



Minister of State Pippa Hackett, who launched the *Forestry and Timber Yearbook 2022* recently, with Mechteld Schuller, executive secretary, ITGA and Brendan Lacey, chairperson, ITGA. \Eoin O'Driscoll, drima marketing

## Forestry reading matter

There is no shortage of forestry and wood-related publications at the moment. Recent books cover the history of wood and the role of wood in the bioeconomy, while the annual *Forestry and Timber Yearbook* covers a wide range of forestry topics from an Irish perspective.

### Forestry and the bioeconomy

One of the key findings of COP26 was to phase out "various forms of fossil fuels and [end] deforestation".

Coinciding with COP26, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation published *The role of forest products in the global bioeconomy: Enabling substitution by wood-based products and contributing to the sustainable development goals*. It makes a number of recommendations targeting national governments.

The recommendation to "incentivise and encourage the responsible production and consumption of sustainable biobased products and discourage the use of non-renewable, fossil-based and GHG-intensive products," has particular relevance to Ireland.

It also recommends government and regional economic integration organisations to: "Consider the important role of forests and forest products in a functioning, circular bioeconomy, including carbon storage by forest

ecosystems, carbon storage in wood products, product substitution effects and possible leakage effects."

The publication is available to download (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7274en>) free of charge.

### Wood age

The relationship between humans and the forest in Ireland goes back at least 12,500 years although the date keeps shifting.

Recent findings suggest that the first hunter-gatherers arrived here 20,000 years earlier.

This lineage pales into insignificance compared with the findings of Roland Ennos in his remarkable book *The Wood Age: How one Material Shaped the Whole of Human History*, which covers a 10m time span.

Published by William Collins, Professor Ennos begins with the great apes' relationship with the forest where they lived in tree canopies.

He explores the bond between humans and forests in developing wood for shelter, utensils, transport and weap-

ons from prehistory up to the present time. Foresters would question his views on plantation forests but *The Wood Age* is a fascinating account of this vital renewable material and our relationship with it.

### Forestry yearbook

The *Forestry and Timber Yearbook 2022* is a must-read for anyone involved in forestry or thinking about establishing a forest.

Published by the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA), the 33rd edition provides a directory of services, covering virtually every sector in forestry from nurseries to manufacturing and from forestry companies to timber processors and related companies and organisations - State and private.

It features articles on carbon trading, practical forestry, statistics, timber markets, bioenergy, woodland taxation and non-wood forestry.

"The yearbook contains 208 pages of valuable information for timber growers, forestry professionals, the timber industry and the general public," said Donal Whelan, ITGA technical director.

Yearbook copies can be ordered online at [www.forestryyearbook.ie](http://www.forestryyearbook.ie) or by contacting ITGA at 01-235 0520 or email [info@itga.ie](mailto:info@itga.ie). The price is €14.90, covering postage and packaging.

