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Global Forest Information Service

internet gateway to forest information resources

Information sharing to global forest community

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The Internet

- The fastest growing new medium of all time, according to some researchers the Internet doubles its size every 5 years
- Unorganized and uncatalogued, no one knows the exact size
- Approximately **1,596,270,108** users in March 2009 (Internet World Stats 2009)
- The most widespread use of the Internet is information **search**

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Challenges to organize, disseminate and search electronic information

- Volume of globally generated information is enormous and continuously growing;
- Difficult to locate a significant proportion of the available online information;
- The majority of institutes fail to create adequate reference data (i.e. metadata);

=> Global Forest Information Service, GFIS

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What is the Global Forest Information Service – GFIS ?

1. Partnership to organize forestry information: Partners for the whole forest community of practise
2. Internet gateway that allows institutions to share forest-related information through a web portal at www.gfis.net

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GFIS and CPF

- GFIS is a CPF initiative;
- It is led by IUFRO;
- CIFOR, FAO, IGRAR and the UNFF Secretariat are core partners;
- Hosted and developed by Metla;
- GFIS is open for partners outside CPF



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Partnership Development

GFIS is built on the principle of **partnership, across sectors and international**, and in this way maximising the value of all forest information resources and providers worldwide.

- **A Steering Committee (SC)** has been established and provides strategic guidance to GFIS.
- **GFIS Coordination Unit: IUFRO** in its capacity as leading institution for the GFIS initiative coordinates the operations through the GFIS Coordination Unit (CU).
- **Partner:** Organisations providing pivotal contributions for the maintenance and further development of GFIS are called **GFIS Partners**.
- **Information provider:** Organizations that collect and maintain forest-related information and make it available to GFIS.

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What does GFIS offer?

- Common standards for sharing forest-related information resources;
- A system of web-based tools for information exchange and dissemination;
- Participation in GFIS of both information providers and users through appropriate capacity building measures; and
- Networking and partnership for sharing forest-related information.

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What is GFIS good for?

- Helps partners to organize information – and to make it available;
- Helps users to find forestry information – from one place;
- Strengthens international collaboration.

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How does GFIS work?

1. Institutes manage their own information;
2. RSS specification for information exchange;
3. Institutes create and maintain their RSS feeds;
4. GFIS harvests and indexes the RSS feeds;
5. Users search;
6. Follow-up of information usage.

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Where is GFIS – www.gfis.net?

- New users, information partners and features constantly
- News, Events, Recent publications, Job vacancies, Library and document collections and Datasets and databases; **Education resources, Projects and Experts**
- **40 headlines daily**
- The freshest and most popular information is displayed on the entry page;
- The entry page can be customized by users (languages and information boxes)
- **Around 100 forest events** on the GFIS calendar and an event planner service
- Interface in English, French, Spanish, German, Finnish and Russian;
- **Over 170 information providers** and many more partners will join
- Series of workshops (Asia, Russia, Europe, Latin America etc.) and projects (FORNIS) around the world
- The solution is scaleable.

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Information exchange using RSS feeds

- Syndication: making web feeds available from a website to provide users with a summary of the website's recently added/updated content
- Syndication feeds = Web feeds = RSS feeds = Atom feeds = XML feeds
- To use a feed you need to *subscribe* to it
- Aggregation: combining multiple feeds into single location for easy viewing

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RSS 2.0

- A simple, easy to understand format which can be used to publish frequently updated content
- RSS feed is an XML file that can be read by special feed reading software or a web service
- Creating RSS feeds is not difficult but there are certain rules you have to follow

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GFIS is an Aggregator

- GFIS reads RSS feeds maintained by forest-related organizations on their forest-related web resources
- Provides users with tools to search/browse information in the feeds



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Search for Global Forest Information [-]

News
 Events
 Recent publications
 Job vacancies
 Datasets and databases
 Library and document collections

Latest information in English

all en es fr de fi ru

Latest news [-]

Pine beetle might chew into real-estate prices in forestry towns
 (SkogsSverige) 19 Aug 2009 - 09:41 UTC

Timber-import trade associations merge to European umbrella federation ETTF
 (EF Portal) 19 Aug 2009 - 09:19 UTC

Crisis in Komi timber Industry: two projects to be postponed
 (SkogsSverige) 19 Aug 2009 - 08:51 UTC

Smurfit-Stone wants to sell 1 million acres to Quebec
 (Forest Talk) 19 Aug 2009 - 00:26 UTC

Mobile phones alone can't empower rural women in Pakistan
 (IAALD) 18 Aug 2009 - 20:43 UTC

Kimberly-Clark Introduces Cottonelle Brand Products for Sensitive Skin
 (CNW) 18 Aug 2009 - 14:31 UTC

Former workers of Marathon Pulp may see deep pension cuts
 (Forest Talk) 18 Aug 2009 - 13:57 UTC

Most Popular Information [-]

all News Events Recent publications

Job vacancies:
Regional Coordinator at the Kailash Sacred Landscape (KSL) Conservation Initiative
 (ForestryNepal) 25 Jul 2009 - 21:45 UTC

News:
Carbon sequestration in forest trees of the EU as affected by long-term changes of land use
 (EF Portal) 03 Aug 2009 - 10:28 UTC

News:
Higher Carbon Dioxide May Give Pines Competitive Edge
 (ScienceDaily) 04 Aug 2009 - 07:00 UTC

News:
Mondi posts €24m first-half loss
 (Engineering News) 05 Aug 2009 - 07:43 UTC

News:
Forest Products Annual Market Review 2008-2009
 (EF Portal) 05 Aug 2009 - 10:57 UTC

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Benefits for Information Providers

- Better visibility and recognition of information products
- Higher number of potential users of information
- Participation in organizing information will also help to improve internal information management and build related capacity
- Closer cooperation and networking with other information providers and partners around the world

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Benefits for Users

- Easier and more efficient access to world-wide forest information
- Improved networking among forestry professionals

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GFIS Financial Contributors

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<http://www.lebensministerium.at/en/>

Korea Forest Research Institute (KFRI),
www.kfri.go.kr/



International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO),
www.itto.or.jp/



US Forest Service,
<http://www.fs.fed.us/>



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GFIS In-kind Contributors

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR),
www.cifor.cgiar.org/

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),
www.fao.org/

Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla), www.metla.fi/

International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO),
www.iufro.org/

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII),
www.nbii.org/

US Forest Service, <http://www.fs.fed.us/>

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Welcome to use and provide
information to GFIS!

***“Sharing forestry information
around the world”***