INFORMA Project FINAL CONFERENCE

Thursday 04.06.2026 ,Valencia (Spain)

MUVIM-Museo Valenciano de la Ilustración y de la Modernidad

C/ Quevedo, 10 , Ciutat Vella, 46001 València (Spain)

https://maps.app.goo.gl/86FQqva2AxgERpgr8

Sustainable Forest Management under Climate Change: Evidence, Practice and Policy. INFORMA HE Final Conference

This Final Conference marks the closing event of the European research project **INFORMA** – Sc**I**e**N**ce-Based Integrated **FOR**est **M**itigation m**A**nagement made operational for Europe funded by the Horizon Europe Programme and coordinated by the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV).

The conference will bring together European researchers, policymakers, forest practitioners and institutional stakeholders to discuss the role of forests in addressing the climate emergency, with particular attention to sustainable forest management, climate adaptation and forest carbon mitigation strategies.
The event will present the main results and policy recommendations of the INFORMA project, focusing on practical guidance for forest practitioners across Europe and on evidence-based recommendations to support decision-making at regional, national and European levels.

Special attention will be given to the role of forests in climate change mitigation, resilience to disturbances such as droughts and wildfires, and the development of carbon-related policy frameworks, which are key priorities in European climate and biodiversity strategies.

Hosting the conference at the MUVIM, with the collaboration of the Diputación de Valencia, highlights the shared commitment to climate action, sustainable forest management and the protection of Mediterranean forest landscapes, which are essential for environmental resilience and rural development in the region.

The conference is expected to gather more than 100 EU participants, including representatives from the European Commission (DG CLIMA, DG ENV, DG AGRI), members of the Scientific Advisory Board of the project, research institutions, forest practitioners, students and environmental journalists.

1. ABOUT THE INFORMA PROJECT

INFORMA – Sc**I**e**N**ce-Based Integrated **FOR**est **M**itigation m**A**nagement made operational for Europe is a European research project funded under the Horizon Europe Programme, coordinated by the Universitat Politècnica de València (Spain) and involving a multidisciplinary consortium of research institutions, universities and forest policy organisations across Europe.

The project aims to improve the understanding of how **different forest management strategies influence ecosystem functioning, climate mitigation potential and forest resilience** in the context of increasing climate change impacts.

INFORMA focuses on providing **scientifically robust evidence and practical guidance** for improving sustainable forest management practices and strengthening the contribution of forests to **climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies**. The project also contributes to the development of **improved carbon certification approaches and policy recommendations**, supporting decision-making processes at **regional, national and European levels**.

2. WHY THIS CONFERENCE

European forests are facing **increasing pressures from climate change**, including natural disturbances such as:

- ✓ severe droughts
- ✓ wildfires
- ✓ storms and pests, etc.

At the same time, forests play a key role in achieving the **European Union's climate and biodiversity objectives**, including:

- ✓ water cycle,
- ✓ carbon sequestration
- ✓ climate adaptation
- ✓ ecosystem resilience
- ✓ sustainable bioeconomy development

In this context, the **INFORMA Final Conference** aims to provide a platform for dialogue between **science, policy and practice**, presenting the main results of the project and discussing their implications for **future forest governance and management strategies in Europe**.

The event also aims to foster exchange between **researchers, policymakers, forest practitioners and institutional stakeholders** on the future role of forests in addressing the **climate emergency**.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference pursues four main objectives:

1. Present the main results of the INFORMA project. Highlighting scientific findings on sustainable forest management, ecosystem functioning and carbon mitigation potential.

2. Provide practical guidance for forest practitioners. Sharing lessons learned and best practices from different European forest bioregions.

3. Deliver policy-relevant recommendations. Supporting decision-makers at regional, national and European levels in designing effective forest policies.

4. Discuss future research priorities. Identifying key knowledge gaps and research needs for sustainable forest management under climate change.

Draft AGENDA

Local Time	Activity	Duration	Responsible/Participants
08:30-9:00 h	**Registration**	30´	Celia Yagüe/Marta Esteve/Aroa Marco
09:00-9:15 h	**Institutional Welcome**	15´	• Vicent Mompó (President of Valencia Provincial Council)-TBC • Avelino Mascarell (Deputy for the Environment, Forest Fire Prevention, and Rural Development-Valencia Provincial Council) • Laura Liepina (EC Policy Officer-DG AGRI) • Prof. Jose-Vicente Oliver (UPV)
09:15-09:30 hr	**Keynote speaker1:** *Forests and their sustainable management at the core of a resilient and competitive EU*	15´	**Laura Liepina** (EC Policy Officer-DG AGRI)
09:30-09:45 hr	**Keynote speaker2:** *Climate Emergency and Forest Disturbances: Rethinking Governance, Risk and Resilience in Europe*	15´	**Prof. Dr. Victor Resco de Dios**. University of Lleida, Spain and SAB member (Scientific Advisory Board)
09:45-10:00 hr	**Keynote speaker3:** *INFORMA's contribution to evidence-based forest policy and practice*	15´	**Prof. Dr. Jose-Vicente Oliver** Polytechnic University of Valencia (UPV), Spain, INFORMA Overall project coordination & Chief of Steering Committee
10:00-10:30hr	**Coffee Break**	**30´**	
10:30-11:10 hr	**I Round Table/Panel:** *"From research to practice: lessons from INFORMA for sustainable forest management"*	40´	Moderator: **Celia Yagüe (UPV)- Researcher, INFORMA Forestry Technical direction & Day-to-day Coordination** • Silvester Boonen (EFI) • Jonas Simons (KUL) • Manfred J. Lexer (BOKU) • Daniel Nadal-Sala (CREAF) • Sebastiaan Luyssaert(VU)
11:10-11:50 hr	**II Round Table/Panel:** *Policy recommendations: what Europe should learn from INFORMA*	40´	Moderator: **Dr. Eduardo Rojas (UPV)- Associate Professor, Forest Policy & Silviculture, INFORMA Scientific Committee** • Bart Muys (KUL) • Cosmin Cosofret (USV) • Teresa Baiges (CPF) • Alvaro Escrig (Fire Officer at the Valencia Provincial Fire Service)
11:50-12:00 hr	**Break**	**10´**	
12:00-12:40 hr	**III Round Table/Panel:** *Future research needs for European forests under climate change (Sister Projects)*	40´	Moderator: **Heli Peltola (UEF)** • Alex Giurca-EUFORE Project • Sorin Cheval-Opt4EU Project • Álvaro Picardo-Smurf Project • Prof. Dr Stergios Adamopoulos (SAB) • Michael Kirchner (UGOE-INFORMA Project) • Laura Liepina (EC Policy officer-DG AGRI)

12:40-12:55 hr	**Keynote speaker4:** *From rules to reality: shaping the future of carbon removals and forest credits in the EU*	15´	**Iván Martínez** (EU Programmes Manager-DG Clima)
12:55-13:25 hr	**IV Round Table/Panel:** *Exploring the role of forestry in carbon credits: what future will they have in the European framework?*	30´	Moderator: **Prof. Dr. Jose-Vicente Oliver (UPV)** • Simon Martel (I4CE) • Tomás Stocker (Anew Climate) • Ana-Belén Noriega (PEFC)
13:25-13:35h	**Closing remarks and Farewell**	10´	**Avelino Mascarell** (Deputy for the Environment, Forest Fire Prevention, and Rural Development- Valencia Provincial Council) **Vicent Mompó** (President of Valencia Provincial Council)-TBC
13:35-15:00 hr	**Cocktail Networking by Valencia Provincial Council Courtesy**	**1 h 25´**	