

IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WHAT KIND OF SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY IS NEEDED TO ADAPT AND EXPLOIT FRENCH FORESTS?

France's vast and diverse forests on the mainland and in its overseas territories are undeniable assets for our country, offering economic opportunities, jobs, biodiversity, carbon capture and storage, scenery, leisure activities, and more.

However, climate change, whose negative effects are increasingly noticeable, has in some regions already begun to damage this asset, which is essential for the future of society.

The goal, then, should be to increase the contribution of forests in the fight against climate change, while also adapting them to make them more resilient.

After tracing the history of our forests and presenting their main characteristics, the opinion highlights the strengths and

weaknesses of the national forestry/wood sector. These observations serve to identify the main short- and longer-term issues that are related directly or indirectly to climate change.

Given the urgent need to respond to these challenges, the ESEC offers concrete actions to develop sustainable forestry based on the experience of actors in the forestry and wood sector. Their implementation must include forest owners and managers, public officials, research organisations, associations and citizens themselves. Indeed, given the importance and variety of the services they provide, the future of forests is everyone's concern – people and forests need each other!



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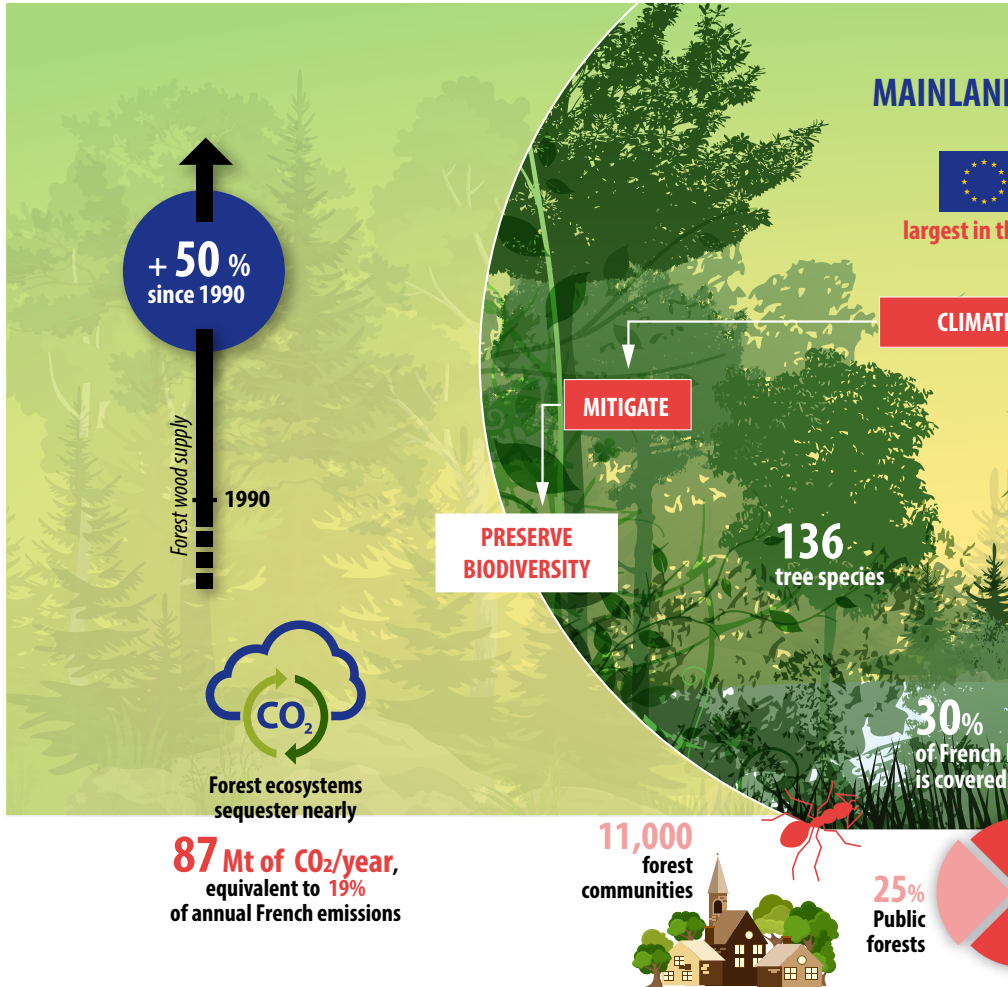


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THE ESEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- Accelerate the revision of the National Low-Carbon Strategy (SNBC) and raise awareness on the role of forests and wood in carbon sequestration, storage and substitution, to promote resilience and forest renewal:
 - assess the importance of natural regeneration
 - identify local species and those slated to be introduced and test their performance
 - achieve official recognition for the species selected
 - develop new forestry management plans
- Develop tools for collecting and analysing data on climate change and its impacts throughout mainland France and the overseas territories
- Amend sustainable management documents to incorporate indicators for species diversity, biodiversity and carbon capture/storage
- Modify the Regional Forestry Management Schemes to include:
 - undeveloped areas
 - an inventory of overseas forested lands, in order to classify at least 33% of their surface area as protected areas

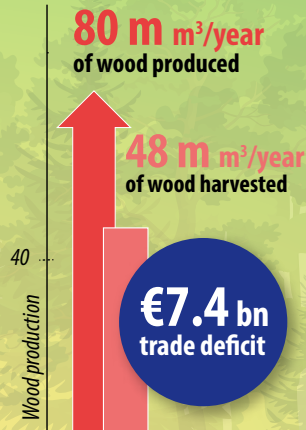
D FORESTS

4th
the European Union

CHANGE

ADAPT

PRESERVE JOBS
AND OUTPUT



land
in forest

425,000
jobs in the sector

75%
Private
forests



3,5 Million
owners



- rules on renewal cuts
- the ability to replant with a variety of species
- Encourage forest certification and review its specifications in order to better take into account the impacts of forest management, and eventually achieve a more demanding certification
- Put Guianese forested land under protection, while allowing regulated activities such as sustainable forestry to be maintained there
- Develop tools to measure surplus populations of big game to ensure their regulation:
 - ensure that permitted hunter-kill ratios are developed and co-signed by hunters and owners
 - expand mediation and training for hunters/foresters
 - consider whether to authorise hide hunting on renewal plots in the hunter-kill ratios
 - severely punish feeding and strictly limit grain feeding with a view to eventually banning it
 - develop market outlets for the local distribution of venison

- Set up a compensation scheme for game damage to renewal plots by redirecting part of the tax on hunting tags
- Ensure the effectiveness of the Recovery Plan in combating climate change by making its aid subject to compliance with the criteria of sustainable management documents
- Extend pilot payments for environmental services to the mainland and overseas forestry sectors and identify new protocols eligible for the low-carbon label
- Stabilise support schemes and tax measures:
 - maintain and increase the Strategic Forest and Wood Fund
 - lower the thresholds for creating Economic and Environmental Forestry Interest Groups
 - extend and improve the Tax Incentive Scheme for Forestry Investment
- Encourage the creation of regional “forest health” funds to help owners replant in the event of a major crisis
- Use the Recovery Plan to support the creation of local industries that exploit all types of local wood, giving priority to long-term applications with high substitution potential, using public procurement
- Maintain and expand the resources and responsibilities of the National Forests Office (ONF) and the CNPF in order to:
 - ensure the success of the “Forestry” part of the Recovery Plan
 - enable them to perform “Forest Health” monitoring in the field
 - contribute to the initiatives carried out in the network of protected areas
 - achieve the objectives of the National Low-Carbon Strategy
- Sustainably exploit overseas forests, particularly in French Guiana, in order to build eco-friendly industries and replace imports with local forest production
- Exploit all wood species through R&D work and support the development of timber in construction
- Increase forestry jobs:
 - promote work-study programmes for loggers and strengthen programmes on forest ecosystems and climate change
 - simplify the procedures for setting up a sole proprietorship in the sector
- Have the interministerial delegate report to the Prime Minister and provide him with sufficient resources to coordinate forestry policy, with the following responsibilities:
 - approving Regional Forestry Management Schemes (SRGSs) and regional planning directives and schemes
 - performing crisis monitoring and management in conjunction with the ONF
 - ensuring the overall cohesion of public policy documents with forestry components: SNBC, PPE, PNACC, etc.
- Help all of society understand what forests represent:
 - create exceptional regional forests
 - ensure that owners are mindful of society's expectations
 - develop joint management agreements between local authorities, associations and owners
 - have cities adopt forested land