses on how leaders in the fashion textile and packaging sectors are shaping sustainable relationships between forests and circular production models to reduce carbon emissions, waste and plastics pollution across the global economy.

Experts have shared innovative approaches to embedding the circular economy into supply chains, discussed new ideas and asked critical questions about (over)consumption and our relationship with the natural world such as:

What are the innovative uses of wood fibre-based products in our everyday lives?

How can a sustainable production and consumption of wood products help to decarbonize industries, to transform the way we (re)use resources, and to support the transition towards more sustainable lifestyles?

What are our options for choosing wood wisely while caring for our forests within the context of a rapidly changing climate?

For more information please visit: <https://unece.org/forests/events/international-day-forests-2022>



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

### Forest damage and disturbance project

Disturbance is a natural part of forest ecosystems dynamics. However, at the same time it poses serious threats to humans, environment and infrastructure and it is likely that the frequency and severeness of disturbing events on forests will further accelerate with changes of climate and will threaten the continuous provision of ecosystem services and their current shape.



Photo source: Stefanie Linser

To improve future harmonized intergovernmental reporting the UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management and the Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section initiated a project on the assessment of forest damage reporting in the UNECE region.

The implementation of this project was made possible by the support of Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, and the United States of America.

Beside the publication of a report, a scientific-technical symposium will be held from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 as a hybrid event hosted by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna. The aim of the symposium is to discuss the current situation and challenges, consider options for future cooperation, and to share study results, while raising awareness on the assessment of forest damage and disturbance.

The scientific-technical symposium will include keynote speeches, presentations, panel discussions and a thematic field trip. The proposed thematic sessions are highlighting study results on current national and international reporting of forest damage and disturbance along with methodological and technical innovative aspects.

More information about the symposium can be accessed [here](#)

### The newly-updated FAO Forest Products Classification is now available

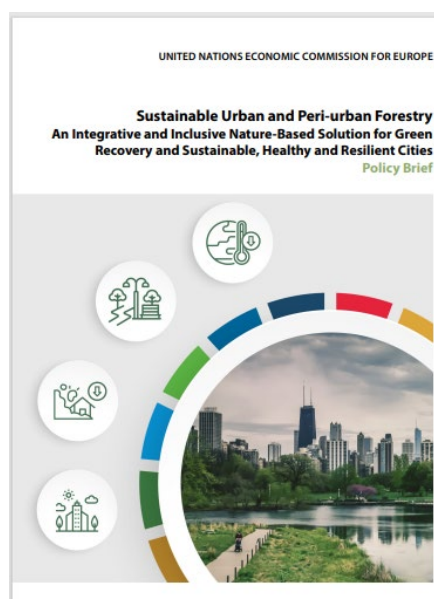


The newly-updated FAO Forest Products Classification is now **available at** <http://www.fao.org/3/cb8216en/cb8216en.pdf>.

The classification takes into account all parts of the tree except needles and leaves; it encompasses the main stem; branches, tops, small branches and twigs; stumps and roots; and bark; and defines their potential processing or uses. Both the present and previous versions of the classification follow the structure of the CE/FAO/Eurostat/ITTO Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire (JFSQ) at the level of sections. In contrast to the previous version, the present edition includes secondary wood and paper products.

Correspondence is provided between the products here and the Harmonised System 2022 and the Central Product Classification version 2.1, as well as with the JFSQ. In addition correspondence with the Standard International Trade Classification Rev. 4, the Classification by Broad Economic Categories Rev. 5, and the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities Rev. 4.





### Just Released: Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry Policy Brief

Urban trees, forests, and green spaces have been increasingly recognized as important components of more liveable, healthy, and resilient cities. Functioning urban ecosystems help clean our air and water and to cool urban heat islands. They also help to support our well-being by shielding us from floods and landslides and providing opportunities for recreation. Indeed, the COVID-19 pandemic has been linked to increased appreciation of urban trees and forests.

A new UNECE policy brief identifies opportunities for action to expand sustainable urban and peri-urban forestry (SUPF) in the UNECE region. SUPF is a cost-effective nature-based solution that provides many ecosystem services and benefits that contribute to sustainable development, climate action, biodiversity conservation, combating land degradation, and disaster risk reduction at the local, national, and global levels.

**Access the policy brief here:**

<https://unece.org/info/publications/pub/365294>

### 43 Session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management – 01-03 June 2022

Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

The annotated agenda and the registration are already available on **the meeting website:** <https://unece.org/info/Forests/events/364263>.

The secretariat will inform registered participants once the full set of meeting documents is available.

**For further details**, please contact the Secretary of the Working Party, [Mr. Florian Steierer](#).

### UNECE Statistical Database update on forestry indicators

The UNECE Statistical Database provides multi-dimensional data of various socio-economic and ecological areas of the UNECE region. The database is maintained by the Statistical Division of the UNECE and contributes to regional SDG indicators monitoring. In addition, the platform includes country profiles and thematic overviews. Data shared cover main areas of development, like transport, economy, population and gender, as well as the set of forest and forest sector indicators.

The Database provides unique opportunity for sharing forest related data among other sectors, and users beyond forest sector. The recent edition of the Database features the renewed set of indicators, covering the whole UNECE region. The Database now shares the comprehensive set of indicators covering the major aspects of forests, their management as well as on forest sector, based on the data shared on the thematic forest knowledge platform - INForest. In addition, the Database comprises a data on forest ownership in the UNECE region. The database is available in Russian and English.

The UNECE Statistical Database is available here: [Statistical Database - United Nations Economic Commission for Europe \(unece.org\)](#). The platform can be accessed here: [INForest \(unece.org\)](#)



### III. FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### FAO helps Serbia restore forest landscapes and achieve land degradation neutrality



Photo: Degraded land in vicinity of Dimitrovgrad, Serbia  
Source: Nenad Petrovic, Faculty of Forestry, Belgrade, Serbia

In December 2021, FAO started implementing a new project in Serbia in the support of forests. Activities have the primary objective to promote forest landscape restoration and land degradation neutrality practices for prioritized landscapes, as well as to establish support mechanisms for achieving and monitoring land degradation neutrality. The project also prepares the ground for an envisaged Green Climate Fund initiative that will upscale successful forest landscape restoration practices and contribute to Serbia's commitment to increase forest cover.

Appropriate forest landscape restoration investments will be selected and adapted to the specific biophysical and socioeconomic situations of the land users through a participatory process. The development of support mechanisms, incentives, policy instruments, and inter-sectoral planning tools at different levels will ensure the long-term continuation of the project and the sustainability of achievements. Additionally, the impact of these practices on ecosystem services and local livelihoods will be evaluated, monitored, and documented to provide a knowledge base for continued support and help the country report on land degradation neutrality achievements.

The newly launched FAO project will pay special attention to the low social status of women in rural areas and address the gender knowledge gap. Specifically, progress towards gender equality will be supported through knowledge transfer on forest-related businesses, including those led by women, as well as through partnerships and community-led initiatives focusing on income diversification and job creation via forest landscape restoration. Additionally, the project will foster the establishment of women organisations and cooperatives, and create incentives for women entrepreneurs in forestry and related sectors.

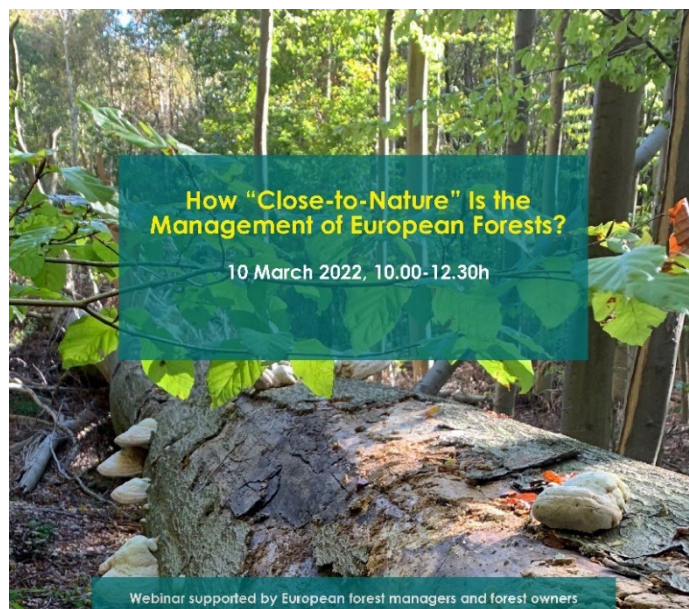
#### How "Close-to-Nature" Is the Management of European Forests?

To pursue a balanced discussion around the topic of "closer-to-nature" forestry, the representatives of European forest managers and owners (CEPF and EUSTAFOR) organised an expert webinar to discuss the question: "How 'close-to-nature' is the management of European forests?" The key aims were to clarify what could be meant by "close(r)-to-nature" forest management and what the best strategy could be for the future of EU forests: active protection or passive conservation.

The event was held on Thursday 10 March 2022 and gathered high-level research experts, from a broad range of European regions, together with over 200 participants.

The invited experts provided data on the current state of European forests and discussed the future opportunities and actions needed to ensure their long-term health and resilience. The great diversity of forest types found throughout Europe makes it necessary to include a variety of approaches and measures, at both EU and national levels.

Today, sustainable forest management in Europe offers a great diversity of silvicultural approaches which imitate natural processes. Therefore, it is crucial to better explain the forest management practices that are currently applied in Europe to be able to assess them when comparing them to what can be defined as "close(r)-to-nature" forestry in each and every local condition.





European forest owners and managers hope this webinar will serve as a stepping stone in the further debate on “close(r)-to-nature” forestry.

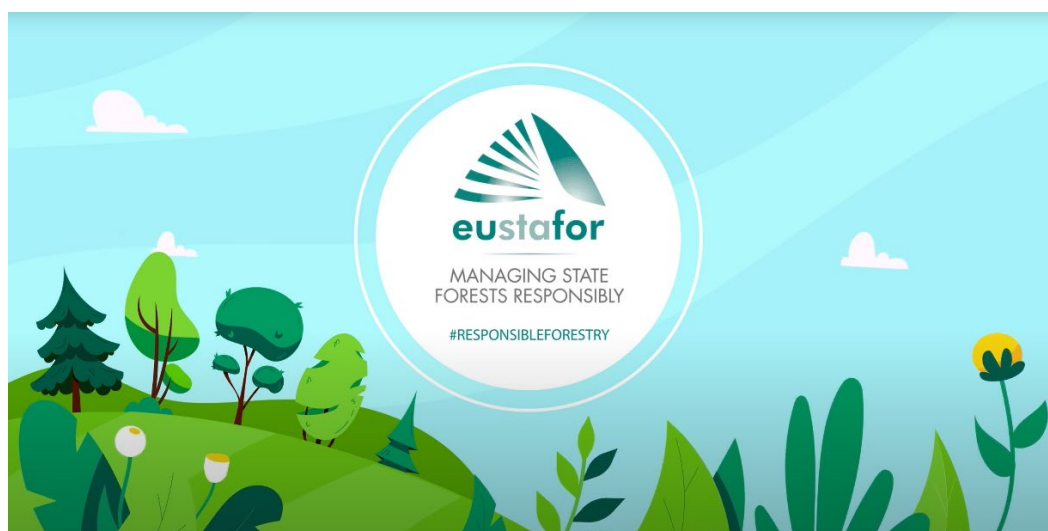
**More information and recording:** <https://eustafor.eu/event/how-close-to-nature-is-the-management-of-european-forests/>

**PR:** <https://eustafor.eu/how-close-to-nature-is-the-management-of-european-forests/>

### #ResponsibleForestry campaign –

#### Responsibly managing Europe’s most precious resource

EUSTAFOR launched its new communication campaign #ResponsibleForestry. The first video “Sustainable Forest Management 101” explaining the main principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is available [here](#).



For decades European State Forest Management Organizations have managed their forests responsibly and sustainably, growing forests to produce wood, protect nature, provide green spaces for the citizens of Europe and help tackle climate change.

In recent times, more attention has been paid to forests and the many benefits they deliver to society. In an environment of ever-increasing climate change concerns, biodiversity emergencies and increased use of the outdoors by the public, the demand on forests have never been higher, but equally the opportunities for well managed forests have never been greater.

Forestry professionals across Europe have embraced the multifunctionality of forests and manage their forests to deliver multiple benefits. This multifunctionality approach, driven by sustainability should guide all forest policies, supporting the development of a new European bioeconomy, delivering ecosystem services and pivoting the European market towards a new and correct post-fossil economy. We therefore call for forest-related policies to recognise and safeguard the multiple functions of forests and balance the different priorities within the sector.

#ResponsibleForestry represents the European state forests’ understanding on how to manage forests for a future-fit Europe.

**Read the full Press Release** [here](#).

### The Fire Triangle

The United States West Coast is currently under severe drought, with longer and more devastating fire seasons. Unfortunately, 2022 won't be an exception! We are concerned citizens urging actions to protect our forests and communities from catastrophic wildfires.



The solution is as simple as elementary science. Oxygen, heat, and fuel are part of the Fire Triangle. Take any of these components away to extinguish the fire. If we remove the fuel from the equation, we have a chance to manage and prevent wildfires in our forests.

Unfortunately, 30 years of ineffective forest management and fire suppression created a massive fuel build-up in our region. We need resilient forests against natural threats such as the bark beetle, drought, and heatwaves. We support actions to reduce the overpopulation of unhealthy trees in our forests.



Citizens for Sensible Forest Management aims to build awareness among our fellow citizens and gain government leaders' attention on pragmatic forest management. As a non-partisan group, we are interested in hearing from other organizations that share our mission and views. We invite everyone to join us in our mission.

**More information:** <https://csfm.net/> **Contact us:** [contact@csfm.net](mailto:contact@csfm.net)

Thank you for your support!

### Catch the Carbon programme has funded over 100 R&D&I projects in Finland

Finnish government's "Catch the Carbon" programme contains a good number of climate measures concerning agriculture, forestry and land use changes. The climate actions taking place in the sector need to be based on scientific evidence, developed in extensive cooperation with stakeholders and have a wide acceptance in the sector. In addition, all this must be done in a sustainable way taking into account environmental, social, and economical sustainability, as well as biodiversity.

To ensure all this, over 100 research, development and innovation projects have been funded as a part of Catch the Carbon programme. These projects create new knowledge on climate sustainable solutions for forestry and agriculture, engage stakeholders and actors in land use sector as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sinks and reservoirs. Variety of these projects have a "strong practical applicability" and they closely engage stakeholders to their project. These projects unite practitioners in a positive way and also enhance co-operation between public and private actors: Farmers, forest owners, businesses, NGO's, cities and communities, and citizens. Special emphasis is put on communication, interaction and competence to build better and strong implementation of climate-smart forestry and agriculture practices. For example, nudging is studied as a mean to enhance sustainable land use and food systems.



**Find out more from our website:** <https://mmm.fi/en/climate-plan-for-the-land-use-sector>.

### CEIB Press Release: The wood industries engaged for a transition pathway for a resilient, greener and more digital construction ecosystem



*We are a responsible Industry*

Brussels, 28 February 2022

*"If we want to keep the effects of man-made climate change to within tolerable limits, we need to choose materials and products with a strong benefit, when looking at the complete environmental impact and performance."* said Dr Andrew Norton, Technical Advisor of the European Wood Industries (CEI-Bois and EOS). Buildings generate approximately 40% of global emissions therefore we must make substantial changes to the way we design, build, and manage our built environment.

The potential climate benefits of wood products are numerous: they offer solutions based on existing business models and proven technology which simultaneously store carbon and substitute fossil resources, thus diminishing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by the global building stock. Wood is a versatile and aesthetic building material that can store large quantities of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> above the earth's surface easily and without risk. The beams in medieval timbered houses in many European cities bear witness to the resource efficiency of these "CO<sub>2</sub>sinks".

The manufacturing and construction process is responsible for embodied greenhouse gas emissions before buildings are occupied, and when they reach the end of their service life. A corresponding possible action for the construction ecosystem is to reduce embodied emissions in design and construction practices, including at the stage of manufacturing of construction products.

It is therefore crucial that building materials have a low overall impact on the environment, which can also result in significantly lower production costs. Materials should also help with reducing across the whole life cycle, and this should be properly accounted for through an appropriate life cycle assessment (LCA), such as the dynamic LCA

methodology. In addition to measuring the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> stored in construction materials and products, this



methodology also provides essential information about the duration of CO<sub>2</sub> storage. Furthermore, wastewater production should also be as low as possible in the manufacturing of construction materials and products.

Similarly important for the transition to a green construction ecosystem is its resilience, which is not at its highest point due to issues related to accessibility to raw materials necessary to produce construction products. Overall, COVID-19 has shown disruptions in the global supply chain and led to shortages of certain critical products in Europe. Specifically in construction, after the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions, a rising demand and important supply challenges were observed.

The challenges associated with accessibility to raw materials to produce construction products are amplified by barriers to trade, WTO infringements, and a lengthy legislative framework for intervention in the WTO. This creates an uneven level playing field, negatively affecting the competitiveness of the sector. In turn, this results in delays in delivering construction products down the supply chain, as well as significant price fluctuations.

To ensure the resilience of the construction ecosystem, a level playing field on raw material supply, within and outside of the European Union, must be guaranteed and accompanied by relentless vigilance against all kinds of trade distortions.

Not less important for strengthening the resilience of the construction ecosystems is the ageing of the workforce and the reduction of the skills gap, two major challenges recognised in many sectors, including in the renovation and construction of buildings. Developing and supporting the acquisition of adequate skills, digital and green competences is the prerequisite for the construction ecosystem to “bounce forward” in the twin green and digital transition, while at the same time meeting Europe’s climate ambition.

In addition to the attraction and retention of new, younger, and more skilled workforce, efforts will also be needed to promote a better gender balance distribution, making the construction industry more appealing to women and minorities and thus reinforcing its inclusiveness. Managing those processes of image improvement, skills development and increased inclusiveness successfully will increase the resilience of the construction ecosystem.

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European Confederation of Woodworking Industries aisbl  
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**About CEI-Bois** [www.cei-bois.org](http://www.cei-bois.org)

The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries represents 20 European and National organisations from 14 countries and is the body backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector: more than 180.000 companies generating an annual turnover of 152 billion euros and employing 1 million workers in the EU.

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## IV. PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES

### Revision of ISO vocabulary, ISO 24294:2021 "Timber — Round and sawn timber — Vocabulary"



ISO Technical committee on Timber has recently completed the revision of ISO vocabulary, **ISO 24294:2021 "Timber — Round and sawn timber — Vocabulary"**. This standard has been published in English and in French, and the Russian version is soon expected. It defines terms related to the physical and mechanical characteristics of the many different hardwood and softwood round, sawn and processed timbers.

All terms and definitions are freely available at [Online Browsing Platform \(OBP\) \(iso.org\)](https://www.iso.org/online-browsing-platform/), ISO Online Browsing platform.

ISO Technical committee on timber is ISO/TC 218 ([ISO - ISO/TC 218 - Timber](https://www.iso.org/iso-iso-tc-218-timber/)), whose secretariat is held by the Ukraine member, DSTU: all interested stakeholders are welcome to participate to the development of International standards through the ISO member of their country.

### Now available in French: IUFRO-GFEP Policy Brief on Forests and Poverty in Africa

IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) Programme proudly announces the launch of the French version of *Forests, Trees and Poverty Alleviation in Africa: An Expanded Policy Brief*. **Les forêts, les arbres et la diminution de la pauvreté en Afrique : Une synthèse politique élargie** <https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/regional-activities/forests-trees-and-poverty-alleviation-in-africa/>

This Expanded Policy Brief was prepared by 20 scientists and in consultation with 207 local stakeholders from various groups, including policymakers, international development organizations, civil society and other interest groups, and is based on the global assessment report of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Poverty published in 2020.

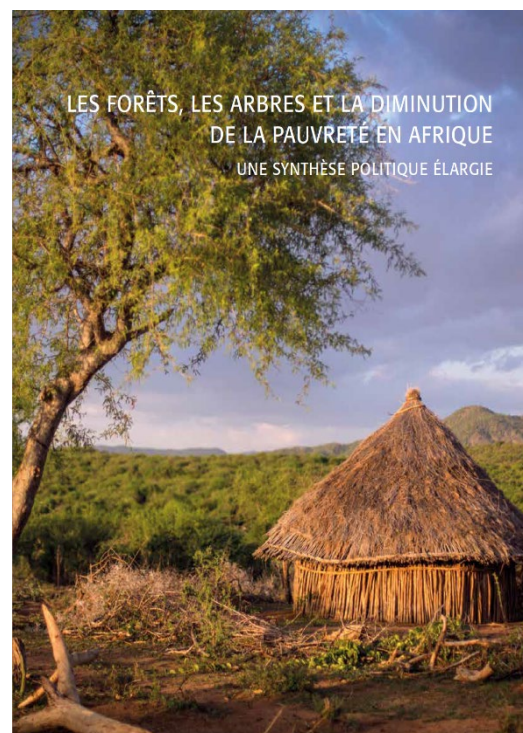
The publication outlines the most important scientific evidence of the nexus of forests, trees, and poverty in Africa, explains the context, and highlights key conclusions to be taken into account by stakeholders across Africa.

#### The following key messages are emphasized in the policy brief:

- Forests and trees are critical to poverty alleviation in Africa.
- Forests and trees can contribute to the well-being of the poor in Africa as they face profound global changes.
- The distribution of benefits from forests and trees for human well-being in Africa is inequitable.
- Cross-sectoral coordination in land use policies can avoid excessive costs being borne by the poor.
- Policy measures exist to enable forests and trees to effectively address poverty goals in Africa, but there is no 'one size fits all' solution.

This Expanded Policy Brief contributes to the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by highlighting the nexus between SDG 1: No poverty and SDG 15: Life on land, as well as links to other relevant SDGs.

Find "Forests, Trees and the Eradication of Poverty: Potential and Limitations. A Global Assessment Report" at <https://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/gfep-initiative/panel-on-forests-and-poverty/>.





## Green Paper Provides Recommendations to Tackle Gender Inequity in Forests



The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals recognize the importance of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in the global campaign for a just, equitable, and sustainable future. FSC is also looking at how we can best address women's access to empowerment and opportunities within the forestry sector.

As part of this effort, FSC commissioned a [green paper](#) on gender issues in forests from a gender expert. We are pleased to publish this green paper on International Women's Day, along with our 2021 [Baseline Report](#) on Diversity and Gender in FSC. The green paper provides an understanding of gender issues in forests and identifies

entry points for FSC to proactively address gender inequality. It advocates for a gender-responsive approach to overcome gender biases and to allow women and men to engage with and benefit from forests equally. Looking across the FSC system for areas to leverage our impact on gender, the paper offers a series of recommendations for gender mainstreaming, including by evaluating our principles and criteria or by looking at areas such as ecosystem services and value chains. More [here](#).

## New EUSTAFOR Strategy 2022-2026: Strategic challenges, strategic objectives and success factors for the future

On 9 March, EUSTAFOR published its new Strategy for the coming years (2022-2026). The Strategy combines challenges and opportunities identified by member organizations of EUSTAFOR in meeting state forests' strategic objectives and defines measures to be taken in the years to come.

*"The current political situation in Europe, in particular, shows us how important sustainable forestry, timber use - also for energy - and the strengthening of regional value chains are. European State Forest Management Organizations play an important role in this and are part of the solution in terms of climate change and biodiversity conservation," says Reinhardt Neft, President of EUSTAFOR.*

For the upcoming five years, EUSTAFOR's strategic agenda will focus on the following policy areas:

1. Climate change impacts on European state forests and their management – balancing mitigation and adaptation requirements;



MANAGING STATE  
FORESTS RESPONSIBLY



2. Sustainable bio-based circular economy;
3. Multifunctional forestry as a preferred model to ensure economic, social and environmental benefits in Europe;
4. Biodiversity, including protected area management.

The above-mentioned policy areas will be addressed via different strategic action themes, including knowledge sharing, communication, outreach and influence, and building synergies and networking. Multiple actions will follow to implement this new strategy. They will be announced through existing and new communication channels, including the #ResponsibleForestry campaign, to start soon.

Read the Press Release: <https://eustafor.eu/press-release-new-eustafor-strategy-2022-2026/>

### Sustainable Mangrove Management Methodology developed by FORLIANCE and Gold Standard

[FORLIANCE](#) and [Gold Standard](#) have developed a methodology to protect and restore mangroves, one of the world's most essential ecosystems and also one of the most threatened habitats due to climate change. This methodology includes innovations in the remote sensing and geographic information sector combined with the participatory stakeholder engagement to address the sustainable management of the mangrove ecosystem.



To overcome the complexity and potential risk associated with in-person monitoring, this methodology incorporates an alternative monitoring and reporting approach. It addresses the drivers that lead to mangrove loss to ensure positive impacts on local stakeholders, biodiversity and the permanence of carbon stocks.

Blue carbon ecosystems are the world's largest emission sinks. These ecosystems sequester and store more carbon per unit area than terrestrial forests. When these systems are damaged, an enormous amount of carbon is emitted back into the atmosphere. Protecting and restoring coastal habitats is a pressing matter and an important step to take towards climate protection. By protecting these systems, we not only ensure that they stay as long-term carbon sinks. We enable healthy coastal environments that provide various benefits.

Learn more about our [climate solutions](#) and [get in touch with our experts](#).

### 100 best practices and digital innovations for sustainable forestry

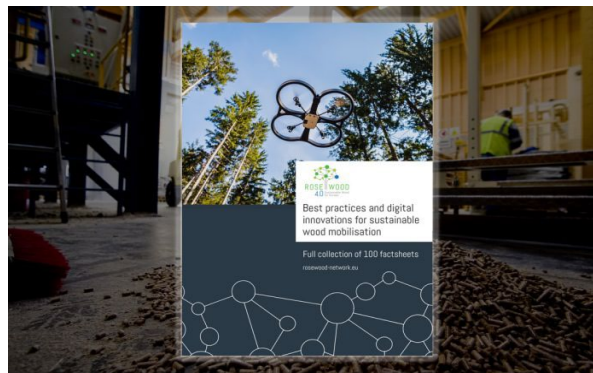
*The EU-funded ROSEWOOD4.0 project publishes a report with a selection of 100 European best practices and innovations that demonstrate how the digital revolution is rapidly transforming forestry and forest-based industries.*

Virtual forests, smart harvesting machines, e-commerce platforms, apps, and educational tools... the digital revolution is rapidly transforming sustainable forestry and forest industries. Over the last two years, EU-funded [ROSEWOOD4.0](#) project has been building on this trend to strengthen the sustainability of forest resilience and wood mobilisation in Europe through knowledge exchange, transfer of best practices and establishing itself as a powerful voice of this digital revolution in the forestry sector.

The consortium of this Horizon2020 project has recently produced a report documenting a selection of 100 Best Practices and Innovations (BP&I) in forest management, wood supply and forest-based industries exploiting relevant



digital technologies and Industry 4.0 solutions. These best practices and innovations were jointly identified and validated by the project partners.



competitive forest-based sector in rural regions.

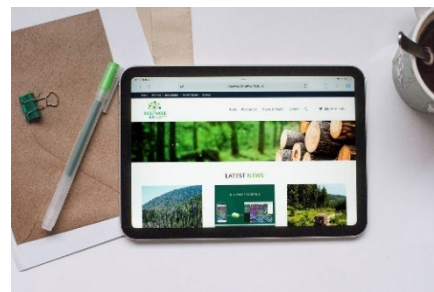
[Download the report \(PDF\)](#)

#### Useful links

- [ROSEWOOD4.0 Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation](#)
- [ROSEWOOD4.0 Digital Tools](#)
- [ROSEWOOD4.0 Training Programme for forestry digitalisation](#)

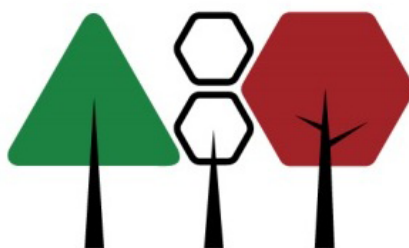
The BP&I factsheets are published in a [Knowledge Platform for Regional Forest Innovation](#), which is an open, multilingual repository created by the consortium to enable the widest possible dissemination of results. The complete BP&I selection with links to all online factsheets are included in the report.

Spreading this knowledge in Europe will help practitioners and professionals to gain a better understanding of how the digital transformation in forestry can improve sustainable forest management and ecosystem resilience and thus benefit a more



### Italy has a new forestry strategy

*The National Forestry Strategy (NFS) has been recently approved in accordance with the mandate defined by the Legislative Decree No 34 of 3 April 2018. The document provides a long-term (20 years) framework for the national and regional forestry policies in line with international and European commitments on climate change, biodiversity protection and socio-economic development.*



## Strategia Forestale Nazionale

The NFS has a relevance for the contents but also for the process implemented for its designing and approval based on a well-structured and large participatory approach. The Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies coordinated a long inter-institutional, cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary process which began in October 2019 with the first draft version agreed by a Technical Committee made up by 40 experts of public and private organizations. The draft version was presented and discussed in 9 meetings (mostly webinars) to collect first reactions and comments. An online public consultation was then open from 14 April to 28 May 2020. More than 300 written comments and suggestions were received and a document presenting how these inputs have been taken into consideration in preparing the second version was published. Finally, after the NFS approval by the Technical Committee in June 2021, the document has been analyzed and approved by the Standing Conference between the State and the Regions and by 4 relevant ministries (Ecological Transition, Economy, Culture and Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies) in December 2021 and officially published in February 2022.

The mission defined by the NFS is to improve the resilience of national forests, enriching their biodiversity, contributing to mitigation and adaptation to the climate crisis, providing ecological, social and economic benefits for rural and mountain communities, as well as to urban citizens. The NFS, bearing in mind the guiding principles of the new EU Forest Strategy 2030 approved in 2021, sets out national guidelines for effective action to increase the capacity of forests to provide provisioning, regulative and socio-cultural service.

The NFS will be an instrument of guidance for the Regions in the definition of their forest programs, encouraging the



active protection and responsible use of natural resources, with a large involvement of all stakeholders and an effective coordination of their actions.

The NFS identifies three general objectives:

- (a) the sustainable management and multifunctional role of forests,
- (b) the efficiency in the use of forest resources for the sustainable development of economies in rural, inland and urban areas of the country,
- (c) a global forest responsibility.

For each objective a set of operation actions has been defined (a.1 Forest planning for the management and conservation of the landscape and the territory, a.2 Ecosystem services and their payments, a.3 Soil protection and water cycle regulation, a.4 Biological diversity of forest ecosystems, a.5 Forest resource restoration and prevention of natural and man-made risks, a.6 Climate change mitigation and adaptation, a.7 Plantation management; b.1 Sustainable forest management, b.2 Training of forest operators and improved operational capacity of forest enterprises, b.3 Local supply chains, b.4 Socio-cultural services, b.5 Traceability of forest products, b.6 Responsible consumption and purchases; c.1 Information and social and environmental responsibility of citizens, c.2 Research and technology transfer, c.3 International dimension of forestry policies). Seven specific actions have been defined related to more particular issues, like the management of extreme events, fire prevention and fighting, the designation and protection of old growth forests (*"foreste vetuste"*), management of poplar and other plantations for wood production. Finally, 6 actions aimed at implementing policy tools have been approved (e.g.: forest monitoring, forest policy coordination, national wood cluster).

The financial resources for the various actions have been defined referring to the different programming instruments in force (e.g., EAFRD funds) but also to the resources specifically allocated for the implementation of the NFS (e.g., the Budget Law 2022 defining an annual budget for the central State authority in the forestry sector of EUR 420 million until 2032).

In this period of radical economic and environmental changes a new and forward-looking political season is needed, based on coordinated joint actions between the institutions responsible for the protection and active management of the national forest heritage and the forest-based economy. With the approval of the NFS we hope the forestry sector, the first green infrastructure of the country covering more than one third of its territory, will acquire an adequate dignity and consideration in all the other fields of policy action, from the circular bioeconomy to biodiversity protection, climate and renewable energy policies.

[Ambiente - Foreste - Strategia Forestale Nazionale \(reterurale.it\)](https://reterurale.it)

### First IBFRA Insight Report published: Sustainable boreal forest management – challenges and opportunities for climate change mitigation

**The International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA) gathered a team of over 20 scientists from boreal countries with the goal to improve our understanding of the role of adaptive and sustainable forest management in addressing climate change in this particular forest type.**

This review was led by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, resulting in a report that provides – for the first time ever – a comparison of the development of the forest's carbon (C) stock over time in different parts of the boreal forest belt, extending through Canada, Finland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States (Alaska). The report is based on the data that the participating boreal countries have reported to the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The study compared countries with relatively intensive forestry (Norway, Sweden, and Finland) with countries where forests are

used less intensively (Canada and Russia) or not at all (Alaska).

The measure used for the intensity of forestry was how many percent of the forests' total carbon stock are harvested each year. In Sweden and Finland, this is 1.5 per cent, compared with 0.9 per cent in Norway, 0.3 per cent in Canada's managed forests and 0.1 per cent in Russia's forests. It concludes that intensively managed forests have shown strong net uptake of C from the atmosphere by accumulating C in trees, soils and forest products. In countries with less intense management (Canada and Russia), the C stock in living tree biomass has not changed. In Alaska, where forestry is not practiced in the boreal forests, there has been a net loss of C mainly through fires.

**More information:** <http://ibfra.org/insight-process/>

REPORT 2021/11

Sustainable boreal forest management  
– challenges and opportunities for climate change mitigation

Report from an Insight Process conducted by a team appointed  
by the International Boreal Forest Research Association (IBFRA)





## V. UPCOMING EVENTS

**FIRST CALL: International Scientific Conference "Perspectives of forestry and related sectors as drivers of sustainable development in the post-Covid era"**

**29 - 30. September 2022.**

Banja Luka

On the occasion of celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Faculty of Forestry, University of Banja Luka** and 30 years of **PFE "Šume Republike Srpske" ad Sokolac**, with the support of the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - UN FAO* and the *International Union for Conservation of Nature - IUCN*, we have organized an International Scientific Conference entitled **Forestry Science for Sustainable Development - FORS<sup>2</sup>D**.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

Exchange of knowledge and experience in forestry and related scientific fields;

Achieving cooperation between institutions at the international level;

Improving the cooperation of forestry science and practice through the application of modern scientific knowledge;

Promoting the goals of sustainable development of forest resources.

### THEMATIC AREAS

#### Nature-based solutions

Nature-based soil sustainability,  
Nature-based ecosystem values,  
Nature-based urban forestry and  
landscape architecture,  
Nature protection.

#### Forest and sustainable development in light of climate change

Sustainable forest management,  
Silviculture,  
Forest protection.

#### A modern and competitive forestry sector

Use of forest resources,  
Forestry policy and organization,  
Integration, globalization and  
communication in the forestry sector,  
Green, Circular and Bio-economy in  
forestry.

#### Let's green, be seen

Genetics, breeding and genetic  
resources,  
Seed production, nursery and the  
establishment of forests and  
plantations,  
Agroforestry.

#### Innovative value chains and sociological aspects in forestry and related sectors

Wood processing,  
Hunting,  
Ecotourism and forestry,  
Forests and health,  
Forestry in the function of rural development,  
Women in forestry.

### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Information about the scientific committee can be found at the link <https://forsd.sf.unibl.org/naucni-odbor/>



## FIRST CALL

### International Scientific Conference

*Perspectives of forestry and related sectors as drivers  
of sustainable development in the post-Covid era*

**29 - 30. September 2022.**  
**Banja Luka**





**IMPORTANT DATES**Submission of abstracts: **22.3.2022.**Publication of the conference program: **05.9.2022.**Acceptance of abstracts: **22.4.2022.**Conference: **29-30.9.2022.**Early registration: **20.7.2022.**Submission of papers for journal: **29.11.2022.**Deadline for registration: **01.9.2022.**Acceptance of papers: **30.1.2023.****More information can be found at the link** <https://forsd.sf.unibl.org/vazni-datumi/>**REGISTRATION FEE**

<b>REGISTRATION FEE FOR</b>	<b>BEFORE 20.7.2022.</b>	<b>AFTER 20.7.2022.</b>
PARTICIPANTS	<b>80 KM</b> (40 EUR)	<b>100 KM</b> (50 EUR)
PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT A PAPER	<b>50 KM</b> (25 EUR)	<b>60 KM</b> (30 EUR)
STUDENTS	<b>50 KM</b> (25 EUR)	<b>60 KM</b> (30 EUR)
ONLINE PARTICIPANTS	<b>50 KM</b> (25 EUR)	<b>60 KM</b> (30 EUR)

Registration fee includes: Conference material, certificate and gala dinner.

The Excursion is not included in the registration fee. The price of the excursion is 30 KM (15 EUR) per participant. Students should enclose a photocopy of the valid index via email.

Payment instructions can be found at the link: <https://forsd.sf.unibl.org/kotizacija/>**MANNER OF PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

The conference will be organized as a hybrid event, which means that the public presentation of papers can be done orally (directly or online), as well as through posters.

**PARTICIPATION REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS**Information on how to register and submit abstracts is available <https://forsd.sf.unibl.org/instrukcije-za-autore/>**PUBLICATION OF ABSTRACTS AND PAPERS**

All submitted and accepted abstracts will be printed in the Book of Abstracts, while the received scientific papers will be published in journals listed below after acceptance and review (free of charge):

South-East European Forestry - SEEFOR (<https://www.seefor.eu/>) orGazette of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Banja Luka (<http://glasnik.sf.unibl.org/index.php/gsfbl>).**CONFERENCE WEBSITE**All details and important information can be found on the Conference website <https://forsd.sf.unibl.org/>**CERTIFICATES**

All participants will be awarded a certificate of participation in the FORS2D Conference.

**CONFERENCE LANGUAGES**

The official languages of the conference are English and Serbian.

**CONTACT**Email:  
forsd@sf.unibl.orgTel:  
+387 51 460 - 550FB:  
[www.facebook.com/sumarskifakultetbl](https://www.facebook.com/sumarskifakultetbl)

**We look forward to your participation and hope to see you in Banja Luka.** If for any reason we are prevented from organizing a live conference, we reserve the right to organize an online conference, of which participants will be notified in a timely manner.



### Important updates for the XV World Forestry Congress



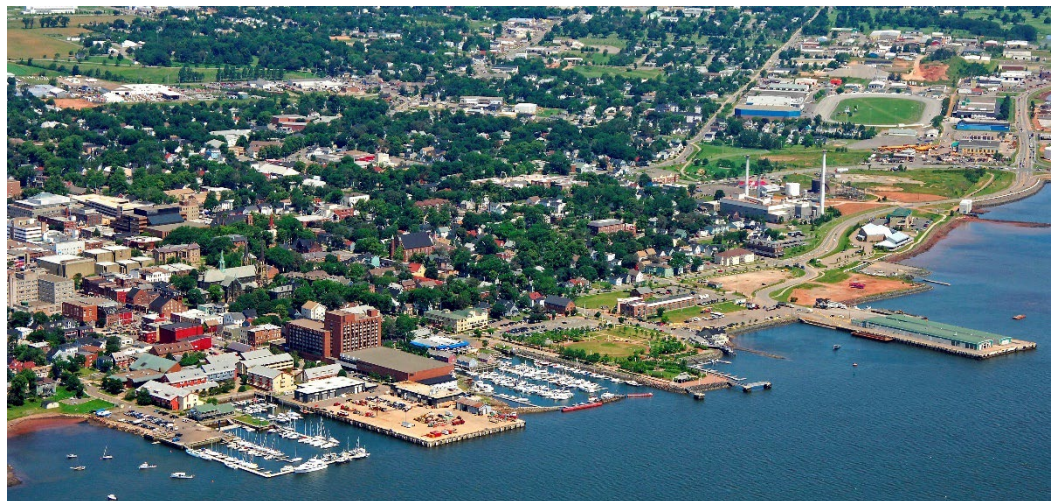
# XV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS

All participants of the XV World Forestry Congress are exempt from mandatory quarantine upon entry to the Republic of Korea, however, updates regarding the exemption process for vaccinated and non-vaccinated participants should be carefully checked on the [WFC website](#). Visa information is available [here](#). The Republic of Korea is also offering a special registration discount. The deadline to apply is **15 April 2022**, and participants are invited to register [here](#). An informational webinar will be held on **23 March 2022** to provide important updates on Congress modality, entry requirements to the Republic of Korea, safety measures, and the programme. Register [here](#).

### Canadian Urban Forest Conference 2022

Announcing CUFC-2022 – the Canadian Urban Forest Conference, an in-person event to be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, on **03-05 October 2022**.

The theme is **“Urban Forests and the Challenge of Climate Change: Building Resilience”**



An exciting program of keynote speakers, volunteered presentations and panels, and field trips is under development. Registration is now open at <https://venuewesteventsair.com/cufc-2022/registration>. Do consider staying on for some days afterwards and touring the beautiful, heavily wooded Maritime provinces in the season of full fall colours.

**For more information**, browse the conference website or contact Peter Duinker, Chair of the Program Committee, CUFC-2022 ([peter.duinker@dal.ca](mailto:peter.duinker@dal.ca)).



## THE GREEN4C BUSINESS INNOVATION CHALLENGE

A unique opportunity to make green care innovative ideas growing



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union



Co-funded by the Erasmus+ of the European Union, **Green4C** is a Knowledge Alliance project promoting nature-based solutions for health, wellbeing, and social inclusion. Bringing together **universities, businesses, and organisations**, Green4C wants to provide interdisciplinary skills and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in **Green Care**.

The term Green Care refers to a "range of activities that promotes physical and mental health and well-being through contact with nature". In the last few decades, a growing body of research is demonstrating the benefits of the contact with nature on health and wellbeing. Green Care can improve mental and physical health, representing an efficient tool for public health issues. In addition, activities such as social farming or community gardening can promote social inclusion and address other social issues.

Recognising the central role of nature for the development of a healthier and more sustainable future, Green4C seeks to foster Green Care as an efficient answer to environmental, health, and social concerns.

**To stimulate the creation of innovative Green Care initiatives**, the Green4C team has produced an interesting **new opportunity**, the **Business Innovation Challenge (BIC)**. **The BIC is a free competition for anyone with innovative ideas involving nature, health, and wellbeing.** Participants will compete by presenting their business or projects ideas to promote the health and social benefits of nature. Ideas can involve one or more Green4C thematic sectors, i.e., Forest-based care, Urban green care, Social agriculture, and Green care tourism.

Winners of the BIC will gain access to the **Green4C Summer School**. The Summer School is a high specialisation course taking place **in Italy** (from the 20th of June to the 8th of July 2022), at the Agripolis campus of the University of Padova. Top European experts in Green Care will be sharing knowledge and best practices on entrepreneurship, forestry, nature-based solutions, health, and much more. The aim of this course is to give students all the necessary tools to realise innovative Green Care initiatives. **Only 25 participants** will be selected for the Summer School.

**The deadline to participate in the BIC is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2022, at 23.59 CEST.** To apply, participants must fill out the application form, which includes the presentation of their business or project idea in Green Care. Learn all the details about the BIC on [bit.ly/green4c-bic](https://bit.ly/green4c-bic).

Promoted by



In partnership with



The Green4C project, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme by the European Union, aims at increasing Europe's innovation capacity among universities and businesses to promote green and natural approaches to health and social care.

**For further information:**

[info@greenforcare.eu](mailto:info@greenforcare.eu)

[www.greenforcare.eu](http://www.greenforcare.eu)

[www.facebook.com/greenforcare](https://www.facebook.com/greenforcare)





Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# FOREST INFORMATION BILLBOARD

Issue 1, 2022

