



CLIMA FORCEE



Climate-smart Forest Management for Central and Eastern Europe- CLIMAFORCEELIFE (LIFE19 CCA/SK/001276)

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Forests of the Central and Eastern Europe represent an important natural resource. It is not just because of increasing demand for wood, but also due to other ecosystem services forests provide, including climate change mitigation. However, forests are vulnerable to climate change effects too. To maintain forests and their services in CEE, forest management have to shift from conventional to climate-smart. With this aim WWF Slovakia joined forces in the CLIMAFORCEELIFE project with partners from 5 EU countries: Forests of Slovak Republic, Czech University of Life Sciences, WWF Hungary, MEGOSZ, WWF Romania, WWF Bulgaria and South-Western State Forest Enterprise of Bulgaria.



Climate-smart forest management for Central and Eastern Europe

The current forest management will need to adapt to climate change to mitigate its negative effects on forests (such as drought, increased water run-off, soil erosion, etc.) and increase their resilience instead.

Since the same challenges can be seen in more CEE countries, CLIMAFORCEELIFE project aims to test and adapt alternative management models in each country specifically to the local conditions by:

- Reviewing existing forest management models
- Demonstrating and evaluating climate-smart forestry measures in Slovakia and Bulgaria
- Strengthening and replicating CSFM through management plans and programming documents for EU funds
- Increasing awareness on CSFM among professionals and public in CEE region

Demonstration measures to adapt forests to climate change

Thinning in pine monocultures aims to improve the vitality and resilience of young stands, to diversify their spatial structure and species composition, allowing introduction of broad-leaved species. On 48 ha of mature pine stands, we will test appropriate intensity of thinning to improve vitality and resilience of individual trees as well as age, species and spatial diversity of the whole forest stand by boosting natural regeneration. If successful, shift from clear-cut to shelter-wood or selective management system will be possible in pine forests in the future. Local water retention, such as blockage of drainage ditches, reconstruction of small water reservoirs, will improve forest resilience too. The total area where CSFM will be applied represents 1793ha.



Project title: Climate-Smart Forest Management for Central and Eastern Europe (CLIMAFORCEELIFE)

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Beneficiaries: WWF Slovakia (Coordinating Beneficiary), WWF Bulgaria, WWF Hungary, WWF Romania, Czech University of Life Sciences, Forests of the Slovak Republic, National Association of Private Forest Owners and Forest Managers from Hungary, Southwestern State Forest Enterprise of Bulgaria.

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