

**Date of submission:**

---

**Regional and Sub-Regional Inputs to UNFF10**

---

**Regional/ Sub-regional Organization: European Forest Institute**

Name: Risto Päivinen  
Title: Director  
Address: Torikatu 34, 80100 Joensuu, FINLAND  
Phone/Fax: +358 10 773 4313  
E-mail: risto.paivinen@efi.int

**Person to contact concerning the submission, if different from the focal point:**

Name: Anu Ruusila  
Title: Head of communication  
Address: Torikatu 34, 80100 Joensuu, FINLAND  
Phone/Fax: +358 10 773 4315  
E-mail: anu.ruusila@efi.int

---

**General Information**

The multi-year programme of work (2007–2015) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) sets a new focus on regional collaboration and partnerships. Since its eighth session in 2009 the Forum has solicited inputs from relevant regional and subregional forest related mechanisms, institutions, organizations and processes as an integral part of session deliberations.<sup>1</sup>

At its ninth session, the Forum invited regional and subregional organizations to strengthen their contributions to the work of the Forum and to provide input, in the context of the overall theme for UNFF10, on their efforts towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, (herein after referred to as the forest instrument) and its four Global Objectives on Forests, through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences. Regional activities on North-South and South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation on SFM were also encouraged.

This questionnaire has been prepared by the Forum Secretariat to facilitate regional inputs for the tenth session of the Forum (UNFF10), to be held from 8 to 19 April 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. In completing this questionnaire, you may choose to extract the relevant information and include it in your submission, if information is already available in an existing report or

---

<sup>1</sup> Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the parent body of the Forum, through its resolution 2006/49, agreed to “Strengthen interaction between the Forum and relevant regional and subregional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes , with participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum.” (paragraph 2)

document. Otherwise, you may provide the reference or document itself to the UNFF Secretariat, indicating the relevant section.

The size of the report of the Secretary General will be a maximum of 8,500 words (approximately 16 pages). In view of this, the Forum Secretariat suggests no more than five pages of written input. We would be most grateful if you could send your inputs to [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org), fax: 917-367-3186) by **30 September 2012**. In light of time constraints and financial limitations, you are kindly asked to provide your input in English.

## **Section I: Progress towards the implementation of the forest instrument in the context of the overall theme of UNFF10 on “Forests and Economic Development”**

### A. Progress towards implementation of the forest instrument

1. Briefly describe actions (e.g. regulatory, financial/economic and informational/educational) taken by your organization to foster political commitment for sustainable forest management (SFM).

*The European Forest Institute took a decisive step towards strengthening our policy support activities by establishing a Policy Support Office in Barcelona. The establishment of the Policy Support Office allows also for more efficient operations within our FLEGT-REDD Unit.*

*Activities such as the high-level forum on forests, ThinkForest, were launched. This forum is a unique science-policy action, bringing together high-level policy makers and leading European forest scientists to generate an inspiring and dynamic science-policy dialogue on strategic forest-related issues. The President of the forum is Mr. Göran Persson, the former Swedish prime minister, who chaired the launch event on Bio-economy in May 2012. Forthcoming ThinkForest events will also make use of the considerable expertise of EFI's member organisations.*

*We participated actively in the Work Group of the EU Standing Forestry Committee in developing the EU New Forest Strategy, and in this context prepared a paper detailing our vision for a European forest research area. We also actively took part in the activities of FOREST EUROPE in planning and implementing its Work programme as well as working as part of the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for the Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe.*

*Our goal is for research to provide science-based insights into forests and forest-related issues at the European and European-regional scale, and also to address European policy topics in a global context. We conduct research on forest-related topics in a collaborative way, analysing available but often scattered information to provide policy support on a pan-European level. This we do with a multi-disciplinary point of view, acting as an international institute serving our Member Countries' needs.*

*We also worked on the development of the topical research profiles of the Regional Offices, and on three research themes to run across all our work: sustainability and climate change; foresight, economics and information; and forest policy and governance.*

*Our new projects include ARANGE on multifunctional forest management in European mountain ranges, involving Central-East European Regional Office - EFICEEC and the Sustainability and Climate Change Programme. The INTEGRATE (Integration of Biodiversity Conservation into Forest Management and its Relation to Other Forest Functions/Services) project began at Central European Regional Office and the Observatory for European Forests - EFICIENT-OEF, to investigate the integration of nature protection in forests and the maintenance of various forest functions. This is a direct project for the German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV), demonstrating the involvement of our Member States. The Ex-post evaluation of the EU Forest Action Plan started at EFICIENT-OEF, in collaboration with the Foresight and Information programme.*

*Information portals such as the EUROFOREST portal, Forest Products Price Information Portal, the Information portal on Forest Policies, Institutions and Instruments, and the Nordic-Baltic Forest portal are useful to decision makers, politicians, official bodies, organisations and individuals with an interest in the forest sector.*

*EFI launched a new publications series, What Science Can Tell Us. The first issue, Water for Forests and People in the Mediterranean – A Challenging Balance was also published in Spanish and French, and aims to improve the science-policy interface regarding water and forest interactions and trade-offs. We also published a Research Report on Private Forest Owners in the Western Balkans – Ready for the Formation of Interest Associations, and a Discussion Paper called Are MCPFE Indicators Suitable for Planted Forests? These publications serve policy makers by providing unbiased scientific information on issues related to SFM.*

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

2. Briefly describe efforts taken at the regional level to foster economically, socially and environmentally sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests.

*EFI has been coordinating a multi-year capacity building project since 2004 on Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research (FOPER) in South-East European Countries consisting of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia and Serbia with 9 research and education institutions as partners. The FOPER project continues in implementing several components including International Master Program in Forest Policy and Economics, FOPER Doctoral College and Collaborative Regional Research Teams working on policy, governance and socio-economic related issues.*

*FOPER project has contributed to the progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals, especially eradication of poverty, gender equality, environmental sustainability and global partnership for development. In support of forest-based sustainability and improved forest sector governance the project will have the following main achievements by 2013: 1) 40 MSc. Students graduated in forest economics and policy, compatible with Bologna – process; 2) 10 regional university teachers have gained increased experience in modern teaching and research methodologies and improved access to European expert networks; 3) 15 researchers trained to apply modern research methodologies in forest policy science and socio-economics, and 4) estimated 300 professional have been trained in relevant forest policy, governance and economic issues through short courses.*

*Sustainable forest management providing renewable energy, sustainable construction and bio-based products - RoK-FOR projects final conference on 4 December in Brussels will*

*gather audience from regional, national and EU levels to learn about regions' innovative solutions to green growth from forests. The project work on research-driven clusters will continue in the participating regions in Baden-Württemberg, North Karelia, Catalonia, and the cross-border clusters Croatia-Serbia and Aquitaine-Basque Country until the project conclusion in January 2013 – and the follow-up ideas are already looking beyond that. Several benchmarking and study tours have been arranged to learn for example about regional wood clusters, forest bioenergy and wood construction sector. Expertise, ideas and contacts were brought to home organisations for developing forest-based sector activities and clustering in the regions. A study on innovative business models for private forest owners was introduced during the FOREXPO trade fair in Aquitaine, France in June. The investigation is still continuing together with collection of good practices in adaptation to climate change and in bioenergy sector development.*

*Furthermore, the partner regions were interested in ways to assess impacts of different uses of forest biomass or for example, how to assess different actions aimed at mitigating climate change. In ToSIA "Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment" they found a readily available framework for indicator-based scenario assessments. New ToSIA case studies were drafted in a training session in May in Varaždin, Croatia, and some of these ideas have already materialised into funding applications.*

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

3. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to promote international trade in forest products from sustainably managed forests harvested.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

4. Briefly describe actions taken to enhance regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance.

*Our work on FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and trade) and REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) increased substantially and now the EFI FLEGT and REDD Unit houses two EU Facilities. Support for Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) negotiations proceeded well, and made use of the lessons learned in earlier processes. During 2011, the EU concluded VPA negotiations with three partner countries. In Asia, a wide range of FLEGT-related events was organized, and contributed to, across the region. All these activities contribute to the regional cooperation to address illicit international trafficking in forest products through the promotion of forest law enforcement and good governance. The work is done in close co-operation with the European Commission hence reaching the European decision makers. A network of the central timber producers' association is involved in the EFI FLEGT activities.*

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/ or lessons learned.

5. List and briefly describe activities aimed at mobilizing new and additional resources from all sources for SFM.

EFI has developed with its partners ToSIA (Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment) which is a decision support tool for the forestry sector. EFI also hosts the ToSIA Management and User Group (TMUG). Any organisation

interested in using and maybe even further improving ToSIA (an innovative, do-your-own-scenarios Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment) for its further use, dissemination and development is welcome and it aims at mobilizing additional resources for SFM in the long run.

Please describe the main challenges encountered and/or lessons learned.

6. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on the implementation of the forest instrument and the impact made by the forest instrument on enhancing forest-based economic development.

*ToSIA (Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment) is a decision support tool for the forestry sector. With this tool, forest-based industry, national and international policy makers, and researchers can analyse the sustainability effects of changes due to deliberate actions (e.g. in policies or business activities) or due to external forces (e.g. climate change, global markets). ToSIA analyses environmental, economic, and social impacts of changes in forestry-wood production chains, using a consistent and harmonised framework from the forest to the end-of-life of final products. It allows users to analyse different kinds of sustainability effects in a balanced way. ToSIA has been applied in various regional sustainability assessments*

#### B. Progress towards GOFs

1. Please describe actions taken by your organization and/or by other public and private organizations (e.g., government, NGOs, private sector, etc.) in your region/subregion to help achieve the following :

GOF1, “Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation”

*EFI hosts EU REDD Facility. The EU REDD Facility is one of several European initiatives to address the underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to foster sustainable forest management in developing countries. The European Forest Institute established the EU REDD Facility at the end of 2010 with funding from the European Commission and its Member States. The objectives of the Facility are:*

- To support developing countries as they prepare for and implement REDD+*
  - To assist developing countries meet their goals in building needed capacity for REDD+, with a focus on improving governance*
  - To enhance lessons learning from and explore interactions between the FLEGT and REDD+ processes at country level*
  - To inform policy making by the European Commission and EU Member States on REDD+ support to developing countries*
- GOF2, “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people”

GOF3, “Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests”

GOF4, “Reverse the decline in ODA for SFM and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM”

2. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on progress towards the achievement of the GOFs.

### C. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. Please describe studies or initiatives in your region that capture the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs?
2. What indicators have been, or could be, used to assess the contribution of forests to the MDGs?
3. Please provide additional information specific to your regional/subregional on MDG forest- related work.

### **Section II: Characteristics of regional and sub-regional cooperation and partnerships**

1. Please provide examples of how your region or sub-region is engaged in facilitating cooperation in sustainable forest management? These may include North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
2. What advances has your organization made in such areas of cooperation?

*The Ministerial Conference FOREST EUROPE in June 2011 was one of the international processes we contributed to, keeping the flags out for European forest science in the preparations for the Oslo Ministerial Decision. EFICIENT-OEF participated in the work of FOREST EUROPE through authorship of the State of Europe’s Forests 2011. Furthermore, we contributed to the work of the Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork of the EU.*

*Our Regional Offices play a crucial role in conducting advocacy work in the different regions of Europe. This is possible thanks to their active network partners, who represent regional stakeholders and have the best possible knowledge of regional forest-related issues. For example, EFICEEC participated in COP3 (Kyoto Protocol Climate Conference) of the Carpathian Convention, and has worked actively for the*

*promotion of forest sciences in the Carpathian region. EFIMED's advocacy work yielded great results when it was granted a specific ERANET scheme for Mediterranean forest research: FORESTERRA (Enhancing FOREst RESearch in the MediTERRAnean through improved coordination and integration). FORESTERRA is coordinated by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness, and led by EFIMED, which also provides the secretariat. This ERANET is of crucial importance as it aims to reinforce scientific cooperation on Mediterranean forests by activating a transnational EU-Mediterranean network, and initiating transcontinental cooperation among Mediterranean Climate Areas.*

*We continued our work in advocating for new forest topics in the European Union 7th Framework Programme Work Programme 2013, and actively participated in the revision of its Strategic Research Agenda. Under the umbrella of the FTP (The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform) forestry value chain, we organised a brainstorming meeting for key experts among our Associate Members on potential topics for the work programmes, which were then advocated to the Commission.*

*EFI is also leading a project CI-SFM - Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe which will provide an objective review of the achievements of the pan-European Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), and of how they have been implemented at the European, national and local levels and in sectors other than forestry. The project will also identify challenges and develop recommendations for improving the C&I set and their further development and implementation in an evolving international environment – in consideration of European and national level needs.*

3. In which areas would your organization like to see stronger international cooperation?
4. Please describe any joint activity relevant to the Forum's work undertaken with member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)<sup>2</sup> and/or involving major stakeholders?
5. Please provide additional information specific to your region/subregion on successful cooperation and partnerships, including those with the private sector and other civil society organizations (also known as major groups).

EFI has continued successful partnership, especially in the context of Forest Europe work programme, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and FLEGT/REDD activities, with Liaison Unit Madrid, FAO, UNECE, IUFRO, CEPF, CEPI, and other leading forest related stakeholders and the EU Commission.

6. Please list (or, if available, provide link to the relevant webpage) the member countries and organizations with whom you work on sustainable forest management issues.

---

<sup>2</sup> List the names of CPF member organizations

*The Convention on the European Forest Institute states as follows:*

*“Article 2: Purpose and functions*

*1. The purpose of the Institute is to undertake research on the pan-European level on forest policy, including its environmental aspects, on the ecology, multiple use, resources and health of European forests and on the supply of and demand for timber and other forest products and services in order to promote the conservation and sustainable management of forests in Europe.*

*2. In order to achieve its purpose, the Institute*

*a) provides relevant information for policy-making and decision-making in European countries relating to the forest and forest industry sector;*

*b) conducts research in the above-mentioned fields;*

*c) develops research methods;*

*d) organises and participates in scientific meetings; and*

*e) organises and disseminates knowledge of its work and results.”*

*([http://www.efi.int/portal/about\\_efi/organisation/convention\\_\\_\\_hca/](http://www.efi.int/portal/about_efi/organisation/convention___hca/))*

*A total of 23 European States had ratified the Convention on EFI, namely Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.*

*These countries are Members of the Institute and EFI works closely with them fulfilling the purpose of the institute. The highest decision making body of the Institute, the Council, consists of representatives of the Members, and meets in ordinary session every three years. Croatia holds the Chairmanship of the Council for the period 2011–2014.*

*EFI also has over 130 member organizations*

*([http://www.efi.int/portal/members/member\\_organisations/](http://www.efi.int/portal/members/member_organisations/)) across Europe and beyond with which it works closely on research and policy support on issues related to the SFM.*