

2026

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IEFC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES 2026

&

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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- The role of IPC and ProPopulus related to FGTs (Joris Van Acker, Ghent University ProPopulus - IPC)
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IEFC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026 IN LE MANS

The IEFC Annual General Meeting 2026, co-organised by IEFC and CNPF, took place on 30th June and 1st July in Le Mans (Pays de la Loire), France. The meeting was held in Le Mans Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sarthe, in the historical centre of the city, which provided a convenient setting for over 30 attendants. The day was filled with meaningful exchanges and powerful presentations, by 15 distinguished researchers and specialists from various countries sharing their expertise and insights.

✓ ATTENDEES

Aine Ni Dhubhain (University college Dublin), Alejandro Cantero (HAZI), Alfredo Benavente Martinez (University of Valladolid), Ander Arias- Gonzalez (NEIKER), Barry Gardiner (IEFC), Benoit De Guerry (IEFC), Célhiane Carré (Alliance Forêt Bois), Christophe Orazio (IEFC), Eric Paillassa (CNPF-IPF), Esteban Gómez-García (CIF Lourizán – XERA), Gorka Altuna (HAZI), Hervé Jactel (INRAE), Hubert Pruvost (Cabinet expert forestier Michel Chavet), Joris Van Acker (Ghent University – Propulus IPC), Joy Kingson (IEFC), Julio Javier Diez Casero (University of Valladolid), Klara Bouwen (Symbiose Management), Laure Dangla (FCBA), Marc Hanewinkel (University of Freiburg), Margarida Tomé (ISA), María Menéndez-Gutiérrez (CIF Lourizán – XERA), Marwen Nefati (Symbiose Management), Patricia Larbourat (GIP ECOFOR), Pauls Zeltins (SILAVA), Raquel Brilhante (DRAAC), Roland de Larry (CNPF-IDF), Susana Barreiro (University of Lisbon, ISA), Tam Do (IEFC), Thais Linhares Juvenal (FAO), Tomas Sanchez Pellicier (CESEFOR)

Online: Andrew Leslie (Forest Research), Dagnija Lazdina (LSFRI Silava), Elaine Dick (Forest Research), Javier Herrero Pedrero (NEIKER)



34 participants from 21 organisations

SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR SYNTHESIS

SEMINAR ON MAIN PLANTATIONS IN EUROPE

The seminar was honored to start with a presentation from Thais Linhares Juvenal (FAO), during which she highlighted global trends and challenges facing planted forests, emphasizing the commitment of the International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees (IPC) toward building climate-resilient landscapes. Margarida Tomé (ISA) continued the seminar with key facts and figures on Portuguese eucalyptus management, outlining its economic value, ecosystem services, and environmental impacts alongside ongoing management challenges. Next, Susana Barreiro (Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisbon) reviewed Portugal's forest plantation landscape over the past decade, highlighting notable management examples across Eucalyptus, Stone Pine, Cork Oak, and Maritime Pine.

A presentation from Tomás Sánchez Pellicer (Cesefor) intrigued the audience by outlining multi-dimensional perspective on Spanish plantations, focusing on hydrological restoration, afforestation, farmland forestry, and emerging carbon markets. Meanwhile, Laure Dangla (FCBA) delivered an overview of current forest plantation management practices, opportunities, and key operational challenges across France. Marc Hanewinkel (University of Freiburg) demonstrated the outcomes of various silvicultural treatments under changing climatic conditions, drawing from an extensive range of empirical field studies. And finally, Ander Arias (Neiker) drew attention to the extensive damage to *Pinus radiata* caused by brown spot needle blight, detailing local research efforts aimed at understanding its virulence, improving early detection, and strengthening surveillance networks.

Collectively, these presentations highlighted a global shift toward resilient, multi-functional planted forests capable of adapting to climate pressures like extreme drought, heatwaves, and emerging pathology outbreaks. By showcasing regional strategies—ranging from hydrological restoration and carbon market integration to advanced disease surveillance—the session emphasized that achieving long-term sustainability requires balancing economic wood production with vital ecosystem services and targeted research, as well as sharing cross-border lessons to build practical know-how for tackling the challenges.

ROUNDTABLE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN MODERN PLANTED FORESTS

The second stop of the journey was a roundtable discussion led by Barry Gardiner from IEFC, the panel was made of the seminar speakers.

The consensus among participants is that planted forestry is currently operating at a critical intersection of political, economic, technical, and social challenges. While climate change poses an immediate threat, it also positions planted forestry as a central solution for global sustainability. To unlock this potential, the sector must address workforce shortages, outdated societal perceptions, regulatory hurdles, and technical adaptation strategies.

1. Political, Economic, and Funding Challenges

A primary thread throughout the discussion was the lack of political agility and financial support.

- **Funding and Research Constraints:** Susana Barreiro highlighted that public funding is declining, especially for long-term monitoring and permanent risk management, leaving many critical research datasets outdated.
- **Economic Disincentives for Landowners:** Margarida Tomé noted that over 50% to 60% of eucalyptus forests—particularly in Portugal and Spain—remain unmanaged because pulp companies do not pay sufficient prices for wood (often stagnant for 40 years), prompting wood imports from South America instead.
- **Regulatory Ambiguity:** In France, despite cross-ministerial collaboration (Forestry, Environment, and Interior) to build resilience, there remains a lack of clear, long-term regulatory frameworks. Experts argued that politics must actively support private landowners rather than delaying necessary forestry interventions.

2. The Societal Disconnect and Public Perception

A massive barrier identified by multiple speakers is the profound disconnection between urban societies and active forest management.

- **The "Anti-Cutting" Prejudice:** Tomas Sanchez Pellicier and Marc Hanewinkel traced this back to environmental campaigns of the 1980s and 1990s, which instilled a lasting public belief that "cutting trees is bad". This idea is even passed down by school teachers, failing to teach citizens about the necessity of harvesting for the bioeconomy.

- **The Plantation Stigma:** Thais explained that "plantation" has practically become a "swear word" associated negatively with monocultures like eucalyptus. Consequently, Nordic countries (Sweden, Finland, Norway) prefer the term "planted forests" to manage public relations, whereas actual plantations are increasing mainly in Ireland and Eastern Europe.
- **Re-engaging the Public:** To counter the statistic that 70% to 75% of European citizens view forests purely as spaces for leisure rather than economic value, participants suggested educational initiatives. These include forest kindergarden and Hervé's proposal to leverage urban forestry as a tangible way to teach citizens that trees in cities must also be managed and occasionally cut.

3. Technical Adaptation, Workforce, and AI

The technical discussion focused on how to transition forests to withstand.

- **Species Diversification:** Germany is actively transitioning from spruce to beech, though large-scale plantations are still required where natural regeneration is insufficient. In the UK, sawmills remain heavily reliant on spruce, making species diversification logistically difficult. Large investment portfolios are typically required to absorb these diversification risks.
- **The Labor Crisis:** A severe shortage of forest workers challenges the sector. While some suggested technological solutions like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in nurseries and mechanization, Andrew Leslie and Tomas Sanchez Pellicier noted that people are increasingly unwilling to work in the sector altogether, even to operate advanced machinery.

4. Climate Change and Global Opportunities

Despite these severe bottlenecks, the panel concluded on a highly optimistic note regarding the future role of forestry.

- **Forestry as a Climate Solution:** Thais Linhares Juvenal and Barry Gardiner emphasized that climate change serves as an urgent catalyst. By providing robust scientific evidence, the forestry sector can prove that sustainable wood production is a primary tool for climate resilience and global carbon sequestration.
- **Global Cooperation:** The industry's historical demand for highly homogeneous wood is becoming impossible to maintain under changing climate regimes. This forced diversification is a major opportunity to implement regional and European-level landscape management.

- **The 2027 Milestone:** Panelists pointed to the upcoming 2027 World Decade of Afforestation and Reforestation as a massive political and social opportunity to reshape European forestry and drive international cooperation.

Conclusion

Despite the many challenges discussed, the meeting concluded on an optimistic note. Climate change was seen not only as a threat but also as an opportunity to demonstrate that forests and sustainable plantations are part of the solution. Participants called for stronger cooperation between countries, greater political engagement, and more effective communication with society. The overall message was clear: forestry possesses practical, science-based solutions to many of today's environmental challenges, but success will depend on convincing policymakers and society that well-managed forests are essential for a climate-resilient future.

LET'S TALK ABOUT PLANTED FOREST: OPEN SESSION

The day was followed as usual with the open session giving the floor to IEFC members so that they can introduce any initiative of interest to share with other network members. A total of 7 talks were given by IEFC member organizations covering a large range of topics of interest for planted forest considering forest health, forest monitoring and forest wood technologies:

1. Mixed plantation impact on productivity (Hervé Jactel, INRAE).
2. BASODATA: a new geographical database to assist the forest management in the Basque Country (Alejandro Cantero, HAZI).
3. The role of IPC and ProPopulus related to FGTs (Joris Van Acker, Ghent University ProPopulus - IPC).
4. Wood fibers as part of innovative substrates for seedlings intended for planted Forests (Dagnija Lazdina, LSFRI Silava).
5. Modelling coupled risk to forests from wind, drought and bark beetles (Barry Gardiner, IEFC).
6. Transformation of even-aged Sitka spruce stands to Continuous Cover Forestry in Ireland (Aine Ni Dhubhain, University College Dublin).
7. Global change and forest diseases: new threats, new strategies (Julio Javier Diez Casero, Universidad de Valladolid).

All presentations can be found on the IEFC website ([link](#)) in the general assembly section of [plantedforests.org](#) (restricted to IEFC members).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The last session of the day started with the opening of the General Assembly by Susana Barreiro, where key reports on IEFC activities in 2025 were presented (Board president report, Networking and capacity building activities, Communication activities, IEFC ongoing projects topics), followed by discussions on the 2025 accounts and the 2026 budget.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD REPORT

The meeting was opened by IEFC's president Susana Barreiro from the Forest Research Centre (CEF) of the School of Agriculture (Instituto Superior de Agronomia) from the Lisbon University, who warmly welcomed the attendees. She began by reiterating the core missions of the IEFC, as outlined in the strategy established by the IEFC Board during the 2024 General Assembly. These missions include:

- Promoting and coordinating projects,
- Facilitating knowledge exchange,
- Building capacity, and
- Disseminating and communicating solutions for the sustainable management and resilience of planted forests.

President Susana Barreiro acknowledged the challenges posed by the organization's small team size in relation to its ambitious goals. Nevertheless, she highlighted that most of the strategic objectives had not only been met but exceeded over the past year.

She also extended a warm welcome to new IEFC members, notably Propopulus and the University of León, both of which bring specialized expertise in poplar species. Their inclusion expands the network's representation of planted forest species, complementing existing members such as Radiata pine representatives from the Basque Country and New Zealand, as well as experts in Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Maritime pine, and Cork oak, among others.

The IEFC's multi-actor network remains open, and any organization interested in exchanging knowledge on planted forests is encouraged to join. To enhance member services, the registration form has been updated, and new members are invited to engage with the Board to ensure IEFC's offerings align with their expectations. She asked IEFC team to delay the election of the new board and status changes to meet new challenge induced by the rapid growth of the network and the need for diversification of funding sources in a constructive atmosphere during next extraordinary general assembly.

President Susana Barreiro expressed satisfaction in achieving staff stability during her tenure, as high turnover had previously hindered the network's relaunch. She extended her gratitude to the Board members for their constructive contributions over the past four years, which made her mandate both productive and rewarding. Finally, she welcomed the new organizations joining the network, underscoring the IEFC's dynamic and interactive growth.

REPORTING SESSION

Session presented by Christophe Orazio (Director of IEFC) with the support of Benoît de Guerry (Forest Engineer) and Joy Kingson (Communication Officer). The reporting was done in line with the new IEFC strategy 2021-2026 and gives an overview of the main activities ongoing at IEFC.

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT NETWORKING ACTIVITIES: KNOWLEDGE SHARING

All the networking activities were briefly introduced, it included the New IUFRO Task force on Planted Forests, the European network of resin territories, the Forest Extension network, COST actions, etc... This year the focus was given to 3 networking activities:

IEFC NETWORK FUND

IEFC Network aims to facilitate cooperation between IEFC members and promote joint activities in line with IEFC strategy. Up to 20k€ from the IEFC budget is allocated yearly for these activities.

The 3 projects accepted in 2025 are:

- The development and expansion of AppPopuli+ - a citizen science application for real-time damage (pests and diseases) identification and reporting in poplar plantation, developed by University of León & PROPOPULUS.
- Enhancement of the resilience of forest plantations through the application of hydrogels in chestnut plantations with different productive objectives, CESEFOR + CETEMAS
- BIOFUN (BIOdiversity and FUNctions indicators), FCBA + IEFC Network

3 projects will be evaluated by the new board :

- Knowledge Exchange for Better Tree and Deadwood Retention in Plantation Forests, Alice Broome, FR, INRAE, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne
- BIOPOPULUS: Quantifying biodiversity in planted poplar plantations using digital twins and IA to inform ecosystem service trade-offs, Flor Álvarez Taboada, Universidad de León, Grupo Garnica Plywood, FAFCYLE (Federación de las Asociaciones Forestales de Castilla y León, Spain)
- FOREST INNO: Catalogue of forest innovations for Resilience, Ecosystem Services and Bioeconomy, Claudia Antoniotti, Xylofuturn + CESEFOR

2027 call for IEFC network fund will open next year. Be prepared!

IEFC MEMBERS DAILY CONNECTIONS:

The IEFC staff answers on a daily basis to many requests from IEFC members from supporting the organization of an international delegation tour in Europe, or a French delegation visit in a foreign country, writing supporting letters, sharing scientific contacts, preparing project proposals, identifying research topics, etc... By way of example, we can mention in 2025:

- Support in designing a survey on the use of decision support tools by forest managers within the COST Action DSS4ES
- Participation in COLIBRI project on decision support tools for forest led by CNPF in the frame of the French innovation network called AFORCE.
- Participation in EUFORE topic identification for future HORIZON programs with GIP-ECOFOR and FREIBURG University
- Contributing to FOREST4Europe project about operational groups existing in Europe. Operational group is a decentralized European fund that can support innovation in regions. Good examples are shared by the project and actively promoted by CNPF.
- Contributed to MONIFUN consultations to support Multi Functionality Monitoring Systems

- Logistic support for the International French Speaking Entomologist Group Event with INRAE
- Supporting XYLOFUTUR for cooperation program on fires with Spanish colleagues from Murcia.
- Attending the online event of RESONATE project lead by EFI
- Supporting INRAE and Regional authorities requiring REINFFORCE results for Genetic resource Management in France for douglas fir recommendations revision
- Facilitating access to experimental sites for REINFFORCE members, such as Bordeaux Sciences Agro, and undergraduate forestry students.
- Reviewing many papers for international journals
- Supporting international publication comparing endemic vs exotic species growth.

IUFRO (INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCHERS):

The IUFRO has accepted a new Taskforce on Planted Forests for the 2025–2029 term. Taskforces within IUFRO are designed to address transdisciplinary topics involving diverse stakeholders. The previous Taskforce on Planted Forests exceeded its objectives by 200%, demonstrating the network's capacity for impactful collaboration. Unlike the IEFC, whose membership consists of institutions, IUFRO Taskforce membership is composed of individuals, fostering a more personalized and expert-driven approach.

The newly approved Taskforce, titled "**Stand Complexity in Planted Forests: Harnessing Stand Complexity to Improve the Resilience of Single- and Mixed-Species Plantations,**" is led by a multinational team:

- C. Orazio (IEFC)
- Tim Payn (Scion, New Zealand)
- Nelson Thiffault (Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada)
- Margarida Tomé (ISA, Portugal)

Scope and Participation:

- **40 participants** from **5 continents**
- Engagement with **7 out of 9 IUFRO divisions**
- Partnership with **IUFRO Research Group 1.03.00 (Short-Rotation Forestry)**

Recent and Upcoming Events: The Taskforce and its partners have been actively organizing and participating in key events to advance research and knowledge exchange on planted forests:

- **Webinars:** 4 webinars on planted forests have been held since the **2025 General Assembly**.
- **FAO Forest Communicator Network Meeting:** A dedicated session on planted forests took place in Scotland, June 2025.
- IUFRO Event (March 2025): Focused on "**Forest Establishment and Early Plant Dynamics**" (led by Rolando from Scion and Thiffault from NRCan/Laval University).
- **FAO Workshop (March 2025): "Sustainable Pathways to Increase Wood Production from Planted Forests."**
- **Decision ES 2025 Symposium:** Porto Seguro, Brazil, in June 2025.
- Additionally, a **template for plantation description sheets** has been finalized (refer to Margarida Tomé's presentation during the scientific seminar).

Recent Publications: The Taskforce has contributed to significant research, including:

1. "**A Trans-Atlantic Perspective on Successful Plantation Establishment in Boreal Ecosystems: Lessons Learned and Research Opportunities**" – New Forests 56: 16. DOI: [10.1007/s11056-024-10086-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11056-024-10086-2)
2. "**The Effects of Various Site Preparation Treatments on the Control of *Alnus incana* and Forest Regeneration in Boreal Forests of Western Quebec, Canada**" – New Forests 56(6): 74. DOI: [10.1007/s11056-025-10137-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11056-025-10137-2)

ONGOING PROJECTS: INNOVATION PRODUCTION

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

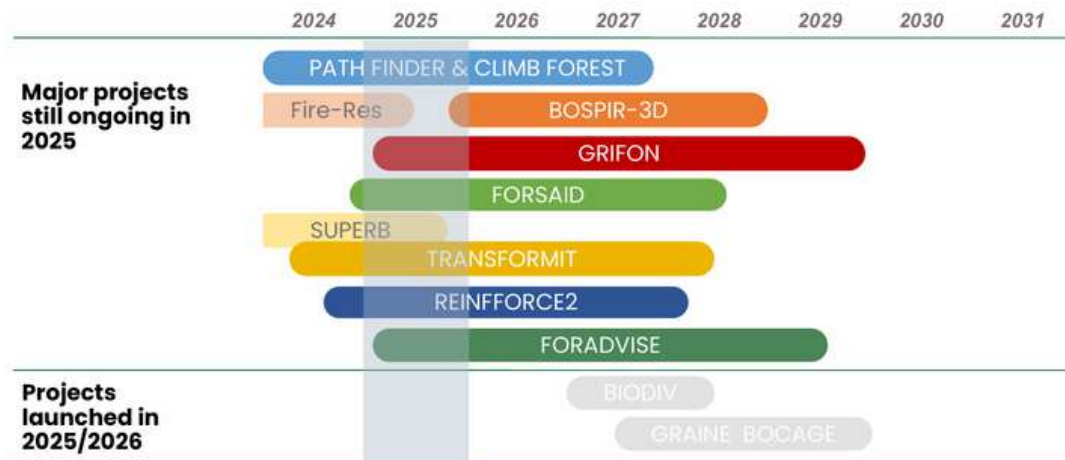
IEFC staff reviewed the list of the main projects ongoing in 2025, inviting members to express their interest and participate (an up-to-date list is available on the [IEFC website](#)) :

Major projects Finished in 2025

- **FIRE-RES** : Living labs testing innovations on how to build resilient landscapes to megafires.
- **SUPERB**: pilot studies on how to restore forest connectivity

List of projects

PROJECTS are an efficient way to foster cooperation



• Major projects still ongoing in 2025

- PATH FINDER & CLIMB FOREST** : dedicated to best practices for C conservation in forest
- BOSPIR-3D** : 3D Digitalisation of Pyrenean Forests
- GRIFON** : a multidisciplinary approach to improve South-West France forest resilience to multiple risks
- FORSAID** : develop a comprehensive combination of innovative digital technologies aimed at improving detection and monitoring of regulated forest pests at an early stage
- TRANSFORMIT** : to improve the effectiveness of integrative forest management (IFM) to combine productive forestry and biodiversity conservation by integrating existing practical and scientific knowledge
- REINFFORCE2** : Species/provenance and management choice under Climate Change
- FORADVISE** : to develop a European network of forest advisory organisations, actors, and networks, to support the modernisation of the forestry sector, increase the competences and develop pathways towards a future Forest Knowledge and Innovation System (FOKIS)

To provide a better insight of the type of work performed and the results achieved within these projects, some of them were presented:

- **SUPERB/Bocage forestier projects**, led by EFI and involving Alliance Forêts-Bois and INRAE, seeks to demonstrate best practices supported by the latest scientific knowledge and to establish an environment conducive to large-scale forest restoration. IEFC is in charge of coordinating the French demonstration area, aiming to plant broadleaved hedgerows in pure maritime pine forest to increase the stand biodiversity and resilience, organizing local stakeholders' engagement via workshops, promoting the scientific outputs through articles or interviews, and organizing the project annual meeting in 2022. The real impact of hedgerows is evaluated by comparing biodiversity with and without them to be able to make practical recommendations and promote secure funding schemes to upscale this practice by the end of the project in France and other countries with large monospecific plantations.

Some noticeable outputs of the project:

- French Demo level:
 - Development of a webpage ([link](#)) to promote Living Lab activities (FR/EN).
 - Promotion of results in national technical papers, nature-based solution strategies, and Living Labs networks.
 - Summary booklet to popularize results.
- European project level:
 - **Gateway:** Online knowledge platform (forestknowledge.eu) for forest restoration resources.
 - **Marketplace:** Online tool to match funders and forest restoration project owners (oppla.eu/restoration-market).
- Events:
 - September 2025: French stakeholder workshop (sharing knowledge, drafting upscaling strategies).
 - September 2025: Sharing French demo key lessons with European representatives (Nature Restoration Law).
 - October 2025: Presentation of BOCAGE Living Lab at the International Forum of Agroecosystems Living Labs.

FIRE-RES project led by CTFC deals with innovative technologies and socio-ecological-economic solutions to improve fire resilience in European territories, particularly in planted forests. IEFC helped to coordinate the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Living Lab (Landes de Gascogne, France); to design and plan territory management using modeling and risk mapping; to disseminate results to local municipalities (e.g., Luë, Belin-Beliet, Salles, Luxey); and to collaborate with INRAE (data provision, fire models) and MISSO (exploring alternative insurance schemes).

Some noticeable outputs and results:

- **WP2 (Adaptive Territorial Management):**
 - Fire simulations for Landes and Gironde departments.
 - Land-use distribution modifications simulated to assess landscape resilience.
 - Publication in progress with Canadian partners.
 - Development of a fuel types catalog for Landes de Gascogne (with INRAE).
- **WP4 (Proactive Governance):**
 - Work with municipalities to implement policy coherence assessments.
 - Development of a tool for better communication strategies ("Mental Models").
- **WP6 (Fast-Track to Innovation):**
 - Meeting between OIC PILOT/DEMO (selected by FIRE-RES) and local stakeholders for experimental implementation.

- **WP7 (Communication):**
 - Organization of 3 webinars on Innovation Actions (130+ attendees).
- **WP8 (Living Labs Coordination):**
 - Meetings with Community for Wildfire Innovation (CRIFF) members.
- **WP9 (Project Coordination):**
 - FIRE-RES General Assembly in Bordeaux and Mimizan (October 2024, 130+ attendees).

– Past events

- January 2025: 4th meeting with Living Lab members in Mios.
- April 2025: 5th meeting in Belin.
- October 2025: Final meeting in Brussels.
- June 2026: 6th meeting in Belin-Béliet.

– Upcoming events

- LIFE project potential submission
- Interreg SUDOE potential submission

REINFFORCE 2 project coordinated by IEFC will enhance and make the most of REIFFORCE1 network of arboreta and demonstration trials for adaptation to climate change. This new edition includes Ireland as substitute of Forest research beneficiary, since UK left Europe. Forest Research remains associate partner. Since the project is still ongoing, some important tasks have been done including:

- Completion of REINFFORCE1 trials data collection and analysis.
- Seeds ordered and sent to nurseries.
- Coordination of new arboreta and demonstration site installation with partners.
- Tools for intensively monitored sites (WP2) are accessible.

FORSAID project led by the University of Padova, an IEFC member, focuses on quarantine pest organisms affecting forests. It will develop new tools to detect and anticipate new diseases, using remote sensing, AI and citizen science. IEFC involvement is to support stakeholder interaction with scientists. As part of the IEFC's work, 2 meetings have been held so far with the stakeholder committee to understand their needs and expectations regarding the deployment of digital technology for forest pest monitoring; the second meeting focused specifically on their concerns regarding pine wood nematodes. Additionally, 3 demonstration workshops are planned for this year – respectively in Italy (June), France (August), and Portugal (September), to showcase innovative developments such as Entomoscope, Smart Trap and Aerial drone technologies.

BOSPIR-3D, coordinated by IEFC, project seeks to use 3D digitalization to improve forest inventory, timber volume/biomass estimation, and sustainable mountain forest management of Pyrenean forests. IEFC contributes to identify French pilot sites, communicate project's activities, and provide expertise in planted and managed forests. This cross-border collaboration between France, Andorra and Spain committed to use aerial remote sensing to characterize forest stands, to calibrate and to compare different technologies to identify reliable and operational solutions, and to establish pilot sites across the Pyrenees for testing protocols.

TRANSFORMIT, coordinated by EFI, project aims to promote the concept of Integrated Forest Management (IFM), that is an enhanced SFM with a strong focus on adaptation to climate change and biodiversity preservation. A demo site is developed in Nouvelle-Aquitaine French region in collaboration with the SF-CDC local forestry company.

FORADVISE, coordinated by EFI, this project aims at creating a EU forest advisory network, animating knowledge sharing process, developing training modules, cost benefit analysis toolkit, etc. The ultimate goal is to advance towards more resilient, multifunctional, and productive forests. IEFC' role is to engage forest advisors in thematic working groups to foster knowledge exchange on planted forests, identify best forestry practices and advisory methods, disseminate knowledge. IEFC

Members role: CNPF is in charge of setting up the network of forest advisory networks. CESEFOR role is similar to IEFC, SETU will create a Cost Benefit Aanalysis forest advisory toolkit and USSE was initilly in charge of project clustering and partnership management

GRIFON, coordinated by INRAE, aims at better understanding the interaction between biotic and abiotic threats in forest (pests, pathogens, storm, fire, drought, ...). This project concerns only the south-west region of France and will propose strategies for adapting forest management, landscape management and the forestry and wood industry. IEFC is in charge of the committee of stakeholders, their engagement in the project and the communication activities.

PATH FINDER & CLIMB FOREST, PATHFINER is coordinated by NIBIO, this project aims to develop and demonstrate an innovative forest monitoring and pathway assessment system allowing consistent EU greenhouse gas reporting of LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change & Forestry) in combination with advanced pathway assessments. While CLIMB FOREST proposes sustainable alternative pathways—spanning the short, medium, and long term—for the forestry sector to mitigate climate change across Europe. IEFC has simulated and constructed disturbance models (wind, bark beetles, fires and droughts) to to assess potential biotic and abiotic risks, thereby helping to identify in advance obstacles to sustainable forest development.

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES

The communication activities of the IEFC in 2025 focused on expanding digital outreach, engagement, and knowledge dissemination. The website received 16,565 visits, with traffic primarily coming from direct access (43%), organic search (40%), referrals (13%), and social networks (4%). Key updates included the maintenance of project-specific websites such as reinforce.plantedforests.org, plurifor.plantedforests.org, and forest-restoration.eu, as well as the upcoming launch of the Planted Forest Health Observatory and the Silvalert app.

The "Let's Talk About Planted Forests" webinar series, organized jointly with IUFRO and EFI, saw significant participation, with 181 attendees in 2023, 325 in 2024 (the highest), and 118 in 2025. Topics covered included Maritime Pine and Pine Wood Nematode, Douglas Fir Health, and Genetic Resources and Short-Rotation Forestry. The latest webinar on Maritime Pine and Pine Wood Nematode alone attracted 140 participants.

Social media presence grew substantially, particularly on LinkedIn, where followers increased from 1,441 in March 2025 to 1,765 by May 2026. The Dailymotion channel (IEFC Planted Forests) hosted videos on projects like REINFORCE, FIRE-RES, and various webinars, enhancing visual engagement. A social media audit and strategy were conducted to improve visibility, with plans to expand to platforms targeting the general public.

Email campaigns showed strong engagement, with open rates rising from 40.4% in 2024 to 45.4% in 2025, and click rates increasing from 7.5% to 9.0% in the same period. The newsletter had 947 subscribers by May 2026 (up from 913 in 2025), with the majority in English (739), followed by French (139), Spanish (42), and Portuguese (27). Three newsletter issues were published in 2024, two in 2025, and one in 2026 by the time of the report.

A 6-month internship in Communication and Public Relations was introduced in 2025, with Joy Kingson supporting media relations, press releases, and strategic communication. The International Day of Forests campaign (March 21st) was a key focus, aiming to raise awareness of sustainable planted forest management through targeted communication materials and media outreach. Media relations were strengthened to enhance IEFC's visibility, with efforts to engage journalists and specialized forestry media.

Factsheets and technical guides were published on the website, including topics like the History of Planted Forests in France and Douglas Fir in Planted Forests. The Planted Forests Report and other resources were made available

to support stakeholders. Additionally, a press review page was maintained to showcase IEFC's contributions to articles, reports, and TV features.

For project-specific communication, dedicated webpages and social media promotions were developed for initiatives like REINFORCE 2 and the Joint Meetings of GEF and GFPP (September 2025), which focused on forest entomology and pathology. The SUPERB project also had a Gateway platform (forestknowledge.eu) and a restoration marketplace (oppla.eu/restoration-market) to facilitate knowledge sharing and funding connections.

Overall, the communication strategy emphasized digital growth, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge dissemination, with measurable improvements in reach and interaction across all channels.

The General Assembly approved unanimously the moral report and activity report of the IEFC in 2025 (resolution 1).

FINANCIAL REPORT

The balance sheet for 2025 has been certified by the accountant of IEFC INEXTENSO and presented by the treasurer M. Roland De Lary. For the record, the total income reached 506 714.37 €, the negative balance of 10 183.36 € is due to extraordinary deficit induced by ineligibility of former projects expenses. The main expenditure item remains human resources.

Ratio	2025	2024	Analysis
Financial Autonomy (Equity / Total Balance Sheet)	35.7%	38.4 %	Decrease: Less financial cushion.
Current Ratio (Current Assets / Short-term Liabilities)	1.52	1.58	Stable: Ability to cover short-term debts.
Dependence on projects	93%	89%	High Risk : but purpose !
Charge Coverage Ratio (Equity / Annual Expenses)	0.67	0.67	Low: Equity (335k€) does not cover a full year of expenses.

The treasurer commented the figures above and concluded stating that IEFC association as a fragile but not critical financial situation :

- Healthy cash flow
- Over-reliance on project and increasing deficit due to exceptional expenses
- The recommendation for next years budgets are in priority :
 - Identify and reduce exceptional expenses
 - Diversify revenue streams
 - Build more reserves to secure the future

IEFC members questioned the director on how the exceptional expenses issue are addressed. Chirstophe Orazio answered that improving skills of the team in financial reporting, and understanding of each project specific rules is the key.

Table 1: Balance sheet of 2025

Income	
Projects and subcontracts	418 993,61 €
Grants	41 000,00 €
Membership fees	10 200 €
Other income	32 257,02 €
Bank interest	4263,74 €
Extraordinary incomes (previous years)	0 €
Donations	0 €
Total Incomes	506 714,37 €
Expenditure	
Human resources	340 089,71 €
General expenses	23 533,18 €
Travel costs	14 383,16 €
External services	39 703,22 €
Consumables	1 430,44 €
Communications	10 110,00 €
Meetings	17 194,09 €
Equipment	1 288,98 €
Other costs	36 981,43 €
Extraordinary cost (previous years)	32 182,68 €
Total costs	516 897,73 €
Balance	-10183,36 €

- Deficit due to 6 years of projects balanced with minor rejected expenses summing up
- Will be compensated by positive balance in 2026
- Other : IEFC network, membership fees, and REINFFORCE seeds

Table 2: Budget plan report of 2026

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Human resources	354 400 €
General expenses	15 800 €
Travel costs	45 600 €
External services	98 690 €
Consumables	1000 €
Communications	3 800 €
Meetings	18 000 €
Equipment	6 400 €
Other costs	27 800 €
Total costs	560 800 €
<u>Income</u>	
Projects	523 500€
Grants	25 000 €
Membership fees	10 500 €
Other income	35 000 €
Total income	594 000 €
Balance	33 200 €

- More Aquitaine Regional funds + still Euskadi and FR funds
- Other costs include seed purchasing for REINFFORCE2 in addition to network fund and membership fees

The General Assembly approved the 2025 balance sheet and 2026 budget at the unanimity (resolution 2).

MANAGEMENT OF IEFC INFRASTRUCTURES

Christophe Orazio reminded the meeting of the list of infrastructures maintained by IEFC.

Some of them have been established since the birth of IEFC such as the FORMODELS database or the forest health and diseases guide. They need constant maintenance effort and can be enhanced by motivated partners.

- REINFFORCE infrastructure for adaptation to climate change will arrive at its end of life as network in 2028, the infrastructure will be extended thanks to the REINFFORCE 2 project.
- FORMIX on mixed plantations is still under construction and new sites can be added on a voluntary basis.
- FORMODELS database is moderated by M. Tomé and C. Meredieu.
- FORESTRIALS is overlapping with the INSILVA French project. The maintenance of this tool that was set up with REINFFORCE partners was questioned. The phytosanitary guide is led by H. Jactel: updates and translations are planned for many year but not implemented so far.
- Silvalert: the app is fully operational since August 2023.

NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The next general assembly will take place in Azores by decision of the general assembly with 14 votes supporting azores and 8 votes supporting Ireland option (resolution 3).

ELECTION OF A NEW HONORARY MEMBER

The general assembly approved the election of Professor Margarida Tomé former president of IEFC from 2002 to 2006 as honorary member of IEFC (resolution 4) to acknowledge her continuous implication in supporting the network and active participation in Planted forest IUFRO task force.

CLOSURE

The president thanked the host for welcoming IEFC at CCI Le Mans, Sarthe, France. 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Susana Barreiro' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Susana Barreiro
President

ANNEXES

- Andrea Hevia Cabal, Raúl Sánchez Salguero, Jose Ramón Guzmán Álvarez, Ander Arias. (2025, June 16). Red de Infraestructuras de Investigación para el Seguimiento y la Adaptación de los Bosques al Cambio Climático (REINFFORCE2). Congreso Forestal Español.
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Belgium

- Propopulus

France

- Alliance Forêts Bois – Coopérative Forestière
- Bordeaux Sciences Agro (BSA)
- Centre Régional de la Propriété Forestière – Nouvelle Aquitaine (CRPF- NA)
- France Douglas
- GIP Ecosystèmes Forestiers (ECOFOR)
- Groupama Forêts Assurances (MISSO)
- Institut National de Recherche pour l’Agriculture, l’Alimentation et l’Environnement (INRAE)
- Institut Technologique Forêt Cellulose Bois- construction Ameublement (FCBA)
- Plantons pour l’Avenir
- XYLOFUTUR
- SMURFIT WESTROCK

Germany

- University of Freiburg

Ireland

- South East Technological University (SETU)
- Western Forestry Co-op

Italy

- University of Padova

Latvia

- LSFRI Silava

New Zealand

- Scion

MEMBERS LIST

Portugal

- Altri – Caima
- Associação das Bioindústrias de base Florestal (Biond)
- Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Centro de Estudos Florestais, Lisboa (ISA)
- The Navigator Company

Spain

- Centro de Investigaciones Forestales y Ambientales de Lourizan (CIF)
- Centro Tecnológico Forestal y de la Madera (CETEMAS)
- Fundación Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria de Castilla y León (CESEFOR)
- Energía y Celulosa (ENCE, S.A.)
- Empresa de Transformación Agraria (TRAGSA)
- HAZI
- NEIKER
- Fundación General de la Universidad de Valladolid
- The Union of Foresters of Southern Europe (USSE)
- University of León

UK

- Forest Research
- ForestRe Ltd

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

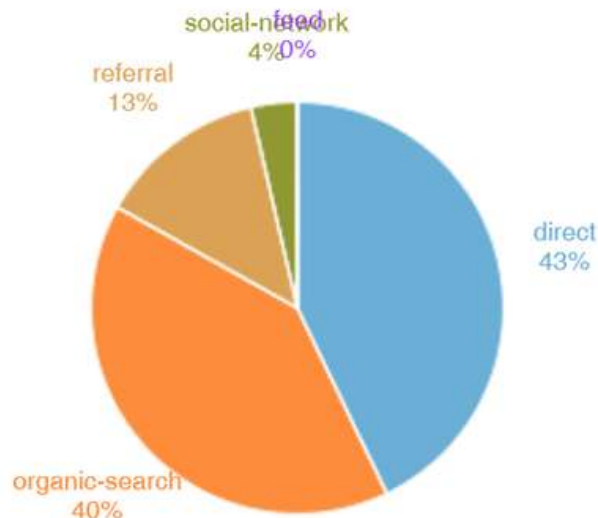
- New Zealand Institute of Forestry
- Institut Forestier du Chili
- Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment
- University College Dublin (UCD)
- University of Kwazulu-Natal
- UNBC Growth and Yield
- Western Forestry Co-operative Society Ltd



WEBSITE UPDATES

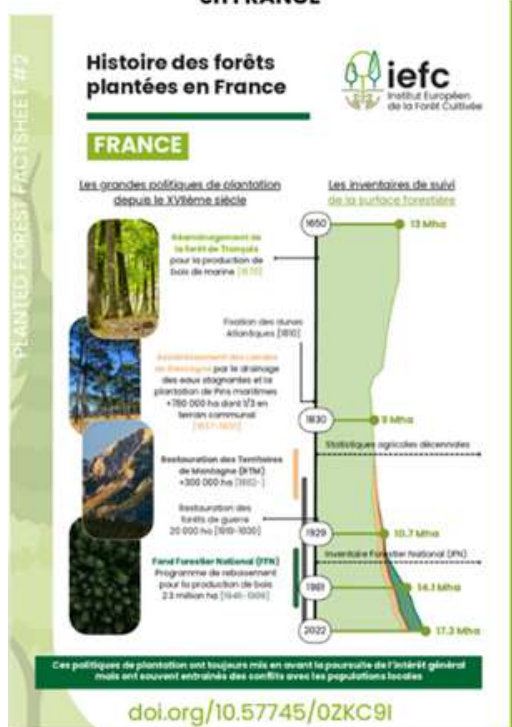
Figure 1: 2025 IEFC Website traffic sources

There were 16,565 visits from all mediums.

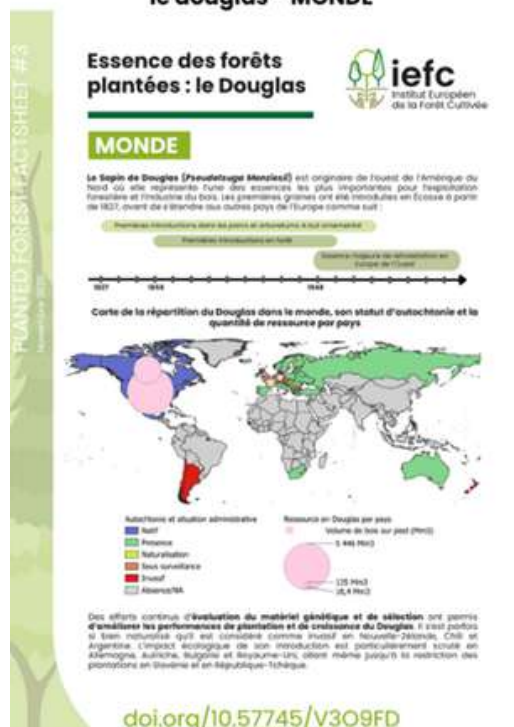


Factsheets <https://www.plantedforests.org/factsheets/>

#2 - Histoire des forêts plantées en FRANCE



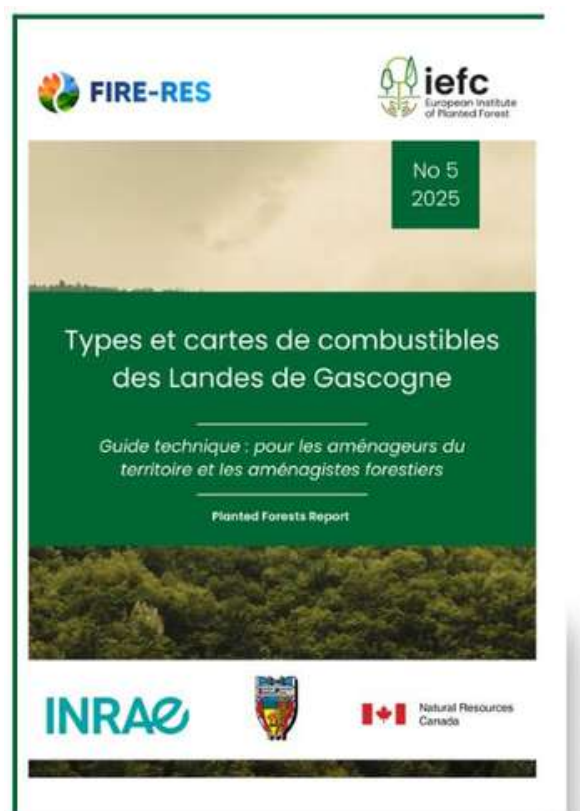
#3 - Essence des forêts plantées : le douglas - MONDE



Planted forest report

<https://www.plantedforests.org/planted-forests-reports/>

Technical guide for landscape planners and forest managers



Projects website maintained by IEFC



Website

- Reinforce.plantedforests.org
- Plurifor.plantedforests.org
- Forrisk.iefc.net
- formix.plantedforests.org
- Silvalert.net
- Comfor-sudoe.eu
- Forest-restoration.eu
- VirtualForests.eu
- Kebbe.iefc.net



APP

- Silvalert - IOS+Android

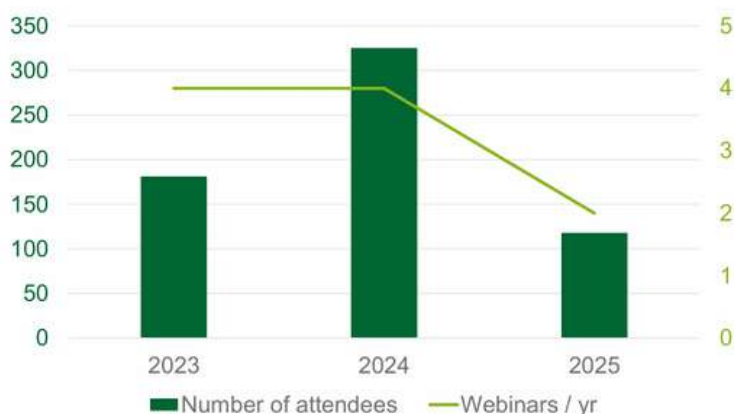
www.grifon.plantedforests.org
will soon be available online

The Planted Forest Health Observatory: an online tool for monitoring epidemics affecting planted forests in Europe – Coming soon online, with support from members of the IEFC network

WEBINARS

Let's talk about Planted Forests Webinars

(IEFC, IUFRO Task force, EFI Research Network)



Number of attendees:

2023 - 2025 : **624**

Our previous webinar on the
Maritime Pine and Pine Wood
Nematode was attended by 140
participants

Thank you!!!!

**We hope to see you at
the next webinars!**

SOCIAL MEDIA



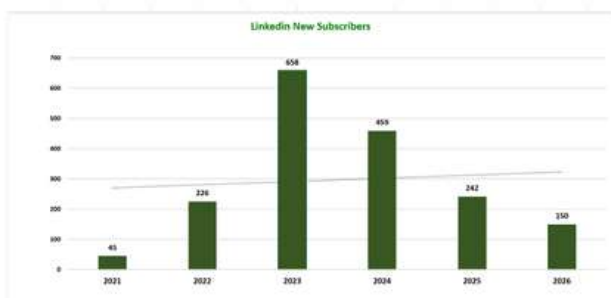
IEFC LinkedIn Page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/instituteuropeendelaforetcultivee>



Followers (to end of May 2026):
1765

Followers (to end of March 2025):



IEFC Annual Meeting – 30 June - 1 July 2026

Communication

VIDEO



IEFC DailyMotion Page:

<https://www.dailymotion.com/IEFCPlantedForests>

Subscribers (to end of May):

947 vs 913 in 2025

- French: **139** (vs 140 in 2025)
- English: **739** (vs 703 in 2025)
- Spanish: **42** (vs 43 in 2025)
- Portuguese: **27** (vs 27 in 2025)

IEFC Newsletter:

- 3 issues in 2024
- 2 issues in 2025
- 1 issue in 2026 so far

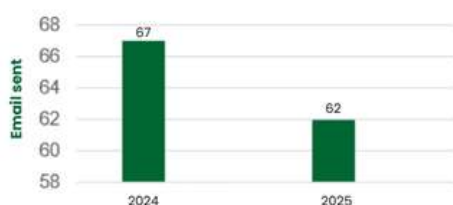
communication@plantedforests.org

EDITORIAL 2026 - IEFC wishes you a great year 2026!
Susana Barreiro, President of IEFC
and Ander Arias Gonzalez, Secretary of IEFC

Dear IEFC network members,

During 2025, forests have faced major disturbances, increases in the number of events, and their severity, variety, and geographic distribution across the Atlantic Arc of Europe. 2025 rates as the fourth worst year since 2001 in terms of burnt area in Portugal, the worst ever in Spain, and the year that marks the arrival of the pine wood nematode (*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*) in French forests. IEFC has been attentive to the growing threats that planted forests are facing. IEFC has also been active in contributing to the production and dissemination of knowledge as a partner in research projects such as FIRE-RES tackling the management of extreme forest fires or HONARD and FORSARD focusing on the development of practical solutions for the management of emerging native and non-native forest threats, including the use of innovative digital technologies for their early detection.

EMAILING



Year	Email sent	*Open rate	*Click rate
2024	67	40,4 %	7,5 %
2025	62	45,4%	9,0 %

***Open Rate:** the percentage of people who open an email out of the total number of recipients.

***Click Rate:** the percentage of people who click on a link within an email out of the total number of recipients.

NEWSLETTER



Subscribers (to end of May):

947 vs 913 in 2025

- **French: 139** (vs 140 in 2025)
- **English: 739** (vs 703 in 2025)
- **Spanish: 42** (vs 43 in 2025)
- **Portuguese: 27** (vs 27 in 2025)



IEFC Newsletter:

- 3 issues in 2024
- 2 issues in 2025
- 1 issue in 2026 so far



If you want to share any news with our community, PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!!!

communication@plantedforests.org

COMMUNICATION IN SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

Reinforce 2



Research infrastructure for adaptation to climate change. REINFFORCE2 will provide solutions thanks to the climatic gradient along the Interreg Atlantic area to anticipate climate change effects on coastal forests, simulating a global warming of 6°C.

Communication activities

- Development of a new website dedicated to the project
- Social media Publications



Joint meetings of the GEF and the GFPP 24–26 September 2025

GEFF: Group of French-Speaking Forest Entomologists
GFPP: Francophone Group of Forest Pathologists

a space for exchange amongst all enthusiasts of **forest entomology**, enabling them to share knowledge more effectively and to make progress together in understanding how forest insect communities function

Communication activities

- Design of a dedicated webpage for the event
- Social media Publications



SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIT & STRATEGY



GROUP PHOTOS



GROUP PHOTOS

