

EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

Forest-based policy pathways towards a climate-neutral society: introducing the ForestPaths project

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FORESTPATAS CO-DESIGNING HOLISTIC FOREST-BASED POLICY PATHWAYS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

Duration: September 2022 – February 2027



CHALLENGE

EU targets to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and become climate neutral by 2050 require urgent and major reforms by all sectors. Simultaneously, the EU has committed to conserve biodiversity.



OPPORTUNITIES

Clear policy pathways are needed to meet these multiple targets. They need to outline alternatives for how European forests and the forest-based sector can contribute to achieving a climateneutral and resilient society and economy.



AIM

ForestPaths will co-design, quantify and evaluate holistic forest-based policy pathways to optimise the contribution of EU forests and the forest-based sector to climate change mitigation, while considering the need to adapt forests to climate change, conserve biodiversity and sustain forest ecosystem services provisioning.



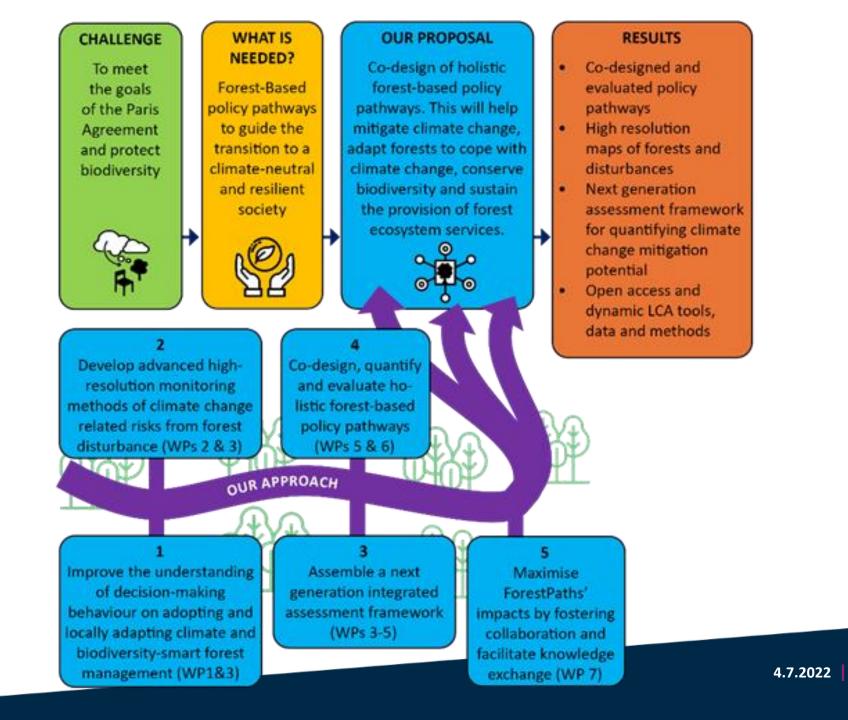
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The ForestPaths consortium

PARTNERS

European Forest Institute
Lund University
Technical University of Munich
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
Natural Resources Institute Finland
Stichting Wageningen Research
Flemish Institute for Technological Research
PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

Oeko Institut
Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change
Prospex Institute
Transilvania University of Brasov
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Joint Research Centre – European Commission
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University of Edinburgh



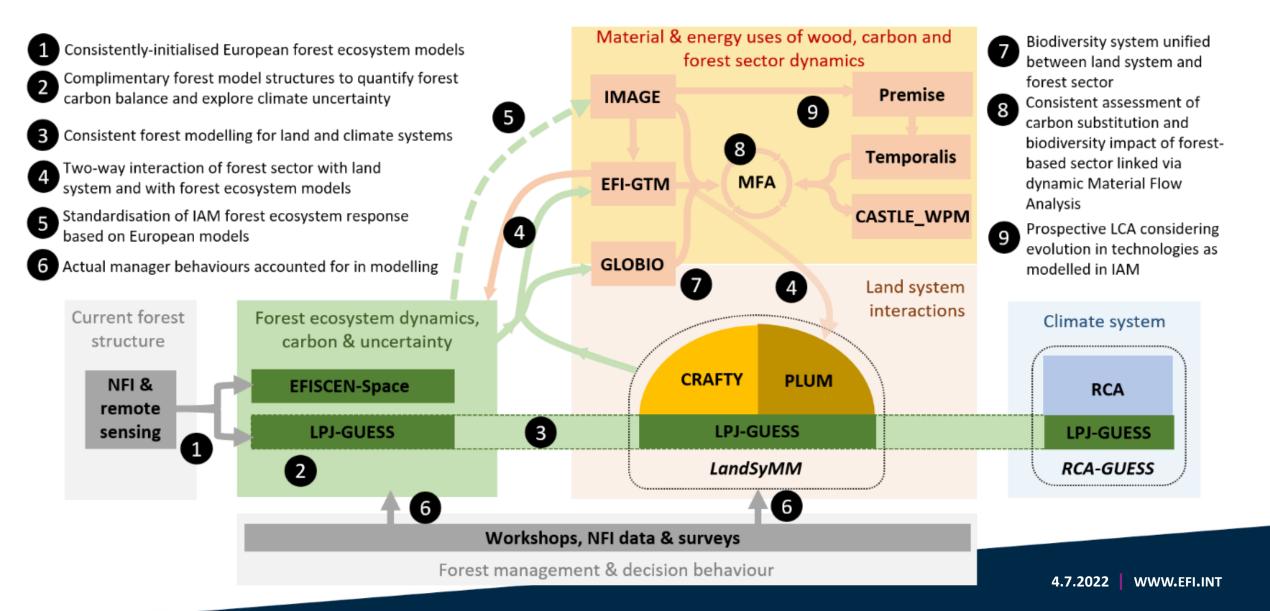
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Project activities



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Modelling approach



Policy Labs and demo cases

- Series of Policy Labs to:
 - identify policy objectives, stakeholder needs and visions i. on European forests and the forest-based sector, and policy actions and opportunities to achieve them;
 - critically examine initial simulation results; ii.
 - iii. provide policy recommendations derived from the pathway analysis and evaluation.
- Confirmed support by multiple stakeholders (national ministries, forest extension services, forest based sector, certification bodies, civil society
- Four demo cases to ensure practical usability and relevance of the knowledge generated in ForestPaths

Boreal climate

Atlantic climate

Low economic

importance for

(48%)

omv

Increased risk

of droughts and

Loss of vitality by combined impacts

of climate change

and high nitrogen

1/3 of forests have

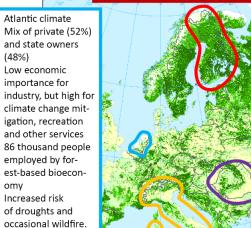
focus, otherwise

biodiversity as main

integrated approach

deposition

- Mostly under private ownership (60%), excl. companies. State Forest Service responsible for actively managed forests and conservation areas..
- High importance to forest industry, as well as NWFPs (mushroom, berries), recreation, and GHG balance for reaching climate neutrality
- 106 thousand people employed by forest-based bioeconomy
- Increasing productivity, moderate increase in disturbances, challenges to mobilise wood under climate change
- Fairly segregated approach through protection of forests. Management focuses on production and considers biodiversity following certification standards



- Continental and Alpine climate >60% state-owned forests. Management fully regulated by state, regardless of ownership. Medium importance to industry, but high importance for NWFP. About 50% of households rely on wood for heating 257 thousand people employed
- by forest-based bioeconomy Climate change and natural disturbances so far limited impacts
- Management aimed to increase stand stability through enforcing natural forest type. Significant tracts of old-growth forests at risk of exploitation
- Mediterranean and continental climate Mostly under private ownership (66%). Associations are being established as ownership is becoming more regulated
- Medium importance to forest industry, large differences between regions. High importance for protection (35% of the total forest area) and NWFPs
- 440 thousand people employed by forest-based bioeconomy
- Decreasing productivity, strong increase in wildfire risk
- Segregated approach through protection of forests. Recent decree introduces important innovations for NWFPs, biodiversity and sustainability

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Thank you!

More information: https://blog.efi.int/



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