

## Management for multifunctionality in European forests in the era of bioeconomy (MultiForest)



Forests are subject to various, often conflicting societal demands, and their management is governed with disparate and often conflicting forest and environmental policies within EU and its member states. To promote bioeconomy, increased use of forest-based biomass is sought for in construction, forest industry and energy production, yet at the same time the EU countries are committed to halt the loss of biodiversity and to transit toward carbon-neutral economy.

MultiForest -project aims to reveal sustainable forest policy guidelines, which may help to reconcile the objective to increase forest harvesting due to bioeconomy with the objective to maintain forest biodiversity.

Little is known about quantitative effects of the incoherent policy-mixes on forest functions, and consequently on our ability to secure multifunctionality of forests. We do not know, for example, how much we should constrain forest harvesting if we aim at achieving the biodiversity objectives, or how large losses in terms of biodiversity and carbon sequestration capacity will incur from fulfilling the bioeconomy objectives of increased forest harvesting levels. This project aims to fill these knowledge gaps.

This multidisciplinary project helps to reconcile ecological, economic and social objectives of forest uses. Our results will assist European countries to take global leadership in sustainable land-use, and to develop policies and management practices for more sustainable use of forests. MultiForest -project involves, in addition to researchers from the University of Jyväskylä and the Finnish Environment Institute, research groups from Austria, Germany, Norway and Sweden. All over the Europe the general aim is the same: to increase multiple benefits from our forests. However, circumstances and challenges differ among countries.

A cornerstone of this project is strong stakeholder involvement. We aim to make this project truly participatory and will listen to what land owners, forest industry, regional and national forest authorities and other stakeholders think about multiple use of forests. This will ensure that the results will benefit different forest users and also forest policy making.

### **For further information:**

Professor Mikko Mönkkönen, University of Jyväskylä ([mikko.monkkonen@ju.fi](mailto:mikko.monkkonen@ju.fi))

Professor Eeva Primmer, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) ([eeva.primmer@ymparisto.fi](mailto:eeva.primmer@ymparisto.fi))