



*Forestry in the multiple planetary crisis of  
climate, water, biodiversity and land use*

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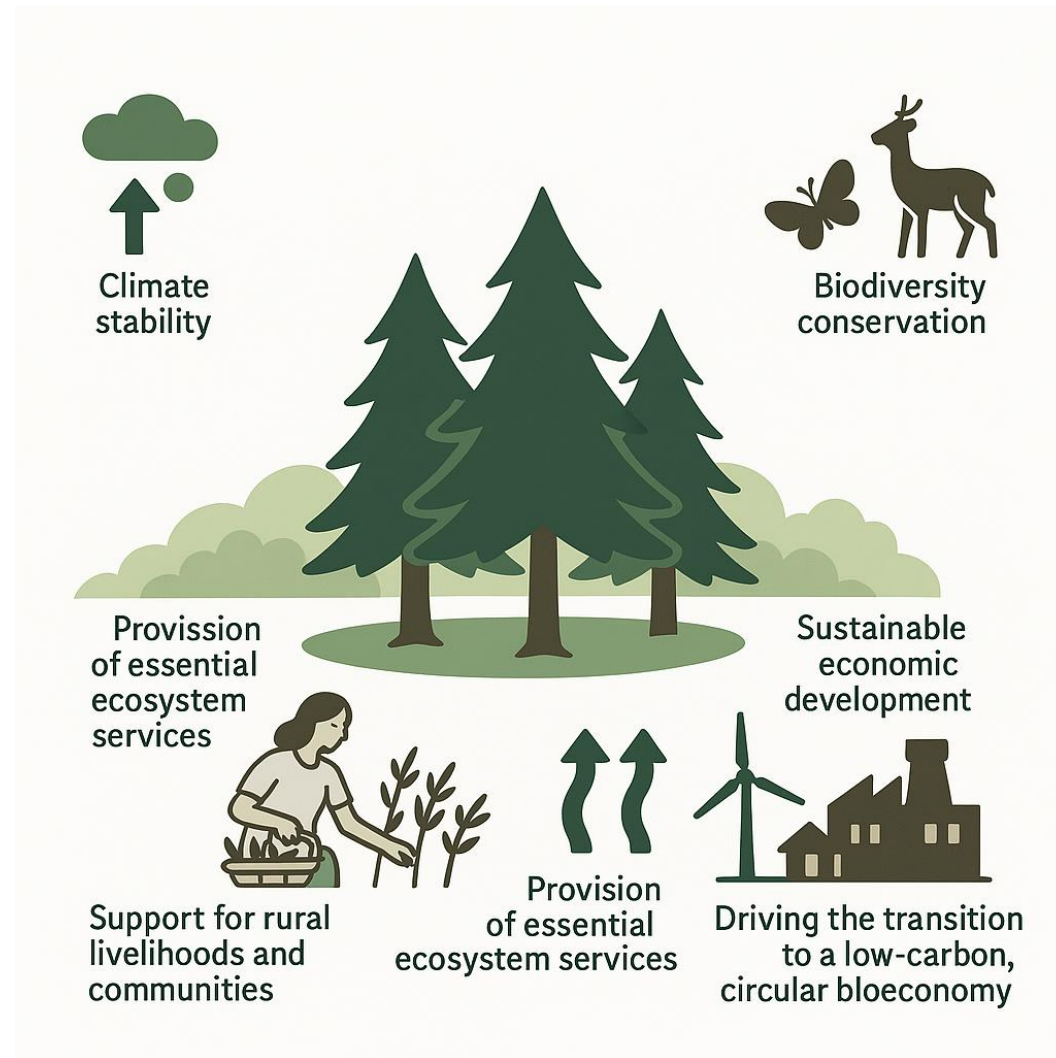
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# Forests: From Resource to Strategic Asset

Across Europe and beyond, forests are stepping onto centre stage

No longer viewed solely as natural resources, but as strategic assets for:

- Climate stability
- Biodiversity conservation
- Sustainable economic development
- Provision of essential ecosystem services
- Support for rural livelihoods and communities
- Driving the transition to a low-carbon, circular bioeconomy



# Our role in the Circular Bioeconomy

The forest industry holds both:

- An opportunity to drive sustainable economic development
- A responsibility to protect ecological balance

In Europe, forest-based industries play a key role in enabling the circular bioeconomy

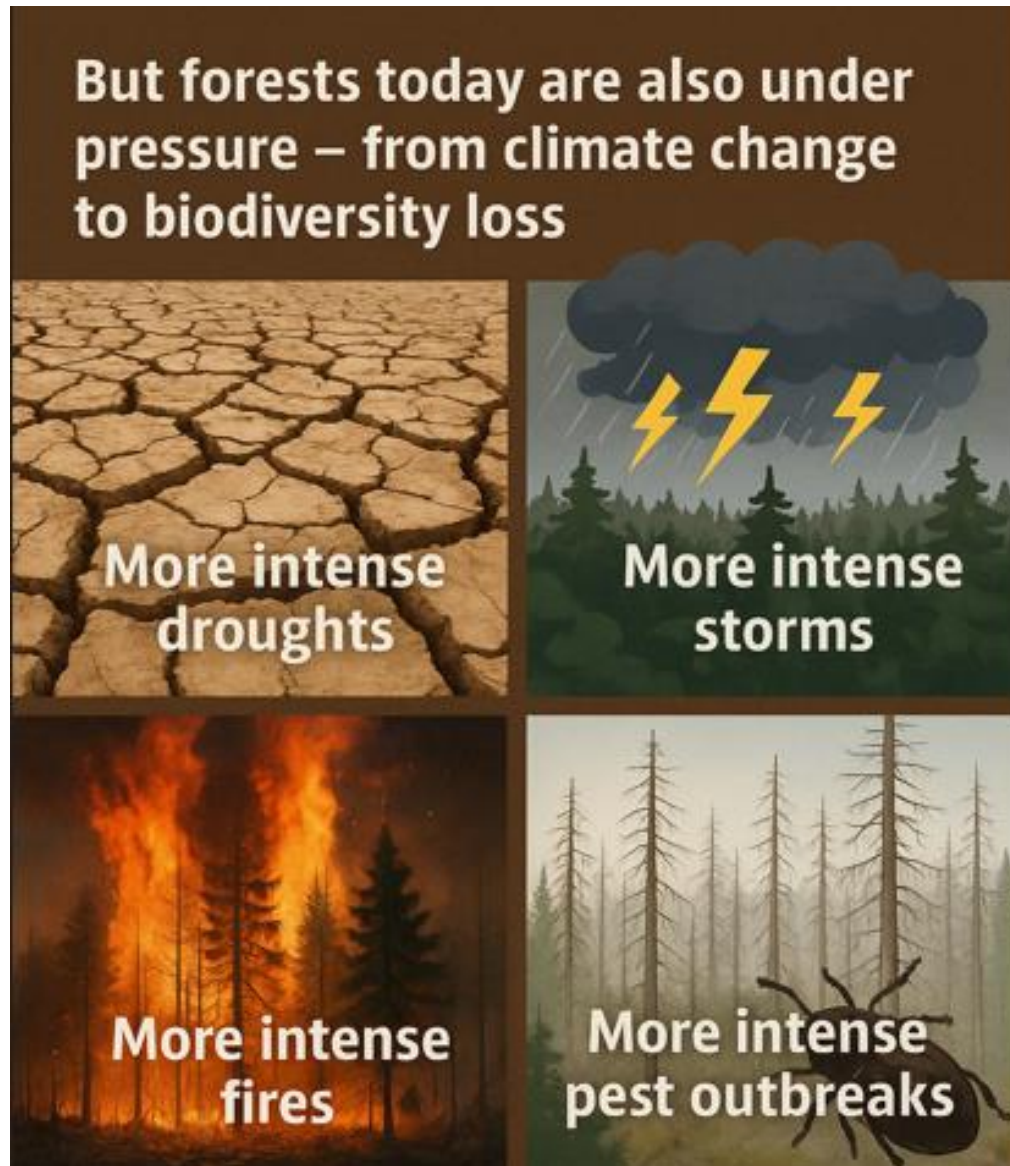
Forests in Europe:

- Cover over 40% of the land area
- Provide a renewable source of raw materials
- Serve as a vital carbon sink
- Support rich biodiversity
- Act as a natural buffer against climate extremes



Image: The virtuous cycle of wood  
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# Forest Under Pressure



Between 2018 and 2022, bark beetle outbreaks — intensified by rising temperatures — caused the dieback of approximately 360 million cubic meters of spruce wood across Central Europe, particularly in Germany, Czechia, and Austria.

According to the European Forest Information System:

- 2023 was one of the worst wildfire years since 2000
- Over 500,000 hectares of forest were burned

# Signs of Adaptation and Forest Transition



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- Despite current threats, forests are demonstrating remarkable adaptive capacity.
- New forest compositions are emerging across Europe.
- Mixed and diverse forests are increasingly gaining ground.
- A recent EU-funded study from the RESONATE project confirms a major transformation:
- European forests are shifting from softwood-dominated systems...toward more diverse, mixed forests...with a growing share of underutilized hardwood species.

# Risks and Opportunities for the Wood Industry

- This evolution brings both risks and opportunity for the wood industry.
- Risk, because it disrupts traditional value chains focused on conifers.
- Opportunity, because it enables innovation in silviculture, engineered wood, biobased materials, and diverse product applications.



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# Industry Innovation in Action

The wood industry is ready to embrace this change – not as a challenge, but as a catalyst.

We are already investing in:

- Wood modification technologies that enhance properties like strength, durability and fire resistance – enabling new uses for hardwoods;
- Digital harmonisation tools that automate sawmill operations and improve forecasting of customer demand;
- Sustainable products with long lifespans and low carbon footprints;
- Advanced techniques that link forest genetics, climate science and adaptive silviculture.



# Stewardship & Certification

- Our demand for certified, sustainably managed wood drives:
  - Investment in forest stewardship
  - Rural development
  - Biodiversity protection
- Certification systems like PEFC and FSC are not symbolic — they are evidence of our long-term commitment to :
  - Sustainability
  - Accountability
  - Responsible sourcing



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**70% of industrial roundwood in the EU was coming from certified forests**

# Policy Support



Wood availability in Europe is becoming increasingly uncertain.



Climate-related disturbances are a factor — but so are salvage logging effects and policy decisions.

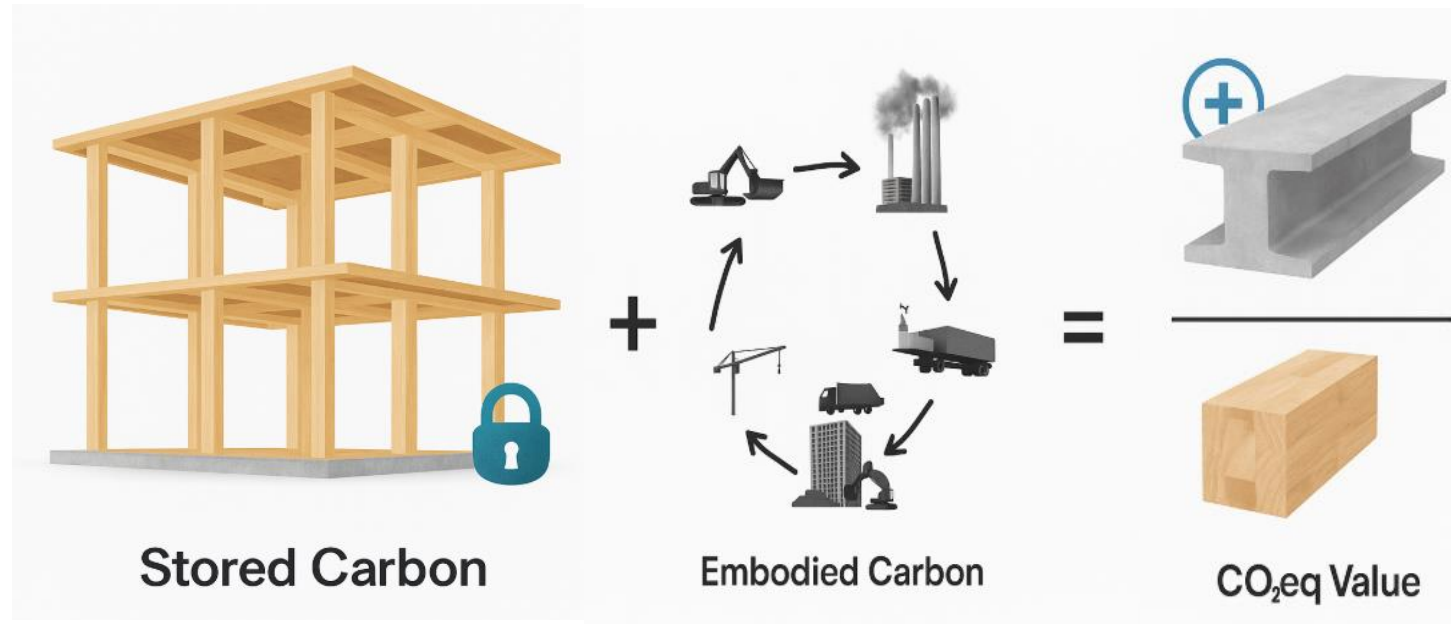


Conservation efforts and land-use restrictions must not ignore the need to secure a sustainable raw material supply.



A balanced policy approach is essential: one that supports responsible production and safeguards environmental goals.

# A Call for Collective Action



Substituting wood can cut emissions by up to 0.9kg CO<sub>2</sub> per kg.

Forests and wood products are central to carbon neutrality, resilient economies, and sustainable societies. Unlocking their full potential demands bold action, innovative thinking, and aligned policy.

# About CEI-Bois



Blue – Direct representation through CEI-Bois National Federation Members  
Green – Indirect representation through CEI-Bois' European Sector Organisation Members

The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries represents **22 European and National organisations** from 16 countries;

CEI-Bois is the body backing the interests of **the whole industrial European wood sector**: more than 160.000 companies generating an annual turnover of 194 billion euros and employing 930,000 workers in the EU.

CEI-Bois counts **5 Working Groups**: sustainability, social affairs, construction, innovation and trade issues. Additional ad hoc task forces are established when needed. Currently, there are **seven Task Forces** on: life-cycle assessment, fire, deforestation, volatile organic compound (VOC), Carbon Removals Certification, CLT Hub and TIMBIM.



*The natural choice for climate neutrality*



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The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries