



ForestNavigator

**D II.4 Cross-project
cooperation
Interim Report**

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Abstract

The ForestNavigator project coordinates with other Horizon Europe projects by leveraging shared resources, expertise, and findings to effectively achieve project objectives and maximize the impact of the ForestNavigator project and related projects. This deliverable describes the cooperation framework, which the ForestNavigator project partners employ to collaborate with other Horizon Europe projects. This report describes the activities carried out for coordinating with other projects funded under the same call and other relevant ones. This report also gives a summary of the ForestNavigator work that contributes to the assignments from EC DGs.

Keywords

Cross project collaboration, data, dissemination, stakeholder, Portal, EC assignments

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Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use
EFI	European Forest Institute
EU	European Union
FPMF	Forest Policy Modelling Forum
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IIASA	International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
NIBIO	Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research
NFI	National Forest Inventory
PI	Principal Investigator
PSC	Policy Steering Committee
WP	Work Package

1. Introduction

Cross-project coordination is crucial for maximizing the impact and efficiency of the ForestNavigator project and other related projects. By collaborating with other relevant projects, we can leverage shared resources, expertise, and findings to achieve our objectives more effectively.

This report describes the activities carried out for coordinating with other projects funded under the same EC funding call and other relevant ones. We describe the coordination framework, which we follow to identify cooperation topics and further detail effective collaboration between projects. This report also gives a summary of the ForestNavigator work that contributes to the assignments from EC Directorate Generals.

2. Coordination framework

The ForestNavigator project uses a process for cross-project coordination, achieved through four key steps: identifying relevant projects, establishing common goals, detailing collaboration activities, and implementing the coordination plan.

Step 1: Identifying Relevant Projects for Collaboration

The first step involves identifying projects that are particularly relevant to the ForestNavigator project. This task is primarily undertaken by the co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) and the Work Package (WP) leads. In advance of the project start the two Sister Projects, ForestPaths and PathFinder, were identified through the same call and have the largest overlap in goals. To date, additional five projects were identified for cross-project collaboration. ForestNavigator partners continue to assess collaboration with upcoming projects throughout the project duration. Identification of relevant projects is a continuous process throughout the project duration.

The projects are selected based on their potential to benefit the ForestNavigator project outputs, focusing on one or more of the following five themes:

- **Data Collaboration:** Efforts to collaborate on accessing, exchanging data, and improving data quality are paramount. We identified projects that offer or support accessing valuable datasets or require data that ForestNavigator can provide, ensuring a mutually beneficial exchange. An Earth Observation data coordination group has been formed across projects and had multiple meetings and exchanges.
- **Forest Policy Modelling:** Researchers from other projects with an expertise in National or EU forest policy modelling are sought out to join the Forest Policy Modelling Forum (FPMF). This forum is a collaborative and open meeting place for forest modellers and policy makers for discussing policy priorities and developing models that inform forest policy. [Preparatory activities](#) were completed by mid-2024 and the first in-person meeting was successfully held in Brussels in September 2024.
- **Forest Bioeconomy:** Projects with a focus on the forest bioeconomy are identified. These collaborations aim to enhance our understanding and integration of economic activities and environmental impact assessments related to wood and forests.
- **ForestNavigator Platform:** We collaborate with projects that can contribute to or benefit from the ForestNavigator Platform, a central tool in our project described in [D9.1 Concept of the ForestNavigator Portal](#). Collaborations could involve joint development efforts, sharing of platform functionalities, or having a common landing page to allow for easy identification of similar platforms.

- **Stakeholder engagement:** With the aim to reduce stakeholder burnout, we coordinate and collaborate on stakeholder engagement with the Horizon Europe projects ForestPaths and PathFinder.
- **Results Dissemination:** Projects with related research activities can help amplify the dissemination and impact of our findings. We identify projects with aligned goals to co-organize events, share publications, and reach broader audiences.

The collaborative projects are briefly described in Chapter 2.1.

Step 2: Identifying Common Goals and Shared Objectives

Once relevant projects are identified, the next step is to establish common goals and shared task objectives. This involves a review of each project's aims and outputs to find alignment with ForestNavigator's mission. By focusing on themes for cross-project collaboration, we ensure that efforts are directed towards mutually beneficial outcomes. Common goals typically revolve around:

- Enhancing data quality and accessibility
- Strengthening policy models and scenario output through collaborative input
- Assessing the sustainability of forest bioeconomy
- Widely sharing policy pathways and the ForestNavigator Platform
- Reach a wide stakeholder audience and their input across sister projects and avoid stakeholder burnout
- Expanding the reach and impact of dissemination activities

The common goals and shared objectives are described in Chapter 2.2.

Step 3: Identifying Detailed Collaboration Activities for Each Theme

Once common goals are identified, co-PI and WP leads detailed key collaboration activities and task leads from each project for each theme. Examples of detailed activities will be described in Chapter 2.3 of this report. These activities are designed to be specific, actionable, and measurable, ensuring that all participating projects can contribute effectively.

Step 4: Identifying Detailed Collaboration Activities for Each Theme

The final step involves implementing the coordination plan, which includes setting timelines, assigning responsibilities, and establishing communication channels. Regular monitoring and evaluation ensure that the collaboration remains on track and achieves the desired outcomes is achieved through the monthly Executive Board meetings. WP leads were asked to keep track of collaboration activities in an internal tracker as well as report on key outcomes to help establish this report. A minute template for important collaboration activities was put together by ARTTIC to facilitate transparency and accountability.

2.1. Description of Collaborative Projects

ForestNavigator partners are collaborating with seven Horizon Europe projects. This section provides a brief description of these projects.

ForestPaths – Sister Project

The [ForestPaths](#) project, coordinated by EFI, endeavors to navigate the complex landscape of balancing climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable ecosystem services within European forests and the forest-based sector. Recognizing the diverse needs and goals of stakeholders such as forest owners, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers, ForestPaths employs a collaborative approach. Through four demonstration cases and four policy labs, stakeholders actively participate in co-designing and evaluating policy pathways. These pathways, quantified using cutting-edge integrated assessment techniques, aim to offer clear alternatives for achieving environmental targets. The outcomes will be accessible through ForestPaths' interactive CANOPY policy support platform, specifically designed for use by national and regional European authorities, fostering informed decision-making for a more sustainable future.

PathFinder – Sister Project

The [PathFinder](#) project, coordinated by NIBIO, is a pioneering initiative aimed at revolutionizing forest monitoring practices by surpassing current state-of-the-art methods. By harnessing the potential of both field and remotely sensed data, the project seeks to create high-resolution maps and accurately estimate forest attributes, paving the way for efficient decision-making processes and policy formulation at regional, national, and European levels. The primary focus is on developing and demonstrating an innovative forest monitoring and pathway assessment system, enhancing the accuracy of EU greenhouse gas reporting in the context of Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF). This ambitious undertaking integrates advanced pathway assessments, providing policy makers with crucial insights throughout the entire policy cycle—from design to implementation and continuous monitoring of forests. The resulting monitoring systems not only enable the forecast of future forest scenarios but also facilitate trade-off analysis, marking a significant stride towards informed and sustainable forest management.

LAMASUS

The [LAMASUS](#) project, coordinated by IIASA, aspires to secure the achievement of the European Union's climate neutrality target. At its core, LAMASUS is crafting an innovative governance model grounded in collaborative efforts among policy makers, land users, and researchers. The project introduces an open-access modelling toolbox designed to construct robust land use policies aligning with the principles of the European Green Deal. Focused on anticipating potential impacts of various agricultural and forestry policies, LAMASUS provides policy makers with a cutting-edge system to assess both economic and environmental ramifications over the mid-term and long-term. By leveraging these tools, decision-makers can enhance the depth of information available, fostering a more informed approach to policy design and contributing to the realization of a sustainable future.

Opt4EU

The [OptFor-EU](#) project, coordinated by Meteo Romania, collaboratively develops a Decision Support System (DSS) with forest managers and stakeholders, offering science-based climate adaptation and mitigation options to optimize forest ecosystem services across Europe. OptFor-EU's objectives include improving the characterization of EU forest ecosystem services, which varies based on local factors and management practices. Provide a forest ecosystem services modelling framework, empower forest stakeholders to make informed decisions for resilience and decarbonization. Deliver an innovative DSS service. And, foster collaboration across EU strategic priorities, robust science, and stakeholders across forest-related sectors.

BIOMODEL4REGIONS

The [BIOMODEL4REGIONS](#) project seeks to facilitate the implementation of innovative governance models at the local and regional levels, enhancing decision-making processes, social engagement, and innovation to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at both EU and international levels. The project's methodology revolves around establishing a governance structure among bioeconomy clusters, drawing on the successes of prior initiatives and best practices. Capitalizing on years of research and studies in the bioeconomy field, the project aims to demonstrate tangible results by supporting six pilot regions selected within the clusters' network. By leveraging the collective knowledge and experiences of these bioeconomy clusters, BIOMODEL4REGIONS endeavors to strengthen science-policy interfaces and foster sustainable development through informed decision-making and community involvement.

FORWARDS

The [FORWARDS](#) project aims to prototype The ForestWard Observatory, a European observatory for forests climate change impacts, which supports policy making. The ForestWard Observatory addresses the gap between ground and remote sensing forest information. It employs monitoring supersites and novel approaches to comprehensively characterize cause-effect relationships of forest disturbances. The Observatory provides timely and detailed information on European forests' vulnerability to climate change, supports science-based management guided by climate-smart forest principles, and encourages stakeholder engagement and public participation in decision-making processes.

Open Earth MONITOR

The [Open-Earth-Monitor](#) project aims to build a F.A.I.R.-compliant cyberinfrastructure to accelerate the uptake of environmental information and help build user communities at European and global levels. Key project deliverables and components of the cyberinfrastructure are: 1) Stakeholder committee and user engagement plans throughout the project's entire duration; 2) High-performance computing engine and on-site data services; 3) Tools directly serving EU citizens and governance needs via easy-to-use data portals and apps; 4) Tools serving global governance needs.

2.2. Common goals and objectives

Across the sister projects (ForestNavigator, ForestPaths & PathFinder), the three Principal Investigators of the projects meet biannually to identify priority collaboration activities across work packages, after which work package leads are asked to work out the details of collaboration.

Project coordinators exchanged names and contact details of the WP or task leads, who set up meetings to detail the cooperation topics in actionable items and timelines. An overview of the cooperation topics and extent of the cooperation between the three sister projects is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Cooperation topics and **number of meetings with sister projects**

Cooperation Topic	Joint	ForestPaths	PathFinder
Data Collaboration	1	3	1
Forest Policy Modelling	2	5	
ForestNavigator Platform		2	
Stakeholder engagement	5		
Dissemination of Results	10		

Source: ForestNavigator various WP

Table 2 gives an overview of the cooperation topics identified for each of the other collaborative projects.

Table 2: Cooperation topics with additional collaborative projects

Cooperation Topic	Project				
	LAMASUS	Opt4EU	FORWARDS	Biomodel4regions	OpenEarthMonitor
Data Collaboration	X	X	X		X
Forest Policy Modelling	X				
ForestNavigator Platform	X				
Stakeholder engagement					
Dissemination of Results	X	X	X	X	

Source: ForestNavigator WP 11

2.3. Overview of the coordination themes used among sister projects

Detailed collaborative activities, to date, on the coordination themes were designed and implemented around the five coordination themes. Here, we briefly describe the key collaborative activities by coordination theme.

Data Collaboration

The sister projects collaborated to enhance data quality and data accessibility for project research, and identify metrics and data needed for monitoring. ForestNavigator shared forestry data developed in the ForestNavigator project (e.g. with other projects partaking in the Earth Observation (EO) Data (e.g. PathFinder, ForestPaths, FORWARDS, MoniFun, and OpenEarthMonitor). Similarly, collaboration with these other projects allowed for ForestNavigator to use forest data, specifically on forest cover and fractions, type, disturbance and structure.

ForestNavigator representatives met with ForestPaths, PathFinder, and FORWARDS project partners to build synergies between various projects working on EO-based forest monitoring systems in Europe. Project partners agreed that further work and collaboration to improve data including disturbance, biomass, and structure. The project partners recognized the need to revisit some metrics to be mapped, including height diversity, different types of canopy cover, crown expansion/regrowth, and age/DBH (diameter at breast height) variation.

More specific outcomes of collaboration included various data exchange: The sister projects reviewed and provided input on the [forest management mapping](#). The input for the forest disturbance map produced as part of D2.1, Chapter 2.2 was obtained from ForestPaths partners. ForestPaths focuses on mapping forest disturbances in Europe and attributes the changes to a disturbance agent. The data was masked with the forest cover mask from D2.1, upscaled to 100 m and included as a datalayer in the datacube ([D2.1 – Multilayered forest geodatabase](#)). The Datacube will be updated with the refined disturbance data once available from ForestPaths. There has been discussions on the forest structure and species mapping between ForestNavigator, FORWARDS, OpenEarthMonitor and ForestPaths partners in particular. Such approaches are evolving and advance research products and a regular exchange between the technical partners is rather useful for all sides. A dedicated coordination group of Earth Observation experts has been formed across projects which did have regular in-person and virtual meetings that will continue in the coming years. Some of the Earth Observation data will be used in D2.3 Report and collection of high-frequency updated forest cover and disturbance layers, updates on exact data used will be described in both D2.3 and the final cross-project collaboration deliverable D11.7.

ForestNavigator project has access to 13 National Forest Inventory (NFI) datasets, ForestPaths provided access to data from the Netherlands. PathFinder assisted in accessing the NFI data through a support letter. And Opt4EU assisted to access Romanian tree-level data plots. Remote sensing workflows and methods were presented in 3 meetings, 2 online and 1 in-person meeting between the sister projects. In collaboration with the IMAGE team at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), the ForestPaths project also provided land supply data for WP 5 to improve the land use representation in the MAGNET model.

In Table 3, we summarize the joint data activities between ForestNavigator and partner projects.

Table 3: Joint data collaboration activities with ForestNavigator

Partner Project	Joint activity (WP lead)
ForestPaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest disturbance year and intensity (WP 2) • Land supply data (WP 5) • Life Cycle Assessment / Life Cycle Inventory data for wood bioeconomy (WP 5)
PathFinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFI tree-level data access support (WP 2 and 3) • Forest management map, co-developed with LAMASUS and ForestNavigator (WP 2) • Leading species forest types (WP 2) • Forest structure: Foliage height density and timber volume (WP 2)
LAMASUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest management map, co-developed with PathFinder and ForestNavigator (WP 2)

Partner Project	Joint activity (WP lead)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three LAMASUS forestry expert stakeholders provided validation recommendations to various forest management map and methodology (WP 2)
Opt4EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plot-level tree level data for Romania (WP 2 and 3) Forest management for the Adapt4Model Database (WP 3)

Source: ForestNavigator WP 11

Forest Policy Modelling

As part of its stakeholder engagement activities, the ForestNavigator Project organizes the [Forest Policy Modelling Forum](#) (FPMF), which provides a platform for dialogue between policy makers and modellers from both the EU and MS levels. During the 1st FPMF meeting, in September 2024, modellers from over 12 teams including three modelling teams of ForestPaths and one modelling team from PathFinder project joined to present their models and how their results have contributed to policy making.

Modellers outside the ForestNavigator consortium have already indicated to participate in future forest policy modelling collaborations, which will include a revision of the simulation protocol and deep dive on the model alignment and understanding differences. As a next step, the modelling teams LPJ-GUESS (ForestPaths), ESFISCEN (ForestPaths), and Sitree (PathFinder) will be onboarded to complement existing model intercomparisons already conducted between ForestNavigator partners.

Forest Bioeconomy

Both ForestNavigator and ForestPaths aim to assess substitution impacts of wood products. The relevant project partners met to identify collaboration possibilities, avoid parallel work in Task 5.1 and Task 5.3 of ForestNavigator, which contributes to D5.3 (ForestNavigator) and D4.3 (ForestPaths) and to discuss data availability and sharing through a series of meetings between ForestNavigator and ForestPaths. The baseline displacement factor data is essentially the same for PathFinder and ForestNavigator, as it is provided by FCBA for both projects.

Despite a common general aim to assess substitution impacts of wood products, the deliverables from ForestNavigator and ForestPaths are mostly complementary due to key differences in the task and deliverable emphasis. Notably, ForestNavigator focuses on exploring alternative approaches to determine the substitution impacts and refining existing assumptions to reduce the uncertainty range in market analysis and quantification of the total emission trajectories of the chosen sectors. Forest Navigator also creates market scenarios emphasizing the end of use key intermediate wood products. In contrast, ForestPaths focuses on developing dynamic Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) software based on aggregate data covering all wood uses. They conduct a systematic sensitivity analysis and follow a more supply-oriented approach.

ForestNavigator Portal

The ForestNavigator Portal will host all major data and model advancements generated during the project lifetime. The Portal will be for project modellers and external stakeholders, particularly policy makers. The ForestNavigator Portal includes a “Data Repository”, “Model Repository”, and “Computing Module” for primarily researchers and end users, and the “EU Data Explorer” and the “EU Pathways Explorer” will visualize data and the policy pathways/scenarios enabling policy makers and other stakeholders to explore data and compare model outputs. The Portal will 1)

foster model-data integration in near-real time; 2) facilitate model intercomparison; and 3) access main analytical tools (models) and the infrastructure to deploy them. The ForestNavigator Portal will be fully operational by September 2026.

The CANOPY platform, to be hosted on the ForestPaths website, will serve as an interactive resource for policymakers and European regional authorities, highlighting the project’s developed policy pathways. It will present detailed assessment results and policy recommendations in an easily accessible format, complemented by supporting materials such as interactive scenario maps, videos, infographics, policy briefs, and reports. The platform will incorporate the policy analysis tool from T5.5.2, which assists in policy planning and evaluation by illustrating the implications of various policy pathways. Furthermore, CANOPY will connect users to the project’s Policy Engagement Forum, facilitating online networking and collaboration. To officially launch the platform, a hybrid event will be organised in October 2026, bringing together ForestPaths partners and stakeholders from the Policy Engagement Forum. The platform will be fully finalised and operational in January 2027.

ForestNavigator and ForestPaths coordinators explicitly discussed the request by the Policy Officer to collaborate to ensure the widespread use and visibility of the various platforms that are being developed. Due to the different pathways, distinct stakeholder prioritization, and varying timelines, coordinators agreed not to collaborate directly on the Portal. However, coordinators have committed to enhance visibility of the Portals by making the Platforms available through both project websites. Project coordinators have also agreed to discuss with the EEA the option to make the access to the Platforms available in a to be determined central location such as the EEA research corner webpage or under the FISE, where the characteristics of the different platforms can be explained and linked.

In addition, as part of the ForestNavigator Portal design and development work, IIASA created a web-platform named “Accelerator”, which is tailored to researchers needs for data sharing, data visualization, and modelling. In addition to its use by ForestNavigator partners, the Accelerator is being used by the ACCREU, BrightSpace, and LAMASUS projectsⁱ. ForestPaths forest modellers are evaluating for the future to upload model simulations to the Accelerator as part of the collaborative work under the Forest Policy Modelling Forum.

We summarize joint activities related to the ForestNavigator Platform and its components in Table 3.

Table 4: Joint ForestNavigator Platform activities

Partner Project	Joint activity
ForestPaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint website interface to link to various platforms
LAMASUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerator development was used for baseline analytic activities among LAMASUS partners

Source: ForestNavigator WP 9

Stakeholder Engagement

The Sister Project coordinators extensively discussed options to maximize output from stakeholder engagement activities and avoid stakeholder burnout. The PIs discussed alternative ways to collaborate (including joint stakeholder workshops and joint PSC meetings). Given the different schedules and priorities of stakeholder engagement, collaborating on in-person

ⁱ ACCREU and BrightSpace are not listed as collaborative projects, because their focus on assessing climate change risks does not overlap on the forestry side.

workshops was logistically challenging and very demanding on stakeholders. Instead, the team opted for an annual webinar series, named the Forest Talks webinar series, during which all stakeholders and a wider audience could interact with the project team and its policy advisors on forest monitoring and forest-based policy pathways for climate and biodiversity goals. The seminar series further aims to disseminate results of the three projects.

The webinar series, the agenda and content are co-designed by the three PIs of the project, each of the projects will take turn leading the logistics of the online seminar. The first webinar, titled [‘Towards a common European forest monitoring system’](#) was led by the PathFinder project and discusses how results from Horizon Europe research projects can contribute to the development of a future forest monitoring system and how to use its information for co-designing forest-based policy pathways to achieve climate and biodiversity goals. The first webinar was attended by 165 individuals from 30 countries, out of which 20 EU-27 countries.

A second webinar on EU policy updates after the EU elections will be led by ForestNavigator project and is being organized for mid March, 2025.



Figure 1: Forest Talks Webinar Series 1st Event

ForestNavigator organized the 2nd stakeholder board workshop in September, 2024. Aims of the workshop included sharing updates on ForestNavigator outputs, and, provide feedback towards the EU policy assessment, forest scenario development, and Forest Navigator Portal concept. ForestPaths project partners leading the ForestPaths stakeholder engagement were invited during this meeting and one of their stakeholders from the European Landowners’ Organization provided valuable feedback towards the aims of the stakeholder workshop.

Key output of the workshop was a discussion and detailed input for scenarios on:

- Adaptation to climate change and natural disturbances
- Biodiversity conservation strategies
- Bioeconomy and climate change mitigation: synergies and trade-offs

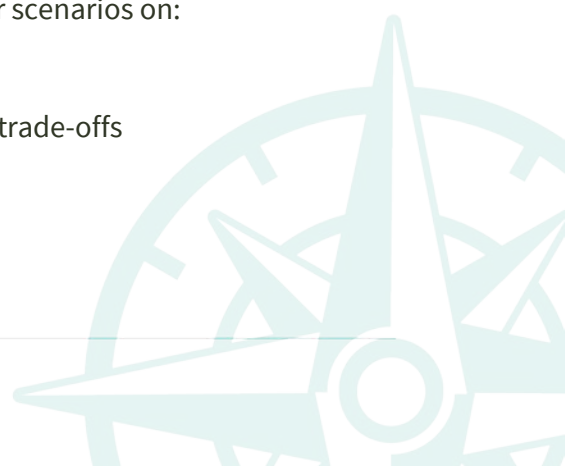




Figure 2: ForestNavigator 2nd Stakeholder Board workshop

Dissemination of Results

ForestNavigator coordination team extensively collaborates with all projects identified in this deliverable to expand the reach and impact of our dissemination activities. In collaboration with Sister Projects, a draft poster was designed to highlight the overlap and unique contributions of the three projects and each of the three projects will add information about the sister projects on their website. The final poster will be disseminated through the three project websites and their social media outlets. ARTTIC partners has also met with sister project relevant partners to coordinate on dissemination efforts, the resulting activities will be included in D10.3 and related deliverables.

The dissemination collaboration activities are summarized in *Table 5*.

Table 5: Joint dissemination activities with ForestNavigator

Partner Project	Joint activity
ForestPaths and PathFinder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint sessions in annual consortium meetings • Forest Talks annual webinar • International Union of Forest Research Organizations 2024 common session • Monitoring future forests workshop in Brussels organized by EFI in collaboration with the three projects (12/23) • Tagging in social media (Twitter/X)
ForestPaths, Pathfinder and FORWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-project workshop (15.03.2024) (FN presented by GFZ)
LAMASUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint session in kick-off meetings • Presentations of results in annual meetings • Preparation of FN material for the 2nd LAMASUS stakeholder workshop • ForestNavigator contributed to LAMASUS newsletter
Opt4EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ForestNavigator contributed to Opt4EU newsletters
FORWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ForestNavigator contributed to FORWARD newsletter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FORWARDS Annual Meeting (03/24): Presentation of FN by Martin Herold (GFZ)
Biomodel4regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ForestNavigator contributed to Biomodel4regions newsletter
ForestPaths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ForestNavigator contributed to ForestPaths newsletter

Source: ForestNavigator WP 11

For the sister projects, collaboration falls into two categories: first, efficiently updating project partners of new and upcoming data and results, and secondly, set up joint dissemination activities to reach a wider audience. To achieve the first item, all project partners were invited to online joint sessions during the kick-off and annual meetings. During the kick-off meetings, PIs introduced their respective projects, while during annual meetings the aim was to share updated results and resources and identify upcoming collaboration items.

Several external dissemination activities are conducted by project partners. The sister projects are identified on individual project websites, and collaboration on newsletter items occurs. In addition, individual partners are invited to speak on share their results during workshops or events such as the Copernicus Forestry Thematic and IUFRO.

2.4. Assignments from EC DGs

ForestNavigator partners are contributing work to the following assignments from the EC DGs: CLIMA and ENV, as well as work in collaboration with the EEA and JRC. In this section we briefly highlight contributions to these assignments.

DG CLIMA

In 2024, DG CLIMA released its [impact assessment of 2040 Climate Targets: Securing our future Europe's 2040 climate target and path to climate neutrality by 2050 by building a sustainable, just and prosperous society](#). This impact assessment was supported by many projects, including EUCLIMIT 6 (Model based Assessment of EU Climate Policies - Part II), where IIASA ForestNavigator modelers are involved, which contributed to the analysis of emission and mitigation pathways for non-CO2 greenhouse gas emissions, as well as land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In addition, estimates of costs for emission mitigation were generated, and quantitative modelling support for the implementation of LULUCF regulation included quantifying impacts of policy options in the agriculture and LULUCF sectors.

This involved modelling on the role of drivers of emissions from agriculture and LULUCF sector in 2040 and beyond, where understanding impacts and side effects of carbon pricing on bioeconomy and food markets to understand possible greenhouse gas (GHG) emission trajectories of the AFOLU sectors for the time period of the impact assessment. Using the GLOBIOM/G4M and GAINS models, a set of modelling-based scenarios were produced to analyze the impact of different newly implemented mitigation technologies and contrasted drivers on pathways for GHG mitigation of the AFOLU sector.

Ongoing other follow up and complementary projects include:

- EU GHG modelling for beyond 2030 (EUCLIMIT 7): Develop a new 2025 EU Reference Scenario (energy, transport and climate action) and policy options to assess economic, environmental and social implications for the EU at economy-wide level.
- Modelling climate policy implementation and development in the agriculture and LULUCF sector: Using the GLOBIOM/G4M model, we develop the reaction of the forest sector on the

implementation of a carbon value to get a more comprehensive view of GHG emission trajectories of the EU AFOLU sectors for 2035, 2040 and beyond. In addition, this project will calculate net-zero scenarios for the AFOLU sector and a first approximation of an implementation of an Agri-Food-Emissions Trade System approach.

- Analytical Capacity on International Climate Change Mitigation and Tracking Progress of Action: inform the European Commission on developments in the field of climate policies (including related areas such as energy, land use, and international transport) on a global scale. This will involve analyzing progress in implementing climate action around the world and completing quantitative analyses on global climate change mitigation and by tracking climate action and progress towards targets, particularly in large-emitting major economies.

DG ENV

The BIOCLIMA project (European Union Biodiversity and CLIMate strategies Assessment) provides a robust assessment of the possible impacts and synergies of current EU policies, particularly the EU Fit for 55 Package and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 on biodiversity and climate relying on the IIASA modelling framework. In the assessment, specific land-use scenarios, indicators, and analyses were designed to assess the impact of expected land-use on biodiversity, the contribution of alternative potential implementations of habitat restoration and conservation targets to climate mitigation, and the combined impact of climate and biodiversity policies on land-use change and emissions, on biodiversity indicators, and on land-use and GHG emissions.

Four different sets of scenarios were designed to reflect land-use policies or climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. A key conclusion of this work suggests that by 2050, the EU27 is projected to see a moderate increase in forest area, a slight decrease in agroecosystems and non-forest semi-natural vegetation, and slight extensification in the management of agroecosystems and forests. Climate mitigation policies scenarios that include incentives to enhance the LULUCF sink reach the 2030 net removal target for LULUCF emissions. This is due to an increase in the forest land sink and a faster decrease in deforestation emissions. The full report is available here: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/bioclimate-assessing-land-use-climate-and-biodiversity-impacts-land-based-climate-mitigation-and_en

As a follow-up of this work, ongoing efforts with key aims include:

- 1) Building a scenario with a more consistent coverage of the Farm to Fork Strategy.
- 2) Identifying the impact of wetland rewetting on land use.
- 3) Assessing climate impacts on crop and forest productivity and carbon removals, land use and species distribution.
- 4) Assessing the time and frequency of wildfires incidence depending on the ecosystems management scenarios.

EEA – European Topic Centre on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (ETC-BE)

The ETC BE supports the EEA to implement EU directives, strategies and policies, design and monitor tracking progress towards the European Green Deal and contribute to a systematic integrated assessment of ecosystems focusing on effects under climate change and to mitigate climate change. As part of Task Nature-based solutions for Europe's sustainable future, the aim is to explore the potential of upscaling nature-based solutions in the EU, in relation to relevant EU policies and their measures/interventions, for terrestrial ecosystems and, to some extent,

freshwater ecosystems. A synthesis of various policy ambitions from the European Green Deal and modelling studies was created in collaboration with IIASA, which shows how the European Green Deal policy ambitions may interact through direct and indirect policy interlinkages.

JRC - Impact assessment 2040

For the JRC, IIASA researchers modelled the LULUCF emissions and sinks, and related bioenergy demand and climate policy mitigation options for EU Member States, associated with a POTEnCIA decarbonization scenario. More specifically, bioenergy demand after changes in bioenergy prices and climate policies implemented via GHG prices were estimated. This research showed LULUCF emissions to be strongly impacted by both the GHG price and the demand for biomass from the energy sector. The study looked at the competing drivers for the emissions, which have contrasting effects. The demand for residue and forest biomass slowly diminishes the forest sink, while the production of biomass via lignocellulosic crops increases the cropland management sink.

3. Conclusion

Coordination across projects has contributed to a series of objectives, including improved data access (Earth Observation data coordination group), capacity development in modelling forests and forest sector (FPMF), growing the stakeholder community engaged with the projects (ForestTalks webinars), and a wider impact of dissemination activities. Together with partners, we continue to collaborate on modelling efforts, improving forestry data access, and web Platforms related activities. This report will be updated to reflect all cross-project activities in D11.7 to be published in August, 2026.