Why trees? UNECE short film reminds us that trees in cities are part of the solution

Premiered at the 2023 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, “WHY TREES” reminds viewers of the brilliant living technology growing in their park, boulevard or back yard.

From flood mitigation to cooling of urban heat islands to the formation of critical spaces for biodiversity and recreation, the contributions of trees to healthy and resilient cities are well documented. With growing awareness of the many benefits they provide, now is the time to integrate urban trees and forest into local and national plans as solutions to tackle challenges like climate change, food security and biodiversity loss.

A new short film produced by UNECE highlights this need. In an accessible format, through poetry, interviews and dance, “WHY TREES?” reminds viewers of our critical connection to, and reliance on, trees in cities. The film weaves a spoken word poem with interviews responding to the film’s titular question. Produced with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, the film invites viewers to support long-term planning, management and investment in trees in cities, and invites mayors to join the UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge.


The meeting will be held from 31 May to 02 June 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland

Documents are available on the meeting website.

Rooted in Forests – Regional action for global impact

Organized by UNECE, this in-person UNFF18 side event on 8 May 2023 features insights, tools, opportunities for concrete actions and interventions to support our forests.

Join us to learn about UNECE’s global “Trees in Cities Challenge”, the INForest online forest sector data and knowledge platform, as well as forest products and trade trends presented in the annual “Forest Products Annual Market Review”.

Further information will be made available via the event website.
This year’s International Day of Forests, 21 March 2023, put the spotlight on the many ways in which forests are indispensable to human health: they purify the water we drink, clean the air we breathe, improve our mental health, provide us with healthy food, and are a source of life-saving medicines.

UNECE’s Forests as Pharmacy campaign highlighted that hidden in the bark, stems and leaves of the trees and plants growing in our forests are key ingredients used in the prevention and/or treatment of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), in particular cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

For more information, visit UNECE’s dedicate webpage

New UNECE toolkit supports cities to strategically integrate urban trees and forests into planning and action

Optimising the services and benefits provided by trees and forests in urban and peri-urban areas requires a strategic and comprehensive approach to planning and management.

To support cities with implementing this approach, UNECE developed the Trees for Resilient Green Cities Strategic Screening and Action Toolkit with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. Designed to help stakeholders responsible for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban trees and forests, the toolkit helps cities to ensure that trees and forests are accounted for and well-integrated into relevant planning, management and governance activities at the local level.

Designed for cities, the toolkit includes a scorecard, template implementation scheme and resources to support planning. It is now available for download.

Just Released: “Boreal Forests and Climate Change – From Impacts to Adaptation”

Boreal forests, also known as snow forests and taiga, represent about 30% of the global forest area, constituting one of the planet’s largest carbon sinks holding 20% of the world’s carbon emissions. However, climate change and extreme weather events are threatening the critical role of boreal forests in global climate regulation.

The latest UNECE policy brief outlines the main expected environmental and economic impacts of climate change on forests, emphasizing the urgent need to find effective ways to adapt policy and legislative frameworks, climate smart forestry practices, forest restoration activities, and research to strengthen boreal forest resilience and adaptation to possible climate change scenarios.

Access the policy brief here

Criteria and Indicators in Support of Reporting on Forest and Sustainable Forest Management in Caucasus and Central Asia

The Joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section has published a study on forest reporting and sustainable forest management in Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The study presents results of a capacity-building project to improve forest monitoring and reporting systems, primarily through criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. In addition to the general overview of forest reporting, the study introduces relevant sets of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management developed by five project countries.

Criteria and Indicators are often understood as a tool for forest statistics, however, the extent of their application is much wider, ranging from data collection, through forest information systems, forest-related communication, to forest policy making. The study explores these areas of application and shares best practices.

For more information: link

UNEP/FORCELING CHALLENGES FORESEE

Boreal Forests and Climate Change
From Impacts to Adaptation

Forest Information Billboard

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III. FOREST COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES 1/3

**60 new forests and water capacity building demo sites**

In Grip on Life, we increase Knowledge and capacity to restore and protect wetlands and streams in the forest landscape. We promote best practice and develop new methods, which are demonstrated in the field.

The aim is to establish 60 demonstration sites, distributed from the north to the south. Partners responsible for setting up the sites are Swedish Forest Owners’ Associations, the Swedish Forest Agency and County Administration Boards. At most sites, the focus is on showing examples of adapted forest management and environmental consideration close to streams and wetlands, highlighting ecosystem services such as biodiversity and forest products.

For more information: www.grip-lifesc.se

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**Forest Quest: Online Game Encourages Youth to Explore Forests and Green Careers**

Forest Quest is a new educational and career resource from Project Learning Tree Canada, a project of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. This free interactive online game for grades 7-12, through a virtual forest, helping them understand why forests matter, the benefits of sustainable forest management, and the impact of forests on people's lives.

Along the way, they’ll meet various professionals who provide insights into green career paths. Forest Quest, which was funded in part by the government of Canada, is intended for use by educators, high school or university faculty, career guidance counselors, and mentors.

For more information: https://ipltcanada.org/en/forest-quest/

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**FEP is launching its Parquet Refinishable Program**

FEP Parquet Refinishable Program is a voluntary certification program at promoting parquet which is at least twice refinishable thanks to its minimum 2.5 mm real wood top-layer.

FEP wants to put forward the inherent advantage of parquet compared to other floorings. Parquet is a long-life wood product whose durability can be extended through refinishing. Refinishing also allows renovation to update colour and style.

This Program has been developed in cooperation with our North American colleagues from NWFA – the National Wood Flooring Association – who have recently launched their own Program. To encourage an international norm, both programs are aligned.

More information: FEP Refinishable Program: www.parquet.net

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**Landscape Resilience in the Mediterranean**

Faced with the growing impacts of climate change, our landscapes are increasingly vulnerable. For this reason, it is now crucial to increase landscape resilience and understand its potential in mitigation strategies.

ResAlliance is a new project which aims to support foresters and farmers in the implementation of solutions to improve landscape resilience, especially against climate change hazards.

Through the LandNet – an international network on landscape resilience – and the LandLabs – located in different countries – the project wants to facilitate accessibility and knowledge exchange on landscape resilience, with a focus on the Mediterranean basin.

For more information: https://www.resalliance.eu/

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**Vital Initiatives by Ukrainian Foresters**

In 2022, even in conditions of war, Ukrainian foresters planted almost 243 million seedlings. You can track the progress of the program on the special “Green Country” website.

In 2023, even in conditions of war, Ukrainian foresters continued the implementation of the environmental program of the President of Ukraine “Green Country.”

The program envisages planting 1 billion trees in 3 years and creating 1 million hectares of forests in 10 years. During this year, Ukrainian foresters planted 132 million trees.

In total, during the implementation of the program (1 year), they planted almost 243 million seedlings. You can track the progress of the program on the special “Green Country” website.

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**Promoting effective forest PES through the EU financial and state aid programs**

LIFE ProForPES project aims to collect, synthesize and integrate knowledge on PES and PES-like schemes with the objective of promoting their application, also through European funding instruments. The project brings together universities and specialized companies with extensive experience in the field.

For more information: https://www.resalliance.eu/

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**Young Leadership Programme 2023: Land abandonment and cultural landscapes**

The recently published Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2030 identifies land abandonment as one of the overarching challenges for the future of the region. This topic is the starting point for the 2023 Mediterranean edition of the European Forest Institute’s Young Leadership Programme (YLPMED2023).

The programme, organised in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean, will provide an in-depth understanding of the complex interplay between land abandonment, Mediterranean forests, and cultural landscapes. The YLPMED2023 takes place in October at EFI’s Barcelona Office in the Sant Pau Art Nouveau site and is open to young professionals from around the region and beyond, whose work is related to Mediterranean forests and rural landscapes.

For more information: https://efi.int/ylp-med-2023
History hidden inside a forest

Winding through agricultural fields, a dirt road ends at a wall-like Bukta forest. Certified by FSC, this key woodland habitat is home to many protected species. Right on the edge of the forest, past the pinching thickets, lies a circle of sunlit tombstones. Forty-five of them dot the forest floor, barely peaking above wildflowers. This is the last resting place of German soldiers, who died on the frontlines of World War I (WWI) in 1915.

For more information: [link]

Brazilian woman wins international prize of the Blue Sky Young Researchers and Innovation Award

Ivani Amarim Dias won the Blue Sky 2022-2023 Young Researchers and Innovation Award, promoted by the International Council for Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) and coordinated by Ibá. Graduated in Forestry Engineering from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, master and doctoral student from the Federal University of Paraná, the researcher carried out her project under the guidance of Prof. Doctor Pedro Henrique Gonzales de Cademartori, in partnership with Suzano. The objective was to develop sustainable processes for obtaining products with a high added value, which transform wood residues in burning, generating bio-oil with a high potential for application.

The winner is invited to attend the ICFPA CEO Roundtable event in Amsterdam on 26 May 2023 and receive the award in person.

For more information about the project, visit the [website].

For more information: [link]

Harnessing the full potential of Sustainable Forest Management in carbon schemes

Sustainable Forest Management holds the potential to double forests’ climate change mitigation impact by 2050. Still, its carbon sequestration capacity is far from being reflected in most carbon standards due to a series of technical difficulties.

Carbon accounting expert Julia Grimault and her team at the Institute for Climate Economics are gathering insights from research and practice on how to make sustainable management fully count towards carbon credits as part of the INFORMA project. She explains how in this [interview].

For more information: [link]

Vital Initiatives by Ukrainian Foresters

Due to the Russian bombing of the Ukrainian energy system, the demand for firewood for the population has increased several times.

For the convenience of purchasing firewood, the team of the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine has created an official Firewood Online Store ‘DrovaYe’. Now Ukrainians can buy firewood without leaving their homes. In the first three days after the launch of the online store 300,000 people had already visited the website.

For more information about the project, visit the [website].

For more information: [link]

Managing your forest or not? Find out with the INFORMA Forest Management Platform

When should a forest be managed and when should we let nature run its course? Answers from science are ambiguous, depend on management objectives and the trade-offs between different ecosystem services.

To help forest managers decide what to do with their forests, the EU-funded INFORMA project is conducting an unprecedented comparison between 300 managed and unmanaged forest patches across Europe’s main forest regions.

The result will be a new, large database specifically designed to answer Sustainable Forest Management-related questions for European forests.

Find out more details [here].

For more information: [link]
PEFC forest certification grows in 2022 and positions itself as a benchmark in sustainability

In Spain, the PEFC forest certification system had registered 2,689,271 hectares of certified area and 56,114 foresters and forestry managers, representing a net growth of 8.44% and 14.28%, respectively. Moreover, 29 new companies implemented the certification of the Chain of Custody, and the year came to a close with a total of 1,675 PEFC certified companies.

This means that there is more forest area managed and there are more foresters who look after their forests and their ecosystem services. It is clear the commitment of companies to demonstrate the guarantees of sustainability in their productive processes.

PEFC continues to be the leading forestry certification in Spain, covering more than 96% of the total certified national forest area.

For more information [link](#).

City of Trees Challenge in Boise, ID USA

The challenge began in 2020 with a call to climate action from our City Council President.

Our team has grown this into a statewide initiative that we believe has the opportunity to be replicated across the USA and the world.

You can learn more at [www.CityOfTreesChallenge.org](http://www.CityOfTreesChallenge.org).

In an innovative route, companies in the cultivated tree sector invest R$610 million in startups

With more than 50 years of uniting sustainability and a vision of the future, the cultivated tree sector has been increasing its efforts to bring innovation inside and outside its operations. Many companies in the sector have strategies in their business model that aim to work with startups and large investors.

According to a survey by the Brazilian Tree Industry (Ibá), forest-based organizations have ongoing investments worth R$610 million for partnerships with startups.

For more information [link](#).

Trade balance for the Brazilian planted tree sector grows 38%

The data from Cenários Ibá reveal an increasingly stronger trend among consumers searching for sustainable everyday products.

The bulletin also reports that pulp production advanced 10.4% between January and September of 2022 over the same period of the previous year, while paper categories including packaging, printing and writing, and sanitary purposes expanded 3.6% over the same comparative period.

For more information [link](#).
A 7-th Statistical Yearbook covering the external trade of all EU-countries of their most important wood products

The 2022 edition (base year 2021) of Ibá’s Annual Report is now live, with data and information that show in pictures the work carried out by the cultural trees sector based on the EU context.

Some highlights of the report are:
- Cultivated area: 9.1 million hectares, area equivalent to the territory of Switzerland or the state of Rio de Janeiro.
- Energy: 89% of the energy generated in the industry comes from renewable sources, 74.6% of the electricity that is used, enough quantity to supply a city of 1.37 million inhabitants.
- Carbon dioxide: 833,000 tons; direct, indirect and climate impact effect 2.97 million.
- Sector revenue: R$244.6 billion.

The complete material can be accessed at this link.

The State of Canada’s Forests Annual Report 2022

Released in December 2022, The State of Canada’s Forests Annual Report is online and available to download! With a theme of Diverse forests for a diverse Canada, this year’s report explores topics such as:
- how the variety of methods used to report on wildland fires and carbon emissions help promote forest ecosystem resilience and climate adaptation,
- how international collaboration in firefighting and scientific wildfire research helps ecosystems and communities prepare and adapt in response to shifts in wildfire frequency, severity, and size and
- how Indigenous-led conservation initiatives such as Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas can help restore and preserve nature as well as Indigenous leadership, culture, and knowledge systems.

To be notified when the next report is ready, sign up here.

The Journeys of Black Professionals in Green Careers

A new first-of-its-kind resource, Black Faces in Green Space: The Journeys of Black Professionals in Green Careers was recently released by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Project Learning Tree (PLT), and Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS).

The book highlights 22 Black Americans who share their personal stories about finding their passions and overcoming challenges and offer advice to the next generation about sustainability—or lack thereof—within current and future forest management plans.

To open access paper.

Global forest products model (GFPMX) with projections to 2071

The GFPMX is a model of the global forest sector based on the Cobweb theorem. It has been updated with the latest FAOSTAT statistics for 2021. The model projects, up to 2071 and for 180 countries, including the US:
- Forest area
- Forest stock
- Production consumption, import, export price for: Industrial roundwood
- Timberwood
- Sawnwood
- Panels
- Paper and paperboard

The GFPMX works entirely with EXCEL, without macros.

The model with the projections, and a page describing the methods are available here.

How can we stimulate the development of urban forests?

Urban forests are crucial contributors to green, healthier, more resilient and livable cities. However, today the implementation of urban forestry solutions still faces many challenges, such as lack of funding and of cooperation across different sectors.

Produced by Uforest, the report “Unlocking the Potential of Urban Forests” provides background and guidelines for the development of effective urban forestry solutions.

In addition, the report outlines the many benefits of urban forests, highlighting their potential also for health, social, and economic challenges, beyond environmental ones.

For more information:

The complete material can be accessed at this link.

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Trillion Trees just released Impact Report for 2022

This 2022 edition documents our contribution to the global effort to achieve the shared trillion trees vision, detailing the progress our own joint venture for forests has made in the last 12 months, especially in partnership with organizations who are playing such an important role in mitigating the private sector. We’ve continued our “digital first” approach so readers can dive into the results and case studies from the field more easily. This report points from our headline numbers (30.2bn hectares into protection and restoration since inception, 38.6bn trees protected and restored) to highlight the benefits of the work and results on the ground, in protection and restoration - for people, for biodiversity and the climate.

For more detailed pdf please find here.

An EU strategic framework for working with countries to achieve deforestation-free production

The paper outlines options for partnerships to accompany the new EU Regulation on deforestation-free products.

Why should the EU pursue such partnerships? Partnerships would reduce some of the risks that the Regulation hasn’t solved, such as that products would continue to drive deforestation for other consumer markets and that smallholders would bear the cost of implementing the Regulation. Partnerships with producer countries would also maximise effectiveness of the Regulation and help decrease global deforestation.

The paper was co-developed by several NGOs and it’s available in English and French.

For more information please find here.

What is the potential of NbS to make cities more resilient against climate change?

For the first time in history, more than 50% of the world’s population lives in urban areas (UNDESA). This rapid urbanisation leads to various environmental, social and economic challenges with negative impacts on the health of citizens and the environment.

In this context, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly recognised as an extremely effective tool to respond to the challenges brought by urbanisation and climate change. With the aim of better understanding the potential of NbS, in 2023 this study evaluates four different NbS scenarios and how they can help protect against climate change risks in the urban area of Turin. Read the publication.

For more information please find here.

In August 2022, the Government of Nova Scotia released a new Old-Growth Forest Policy. This Policy enacts an amendment of the Old-Growth Forest (OGF) on Crown land, whether known today or not. The OGF definition shifted from a tree species approach to a forest ecosystem approach and has unique ages for each ecosystem type.

Replacement provisions are stringent when OGF on public land is required for rare and exceptional provincially significant infrastructure. Field assessments are mandatory to detect possible old-growth conditions whenever development proposals need government approval. The Province commits to working with private landowners to develop approaches for conserving their OGF.

For more information please find here.

A new publication by IUFRO: “Forest Related Nature-Based Approaches: Review of Terms and Concepts from Afforestation to Forest Landscape Restoration”

In this report, fifteen common terms and concepts are used in the scientific literature, namely Nature-based Solution; Ecosystem-based Adaptation; Integrated Landscape Management; Forest Restoration; Forest Landscape Restoration; Afforestation and Rewilding; and how to use them more effectively to support forest landscape restoration implementation.

Nature-based approaches have been embraced by different scientific disciplines and operationalized by practitioners in different ecological, social and historic contexts. Rewilding and Forest Landscape Restoration originated in the academic world and were embraced by policy organizations and popularized by NGOs; other terms, such as Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Nature-based Solutions, followed the opposite path, from the policy vernacular to the scientific.

For more information please find here.

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For more information please find here.

A series of online courses in Indigenous rights and relationship-building in the forest sector are now available from Sault College of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada.

Learning outcomes include: Learning about and recognizing Indigenous Peoples’ Aboriginal, treaty, and title rights; understanding how to use and integrate traditional forest-related knowledge into forest planning, projects, and operations; developing customized communications approaches that foster respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities; and more.

This course was developed by Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada), an initiative of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), in collaboration with Sault College.

For more information please find here.

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**IV. PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, REPORTS, REGULATORY UPDATES 3/3**

**Policy brief: Reducing wildfire risk in Europe through Sustainable Forest Management**

- Climate change is affecting the resilience of pan-European forests and is particularly responsible for the increasing frequency of forest disturbances like wildfires. Adaptation is necessary to fulfill and maintain the multiple functions of healthy forests. By implementing the short- and longer-term strategies outlined in this policy brief, sustainable forest management can help prevent fires, reduce fire intensity and severity, and regenerate forest landscapes more quickly and effectively after fires.
- 
Read the policy brief

**Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda 2030 now available in French and Spanish**

The Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA) 2030 can be translated into French and Spanish to expand the reach of this strategic document.

**Interaction between the SDGs related to forestry**

- According to the study “Forests and Forestry in Support of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Policy Brief,” the main body of terrestrial ecosystems, forest ecosystems, play an important role in supporting the completion of SDGs. SDG15 (life on land) directly involves forestry protection, restoration, and sustainable forest management, and forestry also has direct or indirect impacts on other SDGs.
- The relationship between SDGs is complex, including synergies or trade-offs. For example, forests can promote SDG7 (sustainable energy) by providing biomass energy and protecting water catchments for hydropower generation. However, pursuing SDG7 may have adverse effects on forests. Forests are important for water conservation, and the protection of forests can also promote the evaluation of SDG7 (clean energy).
- The compromise agreement will:
  - Tackle climate change and ensure that EU citizens enjoy better-quality buildings
  - Create 3.3 million high-quality green jobs in the EU each year
  - Decrease dependence on fossil fuel and fossil energy security
  - Bring 35 million EU citizens out of energy poverty

For more information

**An open letter calls on MEPs to support the ITRE Committee’s agreement on the EPBD revision**

- The open letter calls on MEPs to support the ITRE Committee’s agreement on the EPBD revision, recognizing the importance of energy efficiency in the context of global climate change. The agreement is particularly important for improving energy efficiency in buildings.
- By implementing the short- and longer-term strategies outlined in this policy brief, sustainable forest management can help prevent fires, reduce fire intensity and severity, and regenerate forest landscapes more quickly and effectively after fires.

**International on-site postgraduate course: “Forest Management and Biodiversity across Europe”**

- The course offers five Ph.D. candidates from ELLS partner institutions to:
  - Confront divergent views regarding European forest resource management and biodiversity conservation
  - Engage with multiple disciplines and goals
  - Cover ecological and social aspects, as well as economics, silviculture, and governance
  - Resolve conflicts

Participants will propose and develop strategies to protect and enhance biodiversity while maintaining other forest uses and values.

For more information

**Woodworking and furniture European Social partners welcomed the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe**

- For more information

**UNECE/FAO Joint Forestry and Timber Section**
Ibá’s participation during COP27

November 2022, COP27 was held in Egypt, with the active participation of the delegation from the cultivated trees sector, led by Ibá. During the entire year leading up to the Conference, the entity, alongside its associates and specialized consultants, dedicated itself to the climate agenda in its thematic Committees. As in other years, the preparation also included extensive articulation with other sectors and business entities and also with the Brazilian Government.

For the first time, Ibá promoted parallel events at the COP. The events were held in partnership with the Australian Forest Products Association. The importance of products based on cultivated wood in terms of CO2 sequestration, carbon storage and the substitution of raw materials and other items of fossil origin were discussed.

For more information: https://www.iba.org/

Workshop on “Communicating the Important Role of Sustainable Forest Management in Preventing Forest Fires”

The meeting representatives from the woodworking and furniture industries, trade union and VET, discussed how to set up effective and meaningful cross-border cooperation in the sectors serving at contributing to the social right of vocational education and adapting training schedules and curricula to future skills needs.

The prospect of creating special courses on innovative aspects that are changing in economic processes and company functions as for example circular economy, sustainability, and applications of climate-friendly material such as wood were also raised. Promoting cross-border exchange has the potential to increase the attractiveness of the sectors and improve the initiatives’ image.

The meeting was held on 13 February in the context of the European Year of Skills 2023.

For more information: link

The High-level meeting the common challenge of staff shortages, as well as skills and training needs

About 50 participants from 23 organizations attended the workshop in Barcelona, Spain, from 7-9 February.

The objective of the workshop was to explore professional communication tools and methods for wildfire management. Foresters, forest fire experts, researchers, policy makers, communication experts, media professionals and journalists were invited to develop recommendations for effective and attractive communication about forest fire prevention and the related importance of sustainable forest management for different target groups.

The workshop was jointly organized by FOREST EUROPE, the European Forest Institute, the Pau Costa Foundation, and the Forest Science and Technology Center of Catalonia (CTFC).

Find all relevant lessons learned as take-home-messages here.

Workshop on forest fires prevention in Ukraine in times of war

Over 100 participants followed FOREST EUROPE’s invitation to the online capacity-building workshop “Ukraine forest fire prevention in times of war” on March 1st.

International renowned fire experts presented their experiences in fire management in contaminated areas, and Ukrainian colleagues highlighted the actual situation, main challenges and needs. A fruitful exchange took place leading to concrete outputs and follow-up activities. A second Ukraine expert’s workshop is planned for March 23rd.

FOREST EUROPE also launched a video campaign on social media, shining real-life examples of Ukrainian people working in the forest sector, illustrating how their lives and relationship with forests have been affected by the war.

Find more information on our social media channels or here.

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Forests and Trees for Human Health – A Global Assessment by IUFRO-GFEP

On the International Day of Forests, 21 March 2023, the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) and Forests and Human Health presented the most comprehensive scientific assessment to date of the evidence on the link between forests, trees, green spaces and human health. The assessment was carried out in the frame of the IUFRO-led Joint Initiative of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

A total of 44 scientists and experts from around the globe contributed to this assessment, with a core Expert Panel of 15 scientists with diverse expertise, including forestry, ecology, landscape design, psychology, medicine, epidemiology and public health.

Find key messages, download links and more at: link.

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VI. UPCOMING EVENTS

Grand Opening of EFI’s Biocities Facility & Cities in the Age of Forests

Cities in the Age of Forests: a cross-sectorial international seminar providing a new vision to define our urban environment with the transformative power of trees.
More info on the programme and registration here.
We hope to see you on April 20th!

Dr. FOREST final event

For the past two years, Biodiversa+ funded Dr. FOREST research project has been:
▪ Studying the effects and underlying mechanisms with which tree diversity in temperate forests influences human health and well-being;
▪ Working to understand and predict the effects of global climate change, air pollution and other change factors on biodiversity-related health issues;
▪ Evaluating and defining tree diversity benefits to human health and well-being, and communicating these findings to various stakeholders.

In the spring of 2023, the project is coming to an end and the research results are mostly in. We warmly welcome you to register by the 20th of April for the International Stakeholder Event on Thursday 11th May at the Vlaamse Hoeve at the Meise Botanical Garden.
Besides the Dr. FOREST researchers discussing their results, together with you we will focus on the opportunities and limitations of integrating forest diversity-related risks and benefits into health and biodiversity policies.

Call for Abstracts: Forests & Society Towards 2050 - IUFRO World Congress 2024

The 26th IUFRO World Congress on Forests & Society Towards 2050 in Stockholm, Sweden, will focus on Forests & Society Towards 2050. The Congress offers a collaborative global platform with great opportunities for knowledge sharing and getting access to the latest forest-related science and research. The Congress Scientific Committee welcomes submissions of abstracts for presentations in sub-plenary, technical and poster sessions. Please observe the 2 June 2023 deadline!
Find out more:

International Softwood Conference 2023 to take place in Vienna, Austria 11th-12th of October

7th International SOFTWOOD CONFERENCE Vienna 2023, 11th – 12th October

The Association of the Austrian Wood Industries (Fachverband der Holzindustrie Österreichs), together with the European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) and the European Timber Federation (ETTF), are inviting you to Vienna for the International Softwood Conference 2023 – one of the most awaited events of the year in the wood world.
The conference will be held once again in a hybrid format. While this will give the possibility to attend the conference online to people who cannot travel, the organizers wish to host as many physical participants as possible.
For more information here.

Call for the 14th Southern Forestry and Natural Resource Management GIS Conference

The Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and the University of Georgia invite researchers and other professionals in forestry and natural resources management to a conference devoted to issues and advances in the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and related spatial technologies.
Research presentations and technology demonstrations will be delivered by geospatial professionals from throughout the southeastern United States and beyond on theoretical and practical applications of spatial technologies used in the evaluation and management of natural resources.
Awards will be offered for Best Student Presentation, Best Student Paper, and Best Poster (open to anyone).
Conference website for details: http://soforgis.uga.edu/
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