
IEFC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[Minutes]

The meeting took place both virtually and physically at the University of Padova, in Villa Parco Bolasco, Castelfranco Veneto (Italy). Meeting language was English.

Were present online:

James Pendlebury (Forest Research UK), Nick McCarthy (Waterford Institute of Technology), Hervé Jactel (INRAe), Hernan Serrano León (University of Freiburg), Marc Hanewinkel (University of Freiburg), Nicolas Picard (GIP-ECOFOR), Benoit de Guerry (IEFC), Lena Bismark (FAO), Francesco Pirotti (University of Padova)

Were present physically:

Susana Barreiro (University of Lisbon, ISA), Ander Arias-Gonzalez (NEIKER), Christophe Orazio (IEFC), Barry Gardiner (IEFC), Rémi Borelle (Land Life Company), Lucas Moreews (IEFC), Suzanne Afanou (IEFC), Fabienne Benest (CNPf), Massimiliano Costa (University of Padova), Peter Zubkov (NIBIO), Dr. Erico Kutchartt (University of Padova), Daniele Perin (XLAM Dolomiti), Tomas Sanchez Pellicier (CESEFOR), Valerio Giuffrida (Nottingham University), Kana Kaminura (Shinshu University), Ignacio Diaz Maroto (University of Santiago de Compostela), Andrea Battisti (University of Padova)

28 participants from 10 countries attended to the event.

During the morning participants could attend to 12 talks of the [wind and tree conference](#).

Let's talk about planted forest

The meeting started as usual with short presentations from IEFC partners chaired by S. Barreiro this open session giving an opportunity to members to share their expertise with IEFC network.

- Valerio Giuffrida (Nottingham University): Deep learning for plants : where are we now?

- Ignacio Diaz Maroto (Lugo University) : Use of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco in repopulations for the production of quality wood in northwestern Spain
- Hervé Jactel (INRAe) : Effect of forest composition on ticks and tick-borne disease – [presentation cancelled, but available online]
- Tomas Sanchez (CESEFOR): Life Soria Forest Adapt: Adaptation tools for the design of new plantations
- Andrea Battisti: Norway spruce and bark beetles in planted forests of the Southern Alps.

All presentations can be found on IEFC website in the [webinar replay](#) section.

Opening of the General Assembly

The meeting was introduced by Andrea Battisti senior professor of the Padova University, the first IEFC member from Italy, who explained that the building hosting the event was recently acquired and refurbished by Padova University. Padova University trains 72000 students a year, offers 203 study courses and hosts 5000 international students with study courses entirely in English.

Andrea Battisti is Professor of entomology with a strong focus on forest at the University of Padova, [Department DAFNAE](#). His research activity addresses topics of forest entomology and insect ecology, with special emphasis on the effect of climate change on the insect populations. He's also developing innovative techniques for the study and the control of insect pests. He coordinates a research group involved in several national and international research projects.

[The department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry](#) is dedicated to the understanding, effective management and sustainable use of renewable agricultural and forest resources through a distinctive tradition of core-discipline excellence, interdisciplinary collaborations and international partnerships. The disciplinary focus is broad in scope, ranging from individual organisms to natural and managed ecosystems, from wilderness to agricultural and landscape-based systems, from local to international environments, and from resource preservation to utilization. The Department reflects a diversity of disciplines, including ecology and silviculture; phytopathology; appraisal and law; land, agriculture, food and forestry economics and policy; hydrology; soil conservation and water resources management; agricultural and forest engineering; remote sensing and GIS. The Departmental permanent research and teaching staff comprises of 37 Professors and 16 Researchers. Personnel includes 32 people. The Department also hosts 43 PhD students involved in LERH PhD program.

President of the board report

The meeting was introduced by IEFC's president Susana Barreiro from the Forest research Unit (CEF) of the School of Agriculture (Instituto Superior de Agronomia) from the Lisbon University. After having warmly welcomed the audience, the president emphasized some of the major changes IEFC experienced over the past year. She reminded as example :

- The change in visual identity and domain name of the website to match with the new strategy: www.plantedforest.org
- This strategy of expanding IEFC to countries and topics above the original comfort zone of IEFC is fruitful with new organisations joining from Italy, Germany and Italy, but also New-Zealand.
- The Let's Talk About Planted Forest [webinars](#) organised by IEFC on behalf of IUFRO Task force on Planted forests and also on behalf of EFI research network give visibility to IEFC. Replays are available only for IEFC members.
- The statistics on social media and website consultation and regularly increasing and should even improve with the launching of the resource centre on planted forest to simplify information finding. The low level of Portuguese language visit is questioning the permanence of the Portuguese version of the newsletter.
- The need to stabilise the working force making IEFC attractive for employees will be improved with a new company agreement.
- All IEFC members and partners are reminded to to attend to major events organized by IEFC and its partners (see <https://www.plantedforests.org/events/>)

The president finished her talk with a special thanks given to IEFC donors (Forestry commission, Euskadi region, and Aquitaine region) that support IEFC for projects preparation, co-funding, and all communication and knowledge transfer effort done in between projects. Complementary sources of funding in other regions are explored.

Reporting session

Session presented by Christophe Orazio, director of IEFC and Suzanne Afanou, communication officer. The reporting was done in line with the new IEFC [strategy](#) 2021-2026.

- Overview of the current networking:

- New members: 5 organizations joined the multi-actor association since the last GA, so the total number of full members is 31 :
 - University of Padova – Italy – Academic
 - CESEFOR – Valladolid Spain – Research Organization
 - Plantons pour l'avenir – France – Forest Fund
 - France Douglas – Cluster
 - SCION NZ – Research Organization
- All the networking activities were listed, it included IUFRO Task force on Planted forests, the European network of resin territories, the Forest Extension network, the COST action Pan-European Network for Climate Adaptive Forest having a strong focus on plantation and restoration guidelines and other national networks involving IEFC. The focus was given to 4 networking activities :
 - IEFC members daily connections : the team members answer on a daily basis to many request from its members from supporting the organization of an international delegation in Europe, or a French delegation in an foreign country (France Douglas field tour in the Uk), support letters, scientific contacts sharing, ...
 - FAO – IEFC cooperation
 - FAO published the conclusions of the meeting in Roma on the mixed plantation in the IEFC newsletter
 - FAO invited C.O. to Committee on FOrestry – WFW2022 Special Event: Planting forests for carbon-neutral economies, sustainable landscapes and livelihoods
 - FAO delegated to IEFC the translation to French and Spanish versions of the UNASILVA paper dedicated to MIXED plantations (MIXFORCHANGE project). Spanish reviewer still required → contact C.Orazio(at)iefc.net
 - FAO sponsors the [International Congress on Planted Forests](#) in November 2023, Nairobi, Kenya
 - IEFC network fund will be open again in 2023 to support networking activities between IEFC members. The 3 winnings projects in 2022 are :
 - Forest Genetic Resources in the United Kingdom and France : expert exchanges involving (INRAe, FR, and France Douglas)
 - REINFFORCE AR23 restoration involving ISA and NEIKER

- Woodrise event: To the importance of plantation forests for the timber industry during multi-stakeholder exchanges → money is still available to support students and early researcher travel to the event, see <https://www.plantedforests.org/woodrise-event-2023-bordeaux-forest-resources-workshop/>
- Impact of wind on forest IUFRO 8.3.6 group lead by Barry Gardiner
 - 70 members
 - 10 conferences organised since 2009
 - Special workshops

Ongoing projects

IEFC always had a role in several ongoing projects that allows to foster cooperation and support knowledge building and/or sharing on planted forests of interest for practitioners and policy-makers:

CO reminded the list of main projects ongoing in 2022 inviting members to express their interest and participate in some of them (an always up-to-date list is available on the [IEFC website](#)):

- Major projects Finished in 2022
 - HOMED: emerging pest and disease management
 - B4EST: tree breeding in Europe
 - KEBBE: providing multilingual resources about forest and bio-economy to primary and secondary schools
- Major projects still ongoing in 2023
 - FIRE-RES: living labs testing innovations on how to build landscapes resilient to megafires
 - SUPERB: pilot studies on how to restore forest connectivity
 - LUTHYL: hylobius management without pesticides
 - VITUALFOREST pedagogical resources for universities about new technologies applied in forestry
 - COMFOR: complex forests and mixed plantations (finished in April 2023)
 - MIXFORCHANGE: mixed plantations

To provide a better insight of the type of work achieved and the results of projects, some where presented

LUTHYL project is part of a meta project led by Catherine Collet (INRAe) aiming at finding solutions to control hylobius damages without necotinoid. So, it estimates the technical and economic performance of different methods of fighting Hylobius

and develop real time damage reporting systems. Many practitioners dealing with conifer plantations are associated to the project. It leads to significant improvement of SILVALERT tool to meet project requirement. It is now (optionally) possible to record biotic agent affecting a tree, set a mortality rate. It has also been an opportunity to implement a warning system by email or on the app, not only to know the status of its own reports, but also from other reports in your geographical area and field of interest. More on <https://app.silvalert.net>

ERASMUS project VIRTUALFOREST led by Felipe Bravo (UVA) also arrives to his end, it contributed to develop a large set of online resources for academics.

As an example, the Chabots developed to provide basic information on forest related courses or definition of forest terms have been presented. The massive open online course (MOOC) covering all the key information about forestry in 5 weeks has been translated to English and is also available online, methods to monitor intensively forest trials have been presented, explorer of Iberian Peninsula NFI were advertised, and the concept of twin forest (a physical and a numerical forest) was also introduced. All these products can now be consulted online here : <https://virtualforests.eu/>

COMFOR project aimed to produce knowledge on Complex forests and Mixed plantations. IEFC focuses on mixed plantations setting up an online survey asking practitioners to report past success and failures: <https://bdd.iefc.net/mixed-forest-plantations-survey/>. The report on Mixed forest plantations feedback and good practices based on the online survey and in site interviews is released. The new network of long-term monitoring of mixed plantations is launched, and trials fulfilling the minimum requirements can be included. See <https://formix.plantedforests.org>

Other smaller projects were just cited. IEFC is part of many projects that are all focused on planted forests and covering all aspects of the strategy: genetic, risk, economy, non-wood products, adaptation, trade-offs, communication, etc. The association is also involved in 4 proposals for 2023 and leading one : REINFFORCE2

Overview of communication and publication activities

All the website and social networks managed by IEFC have been presented by IEFC communication officer.

The new domain name is in use: <https://plantedforest.org>, with the beta version of the resource center allowing queries in website contents. The next step is to add filtering options and more diverse content. Any partner can send reports, videos,

technical resources related to Planted Forest he would like to make visible in the resource center.

LinkedIn and Twitter pages are improving our visibility. We attend a wide range of events and took part in the presentations. This visibility goes through regular publications and promotion materials such as publications in scientific papers, in technical reports or with the IEFC Newsletter. Three issues were addressed in 2022 but **there is a need for more contributors** (it is just half page length!).

4 Let's Talk About Planted forests webinars have been organized in 2022; the concept is successful, and will continue in 2023. Replays are available for members only. You can get your registration code providing your email address.

IEFC re-branded its visual identity to modernize its image. The logo combines newness, simplicity and modernity. This change was necessary to be in accordance with the new strategy and positioning, while keeping the same values. Between new colors and new typography, IEFC has achieved a real change! The new visual identity is now applied to all IEFC communication tools. A press kit has been released.

Do not forget to register to the 5th International Congress of Planted Forests.



**5th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
ON PLANTED FORESTS**

 **7-10 November 2023**

 **CIFOR-ICRAF CAMPUS
NAIROBI, KENYA**

The General Assembly approved the president of the board report and activity report (resolution 1).

Finance and decision-making session

- Financial report

The balance sheet for 2022 has been certified by an accountant. For the record, the total incomes were reaching 388 388 €, the positive balance of 12 133 € compensates the losses of 2021. The main expenditure item being human resources.




In 2023 events are representing a significant part of the budget, and 20000€ are allocated to the IEFC network fund to finance the 3 projects selected in 2022. All the regional grants are not secured yet at the time of the general assembly.

***The General Assembly approved the 2022 balance sheet and 2023 budget
(Resolution 2)***

The next General Assembly is to be hold next year with an IEFC partner. Several options are on the table with May being the preferred period.

Management of IEFC infrastructures

CO reminded the list of infrastructures maintained by IEFC

| Existing infrastructures maintained by IEFC | |
|---|---|
|  | Network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce iefc net : Network of arboreta and demonstration sites dedicated to adaptation to climate change • Formix iefc net : Network of mixed plantations to test operational mixtures |
|  | Ressources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KERBE iefc net : pedagogical resources in FR, ES, EUSK for primary and secondary school about forest and bioeconomy • FORMODEL : online register of forest related models • FORESTRIALS : online register of on site forest trials, moderated by M. Tome, C. Meredieu • FORESTORM : online register of past forest devastating storms and damages induced • Phytosanitary guide : online version of paper phytosanitary guide • Latin Names : List of forest tree species names, with genus and authors (tree pulling database) ; <in preparation> |
|  | APP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silvalert - IOS+Android : Citizen science for forest damages reporting |

Some of them have been established since the birth of IEFC as the FORMODELS database or the forest health and diseases guide.

Their actual governance was reminded, and pending question on the governance of some of them have been discussed :

- REINFFORCE consortium agreement was signed for 15 years (2013 – 2028), the continuation of the consortium relies on the success of REINFFORCE 2 proposal
- FORMIX governance has to be defined.
- FORMODELS database is moderated by M. Tomé and C. Meredieu
- FORETRIALS is overlapping with the INSILVA French project. The maintenance of this tool set up with REINFFORCE partners is questioned.
- The phytosanitary guide is lead by H. Jactel: updates and translations are planned
- Silvalert: A consortium agreement will be set up with the moderators (authorities) and end-user of each country (scientists) to involve them in the decision-making and evolution of the app and website, for example the idea to have automatic picture trap reports included.

Closure

The president thanked the host for welcoming IEFC in Italy in such a prestigious place.

The president closed the General Assembly by thanking everyone for their participation and thanked our donors: the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, the Basque region and Forest Research

Round table jointly with IUFRO wind and trees experts

The meeting was followed by a round table on multiple risk management and planted forest. The key messages of the round table were experts of diverse risks tried to address the following questions regarding planted forests:

1 trend in risk evolution?

2 specific risks associated to planted forests?

3 recommendations to policy makers and practitioners in the new context of global change?



Susana Barreiro

President

Annex: [agenda](#) and [link](#) to videos