IEFC Network fund 2022
Facilitate cooperation on Planted Forest

Introduction

The future management of planted forests has to meet a number of challenges. The first challenge is certainly the need to adapt the design and management of planted forests to current climate changes, taking into account the continuous increase of abiotic risks (droughts, heat waves, forest fires, storms) and biotic risks (insect outbreaks, emerging diseases, biological invasions). But other equally important challenges are coping with the high fragmentation of private forest ownership (16 million forest owners in the Europe), the uncertain demand under the current economic crisis aggravated by the COVID19 pandemic, the creation of innovative products, together with the optimization of the value-added chain, and the increasingly important role the forestry sector will play in the bioeconomy.

IEFC faces several challenges to operate in an environment where more and more pressure is being put on planted forests on multiple fronts such as : fuelling the bioeconomy, mitigating against climate change, adapting to climate change, resisting emerging pests and diseases, supporting fire prevention organisations and providing regulation services such as carbon and water, while at the same time retaining and conserving soil and biodiversity.

Open call

This fund is available to IEFC members to facilitate cooperation within the network on any topic in line with the new strategy of IEFC. It will distribute a total amount of 20000€ to 4 or 5 projects.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE GRANT

Funding will support all kind of activities facilitating cooperation between IEFC members. These includes:

PROMOTION

Promotion or Coordinate forest owner/practitioner-suggested activities to find solutions that are practical, realistic, and science-based to ensure the sustainable management and the multi-functionality of planted forests. Seek funding, develop research collaboration and maintain common R&D infrastructures and resources.

CAPACITY BUILDING	Organise an event, exchange between partner, short mission.
COMMMUNICATE	Prepare a short communication support (leaflet, paper, vidéo, ..)

Topics can cover any of the focus areas of IEFC strategy:

- Identify, use and conserve the best forest genetic resources and planting material to be made available to forest owners and managers so that they can adapt their planted forests to market demands and the challenges of climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Improve the resilience of planted forests to climate change, and in particular to the multiple interacting hazards, so as to preserve their commercial value and minimize risks to investors.
- Promote the sustainable management of planted forests, maintaining the associated ecosystem services and targeting the opportunities offered by the bioeconomy so as to maintain their long-term profitability and contribute to regional development and UN sustainable development goals.
- Analyse and determine trade-offs on ecosystem services in planted forests to bring facts and figures to public discussions.

Eligibility criteria

TYPE OF APPLICANTS

The participation is possible for any IEFC full member. Associate members are excluded from the grant process. Non-member organisations can participate in the project but will not receive finding. A minimum of 2 IEFC members from 2 countries is required.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Open Call will use an application form available and accessible on the Nextcloud platform, where the proposal and additional documentation can be submitted.

Deadlines

The deadlines for submission to the Open Call is the **15th of October 2022**.
Only applications submitted before the deadline will be accepted. After the closure of the application no additions or changes to received applications will be taken into account.
Failure of the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including communication delays, automatically leads to rejection of the submission.

www.iefc.net