



As head of office I am glad to launch the new version of EFIATLANTIC newsletter. Applying for a regional office at EFI in 2008, we are committed to maintaining a good flow of information inside the Atlantic area, to facilitate networking and interregional cooperation promoting research on planted forests.

This four languages newsletter will play a key role to explain all the actions supported by the regional office, but also to improve mutual knowledge of partners and forestry in the Atlantic area. The publication of this letter arrives 1.5 years after the last publication of IEFC letter, time for us to accomplish a lot of work, and to pass over many challenges thanks to our strong network and good team as you will read below. Please, consider this letter as yours and do not hesitate to suggest short communications that could be of interest for the whole network.

Christophe Orazio, EFIATLANTIC Head of Office

EFIATLANTIC NEWS

EFIATLANTIC Annual meeting – 12th May, Santiago de Compostela (Spain)
EFIATLANTIC held its annual meeting in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) the 12th May. The afternoon was dedicated to the Atlantic research agenda and to the Management Council of the REINFFORCE project.

After being launched in spring 2009, EFIATLANTIC held its second annual meeting in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) following the IUFRO conference “Managed Forests in Future Landscapes” at the same place. An overview of all the actions of 2010 was made in budgetary and communication matters.

As far as the communication actions are concerned, the website www.efiatlantic.efi.int proposes not only information about the regional office, but also about the current common projects like REINFFORCE or RoK-FOR, as well as several databases. During the year 2010, EFIATLANTIC was able to build on the experience gained through “the Institut Européen de la Forêt Cultivée” (IEFC) and the support of several partners in preparing and organising projects and events on different forest issues. This task will be developed in 2011 with EFIATLANTIC organising a Nematode day, and beyond with the Third International Congress on Planted Forests in May 2013. It will also make available an interesting study about storms during the last decades in the Atlantic area, completing the European study on the same subject for Europe. This issue is crucial for instance for the French and UK forest regions which suffered from two major storms in the last decade and are now facing new challenges to make their forests more resilient to climatic events.

The meeting gave also the opportunity to the participants to discuss the activity report and work plan of the European Forest Institute (EFI) regional office and the network of Excellence EVOLTREE which continues since the 1st January 2011 under the umbrella of EFI for 4 additional years.

Events supported by EFIATLANTIC

- 12-15/10/2011: [annual meeting of the French speaking forest entomologist group \(GEFF\)](#) at Le Teich (near Bordeaux, France). The main topic will concern the response of forest insects to climate change.
- 25/11/2011: [colloquium on Innovation for promoting the Aquitaine forest](#): urgent issues and perspectives, in Bordeaux (France) in order to assess the current situation and to identify the development capacities.
- 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).
- 02-08/04/2012: **EFI winter summer school: the valuation of industrial forest ecosystems**, at Bordeaux Sciences Agro. For further information, contact Christophe Orazio (firstname.lastname@efi.int).
- 21-24/05/2012 [International Conference Tackling climate change: The contribution of forest scientific knowledge](#), in Tours (France).

Study for the profitability of south western European forests by Nicolas Cornet



Responding to the concerted action kicked off by EFI in March 2011, the Atlantic regional office EFIATLANTIC hired me, as research trainee, to work on profitability of south western European forests.

My background is agriculture and environmental sciences (ISARA-Lyon, France) but I have also started a master's degree in forestry at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Santiago). **This study will be carried out in the Basque Country (Spain) and Aquitaine (France) regions.**

This project aims at valuing all the benefits linked with the forest sector for which forest owners are almost never paid, while demand for these goods and services is still increasing. Different methods and approaches will be analysed and compared to create some possible scenarios. The idea is to get some strong arguments to pressure public decision makers and restore the positive balance of forest lands. It will be interesting to see how classical economics and other new ways of approaching forest profitability, such as ecological economics, are tackling this issue.

A [Nematode day](#) was organised in Pontevedra (Galicia, Spain) on 13th January to define how to limit propagation of Pine Wood Nematode (PWN) in Europe.

The 150 attendees from Spain, Portugal, France, Japan, Ireland, UK and Croatia, of the nematode day organised by EFIATLANTIC and CIF Lourizan with support of xunta de Galicia, USSE and DEVESA on the 12 and 13 of January 2011 got the latest information about this disease affecting Portuguese forests since 1999.

This disease can affect all the European pines, and also other conifers as explained by Edmundo Sousa but during the field visit, our Portuguese partners confirmed that at the moment only Maritime pine is affected. It was also noticed that even if since 2006 expansion of the affected area into Portugal centre was quite fast, the Northern region was only sporadically affected. This information could be linked to the Hugh Evans' presentation on the climatic constraint related to 20°C mean temperature in July. So the potential area for dissemination is mainly south Europe as shown in the slide-show, but can reach northern Europe with climate change in the next decades. The Galician representatives were happy to learn that the nearest infested point from the Galician border was at 20 km and that there is no continuity between the Galician contaminated trees and the Portuguese affected stands. There are then good chances to eradicate this point of contamination as was done in Extremadura where pine nematode was found on one tree in 2007. This comment highlighted the lack of a continuous information transfer between the two countries and suggested the implementation of a permanent European crisis group involving the key actors in charge of monitoring and control of this disease, to have a better coordination in monitoring and action plan.../...

Other international events

30/09/2011: Seminar on "Forest governance and New Zealand Forestry", in the Legislative Chamber, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New-Zeland, with participation of EFIATLANTIC.

• **6-11/11/2011 IUFRO Research Conference "The Future Role of Bio-energy from Tree Biomass in Europe"**, in Vienna, Austria.
[Details](#)

• **August 2012: IUFRO Conference on Biodiversity in Forest Ecosystems and Landscapes** in Cork, Ireland. Call for symposia. [Details](#)



Publications Databases

This meeting was also the opportunity to make public all the European, national and regional legal tools concerning the monitoring and the treatment of the affected areas and to discuss about the relevance of some of them such as destruction method, wood transport, contingency plan, etc. Some feedback from Japan and China confirmed the deep impact of this damage – only one tree out of every 3000 survived in Japan – and generated hope of tree breeding for resistance.

All the presentations, minutes, statements and recommendations are available at http://www.efiatlantic.efi.int/portal/events/nematode_day/



The final meeting of the COST Action: Forest Management and the Water Cycle about Managed Forests in Future landscapes: implications for water and carbon cycles attracted 160 research scientists on the 9-11th May 2011 in Santiago de Compostela (Spain).

The event was sponsored among others by EFIATLANTIC. The presentations were distributed in 8 thematic sessions: Advances in methods for biomass estimation, C cycle in forests, Ecosystem adaptation to global warming, SOC in managed forests, Water and plant interactions, Water and soil interactions, Water cycle and land cover, and Water regimes in managed forests.

In addition to the above sessions, a round table discussion, entitled “Forest management policies in relation to the environment”, was held to conclude the conference. The final session received financial support from the Galicia Forest Platform (Devesa) and from the Union of Silviculturists of Southern Europe (USSE). Field visits were organised on 11th May in Touro Mine (water and carbon cycles in a mine under restoration), in a forest plot (carbon capture in deforested land), and in Villagarcía and the ‘O Con’ Biological Station (restoration of an area affected by forest fire).

The conference contributed to the following:

- Presentation of the new information about soil-water relations in forest systems.
- Identification of the topics of common interest and formulation of firm proposals for collaborations between research groups.
- Exchange of recommendations for good practice in relation to sustainable forest management, between researchers and managers.
- Formulation of proposals that support the definition of collaborative policies, incentives and effective tools for sustainable forest management.

Several databases are available on the [EFIATLANTIC](#) site on European forest sector experts, pest and disease, models for forests, European storms, and wood material reference.

New is the long-term monitoring trials database. This database set up in the frame of the [REINFFORCE](#) project for adaptation of forest to climate change, inventories all the existing trials made by the partners to identify adaptation of more than 150 species introduced in Europe since the 20th century. Any organisation can contribute, remaining owner of the data uploaded.



The meeting “Global change and forest diseases: new threats, new strategies”, the biennial meeting of the IUFRO workshop group 7.02.02 (Foliage, shoot and stem diseases of forest trees) has taken place at the Monastery of Nuestra Señora de Montesclaros (Cantabria, Spain) the 23-28th May 2011.

The meeting had 73 participants belonging to 18 different countries, and a total of 71 communications were presented. Furthermore, a round table on the theme of the workshop was included in the programme. The workshop gave the chance of discussing different aspects related to global change and forest pathology (mainly concerning globalisation, climate change, and forest policies).

The workshop provided an opportunity for the presentation, exchange and dissemination of information and experiences related to forest pathology (new disease reports, fungal phylogeny, pathogenicity, assays, control strategies...) as well as presenting relevant methods and techniques. One of the aims of the meeting was to attract forest pathology researchers from a broad range of academic disciplines. Currently, the group is working on the Declaration of Montesclaros where conclusions and recommendations concerning Global Change and forest pathologies will be drawn up. Meeting web page: www.iufro2011.com. The event was supported by EFIATLANTIC.



PARTNERS, NETWORKING

One of Our Members Comments



In each coming Newsletter, we intend to present the thoughts of a partner in IEFC/EFIATLANTIC. We start with the comments of Ted Farrell, our Chairman.

This newsletter is an eloquent demonstration of the scope and the depth of EFIATLANTIC's activity during the past year. The enhanced profile and increased resources following on the establishment of the regional office of EFI, have been used not only to pursue traditional activities in research, networking and technology transfer, but to explore new opportunities for the development of forestry in the Atlantic region in the service of its members. The organisation of the Third International Conference on Planted Forests, to be held in May 2013 is an excellent example of a new exciting initiative being undertaken by EFIATLANTIC.

The ability to rapidly take advantage of the regional office status is due, in no small part, to the experience gained in the IEFC and to the participation of its members in its activities. It is important that these members continue to receive the level of service which they have enjoyed in the past.

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

Networking

GEFF

The Group of French-Speaking Forest Entomologists ([GEFF](#)) brings together forest entomologists from research institutes, universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations in charge of forest monitoring and nature conservation from all European countries, provided that they can speak French, to facilitate the dialogue among members.

The main objective of GEFF is to offer the opportunity to exchange knowledge and expertise on the biology and ecology of forest insects in order to improve biodiversity conservation and pest management in forest ecosystems. It will hold its annual meeting in October 2011 (12-15th, at le Teich, France) with the support of EFIATLANTIC (logistic and website).

EVOLTREE

Launched in 2006 and initially financially supported by the European Union, [EVOLTREE](#) (EVOLution of TREES as drivers of terrestrial biodiversity) is the only network of Excellence in the area of forest research. Its 3 objectives are the following:

- to integrate existing resources and construct a European research platform,
- to implement Pan-European research in the field of ecosystem genomics,
- to disseminate a high level excellence to the scientific community, end-users and to the public.

Most of the means of EVOLTREE are devoted to support the establishment of common infrastructures, the development of genomic and genetic resources and the creation of common interoperable databases. EFIATLANTIC is hosting the facilitator person Céline Krier for the network.

Projects

The [REINFFORCE](#) (Resource INFrastructure for monitoring and adapting European Atlantic FORests under Changing climatE) project corresponds to Priority 2 INTERREG IV B operational programme. Its purpose is to pool capacity of 11 institutes to face the adaptation to climate change impacts on Atlantic forests. It is led by l'Institut Européen de la Forêt Cultivée (IEFC/EFIATLANTIC). This project aims to establish along the Atlantic rim a network of 37 arboreta containing controlled and selected seedlings, in order to assess the adaptability of different tree varieties over a wide range of climatic and environmental conditions and a network of 35 demonstration sites to monitor efficiency of adaptive silviculture in the field. Most of the seedlings are under production and should be planted in autumn 2011.

[RoK-FOR](#) (Regions of Knowledge for FORestry, EU FP7) European project aims to establish close cooperation between transnational and interregional research-driven, forestry-based clusters, by formulating a joint strategy and action plan for sustainable forest management and development. This process is designed to increase innovativeness and competitiveness within the meta-cluster. EFIATLANTIC acts as a regional coordinator identifying regional research needs for potential synergies. A joint action plan is under preparation and should be implemented by the regions in 2012.

Completed research project

[STORM European study](#) is an EU expert project, led by EFIATLANTIC, that examines policy options for storm risk management in forests. The project compiles expert reviews of the major storms that have affected European forests since 1950, as well as recommendations for European measures on storm risk management and post-storm response (2010).



PLANTED FOREST NEWS

English forest sell-off not written in stone (source: Euronews, 07/02/2011)

A plan to sell-off English forests as a cost-cutting measure has caused such a public outcry that the UK's coalition government has been forced to back track.

It has been widely reported that the controversial proposals include privatising over 250,000 hectares and that some ancient woodlands could be turned into golf courses. Shadow Environment Secretary Mary Creagh said: "People plant a tree when a loved one dies and we plant a tree to leave behind a gift for those who come after us and I think they have massively miscalculated. This is something that Mrs Thatcher tried in the 1980s."

Such has been the anger and cross-party criticism that the government has quickly denied the plans are a "done deal" while stressing certain measures are being considered.

Conservative MP Caroline Nokes dismissed emotive comments such as that trees should not be chopped down. "I spent ten years as the cabinet member for leisure on a local authority and I know what a big responsibility it is. I know quite how much it costs and the level of expertise that is needed in order to look after trees and forestry properly," she said.

The government has blamed inaccurate speculation over its ten year plan and say they remain open minded but opponents have warned they will resist such an attack on English heritage.



Contact information

EFIATLANTIC

Site de Recherche Forêt - Bois

69, route d'Arcachon

33612 Cestas, France

Tel: +33 (0)5 57 12 28 55

Fax: +33 (0)5 56 68 02 23

Email: [efiatlantic\(at\)efi.int](mailto:efiatlantic(at)efi.int)

www.efiatlantic.efi.int

Editor: Céline Krier

Editorial board: Christophe Orazio,

Luisa Di Lucchio, Claudia Antoniotti,

Ted Farrell, Jean-Michel Carnus.

The EFIATLANTIC team thanks all the people who helped for the translations and sent some articles.

FAO principles for a responsible management of planted forests

The FAO has stated 10 principles for a responsible management of planted forests: good governance, integrated decision-making and multi-stakeholder approaches, effective organisation and personal capacity, recognising value of goods and services, enabling environment for investment, recognition of the role of the market, recognition and maintenance of social and cultural values, maintenance of environmental sustainability and forest health, conservation of biological diversity and management of landscapes. [Details](#)

To subscribe to the EFIATLANTIC newsletter or submit articles, please contact [efiatlantic\(at\)efi.int](mailto:efiatlantic(at)efi.int). For more information, check out www.efiatlantic.efi.int.

The newsletter is available in our 4 partner languages: English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

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