



The project partners of Life Prognoses invite you to the

Final Conference of LIFE PROGNOSSES :

'Characteristics and Ecosystem Services of European Old-Growth Beech Forests'

2nd of October 2024 | Bruges

The final conference of the Life Prognoses project brings together leading scientists, policy-makers at the European level, and national experts in the field of forest management and conservation. During this conference, we will present the results of four years of research into the characteristics of old-growth beech forests in Europe, their ecosystem services (recreational assets, carbon stock and biodiversity), and the methods to identify and delineate the forests that can be defined as 'old-growth' at the European level. We also discuss the implementation of old-growth forest protection with EU policy-makers, regional field managers and other stakeholders. Finally, the aim is to establish an interface between science, policy, and practice and arrive at a critical understanding of old-growth forest protection in Europe.

We look forward to welcoming you to Bruges!

CONFERENCE VENUE AND TIME



When

2nd of October, 2024
9.30h – 17.00h



Where

Concertgebouw Brugge; Forum 6 & 7
't Zand 34, 8000 Bruges, Belgium

PLEASE REGISTER HERE



PROGRAMME

09.30h - 10.00h: Opening coffee

10.00h - 10.10h: Welcome

– Herman Van Rompuy (President of the Sonian Foundation, Belgium)

10.10h - 12.10h: Session I

Scientific results of the Life Prognoses project

10.10h *What is an old-growth forest? Towards a Europe-wide definition of 'old-growth'.*

– Dr. Kris Vandekerkhove (INBO, Belgium)

10.30h *Identifying European old-growth forests based on field data: The old-growth indicator.*

– Dr. Peter Meyer (NW-FVA, Germany),

10.50h *Identifying European old-growth forests with remote sensing techniques.*

– Dr. Manuela Hirschmugl (Joanneum Research, Austria)

11.10h - 11.25h: Short break

11.25h *Carbon stock and sequestration in European old-growth forests.*

– Prof. Dr. Alfredo Di Filippo (Univ. of Tuscia, Italy)

11.45h *Tree-related microhabitats in European old-growth forests: a proxy for biodiversity?*

– Dr. Hanns Kirchmeir (E.C.O., Austria)

12.05h *The significance of European old-growth forests for recreation and tourism.*

– Ir. Anna Kovarovics (E.C.O., Austria)

12.25h - 13.30h: Lunch break with poster fair about the scientific results





PROGRAMME

13.30h - 14.50h: Session II

The science-policy interface regarding old-growth forests at the European level

- 13.30h *EU policy and guidelines regarding the mapping and strict protection of primary and old-growth forests.*
– Mr. Adrián Tištan (Policy Officer at the European Commission – DG Environment)
- 13.50h *Towards a comprehensive Europe-wide map and database of primary and old-growth forests: Who is filling the gaps?*
– Dr. José I. Barredo (Scientific Officer at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission)
- 14.10h *Priority actions for the conservation of primary and old-growth forests in Europe.*
– MSc. Lyla O'Brien (Researcher at European Forest Institute (EFI))
- 14.30h *From policy to practice: technical, practical and socio-economic challenges regarding the implementation of EU policy on old-growth forests: the case of the Walloon Region (Southern Belgium).*
– Ir. Lionel Wibail (Attaché Service public de Wallonie, Département de l'Etude du Milieu naturel et Agricole)

14.50h - 15.10h: Coffee break





PROGRAMME

15.10h - 15.55h: Panel discussion:

The science-policy interface: achieving strict protection of old-growth forests in Europe.

Panel members:

Mr. Adrián Tiščan (Policy Officer at the European Commission – DG Environment)

Dr. José I. Barredo (Scientific Officer at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission)

MSc. Lyla O'Brien (Researcher at European Forest Institute (EFI))

Ir. Lionel Wibail (Attaché Service public de Wallonie, Département de l'Etude du Milieu naturel et Agricole)

Dr. rer. nat. Markus Lier (Policy Analyst at the European Commission – DG Agriculture and Rural Development)

Dr. Peter Meyer (NW-FVA, Germany)

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Tom Nagel (Univ. of Ljubljana, Slovenia)

15.55h: Concluding words

– Dries Desloover (Agency for Nature and Forests Flanders-Belgium)

16.00h - 16.50h: Closing drink

