



Title	Acronym	Topic	Starting Date	Coordinator
Sustainable future use of European forests for developing the bioeconomy	FutureBioEcon	Comparative assessment of the sustainability performance of forest-based, other renewable and non-renewable raw material-based value chains to inform policy decisions.	1/04/2017	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU - Swedish Species Information Centre (Sweden); Tord Snäll; tord.snall@slu.se ; Tel: 0046 767662612

Project Partner
IIASA – International Institute for Applied System Analysis (Austria) ESM – Ecosystem Services and Management Program (Austria) Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Jyväskylä (Finland) CSIC-CTFC-CREAF – InForest research unit; Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia (Spain)

Project Abstract:

Advancing the bioeconomy transition requires an increasing mobilization of raw materials from forests. Besides raw materials, forests provide multiple benefits to societies, such as climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration, provision of goods or recreation opportunities. Forests are also important for biodiversity conservation. However, holistic analyses of sustainability performance of forest-based value chains addressing the multifunctional nature of forests are still lacking. An important challenge for European Union (EU) governments, forest owners and managers is how to increase the capacity of forests to produce raw materials while taking into account simultaneously the various aspects of sustainability. The proposed project seeks to assess the potential of EU forestry policy and practice to increase the delivery of wood products while contributing to climate change mitigation in such a way that, the delivery of other ecosystem services and the persistence of forest species are also warranted in the long-term. For this holistic evaluation we have convened an inter- and trans-disciplinary team of forest researchers, life cycle analysis experts and biologists together with target stakeholders of the forestry and environmental sectors that will work on developing a novel integrative framework for forest management. This framework aims to identify novel combinations of forest management practices and wood product portfolios to meet the raw material needs of bioeconomy sustainably across EU. Moreover, the framework will combine socioeconomic scenario analyses, life cycle and climate impact assessment and the use of state-of-the art forest planning optimization tools and ecosystem services and biodiversity models. The project will provide insights of the potential of forestry policies and management to contribute to climate change mitigation while increasing the flows of wood products from EU forest to move towards the desired bioeconomy transition.