

PROJECT PARTNERS

University of Oulu
Oulu, Finland (Coordinator)

Alma Mater Studiorum
University of Bologna – Italy

HUN- REN Centre for
Ecological Research – Hungary

International Institute for
Applied Systems Analysis –
Austria

Czech University of Life
Science, Prague – Czech
Republic

University of Tuscia – Italy

The Lifescape Project
United Kingdom

Lumina SRL – Belgium

Natural Resources Institute
Finland - Finland

University of Milan – Italy

PROJECT PARTNERS



Stichting Wild Europe – Netherlands

Joanneum Research – Austria

ProPark – Foundation for Protected
Areas – Romania

Chiang Mai University – Thailand

Ministry of Defence – Carabinieri
Command for Forest Protection and
Parks – Italy

Pilisi Park Forest – Hungary

Sumava National Park – Czech
Republic

Ingleby Farms – Romania

FORbEST



**Safeguarding Carbon
and Biodiversity
across European
Forest Ecosystems
through Multi-actor
Innovation.**



**Funded by
the European Union**

FORbEST research is grounded in a transdisciplinary approach using participatory Living Labs designed to engage a diversity of stakeholders in meaningful knowledge exchange through intensive workshops.

CONTACTS

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The Project

Forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change and supporting biodiversity, but many **old-growth and natural ecosystems are under pressure from intensive human activities and environmental change**. Protecting and restoring forests is crucial for sustainable and climate-neutral societies. Without coordinated conservation and restoration effort, these ecosystems risk loosing capacity to provide essential services like carbon storage and habitat for wildlife. To protect and restore forest ecosystems, the **Horizon Europe FORbEST** project will operate across five key EU biogeographical regions and one tropical area to understand the effects of governance on forests. The project will **engage local communities** in developing conservation and sustainable management practices that enhance biodiversity, support climate adaptation and empower citizens for a greener future.

18

Partners

10

Countries

Objectives

Employing a **multi-actor approach** grounded in the establishment of six case studies within a **Living Lab community**, our main objective is to contribute knowledge of the climate-biodiversity nexus, through understanding the benchmark value and distribution of **primary forests**, known to be carbon- and biodiversity-rich, and devising a range of management, conservation through active, and restoration options, as well as policy interventions, that support the conservation and optimize ecosystem services provision of such forests.



VISIT THE WEBSITE

2025

Project start

2029

Project end

Ambitions

- **From Knowledge to Action**
- **Smart Monitoring for Smart Decisions**
- **Safeguarding carbon and biodiversity**
- **Foreseeing Biodiversity Futures**
- **Connecting Forest Landscapes**
- **Nature as an Economic Opportunity**

Living Labs & participatory research

Empowering local stakeholders to co-design solutions and best practices for sustainable forest management.

Stakeholder engagement

Delivering tailor-made information and promoting forest protection and restoration through economic incentives and legal mechanisms.

€ 5.9 M

Total budget