

EUROPE'S WOOD SUPPLY IN DISRUPTIVE TIMES

Key messages

Wood supply in Europe is influenced by several complex factors that are strongly interlinked. The wood-based industry is facing significant shifts in the ecological, political, socioeconomic and technological spheres.

Factors impacting Europe's wood supply



- ✓ Forest types and growth
- ✓ Climate change
- ✓ Forest management

ENVIRONMENTAL



- ✓ EU and national forest-related policies and laws
- ✓ National forest policy priorities
- ✓ Forest property rights

POLITICAL



- ✓ Forest ownership
- ✓ Demographic developments
- ✓ Market trends
- ✓ Geopolitics and international trade

SOCIOECONOMIC



- ✓ Innovative wood-based technologies and their developments
- ✓ Emerging wood-based products and their market trends

TECHNOLOGICAL

In this era of change, the way forward for industry leaders, decision-makers, forest managers and subject matter experts involves proactively shaping the future of wood supply and facilitating strategic actions.

This fact sheet and its key messages are based on work of the TEAMING UP 4 FORESTS study expert group and its report "Europe's wood supply in disruptive times" released as IUFRO World Series Volume 42 as well as the related business brief.

■■■ Wood-based industry measures

Upscale technological developments

- ▶ Invest in and diversify added-value fibre technologies, and new wood and wood-based materials
- ▶ Develop new co-production concepts for greater efficiency in energy and materials use
- ▶ Invest in and operate flexible transformation process technologies
- ▶ Enhance the creation of integrated value chains from sourcing to market
- ▶ Benefit (with bespoke solutions) from tools for information and communication technologies
- ▶ Create public-private partnerships for risk-sharing and for long-term investments

Enhance logistics concepts and efficiency

- ▶ Move away from the current high dependency on softwoods as the core business operations, diversify with at least three tree species in the short term to cope with climate change impacts
- ▶ Set new milestones to monitor and analyse the evolution of wood supply until 2030 and beyond
- ▶ Define and measure consumption per capita in Europe for adaptive planning
- ▶ Include used and underused wood in the supply mix to enlarge the material source and develop new supply chains for collecting and sorting used materials and waste

These measures enable: Sourcing of many types of wood / enlarged material source; less dependency on specific wood species / sources and qualities compared to traditional products; less vulnerability to market fluctuations; reduced time to market; risk minimisation; adapting to disruptions; and use future opportunities

■■■ Forest management measures

Shift to adaptive forest management practices

- ▶ Promote mixed and structurally diverse forests, including natural regeneration and active assisted migration of species more adapted to future climates
- ▶ Reduce share of climate-sensitive Norway spruce, shorter rotation periods as intermediate strategy
- ▶ Seek support to restore forests after disturbances, and protect them
- ▶ Expand scientific research in genetics and silviculture to gain insights on suitable tree species
- ▶ Expand operational-scale trial plantings of more drought-resistant alternative tree species

Connect forest owners/managers and industry partners

- ▶ Intensify monitoring and planning of wood harvesting and forest management
- ▶ Develop resilient wood supply chains to adapt to climate-driven disturbances
- ▶ Address fragmented forest ownership through management partnerships and consolidation
- ▶ Strengthen collaboration between forest owners and industry partners in order to adapt to erratic wood harvest
- ▶ Expand capacity building efforts and awareness campaigns to bridge the rural-urban divide

These measures enable: More resilient forests adapted to future climates (climate-fit forest ecosystems); reduction in wood losses; stabilised wood production and stocks; outperformance of current management practices; minimisation of damaged wood; and enhanced transparency of wood supply

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■■■ Policy measures

Advocate wood supply challenges at all policy levels

Global level

- ▶ Strengthen international and cross-sectoral cooperation through governmental organisations
- ▶ Promote research and knowledge-sharing on related forest issues
- ▶ Support the science-policy interface to provide policymakers with sound scientific knowledge

EU level

- ▶ Harmonise and align the various EU policies for greater coherence
- ▶ Support and encourage sustainable forest management practices
- ▶ Promote the circular bioeconomy through awareness campaigns and educational programmes
- ▶ Continue to regulate and support the wood market to promote sustainable wood use
- ▶ Develop strategies to enhance the resilience of European forests
- ▶ Promote robust, diversified sourcing strategies in the EU and access to growing regional markets

National level

- ▶ Implement initiatives to engage and incentivise private forest owners
- ▶ Address demographic challenges related to forest ownership by developing tailored policies
- ▶ Develop strategies to mitigate impact of the energy sector transition on wood supply
- ▶ Diversify sources of wood supply and reduce reliance on imports from regions with trading limitations
- ▶ Introduce targeted financial incentives encouraging industries to invest in sustainable circular practices
- ▶ Invest in inter- and multidisciplinary research and innovation

These measures enable: Meaningful policies to address global challenges; more informed policymaking and decision-making; minimised trade-offs and uncertainties in forest management; responsible consumption; an emphasis on the value of sustainable forest management; adaptation to regionalisation of supply chains; enhanced geopolitical resilience; and supported industry transformation of wood supply

■■■ Collaborative measures

Bolster cooperation, knowledge exchange, education and communication

- ▶ Enhance interdisciplinary collaboration to promote shared goals in the forest-based sector
- ▶ Foster transnational cooperation at the pan-European and global level to exchange knowledge and best practices across countries
- ▶ Strengthen cross-sectoral cooperation in the wood-based industry to achieve alignment among different business sectors, as well as with other industries and society at large, thus enabling strong and effective response measures
- ▶ Expand education and extension services to prepare for future developments and engaging the youth
- ▶ Further communication strategies within and beyond the forest-based sector to promote effective response measures and adaptation strategies

These measures enable: A strong forest-based sector in Europe; well-thought-out adaptation strategies; technological advancements; and strong and effective response measures

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