

WELCOME TO OUR FPRN Newsletter

we're so glad you're here!



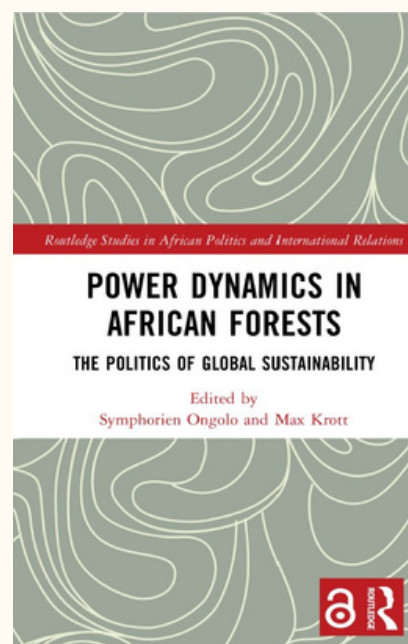
Welcome to FPRN electronic newsletter dedicated to the FPRN network. Our primary objective is to furnish quarterly updates and spotlight our most recent advancements and achievements. FPRN News will be distributed via email and prominently displayed on the FPRN website (<https://fprn.info>), ensuring widespread accessibility to our latest developments.

Highlighted Publications

NEW BOOK RELEASE!

The book delves into the historical and contemporary challenges of forestland governance in Africa, examining power dynamics among actors involved in resource exploitation and biodiversity conservation. It highlights how global sustainability goals intersect with African political-economic realities, revealing the use of informal strategies by less powerful actors to resist domination. Authors **Symphorien Ongolo and Max Krott** offer conceptual and empirical insights, drawing from their expertise in political science and international forest policy respectively.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003363101>



RECENT RESEARCH PAPERS!

- Rinn, R. et al. (2024) **Exploring Bioeconomy in the Mekong Region: Insights from Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos.** Forest Policy and Economics, 162, 103190. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2024.103190>
- *Utilizing a blend of qualitative document analysis and online surveys, the study probed government and industry perceptions, identified barriers, and outlined prerequisites for bioeconomy development.*
- Roitsch, D. et al. (2024) **Co-production of urban forests as nature-based solutions: Motivations and lessons-learnt from public officials.** Environmental Science & Policy, 103764. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2024.103764>
- *This study aims to investigate the experiences and perspectives of public officials involved in the design, implementation, and governance of co-production for UF-NBS.*

Project updates

FOREST4EU PROJECT

Engaging with policymakers and stakeholders, the **FOREST4EU** project, funded by Horizon Europe, supports Operational Groups (OGs) in forestry and agroforestry. FOREST4EU:

- Gathers innovation insights from local OGs and facilitates knowledge sharing across the EU.
- Engages in dialogue with policymakers and stakeholders to derive lessons on conducive framework conditions.

FOREST4EU has established three Policy Focus Groups representing different European regions: (1) Central Europe, (2) South-East Europe, and (3) South-West Europe. Initial meetings in March/April 2024 laid the groundwork for collaboration, sharing information on CAP funding and Good Practice Examples.



Each group will hold two more meetings. The second meeting will present survey findings and research on innovation framework conditions and CAP support schemes. The third meeting will address EU forest policy developments and their impact on innovation at national and regional levels.

Insights from these meetings will be consolidated and shared at an in-person event in Brussels in 2025, with group members invited to represent their countries and regions.

<https://www.forest4eu.eu/>

INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FEM2FORESTS

In January 2024, a consortium of 15 partners initiated the international **Fem2forests**: Innovative pathways for efficient involvement of girls and young women in the forestry sector, co-funded by the Interreg Programme Danube Region. With participants from 9 countries (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Serbia, Slovenia, Romania, Ukraine), the project, led by the Slovenian Forestry Institute, aims to address labor shortages and waning interest in forestry careers. Building on the previous Fem4Forest initiative, the project seeks to engage girls and women in forestry, promoting "green jobs" for sustainable forest management.

The University of Belgrade - Faculty of Forestry (UNIBG-FoF) in Serbia is one of the partners.

Their main focus is strengthening forestry education institutions with a gender perspective, particularly focusing on the 2nd objective of the project.

Fem2forests objectives are:

1. Develop innovative career paths for girls and young women in the forestry sector,
2. Strengthen the capacity of forestry education institutions through the gender perspective,
3. Framework for efficient involvement of girls and young women in the forestry sector.

<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/fem2forests>

Interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



EXCELLENTIA – CENTRE FOR FOREST ECOSYSTEM RESEARCH AT FFWT MENDELU

The five-year Horizon Europe project "ERA Chair: Striving for Excellence in Forest Ecosystem Research" (**EXCELLENTIA**) started in May 2023 and aims to create a top interdisciplinary research group in forest ecosystem research.



The primary scientific goals are:

- Investigate tree diversity's interaction with soils, symbiotic fungi, and root pathogens amidst climate change and diverse forest management practices.
- Evaluate how tree diversity and silvicultural methods contribute to forest ecosystem stability.
- Identify future forest structures, tailored to climate change, to provide various ecosystem services (e.g., productivity, recreation, habitat provision, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling).

The new center is establishing research and outreach programs, welcoming global forest scientists to collaborate. Join us in the "**CHALLENGES IN FOREST ECOLOGY – FFWT Seminar Series**" featuring top scientists worldwide, to explore forest ecology's current state from various perspectives. Stay tuned for information on the EXCELLENTIA International Summer School (10/2024) on the project website.

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Educational Opportunities

FILLING AN EDUCATIONAL GAP - DELIVERING EXPERT KNOWLEDGE ON GENDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN FORESTRY TO ALL

The course is a collaboration between 29 organisations and 40 international experts on five continents, and is jointly coordinated by University of Padova, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Université de Moncton. Co-funders of the course are SLU Global and FSC International. Among the organisations contributing with materials are UN Women, CIFOR-ICRAF, and FSC International. The IUFRO (International Union of Forest Research Organizations) Task Force on Gender equality in forestry initiated the course development.

The **ForGEDI MOOC** is mainly tailored for forestry students and university educators. It's also valuable for students and educators in related fields like rural development, trade, and environmental studies. Professionals in vocational training can also enroll. Educators and curriculum developers are encouraged to integrate parts of the materials into their courses outside FutureLearn.

Link to the course: www.futurelearn.com 



Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
in forest-related sectors

Upcoming Events

XXVI IUFRO WORLD CONGRESS IN STOCKHOLM



Welcome to Stockholm and the 26th IUFRO World Congress!

The IUFRO World Congress is THE global gathering of forest science, set to unfold in Stockholm this summer.

This year, we are proud to host a record-breaking number of delegates and exhibitors, demonstrating a collective commitment to shaping a sustainable future for forests and society.

4 003
people have registered
so far. Join them.

[REGISTER NOW >](#)

The XXVI IUFRO World Congress will be held on 23–29 June 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden. Many of our network members will present their research and participate in the congress. There's also a big opportunity to network and meet fellow scientists and researchers! A full week of sessions, discoveries, meetings, discussions, excursions, innovations and opportunities await you! Registration is still open!

More information and the detailed programme are available here: [XXVI IUFRO World Congress](#)

Share your inputs with us in the future

by writing to isidora.dabic@boku.ac.at
or visit us at:



[HTTPS://FPRN.INFO/](https://fprn.info/)



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