



# EUSTAFOR

MANAGING EUROPEAN  
FORESTS RESPONSIBLY

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# WHAT ARE THE MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF FORESTS?

## Economic Value

- Acting as a cornerstone of Europe's bioeconomy by producing over 1/3 of the EU's timber harvest
- Creating and maintaining economic prosperity and jobs
- Serving as reliable partners for research and innovation in the forest-based sector
- Providing necessary conditions for Europe to move towards a bio-based green economy

## Environmental Value

- Acting as forerunners in the use and development of ecologically sound silvicultural methods for the sustainable management of forests
- Maintaining a home for biodiversity and protecting endangered species
- Providing carbon sinks and carbon-neutral raw materials
- Supporting fundamental natural processes such as water and nutrient cycles and soil protection
- Maintaining forest infrastructures to make them resilient to diseases, flooding, erosion, and fire hazards

## Social Value

- Offering ecosystem services and other non-material benefits
- Provisioning clean air and water supplies
- Creating and maintaining recreational areas open to the general public for outdoor activities
- Maintaining scenic and natural heritage areas of cultural value
- Provisioning wild food and game

# WHY DOES SUSTAINABLE AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT MATTER?

Managing forests sustainably means to manage and use forests in such a way that future generations will benefit from forests as much as, and possibly even more than, we do now. Their biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, and vitality are maintained while leaving all interconnected ecosystems intact. The multiple demands and expectations of today's society regarding forests often result in new and ongoing challenges

for sustainable and multifunctional forest management. This means that state forest management organizations must continually seek to provide solutions to multiple, and at times diverging, interests and constraints, because forests that are managed sustainably and multifunctionally today will maintain their potential to fulfill relevant ecological, economic and social functions well into the future.

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# MANAGING EUROPEAN STATE FORESTS RESPONSIBLY FOR PEOPLE, CLIMATE AND NATURE

## Challenges and developments

- Responding to society's perception and growing expectations of forests and forestry
- Adapting to and mitigating climate change
- Shifting from a fossil-based economy to a bio-based circular economy and contributing to green growth and jobs
- Ensuring the efficient use of available natural resources
- Continuously providing multiple forest services, including biodiversity
- Developing a governance system which effectively coordinates forest-related policies at EU level





**EUSTAFOR and its members identify the following ways to effectively contribute to and cope with all these challenging developments.**



## **OUR STRATEGIC FOCUSES FOR 2019-2021**

- 1** Multiple purpose forestry as a provider of ecosystem services and social benefits
- 2** Climate change and its impact on forest ecosystems and state forest management organizations
- 3** Biodiversity, including the management of protected areas
- 4** State forest management in the context of an innovative bio-based circular economy

## **OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2019-2021**

- 1** Strengthening the resilience of forest ecosystems (tree species composition, genetic fit, multi-layer stands, silvicultural practices enabling permanent forest cover, etc.)
- 2** Raising awareness about the societal gains of sustainable and multifunctional forest management as well as of forest ecosystem services and products
- 3** Advocating the use of wood and wood-based products with the aim of increasing the long-term carbon storage
- 4** Promoting the forest-based bioeconomy while adhering to sustainable and multifunctional forest management practices
- 5** Proposing innovative solutions for embracing nature protection, including forest biodiversity
- 6** Enhancing dialogue with relevant actors and building trust across the society on sustainable and multipurpose forestry

# EUSTAFOR

## A STRONG VOICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND USE OF FOREST RESOURCES

The European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) is recognized as a strong and well-coordinated voice of European state forest management organizations at EU and pan-European levels.

EUSTAFOR member organizations provide valuable, professional and experience-based knowledge about the sustainable and multifunctional management of state-owned forests in order to support European forestry-relevant policy objectives.

As a forum for European state forest management organizations, EUSTAFOR advocates the positive results of the management of state forests as their contribution to society, particularly in terms of achieving Europe's sustainability strategies.



**European State Forest Association AISBL**

European Forestry House | Rue du Luxembourg 66, 1000 Brussels (Belgium)

Telephone: +32 (0)2 239 23 00 | FAX: +32 (0)2 219 21 91

office@eustafor.eu | [www.eustafor.eu](http://www.eustafor.eu) | [@eustafor](https://twitter.com/eustafor)