



Forests in Women's Hands



Programme Forests in Women's Hands

12 - 13 April 2021
Online from *WALDCAMPUS Austria*

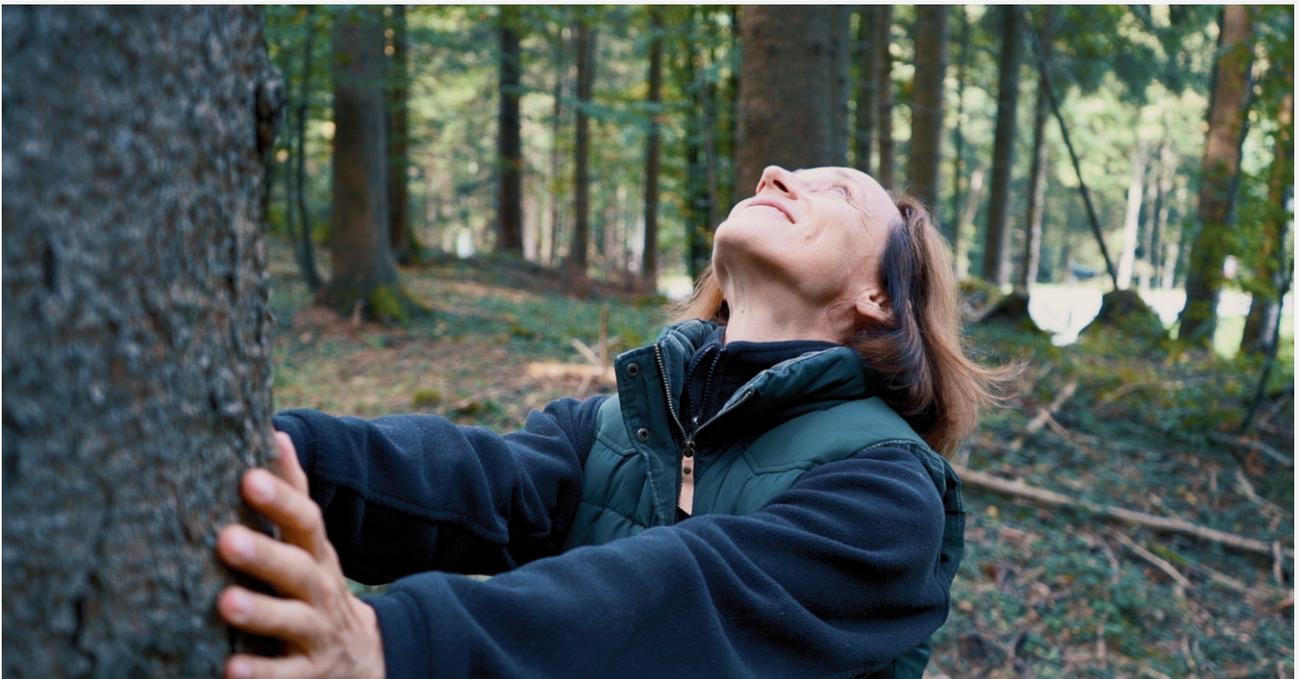
Our Aim

The conference *Forests in Women's Hands* aims to promote international networking and exchange of experience among women in forestry, and to increase the visibility of women and their achievements in the forest sector.

Background

About 30% of forest owners in Austria are women, which means that some 25% of Austria's forest area is in women's hands (Agrarstrukturerhebung 2016). The situation is quite similar in Europe where roughly one third of small forest holders are women. Women also play an important role in decision-making for family-owned forests.

Still, women are underrepresented at educational institutions and in forestry professions in Austria, and in several other countries. Some of the reasons for the underrepresentation and weak visibility of women include poor integration of women, a traditional understanding of gender roles and the lack of role models in the field.





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Support of Women in Forestry

Women's forestry networks such as Austria's Forstfrauen and similar networks in Germany, the Nordic countries, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and other countries are already connecting female forest owners and professionals, and creating opportunities for women in forestry. The conference will provide an occasion to share about the networks that you are familiar with, and to discover others.

Governments, universities, companies, and civil society organizations are taking action as well. Many specific programmes for mentoring (for example the *Mentoring Programme for Women in Forestry* launched by BMLRT, BOKU and BFW) or scholarships are available to women in science. In 2011, the Styrian Forest Association initiated their project *Forests in Women's Hands (Wald in Frauenhänden)*, from which the title of our conference was borrowed. Also business strategies increasingly recognize the potential of women.

Particularly, we would like to mention the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT), whose financial contribution has made it possible to host this conference.

Online Conference

Due to the currently still critical situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference *Forests in Women's Hands* will be held online. You will have the opportunity to participate online, to join in the discussion and to meet representatives from the forestry sector at home and abroad.

Programme Overview Online Conference

Time (UTC +2)	Monday, 12 April 2021	Tuesday, 13 April 2021
14:00	Opening and Keynote	Taking Action – World Café
14:30		
15:00	Panel Discussion – Stakeholder Dialogue	
15:30		
16:00		
16:30	Information Market	
17:00		
17:30	Forests in Fashion	Closing

Monday, 12 April 2021

Informal Networking Session (optional)

13:45 - 14:00 UTC +2

Zoom

Before the official start of *Forests in Women's Hands*, the participants who have joined the meeting early will have the opportunity to network in small, randomly selected groups for 3-5 minutes each, simulating arriving at an in-person event and reaching out to fellow participants. Participation is optional.

Opening and Keynote

14:00 - 15:00 UTC +2

Zoom

[14:00-14:20]

Transformative Change: A Collective Call for Action

Moderator:

Hermine Hackl

Head of the Traunkirchen Forest Training Centre of BFW at WALDCAMPUS Austria

Speakers:

Elisabeth Köstinger

Federal Minister for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT), Austria

Peter Mayer

Head of the Federal Research Centre for Forests (BFW), Austria

Dagmar Karisch-Gierer

Head of Forstfrauen, Austria

John Parrotta

President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), USA

Barbara Öllerer

Direction Member of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) and
Head of the IFSA FiWH Task Force, Austria



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[14:20-14:50] Keynote:

(Un)doing gender in and through forestry networks - processes of inclusion and exclusion

Speaker:

Gun Lidestav

Associate Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden
IUFRO Task Force Coordinator “Gender Equality in Forestry”

Break

14:50 - 15:00 UTC +2

Stakeholder Dialogue - Panel Discussion

15:00 - 16:50 UTC +2

Zoom

Connecting and engaging women in the forest-based sector

The Stakeholder Dialogue brings together policy and decision makers, forest owners, forest practitioners, scientists and student representatives from many countries in order to share and discuss their views on gender matters in forestry. The stakeholders are invited to formulate what can be expected with regard to tackling challenges of gender imbalance in the sector.

Moderator:

Alexander Buck

Executive Director, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Austria

Speakers:

Alina Lehikoinen

President of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
Student at the University of Helsinki, Finland

Gun Lidestav

Associate Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden IUFRO Task Force Coordinator "Gender Equality in Forestry"

Beth MacNeil

Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada

Andrea Pirker

Forest Owner and Manager of an agricultural and forestry business, Founding Member of Forstfrauen, Austria

Renate Späth

Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Berta Stašková

Head of WOODLANDER s.r.o., Slovakia



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Break

16:50 - 17:00 UTC +2

Forests in Fashion

17:00 - 18:00 UTC +2

Zoom and Spatial Chat

Moderator:

Hermine Hackl

Head of the Traunkirchen Forest Training Centre of BFW at WALDCAMPUS Austria

Introduction on Bioeconomy

Lisa Lehner

International Forest Policy Officer,
Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT), Austria

Forests at the heart of sustainable fashion: Forest-based bioeconomy helps us to shape our future with its nature-based solutions. This statement goes beyond looks and touches on aspects of sustainable production and consumption, resource efficiency and where it all starts: in our minds.

Film Presentation *Forests in Fashion*

Inspired by forests and nature, the students of the 5th year of Ebensee fashion school, Austria, produced two different collections for *Forests in Women's Hands*. After creating mood boards based on forest features, they went on to design, using fashion drawings they had drawn themselves, which were then compiled into collection books.

The results of this exciting project are unique pieces of the Streetwear and the Forest Fairies collections, which were sewn from high-quality and environmentally friendly materials from Austrian companies such as Lenzing AG and Steiner Loden, and completed with natural materials such as moss, clay, feathers, bark and branches. During the presentation of the garments, handbags made of wood by nussbag also adorn the wonderful, unique pieces.

Informal Networking (optional)

18:00 UTC +2

Spatial Chat

After the official programme, participants are invited to continue networking.



Tuesday, 13 April 2021

Informal Networking (optional)

13:45 - 14:00 UTC +2

Zoom

Before the official start of *Forests in Women's Hands*, the participants who have joined the meeting early will have the opportunity to network in small, randomly selected groups for 3-5 minutes each, simulating arriving at an in-person event and reaching out to fellow participants. Participation is optional.

World Café

14:00 - 15:50 UTC +2
Zoom

The World Café hosts the main dialogue among participants of *Forests in Women's Hands*. In this online-supported World Café session, all participants are invited to formulate their ideas and suggestions for how women, their perspectives and experiences can be included in the development of sustainable forest management.

The following questions are discussed in a virtual space. Consider which topic(s) you are most interested in discussing in a breakout group where you will be able to contribute your suggestions.

Moderator:

Sabine Pelzmann

Managing Director at Integrative Organisational Development, Austria

Topics

- **Education - how can a gender-sensitive environment be achieved?**

What criteria and indicators characterise an inclusive learning environment? How can faculties/course organisers and teachers meet these criteria and indicators, i.e. implement a gender-sensitive learning environment?

- **Forest ownership and management - what do forest owners need?**

What do female forest owners need and how can they be supported professionally and structurally in their activities, in the administration and management of their forests and in their role as forest owners?

- **Forestry organizations and institutions - measures to promote gender equality?**

What helps to promote and support women in their participation, professional development and career opportunities, and what can concrete organisational measures look like?

- **Forestry enterprises - measures to promote gender equality?**

What helps to promote and support women in their participation, professional development and career opportunities in the private sector, and what can concrete measures look like?

- **Entrepreneurship or self-employment - an opportunity for women in the forestry sector?**

Currently, only a fraction of entrepreneurs and self-employed in forestry are women. What are the constraints and the opportunities that entrepreneurship or self-employment offer and how can women meet those? What can be done to establish forestry entrepreneurship or self-employment as an opportunity for women?

- **International cooperation of networks - growing together**

Local and national networks of women as forest owners, and professionals, are already accomplishing great things. How can these experiences and achievements be upgraded through international cooperation?

- **Competence and visibility - challenging gendered norms?**

Making women, their perspectives and competence visible, entails consequences to male dominated organisations, and sometimes also to the individual woman. What needs to be done so visibility and competence recognition become a factor of success for both women and the organisation?

- **Research - existing knowledge and knowledge gaps (hosted by Gun Lidestav)**

There is an increasing body of gender research, also related to forestry. How can we make better use of this theoretical and empirical knowledge in practice? And, what knowledge gaps are most urgent to fill out?

- **Gender balance for resilience (hosted by Alice Ludvig)**

The effects of gender balance on the wood value chain: women in leadership and management positions.

Women's participation and management in the timber value chain could make it more resilient. How can we ensure that this knowledge becomes transparent?

Break

15:50 - 16:00 UTC +2

Information Market

16:00 - 17:30 UTC +2

Spatial Chat

Conference participants present women's networks or relevant initiatives connected to gender equality in forestry. All participants can directly join the online meeting with a person representing the network or initiative to ask questions and exchange information. The Information Market is an occasion to share about the networks and projects that you are already familiar with, and to discover others.

The platform that is used for the Information Market additionally allows for networking among participants.

Closing

17:30 - 18:00 UTC +2

Zoom

The main conference outcomes are summarised by the Organizing Committee of *Forests in Women's Hands*.

Moderator:

Hermine Hackl

Head of the Traunkirchen Forest Training Centre of BFW at WALDCAMPUS Austria

Moderators:



Photo: (c) Alexander Buck

Alexander Buck

Executive Director, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Austria

Alexander Buck is the Executive Director of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), a global network for science collaboration uniting over 15,000 scientists in more than 600 member organizations in 125 countries. He studied forestry and law and is an expert on international forest, environment and resource policy. Alexander has 25 years of experience in working in research management and at the science-policy interface at the global and regional levels, and engaging with stakeholders across the public and private sectors. He is a member of the advisory boards of various international and national initiatives related to forests and sustainable development.



Photo: (c) Hermine Hackl

Hermine Hackl

Head of the Traunkirchen Forest Training Centre of BFW at WALDCAMPUS Austria

Hermine Hackl is an official forest ambassador and known to the forestry public in Austria as the "voice of the forest". After her time as press spokesperson at Lands & Forest Enterprise Austria (Land&Forst Betriebe Österreich), the Austrian Farmers' Union and Agricultural Marketing Austria (Agrarmarkt Austria Marketing), she headed the UNESCO Wienerwald Biosphere Reserve as Director and then moderated the wood value chain in Austria as Secretary General of the Cooperation Platform Forest-Wood-Paper (Forst-Holz-Papier). Since 2018, she has headed the Traunkirchen Forestry Training Centre of the Federal Forest Research Centre (BFW) and in this capacity coordinates WALDCAMPUS Austria, the largest and most modern forest competence centre in Europe.



Photo: (c) Schaffer-Warga

Sabine Pelzmann

Managing Director at Integrative Organisational Development,
Austria

Sabine Pelzmann is a management consultant, educational supervisor and author. She accompanies organisational change processes and develops reflective corporate leadership programmes. She is a lecturer at universities in Austria and abroad on the topics of systems theory, organisational development and leadership and has over 20 years of consulting experience in expert, administrative and professional organisations in Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Denmark, Georgia, Ukraine and the USA. Since 2009, she has been offering leadership programmes for women and training for supervisory board members. In 2020, she founded the school for perception and awareness raising "Integral Listening". Sabine Pelzmann is the mother of two daughters.

Speakers:



Photo: (c) Alina Lehikoinen

Alina Lehikoinen

President of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
Student at the University of Helsinki, Finland

Alina Lehikoinen is the President of International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA), which is the largest international network of students in forestry and related sciences. Prior to being elected IFSA President, she held the position of the Head of UNFCCC Sub-Commission and led the delegation in COP25. She is an undergraduate studying forest sciences at the University of Helsinki with a specialization in tropical forestry and agroforestry. She is also a member of the Youth in Landscapes (YIL) Steering Committee and outside of IFSA, she is accomplished in entrepreneurship, having set up and run her own successful local business in the forestry field.



Photo: (c) Lisa Lehner

Lisa Lehner

International Forest Policy Officer, Federal Ministry for
Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT), Austria

Lisa Lehner is an expert for International Forest Policy at the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Regions and Tourism in Austria. She works at the Directorate for Forest Policy, Forest Economy and Forest Information, linking Austria's longstanding tradition of sustainable forest management and its highly innovative forest based sector to the international forest policy arena. Lisa is a Forestry graduate of the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna, with a Master thesis focusing on the perception of bioeconomy in the Austrian forest based sector. She previously worked at the Austrian Research Centre for Forests as well as the European Forest Institute's Regional Network Office in Vienna. Lisa is engaged in the Austrian network "Women in Forestry" and was founding and board member of the International Forestry Students' Association at BOKU.



Photo: (c) Gun Lidestav

Gun Lidestav

Associate Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden
IUFRO Task Force Coordinator “Gender Equality in Forestry”

Gun Lidestav has a doctoral degree in forest technology and has since 2000 been engaged in IUFRO, first as coordinator for the 6.08.01 Gender Research in Forestry Working Party and later as the coordinator of the 6.08 Gender and Forestry Research Group. Between 2004 and 2006, she led a team of specialists on Gender and Forestry on behalf of FAO / ECE / ILO, and she has also participated as a gender specialist in various international R & D programmes and projects (Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Europe). Nationally, she has primarily been involved in various gender equality initiatives, initiated both by the government and the forest sector, e.g. within the framework of the National Gender Equality Strategy for the Forestry Sector and SLU’s gender equality work.



Photo: (c) Beth MacNeil

Beth MacNeil

Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada

Beth MacNeil has spent more than 25 years working in science-based economic and regulatory departments across the federal government. She began her career as a biologist working for Environment Canada’s Canadian Wildlife Service. She has held positions of Director General, Policy, at both Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. In January 2018, she was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Canada’s Canadian Forest Service. Beth MacNeil holds a Bachelor of Science (Biology) from STFX University, Nova Scotia, a Master degree in Environmental Studies, York University, Toronto, and a Certificate in Public Sector Leadership and Governance from the University of Ottawa.



Photo: (c) Andrea Pirker

Andrea Pirker

Forest Owner and Manager of an agricultural and forestry business & Founding Member of Forstfrauen, Austria

Andrea Pirker is mother of four children, full-time manager of her agricultural and forestry business, consultant for other forestry businesses, inspector in the organic sector and a court certified expert. As forestry does not only consist of trees, she also practices hunting herself. She is a sworn forestry, hunting and fishing inspector and in her surroundings also the gamekeeper. She is passionate about bringing these natural jewels closer to youth in her role as a forest, nature and hunting educator. She has been awarded the title of forest ambassador, and was the first Austrian woman to obtain the title *Forstmeister*. She also is a certified scaler, has completed a harvester course and further training in forestry. She is a founding member of the Austrian *Forstfrauen* network.



Photo: (c) Renate Späth

Renate Späth

Forest Officer, Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Conservation and Consumer Protection of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

Renate Späth is a forest officer for a wide range of forest related topics at a forest policy level. She graduated in 1984 from the University of Applied Sciences Göttingen with a degree in forest engineering. Her professional career started in the urban region of North Rhine-Westphalia at the local forest administration level. In 1987, she was appointed as the first female forest officer at the Ministry for Environment of North Rhine-Westphalia, department of forestry and nature conservation. She has been working as project leader in urban forestry, spatial planning, forest policies, nature conservation in forests, education for sustainable development and gender mainstreaming in forestry. She is a member of the European Forum on Urban Forestry (EFUF) and was a member of Cost Action E 39, COST ACTION FP 1204. She is also a member of FAO/ECE Team of Specialists on Gender and Forestry.



Photo: (c) Berta Stašková

Berta Stašková

Head of WOODLANDER s.r.o., Slovakia

Berta Stašková studied forestry at the Technical University in Zvolen and Göttingen University. Her professional career started at the forestry college then she worked in the wood processing sector as a trade manager and in the state sector as CRM & SCM. For eight years, she was also active as the chairperson of the East Slovak Forestry Chamber. Now she manages the forestry services company WOODLANDER s.r.o. She is the managing director of the NGO Lesná pedagogika, which is actively dedicated to forest education and forest bathing. Berta produces and sells wild herb syrups and other local specialities. She is the mother of two children.

About us

Project coordination



BFW – Austrian Research Centre for Forests

BFW is an Austrian federal, multidisciplinary research and education centre which holds the legal status of an institution under public law. The BFW consists of six specialist institutions, two forest training centres in Traunkirchen and Ossiach, one library and documentation office and numerous internal service centres. The head office of the BFW is located in Schönbrunn/Vienna, with another office in Innsbruck. A research garden is located in Tulln (Lower Austria) and a training and research forest in Carinthia.

Organizing Partners



Forstfrauen

The association Forstfrauen makes women in forestry, their achievements and activities visible, connects, informs and supports them. The Forstfrauen connect women and men from all sectors and levels of the forestry and timber industry - regardless of their vocational training. Wanting to actively live the networking idea is essential: Each member can and should bring in their abilities, but also their contacts and professional background in the sense of the association's goals.



IUFRO – International Union of Forest Research Organizations

IUFRO is a non-profit, non-governmental international network of forest scientists, which promotes global cooperation in forest-related research and enhances the understanding of the ecological, economic and social aspects of forests and trees. IUFRO is the global network for forest science cooperation. It unites more than 15,000 scientists in almost 700 Member Organizations in over 125 countries, and is a member of the International Science Council (ISU). Scientists cooperate in IUFRO on a voluntary basis.

International
FORESTRY
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION



IFSA – International Forestry Students' Association

IFSA's vision is for global cooperation among students of forest sciences in order to broaden knowledge and understanding to achieve a sustainable future for our forests, and to provide a voice for youth in international forest policy processes. It is our mission to enrich our members' education through international events, networking and intercultural exchange.

Find more information on the contribution to the organisation of *Forests in Women's Hands* at www.ifsa.net/fiwh

Supported by



 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Agriculture, Regions
and Tourism**