

ALTERFOR IN A NUTSHELL

Alternative forest management approaches are needed to meet this century's challenges caused by climate change, the growing use of bioenergy, or complex global markets

Researchers in ALTERFOR explore current and alternative management models to provide the desired combination of environmental, economic, and social benefits

Alternative concepts for forest management will be developed together with stakeholders from the public, private, and civil society sectors in ten case study areas throughout Europe

ALTERFOR KEY FACTS

Project title: Alternative models and robust decision-making for future forest management

Project duration: 54 Months (01/04/2016 - 30/09/2020)

Ten case study areas in: Germany, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, and Turkey

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www.alterfor-project.eu



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**ALTERNATIVE MODELS AND ROBUST
DECISION-MAKING FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT**



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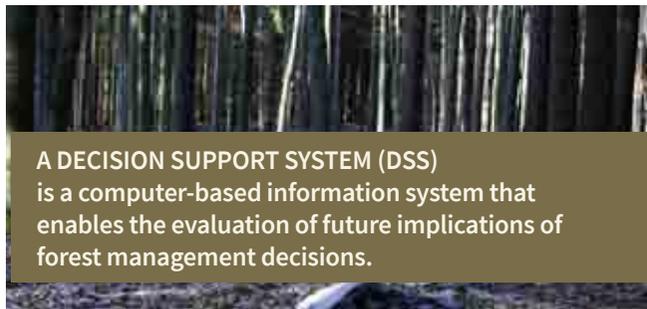
ALTERFOR DEVELOPS ALTERNATIVE MODELS AND FOSTERS ROBUST DECISION-MAKING FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT

European forests are expected to provide a broad range of ecosystem services such as biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water quality, biomass production, or recreation. However, uncertainties caused by climate change, the growing use of bioenergy or complex global markets may necessitate alternative forest management models (FMMs).

In ALTERFOR, researchers and stakeholders from the public, private, and civil society sectors explore alternative approaches for forest management in ten case study areas throughout Europe. The alternative FMMs aim to provide the desired combination of environmental, economic, social, and cultural benefits, and to reduce vulnerabilities at stand to landscape levels.

The ten carefully designed case studies represent different forest management practices and socio-ecological conditions prevailing in Europe. The case study areas are located in Germany, Italy, Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, and Turkey. The consortium of scientists and forestry practitioners will:

- provide deep knowledge regarding alternative FMMs and how they can result in the provision of ecosystem services
- involve relevant actors from different fields (such as forestry, nature conservation, renewable energy, and water management)
- facilitate efficient knowledge transfer to adopt alternative FMMs



SPECIFIC AIMS OF ALTERFOR

Identify and develop alternative FMMs in the case study areas and evaluate their benefits, limitations, trade-offs and synergies in terms of ecosystem goods and services (WP1 STAND LEVEL FOREST MANAGEMENT MODELS)

Develop global and European future scenarios. Assess the framework conditions for the FMMs at the landscape level¹, and assess the value of alternative FMMs across different land use sectors and borders (national, regional and EU/global) (WP2 GLOBAL ANALYSIS)

Upgrade existing decision support systems (DSS) tailored to the conditions in each landscape² and assess the capacity of different combinations of existing and alternative FMMs to sustain and optimize the desired basket of ecosystem services at the landscape level (WP3 LANDSCAPE LEVEL FMMs)

Analyse forest relevant actors in each landscape, and conduct actor-oriented assessment and capacity building for FMM alternatives at the local, national and EU levels (WP4 IMPLEMENTATION CAPACITY)

Achieve maximum impact of the research findings by communication and dissemination measures (WP5 COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION)



¹In terms of demand for commodities, price developments, and land use pressures.

²To model the desired ecosystem services, comprising also climate change impacts, ES assessment, and spatial specificity.

TRAVELLAB

The project meeting places (e.g. in Sweden, Slovakia, Ireland, Portugal, or Germany) are all located in areas that represent different ecological and socio-economic conditions for forest management across Europe. The meeting sessions are accompanied by “Travellab”: an innovative format for cross-regional learning and knowledge transfer. It combines the conventional field excursion, round table discussions with local stakeholders, and follow up sessions. This facilitates a better understanding of the local context and improves knowledge about current and alternative FMMs and their implementation.

Within the project consortium, a group of ecosystem services (ES) experts³ provides support to estimate and assess the baskets of ES emerging under different future scenarios. Throughout the life of the project, the members of the expert groups advise the case study researchers beyond the borders of the work packages.

³Subject areas in the ES Expert group: biodiversity conservation, biomass production, carbon sequestration, water quality, regulatory services, and cultural services.

