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INFORMAR Newsletter

We are happy to present our first quarterly newsletter for the Integrated Forest Management Learning Architecture (INFORMAR) project. Our goal is to provide up-to-date information on ongoing project activities, distribute relevant news on integrated forest management and support the European Network INTEGRATE.

To subscribe, please visit: http://informar.eu/

INFORMAR is managed by the European Forest Institute (EFI) Resilience Programme. The project is supported and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture.

Launching INFORMAR

INFORMAR was launched during a kick-off event organized on 7-8 December 2017, in Bonn, Germany. The objective of the event was to introduce and discuss the aim of INFORMAR with involved stakeholders (e.g., policy-makers, practitioners and researchers) and to communicate the idea of a large science-policy network related to integrated forest management. The event was also designed to help in the selection of best practice case examples that will be a target of research throughout the project.

The event furthermore addressed a number of questions relating to (1) how integrated forest management is done in different contexts; (2) socio-economic and environmental driving factors that determines how integrated forest management works in practice; (3) what can be done to better implement integrated forest management in practice; and (4) how forest policy can support the implementation of integrated forest management.

All inputs received during the discussions have been utilized by the European Forest Institute to prepare a set of main messages and conclusions based on the discussions under each of the questions noted above. These are set out in the meeting report that can be found here: http://informar.eu/informar-kick-workshop
Białowieża Forest Science Initiative – Spring 2018

European Forest Institute is preparing a seminar that will gather scientists conducting research in the Białowieża Forest.

The Białowieża Forest is a large forest complex composed of both conifers and broadleaved trees. It is situated on the border between Poland and Belarus and covers a total area of 141,885 hectares. The area is perceived from a biodiversity perspective as one of the most valuable Lowland forests areas in Europe. The management of the Białowieża forest in Poland is subject to a controversy that has a long history, but has in recent years gained significant international visibility, inter alia in relation to the protection state of Białowieża under the EU’s Natura 2000 network. The most recent controversy related to the Białowieża Forest status (protected area and commensal forest) and its management (national park and state forestry) refers to an outbreak of the European spruce bark beetle (Ips typographus).

EFI invites scientists who have a wide knowledge regarding this forest and who are specialists in related topics (forest ecology; forest biodiversity conservation and management; socio-economic factors; forest history; forest policy and governance) to review already existing interdisciplinary scientific knowledge about the Białowieża Forest.

The aim of the seminar will be to create a space for an open discussion based on scientific evidence regarding the current and future situation in the Białowieża Forest. The initiative is a search for consensus from the perspective of science. The goal is to publish the findings of this science dialogue in an understandable manner for decision makers, media and society.

The Seminar will take place in Białowieża in late spring 2018 and will be followed by a media seminar in Brussels and Warsaw. The event is organised by INFORMAR will connect the situation in Białowieża to a wider question of driving forces for integrated forest management and lesson-learnt for other areas in Europe that face similar challenges.

Contact: info@informar.eu
Spurring Innovations for Forest Ecosystem Services in Europe (SINCERE)

Introducing a new collaborative research project, SINCERE is a four-year project funded through the H2020 programme that aim to develop novel policies and new business models by connecting knowledge and expertise from practice, science and policy, across Europe and beyond.

The project was recently launched on 24-25 January 2018 in Bonn, Germany. The kick-off meeting of the project took place in the new EFI Bonn Office, where the Resilience Programme has recently established its offices. 43 participants from 22 organisations and 11 countries took part in the meeting. The project consortium comes from Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Peru, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain and Switzerland.

Innovations for the services that forests provide to society are the focus of SINCERE, responding to society’s demands for services such as wood production, recreation, biodiversity provision and carbon storage. The project will look at innovative ways to value and implement such forest ecosystem services.

SINCERE will adopt an international learning architecture that aim to facilitate continuous collaborative learning from the project’s innovation actions, located in nine regions in Europe and two international cases in Peru and Russia. Innovations developed through SINCERE will be intentionally varying in nature but will, as a whole, aim to explore new means to enhance forest ecosystem services in ways that benefit forest owners as well as serving broad societal needs.

SINCERE will also contribute to the development of a coordinated European policy framework to maximise the value to society of forest ecosystem services and their sustainable provision.

The kick-off meeting covered presentations from work package leaders, giving an overview on the objectives of SINCERE and the tasks ahead. It also included the presentation of eleven innovation cases that will be used in the project, covering topics such as biodiversity, carbon storage, spiritual services and tourism and introducing mechanisms such as auctions for ecosystem services, certification, leasing, new laws and participatory governance.

Contact: georg.winkel@efi.int
How to set up a Marteloscope?

Around 40 Marteloscopes have been established in 9 countries during the **Integrate+ project**. New sites are being added. For those interested in setting up such a Marteloscope site the following will provide you basic information on what should be considered.

Selecting an appropriate site for a Marteloscope

When planning to establish a Marteloscope the selection of the site and the corresponding forest stand should be given thorough attention. Take note of the following aspects: (1) forest type, stand characteristics and applied management should be representative for the region, (2) the site should show a clear need for ‘management action’ in order to be suitable for virtual tree selection exercises, (3) the ownership type and future expectations towards the forest stand need to be taken into consideration, (4) the continuity of a Marteloscope needs to be guaranteed for at least 5-15 years and (5) the terrain should allow an easy set-up and (6) the Marteloscope should be easily accessible.

Marteloscopes

The concept of Marteloscopes was originally developed in France. The term is derived from the French word for tree selection (‘martelage’) and the Greek term "skopein" (look), meaning literally “having a closer look” at a tree selection. The concept was first applied in private forests but its potential for field-based training and education for forestry professionals and students was already recognised in the 1990s. The use of the usually 1 hectare sized plots found application not only in France but soon after also in its neighbouring countries, becoming more known also far beyond. The demonstration project Integrate+ considerably contributed to this development in Europe.

Setting up a Marteloscope

*Size and form of an Marteloscope*

The size of a Marteloscope is generally a one-hectare rectangular plot with side lengths of 100 x 100 m. Its size may be tailored based on geography and local conditions.

*Recorded tree parameters*

The tree location of each tree above 7.5 cm diameter at breast height (dbh) is recorded. All trees are numbered and the following data assessed: (1) tree species, (2) tree status as dead/alive, (3) forest mensuration data (dbh, tree height and crown base height), (4) timber quality (estimated) and (5) tree related microhabitats using the tree microhabitat catalogue field guide. Measuring equipment may vary based on your preferred/available options.

*Required resources*

Time and resources you need to set up a Marteloscope will depend on
your possibilities. Teams of two are favoured. It is recommended to have experienced personnel available supported by e.g. students or field workers. This way measurements can be done quickly and correctly. The time needed will also depend on the site conditions: “is it in easy terrain”?, “how many trees need to be measured?” etc. A rough estimate is 5 to 10 working days depending on the experience of personnel, number of measuring teams and site conditions.

The Marteloscope is almost ready for use

One to two days are then required to calculate the volumes and timber prices of all trees on the site. A final task is then to prepare the complete dataset for submission to the central Integrate+ Database. Once in the database the Marteloscope data can be loaded to portable devices (tablets). With the help of the I+ Trainer software which needs to be installed on the tablets the Marteloscope site can then be used for field visits or training events.

Questions on Marteloscopes?
Contact: andreas.schuck@efi.int

See also Integrate+ Marteloscopes - Description of parameters and assessment procedures. Integrate+ Technical Paper No. 18.

Marteloscope Managers meet to exchange on experiences

In the frame of INFORMAR, a Marteloscope Manager Workshop will take place between 25-27 April at the Steigerwald Centre near Ebrach (Frankonia region of Bavaria), Germany. The event will bring together Marteloscope managers from different European regions and countries to exchange on their experiences applying Marteloscopes for training, education and outreach. They will share their expectations on future applications of Marteloscopes and have the opportunity to present their proposal for further improving the I+ software tool which is used for implementing Marteloscope training exercises. A priority list will then guide next steps in software development aiming at better meeting the needs of the Marteloscope managers.

The program includes a set of stimulating presentations, moderated discussions and field excursions. Those will include a visit to the Steinkreuz Marteloscope, a strict forest reserve composed of monumental beech
stands and a ‘thinning experiment’ being one of the oldest forest research plots in the world. The evenings are reserved for informal talks enjoying regional specialities in local settings.

Participant number is limited. If you are interested to participate please contact: andreas.schuck@efi.int or jakob.derks@efi.int by 10 April.

Forest extension service organisations visit the Jägerhäuschen Marteloscope

On 23 January 2018, the European network of ‘Forest Extension Service’ paid a visit to the Integrate Marteloscope Jägerhäuschen. It is located in the Kottenforst near Bonn and managed by the Regional Forestry Department Rhine-Sieg-Erft in North Rhine Westphalia. The forest extension service experts represented a variety of organisations supporting private forest owners from no less than 17 different countries.

The aim of the field visit was to provide them with insight on what local approaches are applied in North Rhine Westphalia for supporting small scale private forest owners. The 35 international participants were also introduced to the Marteloscope concept and the corresponding I+ software as tools used for training, education and outreach. The feedback from the participants was very positive. They noted that the use of such a tablet software in the controlled environment of a Marteloscope offered a unique opportunity to have objective and fact-based discussions about management choices. They appreciated the insights and guidance provided by the Regional Forestry Department Rhine-Sieg-Erft and by Andreas Schuck from EFI who introduced the concept Marteloscopes and the software.

In conclusion they stated that they will take home these impressions and investigate possibilities on how they could apply the Marteloscope as a training tool in their own work with private forest owners.

More information: andreas.schuck@efi.int

ConFoBi Symposium 2018

Conservation of Forest Biodiversity in Multiple-Use Landscape of Central Europe (ConFoBi) is a research project and a Research Training Groups based at the Albert-Ludwigs University of Freiburg. ConFoBi investigates the effectiveness of structural retention measures, namely habitat trees and dead wood, by using the Black
Forest as a system model for multi-use forests in Central Europe. ConFoBi also aims to facilitate the cooperation between forestry and conservation sectors to effectively integrate conservation with conventional forest management.

On 28 February to 1 March, ConFoBi held its annual symposium where PhD students and researchers presented their work and discussed the current status and next steps of their research. The programme included, amongst other things, a presentation on the Marteloscopes by the INFORMAR team as well as covering topics such as professional knowledge practices in forestry, bridging the gap between forest biodiversity research and practice and a World Café on the science-policy interface, to note a few examples.

More information on the symposium is available here: http://confobi.uni-freiburg.de

Discoveries, details and discussions on resilient forests on the new Resilience Blog

How can we integrate nature conservation in sustainable forest management strategies? What role can forests play in global approaches to climate change policy? How can scientists and practitioners collaborate to prevent wildfires, how can they react to storms and biological invasions? What are the environmental consequences of increasing urbanization and what are the benefits of urban forestry?

These and more questions are discussed on the Resilience Blog, published by European Forest Institute’s Resilience Research Programme. Blogposts on INFORMAR-related topics, like discussions on Integrative Forest Management approaches, reports from Marteloscope trainings and meetings of the European network INTEGRATE are available here.

The Resilience Blog is not only a platform for communicating research results and knowledge of the Resilience Research team, but also for providing different statements and expert opinions as well as material for debate and comments. If you would like to contribute to the blog and report
on your own experience with Integrated Forest Management, if you want to share your story on setting up a Marteloscope site or how you dealt with forest disturbances, please contact our Communications Manager: gesche.schifferdecker@efi.int

Upcoming Events

- **European Network INTEGRATE meeting**
  20-21 March 2018, Plzeň, Czech Republic.
  [http://informar.eu/events](http://informar.eu/events)

- **International Day of Forests - Forests and Sustainable Cities**
  21 March 2018, Geneva, Switzerland.

- **Global Bioeconomy Summit 2018**
  19-20 April 2018, Berlin, Germany.

- **Marteloscope Managers Workshop**
  25-27 April 2018, Ebrach, Germany.
  [http://informar.eu/events](http://informar.eu/events)

- **Inform-Prioritize-Collaborate: Cooperation of Regions on Innovation in Forest Management, Use of Wood and Forest-related Services**
  26 April 2018, Brussels, Belgium.
  [https://www.eustafor.eu/event/](https://www.eustafor.eu/event/)

- **Forest Communicators' Network - Annual Meeting**

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