

EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support: Annual Report 2015

*14 February, 2016
(public version)*



EFI ThinkForest seminar 21 April 2015, European Parliament, Brussels. Photo: Simon Pugh



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

Executive Summary

What is this document?

This document is the Annual Report of the EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support (hereafter MDTF) for 2015. It provides a comprehensive survey of the activities, outputs, impact and budget from the first year of the EFI MDTF for Policy Support. The reporting period is 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015. Its aim is to provide transparent information, which can also be used to assess and evaluate the performance and impact of the MDTF work.

Project Management

EFI Assistant Director Lauri Hetemäki has coordinated MDTF project activities in 2015, with important support from Policy Support Officer Ulla Vanttinen and Communications Officer Rach Colling. The ThinkForest Forum has been chaired by its President, Göran Persson. In addition, other EFI staff resources and outside subcontracting have been used to carry out the activities during 2015.

Project Funding and Costs in 2015

By the 11 March 2015, the first MDTF Steering Committee meeting, 7 countries had joined the MDTF: *Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Norway*. In addition, *Sweden* joined MDTF during the summer of 2015. The total financial contribution from the countries to the MDTF by the end of 2015 was 512 867 euros. The total amount of expenses in 2015 is estimated to have been 420 970 euros (*when writing this 22 January 2016, the EFI accounts for 2015 had not yet been finalized!*).

Summary of Activities

The highlights of activities and outputs from 2015 include:

Publications of two *From Science to Policy*–reports; one assessing the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan; and the other analyzing the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets. Related to these publications, two short *ThinkForest Briefs* were also published. The climate policy *ThinkForest Brief* was also published in French (it was launched in Paris COP21 event). In addition, the MDTF started a new *Science Supporting Policy Making* online newsletter which was spread to EFI network (approx. 1,000 recipients by the end of 2015). During 2015 three Newsletters were published.

ThinkForest events are the flagship science-policy events organized by MDTF, and there were four such events in 2015: 1. “Assessing the impact of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan”, European Parliament, Brussels, 21 April 2015; 2. Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute? International Press Centre, Brussels, 13 October, 2015; 3. ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management, Sonian Forest, Brussels; 13 October, 2015; 4. Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute? Paris, 1 December 2015.

Summary of Impacts

The impact of policy support is notoriously difficult to assess. Impacts may be visible only after a long time-lag, and they tend to be difficult to quantify, such as impacts to changes in policy discussion and policy and stakeholder strategies. The innovative and pioneering nature of the MDTF Project in the area of pan-European forest-related science-policy work also meant that momentum and outputs at the “operating level” took time to build. These included setting-up new policy support activities and publications, and making the work and objectives known in the network and partners. Below, some achievements based on follow-up statistics (downloads), media impact, and feedback from stakeholders and network for 2015 are highlighted. Yet, it is good to bear in mind that some of the biggest impacts of the publications that came out in 2015 may be visible only after 2015.

ThinkForest event participation: Participation in the four ThinkForest events varied between 70-80 participants (in the field trip participation was restricted due to logistical reasons (45)). In total, 265 people took part in ThinkForest events in 2015. In terms of background, 4 major participant groups were national government (ministries) civil servants, embassy and permanent representation staff, stakeholder group representatives, and research community. In one of the events, there was also live video streaming, and it was watched by 622 persons.

Publication downloads: Approx. 500-600 copies of each *From Science to Policy* study were printed. These were distributed at ThinkForest events, to policymakers in Brussels via EFI’s Brussels Liaison Office, and were also sent to EFI’s network and Regional Offices. The electronic copies of the publications proved extremely popular, with *From Science to Policy 2* being downloaded over 1,100 times in its first month of publication. During the first quarter of 2015, the *Science Supporting Policy-making* online newsletter was developed. The newsletter reports on and promotes ThinkForest events and MDTF-funded studies, in addition to more general news items on current MDTF themes. The newsletter is sent by email to EFI’s policy support mailing list, and by the end of 2015, the policy support mailing list totalled some 1,000 subscribers. Subscribers include, e.g. European Parliament (89), European Commission (59), Permanent Representations/Embassies (69), national ministries (121).

Media impact: MDTF Policy Support work was actively promoted in “traditional” and social media. Related to the ThinkForest seminars or publications, media published 32 articles (mainly trade newspapers and journals, but also some national newspapers), and the different stakeholder groups published in total 17 follow-up articles in their forums. During 2015, MDTF-funded policy support work was promoted via social media, taking advantage of EFI’s growing social media presence and existing channels to reach a geographically widespread audience. Effort focused on Twitter, which is used professionally by the policy maker audience (in particular MEPs, European Commission etc). For example, tweets were broadcast from each of the four ThinkForest events, allowing interaction with participants, and dialogue with a wider audience. During 2015, there were approx. 1,800 tweets (a 21% increase on 2014), and the account gained over 1,100 new followers. Within Europe, a high percentage of followers are based in Spain (20%), the UK (15.9%), Finland (7.3%) and Belgium (4.7%).

Feed-back from the network: In general, MDTF Policy Support work received in 2015 very positive feedback and reached a wide audience. This is clear from direct responses received related to the events and publications, from the discussions EFI staff have had with policy makers, stakeholders and research institutes, as well as from the distribution and download statistics shown in this Report. Besides the information presented in this Report, the meetings and discussions EFI’s Director and Assistant Directors

have had during 2015 with a number of stakeholders indicate very positive feedback for MDTF policy support work: such as from the meetings and discussion with European Commission officials (e.g. Commissioners, senior EC officials, Joint Research Centre officials), national government civil servants, EFI Associate Member representatives, etc.

In summary, it appears that the EFI MDTF policy support work has put EFI's work on a different scale. It is helping to fill a clear gap and need for pan-European forest-based sector evidence-based information, has increased science-policy dialogue, is having an clear impact in the network, and has also changed the attitude of how other organizations and stakeholders view EFI's work.

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1. Introduction and background

1.1 EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support

The objective of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) is to support the operationalisation of the activities of the EFI Foresight and Policy Support Programme (FPS). The Trust Fund has been established for a period of three years, 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017. The possible continuation of the Trust Fund will be decided in 2017, after its evaluation.

The Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body of MDTF. The Steering Committee approves the MDTF work programme and related budget. The main aims and responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to provide *strategic guidance and advice* on the operations of FPS. It receives information from the EFI secretariat and gives feedback regarding the outputs, outcomes and impacts resulting from the activities of MDTF policy support work. The Steering Committee does not take part in the operation and management of the MDTF policy support work, science-policy studies, or the selection of the scientists conducting the studies. This is in line with the principle of safeguarding the scientific integrity of the actual science-policy work. However, the Steering Committee members can *comment* the science-policy study manuscripts, but they *do not review* them. That is, the science team doing the report will have the obligation to respond to comments, but the decision how to incorporate, or not to incorporate, the possible Steering Committee comments to the studies, rests on the scientist.

The Steering Committee consists of a representative of each donor, the Director of EFI or his authorized representative, and the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of EFI or a designated SAB member. The membership of a donor ends 12 months following the last contribution of the donor. The Steering Committee meets at least once a year, and maintains an active interaction through correspondence, and can meet informally in connection with other international meetings.

In 2015, the MDTF Steering Committee members were:

Alessandro Bottacci, State Forest Service, Italy
Ingeborg Bromée, Ministry for Enterprise & Innovation, Sweden
Heikki Granholm, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
Thomas Haußmann, *Chair of MDTF*, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany
Martin Nöbauer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria
Noel O'Connor, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
Marc Palahí, Director of EFI
Jonathan Saulnier, Ministry of Agriculture, Agro-food and Forestry, France
Bill Slee, Chair of EFI Scientific Advisory Board
Silje Trollstøl, Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway

In the first MDTF Steering Committee meeting in Vienna on 11 March, 2015, the following observer countries were also present: Czech Republic, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

The MDTF policy support work is managed and administrated by the EFI Foresight and Policy Support Programme. The actual implementation of the science-policy studies, and the speakers in ThinkForest events representing science, are based on the work and presentations by EFI staff and its Associate Members, and science community in general. The aim of the work is to:

- respond in a timely manner to policy makers' information needs with scientific-based analysis and information in an easily understandable and policy-relevant format and scale;
- support the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable policies and strategies relevant for the European forest-based sector;
- communicate effectively and consequently build a better understanding of forest-related issues, proactively involving policy makers and stakeholders.

The above objectives are carried out in particular through EFI MDTF science-policy publications (*From Science to Policy* reports, *What Science Can Tell Us* reports, and *ThinkForest briefs*) and ThinkForest forum high-level science-policy seminars. The ThinkForest forum events have often been chaired by its President, Göran Persson (Prime Minister of Sweden 1996-2006). The president's role has also been important in representing ThinkForest and EFI policy support work in different platforms (e.g., international conferences, videos), providing important networks and access to high-level policy makers, inviting speakers to the ThinkForest seminars, and providing strategic advice for EFI management in policy support work.



ThinkForest President Göran Persson chairing seminar 13 November 2015, Brussels. Photo: Simon Pugh

1.2 MDTF funding and management

Funding: The donors of the MDTF in 2015 were eight countries: **Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Sweden** (Sweden joined during the summer of 2015). The total contribution of donors by the end of 2015 was **512 867 euros**. The expenses of MDTF activities during 1 January to 31 December 2015 is estimated to have been **420 970 euros** (*the exact amount will be known when the EFI accounts for 2015 are finalized in February 2016*).

According to the MDTF Guidelines, funding can be used to finance the following categories of expenditure:

- FPS staff costs and travel expenses;
- EFI staff costs, consultant and expert fees and related expenses (travels, etc) to coordinate and conduct FPS studies and activities;
- Costs for contracting EFI member organizations and other relevant organizations for carrying out scientific assessments, policy studies, etc;
- EFI staff costs and travel expenses related to the negotiations of the trust fund, its establishment and enlargement;
- Communication and media expenses, including publications (e.g. *From Science to Policy* and *What Science Can Tell Us* studies)
- Briefs, EFI News, etc, translations, and video and electronic media;
- Workshop, conference and meeting expenses, including costs associated with presenters, publicity, translation and reporting;
- Equipment related to supporting the activities of FPS;
- Office running costs (not covered by the agreed overheads);
- Costs related to activities, not included above, that have the approval of the Steering Committee;
- Auditing and final external evaluation costs.

Management: The MDTF policy support work is managed and administrated by the *EFI Foresight and Policy Support Programme (FPS)*. It initiates, coordinates, carries out and disseminates science-based analysis and synthesis assessments for policy makers, stakeholders, media and the public at large. It supports science-policy dialogue and functions as a go-between for European forest scientists and policy makers. One of the main activities is also the operation of ThinkForest Forum, the high-level science-policy information, discussion and information-sharing forum.

Based on feedback from the Steering Committee members, EFI will prepare an annual work plan and an associated budget to be approved by the Steering Committee. Studies may be planned to be conducted within a period of up to three years subject to the availability of sufficient funding.

The team responsible for managing and administrating the MDTF policy support work consists of:

Lauri Hetemäki, Assistant Director, EFI
Rach Colling, Communications Officer, EFI
Ulla Vanttinen, Policy Support Officer, EFI

2. Activities and Outputs

The activities under MDTF for Policy Support were of many different types during 2015. The flagship activities are the ThinkForest events and publications. In addition, number of related and supporting activities were started and implemented, such as policy support newsletter, videos, building policy support webpage, posters, and social media activities. This Chapter gives more detailed information about these.

2.1 Publications

2.1.1. Science-policy studies

MDTF publications build on existing EFI series, with the aim of creating a cascade of products, targeted at different audiences and purposes. Their main objective is to synthesise existing science analysis and results, and draw policy implications based on these, in order to support policy making and stakeholders work. The text is accordingly written in a format that is easily accessible to these target groups. During 2015, a new EFI series, *From Science to Policy* was developed, following an extensive benchmarking process. This series is specifically designed for MDTF studies on a focused, topical issue, which are carried out within a short timeframe.

EFI series	No of pages	Purpose
<i>What Science Can Tell Us</i> (WSCTU)	80-100	Synthesis of large scope studies. Main target groups: civil servants, policy makers' assistants, stakeholders, experts, researchers
<i>From Science to Policy</i> (FSTP)	28-32	Synthesis of a specific topic, needed to be carried out within a short timeframe (typically in 4-8 months). Main target groups: civil servants, policy makers' assistants, stakeholders, experts, researchers
<i>ThinkForest brief</i>	8	Briefs based on WSCTU or FSP, and summarizing their policy implications. Main target groups: policy makers, policy makers assistants, media, stakeholders, experts

Detailed science-policy analysis from a What Science Can Tell Us or From Science to Policy study is summarised in a ThinkForest brief for policymakers, and presented at ThinkForest forum events.

In 2015, two *From Science to Policy* studies and four *ThinkForest* briefs were published.

A total of 15 authors from 11 institutions were involved in the two *From Science to Policy* studies. The topics focused on the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, and the forest sector in EU post-2020 climate targets. The study coordinators were Senior Researcher Ragnar Jonsson (EUTR/FLEGT) and Prof. Gert-Jan Nabuurs from Alterra/Wageningen University (climate policy).

Author affiliations	Countries represented
Alterra/Wageningen University* Dovetail Partners Inc EFI INRA* Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences* University of Edinburgh University of Helsinki* University of Freiburg* University of Padova* USDA Forest Service	Finland France Germany Italy Netherlands Sweden UK USA

**EFI Associate Member organization*

Two *ThinkForest* briefs were published in association with the *From Science to Policy* studies. The climate policy brief was also translated into French, for distribution at the COP21 event in Paris, and Brussels.

In addition, one *ThinkForest* brief on biodiversity was updated and reprinted for use at the *ThinkForest* in the Forest event, October 2015.

From Science to Policy



[Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan](#)

From Science to Policy 1, April 2015, 32pp

Ragnar Jonsson, Alexandru Giurca, Mauro Masiero, Ed Pepke, Davide Pettenella, Jeffrey Prestemon and Georg Winkel



[A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets](#)

From Science to Policy 2, December 2015, 32pp

Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Philippe Delacote, David Ellison, Marc Hanewinkel, Marcus Lindner, Martin Nesbit, Markku Ollikainen, Annalisa Savaresi

ThinkForest briefs



[EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan](#)

ThinkForest brief, April 2015, 8pp

Ragnar Jonsson, Alexandru Giurca, Mauro Masiero, Ed Pepke, Davide Pettenella, Jeffrey Prestemon and Georg Winkel

[Integrating biodiversity conservation in forest management \(reprint\)](#)

ThinkForest brief, updated and reprinted October 2015, 8pp

Daniel Kraus, Frank Krumm, Marc Palahí and Andreas Schuck



[A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets](#)

[Un nouveau rôle pour les forêts et le secteur forestier dans les objectifs climatiques de l'Union européenne après 2020](#)

ThinkForest brief, December 2015,

Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Philippe Delacote, David Ellison, Marc Hanewinkel, Marcus Lindner, Martin Nesbit, Markku Ollikainen, Annalisa Savaresi

Policy Support brochure

The Science Supporting Policy-making brochure was published in September 2015, to promote the work of the MDTF. It focuses on EFI's role in building understanding of forest and bioeconomy issues, providing unbiased science-based knowledge, and promoting science-policy dialogue and networking via ThinkForest.



[Science Supporting Policy-making](#) introducing and explaining the EFI MDTF Policy Support work, September 2015, 8pp

Policy support newsletter



During the first quarter of 2015, the Science Supporting Policy-making online newsletter was developed. The newsletter reports on and promotes ThinkForest events and MDTF-funded studies, in addition to more general news items on current MDTF themes (for example bioeconomy, climate policy).

The newsletter is sent by email to EFI's policy support mailing list, using the Apsis newsletter system, and is promoted to EFI's wider network via social media.

Extensive research work was carried out to increase subscriber numbers, and subscription was actively promoted during the year (eg during registration for

events). **By the end of 2015, the policy support mailing list totalled some 1,000 subscribers.** Those subscribers include, e.g. European Parliament (89), European Commission (59), Perm Representations/Embassies (69), national ministries (121).

Three editions of the newsletter were published in 2015.

Newsletter issue	Contents
3-2015 , 28 October 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Spotlight on climate policy -The role of EU forests: report from Oct ThinkForest event, including video - COP21 event advert -ThinkForest in the forest: report from Oct event -Marc Palahí at the 7th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference
2-2015 , 15 September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bioeconomy: An essential part of the solution -ThinkForest Science Policy in Action day advert -Göran Persson at the World Forestry Congress -Wealth from the Northern Bioeconomy -Events
1-2015 , 21 May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Science-policy dialogue in action: April's ThinkForest seminar on EUTR/FLEGT - From Science to Policy study - Spotlight on...climate policy - Spotlight on...EU Forest Strategy - Events

2.2 ThinkForest Seminars

ThinkForest Seminars are the flagship science-policy events organized by MDTF, and there were four such events in 2015: 1. “Assessing the impact of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan”, European Parliament, Brussels, 21 April 2015; 2. Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute? International Press Centre, Brussels, 13 October, 2015; 3. ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management, Sonian Forest, Brussels, 13 October 2015; 4. Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute? Paris, 1 December 2015.

The ThinkForest events benefit significantly from the Presidency of Göran Persson (Prime Minister of Sweden 1996-2006). His PR value, networks, advice, and professional and insightful chairing of the events have greatly helped to raise the profile of the events. He has also taken part in the policy support articles coordinated by EFI and published in newspapers. In addition, Mr. Persson has helped to promote the ThinkForest, EFI policy support work, and European forest sector in general, in different arenas, such as through video and in the World Forestry Congress in Durban. Some of these examples are listed below:

- Media news: South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC, national broadcaster) '[More bold measures needed to preserve forests](#)'.
- Video: http://www.efi.int/portal/news___events/In_Focus/?bid=2124
- [Article in Finnish newspaper](#)

Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan

The effectiveness and impact of the EU Timber Regulation and the FLEGT Action Plan were discussed at the ThinkForest seminar at the European Parliament in Brussels on **21 April**. The event was efficiently hosted by Paul Brannen (MEP, UK) and the discussion was lively. Seminar participants and speakers agreed that Voluntary Partnership Agreements had resulted in significant improvements in forest governance, particularly in how the negotiation process had contributed to civil society dialogue. However, it was clear that more scientific research efforts are needed to see a clear link between legality verification and trade patterns: several speakers noted that the huge complexities of FLEGT interactions, and the fairly recent introduction of the EUTR in 2013 made quantifying the effects of the policies a technical challenge.



Photo: Simon Pugh

Outcomes from the new EFI scientific study, From Science to Policy 1 “Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and the FLEGT Action Plan” were introduced in the seminar. It was attended by 70 participants (90 registered). Some of those registered who were coming from the UK could not reach Brussels due to problems in Eurotunnel. Out of 70 participants, 4 came from European Parliament, 6 from European Commission, and 13 were country representatives (embassies, permanent reps., ministries). Key interest groups, such as CEPF, CEI-Bois, EUSTFOR, FERN and WWF were also represented.

Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute?

On **October 13**, two ThinkForest events took place in Brussels. The morning seminar, which was held in the International Press Centre, Brussels, and sponsored by the government of Norway, brought together policymakers, scientists and stakeholders to discuss how European forests can contribute to climate policy targets in advance of the COP21 talks in Paris in December 2015. Some initial findings of the upcoming EFI science-policy study were presented in the seminar. In a lively discussion, panellists and the audience debated how best to include forest and forest sector emissions and removals in EU climate policy post 2020, and what incentives and tools could be used to increase the mitigation potential of the EU forest sector. The seminar was well attended by 80 participants. The participants represented EU Member States and Norway (26), European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the EU (6), stakeholders and NGOs (25), research organisations (10) and regional administration (4).



Photos: Simon Pugh

After the seminar, a networking lunch was held in the International Press Centre. This offered an opportunity to continue the discussion and exchange views on the day's topic in a less formal way. The lunch was attended by 67 participants.

ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management

On 13 October, the afternoon event 'ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management' focused on forest management and biodiversity and Natura 2000, and took place in the Sonian forest (15 km from the Brussels city). Two representatives of the Management of the Sonian Forest gave a short tour of part of the 4,500 ha forest, offering participants some practical insights into the challenges and trade-offs between managing the forest for recreation, biodiversity and production. As a part of the tour the participants got information on the results and tools developed in the INTEGRATE-project (funded by BMEL, Germany), and were distributed the project ThinkForest brief. The information included also the hands-on demonstration of the Sonian Forest Marteloscope. They were explained the marteloscope concept and shown how with evaluation and simulation software, you are able to carry out virtual tree selection exercises. The day ended with a presentation on Natura 2000 where the conflicts, challenges and possible policy solutions for the implementation of Natura 2000 in managed forests were looked at. In a lively discussion, five potential policy solution pathways, including reinforcing the ecological, social and economic rationales, and working towards an integrated European land use and conservation policy

were explored. The afternoon event was attended by 45 participants, mainly representing countries and stakeholders/NGOs.



Photo: Simon Pugh

Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute?

The fourth ThinkForest event was organised in connection with the COP21 negotiations in Paris-Le Bourget, on **1 December**. Seminar discussions focused on three major issues: expanding the mitigation potential of forests, the bioeconomy and the possibilities it offers for substitution of fossil-fuel based raw materials and products, and economic incentives. EFI's new From Science to Policy study 'A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post -2020 climate targets' was launched at the event.

In wide-ranging discussions, panellists and the audience looked at the issues of subsidies and market mechanisms, the potential in Europe for planting and reforestation, and carbon storage in forest soils. They also discussed the opportunities for Climate Smart Forestry – the fact that there is a great variety of options for how forests and the forest sector can contribute to mitigation in the different regions of Europe, while at same time also find synergies with other uses of forests.

The event was held at the COP21 Climate Generations area in Paris, and it gathered ca. 70 participants (89 registered). These participants represented various countries, also outside of the EU (15), international organisations (5), research organisations (22) and stakeholders/ NGOs (23).

A networking event on the day's topic was organised in a hotel near the Bourget Conference Centre after the seminar. It offered participants an opportunity to ask more questions of the speakers, and to exchange views on seminar topics. The networking event was attended by ca 50 participants.



Photos: François Radermecker

2.3. Other outputs

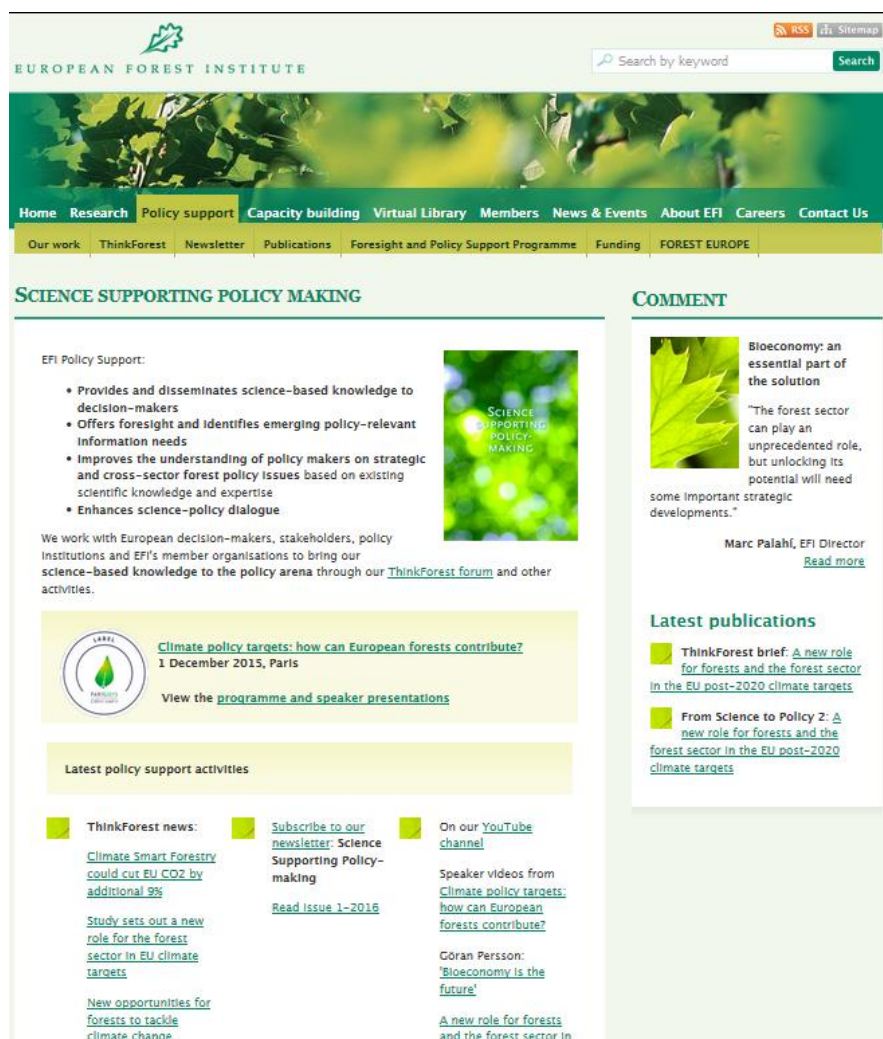
2.3.1. Online activities

The EFI website is an important tool in MDTF communication activities, as it acts as a central, easily accessible source of information about policy support activities. The website not only aggregates content from and signposts users to all other channels, but is also the place where a lasting and easily accessible ‘footprint’ of MDTF-supported outputs is created, making it available to policymakers for future reference.

The first half of 2015 focused on the development of new infrastructure to enable MDTF policy support work to be more effectively communicated. This included a restructuring of content on the policy support section of the website, and a redesign of the EFI homepage to showcase policy support work.

Policy support/ThinkForest webpages

This section of the EFI website was restructured, and a new landing page design for www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice was created, with the aim of promoting the latest policy support activities.



All content within the policy support section was audited and updated. New information about the MDTF and funding, publications, and the policy support newsletter was added.

The ThinkForest webpages were maintained and expanded during 2015, with dedicated sections added for each ThinkForest event. This included mini-biographies of key speakers, programme, background information etc. This was updated after each event to include relevant news releases, photos, presentations and videos.



EFI home page

The EFI home page (www.efi.int/portal/) is the most popular page on the EFI website, receiving approx. 13% of the total website traffic in 2015. The home page was redesigned in June 2015, with two aims:

- (a) enhancing the visibility of MDTF policy support information and activities
- (b) improving access to the policy support pages and increasing web traffic

Previously the provision for policy support information was poor, with only two small links to the policy support pages, and temporary information in news/events/top story.

The new web page design splits the top part of the web page in three, with a new central column dedicated to policy support activities. This is regularly updated with new images from ThinkForest events. A new 'noticeboard' style column allows more opportunities to showcase a rotating selection of activities (for example MDTF studies, videos etc).


The redesign led to a 47% increase in traffic to the main policy support landing page during Jul-Dec 2015, compared to the previous 6 month period.

An example of the old EFI home page (March 2015)

[Home](#)
[Research](#)
[Policy Support](#)
[Capacity building](#)
[Virtual Library](#)
[Members](#)
[News & Events](#)
[About EFI](#)
[Careers](#)
[Contact Us](#)

OUR WORK


Research
Policy support
EFI network
Publications



We carry out, strengthen and mobilise forest research and expertise to address policy-relevant needs with regard to forests and their governance. [Read more.](#)

TOP STORY

Forests: central to the world we live in



EFI joins in the celebrations for the [International Day of Forests](#)! Forests are the most important natural capital of our continent, and crucially linked with challenges like climate change, food, water, energy security, rural decline and biodiversity loss. Forests and the forest-based sector – a key pillar of the bioeconomy – have the potential to be a catalyst that accelerates the transition towards green growth in Europe.

See more in our video: [European Forests: Central to the World We Live In](#)

NEXT EVENT

Bio-economy Symposium: Sowing Innovation – Reaping Sustainability; Forests' Crucial Role in a Green Economy

LATEST NEWS


Success recipe for forest-based business in Russia: "be creative and in the right place"

IN FOCUS

Call for bids for the 2017 Annual Conference Week
Feb 19, 2015

An example of the new EFI home page (January 2016)


[Home](#)
[Research](#)
[Policy support](#)
[Capacity building](#)
[Virtual Library](#)
[Members](#)
[News & Events](#)
[About EFI](#)
[Careers](#)
[Contact Us](#)



RESEARCH

We conduct and promote interdisciplinary and cross-sector research on forests at a pan-European level.

[Read more »](#)




POLICY SUPPORT

We provide unbiased, science-based knowledge for decision makers.


[Read more »](#)

WATCH!

Catch up with the speaker presentations and panel discussion from our COP21 event, [Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute?](#) on the [EFI YouTube channel](#).

PLAYLIST ThinkForest

PLAY ALL

FROM SCIENCE TO POLICY



A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets

was published on 1 December in EFI's From Science to Policy

http://www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice/

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Videos

New video methods were explored during the second half of 2015, with the aim of improving interactivity and broadcasting content to a wider audience. These included the creation of two promotional videos, to explain ThinkForest themes and studies, and the webstreaming/recording of ThinkForest events, to make them accessible to a wider audience.

Two videos were created by [Cambridge Filmworks](#) in October 2015 using footage shot on location in the Sonian Forest in Brussels.



Video 1, [Bioeconomy is the future](#), features a 2-minute message from ThinkForest president Göran Persson. In it, he explains how forests will play a tremendous role in combating climate change, and promotes the ThinkForest COP21 event.

The video has been viewed by approx. 700 people since its publication in November 2015.



Video 2, [A new role for forests and the forest sector in climate targets](#), features Prof. Gert-Jan Nabuurs, coordinator of the From Science to Policy 2 study. In it, he gives some highlights from the study findings.

The video has been viewed by over 300 people since its publication in late November 2015.

Two ThinkForest events were either webstreamed or recorded in 2015, with the aim of bringing the event findings to an audience outside Brussels.

Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute? was held on 13 October at the International Press Centre in Brussels. This event was streamed live via the EFI YouTube channel, with the [full event recording](#) made available afterwards. The livestream was watched by 108 viewers, and a further 500 viewers have watched the recording.

Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute? was held on 1 December in Le Bourget, Paris. Due to technical restrictions at the COP21 venue, the event was recorded. Videos of the [speakers and panel discussions](#) were published on the EFI YouTube channel in January 2016.

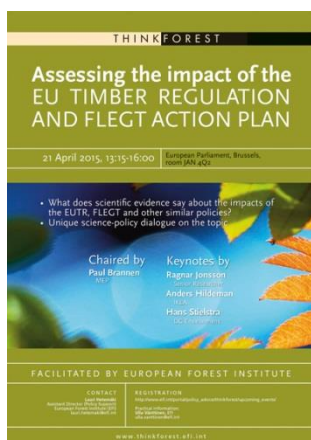
Social media

During 2015, MDTF-funded policy support work was promoted via social media, taking advantage of EFI's growing social media presence and existing channels to reach a geographically widespread audience.

Event	Date
Reminder: Climate policy targets	18.11.2015
Climate policy targets	04.11.2015
Reminder: Towards Paris 2015	24.09.2015
ThinkForest Science-policy in Action Day	31.08.2015

Posters

A4 posters were produced to advertise each ThinkForest event in 2015. These were made available in PDF (for example for use on the web) and printed formats, for ease of distribution. Printed posters were used at events, and distributed in Brussels (for example at the European Parliament).



Press releases/news items

Pro-active contact with the media began to be established during 2015, with regular press releases and invitations to ThinkForest events.

A database of Brussels-based journalists was maintained and updated, together with those across Europe interested in specific topics (for example COP21). A distribution list of relevant journalists was created for each event, and extensive use was also made of ‘multipliers’, news distribution channels such as AlphaGalileo, ScienceDaily, UNECE/FAO Forest Information Billboard, FAO Infosylva.

A dissemination plan was made for each ThinkForest event, and the results from dissemination activities were monitored and logged, using an off-the-shelf system (Meltwater) (see Table 5, Post-event media coverage).

Six press releases were published in 2015:

[EUTR and FLEGT: responding also to the deforestation challenge](#) (22.04.2015)

[Balancing biodiversity and forest management](#) (14.10.2015)

[New opportunities for forests to tackle climate change](#) (14.10.2015)

[Study sets out a new role for the forest sector in EU climate targets](#) (01.12.2015)

[Climate Smart Forestry could cut EU CO2 by additional 9%](#) (02.12.2015)

[Une Sylviculture Intelligente sur le Plan Climatique pourrait représenter une atténuation supplémentaire de 9 % des émissions de CO2 actuelles de l'Europe](#) (02.12.2015)

Press releases were sent to a distribution list of approx. 400-700 journalists, depending on the topic (see section 4.3 Media impacts).

3. Impacts

In general, the EFI MDTF Policy Support work has during 2015 received very positive feedback and it has reached a wide audience. This is clear from the direct responses received (see below), from the discussions EFI staff have had with policy makers, stakeholders and research institutes during 2015, as well as from the distribution and download statistics shown in Chapter 3 and below, and in the Annex. For example (besides the information reported below) from the meetings and discussions that EFI's Director and Assistant Directors had during 2015 with number of stakeholders, very positive feedback was given for the MDTF policy support work: such as in meetings and discussion with European Commission officials (e.g. Commissioner Moedas, Commissioner Hogan, Director of Bioeconomy John Bell, EC Joint Research Centre officials), national government civil servants, EFI Associate Member representatives, etc. In summary, the work has been very well received and pointed to be pioneering and very important.

The only critical comment received to the general EFI MDTF Policy Support work during 2015 has come from one stakeholder association in Brussels. They expressed the view that EFI policy support work is competing with their lobbying work, and EFI should not be engaged on this front. However, the association has been invited and has taken part actively in the ThinkForest events, and EFI is continuously engaging with them. Thus, at least no direct negative influence is visible from this critical view.

Another stakeholder association in Brussels has also expressed that their attitude towards EFI has changed due to the start of the systematic policy support work. They were previously an EFI Associate Member, but decided to give up the membership because of the new role that EFI has. However, the Association has found very beneficial the EFI Policy Support work, and has used and referred to the EFI policy support reports and events in their official statements and newsletters, and used them to back their statements. They have also actively taken part in EFI ThinkForest events during the year.

In summary, it appears that the EFI MDTF policy support work has put EFI work on a different scale. It is helping to fill a clear gap and need for pan-European forest based sector evidence-based information, has increased science-policy dialogue, is having a clear impact, and has changed the attitude of how other organizations view EFI.

3.1 Downloads

All MDTF publications (From Science to Policy, ThinkForest briefs and policy support brochure) were produced in printed and online formats during 2015.

Approx. 500-600 copies of each From Science to Policy study were printed. These were distributed at ThinkForest events, to policymakers in Brussels via EFI's Brussels Liaison Office, and were also sent to EFI's network and Regional Offices. The electronic copies of the publications proved extremely popular, with From Science to Policy 2 being downloaded over 1,100 times in its first month of publication.

Title	Publication date	No of copies printed and distributed	No of electronic copies downloaded in 2015
From Science to Policy 1 (EUTR-FLEGT)	Apr 2015	500	2,524
From Science to Policy 2 (A new role for forests)	Dec 2015	600	1,107 (<i>within one month!</i>)

Detailed information is available in Table 2.

3.2. Feedback from stakeholder and network

ThinkForest seminars

Overall feedback has been very positive. For example after having heard about the ThinkForest event, many participants have wanted to join EFI's policy support mailing list in order to better follow the schedule of events along with the news. Members of the EFI's policy support mailing list have increased from 673 to 963 during the period August-November 2015. In addition, direct oral and written responses after the events have been very positive, and indicated the usefulness of the MDTF events/publications (see examples below).

Examples of direct oral and written commentary on ThinkForest events and publications

Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, 21 April

- The European Commission (DG International Cooperation and Development) personnel, who had concerns about the event beforehand, were very happy with the event and thought that it successfully helped to contribute to the dialogue and process of evaluating the FLEGT-EUTR.
- Some registered participants on a way to seminar could not reach Brussels (due to had problems on the Eurostar tunnel). One of them sent the following message *"I was very much looking forward to this event, especially as it is at the Parliament. I have read through the policy brief that you sent through and have 2 comments on that I would like to raise; 1) On the section on illegal logging, I think that this could be worded more positive, as there are many independent studies such as the recent Chatham house ones that strongly indicate that the countries that have been involved in the FLEGT VPA's have had a positive impact on illegal logging within those countries. 2) On the section on provide support for smaller organisations - much of this support is already picked up through trade federations such as ours (along with other national and indeed ETTF within Europe). Timber Trade Federation, UK"*

Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute?, 13 October

- *'I attended the EFI Forest Climate meeting this morning and was struck by the high value contributions of both speakers and presidency.'* Ministry of Economy, the Netherlands
- *'Thank you for an interesting event'.* Confederation of the European Forest Owners

ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management, 13 October

Summary on spoken comments received:

Participants of the event were delighted about the two-part concept of the event; at first to have a tour in the forest and secondly, enlarge and discuss the presented topic inside in a meeting room. In addition, many positive comments were received on a hands-on demonstration of the Sonian Forest Marteloscope. According to these comments, it was interesting to learn about evaluation and simulation software on an actual training site, not only in theory.

One participant missed the bus leaving from the International Press Centre to the Sonian forest, and was unhappy about the organisation of the event.

Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute?, 1 December

- *'Congratulations to you and your team for delivering an excellent meeting!'* International Sustainability Unit, The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation, UK
- *'Thank you, a good event.'* Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland
- *"I think that the discussion was very fruitful and participants were provided with a clear vision on the importance of the role of forest in a climate change prospective."* European Organization of the Sawmill Industry.
- The COP21 seminar room in Le Bourget Conference Centre had technical problems related to power point presentations and noise (the loud noise from the seminar in neighboring room caused concern)

On From Science to Policy No. 2 publication

- *"Many thanks for sending through your EFI COP21 report which I found extremely useful and interesting. I wanted to let you know that it arrived just in time for me to cite it during a UK All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group meeting at the Houses of Parliament on the 3rd December. It was well received in case you need examples of impact."* From a researcher at Centre for Environmental Policy Imperial College London, UK
- *'Thanks a lot for this most interesting report, which I already forwarded to several colleagues here at Eurostat.'* European Commission, DG Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, Unit E2 Environmental statistics & accounts; Sustainable development
- European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, Directorate for Bioeconomy, requested extra information regarding forest sector and climate change mitigation, for future strategic research policies.
- *"This article seems very fruitful and usable for our researchers. And also this document would be*

appreciated by my graduate students.” Professor, Kahramanmaraş Sütçü İmam University, Faculty of Forestry, Turkey

- **On ‘Bioeconomy is the future’ video** (launched to flag the publication and the COP21 ThinkForest event in Paris): ‘An excellent video on forests and the bioeconomy.’ Member of the Forest Department, Castilla and Leon Regional Government. Sent also the link of this video to all members of the Spanish forest council (an advisory body on forest policy).

After each ThinkForest event, a **press release** on the event has been published at the EFI website. **As a follow-up, stakeholders have published news on their own websites** (see Table below).

ThinkForest event	Number of (web)articles
<i>Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, 21 April, Brussels</i>	4 stakeholders 2 NGOs
<i>Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute? 13 November, Brussels</i>	1 stakeholder 1 NGO 1 ministry 1 research organisation
<i>ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management, 13 October, Sonian Forests, Brussels</i>	2 research organisations
<i>Climate policy targets: how can European sector contribute? 1 December, Paris</i>	1 stakeholder 1 NGO 1 industry 1 research organisation

The detailed information is available in Table 4.

3.3. Media impacts

Press releases and press invitations were distributed by email, using an off-the-shelf system, Meltwater. This allows you to create distribution lists based on country and the journalist’s ‘beat’ (area of specialism), and to monitor whether each news release/invitation has been opened.

Meltwater covers all journalists in the following countries: Austria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.

In addition, a separate database of Brussels-based correspondents was created and maintained in-house.

Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, 21 April

	Countries covered	Mailing list size	Press invitation to event (% read)	Post-event press release (% read)
Forestry-related journalists	Austria, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK	321	28%	22%
Brussels-based and other targeted correspondents	Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, UK	97	14%	14%

Science-policy in Action, 13 October

	Countries covered	Mailing list size	Press invitation to event (% read)	Post-event press release (% read)
Forestry-biodiversity-environment journalists	Austria, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK	402	19%	17%
Brussels-based and other targeted correspondents	Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Sweden, UK	168	26%	16%
Climate-related journalists	Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA	93	16%	5%

Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute?, 1 December

	Countries covered	Mailing list size	Press invitation to event (% read)	Post-event press release (% read)
Forestry-biodiversity-environment journalists	Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK	402	21%	24%
Brussels-based and other targeted correspondents	Austria, Belgium, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA	140	21%	18%
Climate-related journalists	Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA	138	20%	17%
French climate/environment journalists*	France	26	8%	12%

**sent both event invitation and press release in French*

Post-event media coverage, and ongoing media monitoring was also carried out via the Meltwater system. The COP21 ThinkForest event, together with associated From Science to Policy Study 2 received the widest media coverage during 2015, in particular reaching national newspapers in Finland and Ireland. See Table 5 for more details.

4. Current and emerging forest-related policy issues and trends

According to the MDTF Guidelines *“EFI will provide on a yearly basis a broad overview (summary) of the current and emerging European forest-related policy issues and trends”*. This Chapter seeks to fulfill this objective. Its focus is on European and the EU level, but it also shortly discusses some of the global level developments. Evidently, the latter also have implications to Europe. Given the summary and forward looking nature of the Chapter, the discussion is selective and seeking to raise issues, rather than comprehensive and definite.

4.1 Summary of policies, processes and trends in Europe

In recent years, an increasing number of policies affecting European forests and the forest-based sector have paradoxically accentuated their importance, but also the fragmentation and complexity, of the European forest policy environment. Examples of new or updated policy initiatives relevant for European forests include:

- Europe 2020 Strategy
- EU Horizon 2020
- EU Rural Development
- EU Climate and Energy Package 2030 framework and 2050 roadmap
- EU Bioeconomy Strategy
- EU Biodiversity Strategy
- EU Timber Regulation
- EU Forest Strategy

It is clear that different policy domains have an impact on European forests and forestry. They correspond to a complex web of legal and non-legal instruments that influence forests in the European Union (and beyond), especially as there is no direct official policy for forests and the forest-based sector at the EU level. For this reason, EU forest strategies and action plans directly affecting forests and forestry in the EU are voluntary, and implementation essentially depends on the goodwill of its Member States. It is only for legally binding instruments that the Commission follows up on implementation rigorously and, when necessary, starts infringement procedures, such as in the case of Natura 2000 implementation.

What constitutes an EU forest policy continues to be a domain fragmented and torn between different sectoral interests whenever new targets evolve. As there is furthermore very little coordination, the varying interests create a challenging situation of compliance as the implementation of diverse policy instruments can lead to incoherence, if some policy goals turn out to be potentially conflicting (e.g. biodiversity conservation versus some forms of biomass extraction for energy). Despite this policy vacuum, a rising number of legislative acts that directly and indirectly affect forests have in the last decade influenced forest management. **In essence, although the EU does not have a forest policy as such, it is making policies that have direct or indirect impacts on forests and the forest-based sector at the EU and Member State level.**

On the other hand, the EU and its Member States are members of the **Forest Europe process**, and have in this capacity been active in the negotiations for a **Legally Binding Agreement (LBA)** on forests. Even if the negotiations on an LBA have recently failed to yield concrete results, members of the Forest Europe process still aim to develop policies on how to further protect and sustainably manage forest ecosystems. Moreover, a small number of forest-related legally binding instruments have been agreed and ratified, among them the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats which in its appendix includes some forest species to be protected. The European Landscape Convention relates in parts to forests, but does not provide a coherent approach to SFM. Sub-regional conventions, such as the Alpine and the Carpathian Conventions, are binding for a limited number of EU Member States and both have adopted protocols on forests.

In summary, at the pan-European level “forest policy” can be defined by different policy areas that are fragmented, lack cohesion and coordination, and are regulated by measures which are voluntary at the EU level for the most part. One of the most significant challenges to resolve this situation relates to the lack of political interest or willingness both at the EU and pan-European level. Some Member States may not be interested in dealing with the forests and forestry at the EU level. One example of this is the near complete absence of forests in the Water Framework Directive – forests are in fact only noted once as a possible pressure point in an Annex to the Directive. Forests should play a central role in water protection measures but are instead only identified as a potential threat. So despite the ever-increasing list of demands being placed on forest resources we do not see a major shift in governance arrangements, or in how forest issues are being coordinated. The new **EU Forest Strategy** appears not strong enough to change this situation, even though it may contribute to some improved coordination between the Member States (as the previous Strategy and Action Plan).

Perhaps national and EU-level efforts to push for a **biobased economy** can become an important driver for the forest-based sector to renew, as well as to re-establish the sector’s importance for the general economy. The relevance of the **Bioeconomy Strategy** should be highlighted also due to its over-arching and cross-cutting nature, and its ambition to link with different policy areas, such as climate change, energy, agriculture, research, industry. Furthermore, the Bioeconomy strategy builds on the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Horizon 2020), which explicitly includes forestry and the forest-based sector under the Societal Challenge Theme covering the Bioeconomy.

The key to managing forests in the future therefore seems to lie in finding shared goals, such as on the bioeconomy. This, on the other hand, would seem to require a more holistic view of forests and the forest-based sector and its links to other sectors. A balanced approach that accommodates all interests, acknowledges the regional differences in forests and forest sector, and takes into account the necessity for trade-offs, needs to be identified. However, it is clear that it will not be easy to formulate such an approach.

4.2 Summary of policies, processes and trends globally

On a global level, in May 2015 the meeting of the **United Nations Forest Forum** (UNFF11) decided on two outcomes: the resolution on the “International Arrangement on Forests beyond 2015” and the Ministerial Declaration on “The forests we want: beyond 2015”. The UNFF11 resolution was subsequently adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council on 22 July 2015. The UNFF11 resolution strengthened and extended the International Arrangement on Forests until 2030, and established the UNFF Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network.

The **XIV World Forestry Congress** on 7-11 September in Durban, South Africa, set out its vision of how forests and forestry should look in 2050, adopting [the Durban Declaration](#) after a week of debate. The vision calls for the forests of the future to be "fundamental" for food security and improved livelihoods. Forests and trees must also be integrated with other land uses such as agriculture in order to address the causes of deforestation and conflict over land, according to the declaration. Finally, sustainably managed forests must be an "essential solution" to combating climate change, optimizing their ability to absorb and store carbon while also providing other environmental services.

In terms of global policies impacting on European forests and the forest-based sector in coming years, 2015 ended with a significant development, namely the **Paris Agreement** on 12 December 2015 **at the United Nations 21st Conference of Parties (COP21)**. The Agreement has already been widely applauded as being historic, yet at the same time, only the beginning of a long remaining path. Its possible implications for European forests and forest-based policies and sector are discussed in the next section, along with some other emerging themes and outlook.

4.3 Emerging issues and outlook

Here, we focus only on two most important trends or already identified major drivers - which are also related - that are likely to have major impacts on the European forest-based sector in the coming decade(s): **global and EU climate policy**, and **bioeconomy development**. Furthermore, as an example of a new potential emerging issue not yet topical in the European forest policy agenda, but possibly in the future, we raise the issue of **refugees problems related to political and environmental trends** and the potential of the **forest sector capacity building and know-how to play a role in helping to alleviate these problems**.

4.3.1 The Paris Climate Agreement¹

What could be the roadmap for the climate agreement in relation to forests and the forest sector in the coming years? **The Paris Agreement** sets the global warming target to be "well below +2°C compared to the preindustrial levels". In order to achieve this, the Parties have given voluntary pledges to decrease their net emissions of greenhouse gases (the so-called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions - INDCs). The latter are clearly not enough to reach the +2°C target, and extra efforts are required for the future as soon as possible. Also, there are concerns as to how well the Parties are able to fulfill their pledges. In this respect, very relevant for the EU are the paragraphs about '*Regional Economic Integration Organizations*', i.e. the EU, and how they are going to distribute and achieve their joint target.

In the Agreement, most relevant for forests are lines in Article 4 that say '*...to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks...*'. This is the basis to take up forests with their sinks. Moreover, Article 5. Paragraph 5.1. states '*... to conserve and enhance ...sinks and reservoirs*

¹ This sub-chapter is heavily based on Jean-Luc Peyron, Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Jean-Marc Guehl and Lauri Hetemäki "Paris 2015 – a historic agreement and a work-in-progress for the EU forests", EFI News 2016-1 (*forthcoming mid-March 2016*).

of greenhouse gases...including forests'. Also, Paragraph 5.2. has specific sentences related to deforestation and degradation, for which the reduction of GHG emissions is the main objective of the REDD process. However, it is also stated that the '*... sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches such as joint mitigation and adaptation...*'. These Paragraphs are well adapted to the Tropics where there is still much to do in that field in terms of methods, funds and governance.

Given the Paris Agreement, the EU basically has the full freedom on how and to what degree it wants to take up forests in its overall climate target. The EFI MDTF study '[A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets](#)' indicates that this role of forests in the EU can be very large. For example, it is estimated that EU forests could compensate up to 20% of EU fossil fuel emissions by 2040-2050, including avoided emissions due to material and energy substitution. Given the diversity of forests and forest sectors in the different Member States, the measures and incentives also need to be very different. *Climate Smart Forestry* (CSF) is exactly an approach that mainstreams climate mitigation by using forests and the forest sector and related policies and measures in a way that utilizes the different regional characteristics and circumstances of the EU Member States.

In some locations, the aim of CSF could be to e.g. reducing fire risk, or preserving peat, or developing afforestation with adapted provenances. But in regions where felling rates are low, and thus the carbon sink is large, more intensive forest management could produce new products for the bioeconomy, avoid GHG emissions, and increase the carbon stock in products. In addition, it could over time increase resilience to disturbances and enhance the annual increment. In general, although the Agreement does not specifically mention the substitution impact, the potential of the forest sector in many regions creating a bigger material and energy substitution effect than the lost sink effect, should be recognized and taken into account in mitigation policy.

The challenge for the EU is how, and to what degree, land use and substitution effects could be included in its mitigation targets for forestry and forest sector. The Paris Agreement gives the room for that. Especially setting targets per Member State and creating the right incentives will be a huge challenge. Also, it is noteworthy that the terms like '*monitoring, reporting and verification*' do not any more appear in the Agreement as such. On the other hand, the Agreement discusses *procedures and guidelines*, thus giving the impression of more flexibility on what type of measures can be taken.

The Paris Agreement also deals with adaptation to climate change. Article 7 states that Parties ensure "*an adequate adaptation response in the context of temperature goal referred to in the Article 2*". This recommendation makes the Agreement consistent between its adaptation and mitigation provisions. However, there are uncertainties in these considerations, particularly as regards the ability of the Parties to increase their pledges and to fulfill these. Whether the 2 °C target will realize, will have significant implications for forestry and already has because of the long life-cycle of trees. Thus it is important for forestry to be prepared to larger climate changes, and with growing effects much beyond 2050.

Finally, Climate Smart Forestry confirms the relevance of an integrated vision between mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. Still, improved and integrated studies for studying the mitigation and adaptation of the European forests and the forest sectors will be needed. For example, one important topic to analyse would be to project an overall and comprehensive carbon balance of carbon sequestration, storage and substitution in the forest-based sector over time under different scenarios of climate change and different evolutions of management. This could be a starting point to initiate an

integrated vision of climate change in EU forests and the forest sector. Member States, EU Commission, forest owners, NGOs, industry and scientists should collaborate on this important agenda.

In summary, the Paris Agreement gives a good basis also to develop new policies and measures to enhance the role that European forests and the forest sectors play in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

4.3.2 The Bioeconomy development

The European forest-based sector is in a period of profound structural change. Fundamental changes have already taken place in forest products markets, and significant structural changes are anticipated in the next 10-20 years. For example, some important forest products face mature or even declining markets, and at the same time see increasing competition from emerging economies. On the other hand, forest products which did not exist in the 20th century are already in production now - not to speak of the possibilities in coming decades.

The European forest-based sector is also becoming more diversified, interlinked, and cross-sectorial. It is increasingly affected by issues such as climate change impacts and policies, energy policies, advances in new technologies, the increasing role of services, and trends towards a low carbon bioeconomy or green economy. The forest sector is also becoming more integrated with other industrial sectors, such as construction, energy, chemicals and textile industries. The concepts of “forest-based sector” and “forest-based bioeconomy” are beginning to replace the conventional concept of “forest sector”.

European forest products markets may change more in the coming two decades than they have during the whole of the 20th century. This has not really been addressed by the sector - **there are major issues needing urgent re-assessment and research, as well as policy and stakeholder attention.**

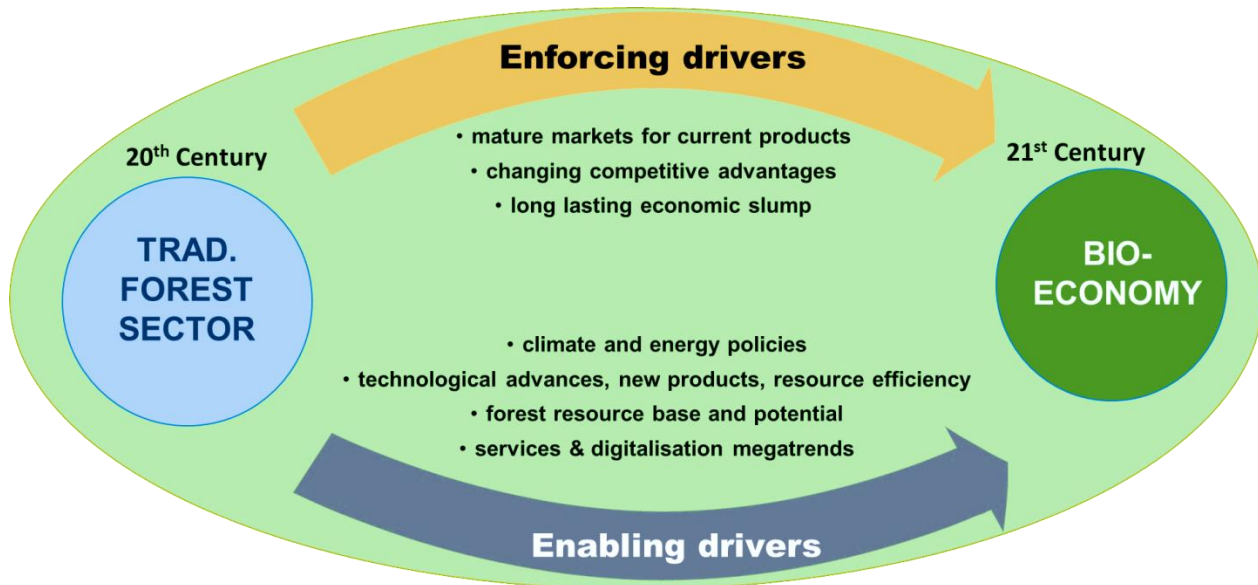
The current state of the European forest-based sector could be labelled as one of *creative destruction*. The concept was coined by economist Joseph Schumpeter in the 1940s to describe a “*process of industrial mutation that incessantly revolutionizes the economic structure from within, incessantly destroying the old one, incessantly creating a new one.*” It highlights the fact that some economic activities or sectors decline and vanish, while at the same time new technologies, products and business models emerge. ‘Destructive’ processes include:

- the declining demand for communication paper products and stagnating demand for number of other forest products
- the economic slump in the EU over the last seven years and its many impacts
- the move of some forest industry investments to fast-growing markets in Asia, or low-cost production regions like South America

The changes above have also been important drivers for the European forest-based sector to *renew*. This is the ‘creative’ or innovative side of the development, opening up **new opportunities for the sector to move and contribute to the bioeconomy:**

- Forest industry is changing strategies and business models, investing in new products such as second and third-generation biofuels and biochemicals, as well as new engineered and prefabricated wood products
- Changes in markets are also creating new demand for old products, such as dissolving pulp and tall oil. Global demand for dissolving pulp has grown over 10% annually since 2011, driven by the need in the textile industry to substitute cotton by more environmentally friendly raw materials

Creative destruction *enforces* and *enables* a change to bioeconomy



Existing forest sector outlook studies are either outdated or incomplete in some important respects, which may lead to incorrect policy conclusions. The most striking example is the long-term projections for graphics paper demand and supply in many European countries. Reassessments should also use systematic foresight methods to address developments which cannot be evaluated by traditional data-based models. Foresight is also necessary to generate a shared bioeconomy vision on which strategies can be based.

There has been general agreement that there will be growing demand for EU forest biomass in the future, due to increases in the production of forest-based bioenergy along with traditional and new forest-based products. This view is supported by more general megatrends of increasing global population and the middle class. The increasing demand and 'tightness' of forest biomass markets in the EU is a clear possibility.

What is needed is needed is new European level forest bioeconomy products markets assessment, and forest biomass demand-supply assessment, that take into account some recent and emerging trends and structural changes. Such as:

- structural changes in already existing forest products markets
- the impacts of new and emerging forest based products and services

- the impacts of international trade
- the basic market and price mechanism
- technological advances in biomass conversion, bioenergy production and biomass harvesting
- new and increased competition for non-forest biomass sources
- the changing global competitive advantages in product value chains

If these issues are properly accounted for, the results could still imply an increasing demand for forest biomass in the EU in the future - or not. We do not really know.

Be prepared for product-related services – the new megatrend

In the future, a significant part of the value added and employment in the European forest-based sector is likely to come from services related to products and the whole forest value chain, in addition to the actual processing of forest biomass. The forest-based sector is likely to follow the trend in other manufacturing sectors in OECD countries. Digitalisation, or the *industrial internet*, has made it possible to develop new services related to products, e.g. monitoring and remote servicing. It also helps to disaggregate the product value chains to *tasks*, which may be produced in different geographical locations, and by a number of different enterprises.

High-cost western European countries may increasingly focus on services related to new products, rather than actual manufacturing at scale of traditional forest products. However, this possibility and the impacts and opportunities for the European forest-based sector have hardly been addressed in research or in the EU forest or bioeconomy strategies, national forest policy documents and industry vision papers.

Design policies for a cross-sectorial and regionally diverse industry

The forest products sector has been dominated for over a century by the pulp and paper and wood products industries. In the coming two decades, the sector will also increasingly merge with the construction, energy, chemicals and textile industries to become an essential part of the bioeconomy. It turns from a very focused sector into a very diversified one.

When designing policies, we need to acknowledge the *regional diversity* of the European forest-based sector, and the fact that it has significantly different roles and contributions in different countries. For example:

- in Finland about 78% of the land area is covered by forests, compared to less than 9% in the Netherlands
- in Poland over 80% of the forest area is state-owned, whereas in Portugal over 90% is in private hands

Due to these and a number of other differences, it is clear that how European countries and regions perceive the role and possible contribution of their forest-based sector will vary.

Place strong emphasis on climate policies

Although it is very unlikely that there is one overarching policy which can solve the challenges and create opportunities, strong emphasis needs to be placed on the climate policies which make the use of fossil-based raw materials and products significantly more expensive than they are today. In one way or another, it is an essential tool in tackling climate change, and also provides incentives for economies and sectors (including the European forest-based sector) to transform to the new bioeconomy.

Sustainability and resource-efficiency are necessities

Environmental sustainability, resource-efficiency and emphasis on comparative advantages are necessities. Whatever policies and strategies are designed, these are crucial elements and must form a basis for them.

Invest more in research, development and education

Despite the fact that the economic slump and the need to cut public spending might create pressures not to invest in such activities, more investment in research, development and education is needed. This is necessary for the sector to renew itself and be globally competitive.

4.3.3 Refugees and forest sector capacity building as an emerging issue

As an example of one potential emerging issue we raise the topic of **refugees**. At first glance, one might question what does it have to do with European forest sector? The aim here is to shed light on this question, and point to its potential importance.

The year 2015 was a watershed in the EU refugee issue in many ways. First, the number of refugees increased rapidly to an unforeseen level in the recent history of the EU. This, in turn, created political conflicts at the EU level, as well as at the Member State level. As a result, e.g. some of the basic policies of the EU were questioned, such as the Schengen Agreement and Dublin Regulation. Moreover, it brought in to discussion the core values of the EU and its Member States. In short, the refugee question, in addition to its clear humanitarian challenge, created fundamental political and social crises in the EU which are unlikely to go away very soon.

The immediate causes of the refugee problem are political conflicts and wars in the Middle-East and North-Africa, as well as the desire of people in these areas to seek better living conditions. At the root of the political conflicts and wars seem to be, at least partly, the poor livelihood and pessimistic expectations of the possibilities for improvements in the welfare in the future. As a result, the regions are conflict-sensitive.

In the future, there are expectations that the refugee problem will be significantly worsened due to climate-refugees. That is, people losing livelihood possibilities in their current home regions as a result of climate change destroying living conditions one way or another.

It seems evident, that the refugee problem cannot be solved by the EU countries taking increasing numbers of refugees in as rapidly as would be required. This may be impossible purely due to logical and infrastructure capacity reasons, but also due to the political willingness to do so. A possible climate-refugee problem in the future would only increase the magnitude of the problem. Given these, it is clear

that the EU will be forced to find new ways that would help to solve the problem. The issue is clearly very complex, and there is unlikely to be any single policy or method which would solve it. Rather, it will most likely consist of various policies and approaches that each help to contribute to the objective. The EU is eagerly trying to find all the tools and policies that could help with this.

Could the European forest sector help in providing at least some contribution for the solution? This is a question that does not appear to have been raised on the political agenda so far. Yet, it could potentially be in the future, and for good reasons.

Some of the regions where the refugees are coming from seem to suffer from problems such as droughts, poor forest management and forest sector governance, lack of know-how and innovations in forest related livelihood possibilities, lack of access to forest products markets, etc. Here, well-focused EU policies and increased resources for building forest sector capacity in these regions could contribute at least to some extent to solving the refugee problem. In terms of the social, political and economic benefits, it would be better to try to solve the refugee problem where it is created, rather than act after the problem has already caused people to move from their home regions.

How to move ahead with this? First, it would be important to have a team of forest sector experts and scientists to look at the possibilities that exist in refugee regions to improve their forest sectors and the livelihoods that they provide. Is there something that could be done with the help of the EU, and if so, what would be the priorities? What type of policies and strategies would be needed? Also, what are the possibilities to anticipate or project future changes in forest sectors due to climate change, and how to best adapt to these? This type of assessment would be important to help to move the issue onto the policy agenda, and finally to action.

5. Conclusions

The year 2015 was the first year of operation of the MDTF. Although EFI had been active in science-policy support work already before 2015 (e.g., ThinkForest seminars and *What Science Can Tell Us* publications), with the start of the MDTF the work became more systematic and its scale was increased. Also, new *modus operandi* was introduced in terms of the Guidelines, Steering Committee, management, and new operations. The latter included e.g. the new publications series *From Science to Policy*, Policy Support Newsletter, EFI Policy Support webpage, videos and live streaming of ThinkForest seminars, and new types of field events (Sonian Forest). Also, during 2015 EFI Director and Assistant Director engaged also in number of activities to engage new members to MDTF. These included discussions and negotiations with Czech Republic, Poland, Sweden (*joined in summer 2015*), Spain (*has indicated joining in 2016*), as well as with European Commission (DG Agri, DG Research). Thus, significant part of the MDTF work in 2015 went also to planning and setting up these new operations and continuing dialogue with potential donors. Yet, the main activities in 2015 were the four ThinkForest events, two *From Science to Policy* publications, and *ThinkForest briefs*.

It is very difficult to establish the impact of MDTF science-policy support work e.g. to policy processes or stakeholder strategies. The impacts are likely to be gradual, at least partly indirect, and realized perhaps only after years. The most likely potential impacts will be through the science-policy studies and ThinkForest events over time helping to change discussions and utilized in preparing and supporting new policies and strategies. Consequently, in terms of MDTF work impacts assessment, this report focused on the quantifiable statistics and direct network responses from the activities carried out during the 2015. These were e.g., publication and video downloads, number of ThinkForest participants, media articles, and listing of the direct written responses. The Report has extensively and in detail provided these and other information related to the activities in 2015. The purpose with this has been mainly twofold. First, allow assessing the significance and impact of the MDTF work. Secondly, provide information to those not yet familiar with the EFI MDTF policy support work (e.g., for potential new donors).

Since the MDTF work is pioneering, and no other organization has engaged in such a pan-European forest-based sector related science-policy work, it is difficult to compare (benchmark) the work to others. In fact, exactly because of this, many policy makers and EFI associate Member organization have expressed their gratefulness that EFI has started such pioneering work. Given these responses and the information provided in this Report, the EFI FSP team considers the MDTF work having reached well the set objectives for 2015. The activities were carried out also very cost-efficiently. Yet, it is in the end the donors and EFI network assessment that will be the most important and provide the appropriate judgement of the work.

Finally, the EFI FPS team gratefully acknowledges the gratitude for the donors and Steering Committee for supporting the work, and providing strategic guidance for it. All the members of the Steering Committee have been very supportive. The Steering Committee Chairman Thomas Haussmann, due to his position, has been most actively engaged, and provided always the support needed. Also, we wish to thank all the scientists that have been contributing to the studies and activities in 2015! The support from the EFI Director has also been very important for the work.

The work of 2015 forms a good basis to continue the MDTF policy support work in 2016 and 2017!

Annexes

Table 1: Online statistics

Table 2: Number of ThinkForest participants according to background

Table 3: Stakeholder follow-up articles related to events and publications

Table 4: Media coverage

Table 1: Online statistics**Publication statistics**

Title	Publication date	No of copies printed and distributed	No of electronic copies downloaded in 2015
From Science to Policy 1 (EUTR-FLEGT)	Apr 2015	500	2,524
From Science to Policy 2 (A new role for forests)	Dec 2015	600	1,107 (<i>within one month!</i>)
ThinkForest brief (EUTR-FLEGT)	Apr 2015	200	1,114
ThinkForest brief (reprint of Integrating biodiversity)	Oct 2015	100	368
ThinkForest brief (A new role for forests)	Dec 2015	500	157
ThinkForest brief (Un nouveau rôle pour les forêts)	Dec 2015	200	19
Policy support brochure	Sept 2015	2,000	469

Policy support electronic newsletter

Three editions of the policy support newsletter, *Science Supporting Policy-making* were sent by email to subscribers during 2015

Edition	Date	Number of subscribers	% read
3-2015	28.10.2015	877	39.1%
2-2015	15.09.2015	784	39.2%
1-2015	21.05.2015	632	38.2%

Electronic event invitations

Four event invitations were sent by email to subscribers during 2015:

Event	Date	Number of subscribers	% read
Reminder: Climate policy targets	18.11.2015	963	34.1%
Climate policy targets	04.11.2015	923	36.2%
Reminder: Towards Paris 2015	24.09.2015	821	36.1%
ThinkForest Science-policy in Action Day	31.08.2015	673	41.0%

Social media

Twitter

1,803 tweets were sent out during the course of 2015, an increase in 21% on the previous year. The EFI Twitter account gained 1,106 new followers, a 7% increase on 2014.

Twitter, 2015	Tweets	Gain in followers
Jan	108	86
Feb	167	99
Mar	155	113
Apr	151	89
May	152	81
Jun	169	80
Jul	87	75
Aug	105	73
Sep	196	114
Oct	193	111
Nov	197	100
Dec	123	85
Total	1,803	1,106
% 2014	+21%	+7%

EFI's other social media channels were also utilised:

Other channels	No of policy support-related posts
Linked In	18
Facebook	47

Videos

Three videos were published on the EFI YouTube channel in 2015:

Video	Published	No of views
Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute? (Event livestream and recording)	13 October	622
Bioeconomy is the future (<i>Göran Persson</i>)	3 November	697
A new role for forests and the forest sector in climate targets (<i>Gert-Jan Nabuurs</i>)	17 November	342

Website

During 2015, the Policy Support section of the EFI website contained 194 web pages. This includes all ThinkForest web pages (122 pages). To place this in context, the EFI website contains over 5,800 webpages.

In 2015, policy support/ThinkForest web pages were viewed a total of 20,817 times, by 5,658 visitors. This represents some 5% of the whole EFI website's traffic.

The EFI home page (www.efi.int/portal) received 53,508 page views and 21,924 unique visitors in 2015 (approx. 13% of the total website traffic).

Policy support and ThinkForest webpages, 1 Jan-31 Dec 2015

Page views



ThinkForest webpages, 1 Jan-31 Dec 2015

Page views



The ThinkForest web pages were moved to www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice/thinkforest from their standalone website in June 2014, therefore direct comparisons with 2014 visitor numbers/page views are not possible.

Web pages	No of page views 2015	No of unique visitors
All policy support pages, including ThinkForest	20,817*	5,658*
Policy support main landing page (policy_advice/)	3,767	1,942
Our work section (policy_advice/our_work/)	164	114
ThinkForest section (policy_advice/thinkforest/)	14,256	3,740
Newsletter (policy_advice/newsletter/)	296	168
Publications section (policy_advice/publications/)	356	166
Foresight and Policy Support Programme (policy_advice/fps/)	368	256
Funding (policy_advice/funding/)	112	69
Forest Europe section (policy_advice/forest_europe/)	578	391

**This figure includes pages which were moved or deleted during 2015 (eg the former FLEGT-REDD pages).*

EFI home page

A redesign of the EFI home page, www.efi.int/portal was carried out in June 2015. This led to a 47% increase in traffic to the policy support web pages (www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice) for July-Dec 2015, compared to the previous 6-month period.

Table 2: Number of ThinkForest participants according to background

Participant background	1. Assessing the impact of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, 21 April, Brussels	2. Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute? 13 October, Brussels	3. ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management, 13 October, Sonian Forests, Brussels	4. Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute? 1 December, Paris
EU Parliament	4	1	0	1
European Commission	6	4	1	1
Council of the EU	0	1	0	0
Ministries	4	14	10	11
Embassies, perm. representations	10	10	5	3
Forest industry	10	7	4	4
Forest owner	2	3	1	4
NGO	2	3	0	3
Other stakeholder group	17	13	8	10
Research	7	12	7	20
Other(e.g. international org.)	1	4 (regional admin.)	2 (regional admin.)	5
Media	1	0	0	2
TOTAL	70	80	45¹	70

¹ Number of participants were restricted due to logistical reasons

Number of MDTF countries represented in ThinkForest events *(out of 8 countries)*

Participant background	Assessing the impact of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, 21 April, Brussels	Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute? 13 October, Brussels	ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management, 13 October, Brussels	Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute? 1 December, Paris
Ministries	4 FI, FR, GER, IRL	5 ESP, FI, FR, GER, NOR	5 ESP, FI, FR, GER, NOR	3 FI, FR, GER
Embassies, permanent representations	3 FI, GER, NOR	4 FI, GER, NOR, SWE	4 ESP, GER, NOR, SWE	2 FI, NOR

Table 3: Stakeholder follow-up articles related to events and publications

ThinkForest event on Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, Brussels, 21 April 2015				
Date	Publisher / Stakeholder	Specified, article name	Link	Stakeholder background
21.04. 2015	Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)	European Parliament debates the impacts of EUTR and FLEGT	http://www.cepf-eu.org/artikkel.cfm?ID_art=794	Forest Owner Association
23.04. 2015	European Policy Department of DNR (German League for Nature and Environment)	EU-Staaten müssen bei Holzverordnung nachbessern	http://www.eu-koordination.de/umweltnews/news	NGO
27.04. 2015	IMPEL: European Union Network for the implementation & enforcement of environmental law	Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation still a major challenge	http://impel.eu/news/implementation-of-the-eu-ti	NGO
11.05. 2015	EU Energy Policy update	European Commission starts evaluation of the EU Timber Regulation	http://act.apcoworldwide.com/acton/fs/blocks/showLandingPage/a/7076/p/p-0023/t/page/fm/0	Consulting
12.05. 2015	CEPF Newsletter	May 2015 edition	http://us9.campaign-archive2.com/?u=847fd77a8fc19389ad80399f3&id=9d0e8b6da3&e=ff847be4fc	Forest Owner Association
15.05. 2015	Forest-based Sector Technology Platform	Assessing the Effectiveness and Impact of the EUTR	http://www.forestplatform.org/en/	Stakeholder Association

ThinkForest event on Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute?, Brussels, 13 October 2015

Date	Publisher	Specified, article name	Link	Publisher background
9.10. 2015	Wageningen University	Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute	http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/newsarticle/Towa	Wageningen University
14.10. 2015	Norwegian government	Skog spiller nøkkelrolle i klimaarbeidet	https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/skog-og-kli	Ministry
22.10. 2015	The European Policy Department of DNR (<i>German League for Nature and Environment</i>)	Wälder haben mehr Potenzial	http://www.eu-koordination.de/umweltnews/new	NGO
4.12. 2015	Skogsindustrierna	Skogen spelar viktig roll i klimatarbetet	http://www.skogsindustrierna.org/skog-industri/in	Industry Association
24.11. 2015	Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF) Statement	Europe needs to recognise and realise the full potential of forests and wood based products in combating climate change	http://www.cepf-eu.org/vedl/CEPF%20statement_LULUCF%20and%20climate%20change%20mitigation_Nov%202015_FINAL.pdf	Forest Owner Association

ThinkForest in the forest: biodiversity and forest management, Brussels, Sonian Forests, 13 October

Date	Publisher	Specified, article name	Link	Publisher background
December 2015	The Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO)	Marteloscoop geïnstalleerd in Zoniënwood (NB 12/15)	https://www.inbo.be/nl/marteloscoop-geinstalleer	Science
19.10.2015	Integrate+ project	Discussing biodiversity and forest management in the Sonian forest	http://www.integrateplus.org/news/38/58/Discuss	Science

ThinkForest event on Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute?, Paris, 1 December, 2015

Date	Publisher	Specified, article name	Link	Publisher background
3.12.2015	Pöyry	How we can pay down carbon debt and grow forest	http://www.poyry.com/news/articles/how-we-can	Consulting
1.12.2015	Wageningen University	EFI study sets out new role for the forest sector in EU climate targets	https://www.wageningenur.nl/en/newsarticle/EFI-	Science
1.12.2015	European Organisation for Sawmill Industry (EOS)	EOS message for the event on "Climate policy targets: How can European forests contribute?"	http://eos-oes.eu/en/news.php?id=889	Industry Association
December 2015	FERN Newsletter, No. 210	How LULUCF could increase mitigation ambition in EU	http://www.fern.org/node/5998/	NGO

Table 4: Media coverage

ThinkForest event on Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan, 21 April 2015			
Publisher	Type of publication	Article name	Link
AlphaGalileo	Global news distributor	From Science to Policy: Assessing EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan	http://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=151897&CultureCode=en
ENDS Europe	European environmental news	Countries struggle to implement EU timber rules	http://www.endseurope.com/40697/countries-struggle-to-implement-eu-timber-rules
Envirocentre.ie	European environmental news	Countries struggle to implement EU timber rules	http://www.envirocentre.ie/News.aspx?ID=79D21E24-862B-4685-A66A-2D7059FB72E2&PID=a257bece-c1e7-464a-9cd0-fde10d3a18c3&NID=204d653a-732f-4f80-be10-68d12c9cb031&M=2
Forest Bioenergy Review	European bioenergy and forestry news, online	EUTR and FLEGT: responding also to the deforestation challenge	http://www.forestbioenergyreview.com/for-bio/forest/item/323-eutr-and-flegt-responding-also-to-the-deforestation-challenge
Forestal maderero	Online forestry news, Colombia	EUTR y FLEGT respondiendo tambien al desafio de la deforestacion	http://www.forestalmaderero.com/articulos/item/eutr-y-flegt-respondiendo-tambien-al-desafio-de-la-deforestacion.html
Hortitrends	Online horticultural news, Ireland	Countries Struggle To Implement EU Timber Rules	http://www.hortitrends.com/aboriculture-a-forestry/17594-countries-struggle-to-implement-eu-timber-rules
Schattenblick	German news listing	EU-Staaten müssen bei Holzverordnung nachbessern	http://www.schattenblick.de/infopool/umwelt/industri/uinho263.html
TimberWeb.com	Global timber website	EUTR and FLEGT: responding also to the deforestation challenge	http://www.timberweb.com/News/IndustryNewsDetail.html?id=7002
Umwelt Monitor	Online environmental news, Germany	EU-Staaten müssen bei Holzverordnung nachbessern	http://www.umwelt-monitor.de/2015/04/eu-staaten-muessen-bei-holzverordnung-nachbessern-2/
ThinkForest event on Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute?, 13 October 2015			
Publisher	Type of publication	Article name	Link
E-science news	Global science news distributor	New opportunities for forests to tackle climate change	http://esciencenews.com/sources/science.daily/2015/10/16/new-opportunities.forests.tackle.climate.change

Forestry.ie	Online forestry and timber news, Ireland	New opportunities for forests to tackle climate change	http://www.forestry.ie/news/european-forest-institute-news
Landbruksavisen	Online bioenergy newspaper, Norway	Skog spiller nøkkelrolle i klimaarbeidet	http://bioenergi.landbruksavisen.no/2015/10/15/skog-spiller-nokkelrolle-i-klimaarbeidet/
Phys.org (science news)	Global science news distributor	New opportunities for forests to tackle climate change	http://phys.org/news/2015-10-opportunities-forests-tackle-climate.html
Schattenblick	German news listing	Wälder haben mehr Potenzial	http://www.schattenblick.de/infopool/umwelt/klima/ukleu172.html
Science Daily	Global science news distributor	New opportunities for forests to tackle climate change	introducing and explaining the EFI MDTF Policy Support work
TimberWeb	Global timber website	EU: New opportunities for forests to tackle climate change	http://www.timberweb.com/News/IndustryNewsDetail.html?id=7110
Umwelt Monitor	Online environmental news, Germany	Wälder haben mehr Potenzial	http://www.umwelt-monitor.de/2015/10/waelder-haben-mehr-potenzial/
ThinkForest event on Climate policy targets: how can European forests contribute?, 1 December 2015			
Publisher	Type of publication	Article name	Link
AlphaGalileo	Global news distributor	Time for a fresh look at forest sinks	http://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=158964&CultureCode=en
Barents Observer	Online newspaper, Barents region and the Arctic	"Wood you believe in forest?"	http://thebarentsobserver.com/ecology/2015/12/wood-you-believe-forest
Forestry.ie	Online forestry and timber news, Ireland	Study sets out a new role for the forest sector in EU climate targets	http://www.forestry.ie/news/european-forest-institute-news
Greenbelt	Online forestry news, Ireland	Forests to fight climate change	http://www.greenbelt.ie/services/itemlist/tag/climate%20change.html
Helsingin Sanomat	Finnish national newspaper	Metsien käyttö johtaa metsävarojen kasvuun ja suurempiin hiilinieluihin	http://www.hs.fi/mielipide/a1449722640544
Helsingin Sanomat	Finnish national newspaper	Metsien käytöllä voidaan leikata ilmastopäästöjä	http://www.hs.fi/paakirjoitukset/a1450330483101
Il Bioeconomista	Online bioeconomy news, Italy	Marc Palahí talks to Il Bioeconomista. An interview with the director of EFI	http://ilbioeconomista.com/2015/11/23/marc-palahi-talks-to-il-bioeconomista-an-interview-with-the-director-of-efi/
Irish Farmer's Journal	Irish national newspaper	Enlisting the EU's forests in the fight against climate change	http://www.farmersjournal.ie/enlisting-the-eus-forests-in-the-fight-against-climate-change-195258/
Maaseudun Tulevaisuus	Finnish national newspaper, focusing on agriculture/forestry/rural issues	Hakkuukiista kiihtyy: tutkijat kumoavat ilmastopaneelin metsävaihteita	http://www.maaseuduntulevaisuus.fi/mets%C3%A4/hakkuukiista-kiihtyy-tutkijat-kumoavat-ilmastopaneelin-mets%C3%A4v%C3%A4itteit%C3%A4-1.134597

Metsälehti	Finnish national publication, focusing on forestry	Metsien roolia ilmastonmuutoksen hillinnässä voisi kasvattaa	http://www.metsalehti.fi/Templates/BlueMeteorite/News/Pages/NeoNewsItem.aspx?id=18657095&epslanguage=fi
Metsälehti	Finnish national publication, focusing on forestry	Metsille suurempi rooli ilmastotalkoissa	http://www.metsalehti.fi/Metsalehti/Metsauutiset/2015/12/MUUT-LEHDET-Metsille-suurempi-rooli-ilmastotalkoissa/
Phys.org	Global science news distributor	Time for a fresh look at forest sinks	http://phys.org/wire-news/210420085/time-for-a-fresh-look-at-forest-sinks.html
Skogsaktuellt	Swedish national monthly publication, focusing on forestry	Bioekonomi är framtiden	http://www.skogsaktuellt.se/artikel/49082/bioekonomi-ar-framtiden.html
UNECE Forestry and Timber	News billboard from UNECE	Forest Information Billboard Issue 4 2015	http://www.unece.org/forests/about-us/forest-information-billboard/issue-4-2015.html
TimberWeb	Global timber website	Climate Smart Forestry could cut EU CO2 by additional 9%	http://www.timberweb.com/News/IndustryNewsDetail.html?Id=7113



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