

Introduction to GFIS

- *Gateway and Partnership Development*

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Challenges to organize and disseminate 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

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

GFIS and CPF

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

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) which is based at Metla in Finland.
- **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.

What GFIS Offers?

- 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.

What is GFIS good for?

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

How does GFIS work?

1. Institutes manage their own information;
2. Common GFIS standard for information exchange;
3. Institutes make their metadata available in these formats;
4. GFIS harvests and indexes the metadata;
5. Users search;
6. Feedback to partners on information usage.

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 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 150 information providers** and many more partners will join
- Series of workshops around the world
- The solution is scaleable.

GFIS.net

Global Forest Information Service



Search for Global Forest Information [-]

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

[How to search](#)

Latest information in English

Latest news [-]

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[RSS](#) (IAALD) 27 May 2009 - 15:39 UTC

Digital Communications Deliver Blow to Finnish Forest Industry

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Information about russian pulp and paper sector

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[RSS](#) (SkogsSverige) 27 May 2009 - 10:17 UTC

Most Polluted Ecosystems Can Recover, Study Finds

[RSS](#) (ScienceDaily) 27 May 2009 - 05:00 UTC

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News:

How decision makers can plan for climate uncertainty

[RSS](#) (CIFOR) 07 May 2009 - 07:12 UTC

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Progress towards the European 2010 biodiversity target

[RSS](#) (EF Portal) 22 May 2009 - 07:21 UTC

News:

Most Polluted Ecosystems Can Recover, Study Finds

[RSS](#) (ScienceDaily) 27 May 2009 - 05:00 UTC

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

Benefits for Users

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

GFIS Financial Contributors

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www.lebensministerium.at/en/

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



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

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



GFIS In-kind Contributors

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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/>

Welcome to use and provide
information to GFIS!

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