

The European Integrate Network

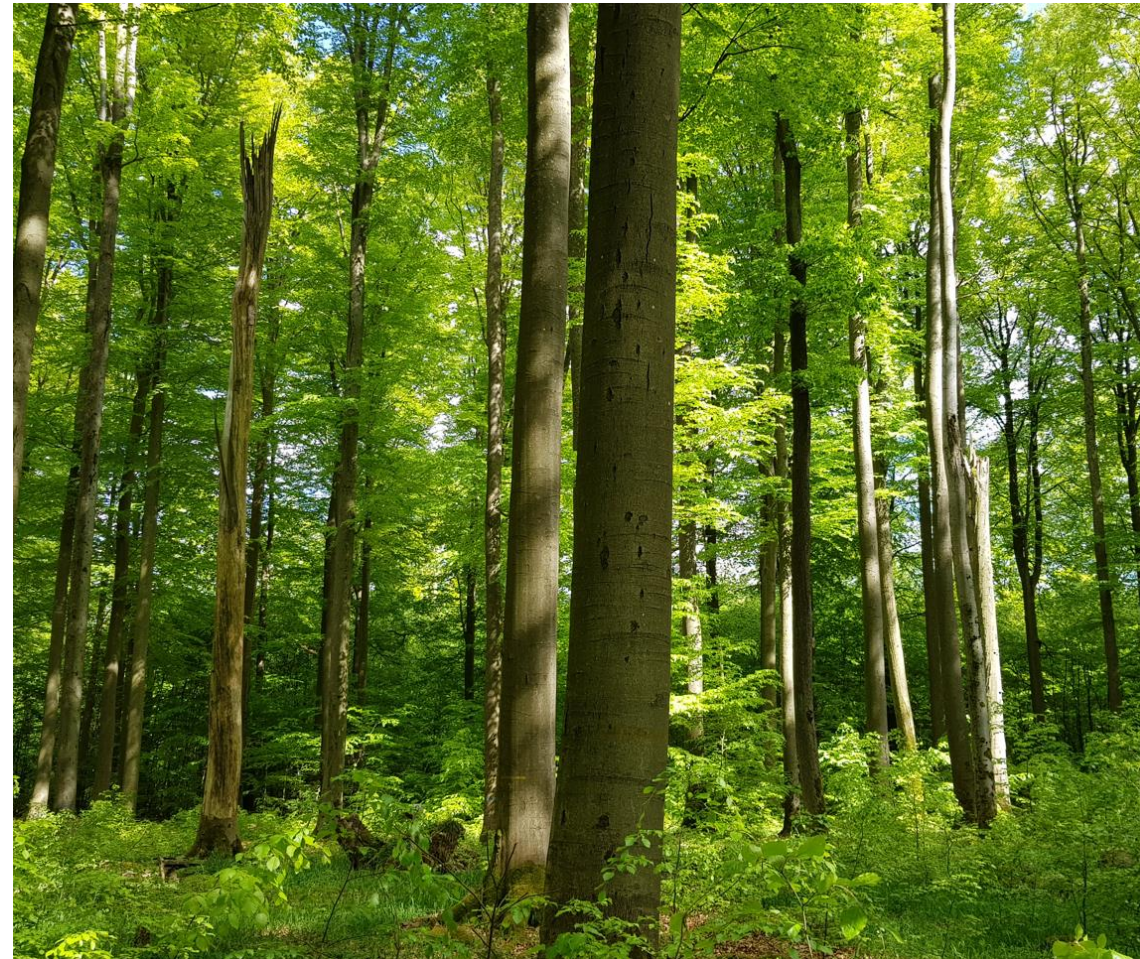


facilitated by EFI

Christoph Dürr, Switzerland
Chair Integrate Network 2020-2021

Our approach

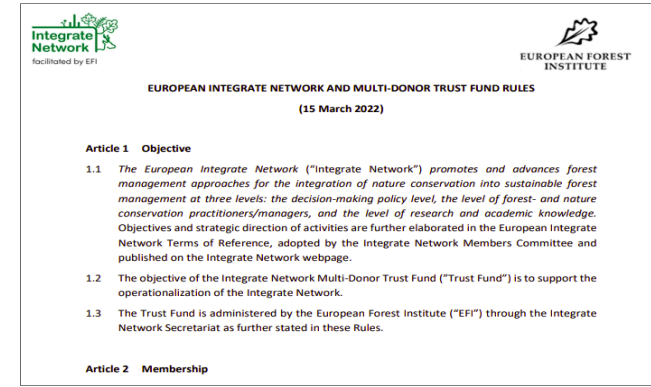
- promoting forest management approaches for the integration of nature conservation into sustainable forest management
- gathering scientific evidence on the successful application, training, and communication of such approaches



The process



*Portugal joined network in in 2021



The Integrate Network Multi Donor Trust Fund



Move towards a more formal set-up of the Integrate Network

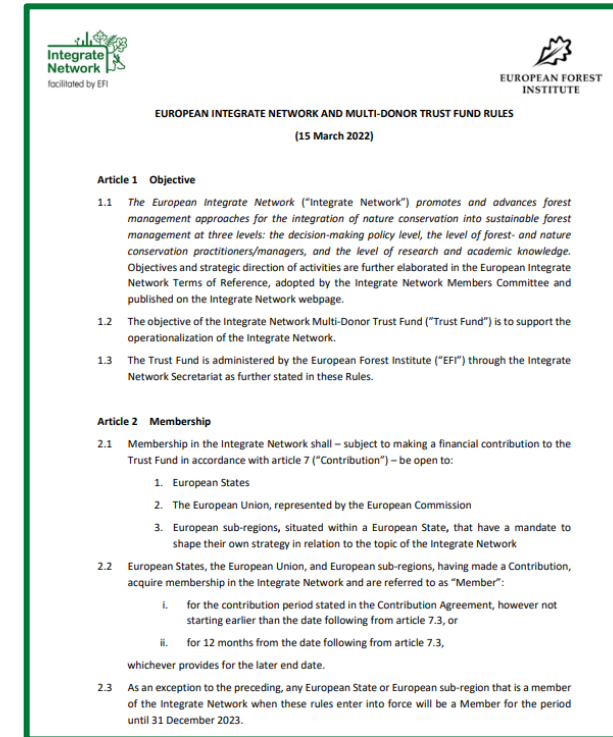
MDTF allows to support activities and impact of the Network independent of projects

MDTF strengthens joint ownership of the network

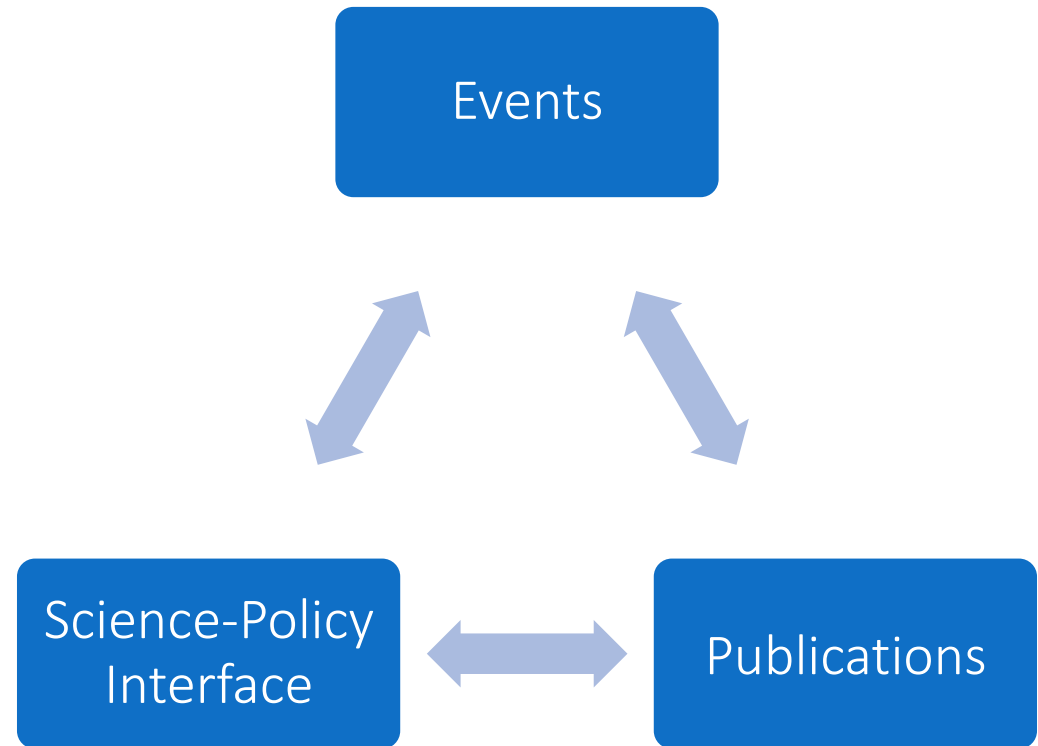
Guided by agreed MDTF rules

Members Committee acts as decision making body

EFI facilitates the Integrate Network as Secretariat

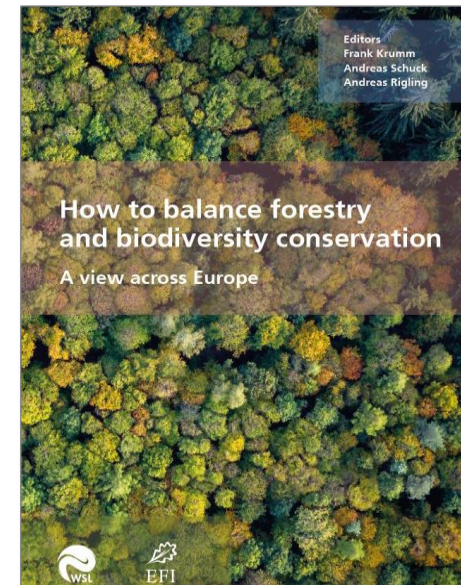



Integrate Network – selected activities



“How to balance forestry and biodiversity?” (9-10 November 2020)

- Online conference with around 600 viewers during 2 days
- Presentation of the book publication: *“How to balance forestry and biodiversity conservation - a view across Europe”* including 32 good practice examples on integrative forest management
- Chair’s summary




Integrate
Network
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Chair’s summary on the policy brief¹ on 10.11.2020 launch of the publication *“How to balance forestry and biodiversity conservation - a view across Europe”*
Christoph Dürr, Chair European Network Integrate and Andreas Rigling, Co-Author of the publication

- 1 Acknowledge that Europe’s forests are characterized by a long history of human influence and a huge diversity of forests types and structures, which creates a basic rationale for site adapted forest management concepts.
- 2 Consider integrated forest management approaches as core objectives of future European forest policies and strategies, enhancing economy, biodiversity and social needs together, and develop instruments to effectively support implementation.
- 3 Address the enhancement of tree species diversity, structural diversity including old growth forest structures, dead wood and other microhabitat, as important objectives in sustainable forest management of climate-adapted forests.
- 4 Advance integrated forest management as response to the accelerating impacts of climate change, in view to improving biodiversity and the adaptation potential of forests.
- 5 Use and further develop the lessons learnt from the European Network Integrate as guiding lessons for stepping up practical implementation of these policies.
- 6 Support the motivation and the experience amongst Europe’s forest owners and managers for advancing pragmatic and regionally rooted integrated forest management approaches, while promoting further education and training with sharing lessons learnt.
- 7 Involve people and stakeholders with different views in the goals setting for integrated forest management at different levels, as the society increasingly demands to integrate conservation objectives in forest management.
- 8 Consider that integrated forest management in Europe avoids a leakage effect, as sustainably produced wood from European forests can decrease the pressure on forests globally.
- 9 Invest in the science-policy-practice interface to enhance mutual learning on integrated forest management, addressing conservation and protection objectives as integral part.

Engagement in European Commission consultation on the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030

- Integrate Network submits a negotiated text as official contribution to the European Commission on the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030
- EU Forest Strategy for 2030 - chapter 3: “Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU’s forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems”
 - Integrate Network mentioned as good practice example

Examples of good practices in forest management to preserve and restore biodiversity

*An international network of foresters, covering over a hundred reference forests, has been established to share experiences, practices, knowledge and training, promoting a transition towards a more resilient silviculture that is based on the natural processes of forest ecosystem: the mixing of species by tree or by group of trees, natural regeneration or diversified planting on a small scale, continuous forest cover that avoids as much as possible clear-cutting and its disadvantages, progressive irregularisation of the age structure of the stands, management on the scale of the tree or by group of trees, and the improvement of the capacity to support biodiversity.⁴³

*INTEGRATE network is an alliance of representatives of different European countries that promotes the integration of nature conservation into sustainable forest management at the policy, practice and research level.⁴⁴

*In Germany the process of *Waldumbau* is used for restructuring forests for more biodiversity and climate resilience. *Waldumbau* may be undertaken in response to disturbance events such as windstorms or insects when replanting, or a pre-emptive action to avoid such losses. The goal is the construction of more natural structures and life cycles with multiple species and tree ages per stand. This way, *Waldumbau* also serves to preserve the forests and thereby their function as carbon sinks, and provides a great economic opportunity if forest owners and managers are properly supported in the transition⁴⁵.

A common understanding of sustainable forest management has been agreed upon in the Pan-European Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests ('Forest Europe'), comprising voluntary principles, guidelines and indicators, which are used by the signatories to monitor the progress of their forests. Sustainable forest management means the *stewardship and use of forest lands in a way, and at a rate, that maintains their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems.*

In order to better respond to new challenges and needs, and in light of the increasing role of forests in the delivery of the EU's commonly agreed climate and biodiversity objectives, the sustainable forest management framework will have to be enhanced, notably as regards criteria relating to ecosystem health, biodiversity and climate change so that it can become a more detailed screening tool to determine and compare different management approaches, their impact and the overall state of EU forests. The sustainable forest management already covers several relevant indicators, such as deadwood and species diversity, but it does not yet define thresholds or ranges as benchmarks for the desirable condition.

Therefore, building on the Forest Europe sustainable forest management criteria, the Commission, together with the Member States and in close cooperation with different forest stakeholders, will identify additional indicators as well as thresholds or ranges for sustainable forest management concerning forest ecosystem conditions, such as health, biodiversity and climate objectives. In thorough consultation with the Member States, the Commission will assess how these could best be used, in respect of the subsidiarity principle and starting on a voluntary basis, to allow for a better comparative understanding of the overall sustainability of forests within the EU and demonstrate the contribution of sustainable forest management to EU objectives, in particular those related to climate, biodiversity and circular economy.

⁴³ <https://www.prosilva.org/close-to-nature-forestry/exemplary-forests/-www.forbiodiv.org-https://www.prosilva.org/information-news/news/exemplary-forests-network/> and <https://askafor.eu/>

⁴⁴ <https://integratenetwork.org/>

⁴⁵ [BMEL - Publikationen - Der Wald in Deutschland - ausgewählte Ergebnisse der dritten Bundeswaldinventur](#)

7th Integrate Network Annual Meeting in Neuchâtel / Boudry, Switzerland (27-29 Oct 2021)

- Current policy developments in the EU
- Forests in 2080: Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change in future forest management
- Balancing forestry and biodiversity conservation – perspectives from science and practice
- Discussions on the publication: “*How to balance forestry and biodiversity conservation - a view across Europe*”
- Excursion to Boudry forest



Facilitating webinars on current European topics

- Policy challenges of integrating biodiversity conservation in forest management – the way forward (03/2021)
- EU Forest Strategy: Strengthening forests for biodiversity & climate change (09/2021)



Webinar EU Forest Strategy, September 2021

Integrate demonstration site network

- About 180 sites in 22 European countries, site network continues to expand
- Wide variety of forest types and management regimes
- Training and education events take place, training programmes are developed



Manager Workshop (28-29 Jun 2022)

- Over 50 marteloscope managers, researchers, and other forestry experts from more than 12 European countries gathered in Bonn
- Sharing experiences on technical, practical and training/educational issues with marteloscopes as well as their application in research
- Exchange of ideas on further development and use of demonstration sites



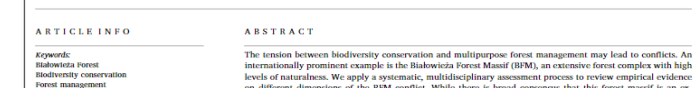
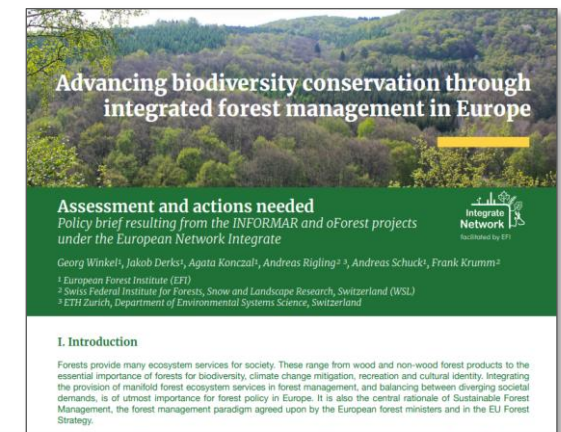
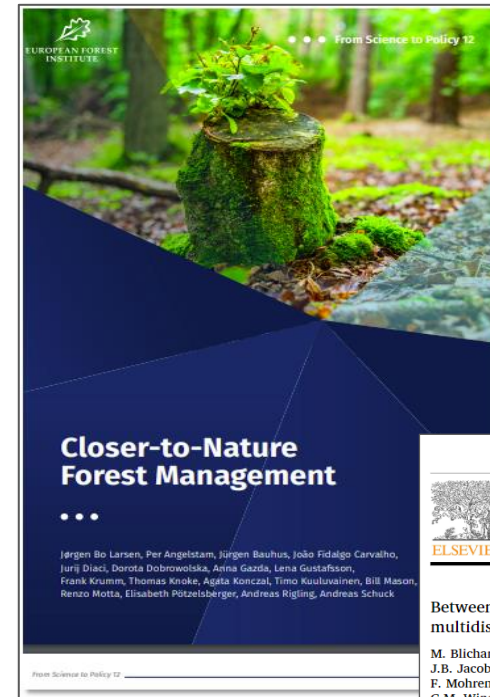
Policy briefs and scientific publications

Policy Briefs

- 'Advancing biodiversity conservation through integrated forest management in Europe'(2020)
- Support to 'Closer-to-nature forest management' - From Science to Policy (2022)

• Scientific papers

- Blicharska, M. et al., 2020. Between biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management A multidisciplinary assessment of the emblematic Białowieża Forest case. *Biological Conservation*.
- Larrieu, L., Cabanettes, A., Courbaud, B., Goulard, M., Heintz, W., Kozák, D., Kraus, D., Lachat, T., Ladet, S., Müller, J., Paillet, Y., Schuck, A., Stillhard, J., Svoboda, M., 2021. Co-occurrence patterns of tree-related microhabitats: A method to simplify routine monitoring. *Ecological Indicators*.



Communications

- Website
- Blog posts
- Webinar support
- Interviews with network members
- Integrate newsletter
- Audiovisuals
- Communication training for network members
 - Workshop: „Storytelling“
 - Workshop „Engaging with media“



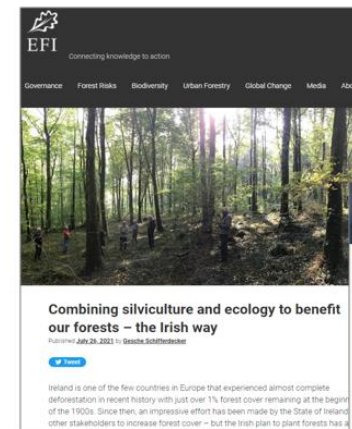
Insights on “Engaging with Media” Workshop

Published August 3, 2021 by [Gabriela Borelli](#)

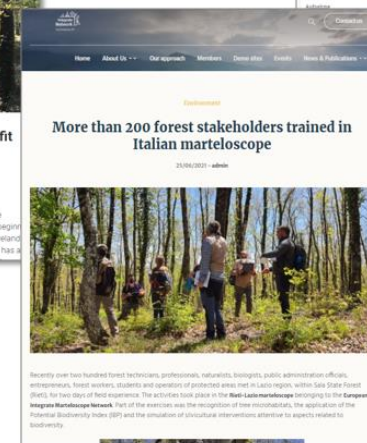


What makes forest-related topics newsworthy? How can we humanize our stories and constantly create better engagement with readers, without repeating the same story over and over?

Media plays a vital role informing about forest-related issues, especially when linked to the role forests play in climate change. However, these topics are often very complex and thus difficult to explain in detail to a general public so that they have a clear understanding of how for instance,



<https://integrate-network.org/>; <https://resilience-blog.com/>



<https://integrate-network.org/2021/06/25/more-than-200-forest-stakeholders-trained-in-italian-marteloscope/>



<https://integrate-network.org/2021/07/23/monte-de-valsain-marteloscope-challenges-and-opportunities-within-the-integrate-network/>



Thanks!

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