

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Project FORWARDS: The ForestWard Observatory to Secure the Resilience of European Forests

T5.34 The new age of forest monitoring: A common European forest monitoring system in a global perspective

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Abstract: Climate change has already had a harmful impact on forest ecosystems in various parts of the world. For this reason, the EU-funded FORWARDS project will prototype the ForestWard Observatory, a pan-European monitoring and evaluation tool that will help in demonstrating the impact of climate change on forests, guiding decision-making for practical forests management.

By developing the ForestWard Observatory and promoting Climate-Smart Forestry and biodiversity restoration, FORWARDS will reconcile the current divide between forest information obtained from the ground and from satellites incorporating timely and detailed information on European forests' vulnerability to data on climate change impacts.

The project will gather and apply information from existing networks and also establish a novel network of pilot sites testing climate-smart forestry and biodiversity restoration practices. The knowledge resulting from the research will be employed to inform relevant stakeholders of best practices, to secure the long-term resilience of European forests.