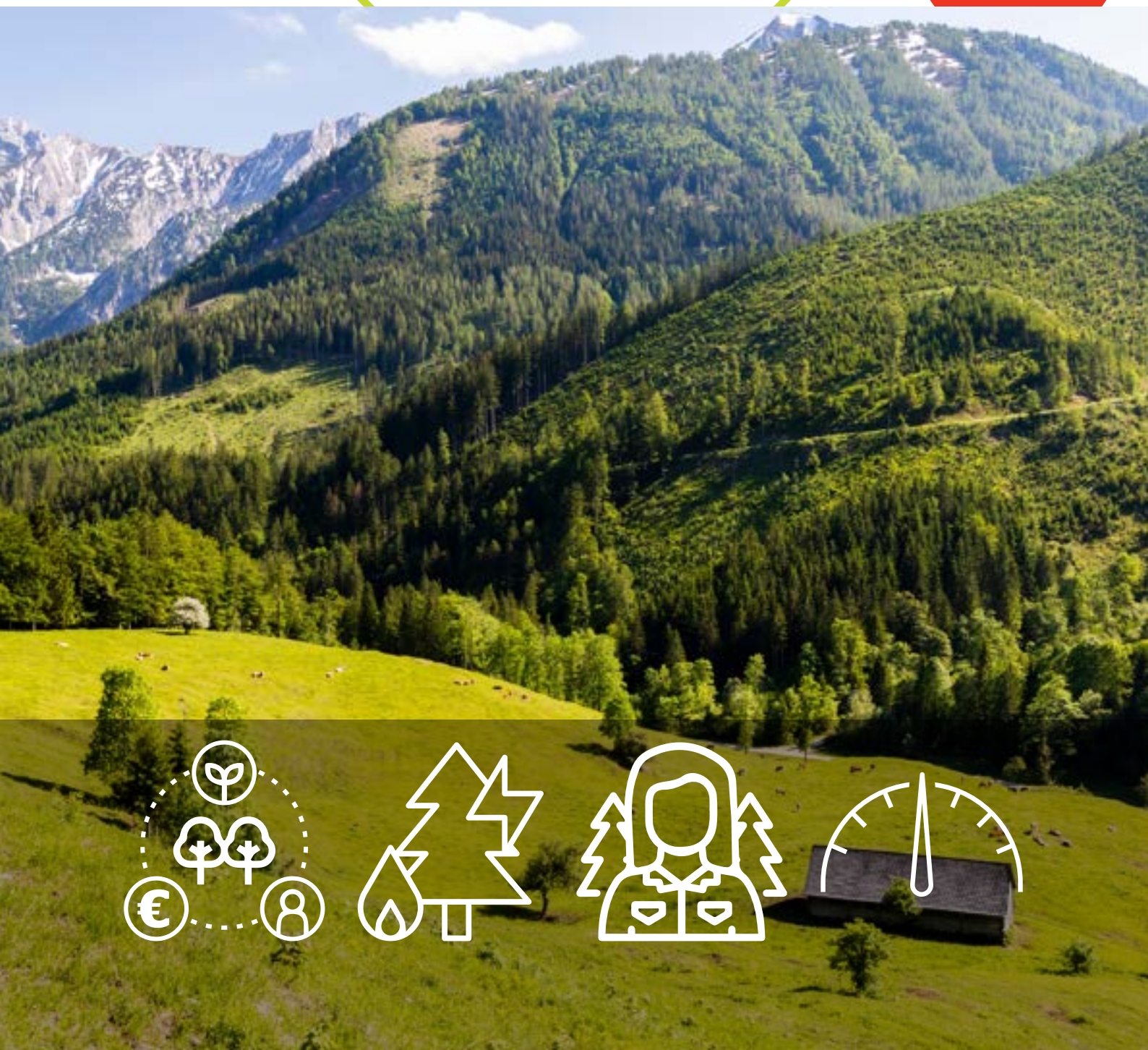


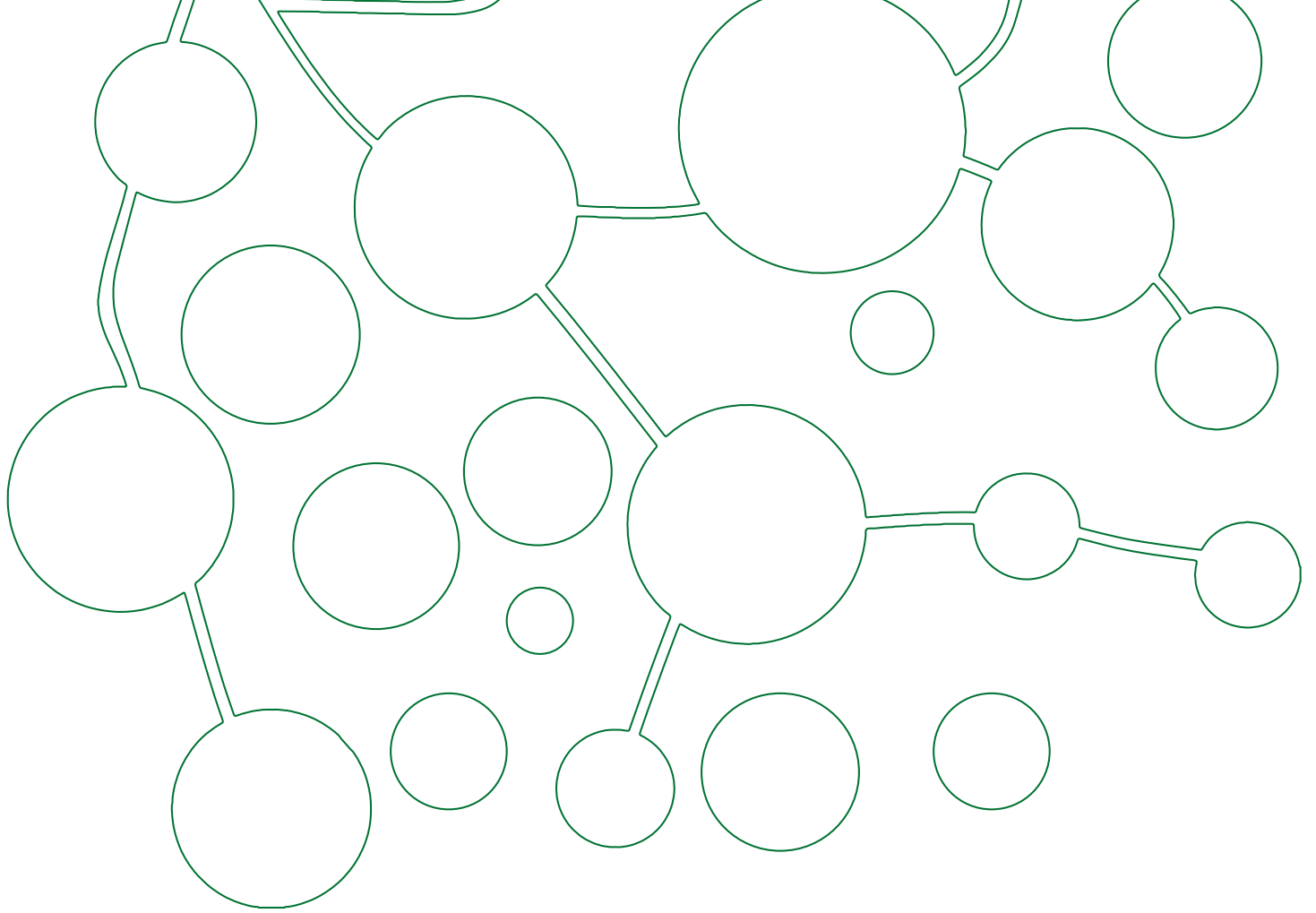


Forest Europe growing life

Implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Commitments

National and Pan-European Actions 2021 - 2024



**Published by**

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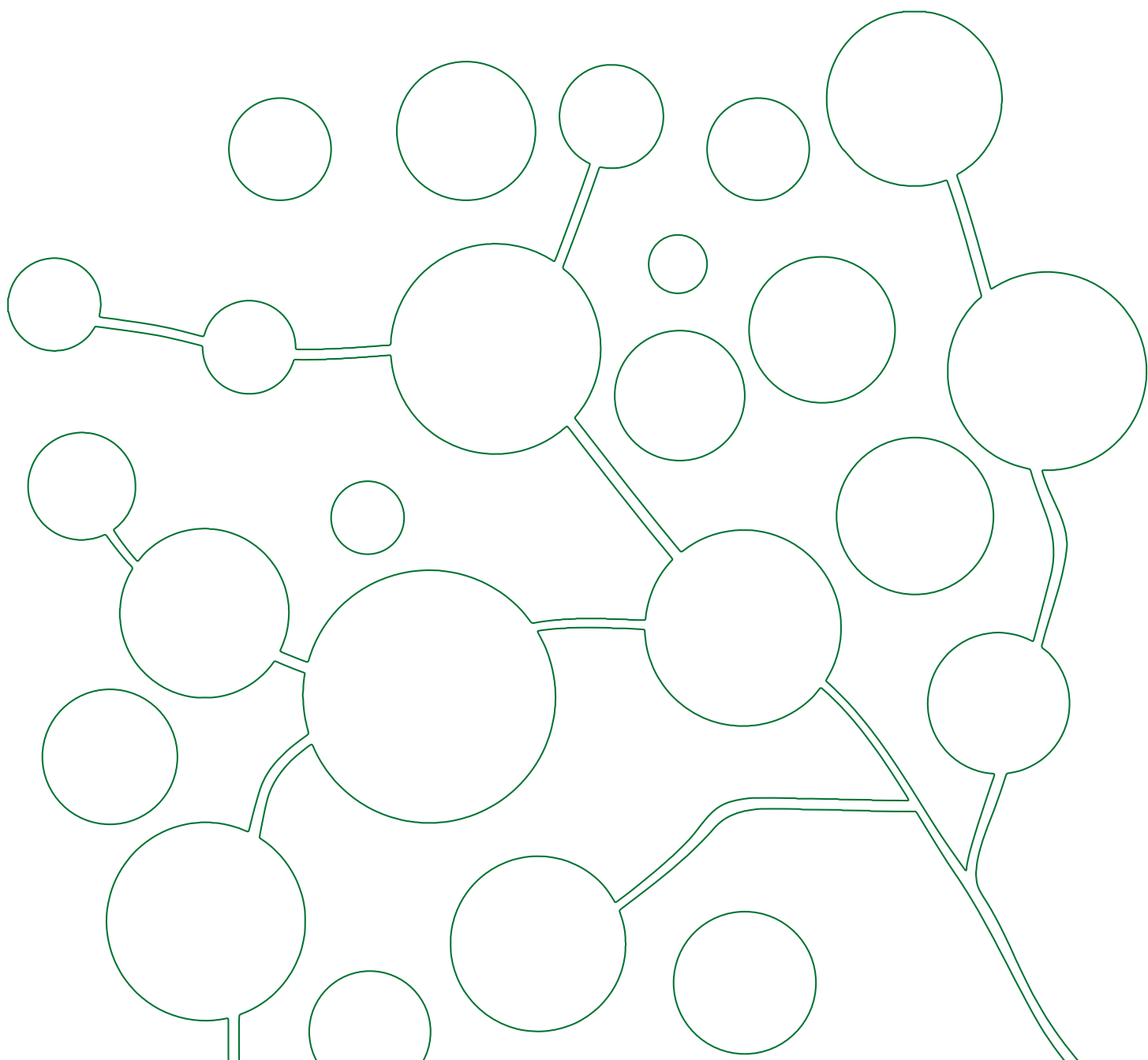
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Preface

FOREST EUROPE (FE), the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of the Forests in Europe, founded 34 years ago, is a high-level political process that involves ministers responsible for forests from 44 countries and the European Union (plus observers from 14 additional countries and 50 observer organizations). The main objectives of this process are to develop common strategies to strengthen sustainable forest management (SFM) in the pan-European region and to find proper responses to current forest policy challenges. It builds on FOREST EUROPE's definition of SFM and employs criteria and indicators (C&I) as the data basis of its flagship report State of Europe's Forests (SoEF) which will be jointly published with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2025. As part of the process, signatories make decisions at Ministerial Conferences of the highest political relevance regarding forests, forest management and socio-political topics aiming at safeguarding ecological, social and economic benefits of European forests.

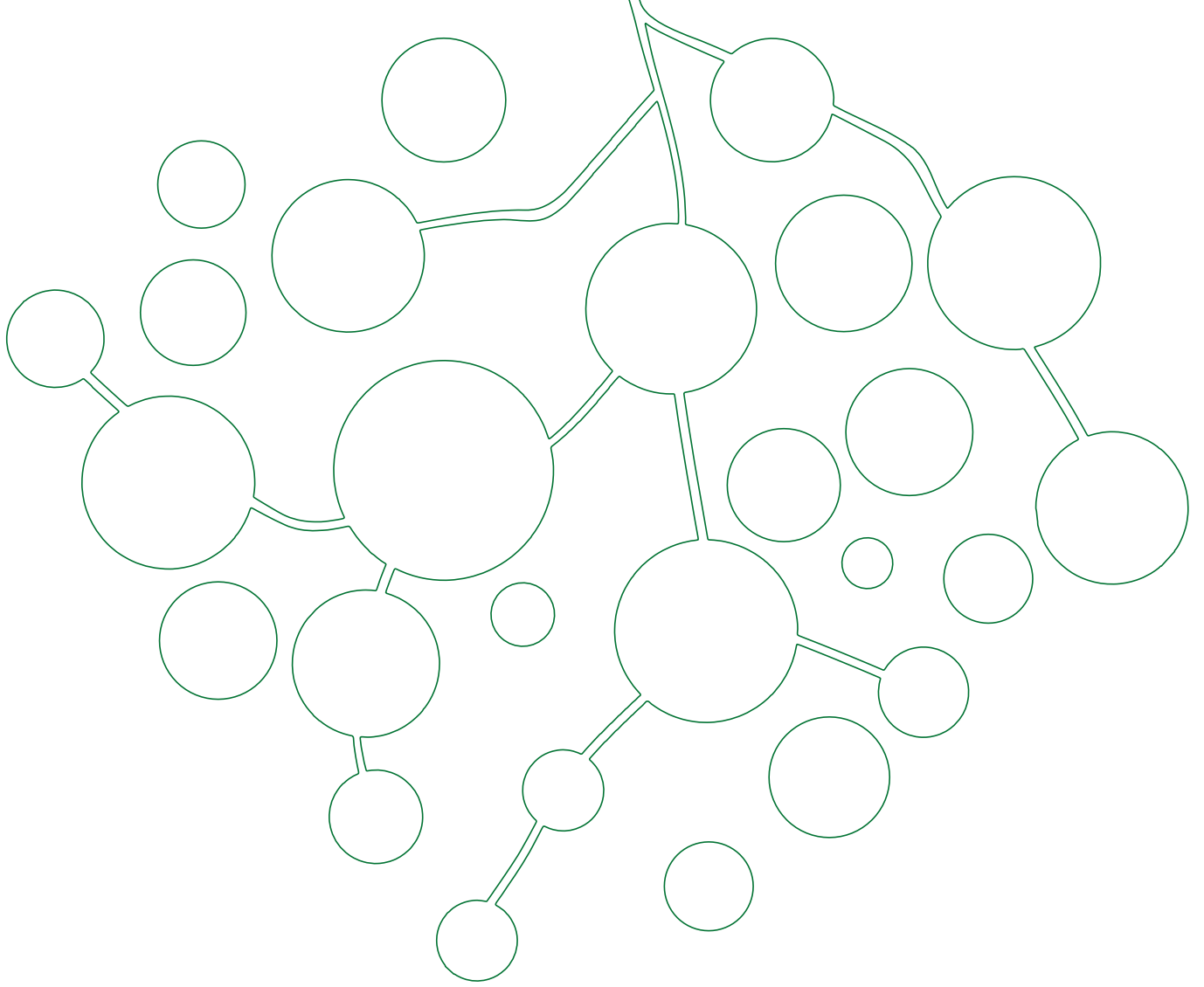
At the 8th Ministerial Conference, which was held in April 2021, ministers responsible for forests in Europe signed the Bratislava Declaration "The Future We Want: The Forests We Need" and the Bratislava Resolution "Adaptating pan-European Forests to Climate Change". This report informs on the progress by signatory countries in implementing their commitments made under these documents.

In addition, the implementation report contains the work undertaken by FOREST EUROPE process and especially by the Liaison Unit Bonn (LUBo) in line with the [FOREST EUROPE Work Programme 2021 - 2024](#) as adopted by FOREST EUROPE's Expert Level Meeting (ELM) in September 2021. A team from the European Forest Institute (EFI) supported the work of LUBo to strengthen the science-policy interface, administration and communication activities.

It should be stressed here that the whole FOREST EUROPE process during the German chairmanship was only as successful as it was thanks to the active contributions of all members. Through our joint efforts, dedication and teamwork, we have made remarkable progress in implementing the Bratislava Resolution and Declaration, and beyond that have achieved many other significant milestones. Over many decades, the united and concerted efforts of FOREST EUROPE's combined workforce have been of outstanding value for supporting implementation of sustainable forest management at pan-European and international level, a. We highly appreciate all contributions and express our deepest gratitude. With great confidence we hand over the task of the secretariat and chair of this important forest policy process to our friends in Sweden and wish all success for their chairing period.



Thomas Haußmann
Head of the Liaison Unit Bonn



Part 1: Implementation of the Work Programme 2021 - 2024 by the Liaison Unit Bonn

Workstream 1: Sustainable Forest Management



Introduction, background, status quo

Sustainable forest management (SFM) is a dynamic concept. It is important to constantly revisit the understanding of it, its linkages to other concepts, its strengths and weaknesses and its potential to serve as a balancing tool to continuously moderate the various and varying claims on forests and forest resources. It needs to be kept fit for the future. With this goal in mind, FOREST EUROPE is running a Think Tank forum for debate on sustainable forest management.

The concept of SFM has been in place for more than 30 years, retained in the Helsinki Resolution published in 1993. It has enabled a common approach for dialogue, monitoring (including the publication of the State of Europe's Forests report (SoEF) since 2003) and policymaking across Europe.

Increasing complexity in a changing environment creates difficulties for both policymakers and the public in resolving the inevitable trade-offs. Balancing the different claims on forests and their ecosystem services is a complex task that requires transparent and balanced handling of trade-offs occurring in forest land use, management and value chains.

Workstream 1 focused on promoting open discussions on the future of SFM and on the contribution of FOREST EUROPE to science- and knowledge-based forest policy decision-making. To this end, Workstream 1 revisited its tools,

communication means and conceptual backing, hence developing a roadmap that keeps SFM fit for the future.

Implementation actions

The FOREST EUROPE Think Tank was created to promote a platform for exchange on the future of sustainable forest management in Europe. It was established in 2022 and comprised a total of 4 webinars. The activities and conclusions are summarized as a FOREST EUROPE background paper.

During the first Think Tank Webinar on 22 February 2022 the status of SFM was evaluated, including the perspectives on where to go in future, by developing the concept of the SFM Think Tank. A plenary discussion was held to determine what is needed to make SFM fit for 2030. A major topic was the preparation of a further revision of SFM criteria and indicators to make them fit for future monitoring and reporting needs. There was intense discussion on the future of forest monitoring and on indicators. The new concept of High-Level Policy Dialogues (HLPDs) was introduced and the roadmap for the further procedure of the Think Tank was developed.

The second Think Tank Webinar was held on 30 November 2022, updating the HLPD and the future of SFM in Europe. Potential pathways of forest biodiversity indicators were discussed. This was a particular focus for FOREST EUROPE, since biodiversity had been identified as one of the key forest topics



with significant shortcomings in the monitoring.

[A background paper](#) on the future development of biodiversity indicators was produced for the European Forest Alliance and the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) meeting in November 2023. In consequence, [a background report](#) was published on the potential for further improving forest biodiversity indicators, based on national implementation and feasibility criteria. Another item on the agenda was “Forest related concepts - new concepts, same forests?”.

Updates on the FOREST EUROPE process were given during the third Think Tank Webinar on 21 April 2023, together with the latest developments of the newly established European Forest Alliance. Moreover, [a concept paper](#) on the future of SFM was published. The possibility of collaborating with the Integrate Network was also discussed.

The last Think Tank Webinar on 29 November 2023 focused on policy discussions and ongoing work on SFM along with forest reporting and SoEF. Discussing the forest biodiversity indicators and “SFM 2.0 - On the future



of SFM in Europe” were also part of the agenda. Lastly, the latest results on forest damage reporting were given.

Pan-European Reporting on SFM is the key task for FOREST EUROPE and activity on this is conducted in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UNECE. Activities include the joint promotion of the forest resource assessment (FRA) database as a common tool for data collection, instruction and capacity

building for national correspondents, the Joint Questionnaire of FRA and FOREST EUROPE Pan-European Reporting, data collection of qualitative indicators, and endeavors to secure data quality and validity. A new concept for SoEF 2025 is designed to gain maximum outreach for the report and support forest policy decision-making.

Key outputs of workstream 1 sorted by the type of policy tool can be found in table 1.

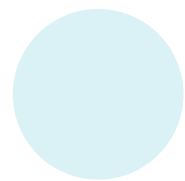
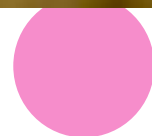
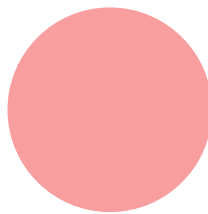


Table 1: Key outputs of workstream 1

Policy tool	Output
I. Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background paper: European forest biodiversity indicators at a glance for the European Forest Alliance • Background paper: Potential for Revision of FOREST EUROPE Indicators under Criterion 4 “Maintenance, Conservation and Appropriate Enhancement of Biological Diversity in Forest Ecosystems” • Summary Report on Think Tank activities • HLPD Policy Briefs: “Forest Biodiversity in Europe - Where do we stand?” and “Forests for the future: How can forest resilience support Sustainable Forest Management?” • “Are European forests fit for a sustainable future?” - a short story about European forests
II. Social media activities and professional communication products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video summary of the Think Tank meetings and workstream in general.
III. Reference pools and expert networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pan-European Forest Reporting with FAO and UNECE • Contribution to policy and expert networks on forest monitoring • Cooperation with international networks on forestry (United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), The Committee on Forestry (COFO), EU expert panels) • Creation of the European Forest Alliance - a cooperation between major secretariats on forest-related matters: FOREST EUROPE, UNECE, FAO, EEA, INTEGRATE • Cooperation with Montreal Process on forest policy and indicators
IV. Capacity building and knowledge exchange via workshops and webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Think Tank events on the future of sustainable forest management • Management of the Pan-European Forest Reporting • Data collection and interaction with national correspondents on quantitative and qualitative indicators • Preparation of the State of Europe’s Forests Report 2025

Conclusion and Outlook

The work on sustainable forest management (SFM) is the backbone of the FOREST EUROPE process, since it deals with the development of this concept, the technical aspects (e.g. C&I) and the implementation of SFM commitments. Referring to past and future activities, it will have three major lines for future development:

Firstly, since the State of Europe's Forests Report (SoEF) is decoupled from the Ministerial Conference 2024, a major focus will be put on the finalization of SoEF 2025 during the Swedish chairmanship. This will entail the finalization of data collection, validation and verification before the end of 2024. The concept of SoEF 2025 has been prepared in 2024 and will be finalized in

2025, culminating in a high-level policy event for the presentation of SoEF 2025.

Secondly, the potential revision of SFM indicators, as envisaged in the Bonn Ministerial Declaration, has been prepared by supporting documents on biodiversity indicators and progress on green jobs indicators. This work will be used as the basis for further work on indicators that are fit for both forest reporting and forest policy decision support.

Finally, after a series of webinars, the FOREST EUROPE Think Tank will have one more concluding event at the end of 2024 following the 9th Ministerial Conference, to prepare the ground for the further use of this informal exchange format under future presidencies.



Update on the workstream 1: SFM at the ELM in Dresden, 21.06.2023

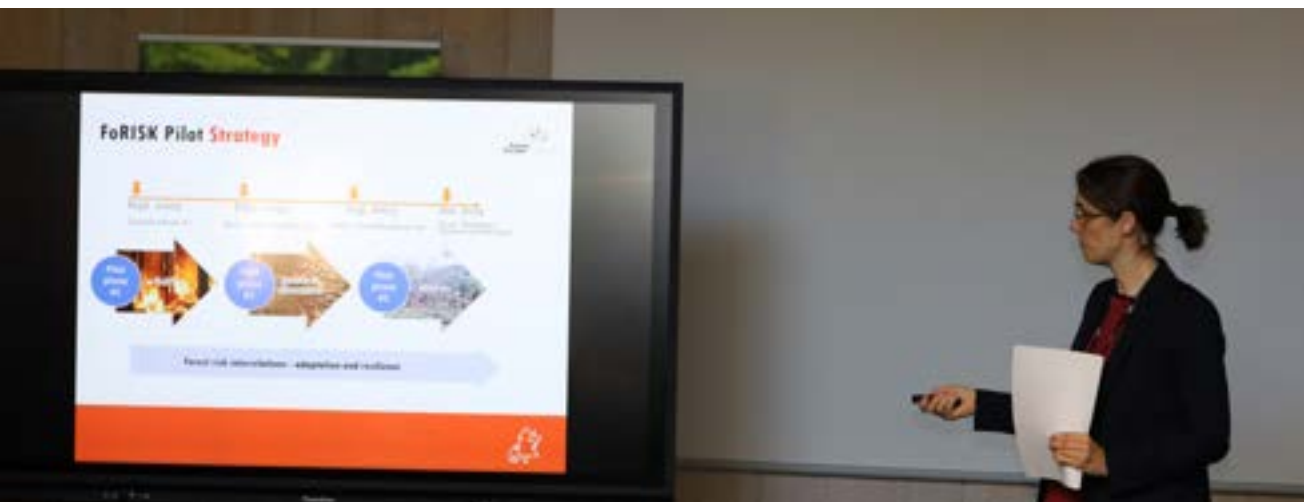
Workstream 2: Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK)



Introduction, background, status quo

Forest ecosystems across the European region are currently experiencing - and will experience in future - the increasingly negative impacts of climate change, the biodiversity crisis and other threats such as land degradation and desertification. The intensified trend, in scale and frequency, of forest damage events, e.g. by wildfires, pest outbreaks,

windstorms or droughts has therefore called for commitment from FOREST EUROPE signatories and observers to better connect national and international activities and initiatives, to work towards a coordinated pan-European forest risk knowledge mechanism. The scope of this pan-European forest risk knowledge mechanism, later referred to as Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK), was further defined and outlined in Paragraph 27



Presentation on FoRISK pilot at the workshop “Living with windstorms in pan-European forests” in Freiburg, 27.09.2023

of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change” (2021): “Work towards a coordinated pan-European forest risk knowledge mechanism. The format will be defined by terms of reference to be adopted by the signatories of FOREST EUROPE, considering already existing mechanisms and networks at European and sub-regional levels, with the premises to synergize efforts, add value

and avoid duplication. When developing the terms of reference, stable funding for such a mechanism and the potential role of national focal points will be duly considered [...]”. Since 2021, LUBo has worked towards the establishment of this pan-European FoRISK. The overall objectives of FoRISK are to support forests’ adaptation to changing climatic and site conditions, as well as to enhance and maintain the resilience

and mitigation potential of forests and the forest sector at a pan-European level to future forest disturbances.

Implementation actions

Workstream 2 initiated the work towards the pan-European FoRISK with the support of the European Forest Institute (EFI) - FOREST EUROPE team and in close collaboration with the appointed FoRISK experts from signatory countries and observer organizations. Firstly, a concept for a FoRISK pilot phase was developed assessing the added value and testing of concrete policy tools. The aim was to provide relevant evidence-based forest risk and adaptation-related information to political decision-makers based on trustful cooperation with scientists, practitioners and society.

The FoRISK pilot phase ran from September 2022 to December 2023 with a focus on three major forest damage agents, based on the requests and selection by signatories and observers.

Pilot phase #1 “Wildfires”: Wildfires are a natural part of forest ecosystems but are becoming increasingly excessive. Severe fires pose a threat to European forests. To address this, there is a need for political and social awareness and recommendations for sustainable forest management and wildfire prevention.

Pilot phase #2 “Pests and diseases, with the example of the spruce bark beetle”: Extreme heat events and droughts have intensified due to climate change and spruce bark beetle outbreaks have reached unprecedented levels in conifer forests, challenging traditional management approaches in production forests and leading to increasing public and political awareness. Coordinated international and cross-border actions are

needed, alongside more comprehensive management frameworks that also recognize the social dimension of the bark beetle outbreaks.

Pilot phase #3 “Windstorms”: While windstorms are rare events, damage caused by storms occur suddenly and, measured by the volume of damaged timber, storms are considered the most devastating risk. FoRISK provided guidance on mitigating the risk of storm damage in forests through proactive sustainable forest management and improving forest resilience.

Forest damage does not respect national borders. The increasing frequency and extent of this damage requires enhanced cross-border communication and collaboration – especially since interrelations between forest disturbances may occur at any time and have cascading impacts. Forest management strategies that ignore the uncertainties associated with climate change are unlikely to meet future expectations.

Independent of the type of forest risk, adapted crisis management plans have to consider the whole risk cycle with proactive and reactive management measures for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery, in addition to creating the legal framework for implementing these concepts at national and regional level. Different countries are facing different challenges, and for some countries the worst is likely still ahead. Therefore, connecting countries with different levels of experience and fostering cooperation will be beneficial for all.

Key outputs of the FoRISK pilot phase sorted by the type of policy tool can be found in table 2.

Table 2: Key outputs of the three focus topics of workstream 2

Policy tool	Output
I. Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Brief “Reducing Wildfire Risk in Europe through Sustainable Forest Management” • Policy Brief “Managing Bark Beetle Outbreaks in the 21st Century” • Policy Brief “Mitigating windstorm damage on European Forests” • Policy Brief “A vision of cooperation and networking in the field of risk and crisis management across Europe.”
II. Social media activities and professional communication products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising society’s awareness via posts and videos on X and LinkedIn. • Wildfires: we need to talk! • Interview with Professor Tomáš Hlásny (CULS Prague) about his policy brief “Managing bark beetle outbreaks in the 21st century”. • Interview with Christoph Hartebrodt (FVA-BW) about his policy brief “Mitigating windstorm damage on European Forests”. • Interview with Yvonne Hengst (FVA-BW) about her policy brief “A vision of cooperation and networking in the field of risk and crisis management across Europe.”
III. Reference pools and expert networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert group on FoRISK • Expert Group Meetings • Collaborations: • Climate-ADAPT • RESONATE • FORWARDS, Observatory for the resilience of European forests • Firelogue, Fire up the dialogue
IV. Capacity building and knowledge exchange via workshops and webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar “Manage to Conserve Forest Genetic Resource conservation as part of Sustainable Forest Management” with EUFORGEN on 11 October 2022 • Joint workshop “Develop, adopt and transfer innovative solutions and actions to prevent and control wildfires” with SilvaMed and OGM in Antalya, Türkiye, 24-27 October 2022 • Workshop on “Communicating the important role of Sustainable Forest Management to prevent wildfires” with CTFC, EFI and PCF; Barcelona, Spain, 7-9 February 2023 • Workshop “Managing biotic threats in forests - lessons learned from bark beetle calamities”, with Ministry of Agriculture of Czech Republic, Breznice, Czech Republic, 30 May-1 June 2023 • Workshop “Living with windstorms in pan-European forests”, with FVA-BW and WSL (CH), Freiburg, Germany, 26-28 September 2023 • FOREST EUROPE from the roots to the canopy webinar series: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Webinar: “Spotlight on genetic diversity: an unseen ally in adapting forests to drought”, with EUFORGEN, FORGENIUS and EFI, Online, 15 April 2024 • Webinar: Drought adaptation of forests in Europe - Practical strategies with WSL (CH), Online, 17 May 2024

Conclusion and Outlook

Following a thorough [external evaluation](#), it is evident that the pilot phase of the FoRISK served as a vital, cross-border platform for information and networking. It has successfully developed valuable tools to support practitioners and policy makers, while also enhancing communication with the public. This pan-European knowledge facility for forest risks has correctly identified its niche to complement and support existing national systems. It is highly recommended to continue

the work on FoRISK as an established secretariat. To this end, the Bonn Ministerial Decision “Sustainable Forest Management as a Tool to Enhance Forest Resilience” and the annex “Terms of reference to establish a Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK)” propose a way forward to launch a full-scale Forest Risk Facility in 2025. The vision to strengthen cooperation and networking in the field of risk and crisis management across Europe developed under the German chair of FOREST EUROPE will be proposed for adoption at the 9th FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference.



Excursion to a spruce stand with a bark beetle calamity in the Brdy Highlands, 31.05.2023.

Workstream 3: Green Forest Jobs and Forest Education



Introduction, background, status quo

Societal demands on forests are increasing, as are pressures on the ecosystem itself – be it from climate change, biodiversity loss or extreme weather events. To be able to manage forests in a sustainable way in future and ensure healthy forests, a skilled workforce and an enthusiastic youth who are willing to work in the sector are indispensable.

However, data ([SoEF 2020](#) and the report published by the German Thünen Institute ([TI report](#))) shows that the sector is aging, fewer people are joining and there are still fewer women than men working in the sector – generally for lower wages. To shed more light on this important topic, FOREST EUROPE dedicated a workstream to Green Jobs and Forest Education. The work was guided by the overarching questions of how to make the sector attractive for the next generation of students, how to reach them using modern communication tools and how to strengthen existing networks.

However, the forest sector, like our world, is changing rapidly. For that reason, Novel Green Forest Jobs along the whole value chain, the service sector and the area of circular bioeconomy were considered as well.

Implementation actions

To pool knowledge in the field of Green Jobs, an expert group was established.

Members from the former UNECE/FAO Team of Specialists participated, as well as nominated experts and organizations from signatories and observers of FOREST EUROPE. A key achievement of the group is the proposal of [the definition of Green Forest Jobs](#), which was adopted at the Expert Level Meeting in Bonn, in 2022. The definition fosters a clear communication and a common understanding of Green Forest Jobs.

Over the past years, it has become clearer how much the sector is evolving. A change in society's demands on forests, as well as the impacts of digitalization and innovation, are apparent. To address some of the changes and be at the forefront of action, in October 2022, FOREST EUROPE held a workshop on seasonal migration in the forest sector, shedding light on an often-neglected topic. Novel Green Forest Jobs are another emerging topic, for which there is little data yet, but which is highly relevant for the competitiveness of the forest sector. A report published in May 2024 gives first insights on the status quo. Work was also done towards an update of the indicator 6.5 (Forest sector workforce). The revised indicator was proposed to more fully capture the forest-related employment which makes the contribution to economies and societies possible. A report with the main findings of this work will be published by the end of 2024.

The expert discussions also covered diverse topics e.g. gender equality, innovation and digitalization in the forest

sector and future working modalities to keep the sector competitive. Regular online and in-person meetings enabled the experts to work efficiently, share best practice examples from their countries and keep the topic on top of the agenda. Fostering intergenerational dialogue was one of the key concerns of work-stream 3, to ensure the inclusion of young people in the decision-making process. Actions to promote enhanced cooperation included a total of [five webinars](#) on

topics like career guidance, green jobs, innovation in the forest sector and forest education in Europe and Africa. Additionally, FOREST EUROPE teamed up with the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA) to organize the [Youth Forest Policy Days](#) in December 2022. This event was the first of a kind, giving the next generation the opportunity to learn about international policy frames, their benefits and achievements, and to network with professionals.



Expert Group Meeting on Green Jobs during the workshop "How to attract the workforce of tomorrow" in Stockholm, 07.06.2022.

It was a key task of this workstream to increase the visibility of FOREST EUROPE among forestry students as the next generation of decision-makers. Therefore, a series of was created explaining the added value and necessity of FOREST EUROPE. The contribution on gender equality, diversity and inclusion in forestry-related sectors in April 2024 highlighted the work of FOREST EUROPE regarding gender equality and equal access to knowledge and work. Certainly, the inclusion of forestry students at the 9th Ministerial Conference in October 2024 was a highlight of the cooperation. The students will present a position paper expressing their views on the Ministerial Documents. They will outline how these documents reflect their vision of the

future and where they see opportunities to make meaningful contributions. To understand all needs and to connect organizations, individuals and partners, networking is indispensable. Therefore, members of the workstream participated in national and international conferences and meetings and supported students. Two new observer organizations joined the FOREST EUROPE process, namely the [SILVA network](#) working with higher education in forestry, and [Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald Bundesverband e. V. \(SDW\)](#), working on education for sustainable development and the protection of forests.

Key outputs of workstream 3 sorted by the type of policy tool can be found in table 3.

Table 3: Key outputs of workstream 3

Policy tool	Output
I. Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of Green Forest Jobs (adopted at the Expert Level Meeting in Bonn, in 2022) • Report Green Forest Jobs in the pan-European region, published in cooperation with the Thuenen Institute in 2022 • Policy brief corresponding to previous report • EXPERT GROUP GREEN JOBS policy recommendations published in 2024 • Report “NOVEL GREEN FOREST JOBS IN PAN-EUROPE”, published in May 2024 • Position paper on their views on the Ministerial documents • Report on indicators
II. Social media activities and professional communication products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two communication campaigns promoting attractive job opportunities: Grow Green Jobs in 2022 and Novel Green Forest Jobs in 2024 • Content was uploaded on the TreE-learning platform of the International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
III. Reference pools and expert networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert group on Green Jobs with expert group meetings • Together with IFSA organized the Youth Forest Policy Days in December 2022 • Inclusion of forest students at the 9th Ministerial Conference in October 2024, they presented a position paper on their views on the ministerial documents • Participation in International Forestry Students' Symposium (IFSS) in August 2023, Tharandter talks in September 2023, and 17th European Forest Pedagogics Congress in September 2023
IV. Capacity building and knowledge exchange via workshops and webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop on seasonal migration in the forest sector, October 2022 • Five webinars on topics such as career guidance, green jobs, innovation in the forest sector and forest education in Europe and Africa • Enhancing the visibility of FOREST EUROPE among forestry students, a series of workshops was held on gender equality, diversity and inclusion in forestry-related sectors in April 2024

Conclusion and Outlook

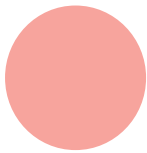
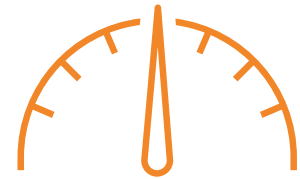
Green jobs and forest education should remain high on the political agenda. Therefore, it is recommended to continue the work with the expert group. Specific topics could be addressed on request and the network should be kept alive. Furthermore, the work on indicators (here: indicators 6.5 Forest sector workforce and 6.6 Occupational safety and health) can be taken up and finalized.

Finally, the active collaboration with IFSA brings benefits for both students and FOREST EUROPE. Keeping up the dialogue with the next generation of decision-makers and listening to their needs is crucial in order to make the sector attractive. Close collaboration with the focal point of IFSA is therefore strongly recommended.



Team from LUBo and IFSA organizing the Youth Forest Policy Days in Bonn, 01.12.2022.

Rapid Response Mechanism



Introduction, background, status quo

FOREST EUROPE created the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to help FOREST EUROPE signatories and observers to develop timely reactions to challenges that are high on the pan-European and international forest policy agenda. These challenges include climate change and the biodiversity crisis among others and threaten not only our forest ecosystems but also our lives and those of future generations. It is therefore imperative that we react to emerging issues as swiftly as possible.

LUBo keeps the RRM constantly active to screen news, identify issues and develop communication outputs and events of high relevance for signatories and observers. By developing the High-Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD), RRM provided a platform enabling open and informal conversation among high-level stakeholders on emerging issues, presenting their national experiences and challenges, based on the latest scientific findings. HLPDs support signatories and observers in developing prompt reactions and strategies in their regions.



Introduction to the first High-Level Policy Dialogue in Bonn, 30.08.2022

Implementation actions

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in 2023, as well as the 2019 report, highlight that climate change is causing pressure on forests and loss of biodiversity. Maintaining and enhancing forest biodiversity is high on the policy agenda. It is not a new topic, but it needs a refreshed angle to balance different

demands and enable FOREST EUROPE members to adapt and implement sustainable forest management practices in the future. Therefore, the 2022 High-Level Policy Dialogue “Sustainable Forest Management: unlocking forest biodiversity’s potential”, organized in Bonn, gathered several high-level national and observer organization representatives to showcase their experiences and elaborate ways



forward, such as developing different pathways depending on the legacy, local conditions and socio-economic values of forests.

During the HLPD 2022, FOREST EUROPE signatories showed their support and solidarity with Ukraine, endorsing the

[Bonn Ministerial Decision “Supporting the recovery and sustainable management of Ukrainian forests and its forest sector”](#). This joint decision established an initiative of one year, led by LUBo, creating an active network of national and international experts to discuss current challenges, exchange



First online workshop on the support to the recovery of Ukrainian forests, 07.12.2022.

experiences, mobilize resources and propose a possible way forward to recover Ukraine’s forests and its sector during and after the war. Regular workshops and training were some of the activities at the focus (e.g. a fire prevention workshop was held online with more than 100 participants). LUBo published a [“Status quo report”](#) based on reliable sources, with the support of Ms. Liubov Poliakova, as a starting point. The [final report](#), published later, contains concrete policy recommendations and is based on the country’s needs and experts’ interactions. It aims to guide policymakers in the recovery process. More information can be found on our website [Updates on Ukrainian forest status - FOREST EUROPE](#).

LUBo concluded this initiative as planned in August 2023, handing over all relevant information to the FAO Office in Kiev to further support Ukraine in mobilizing resources and developing a forest strategy.

In 2023 LUBo organized the second High-

Level Policy Dialogue [“Growing healthier forests: How can Sustainable Forest Management enhance resilience?”](#) based on the signatories’ needs and due to the increasing frequency of cross-border natural hazards such as windstorms, fires and bark beetles, for examples. High-level speakers touched on SFM as a fundamental framework for contributing to greater resilience, showcasing their experiences and challenges, and stressing the need to improve collaboration and open dialogue with each other for joint actions.

The RRM played a crucial role in supporting youth in understanding forest policies and processes in Europe and beyond through the planning of the [Youth Forest Policy Days](#). The two-day event raised awareness of FE, strengthened collaboration and increased visibility for the FE process.

Key outputs of RRM sorted by the type of policy tool can be found in Table 4.

Table 4: Key outputs of RRM sorted by the type of policy tool

Policy tool	Output
I. Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st HLPD “Sustainable Forest Management: unlocking forest biodiversity’s potential”: policy recommendations • LUBo publication “Status quo report” • Followed by final report - to guide policymakers in the recovery process • 2nd HLPD “Growing Healthier Forests: How can Sustainable Forest Management enhance resilience?”: policy brief
II. Social media activities and professional communication products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On website Updates on Ukrainian forest status - FOREST EUROPE • Social media campaign for HLPDs promotion (pre and post event) • Social media campaign showing the actual status of Ukraine’s forest and forest sector with videos from different stakeholders
III. Reference pools and expert networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukraine initiative: experts’ workshops (for example FOREST EUROPE Ukraine initiative: 2nd experts’ workshop - FOREST EUROPE) • FE first High-Level Policy Dialogue in 2022, “Sustainable Forest Management: unlocking forest biodiversity’s potential” take home messages • FE second High-Level Policy Dialogue in 2023 “Growing healthier forests: How can Sustainable Forest Management enhance resilience?” with take home messages
IV. Capacity building and knowledge exchange via workshops and webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular workshops during the Ukraine initiative e.g. a fire prevention workshop was held online with more than 100 participants • Planning of the Youth Forest Policy Days

Conclusion and Outlook

Regarding current threats to pan-European and international forests, there is an urgent need for more coordinated and faster reactions on emerging topics. It could be necessary to allocate more resources and effort to increase FOREST EUROPE's visibility with more differentiated activities, to promptly react to issues relevant to pan-European countries (e.g. thematic webinar series, press release, policy brief, thematic social media campaign).

Therefore, it is highly recommended to keep HLPD "alive" in the coming years. The format's innovative and interactive features attracted the interest of FE signatories and observers. LUBo will ensure a smooth hand-over to the Swedish colleagues.

Generally, it is crucial to identify emerging issues. Identifying a "common" issue for the entire region is sometimes challenging; therefore LUBo, the FE signatories and observers should maintain and ensure constant and close contact with each other.



Welcome words from the German Minister of Food and Agriculture, Cem Özdemir, at the second High-Level Policy Dialogue in Berlin, 09.11.2023



Introduction, background, status quo

In the world of policymaking, where decisions shape our future, effective communication is key. FOREST EUROPE’s 2021-2024 communications strategy aimed to protect our forests by informing, inspiring and fostering collaboration among policymakers, relevant stakeholders and the public. Therefore, LUBo’s mission was to use effective and innovative communication tools to both ensure the visibility of the work and highlight its importance for

motivating pan-European policymakers to further engage in meaningful dialogues. By building a supportive network, we ensured our forests will thrive for generations to come.

The message to communicate to the world was clear: FOREST EUROPE is a platform for dialogue and collaboration on sustainable forest management, highlighting its crucial role in maintaining the ecological, economic and socio-cultural functions of forests.



Take-home messages from the FoRISK workshop “Communicating the importance of Sustainable Forest Management to prevent wildfires” in Barcelona, 09.02.023

Implementation actions

During the four years of the German chairmanship of FOREST EUROPE, the communication efforts were strategically aligned with the primary goal of enhancing visibility for the process and its outputs. Recognizing the importance of a robust communication strategy, two communication officers from the EFI were hired with the mission to develop and implement a specific

communication strategy for the work programme and to form a dedicated communication team to ensure effective outreach and engagement.

LUBo made use of traditional and innovative communication tools to reach the five defined key audiences with tailored messages (policymakers, forest management stakeholders, academia, media, public, and later even school students). The overarching objective was

clear: to inspire policymakers to deepen their engagement in the political process. While it is difficult to directly measure this engagement, tangible results have been observed in terms of increased visibility, as demonstrated by increased traffic to the FOREST EUROPE website content, followers and interactions on social media channels.

Engaging policymakers

To capture the attention of policymakers, they were provided with essential, science-based background information supporting their decisions in political debates. Therefore, specific topics with clear recommendations and implications were addressed. Through High-Level Policy Dialogues (HLPDs), policy briefs,



Livestream of the first High-Level Policy Dialogue, 30.08.2022

and carefully crafted publications, LUBO ensured that policymakers were well-informed and equipped to advocate for sustainable forest management. The engagement further ranged from Expert Level Meetings (ELM) to the organization and promotion of the 9th Ministerial Conference to facilitate in-depth discussions. Additionally, a regular internal newsletter, "Mail Plus", and strategic use of social media kept signatories and observers connected and informed.

Connecting with forest management-related stakeholders

For those practically involved in forest management, interactive and informative material was created to facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration. A podcast series

showcased best practice during emerging challenges related to forests and their sustainability, such as the climate change, biodiversity crisis and pest diseases, offering an accessible way to share insights and experiences. Additionally, this tool was used to spotlight Eastern European member countries, whose work is sometimes less publicized than that of other countries. Furthermore, diverse workshops and webinars provided hands-on opportunities for learning and networking. The FOREST EUROPE website served as a central hub of information, presenting information in a clear and accessible manner. A more storytelling approach aimed at keeping readers interested in the topic, enabling them to identify with the FOREST EUROPE visions and stay connected. This was complemented by quarterly

external newsletters, which promoted the latest updates and informed subscribers about upcoming events.

Engaging academia

To connect with the academic community, digital platforms were used to promote knowledge exchange and share the latest research findings. FOREST EUROPE's Webinar series "From the Roots to the Canopy" (recordings can be found on the FOREST EUROPE YouTube channel) became a strategic cornerstone, offering interactive sessions where students, researchers and practitioners could engage with experts and peers to get involved, present their work and engage in meaningful discussions.

Recognizing the importance of youth involvement, LUBo actively involved students through various initiatives, including co-organizing the Youth Forest Policy Days with IFSA and integrating students into HLPDs and ELMs, where they gained insights and contributed through interviews and blog posts.

Additionally, specific campaigns under the Green Jobs and Forest Education workstream ensured that academia and youth were not only informed but actively engaged in forest conservation and policy, fostering a vibrant, knowledgeable and motivated community.

Reaching media and public

Information through a variety of online and offline channels was offered, making it easier for journalists to find information on social media and search engines. Offline activities included media workshops and capacity-building

training (one on wildfire communication and one on the migration of seasonal workers in forestry) to foster closer relationships with journalists and deepen our understanding of their needs.

Due to limited resources and our focus on launching and implementing initiatives, expanding direct press contacts was challenging. Despite this, national events were highlighted. By using the mailing list and communication network of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, joint press releases were published that captured media interest, ensuring events received the coverage they deserved. This strategic approach allowed us to maintain visibility and engage the press effectively despite our constraints.

Inspiring children and students

When taking a closer look at the youth target audience, it became apparent that there are not enough people entering the fields of forest science or considering careers as foresters. To address this gap, it was decided to broaden the scope by targeting young students who are about to graduate from school and contemplating their career options.

Reaching this digitally oriented audience required a creative approach. Therefore, an engaging and interactive digital comic was created. This comic aims to inform young readers about sustainable forest management in a fun and interactive way, while also raising awareness about both traditional and novel Green Forest Jobs. Our goal was not to create a handbook or schoolbook but to generate interest and curiosity about the forest sector through entertainment.

Building bridges with international organizations

Engaging in joint dialogue with international organizations was crucial for reaching all stakeholders involved in forest management. Active participation in strategic events and meetings with these organizations effectively communicated and promoted the objectives of FOREST EUROPE. These events allowed us to gain social, business and political support, ensuring that our efforts in forest conservation were aligned and supported on a global scale.

The Communications team provided extensive support for all HLPDs, ELMs, workshops, webinars, and other activities and events in close collaboration with the FOREST EUROPE workstream leaders. This support included proactive promotion and visibility through diverse and comprehensive social media campaigns. Published materials of all workstreams were not only actively promoted and disseminated across all FOREST EUROPE channels but were also professionally designed and laid out to enhance their visual appeal and impact. In addition, the podcast series and the digital comic were innovative communication products developed to engage the audience in new and dynamic ways.

Conclusion and Outlook

By tailoring our communication tools to the specific needs of

each audience, LUBo effectively conveyed FOREST EUROPE's messages, fostered collaboration and motivated deeper engagement in the dialogue surrounding sustainable forest management and policy. This strategic approach ensured that efforts during the German chairmanship of FOREST EUROPE not only reached but resonated with the key audiences.

The communication strategy aimed to go beyond simply disseminating information; it was about building bridges, fostering understanding and paving the way for a sustainable future.

As the secretariat prepares for handover to Sweden as the next chair of FOREST EUROPE by the end of 2024, it is highly recommended to maintain or even strengthen the focus on communication, looking towards the future. This includes engaging with national and international media and expanding the network to gain greater visibility and action in the pan-European region. Various channels, including social media, webinars, workshops, High-Level Policy Dialogues and outreach campaigns, have been established and can continue to be utilized to convey FOREST EUROPE's crucial messages and the ongoing progress in the journey towards a greener and more sustainable future for our forests.

Part 2: Implementation of Ministerial Commitments of the 8th Ministerial Conference 2021 at national level

Introduction

This part of the implementation report reflects the implementation of those commitments of the 8th Ministerial Conference by 24 signatory countries and by 3 observer organizations. It furthermore shows ongoing or future planned activities that are highly relevant to the FOREST EUROPE process. Therefore, the countries and observers' national focal points were asked to report on the implementation of the Bratislava work programme carried out by joint forces of their country or organization during the period of the German chairmanship between 2021 and 2024. The content reflects the position of those contributors.

The national reports are presented in an alphabetical order and as received from individual countries.

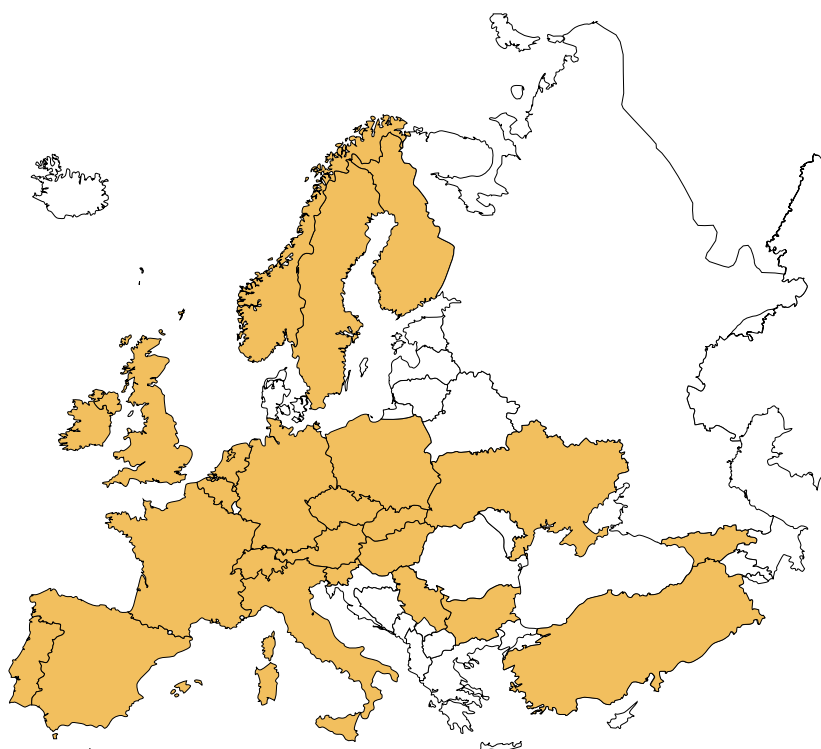
The following countries provided national reports:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria

- Czechia
- Finland
- France
- Georgia
- Germany
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Republic of Serbia
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Türkiye
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

The following observer organizations provided reports:

- CEPF
- EUSTAFOR
- IFSA
- Yeşil Türkiye





Austria

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

In 2020, Austria initiated the Austrian Forest Fund, a large subsidy program, with a volume of 350 million euros with the overarching goal to promote and strengthen healthy and resilient forests that are fit for the future. The subsidies are based on ten measures, for instance measures on reforestation, promoting and preserving biodiversity, preventing calamities, promoting sustainable use of wood, and on research. Due to its importance for the forest-based sector, the Austrian Forest Fund was increased by an additional amount of 100 million euros in 2023 (in total: EUR 450 Mio).

To enhance and further develop sustainable forest management and to achieve climate resilient forests, the national forest law was amended at the end of 2023. The amendments include several measures such as adapting forests to climate change, compensating forest owners in case of forest fires and improving forestry education.

Through continuous promotion of various (research) projects that encompass resilience, sustainability, preservation, forest and biodiversity monitoring and indicators, among others, successful projects and tools emerged that enhance climate resilience and adaptation for forests. This includes for instance the “tree species traffic light” (Baumartenampel), which is a scientific tool that proposes suitable trees for diverse spatial areas to create climate resilient forests for the future.



In order to foster public awareness and a vibrant stakeholder exchange, various formats such as the national forest dialogue (Walddialog) are conducted, where all relevant actors are involved in enhancing the national forest policy and respective long-term visions and goals for the sake of national forests.

The national forest strategy (“Österreichische Waldstrategie 2020+”), which serves as a strategic framework for sustainable forest management and for promoting the multifunctionality of Austrian forests, was profoundly evaluated based on its effectiveness. The results of the evaluation were presented in 2022 and include certain recommendations for improvements concerning the depth of the strategic framework. Since then, these recommendations have been actively addressed to strengthen the strategy and its respective goals, which are also linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Together with Finland, the European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP) was initiated in 2022 to foster and promote wood-based policy dialogue as well as frameworks for sustainable wood-based value chains contributing to the circular bioeconomy.





To counteract threats leading to biodiversity loss and to promote measures that center on the preservation and promotion of biodiversity, Austria implemented a national biodiversity strategy called “Biodiversitäts-Strategie Österreich 2030+” in 2022.

The programme “Protective Forest Action Programme - Forest Protects Us!” addresses numerous challenges in protective forests and offers solutions and strategies in forest management as well as research and science.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

As mentioned before, one of the main instruments to promote climate adaptation and resilience of forests is the 450-million-euro subsidy programme, the Austrian Forest Fund, that grants subsidies based on ten measures such as research and forest adaptation.

Another crucial step towards climate adaptation of forests was the amendment of the national forest law in 2023 to reinforce measures for adaptation and resilience and to strengthen sustainable forest management.

Austria promotes various research projects concerning forest resilience, adaptation, preservation, among others, mainly through the Federal Austrian Research Centre for Forests (BFW). One specific project is the “Assisted Migration” that focuses on the relocation of certain tree species due to climate change towards suitable conditions for them to preserve these tree species and enhance climate adaptation.

The domestic “Forest Fire Action Programme” has the tagline “Awareness - Prevention - Control” and includes measures for forest fire management as well as prevention through research, adapted forest management and a focus on raising awareness.

National Forest area management projects (FWP) are a successful model for the improvement and restoration of object protective forests, financed by the Austrian disaster relief fund. The projects offer sustainable safety for the alpine habitat, are implemented by the Austrian Service for Torrent and Avalanche Control and the Provincial Forestry Service in close cooperation.

Forestry is an integral part of the rural development and thus of the Austrian CAP strategic plan (national implementation of EU’s common agricultural policy). Promoting sustainable and climate-friendly land use includes the development of forest areas and the sustainable management of forests. The Austrian CAP strategic plan supports sustainable forest management by promoting biodiversity and the adaptation of forests to changing climatic conditions as well as forest protection measures and protection against natural hazards.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Austria has various bilateral cooperation and Memorandum of Understandings within the pan-European region (and beyond) to share best practices and knowledge concerning sustainable forest management across countries. For instance, a cooperation with Georgia concerning sustainable forest management, forest policy and





climate change that includes visits of expert groups, field trips and online presentations, and a Ukrainian - Austrian cooperation concerning the strengthening of the Ukrainian forest sector, including technical training for experts.

On international level, Austria actively contributes to the European Expert Group for Forest Fires (EGFF) of the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and actively participates in the FAO working groups on Hazards and Disaster Risk Management in Mountains and Protective Function of Forests.

Together with Finland, Austria initiated the European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP) that actively and continuously fosters and promotes frameworks for sustainable wood-based value chains contributing to the circular bioeconomy.





Belgium

Brussels Region (RB)

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

The vital role of the Sonian forest and other smaller forested areas in the Brussels Region was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a positive effect on public health and well-being but locally negative effects on the forest and its biodiversity: wild paths and over-recreation, unleashed dogs and negative effects on roe deer population (predation with more than 30 casualties on an estimated population of a few hundred individuals in one year's time). Sustainable forest management as the basis of managing and maintaining the UNESCO world heritage status of parts of the forest in a favorable state of conservation, is crucial to realise N2000 goals and essential to mitigate climate change. FSC-certification emphasises this for the Sonian Forest. Actual management of the Sonian Forest has been stated in a guidance document adopted by 18 countries as a tool for sustainable forestry of the buffer zone (almost the entire Sonian Forest) installed around the UNESCO-sites. Forest research and monitoring (dendrometrical, ecological, tree health of several key trees species) is an ongoing process. Stakeholder involvement is crucial and beneficial for the understanding of the ongoing management of the forest. The Sonian Forest and other forested properties are essential as cooling islands and carbon sinks in an urban context. To emphasize this role, we are actually increasing



carbon sequestration (only one third of the annual growth is harvested) and dead wood amounts are increasing. Proactive science-policy wants to strengthen the ecological value. To reach that a new forestry legislation has been proposed to the local government (to replace the old one dating back to 1854). The permanent forest cover protects soil and soil patrimony, erosion and degradation and is extremely important for the local hydrology and water reserves locally exploited for the Brussels region. The presence of officially labelled seed stands for ash, beech, black pine and pedunculate oak represents an important genetic patrimony. Forest defragmentation (internally and externally) are key elements in preserving biodiversity for bats and other mammals, amphibians, reptiles, mollusks and insects. A sustainable supply of wood should encourage a local and circular economy in development.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Creation of species rich soft forest edges (>20 km of length). Mixing trees species and introducing climate resilient indigenous tree species at a rate of 1% of the surface each year. Using maximal



natural regeneration of climate resilient tree species is considered as a major issue in management. Creating multilayered tree stands in a continuous cover forest management and abandoning all kinds of clearcuts. Single tree selection systems are almost everywhere, the key forest management actions. These multilayered tree stands, together with soft forest edges, mixing resilient tree species and a dynamic management in the single tree selection system makes forest stands more stable facing storm, fire, drought, pests and diseases. Increment of dead wood volumes at a rate of about 1m³/ha/year have in ten years of time augmented the dead wood presence from 20 to more than 30 m³/ha. Enlarging the non-intervention zones close to the forest reserve units and setting aside islands have been created and maintained. Closing unofficial paths. Raising public awareness in collaboration with the other regions within the Sonian forest and elsewhere in the Brussel Region. The annual “Day of the Forest” reaches out to hundreds of participants. Guided explanatory tours in the forest with local visitors are organised at a rate of at least two times a year. In order to explain the annual wood harvest naturalist associations are invited to an explanatory visit to the forest. Avoiding pollution to get into the forest by installing and maintaining local retention and acting to eliminate the sources of pollution.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

We hope to install a new ecobridge to connect two parts of the Sonian forest. Moreover, we want to extend the non-intervention zone by more than 100 ha. In a Life project (Life’s a beech), we are working internationally together on

making the forest more climate resilient. The Life project B4B works together with the other concerned regions in the Sonian forest in order to stimulate, develop and augment the biodiversity within the Sonian forest. Additionally, we aim to strengthen the green and blue network inside of the Brussels region to mitigate fragmentation. Furthermore, a new forest law should facilitate management and guarantee a better preservation of the forests inside the Brussels region. Finally, the recent creation of the National Park “Brabantse Wouden” should enhance ecological connectivity of the Sonian forest with the Meerdaalwoud and the Hallerbos to strengthen biodiversity and resilience of the forest.

Walloon Region (RW)

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

- Forestry strategy: From 2022 to 2024, Wallonia conducted the Assises de la forêt in order to develop a regional forestry strategy. It consisted of a broad consultation process that was created in order to be able to make recommendations to preserve Walloon forests through numerous workshops. It is the result of collective intelligence work carried out by more than 60 stakeholders related to the forest and its timber sector. The results of this work will be implemented shortly.
- *Yes, we plant*: At the initiative of the previous Walloon Government, a “Yes we plant” hedge planting aid programme was initiated. It encourages planting but also offers a whole series of services aimed at



removing the obstacles to planting. On this occasion, more than 4000 km of hedges and 1 million trees were planted.

- Logyard/Log Park: In order to promote a short supply chain for high-quality hardwood, the Walloon Region has set up the Walloon Log Park. It brings together, on the same site located in the forest, the most beautiful deciduous logs selected from the Walloon Forest for cabinetmakers, coopers or sawyers in search of exceptional wood. Its very high-quality tree logs are sold to local buyers or from neighbouring countries.
- Cycling in the forest: The Walloon Region has developed the ChasseOnWeb tool, a map application available to the public, listing hunting territories and the dates of hunting in Wallonia. The Walloon Region has also set up Trail Centres with safe, marked trails adapted to mountain bikes. An in-depth reflection is also underway to improve signage in the forest.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

- Revival of forest genetics: Wallonia has decided to recreate a reference centre in forest genetics by entrusting this task to the Wallonia Agricultural Research Centre. The aim of this cluster will be to develop research in forest genetics and the adaptation of forest species to climate change and to develop resources for the supply of reproductive material while planning its supply.
- Resilient forest: As part of the Recovery Plan, Wallonia launched the “Resilient Forest” programme in

2021 to offer assistance to Walloon Forest owners to rebuild a more resilient forest. The purpose of this regional support is to diversify the small stands and to guide regeneration to establish a forest made up of a mixture of species adapted to climate changes.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

- Five-Year Forest Research Plan: In accordance with its Forest Code, the Walloon Region pursues the coordination of forest research within Wallonia to ensure the acquisition of the scientific knowledge necessary for the sustainable management of the forest. Climate change and all related disruptions will be the major theme of the programme for the next five years.
- Crisis management: The Walloon region is currently implementing a strategy to prevent and combat disturbances (fires, extreme climatic events, biotic phenomena).
- Financial support from the Walloon Region: To improve sustainable forest management and maintain the multifunctionality of forest, Wallonia has developed various financial supports. The Walloon Region has set up incentives to increase the proportion of PEFC or FSC-certified forests. The Walloon Region has supported the logging by horses through awareness-raising and training for managers and owners. As part of the Recovery Plan for Wallonia, the Walloon Region has set up projects to revitalise, modernise and diversify the entire local hardwood processing sector in Wallonia, by integrating supply and marketing issues (Project 107) and to



support research and development of solutions for forest adaptation to climate change (Project 108).

Flemish Region (VL)

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration „The forests we want, the future we need

Forest policy in the Flemish Region (VL) was already sufficiently in line with the Bratislava commitments. Sustainability, multifunctionality and integrated approaches are the basis for regional forest policy. Since the focus of the Bratislava conference was in particular on: contributing to the implementation of Natura 2000 objectives and targets, ambitious afforestation targets in line with land use planning (+ 7% enlargement of forest area till 2030); further promoting integrated management planning for forests with increased ambition for biodiversity objectives, installation of 4 national parks in which forests are the structural backbone, increased support for investments in social function of forests and several initiatives on promoting local use of high quality timber.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

In VL attention to adjusting policies and management practices in response to climate change were already high on the agenda. Efforts have been continued or are increasing. Policy-science projects are set up in order to promote climate smart forest management and a more tree-focused forest management practice. Tree-oriented forest management is

an adaptive form of nature-oriented forest management in which decisions about management interventions and functional fulfilment are mainly taken on the spot or concrete location and therefore much less at parcel or stand level or at forest landscape level. With each thinning or other intervention, we first look at what is present and work from there. In this way, the realisation of objectives regarding the harvesting of high-quality wood and nature objectives can be done simultaneously. It is also possible to respond more quickly to new developments and insights such as how to deal with the impact of climate change, invasive exotic species and soil compaction or degradation. Several manuals are available, and training programmes are running. Exchange of information and experiences with neighboring regions are undertaken. Based on experiences with forest management, similar programmes are developed for the conservation and sustainable management of other ecosystems like heathland vegetation, grasslands and wetlands. Policy work in relation to long term suitable tree species and provenances is intensified. Example of dissemination of knowledge through e-means (only available in Dutch: <https://www.ecopedia.be/klimaat-en-natuurbeheer>)

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Increased attention for interaction with the broader public in order to get forest management much more accepted. Work on developing insights and approaches towards the concept of ‘restoring degraded forest ecosystems’ in a European context. Increased cooperation with other regional processes on issues of mutual interest, also in connection to the implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests.





Bulgaria

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Forest planning in Bulgaria covers all forest territories and, according to the Forest Law, is performed at three levels: National Strategy for the Development of the Forestry Sector and a Strategic Plan; Regional Plans; and Forestry plans and programs.

The main principles observed in forest management are maintaining a mixed species composition of the forests; protection of the habitats of forest animals and birds; preservation of valuable tree species and trees from the periphery of the forest and finally preservation of species diversity and their genetic resources.

The network of forest base sources represents 0.92% of the total forested area and covers all forest vegetation belts and valuable genetic resources. It includes over 2765 seed stands, 74 forest nurseries, 56 seed orchards and Gene bank conserving 44 tree and shrub species.

Forests in Natura 2000 network are approximately 55% of all forest territories and are managed in accordance with specifically developed guidelines. They preserve more than 80% of the endangered plants and more than 60% of the endangered animal species.

Extensive work was done on selection and designation of old-growth forests, which up to now consist of 111 000 ha.



Moreover, sufficient efforts were made in the last years concerning the protection of forests from pests, diseases and forest fires. The annual forest pathology survey and the respective analysis on the necessary preventive actions with regard to attacks by pests, diseases and other damages are based on recent scientific research and exchange of experience in the frames on national and international fora. Under the Rural development programme (RDP) 2014-2020, 9 new fire observation towers were constructed in the most fire vulnerable regions. Significant results in preventing illegal logging were achieved after the introduction of electronic systems for monitoring and control of timber harvesting and transportation. It is constantly improved and extended with new functionalities.

Finally, recognizing the key role of sustainable forestry for development of circular bioeconomy the Executive Forest Agency is a partner in the project “CEE2ACT” under HORIZON Program aiming to support countries in Central Eastern Europe to develop circular bioeconomy strategies and action plans through innovative governance models.



National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

As 89% of the forests in Bulgaria are public, it is imperative to increase the awareness and gain the support of local communities in protection of forest ecosystems by actively communicating the necessary measures for their adaptation to climate change. Key roles in this regard play the directorates of the 11 Nature parks and the scientific institutions. The University of Forestry executes two projects related to climate change adaptation: The first named “Agroforestry practices in the Western Balkans for sustainable development: weaknesses and strengths” - AGFORWEB, aiming to promote agroforestry training as a form of sustainable land use that can contribute to mitigating the impact of climate change and improving the environment, preserving the landscape and biodiversity. The second project “INTRuST: INnovative TRaining Solutions for certified wood in furniture, timber, building and foreSTry sectors” is under the Erasmus+ Program with the main goal to increase the professional competences of specialists from the wood processing and furniture industry, forestry, employees and managers of companies dealing with wood and/or building certification, organizations in the field of education and training, related to wood certification.

Forest shelterbelts proved to be one of the most successful methods for preventing soil erosion and degradation in the plain regions of the country. As part of the process on their recovery in Northern Bulgaria, the Forest Research Institute performed monitoring on the

condition of 190 belts covering an area of 9900 ha and jointly with the Sofia University developed mobile application for data collection. According to a project under the LIFE programme with leading partner Executive Forest Agency, a regional programme is to be developed, which will lay the foundation for a complex improvement of the condition of the belts and their restoration.

The Forest Seed Control Station in Sofia and EFA participate in a project under the Horizon program “OptFORESTS Harnessing forest genetic resources for increasing options in the face of environmental and societal challenges”. The common goal is the protection and sustainable use of forest genetic resources, through better knowledge of the characteristics of genetic resources in the context of climate change, adaptive and sustainable practices related to biodiversity in forestry and increasing Europe’s ambition in the international biodiversity agenda and international conventions.

The Nature Park Directorates implement 9 projects related to protection and conservation of endangered plant and animal species, as well as reintroduction and improving the status of birds of prey as black vulture, bearded vulture, golden eagle and lesser spotted eagle. The conservation measures are combined with continuous events presenting environmental issues to children, students and different social target groups.

EFA and its regional structures actively develop Forest Pedagogy as a successful approach to promote forestry activities for environmental protection and improvement. In 2023, 788 events with the participation of more than 19 000



children were organized. In September 2024 Bulgaria has hosted the 18th European Forest Pedagogics Congress.

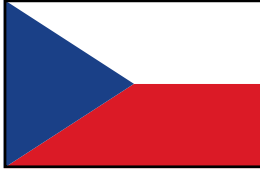
Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Bulgaria is in the process of adopting a new National Strategy for the development of the Forest Sector until 2030 and consequent development of new Strategic plan.

We have started the development of the methodology for the National Forest inventory, which will complement the existing inventory of all forest territories as a basis for approval of the forest management plans and programmes. The Executive Forest Agency works on the development of an Ordinance for payment of forest ecosystem services in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Act.

Bulgaria will continue to support the work of FOREST EUROPE and provide information on the Qualitative and Quantitative Q providing the basis for the regular report State of European Forests.





Czechia

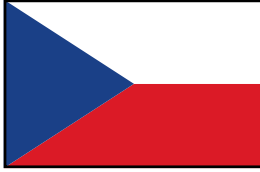
National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

- Implementation of the State Forest Policy until 2030, preparation of strategic implementing document.
- Preparation of the National Wood Policy (which was adopted by the government in June 2024). The main goals of the strategy are:
 - Provide enough domestically produced timber for local wood-processing industry and process more wood in the country.
 - Prioritize efficient use of wood in the long-lived products with high added value.
 - Increase the use of wood in construction sector to capture more carbon in the long-term, including prioritizing wood in public construction and reconstruction projects.
 - Make up to 25 % of new family houses of wood in 2035.
- Adoption of The Research, Development and Innovation Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2023 – 2032 (2022). It is divided into 3 key areas – bioeconomy, smart agriculture and global changes in the biosphere; among the crosscutting topics are forestry and forest economy and policy.
- Preparation of a new state aid in favor of adaptation of forests to climate change (to be yet introduced).
- Preparation of the amendments of Forest Act and Game Management



- Act are underway; expected to be adopted this year. The main changes in the Forest Act are provisions for easier adaptation of forests to climate change, simplification of obligations for forest owners and introduction of payments for forest ecosystem services. The amendments of Game Management Act focus on strengthening the role of owner and state administration in the management of game with a goal to reduce damage of trees by browsing, as a basic precondition to successful restoration of forests after bark-beetle damage and adaptation of forests to climate change.
- Preparations for the implementation of the EU deforestation regulation (EUDR), amendment to the act on placing timber and timber products on the market.
 - End of 10-year effort to identify all insufficiently identified owners in the cadaster for all properties; forest plots with still unidentifiable owners are currently being transferred to the state forest company. This process ensures all forest property in Czechia to have an identified owner and therefore can be subject to sustainable forest management.





National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution „Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change“

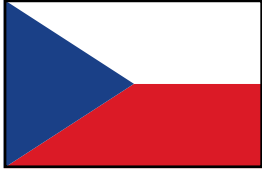
- Several changes proposed in the amendment to the Forest Act are based on the experience gained while dealing with catastrophic drought and subsequent bark-beetle outbreak in past years. To contain and recover from the calamity and help forest owners and managers, some provisions of the Forest Act were temporarily simplified in order to support sustainable forest management and adaptation of forests to climate change. As simplification was well adopted and proved to be working, it is now proposed as a permanent approach.
- Revision and strengthening of the forest wildfire prevention, preparedness and containment system.
- Implementation of state forest policy is supported by the state aid system. The state aid to forest owners was multiplied in the period of drought and bark beetle outbreak (overall CZK 26,2 bill., i.e. EUR 1 bill., was provided in 2018-2023). In 2023, the support for forest management in private and municipal forests was approx. CZK 4,6 bill. (EUR 184 mill.) and included subsidies for forest regeneration (planting of ameliorative and stabilizing species), thinning, pruning, soil-friendly harvesting machinery and practices, forest planning and digitalization of forest management plans, protection against pests, fires, education and training as well as advisory services for forest owners.
- Bark beetle compensation payment for forest owners was introduced at

the peak of the calamity to partially compensate owners and provide them with finances to keep caring for their forests and reforest the affected forest stands (CZK 12,9 bill., i.e. EUR 516 mill.).

- The National Programme for Protection and Reproduction of Forest Genetic Resources continues to support the regeneration of forests. The financial support was CZK 20,1 mill. (EUR 804 000) in 2021 and CZK 17,9 mill. (EUR 716 000) in 2023.
- During the Czech Presidency in the Council of the EU, one of the sectoral priorities was “Preventing deforestation and promoting sustainable forest management” with two events focused on forest monitoring.
- Finally, Czechia participated and co-organized with LUBo the FOREST EUROPE ForISK workshop “Managing biotic threats in forests - lessons learned from bark beetle calamities” in May/June 2023.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

- Legislative and strategic activities (amendments to Forest Act, Game Management Act, Act on Placing Timber and Timber Products on the Market; implementation of State Forest Policy and National Wood Policy).
- Support to recovery of the forest sector of Ukraine: the project in cooperation with Ukraine called “Strengthening the forest monitoring capacity of Ukraine for EU Compliance” (04/2024-03/2026; budget of CZK 18,6 mill., i.e. EUR 744 000). Its main objective is to contribute to a comprehensive



forest monitoring system in Ukraine and improving the quality of forest data.

- The Czech Republic would particularly like to support the work of Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK) following the adoption of the Ministerial Decision in Bonn. A concrete proposal for in-kind support in the area of forest pests and diseases is being prepared currently. Financial contribution to the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) is also being considered.





Finland

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

In December 2022, an updated National Forest Strategy that extends to 2035 was adopted. The government endorsed it in October 2023.

The need to reform the strategy arose from the rapidly changing environment where the forest-based sector operates, both nationally and internationally. The new strategy takes into account the principle of comprehensive sustainable development and the important role of forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The new Government Programme, “A strong and committed Finland”, was adopted in June 2023. One of the principals of the programme is to “deliver growth and wellbeing for all of Finland through sustainable and predictable forest policy “. It emphasizes that the use of forests will be based on active and multipurpose forest management in line with the renewed National Forest Strategy. It also promotes e.g. measures that improve the health and growth of forests and develops the monitoring, anticipation and prevention of forest damage as well as measures to improve biodiversity as a key part of sustainable forest management.

The government approved a Climate Plan for the Land Use Sector in July 2022. It puts together impactful, cost-effective and just means to reduce emissions from agricultural land, forestry and other



land use and aims at strengthening the carbon sinks and reservoirs. The plan contributes to the achievement of the national target of carbon neutrality by 2035 and of the climate objectives of the EU. A key principle in the preparation was to reach the climate targets in a way that is as cost-effective, fair and just as possible.

Furthermore, a process to prepare a new National Biodiversity Strategy and an action plan until 2030 related to this is currently underway. In addition to national objectives, the strategy takes into account the objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the new EU Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy will enhance the protection of biodiversity and promote the restoration of degraded ecosystems. In addition, methods to measure actions and their impacts will be developed. The strategy and action plan will be linked to the objectives set internationally and within the EU.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

One of the objectives of the National Forest Strategy is to strengthen the vitality, diversity and adaptability of forests. This dimension included safeguarding the biological and other kinds of diversity



of forest. It also comprises measures to ensure the health and resilience of forests. Adaptation to climate change and general risk management, such as protection of water systems and soil, and developing climate-resilient management of peatland forest are part of the implementation measures.

A large research and innovation package is currently implemented under the Climate Plan for the Land Use Sector. This so-called 'Catch the carbon' -research and innovation programme produces climate-sustainable solutions and information on how the climate-sustainability of agriculture, forestry and other land uses can be strengthened.

The Government also approved a National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2030 in December 2022. It presents a climate change risk and vulnerability assessment and sets out the vision and goals for adaptation work. The aim is also to develop a monitoring system to assess the progress and effectiveness of the actions.

New Best Practices for climate smart forest management were launched in 2023. They offer alternative recommendations for forest owners. The focus is especially on preventing forest damage and creating more mixed forests. The management of peatlands places particular emphasis on water and nutrient management as well as the control of greenhouse gas emissions. The Best Practices are freely available in Finnish and in Swedish.

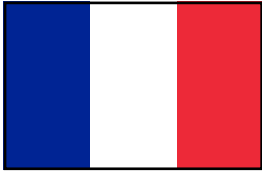
The national programme on conservation of forest genetic resources was revised as regards ex situ conservation, for more efficient conservation of rare species and their

role in sustainable multipurpose forestry. A new seed orchard establishment program for producing high quality bred forest seed was prepared. In forest tree breeding, apart from growth and quality characteristics, the adaptability of forest reproductive material to climate, resistance to diseases and other damages, and good tolerance to changes in environmental conditions are being developed.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

The Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy was initially published in 2014. An updated version of the strategy was published in 2022. Finland's Bioeconomy Strategy 2022-2035 aims sustainably towards higher value added. The strategy aims to double the value added of bioeconomy in an ecologically, socially and economically sustainable manner and to make Finland climate neutral by 2035. Bioeconomy is implemented aiming for smart use of resources and circular economy. The strategy strongly supports the green transition of Finland and the EU. The bioeconomy is an exceptionally important sector in Finland. In 2019, it created a value added of EUR 26 billion per year, accounting for 13% of the value added generated in the national economy.

The first strategy for the recreational use of nature was published in 2022 and it extends until 2030. The main goals of the strategy are the accessibility of nearby nature, promotion of health and well-being, nurturing the sustainability of nature in recreational use, identification of resources and cooperation, and the diversity of recreational use of nature. The action program for the years 2023-2025 was approved in November 2023.



France

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

France has carried out the following activities in the framework of the national implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration:

Sustainable forest management

- National forest programs supporting sustainable management.
- Better forest knowledge through research, innovation, and raising awareness.
- Sustainable and circular bioeconomy:
 - National Forest and Wood Program: aims to mobilize an additional 12Mm³ over 10 years (from 2016 to 2026) to create value in France by mobilizing the resource sustainably, with synergies between forest and industry.
 - Investment plan for the upstream sector (forest renewal): EUR 150 M between 2021 and 2023, EUR 105 M between 2023 and 2024. So, in total, EUR 255 M since 2021.
 - Investment plan for the downstream sector: EUR 38 M between 2021 and 2023, EUR 209 M between 2023 and 2024. So, in total, EUR 247 M since 2021.
 - National Low Carbon Strategy (SNBC): optimize the levers for mitigating climate change in the long term, by proposing scenarios associated with an overall emission trajectory reaching the objective of carbon neutrality in 2050 and indicating



the necessary recommendations to its implementation.

- Multi-annual energy programming (PPE): plans to double the increase in heat from biomass between 2016 and 2028.

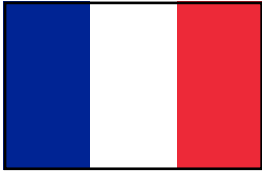
Climate change adaptation

- LAW n° 2021-1104 (August 22nd, 2021) to fight climate change et improve resilience.
- Investment plan France 2030 to secure renewal of French forests with the objective of reaching 1 billion trees and 10% of national forests renewal by 2032.
- LAW n° 2023-580 July 10th 2023 to reinforce the fight against forest fires, with the increase in financial and human resources for the Forest Fire Department in the framework of France Nation Verte (initiative launched by the French government aimed at accelerating the country's ecological transition): strengthening of summer surveillance patrols, increase in means of control, development of risk acculturation tools for the general public.

Forest genetic diversity and conservation

- Utilization of high-quality reproductive material.





- Pan-European collaboration through EUFORGEN.
- Implementation of a southern genetic resources program, as part of the strategy of the Forest Genetic Resources Commission.
- New conservation system: forest stands of genetic interest which allow the conservation of specific resources.
- Platform for teachers, students and schools : “la forêt et nous”

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

France has carried out the following activities in the framework of the national implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution:

Advances in R&D and innovations (protection of genetic diversity, adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change)

- PEPR FORESTT (EUR 40M - 7 years): research program about forests’ resilience
- RMT AFORCE and web Climesences: French network for forest adaptation to climate change
- Creation of a Scientific commission for future species
- ESPERENSE: Adaptive Management Trial Networks
- Project H2020 FORGENIUS „Improving access to forest genetic resources information and services for end-users“
- Project Horizon Europe OptFORESTS « Harnessing forest genetic resources for increasing options in the face of environmental and societal challenges »
- EUFORGEN: European Forest Resource Genetic Program
- Research on genetic or phenotypic diversity of different species (black poplar, corm tree, Salzmann pine, beech) and interspecific hybridization in ash and fir trees.

Climate change adaptation:

LAW n° 2021-1104 (August 22nd, 2021) to fight climate change et improve resilience.

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- National Low-Carbon Strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Forest fires

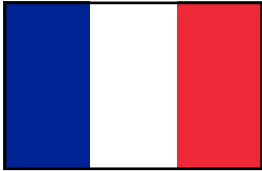
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Forest health and pest management

- Implementation of a National Plan of storm crisis management;
- Outbreaks controls measures of introduced pests;
- 70.000 insects captured and

Education and awareness

- “Un jeune un arbre” : launched by the French President to raise awareness among young people



- identified every year in susceptible areas;
- Prevention tool “Météo de forêts” from Météo France;
- Launch in July 2023 of the multistakeholder platform “French Forests Observatory”
- Launch of the National Plan on wood crises (April 14th 2024)

Biodiversity conservation and landscape restoration

- Launch of the National Strategy on Biodiversity 2030 with measures for forest biodiversity;
- Launch on the National Strategy on Protected areas;
- On-going work on the implementation of the National Action Plan on old-growth forests 2023-2025;
- On-going work on a future National Plan for Forest Soils

National funding programs: since 2021, EUR 255 M for the upstream sector (forest renewal) and EUR 247 M for the downstream sector.

R&D and innovations (protection of genetic diversity, adaptation of forests and forest management to climate change):

- PEPR FORESTT (EUR 40M - 7 years): research program about forests’ resilience
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- EUFORGEN : European Forest Resource Genetic Program
- Research on genetic or phenotypic diversity of different species (black poplar, corm tree, Salzmann pine, beech) and interspecific hybridization in ash and fir trees.

International cooperation and commitments

- Commitments during the COPs (Conference of Party)

Education and awareness

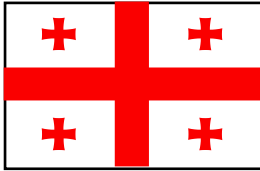
- “Un jeune un arbre” : launched by the French President to raise awareness among young people
- Platform for teachers, students and schools : “la forêt et nous”

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

- Pursuit of public policies initiated: planification écologique

Research and Innovation

- Follow-ups from the PEPR FORESTT: Call for projects in September 2024 for a launch of projects in 2025 (EUR 12 million), continuation of the 5 targeted projects
- Involvement at European level in forestry research infrastructures: management of the IN-SYLVA Europe project
- Continuation of support for existing infrastructures and networks (GIP ECOFOR, RMT AFORCE, LabEx ARBRE, In-Sylva France platform, etc.)



Georgia

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Since 2013, Georgia has been vigorously implementing reforms in its forest sector, with the establishment of a comprehensive regulatory framework being a top priority. This framework includes the adoption of the Forest Code and its associated by-laws, which are built upon internationally recognized principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). The Forest Code introduces a systematic categorization of forests, new forms of forest use, and the concept of state, municipal, and private forest ownership. Georgia has developed and adopted national principles, criteria and indicators for SFM (C&I) with the support of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and UNECE/ FAO. All these efforts aim to strengthen forest policy planning in light of Georgia’s national plans, priorities and international commitments.

A significant milestone in the Caucasus region is Georgia’s completion of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and the subsequent preparation of a comprehensive report. This initiative has given Georgia the robust quantitative and qualitative data on its forests, empowering policymakers to make well-informed decisions.

The country is also working on Forest Information and Monitoring System (FIMS) which aims at digitally gathering information from different sources such as forest inventory, forest cutting, forest restoration etc. Elaboration of



such system helps to further develop IT infrastructure and foster the progress in designing interconnected programs for Ministry’s needs. Several modules are currently being developed and the system will be fully functional in the near future.

In terms of Forest education and popularization of the sector, there are 7 TVET colleges and 4 Universities across the country. Additionally, within the framework of Green Climate Fund Project- ECO.Georgia, the “Forest School” training program has been developed the “Forestry School” is designed for students in grades IX-XII to cultivate interest in forestry among the younger generation while imparting fundamental knowledge about the principles of sustainable forest management and biodiversity. Within the framework of the same project, Knowledge Management and Training Platform (KMTP) is being developed. The KMTP will ensure that people engaged in the forestry sector have adequate knowledge and skills to effectively implement the actions considered under SFM under the new forest code through improved knowledge management and dissemination.





National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Georgia is actively working on diversifying the forest products. For that goal, the country is developing an economic value chain of timber and non-timber forest resources. Relevant research has been conducted for the identification of specific non-timber forest products with the emphasis on their economic potential. Through Green Climate Fund Project-ECO.Georgia, the country is supporting business operators through identifying them on the market and aiding in developing the necessary skillset for successful production of non-timber forest resources.

The country is also actively taking steps to combat forest fires as one of the factors of forest degradation. Within that framework, bilateral transboundary cooperation has been established between Georgia and Armenia and Georgia and Azerbaijan through the support of organization Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The latest project primarily focuses on combined efforts aiming at combating forest fires and improving the coordination and existing formats of cooperation.

Capacity development of the National Forestry Agency and Department of Environmental Supervision is also one of the top priorities. Both agencies are being equipped with modern technologies such as vehicles for patrolling and various forest operations, cameras, tablets and more.

In addition, Georgia is progressively transitioning its policies and

management practices towards sustainable harvesting and the provision of fuelwood. This is exemplified by the establishment of Business Service Yards (BSY) throughout the country, offering a sustainable alternative for fuelwood provision aimed at alleviating pressure on forest resources. Furthermore, the country is actively fostering the development of energy-efficient practices and alternative fuel markets.

Restoration of degraded areas as well as protection and maintenance of forests is an ongoing process in Georgia. As of today restoration, protection and maintenance works have been carried out on more than 40.000ha.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

The country is planning to finalize the forest monitoring inventory (FMI) and to elaborate management plans. Moreover, Georgia is granting the categories of forests.

The Setup of the Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRV) is used for emission inventory for major industrial sectors, including forest-related emissions.

Finally, the practical implementation of municipal forest management is planned.





Germany

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

The implementation of sustainable forest management and thus maintaining forest resources and provisioning the full range of ecosystem services for future generations is a major goal of forest policy in Germany. In 2021, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture published its Forest Strategy 2050, which includes milestones to reach that goal.

The “Federal Act for the Conservation of Forests and Promotion of Forestry” is the most important instrument for the conservation and sustainable management of forests in Germany and is implemented and complemented through the forest acts of the federal states. These laws protect all forests from improper treatment, overexploitation and land conversion. They oblige forest owners to manage forests properly and sustainably and ensure reforestation, thereby setting the regulatory framework for sustainable, multifunctional forestry.

In order to ensure and promote forests’ ecosystem services also in the future, Germany launched a national funding scheme for climate adapted forest management to reward private and municipal forest owners for additional climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation measures. It is part of the 3,5 Bn. € Federal Action Plan on Nature-based Solutions for Climate, aiming to improve the overall state of ecosystems and strengthen their contribution to



resilience, biodiversity, and climate change mitigation.

Moreover, in the framework of the “Joint Scheme Improving Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection”, the federal government and federal states offer subsidies to enhance forest silviculture and adaptation, reforestation, forest infrastructure, forest owners’ cooperatives, afforestation, forest conversion and soil protection. Additionally, some federal states have specific subsidy programs for e.g. nature protection measures and forest management planning.

The wood construction initiative launched in 2023 strengthens and enhances the use of wood in construction, thereby utilizing the substitution potential of wood and contributing to a circular and climate neutral bioeconomy.

The Federal government supports forest-related research and development through the forest climate fund, while education and training are the responsibility of federal states. Germany also supports the conservation and utilization of forest genetic resources at federal level through a working group implementing measures and activities of the national programme on the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources and at





European level through participating in and funding of the EUFORGEN programme.

Research, knowledge exchange and capacity building are further promoted through various projects and contributions, in order to inform decision-making while also paying attention to effective communication towards society.

Public and private forest owners and managers as well as NGOS, other stakeholders and civil society play an essential role in forest policymaking in Germany. Their role is promoted through several thematic national stakeholder platforms and working groups with federal and state administrations, e.g. for wood (Charta für Holz), recreation (Bundesplattform Wald - Sport, Erholung und Gesundheit), with forest owner associations (Bundeskongress für Forstwirtschaftliche Zusammenschlüsse) and with science (Wissenschaftlicher Beirat für Waldpolitik). A specific participatory process has been set up to inform the development of the national Forest Strategy 2050 ("Zukunftsdialo g Wald").

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution "Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change"

With its Forest Strategy 2050, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture aims to support the adaptability and resilience of forests to climate change, e.g. through the new funding scheme "climate adapted forest management". The program sets out several specific forest management criteria which must be complied with by private or municipal forest owners for a period of 10 to 20

years in order to receive annual funding. While all these requirements contribute to enhancing adaptability, a special focus lies on enhancing biodiversity and regeneration to ensure future species- and structural diversity and resilience.

There is currently a process in place to examine whether and if so, how the Federal Forest Act may need to be revised to increase the resilience of forests to climate change.

Germany also continues to improve international cooperation on sustainable forest management, e.g. by promoting the work and use of the Integrate Network with its vast network of demonstration sites as a facilitating process at the interface of science, policy and practice. Fully in line with the aim to work towards a coordinated pan-European forest risk knowledge mechanism, Germany, in its role as chair of the Forest Europe process, is currently in the process of establishing a forest risk facility under the aegis of Forest Europe.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Aside from continuing the mentioned activities and support programmes and in order to continue to promote sustainable and multifunctional forest management, thus increasing forest resilience and climate mitigation potential, currently a process started to develop the forest strategy of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture towards a national forest strategy.

Moreover, there is a process in place to examine whether and if so, how the Federal Forest Act may need to be revised to be able to address the



challenges our forests and the forest sector will be faced with in the future.

With a view to Europe, in the context of establishing the FoRISK facility, Germany will ensure the basic funding and work of the FoRISK secretariat in Bonn until 2030.





Hungary

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Implementation

Hungary commits to ongoing sustainable forest management, balancing ecological, economic, and social benefits to adapt to changing conditions. This includes robust policies, stakeholder engagement, and continuous research.

European Forest Goals and Targets

Hungary aligns its forest strategies with European goals, focusing on:

1. National forest programs supporting sustainable management.
2. Enhanced forest knowledge through research and innovation.
3. Integration of forest management with climate action and bioeconomy.
4. Valuation of forest ecosystem services in national policies.
5. Climate change adaptation strategies.
6. Halting forest biodiversity loss and restoring degraded forests.
7. Combating land degradation through sustainable forestry.
8. Increasing socio-economic benefits from forests.
9. Eliminating illegal logging.
10. Recognizing the role of urban forests in sustainability.

Monitoring and Reporting

Hungary enhances its forest monitoring through a comprehensive National



Forest Inventory, remote sensing, GIS technologies, and integration with European systems. It commits to reporting progress at future Ministerial Conferences.

Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation

Hungary promotes interdisciplinary research and innovation, focusing on:

- Collaborative research centers.
- Smart forestry technologies.
- Sustainable management practices.
- Bio-economy initiatives.
- Climate resilience.
- Biodiversity conservation.
- Community engagement.
- Policy support and funding.
- International collaboration.

Forest Genetic Diversity and Conservation

Hungary recognizes the importance of managing forest genetic resources for conservation and sustainable use. Actions include:

- Genetic resource conservation.
- Utilization of high-quality reproductive material.
- Pan-European collaboration through EUFORGEN.
- Monitoring and research.
- Public awareness.





- Legal and institutional frameworks.

Employment in the Forest-Based Sector

Hungary aims to make forest-sector jobs more attractive by:

- Improving working conditions and fair income.
- Enhancing health and safety standards.
- Promoting equality and non-discrimination.
- Providing educational and career development.
- Enhancing industry image and awareness.
- Engaging stakeholders.

Cooperation with the Education Sector

Hungary enhances cooperation with the education sector to match skills with labor market needs through:

- Industry-education partnerships.
- Practical training.
- Continuous professional development.
- Digital and technological skills integration.
- Sustainable practices in education. Entrepreneurship promotion.
- Career guidance.

Valuation of Forest Ecosystem Services

Hungary works on valuing forest ecosystem services and developing policies and market based instruments that reward their provision, considering regional and legal particularities. This includes pilot projects, research, and stakeholder engagement.

By implementing these strategies, Hungary ensures the sustainable

management of its forests, contributing to broader European environmental and societal goals.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution „Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change“

Hungary has undertaken comprehensive measures to implement the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution on adapting forests to climate change. The following outlines the key activities:

National Forest Strategy and Climate Adaptation Plans

Hungary has integrated climate adaptation into its National Forest Strategy. This includes:

- Afforestation and Reforestation: Projects aimed at increasing forest cover, especially in erosion-prone areas.
- Species Diversity: Promotion of climate-resilient and diverse tree species to enhance ecosystem stability.
- Updated Forest Management Practices: Implementing practices like selective logging and mixed species planting to mitigate climate impacts.

Research and Monitoring Programs

Hungary emphasizes research and monitoring to understand climate impacts and inform management strategies:

- National Forest Inventory (NFI): Regularly updated to provide data on forest composition, health, and



changes over time, helping track climate impacts and adaptation effectiveness.

- Climate Impact Studies: Conducted by universities and research institutions to analyze climate variables' effects on forest growth, health, and biodiversity.

Forest Health and Pest Management

To combat increased pest and disease threats due to climate change, Hungary has:

- Pest Monitoring Systems: Utilizing advanced technology like remote sensing and GIS to detect and manage pest outbreaks.
- Biological Control Methods: Researching and applying biological control methods to reduce dependence on chemical pesticides.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Engaging local communities and stakeholders is vital:

- Education and Awareness Programs: Initiatives to inform forest owners and the public about the importance of forest adaptation.
- Stakeholder Consultations: Regular consultations to ensure practical and supported adaptation strategies.

Policy Integration and Funding

Climate adaptation is integrated into broader policies, supported by:

- EU Funding Utilization: Leveraging European Union funds such as the LIFE program and EAFRD for adaptation projects.
- National Funding Programs:

Establishing mechanisms to support research, management, and community engagement in adaptation efforts

International Collaboration

Hungary participates in international initiatives to share knowledge and best practices:

- EUFORGEN: Active participation in the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme to conserve and sustainably use forest genetic resources.
- Pan-European Networks: Engaging with networks to collaborate on forest adaptation strategies.

Concluding, Hungary's approach to implementing the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution is comprehensive, involving strategic planning, robust research, community engagement, policy integration, and international collaboration. These efforts underscore Hungary's commitment to enhancing forest resilience to climate change, ensuring sustainability for future generations.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Ongoing Activities Relevant to FOREST EUROPE in Hungary are the following:

1. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)
- National Forest Strategy: Hungary continues implementing its National Forest Strategy, focusing on balancing ecological, economic, and social benefits.





- Climate Adaptation: Ongoing projects enhance forest resilience through afforestation, reforestation, and species diversification.
- 2. Forest Monitoring and Data Collection
 - National Forest Inventory (NFI): Regular updates to monitor forest resources, health, and biodiversity.
 - Remote Sensing and GIS: Utilizing advanced technologies for real-time forest monitoring and management.
- 3. Pest and Disease Management
 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Implementing biological control methods and monitoring systems to manage climate change-exacerbated pests and diseases.
- 4. Community Engagement and Education
 - Public Awareness Campaigns: Educating forest owners and the public on sustainable management and climate adaptation.
 - Stakeholder Consultations: Engaging local communities and stakeholders for inclusive forest management practices.
- 2. Enhanced Valuation of Forest Ecosystem Services
 - Economic Valuation Studies: Quantifying the economic value of ecosystem services like carbon sequestration and biodiversity.
 - Market-Based Instruments: Developing policies such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to incentivize sustainable management.
- 3. Research and Innovation Initiatives
 - Interdisciplinary Research: Promoting research in forest ecology and sustainable practices through national and international collaborations.
 - Innovation Hubs: Establishing centers to develop new technologies and practices for sustainable management.
- 4. Policy and Legislative Enhancements
 - Strengthening Legal Frameworks: Updating forest-related policies to ensure sustainability and resilience.
 - Funding Mechanisms: Increasing financial support for management, research, and community engagement through national programs and EU funds.

Planned Activities Relevant to FOREST EUROPE in Hungary are the following:

- 1. Expansion of Afforestation and Reforestation
 - New Plantations: Increasing forest cover in degraded areas with climate-resilient and native species.
 - Forest Restoration: Rehabilitating degraded areas to restore biodiversity and ecosystem functions.
- 5. International Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange
 - FOREST EUROPE Engagement: Actively participating in FOREST EUROPE initiatives and sharing best practices.
 - EU and Global Partnerships: Collaborating with EU programs and global networks to enhance forest conservation and management.



Concluding, Hungary's ongoing and planned activities align with FOREST EUROPE's principles and objectives. Through comprehensive strategies in sustainable management, climate adaptation, research, community engagement, and international collaboration, Hungary aims to ensure resilient and sustainable forests, contributing to the broader goals of FOREST EUROPE and the conservation of Europe's forest resources.





Ireland

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

In September 2022 the first Shared National Vision for Trees and Forests in Ireland was published. Informed by a yearlong process of public consultation and engagement, it is an ambitious vision for 2050. If achieved, it will result in an expansion of multi-functional and diverse forests, delivering multiple benefits for climate, nature, wood, people, economy and rural development. The overriding objective of this shared vision is to urgently expand the national forest estate on both public and private land in a manner that will deliver, lasting benefits for climate change, water quality, wood production, economic development, and quality of life.

In September of 2023 Ireland’s Forest Strategy (2023 – 2030) was published, which aims to create the conditions that will lead to a substantial increase in forest cover. It was clear during public consultation that there is a strong preference for a greater diversity of trees within forests and a greater diversity of forest types across Ireland. Based on this there is a target now to establish at least 50% of new forests established on former agricultural land with native or broadleaf species.

The Strategy has a comprehensive set of Objectives, Value Areas and Goals for trees, forests and forestry in Ireland as well as the Strategic Enablers that can help make the ambition a reality. For example, the strategic goals for Forests



and Climate address Forest Expansion; Carbon Storage and Sequestration; Measuring Embodied Carbon; and Promoting Carbon Substitution.

The Forest Strategy was published in parallel with the Forest Strategy Implementation Plan and the Forestry Programme. The Forest Strategy Implementation Plan contains a detailed action plan, and a significant proportion of these actions will be implemented through the Forestry Programme (2023-2027). The Forestry Programme will be the primary means by which the Vision and Strategy are delivered over the immediate to short term. All the measures and interventions supported in the Forestry Programme have the principles of Sustainable Forest Management at their core.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Ireland’s new EUR 1.3 billion funded Forestry Programme 2023-2027 is a new plan to support and increase diverse and environmentally friendly afforestation and to facilitate sustainable forest management. Some examples of measures focused on adaptation and aimed at increasing the resilience of Ireland’s forest include:





- Incentives for species diversity through increased grant and premium rates for broadleaves and diverse conifers, e.g. a 20% broadleaf species component is now mandatory for all new forests; and the annual national broadleaf target for new forests created has increased from 30% to 50% of total annual planting.
- Standards for matching species to the planting site, as well as for the appropriate choice of species, provenance and origin.
- Measures focused on increasing resilience through establishment and conservation of native woodlands, Continuous Cover Forestry or close-to-nature forest management, woodland improvement, and use and conservation of Forest Genetic Resources.
- Supports that incentivize species diversity and structural diversity for forest owners who are replanting their forests.
- A proposed reconstitution scheme aimed at providing support to assist the restoration and retention of forest land and forest ecosystems following significant damage by natural causes.
- A forest management planning scheme to promote more active forest management resulting in forests that have greater capacity to deliver eco-system services.
- Training and education initiatives that increase the knowledge levels of Sustainable Forest Management.

In addition, stringent environment assessment procedures are in place to ensure that proposed projects are compatible with the protection and enhancement of the environment.

Outside of the Forestry Programme, other important activities include the ongoing monitoring and assessment of the health and condition of Irish forests contributing to the overall resilience and biodiversity of our forests and improved quality of Irish wood products and forest ecosystem services. It includes the implementation of controls associated with forest health and forest reproductive material regulation and investment in research and development in areas such as forest genetics, forest design and forest management. Cross-sectoral adaptation actions are being prioritized and include the increased use of wood in construction to facilitate a more resilient built environment, utilizing an indigenous resource and displacing carbon intensive materials.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Ireland continues to support the values and important work of FOREST EUROPE, in particular in defining, developing and promoting the practice of sustainable forest management. This year Ireland was pleased to validate its commitment to the work of FOREST EUROPE by contributing to the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) in 2024.

Ireland is a member of the Integrate Network, which promotes the integration of nature conservation into sustainable forest management at the policy, practice and research level. As a member of the Steering Committee Ireland looks forward to hosting the annual Integrate meeting of the Network in 2025.

Ireland is a member of the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN). This programme was established in 1994 because of a



resolution adopted in 1990 by the first Ministerial Conference of the FOREST EUROPE process. The overall goal of EUFORGEN is to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources in Europe as an integral part of sustainable forest management, and to serve as a platform for pan-European collaboration in this area. Ireland has been a member since 2000 and looks forward to its continued participation.

Ireland looks forward to continuing to participate actively in the FOREST EUROPE process and working closely with its signatories.





Italy

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Italy has carried out the commitments made in the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration by implementing Legislative Decree No. 34 of 3 April 2018 - “Framework Law on forests and forestry supply chain “ - with 10 implementing decrees:

- Definition of national criteria for registration in regional registers of forestry companies (Ministerial Decree No. 4470 of 29 April 2020).
- Definition of national minimum criteria for professional training of forestry operators (M.D. No. 4472 of 29 April 2020).
- Guidelines for the definition of criteria for exemption from compensatory measures for forest transformation (M.D. No. 9219119 of 07 October 2020).
- Provisions for the definition of the minimum national standards for the recognition of the state of abandonment of agro-pastoral activities (Interministerial Decree No. 0365201 of 12 August 2021).
- Provisions for the establishment of minimum national standards for the preparation of territorial forest plans, and forest management plans, or equivalent instruments (I.D. No. 563765 of 28 October 2021).
- Guidelines for the identification of areas that can be defined as old-growth forests (I.D. No. 608943 of 18 November 2021).
- Provisions for the definition of minimum national criteria for works



related to forest and watershed management (Ministerial Decree No. 563734 of 28 October 2021).

- National Forest Strategy (I.D. No. 677064 of 24 December 2021).
- Technical standards for the elaboration of technical-scientific cartography for the drafting of forest planning tools (Departmental Decree No. 64807 of 9 February 2023).
- Establishment of the National Network of old-growth forests (M.D. No. 193945 of 05 April 2023).

These national-level laws were drafted in close cooperation with the Italian Regional Authorities, which are responsible for regulating and managing the forests under their jurisdiction, and in collaboration with the scientific community and numerous stakeholders in the Italian forestry sector.

To be highlighted, among all the mentioned Decrees, is the National Forest Strategy (SFN), promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the Ministries of Environment, Culture, Economy, and the State-Regions Conference.

The Strategy stands as an essential tool for outlining national forest policies, while implementing the European Forest Strategy 2030 and part of the European Biodiversity Strategy 2030; moreover,



it integrates the National Bioeconomy Strategy for the key part related to the forest-wood system.

The SFN shows the way to recognize and respect the multifunctionality of forests and to harmonize, at the national level, the objectives and actions to be taken for the sustainability of forest management and the protection of natural capital and landscape.

The SFN is valid for 20 years (reviewable every 5 years) and is already funded for 10 years, with an allocation of EUR 30 million for the first 2 years (2022-23) and EUR 40 million for each subsequent year (until 2032).

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Italy has implemented the commitments made in the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution through numerous activities in the forestry sector at international, national and regional/local levels.

On forest-related issues, Italy continues to ensure active participation in the most relevant international fora, in addition to FOREST EUROPE (United Nations: UNFF - UNECE - FAO; European Union: Council and European Commission) and provides economic support to important research activities (e.g. EFI, EUFORGEN, INTEGRATE). Noteworthy is that Italy is hosting and supporting EFI's newly opened “Biocities Facility” in Rome (April 2023).

At the national coordination level, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests is in constant discussion with Regional Authorities and

stakeholders through the “Wood supply chain Table” in order to identify and promote initiatives and best practices of green economy and enhancement of the social values of forests.

In addition, since July 2023, the “Timber Cluster” has been established in Italy bringing together the best energies from the world of research and production. This can ensure environmental sustainability on one side - with the growth of a healthy forest system - and production sustainability on the other side, making attractive to invest in wood supply chain.

Regarding natural disasters affecting Italian forests, economic support is provided for prevention, control and restoration on forest damages (forest fires, VAIA storm, pest attacks, hydrogeological disruption, etc.).

Other funds are being invested in research projects and other local initiatives (e.g.: Project For.Italy - Forest Training for Italy (2020-2022); Model Forest; national and regional webinars and ad hoc websites; etc.).

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Based on the provisions of the “Framework Law on Forests and Forestry supply chain”, Italy is currently developing the National Forest Information System (SINFor), which is an innovative strategic tool to support the implementation of the National Forest Strategy.

The SINFor System is made up of two interconnected survey environments, the National Forest Map and the Information System on forest sector, which provide up-to-date and reliable knowledge through the collection and



consultation of timely and specific forestry data and information.

SINFor provides a unified point of access to data and information from the wide range of knowledge available on forestry in Italy.

SINFor is an important tool for national and regional planning and programming, as well as for forest management and the development of the forestry sector and its productive, environmental and socio-cultural supply chains.





Netherlands

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

The Dutch national government has developed its national forest strategy in collaboration with the twelve provincial governments. The national government is responsible for the (inter) national targets on climate, nature and the bio-based economy. The provincial governments are responsible for the implementation of the forest strategy into concrete measures/action plans.

At the national level, pressure factors on Dutch forests have been mapped. The following threats were identified: effects of climate change, such as irregular weather patterns resulting in increased periods of drought as well as excessively wet periods; soil acidification (caused by nitrogen deposition); lack of diversity in tree species and age structure; plagues and disease, such as ash dieback. These aforementioned factors are intrinsically connected and mutually reinforcing.

The provincial governments have elaborated and submitted their regional forest policies with specific measures to take to increase forest vitality and resilience.

Currently, these are about to be implemented. However, while finance is available for the first steps of implementation, finance for implementing the plans in full still needs to be found. Furthermore, assessment is currently ongoing in the national Working Group Revitalisation of Dutch Forests, which includes the Ministry,



the provinces, forest management organizations and knowledge institutes, on whether the expected outcomes of the twelve provincial plans together add up to meet the national forest policy goals and thereby also delivering on the target of the Dutch forest strategy to revitalize the Dutch forests.

Furthermore, in line with the requirements of the Nature Restoration Law, a national restoration plan is under development to ensure that targets and obligations for (forest) ecosystems will be met.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution „Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change“

Again, the Dutch national government has developed its national forest strategy in collaboration with the twelve provincial governments. This strategy includes the consideration of climate (adaptation) aspects. The provincial governments are responsible for implementing the forest strategy including measures for climate adaptation.

Climate adaptation is one of the many aspects that needs to be considered in order to strive towards healthy, resilient and future-proof forests. Therefore, climate adaptation is embedded in





the provincial plans for revitalization of Dutch forests in an integral manner. Climate smart forestry is encouraged, for example, by taking hydrology into account in a way that conditions of either (extreme) drought or (excessive) wetness can both be endured.

Additionally, due to the increased risk of wildfires, efforts are being stepped up to strengthen management. EUR 70 million has been made available for preventive and mitigating measures in natural areas and nature reserves. Furthermore, a national centre of expertise on wildfire management is being set up. Multiple stakeholders are involved in drawing up a national covenant on wildfire management, as well as a national wildfire crisis management plan.

Moreover, pilot studies are conducted to increase knowledge on the introduction of genetic diversity from Southern climate zones. Additionally, through a climate adaptation strategy on the national level knowledge development is supported, as well as public communication for raising awareness.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Future planned activities so far are focused on the execution and implementation of the plans developed by the provincial governments, which include forest policy measures.

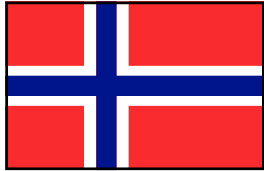
Other related planned activities include the implementation of the Nature Restoration Law, the NBSAP. These implementation plans are currently being developed.

Furthermore, the policy goals of the Paris Agreement and the Birds and

Habitat directive are targeted through the implementation of the Dutch forest strategy.

Also, the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority is preparing the enforcement of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) by 30th of December 2024. The hiring and training of extra personnel is ongoing. Relatedly, The Netherlands contributes to the SAFE programme under the Team Europe Initiative, while awaiting the Commission's Strategic Framework on cooperation with third countries.





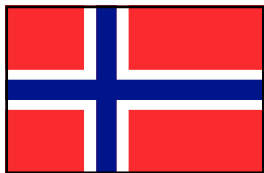
Norway

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Sharing the vision for European forests as stated in the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration, Norway has continued implementing policies for sustainable forest management. The Norwegian Forest policy is based on the Government white paper on forests presented to the parliament in 2016, and the parliament’s recommendation and diction on the white paper. The goals of the Norwegian forest policy are to promote sustainable forest management for local and national value creation while safeguarding biodiversity, landscape, and recreational and cultural values. Forests also play an important role in achieving political climate and nature conservation goals. In recent years, Norwegian wood architecture and the “world-class” utilization of wood in buildings, in combination with an increased need for climate-friendly solutions, have contributed to new market opportunities and increased demand for wood-based building materials. There is also increasing demand for sustainably produced biofuels, cellulose, and other wood processing products. In The Green Industrial Initiative, launched by the prime minister in 2022, forest and timber industry along with other bioeconomy sectors are highlighted. In 2023, the public funded instrument BIONOVA was established to contribute to the climate goals of the agricultural sector, while also contributing to value creation through the transition to a more circular bioeconomy.



To promote sustainable forest management, direct and tax-based economic support is available for forest owners for long term forest investments, such as silviculture activities and infrastructure development. Forestry is regulated through the Forestry act with separate regulations, including for sustainable forest management, forest management plans and special regulations on the management of the forests surrounding Oslo and nearby municipalities. The government promotes a knowledge-based forest sector by funding research, education and extension services in forestry and related cross disciplinary areas. Norway has for several years participated in the multi-donor trust fund for the EFI policy support facility, to enhance the science-policy dialogue on a European level. Norway also participates in the regional and global forest cooperation through FOREST EUROPE, UNECE, FAO, UNFF and relevant international actors. Norway’s most important international contribution for climate and nature is the international Forest and Climate Initiative. Through this initiative Norway, together with other countries and organizations, aims to preserve tropical forests.



National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Climate adaptation measures in Norwegian forestry pose challenges as trees planted today must withstand the climate in 70-100 years, while at the same time being adapted to today's climate. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has commissioned the Norwegian Forest Seed Agency and Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy (NIBIO) to develop seeds and forest plants that are better adapted to a changing climate. Breeding work has focused on spruce (*Picea abies*), but a breeding programme for pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) has now been initiated. Recommendations on use of forest seed collected in Norwegian and Swedish seed plantations and in forest stands are being further developed to consider future climate change. Furthermore, the Norwegian Directorate of Agriculture, in collaboration with NIBIO, has prepared a technical contingency plan to be able to handle a major attack of bark beetles on forests in Norway. The background for the plan is the large bark beetle attacks in parts of Europe, which are causing growing concern about a larger outbreak in Norway. This contingency plan will be an important part of forestry's climate adaptation. Under The Forestry Act special regulations can be applied for forests with protective functions against natural damage to lower lying forests and other areas. The Norwegian Directorate of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate, has assessed different management models for using forests and forest management as protection against landslides.

Climate change adaptation of forests is

work in progress and will continue to be on the government's agenda. Sharing experiences in the Pan-European region, through inter alia the planned FoRISK facility will benefit the efforts as this is still an area with a lot of uncertainties.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

The Government will present its proposal for following up Norway's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through a white paper to the parliament in 2024.





Poland

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

As part of scientific and development projects, Poland developed a comprehensive program in 2023 to counteract the processes of forest dieback and undertake mitigation activities, with a perspective extending until 2030. Additionally, Poland implemented the Comprehensive Bison Protection Program (2019-2023) and developed the Forest Carbon Project, which was launched in 2016. These initiatives aim to improve forest stability, promote species protection, enhance the role of forests in carbon absorption, and support the circular economy.

Extensive public education is a significant aspect of these efforts, promoting good economic practices such as maintaining biodiversity, ensuring soil and water quality, and practicing sustainable logging. Numerous educational projects, such as the “Dla lasu, Dla ludzi” campaign launched in 2021, aim to highlight the role and tasks of the State Forests while promoting the three functions of forests: social, natural, and economic. These interdependent functions balance each other and are crucial for the long-term protection of forests and their ecosystems.

In 2022, the “Zanocuj w Lasie” program was also launched to promote social participation and ecological education through direct contact with nature. This initiative encourages people to spend time in the forest, fostering ecological awareness and building a bond with



nature. Special zones have been designated in public forests for camping, with facilities for lighting bonfires and maps highlighting interesting sites and beautiful locations. Out of 429 forest districts, 74, which are part of 25 promotional forest complexes, have a special focus on the educational activities of the State Forests. These areas serve as educational and participatory hubs, implementing new solutions in forest management.

Another significant achievement for Poland is the steady increase in the employment of women in forestry, both in managerial and field positions, now comprising over 30% of all foresters. Poland also participates in developing principles for maintaining the genetic diversity of forest trees under EUFORGEN, implementing these through the activities of the Forest Gene Bank in Kostrzyca. This helps improve the resilience of forest stands by preserving the natural adaptive potential of trees to climate change.

Furthermore, Poland monitors the timber trade to eliminate illegal logging both domestically and internationally, fully implementing the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) since 2013. Poland is also working on implementing the new EUDR regulation (2023) to enhance and develop existing solutions.





National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

In Poland, guidelines for foresters have been updated in the form of a new Fire Protection Instruction (2020), Forest Silviculture Rules (2023) and Forest Management and Planning Instruction (2024). These documents form the basis for the work of the State Forests and all foresters. The Fire Protection Instructions identify forest threats from fire hazards and outline procedures to counteract and eliminate their effects. The Forest Silviculture Rules provide updated guidelines for forest management, introducing new species compositions, verifying forest maintenance methods, and shaping new generations. These Rules support natural forest regeneration, which has become increasingly important in recent years, now accounting for over 18% of all forest regeneration.

An example of good forestry practices in Poland is determining the most diverse tree species compositions based on interdisciplinary research. This expands the possibilities for broader use of basic forest-forming species, guided by the research topic entitled “Verification of the Existing Ranges of Occurrence of the Main Forest-Forming Tree Species in Poland Based on New Research,” which was implemented in 2023. These findings have been integrated into the directional guidelines of the Forest Silviculture Rules.

The FENIKS 2021-2027 program was launched to improve the country’s development conditions in line with sustainable development principles. One of its goals is to support adaptation

to climate change and the prevention of risks related to natural disasters, incorporating an ecosystem approach. The program continues the Small Mountain and Lowland Retention projects that have been conducted in forest areas since 2007.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Poland actively supports the development of sustainable forest management, limiting the amount of clear-cutting and promoting the concept of continuous forestry. These activities aim to protect forests, preserve biodiversity, and mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

In 2024, the National Forest Conference on the future of Polish forests began, involving representatives from all stakeholders, including foresters, the wood industry, naturalists, local governments, and non-governmental organizations. Since January 2024, efforts have been underway to limit forest management in 10 areas (Bieszczady Mountains, Puszcza Borecka, Puszcza Świętokrzyska, Puszcza Augustowska, Puszcza Knyszyńska, Puszcza Karpacka, Puszcza Romincka, Tricity Landscape Park, and the vicinity of Iwonicz-Zdrój and Wrocław). These efforts focus on the most valuable forest fragments: old-growth forests (100-200 years old), water protection forests, mountain forests in planned national parks, forests in Natura 2000 areas, protected landscapes, and promotional forest complexes, as well as forest areas with unique historical and cultural values.

Currently, Poland is focusing on enhancing social participation in forests. As part of this initiative,





guidelines for managing forests with increased social functions have been created. These guidelines emphasize the need to designate such areas, modify management principles, and cooperate with local governments and communities. To facilitate this, the State Forests have established the position of a consultant for social contacts within their units.

By the end of 2024, a pilot program for social forests is set to begin around the nine largest urban agglomerations in Poland (Warsaw, Kraków, Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot, Wrocław, Łódź, Poznań, Katowice, Bydgoszcz-Toruń, Szczecin). Forests granted this status will have modified sustainable forest management practices aimed at maximizing their social functions. This process will involve local participation led by local forest managers.

Poland has also started working on a new National Forest Program, which will comprehensively define the long-term vision, key functions, and directions for transforming the Polish forestry model.





Portugal

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Portugal continues to implement the National Forest Strategy and other legal instruments following V1 Resolution principles for National Forest Programme (NFP)

In the last years research and development (R&D) has been focusing on fire prevention, but also on Climate Change adaptation and mitigation.

Additionally, a new legislative measure (2024) established the national voluntary carbon market. It recognizes the role of forests for carbon sequestration and was designed to align and not jeopardize policies related to forests or biodiversity by introducing the possibility for Carbon plus credits when a project, in addition to carbon, also provides co-benefits for biodiversity and natural capital. The methodologies are being defined.

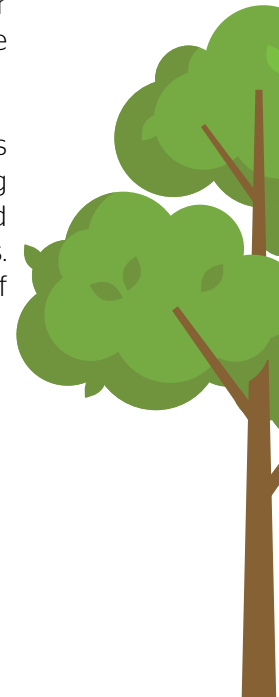
The carbon market is one example of Payment of Ecosystem Services but there are also voluntary private initiatives. The valuation and payment of environmental services has increasing attention, such as the Remuneration Program for Ecosystem Services in Rural Areas supported by the Environmental Fund in 2 pilot areas, and studies on MAPPING AND EVALUATION OF ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES. Environmental benefits may include erosion control, carbon, water regulation, biodiversity, reduction of fire risk and landscape resilience. This is important for forest producers, who could see efforts to provide non-



market services rewarded. Policies to increase socio-economic benefits to forest owners include fiscal incentives and financial support from the Rural Development measures. These prioritize Protection and Rehabilitation of Forests, namely prevention against biotic and abiotic agents, reestablishment of forests affected by such agents or catastrophic events and improving resilience and environmental value of forests. Many projects and actions were and are being developed in this framework.

In 2020, entering into force in 2021, we furthermore revised the legislation that already provided for a mandatory harvesting declaration. This was done in order to expand its scope to consider also the wood traceability from the harvesting plot to the 1st industrial processing facility thus contributing to preventing illegal logging. Operators communicate harvesting and further steps/transmissions have to be introduced in a platform SICORTE.

A new law regarding urban trees was approved in 2021, regulating, among others, the selection of trees and thinning and harvesting operations. Local authorities are in charge of implementing and enforcing it.





National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Portugal has been working with several partners on a Landscape Fire Governance Framework, from prevention to restoration. It was finalized at the 8th International Wildfire Conference, 2023 and recognized by the High-Level Declaration of UNFF, 2024. It is a common basis for governance, with actions, principles and goals and an opportunity to better prepare communities for uncontrolled fires.

Several measures are in place to engage forest owners in effective forest management, restoring forests and scaling up the management areas. Those measures address biotic and abiotic risks through integrated land use planning and include, for example, the establishment of a Program for Landscape Transformation that foresees Integrated Areas of Landscape Management. The “Forest Voucher” pilot project was set up to complement that Program and to support small scale forestry on prone fire regions through a simplified financial scheme.

It becomes clearer that invasive alien species are a major problem. Therefore, the [national legislation](#) (2019) has a process to control introduction of exotic species which implies a risk analysis.

Moreover, several projects and activities are underway within the framework of the Operational Program of the Public Administration to Improve and Preserve Forest Genetic Resources (2018); those projects are targeted to *Pinus pinea*, *Pinus pinaster*, *Juniperus oxycedrus* and *Quercus suber* in-situ and ex-situ conservation of genetic resources. Another example is the strategy to preserve a specific small nucleus of autochthones *Pinus sylvestris* with

high biogeographic and biogenetic value that remains in the Peneda-Gerês National Park. It constituted a seed bank, and plants were produced to allow for afforestation and therefore expand this specific population. Some specimens were planted in the neighbouring Parque Natural Baixa Limia-Serra do Xurés on a [joint initiative with Spain](#).

In the State-owned nurseries, there is an operational plan for the collection and production of forest reproductive material of rare and threatened species, which are, from the point of view of safeguarding the genetic heritage and its conservation, very relevant to biodiversity, restoration of ecosystems and recovery of degraded forests. These, however, are not attractive for private nurseries due to their low commercial value.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Many of the measures and activities relevant to the Forest Europe commitments were already mentioned and are ongoing. The new cycle of National Forest Inventory (Portugal 7th NFI) has now started. There are also plans to revise the National Forest Strategy which will consider the Forest Europe and other international commitments and will benefit greatly from this new broad forest monitoring exercise.



Serbia

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

As a signatory country of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration, the Republic of Serbia works on different aspects defined within this Declaration, as follows:

- During 2023 the implementation of the FAO/GEF project was completed, which focused on improving forest information systems, monitoring, as well as data collection. In the same year, the second National Forest Inventory of the Republic of Serbia was finished providing data on increased area of forest cover, that is now close to European level. In addition, an increase in the amount of stored carbon in the forests of the Republic of Serbia was recorded, so that it now amounts to about 257,000,000 tons. Ultimately, a national database that consists of a comparable set of data on forest inventory can now serve as the cornerstone of future forest policy.
- The role of forests in combating land degradation and desertification is fully recognized in the roadmap for the future National Forest Program.
- Training of forestry practitioners to meet the dynamic needs of the forest sector is ongoing through the Chamber of forestry engineers, and in close cooperation with stakeholders of forestry and related sectors.
- A new bylaw on forest management planning that includes enhanced conservation of biological diversity



and the sustainable use of its components, has been developed and entered into force.

- Cross border cooperation on the protection of European forests due to the transboundary nature of threats has been enhanced through participation in different regional initiatives and projects.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

As a signatory country of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution, the Republic of Serbia works on different aspects defined within this Resolution, as follows:

- The Republic of Serbia enhanced its transboundary cooperation on disturbance risk management, mainly regarding forest fires.
- In the past years the forestry sector was more visible on all forms of media, including television, social media, printed media etc., by all stakeholders in forestry.
- Through different project activities financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, there was more pronounced interaction between research, innovation, policy, and sustainable forest management practice.



- The work on forest landscape restoration was strengthened through the implementation of different project activities.
- The work on adaptation and mitigation of forests to climate change has been recognized and has become a part of different strategic documents of forestry related sectors.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

The Republic of Serbia will continue to implement principles of sustainable forest management as guiding principles of FOREST EUROPE. One of the most important future activities is the preparation and adoption of the National Forest Programme.





Slovak Republic

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

In 2024, the Slovak Government adopted its third National Forest Programme (NFP) for the period 2025-2030. The NFP headlined “Forests for society”, and in line with the 2030 vision for European forests, sets its vision to promote sustainable forest management through forest governance based on timely and accurate information, interdisciplinary approach and stakeholder participation at all levels, and thus contribute to sustainable development, protection of biodiversity, and human wellbeing. The vision should be achieved through 31 specific objectives grouped into 17 strategic aims. The objectives are classified in five thematic categories:

- Forests and climate
- Forests and timber
- Forests and new technologies
- Forests and society
- Forests and public policies

In line with the 2030 Vision for European forests, the NFP also pays attention to trees outside of forest land (trees growing on abandoned agricultural land) and their contribution to climate policies.

The measures to fulfil all the objectives should be set in the forthcoming NFP Action Plan (under negotiation).

To promote achieving this vision, the major source of public support comes from EU funds, mainly the Common



Agriculture Policy. However, it should be mentioned that resources allocated to forestry under the current Slovak CAP Strategic Plan (2023-2027) are lower than in previous programming periods. During the past years, also a support from the state budget (state aid) was provided for forest ecosystem services other than wood and non-wood production (so called non-productive forest functions). This financial support has the nature of direct payments for forest owners (holders) with the aim of supporting the non-productive functions of forests. That means ecological functions (such as protection of soil, regulation of water cycle, regulation of climatic conditions) and social functions (e. g. positive impact on human health, cultural function, educational function, recreational function, biodiversity protection, and protection of water sources). Such support was provided from 2017 until 2023 and during the last three years amounted to EUR 6 mil. per year, which however, was less than half of the amount required by forest owners and managers. This financial support should be replaced by a new state aid scheme, based on the current Act on Providing Subsidies in Agriculture.

For the protection of primary and climax forests, a new network of strictly protected areas was designated under a joint name Pristine forests of the Slovak



Republic (Pralesy Slovenska) which includes remnants of primary and old-growth forests that did not have such level of legal protection by the time of its designation. Besides the primary and old-growth forests, the network spanning across almost 6,500 ha in total, also includes some previously managed forests to ensure connectivity between the remnants of primary forests and enlargement of old-growth forests in the future.

Moreover, the Slovak Republic has financially contributed to the EUFORGEN programme (in its sixth phase in 2020 - 2024).

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution „Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change“

The adaptation to climate change is an integral part of the adopted National Forest Programme for the period 2025 - 2030. The NFP contains the following specific objectives related to the climate change adaptation:

- Improve effectiveness of forest protection measures to slow down decay of the most vulnerable forest stands.
- Convert 10% of forests with inappropriate tree species composition to more resilient mixed forests.
- Ensure maintaining the gene-pool of forest tree species.
- Initiate the implementation of close-to-nature forest management at least at 25% of forest land (this also includes conversion of forests to close-to-nature systems).
- Create preconditions for diminishing the negative effect of ungulates on target tree species.

To finance the implementation of those targets, the CAP Strategic Plan of the Slovak Republic for the period 2023-2027 (CAP SP) provides specific forestry measures as follows:

- Support for implementation of close to nature forestry - EUR 25 mil.
- Forest restoration measures in forests damaged by natural disturbances and the prevention measures in already established forest stands - EUR 20 mil.

These two measures together account for almost half of the CAP SP resources allocated for forestry in the Slovak Republic for the programming period 2023-2027. Roughly, the other half of the allocated resources from the CAP SP 2023-2027 for forestry measures should support small forest holders, investments to water retention, as well as compensate for nature protection restrictions and forest-environmental measures.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

The Draft Action Plan of the National Forest Programme, that sets concrete measures to achieve NFP's objectives, is still under negotiation with the aim to be adopted by the end of 2024. The measures proposed in the Action Plan are supposed to be indicative, meaning their implementation will depend on available funds. The measures should therefore be implemented based on their urgency.

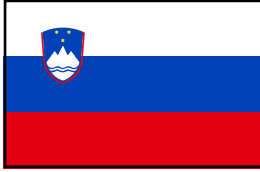
The new National Forest Programme brought an objective to improve the effectiveness of forest protection measures in the most vulnerable stands



to decrease the share of sanitary and salvage logging. However, the recent bark-beetle outbreak in spruce forests in central Slovak Republic shows that achieving such an objective will be a challenge soon. The reasons could include neglected or insufficient prevention and preparedness, factors that strongly undermine the effectivity of post disturbance response in the condition of climate change and massive bark-beetle outbreaks. For the restoration phase, adjusted management measures will have to be timely applied on the ground to promote the development of diverse and heterogeneous forest structures to build future resilience. This is basically in line with priorities set up in the new NFP, however, creating more favorable conditions, such as prolonging reforestation periods and use of pioneer tree species, etc. are required to achieve these goals.

In the field of forest biodiversity protection, administration of national parks has undertaken significant changes during the past two years with the aim to align the whole system of their protection with an international (IUCN) criterion. Consequently, this measure will enlarge the shares of strictly protected areas in the national parks. The measure also included shifts in land management responsibilities for the state-owned forest land in the national parks from state forest authorities to nature conservation authorities. This caused significant tensions between forest holders and managers on one side and nature conservation stakeholders on the other, as well as within the public, NGOs, municipalities and private landowners. Zoning of national parks which should be a precondition to above-mentioned changes are, however, still in progress in five out of nine national parks (two of

them had zonation adopted in the past, zonation of two were adopted recently, and five is still without any zonation).



Slovenia

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Slovenian forestry emphasizes the importance of sustainable, multi-purpose and close to nature forest management. With this type of management, forests will continue to provide all their economic, social and ecological functions in the future. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation with forest owners, stakeholders, as well as to strengthen the forestry sector with new knowledge, innovation, digitalization and cross-sectoral cooperation. That is why we annually organize the “Forest Week” in Slovenia.

The “Forest Week” is a campaign for the promotion of forests and forestry, taking place in the last week of May. A series of events organized by forestry institutions are traditionally held throughout Slovenia during the “Forest Week”. Its motto in 2024 was “Close to nature forest management and innovation - supported adaptation to climate change”.

In order to ensure the development of the forestry sector in the future, it is necessary to encourage young people to choose forestry professions. Therefore, in cooperation with vocational and secondary forestry schools and with the forestry faculty, we carry out promotional activities every year at various fairs in Slovenia.

Most forests in Slovenia are privately owned. Forest owners have the right



to carry out work in their forest. That is why we strive to educate and train the owners of private forests for work in forests. Therefore, by financing various courses we educate and train forest owners for work in forests.

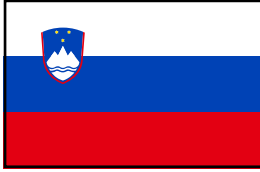
National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

The Government of Slovenia has adopted regional forest and hunting management plans that will facilitate the development of Slovenian forests until 2030.

Since forests are a polygon of many interests, foresters, forest owners and many stakeholders were involved in the process of preparing and accepting the management plans. With this aim, many workshops were organized throughout Slovenia with forest owners and other stakeholders. The plans maintain important principles such as the ecosystem approach and contain nature protection and biodiversity conservation in forest management with the fundamental principles of forest management (sustainability, close to-nature and multi-purpose).

Since we are aware of the importance of strengthening the work on adaptation





of forests to climate change, we have dedicated a special chapter in the plans to this topic. In this regard, we wrote one of the directions “Care of forests and thinning must be intensified, and measures that strengthen stability and resilience forests to climate change”.

The work of the forestry profession, together with the owners and stakeholders, is the only successful way to achieve the goals set in the field of forests.

In the field of adaptation of forests to climate change, we would like to exchange knowledge, experiences and good practices with other countries within the framework of FOREST EUROPE cooperation.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Slovenia is carrying out forest restoration after the biggest fire in the history of Slovenia, when almost 3000 ha of forests were burned down. A major part of the restoration will take place naturally as the Slovenian foresters are committed to natural management of forests. Nevertheless, one part will be restored by planting and smaller part will be restored with seed balls using drones. Therefore, it will be interesting to monitor the effectiveness of different forest restoration methods. More than 10 different native tree species were used in the restoration using planting. Slovenia is ready to share its experience in forest restoration within the framework of FOREST EUROPE activities of the mechanism “FoRISK”.





Spain

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

The Bratislava Ministerial Declaration has been instrumental in the development of the Spanish National Forest Strategy Horizon 2050, as well as of the associated National Forest Plan 2022-2032, which were adopted by the Spanish government in 2022.

Indeed, the Strategy’s overall Vision and Goals, as well as the General Objectives and the specific Lines of Action, reflect multiple elements of the Declaration, as shown by the examples below:

- 2050 Vision: Forest ecosystems are actively managed for increased climate resilience, protection from risks and the continued provision of goods and services.
- Goal 8: Increase the contribution of forests to the Gross domestic product (GDP) up to 1% by 2050.
- General Objective 5: Boost circular bioeconomy acknowledging the main role of the forest sector.
- Line of Action III.3. Diversification of forest production and promotion of non-wood forest products.

In terms of more specific activities and results, we would highlight the following:

- The National Plan for Innovation and Scientific and Technical Research 2024-2027 uses the Spanish Forest Strategy as a reference to guide research in the fields of food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, climate and environment.
- In the field of forest genetic resources, beyond cooperation at European level, the specific needs



of the Macronesian region are being addressed through bilateral collaboration between Spain and Portugal.

- To strengthen the role and visibility of women in the forest sector, several public policy interventions provide additional points to applicants that hire women when scoring applications, and more so when women are in management positions.
- In relation to the valuation of forest ecosystem services, a relevant initiative is the “Ecosystem Services Alliance” launched in 2023 by the regional government of Castilla-la Mancha, which fosters innovative collaborations between private and public entities.
- Spain makes an extensive use of the Rural Development Policy of the EU Common Agricultural Policy to support a large set of forestry interventions, and foresees the establishment of a common set of criteria to monitor their implementation and evaluate their performance.
- To strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue and involvement, the Spanish Forestry Advisory Council meets on a regular basis, bringing together public administration and stakeholders to obtain advice on policy-making processes.



National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

The adaptation of forests to climate, addressed by the Bratislava Resolution, is a priority topic for the Spanish National Forest Strategy Horizon 2050, as well as for the National Forest Plan 2022-2032.

- Axis II of the Strategy is focused on the “Prevention and adaptation of forests to climate change and other risks”, which includes actions to combat wildfires, desertification and land degradation, as well as to preserve forest health and foster ecosystem restoration.
- Wildfires are the main climate-related forest risk in Spanish forests, so the authorities allocate important financial and human resources to this area. As one of the 2050 goals of the Strategy is to lower to 15% the share of forest investment, which is devoted to wildfire extinction, increased efforts are foreseen in risk assessment, prevention and preparedness actions, as well as to promote active forest management.
- The National Forest Plan identifies key actions, including awareness campaigns, such as the seasonal ones on forest wildfires targeting the general population, public administrations and different stakeholders, to promote co-responsibility self-protection and subsidiarity in prevention.

Apart from the above, the Spanish Government adopted the Royal Decree 159/2022 on the conservation of forest genetic resources and of wild flora. This regulation establishes the basic rules on this key aspect for climate adaptation, and, specifically, the instruments for the in situ and ex situ conservation of forest genetic resources.

Actions to address the increased risk of forest pests are also a priority, and four Integrated Pest Management guidelines were published in 2021 for several forest species.

As regards education and training, the Spanish National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change emphasizes this area as a key strategy for addressing climate change challenges. Regarding vocational training, the Plan highlights the need to integrate climate change adaptation and sustainability as core competencies, adjusting professional profiles accordingly.

Finally, the relevant contribution of forests and forest products to mitigating climate change is well reflected in climate-related policy instruments, such as the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030, which sets a clear path for integrating forest biomass into the renewable energy mix.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

- The Spanish National Forest Plan 2022-2032 envisages specific actions to strengthen advisory services and promote the implementation of training plans for forestry workers. One of the actions is to “update and review of the acts that regulate curricula in forestry qualifications (both professional and university training), so that they are permanently adapted to the new demands from the forestry sector and respond to the main emerging social issues that affect the forestry activity”
- The Spanish National Forest Plan 2022-2032 foresees the “development of direct and indirect methods



- for the comprehensive economic valuation of forest ecosystems, as well as the ecosystem services provided by forest properties, based on the different international, European, national and regional initiatives in the matter, as support for the establishment of payment system mechanisms for services ecosystems". The Spanish National Plan also includes the development of fora addressed to forest owners to exchange experiences on the implementation of environmental accounting systems and payments for ecosystem services.
- One of the goals of the Spanish Forest Strategy Horizon 2050 is to increase the forest area through afforestation by at least 20 000 ha per year, while also seeking an increase in public and private investment in forests, aiming to exceed EUR 100 per hectare of forest per year.
 - The Spanish National Forest Plan envisages several actions related to forestry outreach and communication, such as: a study of the social perception on forest and forestry; a study on the presence and relevance of the forestry sector in media, several communication and outreach campaigns with different targets; and the establishment, within the Spanish Forest Committee, of a working group on forest communication and outreach.
 - Axis II of the Spanish Forest Strategy Horizon 2050 aims to enhance understanding of climate change impacts on forest ecosystems and species, and quantify the contributions of forest management practices, as well as afforestation and reforestation initiatives to mitigation efforts through the development and improvement of specific tools, such as carbon footprint registries.
 - Spain considers it crucial to increase efforts in the dialogue with society and forest owners. In this regard, the Spanish National Forest Plan establishes several actions to this end, such as the establishment of an open innovation hub of public-private collaboration.



Sweden

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

In August 2022, the Environmental Goals Committee was tasked by the government to propose, among other things, a strategy with milestones, policy instruments and measures that contribute to Sweden’s commitments within the EU and internationally for nature conservation and biological diversity, as well as uptake and emissions of greenhouse gases within the land use sector (LULUCF). The assignment shall be reported by 2 December 2024 at the latest.

In 2019 the government launched an inquiry on national forest policy looking into several issues addressed in the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration, inter alia the bioeconomy and multifunctional forestry. The report of the inquiry was subsequently the base of the government’s bill to parliament on forest policy. The bill was accepted by the parliament in 2022. In late 2022 the government assigned the responsible government agencies with several commissions to work out the details of the changes intended. The agencies have now reported back most of the commissions, and the government is underway to make the necessary changes.

In February 2024, the government launched a further [inquiry on forest policy](#). The inquiry will be reported back to the government in August 2025.

A special [governmental assignment](#)



dealt with opportunities for close-to-nature forestry.

Furthermore, the Swedish Forest Agency was given a coordinating role concerning improving gender equality in the forest sector. The work focuses on three goals: Equal education; Equal working life; Equalized individual forest ownership.

As regards research and the science-policy interface, the Swedish Research Council (www.formas.se) continuously launches calls into various themes related to politically relevant forest topics. For example, in 2022 a total of 12 projects on new methods of forest management for a grand total of EUR 12 million were granted.

Within the framework of the Swedish national forest programme, annual conferences have been arranged to improve communication and knowledge on forest and on the forest value-chain, with the participation of multiple stakeholders.

Concerning forest genetic resources, Sweden is a member of the EUFORGEN cooperation. In that light, the Swedish Forest Agency has conserved gene resources of native forest trees in habitat protected areas since 2014. The strategy allows a resource-efficient and dynamic





long-term conservation of genetic variation, species and ecosystems in the same protected area. Today, more than 400 areas exist, with nearly 600 gene conservation units that are protected forever.

Additionally, a large forestry country like Sweden has many tree nurseries. Most of them work actively with propagating different regional and climate-adapted varieties to facilitate forest owners' climate adaptation measures. In 2023-2024, a national inquiry was made on how to increase resilience for and long-term conservation of elm and ash.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Sweden's first national climate adaptation strategy was presented in 2018 and in March 2024 the government presented a new national strategy. A difference to the previous version is that the strategy has now been supplemented with a national action plan for climate adaptation work that focuses on what the government intends to do in the next five years to create the conditions for climate adaptation in society.

Different authorities are responsible for support and help in different sector issues. Examples of sectors could be the agricultural and forestry sector, where the Swedish Board of Agriculture and the Swedish Forestry Agency are responsible for climate adaptation support. In 2021, the Swedish University of Agricultural Science's Forest Damage center was established, which research, analyses and monitors forest damage in order to equip the Swedish forest against today's and tomorrow's risks of damage.

It creates and collects knowledge for the health of the forest.

The Swedish Forest Agency organizes a wide range of education courses for forest owners regarding climate adaptation ([Klimatanpassat skogsbruk - Skogsstyrelsen](#)), including web-based education and tutorials. In general, forest owner associations and forest companies invest considerable resources in education and extension services.

The Central Forest Protection Committee (CSK) is an advisory body and reference forum for the Swedish Forest Agency and SLU Forest Damage Center in forest damage issues. The business includes biotic and abiotic forest damage and its causes as well as the impact on the forest's long-term production capacity. CSK also has a working group whose representatives are appointed by the respective organization.

CSK produces situation descriptions and proposals for measures. These then form the basis for the actions of the Swedish Forest Agency, SLU and the entire forest sector in matters related to damage to forests.

When it comes to monitoring forest disturbances such as wildfires, storms and insect attacks, several government agencies are involved. For example, forest fires can be tracked by satellite with the help of the Swedish Meteorological Institute.

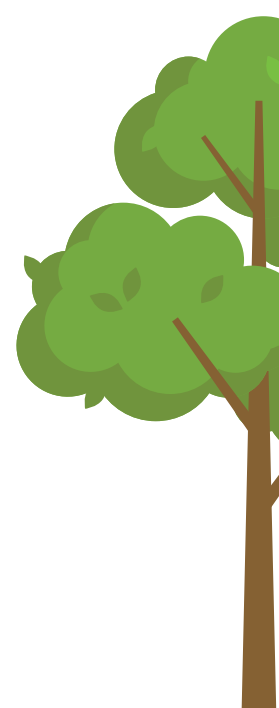
The Swedish Forest Agency (SFA) also publishes a weekly GIS map update on spruce bark beetle spreading based on trappings conducted by the SFA and private forest owner companies and associations.



The SFA also provides a free satellite-based GIS service where forest owners can see where the biggest risks for forest damage are, such as spruce bark beetle (combining draught, fire, storm data).

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

The Swedish government has instituted a committee to submit proposals (Swedish Government Official Report) to adapt Swedish law to the EU's deforestation regulation. The proposals must aim to ensure that the regulations are followed in a cost-effective and legally secure manner and that the whole of Sweden can be considered a low-risk country in the meaning of the regulation, while minimizing administrative costs and maintaining the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry. This includes the interpretation of the definitions of primary and old growth forests.





Switzerland

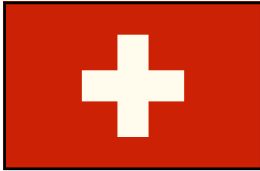
National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

- Forest functions and services are included in the Federal Constitution of Switzerland in Article 77 to guarantee their preservation. The Article states the following: “The Confederation shall ensure that the forests are able to fulfil their protective, commercial and public amenity functions.” This legal mandate is further implemented by the Swiss Forest Act and further elaborate in the Swiss Ordinance.
 - Federal Constitution: [SR 101 - Bundesverfassung der Schweizerischen Ei... | Fedlex \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/lookup/sr-101)
 - Forest Act: [SR 921.0 - Federal Act of 4 October 1991 on Fore... | Fedlex \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/lookup/sr-9210)
 - Forest Ordinance: [SR 921.01 - Ordinance of 30 November 1992 on For... | Fedlex \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/lookup/sr-92101)
- The Forest Act Art. 20 ensures that forests are managed in a sustainable manner: “The forest shall be managed in such a way that it can fulfil its functions without interruption or restriction (sustainability).”
- The Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) is currently working closely with the cantons and other stakeholders on an integral forest and wood strategy for the period up to 2050. The forest policy and wood policy will be brought together in this process in an integrated manner and in accordance with the holistic concept of ecosystem services. The strategy



is to be implemented as a holistic approach (balancing forest functions and services), taking into account relevant sectoral policies (e.g., climate, energy, biodiversity, etc.). https://www.bafu.admin.ch/dam/bafu/en/dokumente/wald-holz/ud-umwelt-diverses/ressourcenpolitik-holz-2030.pdf.download.pdf/en_BAFU_UI-2103_RPH_bf.pdf

- Sustainable forest management is further elaborated on the level of the Swiss “Forest Policy: objectives and measures 2021-2024” which main objective is amongst other to “(...) ensure the optimal coordination of the ecological, economic and social demands on the forest. It guarantees that forest management is sustainable and creates favourable conditions for an efficient and innovative forestry and timber sector in Switzerland.”
 - <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/dam/bafu/en/dokumente/wald-holz/ud-umwelt-diverses/waldpolitik-zieleundmassnahmen2024.pdf.download.pdf/forest-policy-objectivesandmeasures2024.pdf>
- The FOEN supports forest owners, forest managers and all involved actors in the valorization of forest services by carrying out projects in three thematic areas (Measures of the Strategic Direction 6.2 of the Swiss Forest Policy): Economic



valorization, monetary valuation and consideration of forest services in the overall concept of ecosystem services.

- This can be exemplified by the project “Forest Ecosystem Business Models (FEBU)” being supported by FOEN. The project objective is to optimize the forest services in the overall concept of ecosystem services. This involves international concepts, Instruments and experience in ecosystem services in the Swiss forest environment. The main objectives of the current project are a) Compilation and processing of specialist knowledge on the valorisation of forest services and the associated creation of new business models; b) Testing the new concepts and instruments within national case studies.
- To assess the value of the Swiss forests to society, Switzerland implemented its third socio-cultural forest monitoring (WaMos 3): [Bevölkerungsumfrage - Waldmonitoring soziokulturell \(WaMos 3\) \(admin.ch\)](#).

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

- Forest adaptation is mandated to the Swiss Confederation in the Forest Act Art. 28a on action against climate change. The article states “The Confederation and cantons shall take measures to provide sustainable support to the forest in its functions, even under changed climatic conditions.”
- The Forest Act Art. 28a is specified in the Swiss Forest Policy Objective

2 “Mitigate and adapt to climate change”. For implementing the objective is specified in four strategic directions on 1) clarification of impacts; 2) increasing adaptability; 3) measures in the case of disruption and damage; and 4) boosting wood use. The responsibilities for implementation are allocated to the Confederation, Cantons and other actors.

- Moreover, for realization of the strategy “Federal Council strategy for adaptation to climate change in Switzerland” an action plan is in place including forestry as one of nine sectors for which concrete measures are defined. [Federal Council strategy for adaptation to climate change in Switzerland \(admin.ch\)](#)
- An example of such a measure in forestry is the enhancement of the resilience and adaptive capacity of climate-sensitive forest sites.
- Connected with that, FOEN currently conducting research aimed at spatial tree recommendations, and an spatial overview of climate-sensitive forest stands to focus adaptation actions.
- To support action on the ground, the Confederation supports the cantons and, through them, the forest owners within the framework of the “program agreements” - a program-controlled subsidy policy framework: <https://www.bafu.admin.ch/dam/bafu/de/dokumente/recht/uv-umwelt-vollzug/handbuch-programmvereinbarungen-im-umweltbereich-2025-2028.pdf.download.pdf/handbuch-programmvereinbarungen-im-umweltbereich-2025-2028.pdf>
- A political motion has even made it possible to release substantial additional resources for these



measures linked explicitly to adaptation to climate change.

- A major focus of this support is given to forests providing protection against natural hazards (49% of the Swiss forests have a protective function).
 - The newest data from our National Forest Inventory show a significant increase in forest mortality (NFI4 2009/17 to NFI5 2018/23 on national level: natural mortality: $\pm 5\%$ (up to $\pm 14\%$ for some regions); sanitary fellings $\pm 50\%$ ($\approx 30\%$ of wood use); every 8th tree is dead/damaged (before every 10th tree)). This can be underlined with the fact, that even the mortality in the period of NFI2-3 (1993/95 to 2004/06, including the storm Lothar) was significantly lower than the current mortality from the period NFI4-5 (2009/17 to 2018/2023) - where Switzerland experienced several dry years.: [Der Schweizer Wald leidet unter den Wetterextremen \(wsl.ch\)](#)
 - For coping with the negative impacts of climate change on Swiss forests the measures included in the Bericht "Anpassung des Waldes an den Klimawandel" are currently implemented.
 - <https://www.news.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/74194.pdf>
 - On the ground - as the core measure for adapting Swiss forests to climate change - Switzerland implements adaptive forest management to transform sensitive forest stands creating a more resistant and resilient forest structure and composition.
 - Adaptive forest management represents an evolution of sustainable forest management and close-to-nature forestry, including the multifunctionality of forest ecosystems in a changing climate.
- The priority in our adaptive management practices is natural regeneration, whereas artificial planting is used only in cases where natural regeneration is not sufficient or adequate.
 - Related to forest regeneration, FOEN leads a current research program on the provenience of domestic and non-domestic tree species to study tree genetics aimed at increasing tree genetic diversity in our forests: [Swiss common garden network of future tree species \(wsl.ch\)](#)
 - The increase in genetic diversity, along with enhancing tree diversity, forest resilience, stand structure, and the reduction of rotation periods, build the fundament of our adaptive forest management.
 - To strengthen the role of forests and wood in climate change, the FOEN is currently implementing the project "Instruments to strengthen the 3S climate services of forest and wood (3S project)": [Instruments to strengthen the 3S climate services of forest and wood \(3S project\) - Natural Resource Policy Group | ETH Zurich](#)
 - Amongst others, climate change is increasing forest fire risks in regions of Switzerland where forest fires were not common in the past (or are still not common). One of the tasks of the FOEN, in cooperation with the cantons, is to prevent forest fires and warn of them in advance through its newly established Forest fire risk warning platform: [Current danger situation \(waldbrandgefahr.ch\)](#)
 - To support forest owners and managers in climate adaptation the FOEN together with the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL



developed and maintain the Tree App. The application supports practitioners in choosing suitable tree species for current and future climate: [Tree App \(tree-app.ch\)](https://tree-app.ch)

- For adaptive measures in forests with protective function, FOEN is currently updating its [Nachhaltigkeit und Erfolgskontrolle im Schutzwald \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/infocenter/forstwirtschaft/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen-2023.html)

[Bundesamt für Statistik \(admin.ch\);
Holzendverbrauch Schweiz | BFH](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/infocenter/forstwirtschaft/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen-2023.html)

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Included in 1. and 2. above.

See following source for information on the “Integral Forest and Wood Strategy 2050” which is currently under development: [Strategie \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/infocenter/forstwirtschaft/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen-2023.html)

General information on the state of Swiss forests and wood use:

- Recent data of the preliminary result of the Swiss National Forest Inventory 5 (NFI5) including information on current trends (e.g., naturel regeneration, climate change and protectionforest): [Zwischenergebnisse des fünften Landesforstinventars \(LFI5\) \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/infocenter/forstwirtschaft/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen-2023.html)
- Jahrbuch Wald und Holz: https://www.bafu.admin.ch/dam/bafu/de/dokumente/wald-holz/uz-umwelt-zustand/jahrbuch-wald-und-holz-2023.pdf.download.pdf/de_UZ_2324_Jahrbuch_Wald_und_Holz_web.pdf
- Schweizerische Forst Statistik: [Schweizerische Forststatistik | Bundesamt für Statistik \(admin.ch\);](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/infocenter/forstwirtschaft/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen-2023.html) [Forstwirtschaftliches Testbetriebsnetz TBN | Bundesamt für Statistik \(admin.ch\)](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/infocenter/forstwirtschaft/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen-2023.html)
- Additional information on wood use: [Holzverarbeitung |](https://www.admin.ch/gov/de/infocenter/forstwirtschaft/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen/forstwirtschaftliche-massnahmen-2023.html)





Türkiye

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Türkiye prepares and implements five-year plans for planned development purposes. The 12th Development Plan in action, Article 500, stipulates that our forests will be managed in accordance with sustainable forest management criteria and indicators, considering relevant international agreements, including the UN Global Forest Goals and Rio Conventions, and our national commitments.

The General Directorate of Forestry conducts its activities and services in line with the Objectives and Targets stated in the Development Plans and Strategic Plans. Within this context, the Strategic Plan of the General Directorate of Forestry 2024-2028 aims to enhance institutional capacity and ensure institutionalisation in strategic management by developing financial, administrative, physical, and human resources.

The indicator “The number of forest management directorates where local SFM C&I sets are developed at the implementation unit level” is included in the plan, aiming to complete local-level SFM C&I set development activities in 60 forest management directorates by 2028.

In this regard, our country, which plays an important role in the international forestry process, has developed a national SFM C&I set based on the FOREST EUROPE SFM C&I Set, and the



2019 Turkey Report has been prepared. The aim is to develop, implement, monitor, evaluate, and report these national-level efforts, incorporating local elements and priorities, as targeted in the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan of our General Directorate.

Studies on Türkiye’s National Forest Inventory continue to progress. Pilot studies in the Ankara and Istanbul regions were conducted and completed between 2019 and 2020.

International Cooperation

Türkiye has hosted the following meetings to increase its international, regional, and bilateral efforts, as well as to enhance networking and cooperation between international and regional networks:

- Türkiye hosted the 25th Session of Silvamed and the 7th Forest Week in March 2022 in Antalya.
- In collaboration with FOREST EUROPE and SilvaMed, Türkiye hosted a workshop themed “Develop, adopt and transfer innovative solutions and actions to prevent and control wildfire” in October 2022 in Antalya.
- In October 2023, Turkey hosted a



workshop on “Novel Green Forest Jobs” within the framework of the Forest EUROPE Green Jobs Working Group.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

Forest Health

Monitoring is made to identify the adverse effects of climate change, air pollution, etc., and to take necessary measures. Forest health is monitored 24/7 throughout the year to reduce the damage caused by climate change and invasive alien species in the country. For this concern, related reports are issued every four months. Every year, statistical information about tree losses due to insect damage in Türkiye is produced and published in the activity reports of the General Directorate of Forestry. To raise awareness among local communities about the efforts to combat forest health deterioration, information is provided through brochures, posters, promotional films, banners, etc.

Over the years, high-risk areas have been defined as the forested areas where combat efforts have resulted in deteriorating health. These areas are monitored more frequently and receive rapid interventions for combating purposes.

Literature reviews are carried out and followed by scientific studies to enhance the detection and combating capacity of invasive species of foreign origin.

International Collaboration on Forest Health

Türkiye has been conducting observations in Level I and Level II monitoring within the scope of ICP Forests, since 2028. The aim is to collect detailed and comparable information on changes in forests under current ecological conditions, thus aiming for a better understanding of the damage caused by pollution and cause-effect relationships. Through these efforts, the effects of air pollution on ecosystems, vegetation, freshwater, cultural heritage, and materials, as well as human health, are determined. At the same time, information on forest health, biological diversity, sustainable forest management, and climate change is generated. Since 2008, data have been collected from numerous observation areas, and currently, observations are aimed to be shared with ICP Forests in the desired standards in all evaluation topics.

Collaboration with universities and research institutes is carried out regarding the diagnosis and control of native and foreign invasive agents affecting forest health, and projects are being implemented jointly. For example, the SILVA NYMPHA (Sustainable and Smart Management of Forests) project has been implemented in collaboration with Yıldız Technical University (Türkiye), Düzce University Faculty of Forestry (Türkiye), Vestel (Private Sector), Poland Wrocław University of Science and Technology, and Poland Forestry Research Institute. The NYMPHA (Sustainable and Smart Management of Forests) project, cross-border cooperation is being conducted on the harmful organisms *Melolontha melolontha* and *Pityocteines curvidens*.



TIKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency), the General Directorate of Forestry Türkiye, and the FAO Central Asia Office have conducted joint projects and provided technical support for cross-border forest health monitoring and support in collaboration with France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, TRNC, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Honduras, Mexico, and North Macedonia on forest health and biological control issues.

Regarding National Forest Inventory research, Türkiye plans to finish the National Forest Inventory and submit its first five-year report by the end of 2026.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Regarding SFM C&I, Pilot studies have been initiated at the Bayramiç and Kalkım Forest Management Directorates in Çanakkale Province.

Furthermore, technical and financial support is provided under the “Strengthening Sustainable Forest Landscape Management and Conservation of Biodiversity in the Kaz Mountains” project, conducted in collaboration with the FAO, to develop Sustainable Forest Management Criteria and Indicators at the Bayramiç and Kalkım Forest Management Directorates in the Çanakkale Forest Region.

Additionally, within the framework of the sustainable conservation and utilization principle of our forest resources and international agreements, the project “Preparation of the Turkey National Forestry Program-TUOP (2024-2043)” has been initiated under the first component of the Climate-Resilient Forestry Project (IDOP) titled “Empowering Institutions and Society for Fire and Forest Resilience.” The project is planned to be completed within two years.



Ukraine

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

The Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration is problematic due to the ongoing war by Russia against Ukraine. It is now difficult to have exact evaluation of the environmental damage caused to Ukraine from hostilities. Ukrainian forestry was actively involved in the implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Declaration on supporting the recovery and sustainable management of Ukrainian forests and its forest sector. Final report of the FOREST EUROPE initiative, which contain among other practical recommendations and proposals for future steps, will be used by Ukrainian authorities.

Despite the difficult situation the Ukrainian forest sector is currently facing, the following practical achievements are concerned:

- Improving transparency for forest related activities and achievements in digitalization.
- Improving institutional structure of forest related institutions
- Further implementation of the “Green Country” presidential campaign. It is foreseen to plant 3 billion trees within 3 years and 1 more million hectares within the next 10 years.
- Building modern seed plantations where appropriate and possible with the aim of producing containerized seedlings.



National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

The Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration again is problematic due to the ongoing war by Russia against Ukraine. Before the start of the war there was strengthened bilateral cooperation with Türkiye and Austria aiming exchange of experiences in different areas including issues of forest adaptation to climate change.

Despite the difficult situation the Ukrainian forest sector is currently facing, the following practical achievements are concerned:

- Preparation of the scientific recommendations in regards of adaptation of Ukrainian forests to climate change.
- Membership of Ukraine in EUFORGEN since 2023.
- Ongoing work on implementation of the “Green Country” presidential campaign. It is foreseen to plant 3 billion trees within 3 years and 1 more million hectares within the next 10 years.





Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

Ukrainian forestry was actively involved in the implementation of the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Decision on supporting the recovery and sustainable management of Ukrainian forests and its forest sector. In December 2023, a Donor Conference was prepared and conducted with support of the FAO for supporting the forest sector of Ukraine as a follow-up activity. At the moment, the follow-up Donor Conference in Prague, Czech Republic is under preparation.

The Availability of other activities depends on the availability of financial support of proper activities.





United Kingdom

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Woodland area in the UK is expanding, and now covers 13.4% of total land area (around 3.25 million hectares). Over 60,760 hectares of woodland were created between 2021 and 2024. Forests and woodlands are managed for a range of objectives with the precise point of balance between environmental, social and economic functions within and between individual forests varying in response to management objectives and local and national circumstances. Each UK country is responsible for producing and updating its own forestry strategy, reflecting national priorities and objectives, as forest policy is now a devolved matter.

Forests, woodlands and trees are legally protected by a range of Acts and, although these now differ across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, they share the same principles: controlling tree felling; balancing timber production with environmental protection and other benefits to society and the economy; respecting local, national and international conservation designations; conducting forest operations in a way that minimises negative impacts on the environment; managing and controlling tree health and biosecurity; and adhering to the presumption that forest land should not be converted to other uses.

The concept of sustainable forest management remains central to forestry practice across the UK, as expressed by



the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) – the approach of all four governments in the UK to sustainable forestry. The latest (5th) edition of the UKFS, which together with the country forestry strategies makes up the UK’s National Forest Programme, will apply from October 2024. The UKFS is also the basis of forestry practice for the independent UK Woodland Assurance Standard used for voluntary certification. In 2024, 44% (1.44 million hectares) of forests and woodlands in the UK are FSC and PEFC certified – representing 100% of state forests and around one quarter of private forests.

Each of the four UK nations has set out ambitious forest and woodland expansion programmes designed to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. In England, a legally binding target to increase tree cover to 16.5% of land area by 2050 was introduced in 2023. Efforts continue to bring more woodlands back into management, to improve habitat condition and improve resilience to climate change and pests and diseases. The UK established a new Centre for Forest Protection in 2022, a collaborative platform that combines the capabilities of the UK’s Forest Research agency and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in innovative science, interdisciplinary research, advice and training.



National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution „Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change“

The third Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk, which provides advice to government, was published by the Climate Change Committee in 2021. Its findings for land use, land-use change and forestry show that the changing climate could both positively and negatively impact forestry: positive impacts could be opportunities for the productivity of forests, as it may make the UK suitable for new tree species. Negative impacts include an increase in extreme weather events and growing risks from pests, pathogens and invasive non-native species.

Adapting the UK's forests and woodlands to climate change is core to the UK Forestry Standard and national forest strategies. A new UKFS Practice Guide on 'Adapting forest and woodland management to the changing climate' was published in 2022. The Guide provides a framework that takes forest and woodland owners, managers, planners and policymakers through the process of choosing and implementing appropriate adaptation measures. Publication of the Guide was followed by the launch of a new online 'Climate Change Hub' in 2023, built and hosted by Forest Research. This has been designed to be the home of UK forestry climate change adaptation guidance (<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/climate-change/>).

Across the UK, there is ongoing work to improve habitat condition and resilience to climate change, and to enhance the contribution of all types of forests and woodlands to biodiversity. The

UK and Scottish Governments have published temperate rainforest (Atlantic woodland) strategies, which set out how these precious and globally rare habitats should be protected, restored and enhanced. Because climate change poses special challenges to the genetic resources that are necessary for the ongoing adaptation of trees and forests, Forest Research led work to compile the first national report on The State of Forest Genetic Resources in the UK between 2021 and 2022.

Work started on several programmes relevant to adapting forests to climate change in this implementation period: in 2021, funding introduced for nature and climate aimed to increase woodland creation and peatland restoration by 2025, and another programme is designed to advance and test new measurements of, and approaches to, landscape management and use. The resilience of UK treescapes to global change is one of three research themes that aims to identify drivers of change that pose significant risks to the resilience of current and future UK treescapes over decades and centuries. Also relevant is the ongoing monitoring work to assess habitat condition and the provision of ecosystem services, for example the Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment in England, and the Natural Capital Asset Index in Scotland.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

The UK forestry authorities are collaborating on the review of guidance on sustainable forest management in a rolling project starting in 2024, building on the 5th edition of the UK Forestry Standard and updating good practice in the light of emerging research



and evidence. The UK's Institute of Chartered Foresters has launched an UKFS e-learning platform, to help tree professionals get to grips with the new edition, through a visually appealing and interactive series of online programmes. Such initiatives to tackle skills shortages in the UK forestry sector continue, with a range of education and training opportunities available or in development, in addition to a range of forestry apprenticeship schemes.

Increasing the home-grown supply of wood is increasingly a priority to reduce the UK's reliance on imported timber. In Scotland, timber frame construction for housing already accounts for around 90% of all new build low-rise homes; however, in England and Wales, more and safe use of timber in construction will be a key step in supporting the forestry and wood processing sectors to grow and innovate, creating new green jobs and helping level up rural economies. UK governments have worked with industry, academia and other stakeholders to drive the use of sustainably sourced timber as a safe, clean building material, including, for example, the 'Timber in Construction Roadmap' in England, and the creation of a Timber-based Industrial Strategy in Wales. Both initiatives are designed to sustain the high-value production and processing of domestic wood products. New research is underway to support the increased demand for domestic timber by ensuring that the UK's productive forests remain fit for the future. Forest Research is building a comprehensive evidence base to underpin diversification of productive tree species and support long-term decision-making. The evidence comprises an assessment of over 60 species by scoring their performance against multiple criteria,

including tree breeding potential, plant and seed supply, silviculture, climate and site suitability, yield class, tree health, biodiversity, and timber properties. The final selection of species is due to be published later this year.

The forestry authorities in each of the nations continue to work to connect more people to nature through woodland creation and woodland management. An example launched in 2024 is a competition to create a new 'Forest for the Nation', which was inspired by the achievements of the National Forest, which has transformed the landscape across 200 square miles of the English Midlands since the 1990s.



Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

As called for in the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration (MD) in 2021, CEPF has continuously engaged in promoting and supporting sustainable forest management (SFM) in Europe. Within the scope of its activities towards the EU Institutions and at pan-European level, CEPF co-organised several high-level events to advocate on sustainable forest management and forests multifunctionality:

- 21/01/2021 - Seeing the forest for the trees - the multifunctional role of EU forests <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/going-back-basics-what-do-multifunctional-forests-practically-mean>
- 24/01/2023 - EU Forest Strategy for 2030: where we are and where we go next <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/eu-forest-strategy-2030-where-we-are-and-where-we-go-next>
- 26/09/2024 - Multifunctional forests and their role in supporting EU strategic objectives

To contribute to tackling global deforestation and restore degraded forests (Bratislava MD 12, 26 VI), CEPF actively advocated on the role of SFM:

- in the process of defining and EU Deforestation regulation, [https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/position-forest-owners-managers-considerations-ec-proposal-](https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/position-forest-owners-managers-considerations-ec-proposal-deforestation-and-forest)

[deforestation-and-forest](#)

- in the process of defining and EU Nature Restoration regulation, <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/eu-nature-restoration-law-must-promote-credible-measures-will-deliver-multiple-benefits>
- as part of the stakeholder advisor board of the research project SUPERB, <https://www.cepf-eu.org/search?keyword=superb>

To contribute to valuation ecosystems and their services (Bratislava MD 14, 26 IV, 33), CEPF took part to

- the stakeholder advisor board of the research project SINCERE, <https://www.cepf-eu.org/search?keyword=SINCERE>

To contribute to the recognition of the key role of forest owners (Bratislava MD 22, 24), CEPF launched

- a communication campaign #WelcomeToMyForest - To make the voices of those who take care of forests heard <https://www.cepf-eu.org/welcometomyforest>

To contribute to objectives on climate and circular bio-economy (Bratislava MD 15, 26 III, 28, 34, 35), CEPF

- is member of the European Bioeconomy Alliance (EUBA) and Bioeconomy blueprint (<https://www.bioeconomyalliance.eu/news/the-bioeconomy-blueprint-building-a-circular-and-resilient-europe/>) and to EUBA policy paper on the Bioeconomy’s contribution to the

European Green Deal and brochure on best practices (<https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/euba-paper-bioeconomy-contribution-european-green-deal-and-brochure-best-practices>)

- Is supported of the Circular choices campaign (<https://www.cepi.org/circular-choices-for-a-competitive-eu-bioeconomy-growing-a-circular-future/>)
- Co-organised a bioeconomy seminar on 30/06/2023 and issued a recommendations of EU primary producers for the next steps on the EU bioeconomy policy framework <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/recommendations-eu-primary-producers-next-steps-eu-bioeconomy-policy-framework>
- CEPF actively advocated on the role of SFM in the context of legislation on carbon removals certification framework <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/feedback-proposal-regulation-establishing-voluntary-framework-certification-co2-removals,2040climatetarget> <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/cepf-statement-eu-2040-climate-target-positive-repositioning-bioeconomy-and-which-role>, LULUCF <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/cepf-feedback-eu-rules-land-use-land-use-change-and-forestry-lulucf-evaluation>, and RED <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/cepf-feedback-european-commission-proposal-amend-renewable-energy-directive-2018/2001>

To contribute to the promotion of research and communication on evidence-based knowledge (Bratislava MD 22, 24, 28

- CEPF supports and engage with

the Forest-Technology Platform <https://www.forestplatform.org/> and several research projects (e.g. EUFORE) on forest and forest management to ensure evidence-based knowledge <https://www.cepf-eu.org/search?keyword=eufore>

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

As called for in the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution (MR) in 2021, CEPF has continuously engaged in promoting and supporting sustainable forest management in Europe as essential tool to adapt pan-European forest to climate change.

To contribute to work toward adaptation and mitigation of climate change (Bratislava MR 15, 23), CEPF actively advocated on the role of SFM and adaptation needs

- in the preparation of the new EU Adaptation Strategy <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/cepf-feedback-european-commission-inception-impact-assessment-eu-strategy-adaptation>
- with active participation of FOREST EUROPE expert meeting and the development of the FoRisk pilot <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/forest-europe-expert-level-meeting-and-final-report-ukraine-initiative>

To contribute to raise public awareness on SFM (Bratislava MR 16) and adaptation actions taken by forest owners CEPF launched

- a communication campaign

#WelcomeToMyForest - To make the voices of those who take care of forests heard <https://www.cepf-eu.org/welcometomyforest>

To contribute to strengthen work on forest restoration (Bratislava MR 19, 24), CEPF actively advocated on the role of SFM and adaptation needs

- in the process of defining and EU Nature Restoration regulation, <https://www.cepf-eu.org/news-media/eu-nature-restoration-law-must-promote-credible-measures-will-deliver-multiple-benefits>
- as part of the stakeholder advisory board of the research project SUPERB, <https://www.cepf-eu.org/search?keyword=superb>

EUSTAFOR shares the pan-European definition and principles of sustainable forest management developed by FOREST EUROPE.

On 9 March 2022 EUSTAFOR published its new Strategy 2022-2026. The purpose of the new strategy is to define and implement the challenges and developments of EUSTAFOR and its member organizations that have been identified as relevant in order to meet state forests' strategic objectives. The new strategy, which ensures a framework for the work plan of our association over the 5 years until 2026, includes 4 strategic areas and topics that are relevant for EUSTAFOR's activities:

- Climate change (CC) impacts on European state forests and their management - balancing mitigation and adaptation requirements;
- Sustainable bio-based circular economy;
- Multifunctional forestry as a preferred model to ensure economic,

social and environmental benefits in Europe;

- Biodiversity, including protected area management.

The Strategy promotes the concept of sustainable and multifunctional forest management in the European state forests and makes clear reference to the Bratislava Ministerial Conference and its commitments. The operational part of the Strategy states that EUSTAFOR participates in the work of FOREST EUROPE, FAO and UNECE at pan-European level.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

CEPF continues to be a strong promoters and supporter of the FOREST EUROPE process, its achievements and the pan-European definition and principle of SFM it developed.

In September 2024, CEPF co-organised an event promoting and explaining SFM: Multifunctional forests and their role in supporting EU strategic objectives.

In November 2023, CEPF published its Manifesto <https://www.cepf-eu.org/manifesto>, which outlines CEPF Vision and CEPF Commitments, fully aligned with FOREST EUROPE process:

- CEPF Vision: By 2030, we want to be a cornerstone of a safe, sustainable, resilient, and competitive EU, thanks to active sustainable forest management, a prerequisite to healthy and prosperous forests and to a growing bioeconomy. We want to keep playing our role in addressing the main challenges our society faces, from climate change to loss of competitiveness, high energy

- prices and social fracture. Our long-term vision is for EU citizens to keep enjoying all the benefits provided by our forests and to connect them with us.
- Strength in diversity We are a diverse group of people, as diverse as our forests spanning across the continent. Our management decisions are tailor-made and locally suited to our forests. These differences make it possible to fulfil the varying needs of society.
 - Independent management of forests We take care of our forests with decisions based on national and regional forest management legislations, values, scientific information and long-standing field expertise.
 - Embracing time We are part of a long-term forest management cycle as it takes at least three generations for a tree to reach maturity.
 - Integrated approach to forests We consider all functions of forests essential. In addition to their environmental benefits, our forests are economically viable and bring social and cultural benefits to society. We contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goal
- CEPF commitments Over the last decades, we have managed our forests with multifunctional objectives to meet society's numerous and changing demands. Continued improvement is needed, and we are eager to evolve, innovate, and adapt. Sustainable forest management is a dynamic concept, ever-evolving with our knowledge and understanding of forests. In this context, these are our commitments.
 - Continuing to optimise sustainable forest management. Forest owners are best placed to understand the complexity of forests and choose management priorities;
 - Contributing to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Through our forest management decisions and practices, forests should reach a balance between long-term carbon sink, storage (in forests and products), and substitution as well as adaptation and resilience to climate change;
 - Strengthening cooperation with the scientific community. The aim is to make management decisions fit to answer the multiple expectations and needs of society;
 - Enhancing cooperation with the whole value chain. Ensure that future wood-made solutions fit forests' future capabilities;
 - Mobilising more forest owners to manage their forests. A well-managed forest plays a central role in climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and many other ecosystem services, as well as improving resilience towards forest fires, storms, pests and diseases;
 - Improving communication towards the public. Explain the reality and complexity of forest management, including the difference between various management practices and how these are not competing but complementary;
 - Fostering links Between young and old, rural and urban, and between different socio-economic classes.



European State Forest Association (EUSTAFAFOR)

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

EUSTAFAFOR published relevant different publications (and relevant activities) connected to the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration:

- On 25 June 2024 EUSTAFAFOR published its MANIFESTO FOR 2024 AND BEYOND: MANAGING FORESTS FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET, which in stays in line and contributes to Bratislava Declaration 2016 (p. 21-23, 25)
- EUSTAFAFOR Report on Covid impact from 2020 (internal)
- Points 9-15 of the Declaration were addressed in EUSTAFAFOR messages to policymakers: https://eustafor.eu/uploads/EUSTAFAFOR-Letter-to-European-Policymakers_web.pdf
- Impacts of climate change: EUSTAFAFOR booklet https://eustafor.eu/uploads/EUSTAFAFOR-booklet_European-forests-Tackling-climate-change-DEF-high.pdf + joint statement: <https://eustafor.eu/uploads/20190319-joint-statement-FF-CC-FINAL.pdf>
- Circular bioeconomy: EUSTAFAFOR supported forest based industry vision 2050 https://eustafor.eu/uploads/FBI-Vision-2050_Electronic-version_18112019.pdf
- Role of SFM on reducing deforestation: In EUSTAFAFOR's observations on the adopted law (https://eustafor.eu/uploads/20230208_EUSTAFAFOR-statement-on-the-new-deforestation-law.pdf), it is noted that: EUSTAFAFOR regrets that very little effort was brought by the proposal to promote the European concept of sustainable and multifunctional forestry as a viable solution to maintain and expand forests around the world, while serving the needs of our planet and providing multiple services to society at large.
- Vision for European forests 2030 (points 21-24): EUSTAFAFOR addressed these points in the above-mentioned EUSTAFAFOR messages to policymakers, but has kept repeating these in its further communications, including the campaign ResponsibleForestry <https://eustafor.eu/public-campaigns/>.
- Goals for European Forests and the 2030 European Targets (point 26 II, III, V): EUSTAFAFOR supports the Forest Technology Platform (FTP), including the latest communication https://eustafor.eu/uploads/20240321_International-Day-Forests-Innovation.pdf + on carbon removals: https://eustafor.eu/uploads/20231010_Carbon-Removals-certification_EUSTAFAFOR-position-002.pdf + on financial mechanisms: INTERNAL reports on available EU funds for state forests and the uptake of such funds among

EUSTAFOR members for the period 2014-2020.

and adaptation requirements;

- National and pan-European actions: Research and innovation (point 28) - above mentioned support for FTP + EUSTAFOR participation in research projects: <https://eustafor.eu/eu-projects/> + messages to policymakers, Genetic resources (point 30): EUSTAFOR contributed to EUFORGEN research project, Education support: EUSTAFOR presented the association and state forests to IFSA + occasionally, the EUSTAFOR Office is supported by forestry exchange students/ graduates, Importance of managed forests (point 37): campaign Responsible Forestry <https://eustafor.eu/public-campaigns/>.
- Sustainable bio-based circular economy;
- Multifunctional forestry as a preferred model to ensure economic, social and environmental benefits in Europe;
- Biodiversity, including protected area management.

The Strategy promotes the concept of sustainable and multifunctional forest management in the European state forests and makes clear reference to the Bratislava Ministerial Conference and its commitments. The operational part of the Strategy states that EUSTAFOR participates in the work of FOREST EUROPE, FAO and UNECE at pan-European level.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

EUSTAFOR shares the pan-European definition and principles of sustainable forest management developed by FOREST EUROPE.

On 9 March 2022 EUSTAFOR published its new Strategy 2022-2026. The purpose of the new strategy is to define and implement the challenges and developments of EUSTAFOR and its member organizations that have been identified as relevant in order to meet state forests' strategic objectives. The new strategy, which ensures a framework for the work plan of our association over the 5 years until 2026, includes 4 strategic areas and topics that are relevant for EUSTAFOR's activities:

- Climate change (CC) impacts on European state forests and their management - balancing mitigation



International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

Since 2005, IFSA has been an observer organization of the FOREST EUROPE process and a proactive collaborator in promoting sustainable forest management among the youth. IFSA's efforts for the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration „The forests we want, the future we need“, are implemented through several collaborative activities with FOREST EUROPE representatives.

IFSA and FOREST EUROPE work closely to implement joint efforts in promoting forest education given its significance in safeguarding forests for future generations. One outstanding example of our contribution is the “Youth Forest Policy Days”, a three-day virtual event in collaboration with FOREST EUROPE. This youth-led event was centred on advocating for forest education among young people and fostering learning from experts and professionals from forestry and related fields. Additionally, IFSA created an Open Letter on Gender and Forest Education to call for a swift transformation towards more gender-aware and inclusive practices in forest education and shared it within its forestry universities and departments, organizations, and policymakers.

Aside from this, IFSA has been proactively collaborating with FOREST EUROPE to promote Novel Green Forest Jobs through activities such as the IFSA Job Fair. This event was implemented in 2022 and 2023 where representatives

of organizations from forestry and related fields introduced the youth to their organizational backgrounds, missions, and job/internship vacancies. Through the IFSA Supporter and Alumni Network (IFSA-SAN), IFSA has organized Career Dinners to provide an avenue for young people to network with forestry professionals and gain advice and guidance on career-related matters. Beyond these efforts, supporting the direction of carbon emission reduction, IFSA established the Carbon and Sustainability Sub-Commission to monitor and report the carbon emissions from IFSA activities and recommend respective measures for their reduction in the future.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

IFSA is committed to promoting the best SFM practices through its flagship regional and international events. During the International Forestry Students Symposium (IFSS) 2023 in Germany, more than 100 international students learned about SFM, climate change mitigation, and adaptation strategies through excursions and hybrid lectures, panel discussions, and workshops. Through virtual events such as the “Youth Forest Policy Days”, students also had a chance to learn about innovations in forestry, the development of forest policies, and SFM implementation.

Recently, IFSA launched the Spring Course series focusing on innovations in forest sector and climate change



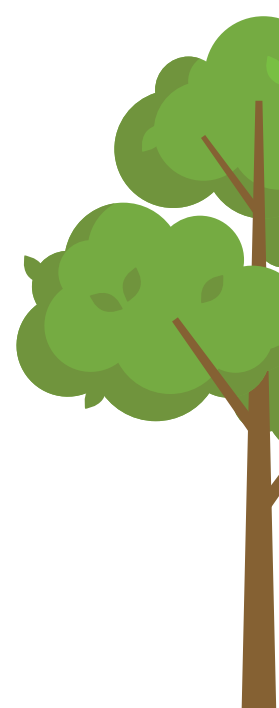
mitigation and adaptation in which participants received certificates upon completion. Furthermore, such topics are promoted in IFSA webinars and online workshops catering to the youth and young professionals.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

As the only youth observer organization in the FOREST EUROPE process, IFSA has been committed to strengthening youth representation at the FOREST EUROPE 9th Ministerial Conference. With the IFSA Task Force and the support of FOREST EUROPE representatives, IFSA organized two youth consultation workshops and convened youth organizations and students to share their vision for European forests in the future and strategies to achieve these. The ideas have been collected and integrated into a position paper that has been presented at the 9th Ministerial Conference, establishing an intergenerational dialogue between the youth and decision-makers and strengthening the youth's role in influencing the policies for forests in the Pan-European region.

In August 2024, IFSA will continue promoting SFM through events like the IFSS 2024 in Romania, convening students worldwide to gain first-hand experience of how SFM strategies are implemented in Eastern Europe.

Beyond these initiatives, IFSA is committed to continuing its collaboration with FOREST EUROPE to encourage intergenerational, multi-sectoral efforts in promoting and upholding common values among the youth.



The Turkish Foresters' Association for a Green Türkiye (Yeşil Türkiye)

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Declaration “The Future We Want: The Forests We Need”

- Yeşil Türkiye members participated in the 11.11 event (November 11) organized every year by the General Directorate of Forestry. Public and private sector representatives participated in the event and 11 million saplings were planted. Yeşil Türkiye organized the participation of teachers and students from private educational institutions in the event.
- 110 private sector representatives participated in the sapling planting event organized by Yeşil Türkiye.
- Yeşil Türkiye representatives attended and contributed to the opening, interim evaluation and closing workshops of the project on Land Degradation Neutrality - Upper Sakarya Basin, which was carried out in cooperation with FAO and the General Directorate of Combating Desertification and Erosion.
- Plant care work was carried out by Yeşil Türkiye volunteers in the gardens of some kindergartens, primary schools and high schools.
- Speeches on soil and forest were carried out in some primary schools.
- Within the scope of the project on Resilient Schoolyards for Solid Immunity, carried out by Yeşil Türkiye, a workshop on Advocacy

and Policy Document and a workshop on Children's Rights from the Schoolyard was held.

- Representatives of Yeşil Türkiye attended the congress titled “International Forest Products” held at Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Forestry.
- A Cooperation Protocol on Afforestation was signed between Yeşil Türkiye and the General Directorate of Forestry.
- A workshop on Corporate Identity for Yeşil Türkiye was held with the participation of members from Yeşil Türkiye members.
- Yeşil Türkiye representatives attended and contributed to the FOREST EUROPE Expert Level Meetings and the working group meetings on Green Jobs; SFM; and FoRISK.
- Participation was made in the Symposium titled “Forests and Biodiversity” organized by the Chamber of Forestry Engineers.

National Implementation of the Bratislava Ministerial Resolution “Adapting pan-European Forests to Climate Change”

- Participation was carried out in the workshop on Forest Fires in the Climate Change Process, organized by the General Directorate of Forestry.

- Participation in the Climate Summit and Fair organized by Ankara Chamber of Commerce in Ankara.
 - Presentations on soil and forest were made to some primary school students in Tekirdağ city.
 - Participation at the 7th Forest Week events of the FAO Silvaned.
 - Employees of an IT company and 500 students from private and public schools were organized to plant saplings within the scope of March 21 Forest Week activities in Ankara.
 - An online sapling donation system was established by Yeşil Türkiye in order to donate saplings for Mother's Day, Teachers' Day, religious and public holidays.
 - Some public and private sector companies and NGOs operating in the forest sector were visited.
 - The system of becoming a Yeşil Türkiye member as a volunteer member via the internet was established.
- will be continued in relevant institutions, organizations and Yeşil Türkiye centre in Ankara. Sapling planting events will be organized within the scope of training activities. Participation will be provided in sapling planting events organized by other institutions.
- Garden maintenance support will continue to be provided to educational and training institutions.
 - Yeşil Türkiye members will attend and contribute to FOREST EUROPE meetings.

Ongoing and future planned activities with relevance for FOREST EUROPE

- In line with FOREST EUROPE's vision, goals and objectives, Yeşil Türkiye will continue the following activities in FOREST EUROPE's coming period:
- Cooperation with relevant institutions and organizations on forestry-related issues will continue.
- Education and training activities on land and forestry-related issues

Following the implementation of the Work Programme 2021 - 2024, LUBo aimed to actively contribute to the political debate on forests at European and global level, as well as to act as an active ambassador of the FOREST EUROPE work in these processes. LUBo facilitated a "SFM think tank", i.e. a FOREST EUROPE expert group composed of signatory delegates and international, cross-sectoral experts that reviewed the concept of SFM and its instruments. As an outcome it can be stated that the dynamic concept of sustainable forest management has again been thoroughly reviewed over the past chairing period, that it remains relevant, and that it provides a robust foundation that can be adapted to the changing needs of the future. Furthermore, LUBo continued its close collaboration with international organizations (in particular UNECE, FAO) and processes (in particular UNFF, Montreal Process) to further develop C&I for SFM and increase outreach and communication to a broader audience. It will be even more important in future to streamline those collaborations to make a difference in the fragmented forest policy arena.

Across the European continent, forest ecosystems have been exposed to forest disturbance regimes followed by intensified damage events with increasing frequency in the last decade. Natural disturbances are an integral part of forest ecosystems; however, in recent times the intensified negative impacts on forests and associated ecosystem services have reached

severe levels and are expected to be even further accelerated by climate change. The overall objective of the work stream 2 was to improve the transboundary cooperation related to forest disturbance risk management building on a collaborative, trustworthy and novel format. This was carried out in a pilot phase with a focus on forest fire prevention, the fight against diseases (in particular bark beetles) and finally on storm damage with the overall aim of enhancing forest resilience. One of the main outcomes of the German FOREST EUROPE chair is that minister will decide on establishing a Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK) under the aegis of FOREST EUROPE with the overarching objective of enhancing the resilience of forests and the forest sector by supporting transboundary and cross-sectoral disaster risk management within the framework of sustainable forest management. In the next month, the European Forest Institute (EFI) will prepare the ground to launch FoRISK at the start of 2025. All signatories of the FOREST EUROPE process who are in the position to do so are invited to support FoRISK with voluntary financial or in-kind contributions to create full ownership for this newly established facility.

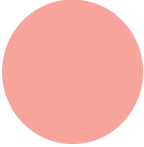
Skilled personnel are needed to adapt European forests to climate change and manage society's growing demands on ecosystem services. However, a distinct decrease of Green Jobs in the forest sector in pan-Europe was noted in the last report "State of Europe's Forests". Therefore, intensive work was needed

in this field to identify opportunities and challenges to improve the competitiveness of the forest sector. To achieve this, LUBo offered innovative ideas of how to promote Green Jobs in the forest sector. The linkage between forest education and possible areas of work along the whole value chain is important in this context as well. There is a need to ensure that best fitting education provides attractive up-to-date job opportunities for skilled staff in the forest-based sector. This includes classical jobs, but also novel, innovative concepts that are to be explored. For this important topic, LUBo emphasized dialogue with the young generation, specifically with IFSA. This cooperation was extremely helpful and should be continued in the coming years.

FOREST EUROPE is a platform for high-level forest policy debates and exchanges of positions and opinions. To make a difference and to give added value, it is important that these debates are based on sound and reliable scientific knowledge. This is ensured through the active membership of important forest science organizations such as the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and EFI in this FOREST EUROPE process. In addition, the topics to be discussed need to be addressed in a timely manner and be high on the pan-European and international forest policy agenda. A newly established High-Level Policy Dialogue format was found very useful in this regard to promptly react to emerging issues of policy interest. It

should continue to offer a platform for policy dialogue including the publication of take away messages from those events. An example of the urgent need for this kind of rapid response was the attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine in 2022. FOREST EUROPE was one of the first pan-European processes to react with the adoption of the Ministerial Decision of August 2022 to support Ukraine in building back better its forest sector along with necessary reforms after the war-related breakdown in order to conserve, restore and sustainably manage its forests. Signatories of FOREST EUROPE are invited to consider, insofar as appropriate and possible, strengthening their bilateral and multilateral cooperation and technical support in building back better the Ukrainian forest sector during and after the war.

The main goal of the FOREST EUROPE communication activities was to assist in achieving FOREST EUROPE's objectives and ensure the visibility of the joint work and resulting impact by using effective and innovative communication with the relevant stakeholders. The outcome is to motivate European policymakers to engage further in this political dialogue and work together on forest policy. A careful evaluation proved that, without losing sight of its key target group, FOREST EUROPE reached new audiences with its newly designed webpage, ongoing and planned social media activities and many other activities such as webinars, an online comic and a seminar with journalists on Green



Forest Jobs. Another important positive effect was achieved through joint communication campaigns such as that with the European Forest Alliance and here specifically with UNECE to multiply the outreach and reduce the burden for each partner. It is recommended that communication work be continued and even enhanced in future.

FOREST EUROPE will continue to play the leading role in defining sustainable forest management. It will maintain an inclusive and open discussion, as facilitated by the “FOREST EUROPE Think Tank”, on sustainable forest management as a dynamic and evolving concept, taking the latest scientific evidence and other forms of knowledge into due account.



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