



Dear EFIATLANTIC partners, we are very pleased to wish you a happy and fruitful 2012! As you can read in this newsletter, 2011 was quite busy and we have been successful in involving many organisations in concrete actions, through projects like RoK-FOR, REINFFORCE, STORM, INFORM, DSS tools for forest and events like Nematode Day, colloquium on the future of Aquitaine forest, GEFF meeting, Montesclaros declaration...

We not only dealt with hot, immediate topics like storms, but we also started to work on mid-term issues requested by our donors, such as tools to deal with land-use conflict at the landscape level, how to value forests and improving mutual knowledge with a new version of our expert database forthcoming at European level. In the meantime, we are also building long-term partnerships with the REINFFORCE infrastructure for climate change adaptation, the excellence network EVOLTREE on genetics and new facilities to support risk management. As we are part of EFI, even though we focus our effort on the Atlantic regions and planted forests, we try to keep our mind open to what is happening in other parts of the world and to stretch some of our existing tools at European level. For such a small team it is a huge amount of work to deal with so many issues - hopefully, our network and the other EFI units will still help us as efficiently over the next year as in the past year! So we invite all of you to our next annual meeting in the Azores on 3 May to visit a new network member, and see the Atlantic REINFFORCE arboreta!

Christophe Orazio, EFIATLANTIC Head of Office

EFIATLANTIC NEWS

Colloquium “Innovation for promoting the Aquitaine forest: urgent measures and perspectives”, Bordeaux November 2011

This major event took place in November 2011 at the regional council of Aquitaine in Bordeaux, and summarized all the research and development activities supporting innovation in the region. The event was organised by regional stakeholders with the support of EFIATLANTIC and the REINFFORCE project, and was opened by the president of the regional council M. Rousset and the prefect M. Stefanini. More than 230 people attended. All the presentations are available on the [EFIATLANTIC website](#).

Some presentations are related to the emergency measures and tools set up to deal with the Klaus storm damage in 2009, others give an overview of current research activities preparing forests for future climate changes and emerging risks. Mechanisation improvement and logistics standards were also discussed, in addition to wood power supply status and insurance issues.

(EFIATLANTIC/C.O.)

Christophe Orazio's stay in New Zealand

Thanks to the EU FP7 TRANZFOR programme coordinated by INRA (www.tranzfor.eu), Christophe Orazio, the Head of the EFIATLANTIC Unit, was able to visit New Zealand for three months in 2011. He joined a professional tour co-organized by New Zealand and French South West forest owners' associations for two weeks and was then hosted at SCION (NZ Forest Research Institute) in Rotorua for the rest of his stay. As part of the International Year of Forests, Christophe also contributed to an international seminar on forestry organisations at the New Zealand Parliament on 30 September 2011, co-organized by the French Embassy in Wellington...../....

Events supported by EFIATLANTIC

•22-23/02/2012: [RoK-FOR Conference “Innovative and Sustainable Wooden Architecture and Construction”](#), Hondarribia / Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain

•01-02/03/2012: [COST ACTION FP0603](#): Forest models for research and decision support in sustainable forest management **Final meeting** at INRA Pierroton (Bordeaux, France).

•21-24/05/2012: [International Conference Tackling climate change: The contribution of forest scientific knowledge](#), in Tours (France).



The main objective of Christophe's stay was to improve mutual knowledge on planted forests, and to set up new partnerships in relation to TRANZFOR topics. New Zealand has 1.8 M ha planted forest of radiata pines, which is similar in size to the total forest area in the Aquitaine region, but in a totally different context. It is therefore a good case study to point out common issues related to planted forests, and also differences with the European context.

In New Zealand, forest plantations are mainly private, with large stands owned by industry. It was interesting to compare the vision of industry with Maori tribes and other small private landowners looking for new business models and organisations. After benefiting from strong public support during most of the 20th century, the forest sector has been very much left to private enterprise since the late 1980s. In this context, it is interesting to see recent initiatives assessing the social and environmental benefits of the sector, which since 2009 has received direct income from carbon storage via the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (<http://www.climatechange.govt.nz/emissions-trading-scheme/>).

The possibilities for scientific cooperation with EFIATLANTIC include:

- Species selection for future climate in an uncertain environment in connection with REINFORCE
- Increasing the potential of planted forest for carbon mitigation via a KBBE proposal
- Tools for decision support at the landscape level
- An improved risk monitoring system.

Concrete results will be visible in the near future through projects, publications and partnerships. (EFIATLANTIC/C.O.)



New Zealand's landscapes (C. Orazio)

Advisory group meeting in Palencia

EFIATLANTIC's advisory group gathers donors and representatives from research and development organisations in the EFIATLANTIC network. It met on 20 January in Palencia, Spain. The chairman, Professor Ted Farrell, acknowledged the progress made in achieving many of the commitments of an EFI Regional Office, as emphasized by the internal Regional Office evaluation. Comments and ideas on how to orient and validate EFIATLANTIC's research agenda (currently being prepared with network members) inside the global EFI strategy were discussed. (EFIATLANTIC/C.O.)

PARTNERS, NETWORKING

GEFF

The fifth workshop of [the French Speaking Forest Entomologists Group](#) (GEFF) has been organized by INRA Biogeco in Aquitaine, France from 12-14 October 2011 with the support of EFIATLANTIC. Fifty forest scientists and managers attended the meeting. The first day was dedicated to a field trip, with the opportunity to visit INRA experiments on the biodiversity-resistance relationship and the effect of drought on tree resistance to the pine processionary moth. We also visited a field trial designed by the Forest Health Department to test the push and pull technique to prevent attacks by bark beetles and a storage platform where pine logs are water sprayed for protection against beetles. We eventually climbed the highest sand dune in Europe (Dune du Pyla). On day two, talks were given on topics like the effect of climate change on forest insects, biological invasions, trophic interactions between trees, insects and .../...

Other international events

• **06-08/06/2012:** [Next European trade fair for forestry and logging \(FOREXPO\)](#) in Mimizan (France).

• **28-31/08/2012:** [Second International Conference on Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems and Landscapes](#) in Cork, Ireland. The call deadline for symposia is 31st March 2012.

natural enemies, and forest management effects on insect biodiversity. On day three, we heard about forest health monitoring and management and we had a general discussion about the future activities of the group. We all agreed on cooperation with EFI for the management and dissemination of web and conference activities. It was decided that the next workshop will be held in autumn 2012 in Nogent sur Vernisson, organized by our colleagues from IRSTEA.
(Hervé Jactel /INRA)

MOTIVE meeting and genetics workshop in Bordeaux

EFIATLANTIC helped to organise a meeting on the progress and results of the [MOTIVE](#) (MOdels for AdapTIVE Forest Management) project in Bordeaux, France on 2-3 November 2011. This four-year project evaluates the consequences of intensified competition for forest resources given climate and land-use change. The project focuses on a wide range of European forest types under different intensities of forest management, and examines impacts with respect to the disturbance regimes determining forest dynamics. MOTIVE has 20 partners from 14 European countries. The meeting was followed by a genetics workshop on different modelling approaches (biome modelling and evolutionary modelling) and the coupling and integration of different approaches. (EFIATLANTIC/C.K.)

EFIATLANTIC project life

REINFFORCE project

The main aim of the [REINFFORCE project](#) is to set up a network of trials to monitor disturbances in the life cycle of trees, the introduction of new pathogens, the misadaptation of trees to local conditions caused by climate changes, and to test adaptive measures efficiency. This network will mainly cover the European Atlantic area, as it is funded by the INTERREG-IVB Atlantic Area.

The network of trials consists of 37 arboreta and 32 demonstration sites. The locations have been selected by the project partners on the basis of specific soil and climatic conditions, so that the same genetic material produced in the same conditions will be exposed to various climate/soil contexts.

32 tree species and 166 provenances have been selected. 136 provenances were ready to be planted in December 2011, and 88 provenances will be planted in 2012.

Initially all the genetic material had to be planted in 2011 but during seedling production problems arose, mainly due to seed quality and the large variety of exotic species. The genetic material comes from 34 countries across five continents, and has been supplied by private seed providers, public research institutes and universities.

The main principal of plantation is that the genetic material will be planted equally in each arboretum, in order to have identical trials.

The data collection for trials monitoring will start soon after the 2011 plantation, applying the project field guide. Weather stations will be installed at each site. (EFIATLANTIC/L.d.L)

Publications Databases

New materials are available to download from the [EFIATLANTIC website](#):
EFIATLANTIC brochure in English and French,
EFIATLANTIC poster in French and in English.

EFI Discussion Paper 16, 2011 [Are MCPFE Indicators suitable for planted forests?](#) by Jean-Louis Martres, Jean-Michel Carnus, and Christophe Orazio is available to download as a pdf. It will be soon available in French.

In connection with the EFI 2009 Annual Conference held in Dublin, a Scientific Seminar on "Forest Ecosystem Management in the 21st Century" was organised on 4 September 2009. The proceedings of the Scientific Seminar edited by the EFIATLANTIC advisory group chairman are now available on the [EFI's website](#).

A new information site [Creafor](#) about research activities on forest adaptation to climate change is now available. It also includes a glossary on forest adaption to climate change (in French).

[FAO publishes key findings of global forest resources assessment](#) available in English, French, and Spanish.

The [State of Europe's Forests 2011 report and Summary for Policy Makers](#) by FOREST EUROPE (the pan-European policy process for the sustainable management of the continent's forests) are now available.

New tool for forest policies

A student will start work at EFIATLANTIC in February 2012 to collect data for a new forest policy web portal, as part of an EFICIENT-OEF project. The data will focus on the EFIATLANTIC countries.

The aim of the project is to collect and provide forest-relevant policy information in a comprehensive web portal, in order to ensure easy access, provide a first overview, meet the information needs of various stakeholders across Europe, and improve general information availability on policies, institutions and instruments relevant for the pan-European forest sector.

[More information about the Information Portal on Forest Policies, Institutions and Instruments.](#) (EFIATLANTIC/C.O.)

INTEGRAL project

EFIATLANTIC has joined the INTEGRAL consortium for four years. The INTEGRAL project aims to analyse the impact of policies at the landscape level. It combines knowledge from models, social science and managers, and will be very valuable for sharing expertise and answers on issues related to land-use conflicts. (EFIATLANTIC/C.O.)

Rok-FOR Zagreb conference

The second RoK-FOR Conference 'Forest Biomass for Renewable Energy: Building Regional Cooperation and Clusters for New Opportunities' was held in Zagreb, Croatia from 26-28 October 2011. It displayed the forest sector's potential in renewable energy and clustering ([programme](#)).

The conference aimed to serve as an open platform for planning joint activities in the RoK-FOR regions (cross-border clusters Croatia-Serbia and Aquitaine-Basque (France-Spain), Catalonia (Spain), Baden-Württemberg (Germany) and North Karelia (Finland)). Keynote speakers included Mr Lucas Janssen from the European Commission, Ms. Sandra Hižak from the Wood Cluster of Northwestern Croatia, Mr. Stéphane Latour from Xylofutur Pole of Competitiveness and Mr. Dušan Jović from the Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Forestry and Water Management. There were also presentations about the UNECE/FAO clustering initiative and a Western Macedonia bioenergy case study (Greece), part of the BIOCLUS project.

The conference also presented the highlights of the Joint Action Plan (JAP) for inter-regional cooperation which has been developed within the RoK-FOR project. The JAP was developed in 2010-2011 in close consultation with key stakeholders in the participating regions. Based on investigations into regional clusters and regional research agendas, complementarities and synergies were identified. These regional consultations were then used as the basis for defining the priorities for international cooperation within the RoK-FOR framework.

Four challenges are common to the participating regions in developing their research-driven clusters in sustainable forest management and the three Lead Market areas .../...

A group of 70-plus international scientists are asking trade policy makers to put an end to phase out international trade in containerized ornamental plant seedlings and trees intended as plants for instant landscape planting. They state that this international trade puts forest health at high risk while offering limited economic benefit. The forest scientists developed their proposal, [Montesclaros Declaration](#), following a IUFRO meeting in Spain in May 2011.

EFIATLANTIC Advisory Group

An Advisory Group enhances the networking of EFIATLANTIC. It advises the EFIATLANTIC secretariat on ideas and topics to be developed and promoted within the EFIATLANTIC instruments and supports the dissemination and networking activities.

Its members are:

Ted Farrel, Chairman, Ireland
Yves Lesgourgues, France
Margarida Tomé, Portugal
Christian Pinaudeau, France
Julio Diez, Spain
Jean-Michel Carnus, France
Peter Freer-Smith, UK
Fermin Olabe, Spain
Agustin Merino, Spain
Inazio Martinez, Spain



relevant to forest-based materials (renewable energies, sustainable construction and bio-based products):

- How to find motivation for sustainable forest management?
- How to meet the challenges brought by climate change?
- How to develop the forest-based bioenergy sector?
- How to support research and innovation clusters?

Further information is available on the [RoK-FOR website](#).

Aquitaine-Basque RoK-FOR joint activities in 2012

Two major events are planned in 2012 for the Aquitaine-Basque cluster in the context of the forthcoming creation of the Aquitaine-Euskadi Euro-region. The first event is a cross-border (Aquitaine-Euskadi) seminar on 22 February 2012 in San Sebastian, Spain on forest-related issues interesting both regions, the future Euro-region and the preparation of joint actions. The seminar will be followed by the Rok-FOR Basque Conference and meetings in Bilbao, Spain from 23-24 February.

The second event is a joint workshop on new business models, including exchanging experiences between the five RoK-FOR regions. This will take place in June 2012, alongside the FOREXPO forestry fair in South West France (6-8 June, Mimizan). More details will be available soon on the EFIATLANTIC website. (Jean-Michel Carnus/INRA)

EU legislation to ban sale of illegally harvested timber in Europe

The EU introduced new legislation in July 2010 to combat international trade in illegally harvested timber as part of the fight against deforestation. The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) will come into force on 3 March 2013. All businesses or organisations who put timber or timber products (including paper and pulp paper) on the EU market for the first time will have to prove that it comes from a legal source. Penalties are still to be decided by each Member State, and may include fines according to the extent of the environmental damage, the timber value or the fiscal shortfall. Seizure of timber and related derived products, or even the immediate disqualification of holding a trading licence are also suggested.

According to UNO, the volume of illegally harvested timber is about 350-650 million m³ a year worldwide. The European Union estimates that more than half of the wood sector activities takes place in particularly vulnerable areas, such as the Amazon basin (notably Brazil), central Africa (Congo river basin), Southeast Asia (mainly Indonesia), and Russia.

EFI EU FLEGT/REDD Unit

EFI's EU [FLEGT/REDD Unit](#) supports the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) process in developing countries, part of the EU's strategy to combat illegal logging. It provides technical assistance to timber exporting countries to support the negotiation and implementation of trade accords, known as Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). These aim to ensure legal timber trade and support good forest governance. EFI has just appointed a new Head of the FLEGT-REDD Unit, Mr. Heiko Liedeker.

The EU FLEGT/REDD Unit inaugurated its new office in Barcelona, Spain in summer 2011. Hosting team members from FLEGT and REDD, the new office is part of a larger EFI Policy Advice office that includes EFI's Mediterranean Regional Office – EFIMED. (EFIATLANTIC/C.O.)



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the people who helped for the
translations and sent some articles.

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