

How “Close-to-Nature” Is the Management of European Forests?

10 March 2022, 10.00-12.30h

Webinar supported by European forest managers and forest owners

EVENT OVERVIEW



The EU Green Deal, published by the European Commission in late 2019, has significantly shifted the EU approach towards forests and their management. Forests, have been targeted as the main land-use sector to allow the EU to achieve its ambitious 2050 climate and biodiversity related objectives. Forests and forest management in the EU will be strongly influenced through legally-binding proposals such as the EU Fit for 55 Package (revised LULUCF, RED III), Taxonomy, and the upcoming Nature Restoration Law.

At the same time, calls for “closer-to nature” forest management and the strict protection of 10% of EU land, including all remaining primary and old-growth forests, are among the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the new EU Forest Strategy for 2030. These seem to be ambitious and fargoining while not necessarily building on existing management experiences within the EU.

The current EU policy agenda has assigned climate change mitigation as one of the main roles of EU forests. It is expected from forests to offset GHG emissions from other sectors. Simultaneously, EU forests are expected to fulfill extremely ambitious conservation/protection targets.

Such approaches clearly touch the core functioning of European forests and their management paradigm, with possible drastic changes in the functioning of forestry in the near future.

To contribute to the ongoing discussion, European forest owners and managers would like to support a balanced expert debate on pros, cons and possible consequences of new management approaches for European forests, namely:

1. Options for “closer-to-nature” forest management practices;
2. Active protection or passive conservation – determining which is the best strategy for the future.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome by Reinhardt Neft, President of EUSTAFOR, on behalf of the co-organisers**
2. **Introduction to the webinar by the Moderator, Stefanie Linser (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU))**
3. **Setting the scene: Challenges to integrate climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation in European forests**
 - **Prof. Jurgen Bauhus** (University of Freiburg, Germany)
4. **Expert panel**
 - Biodiversity in SFM – Myth or reality? – What can we learn from international statistics on European forests?**
 - **Dr Andrzej Talarczyk** (Forest and Natural Resources Research Centre Foundation, Poland)
 - Active or passive conservation – which path to follow for high biodiversity at large scales?**
 - **Prof. Tudor Stancioiu** (Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania)
 - SFM as a nature-based solution to deliver on multiple objectives – How far is the current management practice from close(r)-to nature forestry in Central Eastern Europe?**
 - **Prof. Dorota Dobrowolska** (Forest Research Institute, Poland)
 - Multifunctionality vs. segregation of functions: Are forest biodiversity interests in conflict with productive functions? – A Portuguese case study**
 - **Prof. Tiago Domingos** (University of Lisbon, Portugal)
 - How to mimic natural dynamics through the management of Nordic forests?**
 - **Prof. Pasi Rautio** (Luke - Natural Resources Institute, Finland)
5. **Q&A**
6. **Conclusions by the moderator**
7. **Closing remarks by Sven-Erik Hammar, President of CEPF, on behalf of the co-organisers**

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