



## THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

# Public Consultation on the Green Paper On Forest Protection and Information in the EU: Preparing forests for climate change



What is your main professional field / interest group ? (compulsory)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment Administration                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Administration  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental NGO           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other NGO                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Protection       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farming                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Forest Owner                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Manager         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Owner                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Worker                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bioenergy Industry     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panel Industries            | <input type="checkbox"/> Pulp and Paper Industry                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Woodworking Industries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Representatives of Regional and Local Bodies | <input type="checkbox"/> Other                  |

Please provide your (professional) contact details: postal & e-mail addresses/phone number/fax number... (compulsory) (between 10 and 500 characters)

Drottninggatan 95 B  
Box 6806  
113 86 Stockholm  
Sweden

Tel: +46(0)8-54 54 77 00  
Fax: +46(0)8-54 54 77 10  
[akademien@ksla.se](mailto:akademien@ksla.se)

You are answering this consultation ... (please tick the right answer) (compulsory)

- |  |   |                                       |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> on behalf of a public authority | <input type="checkbox"/> on behalf of an organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> as a citizen |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|



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### QUESTION 1

Do you think maintaining, balancing and enhancing forest functions should be given more attention? (optional)

In principal yes, but a clarification is needed regarding the level. The answer may also vary depending on what function you are talking about.

If so, on what level should action be taken, EU, national and/or other? (optional)

Action should mainly be taken on the national level, in accordance with the subsidiarity principle.

How should it be done? (optional)

It is desirable that DG Agriculture handle these issues. Sustainable Forest Management and the integration between different forest functions and economic development should be given more attention. This is of great importance for Fenno-Scandia. Sweden has models for maintaining, balancing and enhancing forest functions, see the attachment "The Swedish Forestry Model".

### QUESTION 2

To what extent are EU forests and the forest sector ready to address the nature and magnitude of the challenges posed by climate change? (optional)

In Fenno-Scandia the forest sector has data on the effect of geographical movements along climate gradients regarding tree species and forest ecosystems, and on how such moves will/may influence species and systems performance and functions. This high degree of knowledge can be applied in different models which will enable Sweden to address challenges posed by climate change.

Do you consider particular regions, certain countries more exposed/vulnerable to the effects of climate change? What sources of information would you base your answer on? (optional)

The number of forest fires could increase in the south of Europe. In the Boreal zone this is not as serious, and the production will most probably increase. Interpreting the question within regions of Sweden, the South will be mostly exposed to the effects of climate change.

Sources of information: The Swedish National Inventory of Forests (RIS)



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Would you see a need for EU-level early action to ensure all forest functions are maintained? (optional)

Early warning systems and information could be useful, especially regarding pests and diseases. Actions regarding prescriptions and legislations should be taken at national levels and/or sub regional levels.

How could the EU contribute to add value to the respective efforts of Member States? (optional)

EU should contribute to the efforts of Member States by concentrating on early warning systems, prognosis, statistics and information. EU should collaborate with and use the data collection made by FAO/ECE.

### QUESTION 3

Do you consider that EU and Member States policies are sufficient to ensure that the EU contributes to forest protection, including preparing forests for climate change and conserving biodiversity in forests? (optional)

In Sweden the policies are sufficient to protect the biodiversity as well as economic development within the boreal forest areas. At the EU level economic development needs further integration with forest protection as this assures sustainable management. See attached document "The Swedish Forestry Model".

In what areas, if any, do you think further action may be necessary? How might this be organized, under the given policy framework or beyond? (optional)

Further action is necessary regarding the interaction at the EU level, e.g. between DG Environment and DG Agriculture.

### QUESTION 4

How could the practical implementation of Sustainable Forest Management be updated in order to upkeep the productive and protective functions of forests and overall viability of forestry, as well as enhance the resilience of EU forests in view of climate change and biodiversity loss? (optional)

At the EU level policies need to consider economic SFM to a higher degree if the policies should ensure forest protection. In Sweden policies support SFM by ensuring forest protection, by including preparing forests for climate change, managing biodiversity in forests as well as the importance of functioning and transparent markets. See attached document "The Swedish Forestry Model".



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In Sweden the Swedish National Inventory of Forests (RIS) as part of the Swedish "Environment surveillance system" provides politicians, authorities, forest owners and scientists knowledge about the Swedish forests. RIS comprises an annual sample since 1923 of all forest and soils in Sweden. The inventory provides an image of current status and changes in Swedish forests, regarding both forest production as well as environmental conditions. See attached document: "The Swedish National Inventory of Forests (RIS)". Representatives from RIS are involved in the Action to improve and harmonize the existing national forest resource inventories in Europe. Data from RIS regarding forest damages is one part of the European program ICP Forest and data from RIS will also become an important base for reporting to EUs´ Habitats Directive.

The breeding strategy used in Sweden is based on a multiple population breeding system. The main advantage with this system is that it allows the target population to adapt to prevailing environmental conditions. Tree species included in such breeding programmes do not need a separate conservation activity.

What steps are required to ensure that the gene pool in forest reproductive material can be successfully conserved in its diversity and adapted to climate change? (optional)

Research in Sweden, with a start already in the 1920s, has developed a good knowledge and understanding on how different provenances (locally adapted gene pools) within species of economically valuable trees respond to moves along climatic gradients. Also the variation in total gene pools of forest ecosystems along latitudinal and altitudinal gradients are reasonably well known.

### QUESTION 5

Taking into account the various relevant policy levels, is available forest information today sufficient to assess with sufficient accuracy and consistency:

The health and condition of EU forests? (optional)

Yes, the Member States have sufficient control.

Their productive potential? (optional)

The implementation of the scientific knowledge should be improved.

Their carbon balance? (optional)

Detailed decisions should be taken by the Member States. It is recommended that EU refers to the Swedish model and experiences. The Swedish National Inventory of Forests (RIS) has data since 1923 regarding the carbon balance in the forest. Regarding the soil, data collection started during the 60s´, but it is much harder to get sufficient data, because of large deterministic statistical errors. Research is working on this issue, but it needs to be developed further.



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Their protective functions (soils, water, weather regulation, biodiversity)? (optional)

The conditions are constantly changing and the knowledge levels differ between different Member States. In Sweden for example the knowledge level is high and information exists, see attached document "The Swedish Forestry Model". EU should concentrate on early warning systems, prognosis, statistics and information, especially regarding pests and diseases.

The provision of services to society and their social function? (optional)

The knowledge level varies between different Member States. The ancient right of public access in the countryside in Sweden entitles people to pick berries, gather mushrooms, to camp and to pursue outdoor recreational activities, also on privately owned land (about 75 percent of the total forest land). Studies regarding the provision of services to society and their social function have been carried out in the north of Europe since the 70s.

Overall viability of forestry? (optional)

Yes, the Member States have sufficient control.

If it is insufficient, how should forest information be improved? (optional)

In general it is sufficient, but EU could concentrate on early warning systems, prognosis, statistics and information.

Are efforts towards harmonised data collection on forests sufficient? (optional)

Yes!

What can the EU do to further develop and / or enhance forest information systems? (optional)

The work made by FAO/ECE and MCPFE is sufficient!

## QUESTION 6

Would you like to make further comments on the questions set out in the Green Paper or raise any other issues concerning forest protection and information in EU ? (optional)

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