



Integrate Network European Forest Institute

Issue 5 - December 2021

Dear Friends of the Integrate Network,

What a pleasure to address you for the first time as Integrate Network Chair! During our recent Integrate Network Meeting in Neuchâtel, Spain took over the Chairmanship from Switzerland, and we are looking forward to a fruitful collaboration with our colleagues from policy, practice and research to further improve our work on integrative forest management. In the upcoming months, we want to focus on promoting the use of the Integrate Marteloscope Network (network of demonstration sites) by environmental, educational and research organizations and stakeholder groups, to both increase awareness on the options and opportunities of integration of nature conservation into forest management and train stakeholders on the implementation thereof. During Spanish Chairmanship, we intend to further focus on deepening and diversifying the involvement of the nature and biodiversity conservation sector in the Integrate Network. In this newsletter, you will learn about our recently established Spanish “Monte de Valsaín” Marteloscope, which we intend to show you in person during the next annual meeting of the Network on 19th – 21th October 2022. Furthermore, the Network Secretariat will report upon recent events and ongoing activities all over Europe, as well as on our future plans for the European Integrate Network.

We hope you will enjoy the reading!

Leopoldo Rojo Serrano
Daniel Roures Rego
Integrate Network Chairs

News from the Secretariat

New Multi-Donor-Trust-Fund established for Integrate Network

In December 2021, the Integrate Network Members finally agreed upon a new procedure to keep the Network thriving beyond the actual project funding time (FoReSite end-date is July 2022). It was decided to establish a Multi-Donor-Trust-Fund (MDTF), which will work as follows:

The European Forest Institute will remain the Integrate Secretariat, and coordinate the Network activities incl. communication and scientific support for policy makers and practitioners. At the same time, the Network will operate in the new setting of the Trust Fund, meaning members will contribute to the budget and decide on and oversee the implementation of the Integrate Network activities in the form of jointly developed and approved (annual) working plans. Between August 2022 and July 2023 the Network will be in a transition period – meaning all the current members can continue their participation in the Integrate Network without a financial contribution to the Trust Fund. On 1st August 2023, the Integrate Network will start fully operating in the Multi-Donor-Trust-Fund mode.

Past events and activities

**Annual Integrate Network
meeting, October 2021 -**



“European forests in 2080: visions, challenges and the role of the European Network Integrate”

How can we improve the management of our forests to make them more resilient to impacts of climate change and the increased risk of disturbances? What can we do to first predict and then adapt to change? How can we enhance biodiversity in our forests while still provide wood for the bioeconomy? What can we learn from both science and best-practice examples from all over Europe? How do we want our forests to look like in 60 years from now?

To find answers to these questions is at the heart of the European Network Integrate. In the 7th Network meeting, which took place from 27th – 29th October 2021 Neuchâtel, Switzerland, altogether 44 participants from 14 European countries and the European Commission discussed both challenges and guiding principles for the future of our European forest. Check out our illustrated [meeting report including many presentations of speakers](#).

Photo by Andreas Riegling



Webinar, September 2021 - Constructive and critical dialogue on the new EU Forest Strategy

The new EU Forest Strategy has hit the forest headlines over the summer. In a timely online debate policymakers from the EU Commission met with experts representing forest owners and managers, civil society and national policymakers to discuss what the strategy means for those it affects. The [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN) and [EFI](#) joined forces to organise the high-level webinar and exchange on 22nd September 2021, with support of the EFI coordinated H2020 project [SINCERE](#) and the [Integrate Network](#).

The webinar, moderated by Georg Winkel, Head of EFI's Governance Programme and SINCERE project coordinator, was attended by more than 200 participants. Topics ranged from the role of the forest sector in carbon farming and the CAP, to Forest Management Certification. Read the [report](#) and watch the webinar [here](#).



Insights on “Engaging with Media” Workshop, June 2021

What makes forest-related topics newsworthy? How can we humanize our stories and constantly create better engagement with readers, without repeating the same story over and over?

These topics are tackled in EFI's communications training series, an initiative from the European Integrate Network secretariat. In the second workshop “Engaging with Media,” which took place on 24th June 2021 as a virtual event, we facilitated an intensive exchange on the many challenges faced and the solutions that scientists, journalists, politicians, and practitioners can offer when communicating about forests.

Read the full [report](#).

Upcoming events

How is climate change adaptation and mitigation linked to forest biodiversity conservation in the EU's forests, and what are the major trade offs and synergies? What are the best management and conservation approaches to ensure the best exploitation of synergies? How can the EU policy, and especially the EU Forest Strategy and the EU climate adaptation policy

contribute to balancing the trade-offs in the provision of multiple forest ecosystem services? These questions will be discussed in our upcoming webinar in February, as part of the webinar series established by IUCN and EFI, with support of the EFI coordinated H2020 project SINCERE and the Integrate Network. Stay tuned!

For any information on events and communications activities please contact gesche.schifferdecker (at) efi.int

Updates from Practice



Successful start at Marteloscope “Taferlklause” in Austria

As part of the cooperation event “Summer practice day - Climate adaptation and close-to-nature silviculture” between PRO SILVA Austria and the Forestry Training Center Traunkirchen, Austria, the newly installed Marteloscope “Taferlklause” was presented for the first time on 24th August 2021. It is located in an existing training forest, in a mixed stand dominated by spruce, including beech, ash, larch and sycamore maple. The 23 participants were faced with the challenge of planning a virtual thinning and discussing their silvicultural objectives. Furthermore, they had to develop concrete silvicultural solution strategies and justify them. For this purpose, they used the [I+ software](#), marking on the tablet which trees should be removed and automatically calculating the silvicultural, economic and ecological effects. Read the [blog post in German](#).

Photo by Eckart Senitza



“Monte de Valsaín” Marteloscope in Spain

Since the [First National Meeting of the Integrate Network in Spain](#), Spanish partners have been working in the development of the booklet of the “Monte de Valsaín” marteloscope (to be published soon). Miguel Ramírez López offers a quick overview on the main challenges related to forest management, the support of the Integrate Network and the I+ software. Read the [report](#).

Photo by Miguel Ramírez López



Marteloscopes - self-examination of the “forester’s godsight” in Germany, June 2021

The annual board meeting of the German Working Group on Natural Forest Management ([ANW](#)) took place under the chairmanship of Hans von der Goltz and organized by Johannes Odrost, on 29th – 30th June 2021. High-ranking forest experts met in Massow, where EFI has established the [Massow marteloscope](#). Andreas Schuck and Jakob Derks from the EFI Bonn team were invited to explain how marteloscopes work and organize a field trip at the site. After the discussion, various participants expressed their interest in installing a marteloscope in their own forest district. At the end of the training, the different results led ANW Chairman Hans von der Goltz to the following conclusion: “It is probably very helpful if our ‘forester’s godsight’ is every now and then questioned based on facts”. Read the [blog post in German](#).

Photo by Jakob Derks



Combining silviculture and ecology to benefit our forests - the Irish way

Check out this insightful interview with Jonathan Spazzi, Forestry Development Officer working for Teagasc, Aileen O'Sullivan, Environmental Technical Lead for Coillte Forest, and Pdraig O Tuama, private forestry consultant specialising in clients interested in Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) and former task leader for researching and promoting Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) in Coillte Teo.

They tell about their expectations regarding the establishment of marteloscope sites for the promotion of the Continuous Cover Forest management (CCF) approach. With this approach, they aim at both increasing species diversity and forest conservation in Irish forests as well as enhancing timber value. Read the [full interview](#).

Photo by Jonathan Spazzi



Off to the forest with German school kids, July 2021

Here we are sharing children's impressions of a forest trip in Mooswald at the Opfinger Baggersee with Alexander Held and Andreas Schuck from EFI Bonn. "We did practical tasks, like marking trees. We got a red paper tape and attached it to certain trees. Or collected interesting things from the forest (frogs, leaves). We also determined the age of the trees", said Mathilda from class 6B. Read the [blog post in German](#).

Updates from Policy



Managing England's woodlands in a climate emergency - a guide to implement adaptation actions

How will climate change affect England's trees and woodlands? What measures can be taken to minimize risks and ensure the protection of woodlands for future generations? How to cope with simultaneous threats such as tree pests and diseases?

Based on the UK Forestry Standard's governmental approach for sustainable forest management, the Forestry Commission published a practical guide [Managing England's woodlands in a climate emergency](#). A key factor covered in the publication is the management of climate change risk as a critical part of woodlands management. Mitigation of climate change risks is crucial to ensure adaptation without loss of the ecosystem services that woodlands provide. More information [here](#).

Photo by Tim Hill via Pixabay

Papers and Studies



Factors influencing the rate of formation of tree-related microhabitats and implications for biodiversity conservation and forest management

The retention of trees bearing tree-related microhabitats has become an important means of conserving biodiversity in production forests. However, we lack estimates of tree-related microhabitats formation rates and evidence on factors driving tree-related microhabitats formation. Based on the observation of 80,099 living trees from 19 species groups in Europe and Iran, a group of researchers estimated the probability of tree-related microhabitats occurrence on trees. More information on the paper [here](#).

Photo by Ellicia on Unsplash



From research to action: the future of Old-growth Forests in Europe

A webinar on two recently published studies on primary and old-growth forests provided the opportunity to discuss policy implementation on their protection. It was held by the Commission Working Group on Forests and Nature (sub-working group of the Co-ordination Group for Biodiversity and Nature) on 21st September 2021. EFI presented its recent study, "[Protecting old-growth forests in Europe](#)" – a review of scientific evidence to inform policy implementation. Following, José Barredo gave insight to the Joint Research Centre's (JRC) report on "[Mapping and assessment of primary and old-growth forests in Europe](#)". The Working Group, which aims to progress the process to define, map, monitor, and strictly protect EU's primary and old-growth forests, hosted the webinar with the goal of raising awareness of the two studies among the group's members, as well as to discuss how the scientific findings could inform their ongoing process. Read the full [workshop report](#).

Photo by Lyla O'Brien



Friends or foes? Managing bark beetles in the 21st century

Tomáš Hlásny from the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, presents his recently published paper "[Bark Beetle Outbreaks in Europe: State of Knowledge and Ways Forward for Management](#)" focusing on the management and policy aspects of it. Furthermore, the blog post summarizes the main messages of the paper and explains some of the researcher's motivations. Read the insightful [blog post](#).

Photos by Tomáš Hlásny

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