

CountrySide

European Landowners' Organization

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**Friends of the Countryside
25th Jubilee General Assembly:
Landowners Committed to Biodiversity
using Creative Solutions**

Maria DO CEU ANTUNES, Michael ZU SALM-SALM



Editorial

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, *Secretary General*

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At the Friends of the Countryside's General Assembly, members met with the Portuguese Minister of Agriculture, Maria DO CEU ANTUNES, and Humberto DELGADO ROSA, Director of Nature Capital of the European Commission, and discussed what actions to take in light of the current emergency.

The search for balanced and operational solutions to enable farmers and forest owners to respond to the challenges of the all so obvious climate change, all the while improving the level of biodiversity and ensuring a vibrant economy was at the centre of discussions.

It is not by destroying the productivity nor health of rural entrepreneurs that the European Commission will find actors ready to be instigators of climate renewal. The temptation to adopt a policy of degrowth seen as an urban-inspired imposition by the rural population is not an option. We do not intend to become impoverished, but rather contribute our know-how for the benefit of society.

The EU must support regenerative practices, integrate the opportunities offered by new technologies, welcome the new developments offered by the sequencing of living organisms and other soil microbes without taking refuge behind poorly applied principles of non-doing, allow private individuals to develop biodiversity in their territories, open up access to new energies to all, and support the implementation of tools such as a credible carbon market by favouring a solid and scientifically established evaluation system.

The Green Deal must be a real ambition carried by all, and not be a divisive factor. And not leave out the farmers. Let it be an opportunity that we can embrace, otherwise other parts of the world may well take our place.

We want an honest and serious regulatory tool, allowing the entrepreneur to make his or her own decisions, based not on political calculations but on scientifically sound ambitions to help us operate for a prosperous economy.

With this framework, the work will get done.



FCS General Assembly



**Friends of the Countryside 25th Jubilee General Assembly:
Landowners Committed to Biodiversity
using Creative Solutions**

Members of both the Friends of the Countryside (FCS) and the Young Friends (YFCS) certainly received a very warm welcome to Évora in Portugal as temperatures soared close to 40°C. This did not stop members from enjoying and discussing the high level presentations that took place at the Conference on June 10th, at the historic Convento do Espinheiro located just outside the jewel of a city.

Sophy SMITS VAN OYEN – MALTZOFF, Jose Maria GOMEZ ACEBO & Anne-Sophie MULIER



PORTUGAL '22

25th Jubilee

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Over 230 members and guests from over 15 countries participated at the annual General Assembly where FCS President Michael zu SALM SALM greeted members with his customary warm hearted enthusiasm on this special Jubilee year for the FCS and the ELO. Photos taken over the past 25 years were displayed on the big screen taking many members fondly back to bygone General Assemblies!

FCS member François LAPLACE, long time resident of Portugal, welcomed members to this exceptional area and country. We thank Board members Jack HANBURY TENISON, Joe HOAGLAND and Constantin KINSKY for presenting 3 different Study Tours to take place in Ireland, the United States and the Czech Republic respectively.

The Conference with the theme **Landowners Committed to Biodiversity using Creative Solutions** opened with an introduction by António GONÇALVES FERREIRA, President of UNAC (União da Floresta Mediterrânica) and Joao CARVALHO, General Secretary of ANPC (Associação Nacional de Proprietários Rurais) who kindly replaced António PAULA SOARES, President of ANPC. Keynote speaker Maria DO CEU ANTUNES, Minister of Agriculture and

Food, spoke comprehensively about the issues facing agriculture in Portugal and beyond especially food security, energy, climate change and population increase. Urgent measures are being put in place to support the agri-food sector. Insights from the European Commission came from Humberto DELGADO ROSA, Director, Directorate-General for Environment and Biodiversity while FCS Secretary general, Thierry de l'ESCAILLE concentrated on the role of landowners and the importance of changing mentalities to achieve optimal management. FCS member António AMORIM and President of CEO of *Corticeira Amorim*, the world's largest cork processing company, concluded the conference stating that cork must be recognised for its many benefits to the environment.

FCS Board member and sponsor of the



Young Friends Famigro award Karl GROTEN-FELT presented the award along with the Minister of Agriculture and Food to YFCS member Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER and the Gut Waltestejo estate.

That afternoon a group of over 90 members attended the full house Generational Handover Workshop introduced with wit and wisdom by both FCS President Michael zu SALM SALM and YFCS Committee President Marie Christine SCHÖNBORN. Discussions were expertly moderated by ELO Science Director Jurgen TACK. We would like to thank you all the speakers for sharing their insightful, personal experiences all told with passion. The key lessons learnt were 'Communication' and it is 'Never too early to start discussions'!

During the Gala dinner 4 Wildlife Estate Labels were attributed to Portuguese estates.

Farm and Land Management Visits

The following day, as temperatures soared again, members visited various farms and estates in the region to witness first-hand the various concepts of land management in the Alentejo region. FCS members Hein & Victorien VAN BEUNINGEN and Herman VAN BEUNINGEN presented their real estate Consulting and Brokerage company at their newest development Castelo Ventoso. The BASTOS family welcomed the group to the Dona Maria winery where grapes are still trodden in marble vats. The DE BRUIN family and Reto FRANK JÖRG welcomed another group to the newly established and excellent Quinta do Quetzal winery which also hosts an art exhibition and gastronomic restaurant. António AMORIM accompanied a group to witness the cork harvest and production centre at Corticeira Amorim. One member noted "Never again will I be able to open a bottle of wine without thinking of the Amorim visit!". A final group was treated to a warm welcome from Joaquim GRAVE, previous 'forcado' and now a bull breeder, to Ganadaria Murteira Grave. We especially thank those who hosted members for lunch.

Pre-Tour Visits on the Alentejo coast

A group of about 30 members gathered south of Lisbon to commence the Pre-tour with a day in Comporta to visit the Roman ruins and then the vast rice fields of Herdade da Comporta on the Alentejo coast. With an area of over 12.500 ha, it is one of the largest agricultural estates in Portugal. While tasting their own branded wine, planes flew over to sow the rice fields. A smart combination of their diversified agricultural estate with investments for natural and cultural heritage makes this place a high-quality tourist destination and a model for sustainable development in Europe.

FCS member Stephanie GICOT hosted the group at Herdade do Pinheiro, an estate of over 5000 hectares located in the Sado estuary, where wildlife and the most innovative practices combine. Incredible extensions of the Portuguese Montado system are at work to include cork of the highest quality, vegetable crops, horses and extensive livestock farming. Surrounded by her trusted technical team, Stephanie has not hesitated to innovate and improve the estate over the years, obtaining unequalled results.

Located on the Alentejo wine route, Monte da Comenda Grande is a family business that for generations has tended the vineyards and cork oak fields to obtain the best quality. Managed by the NORONHA LOPES family, they search for the perfect blend of grapes to give their wine that characteristic taste of Alentejo wines. They also manage large extensions of almond and olive trees where, thanks to the climate and soil, high quality fruit is obtained.

Post-Tour visits in the Azores

Well before the sun rose on Sunday, 30 members left Évora to fly to Sao Miguel, the 'Green Island' in the Azores for an exciting discovery of its landscape, abundant vegetation, volcanic atmosphere, wild ocean and for an immersion in nature in its purest state.

After a walking tour of the picturesque capital, Ponta Delgada, the group was treated to a sea adventure of rainbows, sunshine, downpours and fortunately both the charming Bottlenose and Risso Dolphins playfully swimming by. Moving to the middle of the island, the group discovered the island's volcanic activities with breathtaking crater lakes and hot springs.



Speakers of the Generational Handover Workshop

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As far as farming, nature and local industry is concerned, the group visited the Gorreana tea plantation where the plants have adapted to the salty winds and where pesticides are not needed, the Dino dairy farm where cows graze outdoors all year round to produce fresh milk and the typical Azorian cheese, the Arruda- Abelheira pineapple plantation, the lush botanical gardens and LIFE of Priolo project as well as a liquor factory and ceramic workshop.

The group also enjoyed various hikes through the rich green vegetation without worrying about snakes, spiders or mosquitoes! Friends were also treated to the traditional "Cozido das Furnas" where meat and vegetables are slow-cooked underground using volcanic heat. Friends also enjoyed a warm welcome to the *Azorean Farmer's Organisation* which was preparing its impressive annual farm fair, the *Quinta da Pico da Cruz* for an exciting and

elegant horse show, a wonderful garden sustainably managed and owned by Hervé VANDEKERCKOVE and Anne BROSSARD in Caloura. After a packed 6 days of activities it was time to head home.

We deeply thanks all the hosts for their kind hospitality and for welcoming the Friends to their estates, gardens and homes.

FCS will gather once again for the 26th General Assembly next year in Poznań, Poland from June 15 to June 18. A post tour will follow, ending up in Kraków.

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IN MEMORIAM

We are deeply saddened to inform you that our dear friend and colleague, Board member on behalf of the Netherlands, Frans van VERSCHUER (64), has passed away at home on his estate as a result of a fatal accident. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Nathalie and the children, Frits, Nora and Vita.

Michael zu SALM-SALM,
FCS President

Sejer van VOORST TOT VOORST,
FCS Vice-President

Thierry de l'ESCAILLE,
FCS Secretary General



Young Friends of the Countryside forming strong bonds across Europe

This year the Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS) joined the General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside in Évora from the 9th to the 12th of June. The weekend turned out to be a fantastic weekend in sunny Portugal, with the Young Friends learning about its agricultural aspects, handovers between generations and forming new bonds across Europe with fellow members.

Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN & Guliano da CASCINA, YFCS



The YFCS aims to connect young people across Europe who have a longstanding interest in rural matters. This means that YFCS aims to prepare young landowners as well as support rural entrepreneurs. Most importantly, YFCS would like to be a platform for those who feel close to the countryside and its various concerns, such as sustainability, food, environmental policies and agriculture. Most excitingly, around 45 members were able to attend the General Assembly in Évora to enjoy the discussions and form close bonds of friendship across Europe.

Furthermore, YFCS also annually awards the *Famigro Award*, an entrepreneurship prize of €5,000 designed to support the

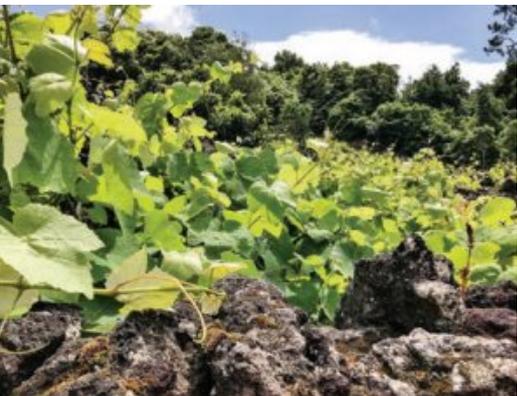
most successful rural business by a young rural entrepreneur. The prize is generously sponsored by FCS Board member Karl GROTFELT to whom the *Young Friends* are immensely grateful for his support! At the General Assembly, Karl GROTFELT and YFCS were proud to award Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER this year's *Famigro Award* for his business "Gut Waltersteig". The importance of this project in supporting young farmers and recognising innovative ideas was also mentioned by Portuguese Agriculture Minister Maria DO CEU ANTUNES during her speech during the GA. 'Gut Waltersteig' has been an agricultural and forestry family business for generations. With the latest generational change, Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER

expanded and developed new sources of income for the estate by aiming to bring companies and private individuals from Munich by offering a venue for teambuilding events, company parties, meetings, cooking classes and weddings amongst other activities. All new sources of income are based on the pillars of sustainability, regionality and regional networking, also strengthening the local economy. Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER was then able to introduce the Friends and Young Friends to his impressive business 'Gut Waltersteig' in his speech and also gave a first insight with a video clip.

In the afternoon, FCS and YFCS joined a workshop, which specifically addressed generational handovers of family businesses. The workshop was opened by both FCS President Michael zu SALM-SALM and YFCS Committee President Marie-Christine SCHÖNBORN. Behind closed doors and in a very open atmosphere, both generations tremendously enjoyed listening to various examples of handovers, which were moderated by Jürgen TACK, ELO Scientific Director, who, with his excellent wit and analysis, brilliantly led the workshop. The presentations were eye-opening and the audience was so fascinated by the evident passion of the speakers that one could have heard a pin drop! After the workshop, the *Young Friends* felt that they had just been part of something extremely valuable and many discussions were led after the workshop. The workshop also created a close bond between the mem-



Karl GROTFELT, Karl-Ludwig VON POSCHINGER, Maria DO CEU ANTUNES



bers, also between new members joining, as an atmosphere of mutual understanding was created. A big thank you goes to Benjamin VETTERLI, senior family advisor at LGT, Karl GROTFELT, Emilio NAVARRO MARTINEZ and daughter Claudia NAVARRO LOPEZ, Ilonka and her brother Bela JANKOVICH DE JESZENICE, Joe HOGGLAND and his daughter Anne BAUER for sharing their stories with the participants.

The following day, the Young Friends joined the tour “Vision for the Future”. The first visit was to the holding of George and Lucia VAN DER FELTZ who very kindly hosted the Young Friends to their estate Monte da Serralheira to explain their agricultural business. George and Lucia, originally from the Netherlands, bought an

estate close to Evora. They showed their impressive agricultural machines to the *Young Friends*, which they let out to other farms. The machines are able to take over the majority of previous manual work on winery estates and olive cultivations. Furthermore, the VAN DER FELTZ family explained the long-term success of their estate, which is also linked to them having access to a water source on the estate. The *Young Friends* also learnt about the various crops that are harvested on the estate and their various transport routes across Europe. The *Young Friends* would very much like to thank George and Lucia for their warm welcome and their fascinating stories about Monte da Serralheira.

Then the *Young Friends* were welcomed by João PORTUGAL RAMOS, as well as Joao Maria and Filipa to their family business running a very successful wine estate for generations. João Maria presented all the stages of wine production, starting with the marble basins for their wine. We were then invited to see their impressive wine cellar. Most interestingly, the *Young Friends* learnt about the various soils contributing to the different wines, creating leading wines in Portugal. After this most intriguing tour, the *Young Friends* were very generously invited to a wine tasting

and for a wonderful lunch. For their very generous hospitality and the fascinating tour, the Young Friends would like to thank João Maria and all the PORTUGAL RAMOS family very much.

Last, but not least, the Young Friends held a dinner hosted by Alexandra MACANITA at Fitapreta Vinhos Estate. The main house on the estate has existed since 1306 changing over time. It was recently restored to its former glory thanks to the passion and entrepreneurial spirit of Alexandra and her husband Antonio who invested in the estate and created a cork lined winery, planted vines and renovated the historic house. In this wonderful atmosphere and beautiful surroundings, the Young Friends loved learning about the history and then enjoyed a fantastic dinner. Thank you so much for hosting us and for allowing us to learn about your endeavor!

This year’s General Assembly proved to be a great success, with the Young Friends learning about agriculture in Portugal and also about the various aspects of generational handovers. We cannot wait for further events to strengthen those bonds and provide a strong basis for future agricultural discussions across Europe.

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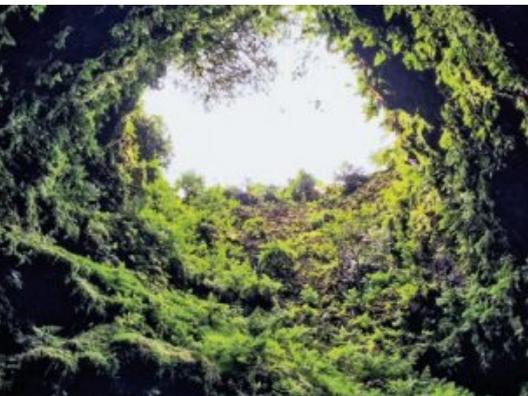
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The Azores - paradise for nature lovers

In the middle of the ocean between mainland Europe and mainland North America, we still find an active society of the European Union, more precisely the nine islands of the Azores with about 245 000 inhabitants. They are scattered and up to 600 km away from each other, share a Parliament and are an autonomous Portuguese region (as is Madeira). The main economic sectors are agriculture, fishing and tourism.

Leopold de BUMAN, YFCS



One of the most important sectors of agriculture is dairy production mainly on two of the islands. São Miguel produces 64.4% of Azores milk and Terceira Island 26.5%. More than a third of Portugal's milk is produced on these two islands, and by no means only for the small islands' own consumption, but their main markets are on the Iberian peninsula. The problem that clearly results from this aspect is that they have to factor in considerable transport costs (by boat or plane) for their products, which the regional producers on the mainland do not have to factor into their sales on this scale.

According to the Azorean regional government, in 2016 their region received about 46% of Portuguese dairy producers' subsidies, received from the European Commission, although they are "only" responsible for one third of the milk production. This shows the importance of the dairy sector in the Azores for Portugal's supply.

In addition to milk production, cattle farming is an important part of Azorean agriculture, both of which benefit from a stable climate that varies between 15 and 25 degrees

and ensures constant green pastures.

The Azores, along with Cornwall, are the only two European regions that still grow tea, which is not only interesting from an agricultural point of view but is also a tourist magnet on the island of São Miguel.

The soil and climatic conditions also allow somewhat more specialised crops, as another small branch of Azorean agriculture since the mid-19th century shows, namely the cultivation of pineapples, which are more expensive than their competitors from Central America or Africa, but are one of the few from Europe. There are several thousand greenhouses, which were built mainly when a large part of the orange plantations fell victim to a pest (coccus hesperides) in 1860, and so people started looking for alternatives.

With 500-800 fishermen, fishing is a large industry that mainly brings tuna ashore, which is then traditionally processed.

Another important element of the Azorean economy is tourism, with almost 50% of tourists coming from mainland Portugal.

The humid and stable climate, as well as the stunning nature and the certain remoteness that has led to a slower and homogeneous development on the island, leads to an increasingly commercial but still unique and gentle tourism.

Another interesting point is supply. On the one hand, food supply: many products offered are brought to the island by boat or plane and are thus slightly above the price compared to the mainland. According to locals, there were slight delays and hurdles in the delivery of products during the first weeks and months of the Covid 19 pandemic, but the essential supply was ensured. Consumption also clearly was reduced, as in the following months there was a drop in the number of tourists and so the government had to ensure the supply of its own population and not of several thousand guests as well. On the other hand, energy supply is an issue of interest, as 62% is generated by fossil fuels, 25% by geothermal energy, 9% by wind power and 3% by hydroelectric power.

Transport between the islands is carried out by airplanes or boats, while on the islands the routes are mainly done with smaller cars. Energy prices for electricity and fuels are the same on all islands, in an effort to preserve equity and cohesion across the territory. The buildings on the island are under strict energy saving regulations, although the necessary renovations of the insulation and in general of the buildings are still visibly slow.

The slightly isolated Azores have a very unique economy, environment and life and are sure to experience an exciting transformation with the current challenges of climate change and increasingly fast-paced tourism.



Participants of the FCS Portugal Post-tour

Inaugural Indigo Credit Issuance Unlocks Farmer Access to Multi-Billion Dollar Voluntary Carbon Market

At the end of June, I had the pleasure of hosting several members of the European Landowners Organisation – including Günther Graf von der SCHULENBURG, Bela JANKOVICH and Robert de l'ESCAILLE – on the old trading floor at the Chicago Board of Trade Building. The occasion was the launch of the world's first ever Registry issued verified agriculture carbon credits generated at scale by farmers enrolled in Indigo Agriculture's carbon farming program.

Georg GOERES, Head of Indigo Agriculture Europe GmbH



10

As the Head of Indigo's European business, I have closely followed the debate on carbon farming at the EU level and in several Member States, including in my own country – Germany. As this debate has unfolded over the past couple of years, several questions have arisen: is it possible to capture and measure the amount of carbon to be stored in the soil through the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices? How do we know it's real, additional, and permanent? How will farmers get paid in a predictable and repeatable way? Who carries the liability if carbon is released back into the atmosphere?

I believe we now have now gone a long way to answering these questions.

I could not be more proud that Indigo has completed the production of the first crop of these verified agriculture carbon credits which have been issued against the most exacting scientific standards by one of the world's leading carbon registries – the

Climate Action Reserve. This is a historic milestone in the quest to find new ways to reward farmers for their sustainability efforts and climate action and specifically for Indigo's industry-leading carbon farming program. Not only does the verification of these credits – each representing one metric tonne of carbon removed from the atmosphere – set a new standard for robustness and scientific integrity but in doing so also establishes agriculture carbon credits as a new global revenue stream for farmers and a credible, nature-based climate solution for businesses.

The issuance of around 20,000 credits by the Climate Action Reserve (the Reserve) is the first in a repeatable process for producing the highest quality offsets among agricultural carbon farming programs – and part of a growing global voluntary carbon market experts predict will reach \$50 billion by 2030.

While emerging carbon removal tech-

nologies face challenges to immediately – and at scale – remove greenhouse gases to the extent necessary to limit global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, nature-based solutions are uniquely positioned to help close this gap. Agriculture has historically produced less than 1% of voluntary carbon credits. The issuance of these credits demonstrates how farmers, as dedicated land stewards, can help realize an immediate, scalable, and proven path towards climate change mitigation in one of the world's largest and most critical carbon sinks: soil. Reflecting this increased recognition and continued growing demand, Indigo also announced it has secured buyer purchase commitments at a price of €40/credit – a 100% increase since the program's launch in 2019.

As our Chief Executive, Ron HOVSEPIAN said: *"It is hard to overstate the importance of this milestone. For the first time ever, we have been able to measure and verify, at an unprecedented commercial scale, the carbon removal and abatement efforts of farmers".* He went on to say, *"This issuance validates the role of agriculture in meeting the world's urgent need for the kind of sustainability and climate solutions that Indigo's network of farmers, soil scientists, buyers, and partners have worked tirelessly to realize."*

To help farmers produce carbon credits according to the highest industry benchmarks of quantification, Indigo implemented an innovative, hybrid approach that combines soil sampling and modelling to generate credits at scale. Those credits were then verified and issued by the Reserve for the exclusive use of Indigo's global network of nearly 20 brands committed to purchasing credits. This first ever scaled production of verified, registry-issued ag carbon credits reflect the efforts of 175 farmers who adopted climate-friendly practices such cover cropping and tillage strategies across more than one hundred thousand acres in the United States over the 2018-2020 growing seasons.



Indigo's giant sphere representing 1 metric ton of CO₂ begins tour of farms enrolled in the company's carbon program.

This is already delivering tangible results to farmers participating in our program, such as Lance UNGER, an Indiana farmer who earned over \$26'000 in additional carbon credit revenue through the program. As Lance himself said, *"Our goal as a farming family is to move a profitable operation on to the next generation. The farm doesn't look the same as it did when my grandpa started it, and I see carbon credits as a new, valuable option for us long term"*.

With almost two thousand participating farmers and nearly 5 million acres enrolled in the program today, Indigo and its net-

work of ag industry partners are committed to putting farmers first by giving them the tools to participate and maximize their share of the market. Indigo's second credit issuance, anticipated early next year, will be calculated based on farmers' carbon farming efforts through 2021 and is expected to result in a credit crop significantly larger than that announced at the end of June.

I am more excited than ever before about opening up this opportunity to landowners, managers and farmers here in Europe. The results from the United States show

that it is possible to build a robust carbon farming program at scale in a way that predictably and repeatedly rewards farmers for their sustainability efforts and climate action. But we need to do this in a way that works for Europe. To that end, we are already working to test the program in Germany, with leading landowners like Günther Graf von der SCHULENBURG, and in Belgium through our partnership with Agriland.

In addition, we have just lodged our multi-country carbon farming project with Verra, another leading Carbon Registry (similar to the Climate Action Reserve). We will use their methodology to run our project in Europe and eventually issue the first verified agriculture carbon credits here. And we are also proud to be working with the European Landowners Organisation to contribute to the EU policy debate on how to build a robust carbon farming market which contributes to the achievement of the goal of climate neutrality by 2050.

Not all carbon farming programs are the same and through this historic first, I am confident that Indigo's approach will help to unlock farmers' access to this multi-billion dollar voluntary carbon market and generate a new predictable and repeatable global revenue stream. That's why we call this, the dawn of a new harvest.



Indigo Chief Executive, Ron HOVSEPIAN, announces the first ever Registry-issued verified agriculture carbon credits from the old trading floor at the Chicago Board of Trade Building.



ELO members Günther von der SCHULENBURG and Robert de l'ESCAILLE visit some of the farms in Illinois and Indiana enrolled in Indigo's carbon farming program.

Sustainable Forest Management: Keeping the potential of forest biodiversity unlocked

Joint Statement

Bonn, 30 August 2022



1. Sustainable Forest Management: a reliable, flexible, and dynamic concept

According to the Helsinki resolution¹, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is: “the stewardship and use of forests and 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”.

As History unfolded and changed the European continent, so did specific forest management practices. Europeans have shaped their forests for centuries while living with and from forests and wood. Whereas European forest owners and managers have adapted their specific forest management practices based on the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), striving to sustainably provide all relevant ecological, economic, and social functions in a balanced and locally adapted manner while taking into account local, ecological, and site characteristics.

Beyond forest biodiversity, forests and their management provide a wide array of services. They range from wood-based materials for construction, bioenergy, or diverse high technology applications, to protective functions in mountainous areas, including climate cooling effects near settlements.

Endorsing a pan-European definition of SFM does not mean remaining static and ignoring current and future challenges. On the contrary, it means that European forest owners and managers, as they have always done, will continue to adapt, learn, and innovate as they work with nature in a changing climate. The work to enhance the

resilience of European forests and respond to societal expectations must thus take place under a dynamic framework of SFM.

2. Current pathways to keep the potential of forest biodiversity unlocked

European forests provide a home for thousands of birds, mammals, insects, and plant species. However, European forests are facing rapid unprecedented changes in their ecological and site characteristics due to changing climatic conditions and the increasing spread of pests and diseases. All core components of resilient forest ecosystems, including forest biodiversity, are increasingly being put under stress.

And yet, forest ecosystems are currently still one of the most biodiverse land ecosystems in Europe. The latest Forest Europe report shows positive trends for most biodiversity-related indicators for European forests and, according to the reporting of the Habitats Directive, half of Annex I forest habitat areas, i.e. habitats with high conservation needs, are in good condition. This is the result of long-term active SFM carried out by generations of foresters, men and women, who daily tend Europe's forests.

Forest management is inherently a long-term endeavour but, as a result of climate change, management decisions are not easy or straight forward to make, whether due to e.g. a lack or overabundance of water, heatwaves leading to fire or drought, or intense storms. Decisions on how to make forests more resilient in the face of volatile future climatic conditions means the way ahead is full of uncertainties.

Therefore, when considering future climate change projections and the ever

more common biotic and abiotic events which negatively affect forests, increasingly restrictive measures, such as large-scale strict protection, are high-risk solutions. On the contrary, what forest owners and managers need in order to make forests more resilient are enabling conditions that are locally suited.

3. Enabling conditions for the enhancement of the sustainability of forests and forest biodiversity

Forest management is per nature long-term; given climate change, it will always be uncertain what the best management decision is. A dynamic approach to nature conservation as part of SFM is key to successful biodiversity conservation, including through the enhancement of forest health and resilience. The approach should focus on well-defined conservation objectives, which are based on scientifically verified data on the ground.

All pan-European, EU and national forest-related policies need to promote a dynamic approach to nature conservation as part of SFM. This will require:

- effective technical, scientific and policy cooperation, leading to an improved implementation of existing policies on already-designated sites;

¹ Helsinki Resolution - General Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Forests in Europe, 1993
https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/MC_helsinki_resolutionH1.pdf

- the promotion of voluntary approaches to foster increased biodiversity conservation;
- improved knowledge of the scope and scale of climate change impacts on European forests and their biodiversity, and education on ways to tackle, prevent and better adapt forests to these changes;
- effective financial means, provided by economically viable forest management itself or external sources.

The active involvement of forest owners and managers is indispensable in order to allow forest biodiversity to thrive.

Europe can rely on its remarkable forestry sector to be part of the solution to keeping unlocked, maintaining, and enhancing forest biodiversity. European forest owners and managers are, and always have been, strongly committed to actively pursuing and sustainably managing Europe's forests to provide a viable home for biodiversity for current and future generations.

Signatories:

CEPF

Confederation of European Forest Owners

Copa-Cogeca

European Farmers and Agri-Cooperatives

ELO

European Landowners' Organization

EUSTAFOR

European State Forest Association

FECOF

European Federation of Forest-Own- ing Communities

Pro Silva

European federation of foresters for PRO SILVA management

UEF

Union of European Foresters

USSE

Union of Foresters of Southern Europe



Tree of the Year

In May this year, the Belgian competition "Baillet Latour Tree of the Year 2022" was launched again. In the meantime, many tree lovers have responded to this call and submitted a tree. The result was a large number of beautiful trees, all of them with a special story or an interesting history. From all these applications, a professional jury selected 6 laureates. Starting in September, you can vote for these candidates via the Boom of the Year website: <https://boomvanhetjaar.be> Voting is open until 14 October.

On 17 October, we will know which tree will be given the honourable title of 'Belgian Tree of the Year 2022' for one year, will receive the prestigious prize and will also be able to represent Belgium in the European competition in 2023.

Life European Networks for private land conservation

ENPLC intend to build a community of European land conservation practitioners who work together on testing and upscaling the most promising tools for private land conservation, advocating for better financial incentives, engaging citizens, and raising public awareness.

ENPLC is an EU-wide network, a union between landowners and conservationists.



Meet our ambassadors, they are Private Land Conservation Superhero!

The Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*), a species in danger of extinction, nests in in the walls of the farmhouse.

Ambassador #4 - Armando CARVALHO, farmer and forester resisting wildfires in Portugal

Armando CARVALHO is based in Santa Comba Dão, in the Center region of Portugal, between Coimbra and Viseu. In 2017 wildfires, almost 85% of his land was destroyed. This is a pressing issue impacting all of us. To protect his land, he returned to native tree species such as oak, cork oak, chestnut, ash, alder and willow trees.



At ENPLC, we believe individual action can have a domino effect.

Inspirational people try to preserve land for future generations. They work hard to withstand climate change's challenges and bring back lost biodiversity. They deserve more recognition!

In their conservation work, they are looking for solutions such as composting, crop rotation, permaculture, wildlife corridors, native species planting, protected area establishment and much more.

*Get inspired by our ambassadors and read their stories on **ENPLC website**.*

Ambassador #3 - Bianca STEFANCU & Roberto GENERALI

Bianca and Roberto offer hospitality in an old farmhouse that they themselves restored. Villa Naumanni, located in the Mignone Valley near Tarquinia in Italy, is a place dedicated to nature conservation. It's a true oasis to many species protected by the 'Birds Directive', and is included in the list of 'Nature 2000' sites.



We are honoured to have them on board and will share more stories pretty soon. Stay tuned.

- www.enplc.eu
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2022 edition of One Agro (Brazil)

Based primarily on the topic of Transformation, the event brought together leaders who represent around 40% of the national agricultural GDP and 30% of the planted area in Brazil, enabling debates and panels focused on issues such as sustainability, logistics, financing in agriculture and new business models



Thierry de l'ESCAILLE presenting the AgriLife label

Syngenta Crop Protection, a leading company in the agricultural segment, held one of the most awaited events in the sector: One Agro, which took place in Campinas (SP) between June 7th and 8th. With the transformation and protagonism of agriculture as its essential pillars, the meeting brought together authorities, researchers, entrepreneurs and influencers, who participated in relevant discussions not only for the food production chain, but for the whole society, on topics such as sustainability, logistics, financing in agribusiness and new business models. (...)

Jon PARR, Global President of Syngenta Crop Protection; Thierry de l'ESCAILLE, Secretary General of the European Landowners Organization; and Francisco SÉRGIO DE ASSIS, president of the Federation of Coffee Growers of the Cerrado, also addressed how farmers are anticipating, or reacting to, society's concerns about what impact agricultural production can have on the ESG agenda as a whole, but especially on environmental issues. It was clear that such concerns are valid, but sometimes

they are accompanied by a lack of knowledge about sustainable practices that are already widely implemented – mainly in Brazil. (...)

One Agro Commitment

At the end of the event, confirming one of its purposes, the One Agro 2022 Commitment was presented. This year, the agreement signed by agribusiness leaders is based on causes that go beyond the interest of the sector, meeting an agenda that aims to transform the future, the prosperity of the Brazilian economy and society. Some highlights of the commitment below:

Support for public policies aimed at sustainable growth and incorporation of the most modern technologies by the sector, bringing all links in the agribusiness chain to truly positive practices in favor of intelligent agriculture, in balance with the environment;

- Encouraging carbon neutrality for the entire agribusiness chain, involving all agents in the production chain, through regenerative and positive agriculture practices;

- Work in favor of the greater good engaging the sector and providing quality opportunities in education, whether in the countryside or in large urban centers;
- Incorporation of the commitment to extract maximum value from Science and Technology;
- Discussion with the entire chain on logistical issues and the topic of decarbonization, as well as the important contribution that this area brings to traceability;
- Fostering the creation of ecosystems that can generate competitive advantages for the entire chain, bringing efficiency, integrating data and knowledge of information. In all, more than a thousand people attended the event, which ended with statements from a sector that has committed itself to taking on the role of protagonist, tirelessly seeking growth in a responsible way, with the same vigor as in the present and believing in the potential of the future.

For more information please visit the website:
www.syngenta.com.br

(source: press release FSB Comunicação)

Let's increase our food supply
without
reducing theirs

the
good
growth
plan

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Are you part of an innovative project protecting bees or other pollinators?

The **European Bee Award** has launched the call for applications for 2022! The European Landowners' Organization (ELO) and the European Agricultural Machinery Industry Association (CEMA) invite you to submit your project by **Friday 23th September**.

✉ anne-sophie.mulier@elo.org  <https://www.europeanlandowners.org/awards/bee-award>

Who can apply?

The European Bee Award is open to everyone*.

We reward farmers, landowners, research institutes, academia, and private and public organisations who develop **outstanding and innovative projects aiming to protect bees or other pollinators** and helping to preserve biodiversity.

*Check the terms and conditions in the application form

3 prizes will be awarded:



Land Management practices
(€ 4,000 prize)



Innovative technological solutions
(€ 4,000 prize)



Special Mention of the Jury
(diploma of recognition)