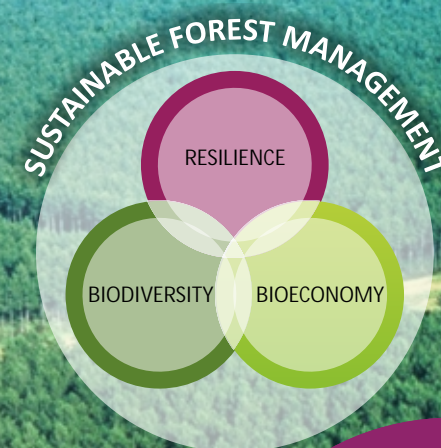


Organisation

19 Member states, 5 observer organisations and the European Commission participate in SCAR FOREST which is managed and coordinated by a core group.

Up-to-date information can be found on the SCAR FOREST area of the website <https://scar-europe.org>.



Contacts

For more information, please visit:

<https://scar-europe.org>

scar
forest

Strategic Working Group on Forests and
Forestry Research and Innovation

SCAR
Standing Committee
on Agricultural Research



EUROPEAN UNION

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Context and rationale

Forests and forest-based products and services are major components of the biosphere and of societal wellbeing. Globally, they make a significant contribution to local and national economies, to rural development and to individual livelihoods.

In Europe, forests and other wooded land are expanding and cover over 40 % of the EU's land area; they represent a large diversity of ecosystems and habitats for animals and plants across regions, and they play a major role in mitigating climate change and providing other environmental services.

Wood is the main source of financial revenue from forests, and forest biomass is currently the most important source of renewable energy.

Though their socio-economic importance is often underestimated, they are becoming increasingly important for the supply of raw material to emerging bio-based industries and for transition towards low-carbon economies.

In the context of continuous environmental, societal and policy changes, their adaptation and the continued delivery of forest-based services and products in a sustainable and efficient way, requires increased research, innovation and knowledge from many disciplines.

Objectives

SCAR FOREST mission is a source of advice on European forest-based research and innovation (R&I), thus contributing to the development of a coherent and ambitious forest-based research area. Under the current mandate (2019-2022), the main objective is to promote and strengthen transnational research and cooperation to meet the challenges of adaptation to and mitigation of climate changes and other disturbances, to enhance biodiversity and related ecosystem services, to develop circular bioeconomy and increase sustainability and competitiveness of the EU's forest-based sector. Specific objectives of SCAR FOREST include:

- promoting forest-based system and value-chain approaches with consideration of other sectors and regions of the world;
- providing advice on research and innovation to the implementation of forest-related national policies and EU forest strategy and related policies;
- engaging in knowledge-based input to public debates on forest-related EU policy areas and global issues (climate change, water, bioenergy, biodiversity, plant health, trade, etc.);
- favouring a better consideration of the importance and complexity of forest issues in scientific and politic arena.

Activities

- Support, develop and improve networking actions as well as research and innovation funding partnerships
 - develop guidance notes for prospective COST proposal writers
 - enhance the participation of the forest-based sector in the European Innovation Partnerships (EIP)
 - follow up the ERA-Net Cofund ForestValue
 - interact with groups promoting bioeconomy.
- Contribute to define priorities for the next National and European framework programs for research and innovation:
 - include forestry issues in SCAR foresight exercises
 - promote public/public European partnerships.
- Broaden the scope of international cooperation in relation to agricultural issues and global challenges
 - discuss the issues to step up Europe against deforestation in the Tropics.
- Stay tuned to developments in public policies related to the forest-based sector to support them as needed.

