

LIFE Platform Meeting on “LIFE and European Forests Restoration”

Brasov, Romania – 3 - 5 June 2025

Draft version (01/05/2025)

Monday 2 June 2025		
Venue: Hotel Kronwell Brasov , Bulevardul Gării 7A, Braşov 500203, Romania		
17:30-19:00	Early Registration	At the Registration and Help Desk at the entrance of Ceremonies II room
Tuesday 3 June 2025		
Venue: Hotel Kronwell Brasov , Bulevardul Gării 7A, Braşov 500203, Romania		
08:00-08:45	Registration	At the Registration and Help Desk at the entrance of Ceremonies II room
08:50 – 11:00: Plenary session 1: Inspirational Welcome and Introducing the Panel		
Session Chair: Ioana Lucaciu (ELMEN)		
08:50-09:00	Event opening, organisation, programme and housekeeping rules	Simona Bacchereti (CINEA) and Ioana Lucaciu (ELMEN)
09:00-09:15	(1.1) Welcome Address: European Forests - Essential for our Life	Speaker: n.n. Romanian Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests (tbc)
09:15-09:45	(1.2) <i>Environment, Conservation and Forestry— challenges and opportunities.</i> The New EU Forest Strategy for 2030: Pursuing the biodiversity and climate goals set out in the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030	Speaker: Marco Onida , European Commission, Team Leader for Forests DG ENV.D1 - Land Use & Management
09:45-10:00	(1.3) European forests and the EU Nature Restoration Law: Challenges and opportunities in European forest restoration under the EU Nature Restoration Law	Speaker: Gonzalo Gonzales-Jurado , European Commission, DG ENV D.3 – Nature Conservation
10:00-10:20	(1.4) Restoring Europe’s Forests: Benefits of the EU LIFE Programme for Society, Biodiversity, and Climate	Speakers: Simona Bacchereti & Boyana Vasileva , European Commission, CINEA
10:20-11:00	Coffee break (lobby)	



11:00 – 13:00 Plenary Session 2 & Panel Discussion		
Session chair: Jan Sliva (ELMEN)		
11:00-11:15	(1.5) State of Romanian forests – management – conservation – biodiversity: successes, failures and challenges	Speaker: Radu Melu , WWF Romania (Mr)
11:15-11:30	(1.6) The contribution of LIFE Programme to the health of the forests in the Southern Carpathians	Speaker: Barbara & Christoph Promberger , Foundation Conservation Carpathia (FCC), Romania
11:30-12:45	Panel Discussion Names of panellists will be published at the later stage	
12:45-14:00	Lunch Break and networking	

14:00 – 15:30 Plenary Session 3: Inspiration for Working Groups - Case Studies from across Europe		
Session Chairperson: Ioana Lucaciu (ELMEN)		
14:00	(1.7) Theme 1 - Conservation & Restoration of biodiversity in European Forests EU Nature Restoration Law and EU Forests - Upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest related biodiversity and ecosystem services	Speaker: Elisabeth Schatzdorfer , European Forest Institute (EFI), (Horizon SUPERB), Austria
14:15	(1.8) Theme 2 - Improving Forest resilience to Global Change Improving Forest resilience to Global Change	Speaker: Laura Bouriaud , Universitatea Stefan cel Mare din Suceava, Director CSUD (Horizon INFORMA), Romania
14:30	(1.9) Theme 3 - Financing forest restoration Diversifying financing sources and options for forest restoration	Speaker: Daniel Mircea Bucur , Foundation Conservation CARPATHIA (FCC), Brasov, Romania
14:45	(1.10) Theme 4 - Silvo-pastoral systems and agro-forestry Grazed forests and wood pastures, forgotten and abandoned silvo-pastoral systems.	Speaker: Laszlo Rakosy , Fundația ADEPT Transilvania / Babes-Bolyai"University Faculty of Biology and Geology, / Societatea Lepidopterologica Romana
15:00	Q&A Session	
15:20	Coffee break and networking	

16:00 – 18:00 Plenary Session 4: ‘Elevator Pitch’ – Get to know each other!

Session Facilitator: Jan Sliva (ELMEN)

16:00-17:50	‘Elevator Pitch’ to get a brief insight into as wide a range of projects as possible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4’ short intro from each project presenter of day 2 • Timing will be VERY strict! • Estimated 20-25 projects presenting • Presentations will be targeted towards one of the 4 themes • Participants have been given a template to follow • Opportunity to match faces to projects and later find people you may be interested in networking with • Workgroup presenters will also be giving you a taster of what they will be presenting in the workgroup sessions • (Participants have been asked to end on their policy message!)
17:50-18:00	Closing remarks

Wednesday 4 June 2025 – Working Groups
venue Kronwell Brasov, Bulevardul Gării 7A, Braşov 500203, Romania

There will be **4 workgroups dealing with four main themes**: All four groups will run simultaneously. There will be **four rounds** within each working group during the day allowing each participant the opportunity of joining all workshops. We expect to have around 20 participants in each round. Each working group will be located in the same room throughout the day, while participants will rotate between the groups. Each round will start with one or two project presentation focusing on a specific issue within the thematic focus.

Working Group I: European forests: Ecological restoration and natural regeneration

- Large-scale implementation of ecological restoration techniques, including reforestation with native tree species and habitat restoration for key species.
- Promotion of cost-effective, natural regeneration as a fundamental approach to forest recovery.
- Management and protection of old-growth forests and primeval forest areas.
- Adoption of Close-to-Nature Forest management principles that enhance biodiversity, improve ecological resilience, and integrate sustainable forestry practices.

Working Group II: European forests and climate change

- Enhancing the resilience of forest ecosystems to climate change, drought, storms, and forest fire risks.
- Exploring the role of forests in carbon sequestration, adaptation strategies, and mitigation measures.
- Strategies to improve the sustainability of forest biomass use while maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.
- Strengthening early warning systems and adaptive management for extreme weather events and pest outbreaks.

Working group III: Silvo-pastoral systems and agroforestry

- Integrating sustainable tree cultivation within agricultural and pastoral systems to improve ecosystem services and rural economies
- Revitalising traditional silvo-pastoral systems to enhance landscape resilience, soil fertility, and biodiversity
- Evaluating the role of agroforestry in sustainable food production, climate adaptation, and supporting local economies
- Policy measures to encourage agroforestry adoption across European landscapes.

Working group IV: Socio-economic opportunities and financial tools

- Unlocking the potential of sustainable bioeconomy models for forest-based livelihoods.
- Exploring financial mechanisms such as Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES), carbon credits, and biodiversity certification schemes to support forest restoration.
- Engaging local communities and stakeholders in participatory forest management and governance.
- Fostering cross-sectoral collaboration between forestry, agriculture, and conservation to support sustainable forest restoration initiatives.

The **final session** will be in plenary when rapporteurs will provide **feedback on the issues discussed and the preliminary outcomes**.

Each Working Group will have a dedicated **Facilitator** to guide and accurately record the main points of the discussion. Each session will be interactive with audience participation throughout – we encourage all participants to bring along their own results to share during the sessions.



There will opportunities for bi-lateral and small group networking, private conversations, and destressing in the coffee area outside the workgroup rooms! Posters will also be on display in this common area.

Each round:

- Introduction of the speaker(s)
- Presentation project (approx. 10' the entire content) to stimulate discussion.
- Presenters will be provided with speaker notes and suggestions for how the presentation should flow and there will be a video briefing
- Closing discussion
- Conclusions and drafting outcomes and recommendations



Working Group I: European forests: Ecological restoration and natural regeneration (part 1)
Room 1: (room name)

Facilitator: Ioana Lucaciu / Cristóbal Ginés Camahort (ELMEN)

09:00-10:00	Round 1	(2.1.1a) LIFE19 NAT/RO/000023 LIFE Rosalia (Conservation of saproxylic beetles in the Carpathians) - Speaker: Marian Mirea Dumitru (2.1.1b) LIFE19 NAT/IT/000104 LIFE SPAN (Saproxylic Habitat Network: planning and management for European forests) - Speaker: Bruni de Cinti and/or n.n. (tbc)
10:15-11:15	Round 2	(2.1.2a) LIFE18 NAT/BG/001051 LIFE for Eagle's Habitats (Conservation measures for the Lesser Spotted Eagle and its habitats in Bulgaria) – - Speaker: Vanya Ratarova-Georgieva (2.1.2b) LIFE17 NAT/UK/000020 Celtic Rainforests LIFE (Restoring the Celtic Temperate Rainforest of Wales toward Favorable Conservation Status) - Speaker: Gethin Davies, Julia Harrison
11:15-12:00	Coffee break, Networking	
12:00-13:00	Round 3	(2.1.3a) LIFE20 NAT/ES/000021 LIFE ALNUS TAEJO (Conservation and restoration of Mediterranean alder forests priority habitats in western international Tajeo river basin) - Speaker: Jose Luis Ggarcia Rodriguez (2.1.3b) LIFE21-NAT-IT-LIFE-GOPROFOR-MED (Improvement of the conservation status of forest habitats in the Mediterranean Biogeographical Region applying restoration and conservation techniques and close to nature management) - Speakers: Marcello Miozzo, Serena Corezzola
13:00-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:30	Round 4	(2.1.4a) LIFE19 NAT/UK/000147 LIFE in the ravines (Restoration of ravine woodland in the Peak District Dales SAC to mitigate effects of Ash Dieback) - Speaker: Katie Brownbill (2.1.4b) LIFE22 NAT/ES/101113584 LIFE Phoenix (Restoration and improvement of Priority Habitat 9370* Palm groves of Phoenix) - Speaker: Gustavo Viera Ruiz
15:30 – 16:00	Poster session	<i>See project list below</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Coffee break and poster networks	
17:30 – 18:00	Debrief & Closing	Debrief in Plenary Closing Statement: Simona Bacchereti (CINEA) Information to excursions



Working Group II: European forests and climate change**Room 2:** (room name)**Facilitator:** **Edyta Owadowska (ELMEN)**

09:00-10:00	Round 1	<p>(2.2.1a) LIFE20 CCA/ES/001624 RedBosques_Clima (Nature-based solutions to improve adaptation of forests to climate change)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speakers: Jose Atauri, Francisco Rivero <p>(2.2.1b) LIFE20 CCA/ES/001809 ADAPT-ALEPPO (Adaptive management of Mediterranean Pinus halepensis forests in the face of climate change)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speakers: Miguel Chamon Fernandez, Santiago Martin Alcon, Jose Luis Tome
10:15-11:15	Round 2	<p>(2.2.2a) LIFE21-IPC-EE-LIFE-SIP-AdaptEst (Implementation of national climate change adaptation activities in Estonia)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker: Argo Orumaa <p>(2.2.2b) LIFE19 CCA/GR/001185 LIFE STEMMA ATHOS (Strategic Environmental Management in Mount Athos under Climate Change)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker: Nikolaos Gounaris
11:15-12:00	Coffee break, Networking	
12:00-13:00	Round 3	<p>(2.2.3a) LIFE20 CCM/ES/001778 LIFE +REB (Quercus pyrenaica forest management to obtain cascading use of timber products as a tool for mitigation in Castilla-Leon)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speakers: Saúl Gutiérrez García, Tomás Sánchez Pellicer <p>(2.2.3b) LIFE NIEBLAS LIFE19 CCM/ES/001099 (Reforestation & Climate Change Mitigation: tests, evaluation and transfer of innovative methods based on fog collection)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker: Francisco González
13:00-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15.30	Round 4	<p>(2.2.4a) LIFE22-CCM-ES-LIFE HFH 101114227 Hardwood For The Home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speaker: Silvia Gómez-Fernández
15:30 – 16:00	Poster session	See project list below
16:00 – 17:00	Coffee break and poster networks	
17:30 – 18:00	Debrief & Closing	<p>Debrief in Plenary</p> <p>Closing Statement: Simona Bacchereti (CINEA)</p> <p>Information to excursions</p>



Working Group III: Silvo-pastoral systems and agroforestry**Room 3:** (room name)**Facilitator:** Cristóbal Ginés Camahort /Ioana Lucaci(ELMEN)

09:00-10:00	Round 1	(2.3.1a) LIFE17 IPE/CZ/000005 N2K Revisited (Integrated LIFE project for the Natura 2000 network in the Czech Republic) - Speakers: Michal Pánek + Zdena Koberová (2.3.1b) LIFE15 IPC/DE/000005 LIFE ZENAPA + LIFE22-CCA-DE-LIFE-AFaktive Speaker: Jacob Bussman & Frank Wagener, Applied Material Flow Management (IfaS), Trier University of Applied Sciences, Germany
10:15-11:15	Round 2	(2.3.2a) LIFE20 CCA/ES/001682 LIFE AgroForAdapt (Agroforestry systems for climate change adaptation of Mediterranean agricultural and forest areas) - Speaker: Míriam Piqué (2.3.2b) LIFE22-CCA-PT-LIFE ResLand (Adapt and Promote a Resilient and Firewise Living Landscape) - Speaker: João Cardoso de Melo
11:15-12:00	Coffee break, Networking	
Working Group I: European forests: Ecological restoration and natural regeneration (part 2)		
12:00-13:00	Round 5	(2.3.3a) LIFE20 NAT/AT/000063 LIFE WILDisland (Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor) - Speaker: Elena Kmetova-Biro, Costel Petcu (2.3.3b) LIFE22-NAT-AT-LIFE-RESTORE-for-MDD (Preserving and restoring floodplain forest habitats along the Mura-Drava-Danube rivers) Speaker: Lisa Wolf
13:00-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15.30	Round 6	(2.3.4a) LIFE19 NAT/NL/000821 LIFE Resilias (Making ecosystems resilient to Invasive Alien Species) - Speaker: Bart Nyssen
15:30 – 16:00	Poster session	<i>See project list below</i>
16:00 – 17:00	Coffee break and poster networks	
17:30 – 18:00	Debrief & Closing	Debrief in Plenary Closing Statement: Simona Bacchereti (CINEA) Information to excursions



Working Group IV: Socio-economic opportunities and financial tools
Room 4: (Room name)

Facilitator: **Bent Jepsen** (ELMEN)

09:00-10:00	Round 1	(2.4.1a) LIFE22-CCM-ES-LIFE CO2RK (Slow growing forests management for Climate Change Mitigation) - Speakers: Guillermo Palacio Rodríguez (2.4.1b) Forest Stewardship Council – FSC Certification in Romania - Speaker: Alexandra Popa
10:15-11:15	Round 2	(2.4.2a) LIFE21-CCM-ES-LIFE TOKEN CO2 (Validation of an advanced CO2 life cycle model and non-speculative Emissions Trading System in a digital platform for an efficient sustainable forest management) - Speaker: Jose Luis Duran-Sanchez (2.4.2b) LIFE21-CCM-IT-LIFE-ClimatePositive (Promoting SMART associations and innovative financing for responsible forest management and carbon sink enhancement) - Speaker: Maria Giulia Pelosi
11:15-12:00	Coffee break, Networking	
12:00-13:00	Round 3	(2.4.3a) LIFE19 IPE/LV/00001 LIFE-IP LatViaNature (Optimising the Governance and Management of the Natura 2000 Protected Areas Network in Latvia) - Speaker: Girts Baranovskis
13:00-14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:30	Round 4	(2.4.4a) LIFE20 NAT/ES/000309 Steps for LIFE (Long Distance Non Motorized routes such as Green Infrastructures) - Speaker: Enrique Guillermo Soria Eiroa
15:30 – 16:00	Poster session	See project list below
16:00 – 17:00	Coffee break and poster networks	
17:30 – 18:00	Debrief & Closing	Debrief in Plenary Closing Statement: Simona Bacchereti (CINEA) Information to excursions



REGISTERED POSTERS:

- **LIFE17 NAT/ES/000568 LIFE BIORGEST** (Innovative Forest Management Strategies to Enhance Biodiversity in Mediterranean Forests. Incentives & Management Tools) - Lluís Comas & Jordi Vayreda
- **LIFE22 NAT/ES/101113584 LIFE Phoenix** (Restoration and improvement of Priority Habitat 9370* Palm groves of Phoenix) - Kostas Kontos, Christos Georgiadis
- **LIFE19 CCA/SK/001276 CLIMAFORCEE LIFE** - Yana Barzova
- **LIFE19 CCA/GR/001185 LIFE STEMMA ATHOS** (Strategic Environmental Management in Mount Athos under Climate Change) - Spiridon Galatsidas
- **LIFE20 CCA/ES/001809 ADAPT-ALEPPO** (Adaptive management of Mediterranean Pinus halepensis forests in the face of climate change) - Lourdes Vicente Valero
- **LIFE17 IPE/CZ/000005 N2K Revisited** (Integrated LIFE project for the Natura 2000 network in the Czech Republic) - Johana Drlíková
- **LIFE20 NAT/ES/000309 Steps for LIFE** (Long Distance Non-Motorized routes such as Green Infrastructures) - Enrique Guillermo Soria Eiroa, Marta Valle
- **LIFE19 NAT/UK/000147 LIFE in the ravines** (Restoration of ravine woodland in the Peak District Dales SAC to mitigate effects of Ash Dieback) - Martin Evans
- **LIFE21-CCA-CZ-LIFE-Adapt-Brdy** (Climate Change Adaptation of Forests in the Brdy Highland) - Petr Machacek, David Novotný
- **Provincie Overijssel** – Tim Boerrigter, Gert-Jan Hoeve
- **LIFE23-CCM-ES-WOOD4LIFE** (Locking carbon in harvested wood products, from forests to sustainable wood products) - Giulia Cecchinato



Thursday 5 June 2025 – Field Day		
08:44	Please report to the assembly point – please be prompt! More details are in the field trip notes on the website. Emergency number is available in case you get left behind!	Assembly point: Kronwell Hotel
09:00	Depart	
	Excursion 1. One-Day Trip to LIFE CARPATHIA Project After about an hour attendees will visit the Beaver's House in Rucăr, a visitor centre created as part of the project. Then the group will continue to Valea Dâmboviței with stops at the nursery of forest saplings, at a plot successfully completed by restoration works, beaver dam and reach the Richita Nature Education and Activities Center.	
	Excursion 2. One-Day Trip to LIFE ROSALIA Project After approximately 2 hours, the group will arrive at the project site in the Putna-Vrancea Natural Park. On-site, we will observe the project's results and learn about the actions and challenges related to the conservation of saproxylic insects in the Carpathians.	
	Excursion 3. Two-Day Trip to LIFE CARPATHIA & Poiana Tămaș Camp On the first day, the itinerary will be similar to the one-day programme of Excursion No. 1. Additionally, after visiting CAEN Richita, the group will hike up to the camping site in Poiana Tămaș, where it enjoys a campfire dinner and continue with informal discussions. In the morning, we will have breakfast, followed by a visit to a clear-cut restoration site and an artificial spruce monoculture reversion site where Conservation Carpathia specialists will be our guides.	
18:00	Arrival at Brasov for the excursions 1. and 2. on 5 June 2025 Arrival in Brasov for the excursion 3. on 6 June 2025	