

SUPERB: Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest-related biodiversity and ecosystem services

In SUPERB, our overall goal is creating an enabling environment for, and demonstration of, large-scale restoration of forests and forest landscapes across Europe.

This overall goal translates into the following specific objectives:

1. Demonstrate and test together with key local stakeholders (i.e., local communities, private landowners, municipalities, state forests, forest and nature agencies, restoration SMEs, NGOs etc.) successful restoration approaches in 12 large-scale demonstrators ('demos') across Europe. The demos, which face different challenges and pressures, aim to restore the structure, composition, and functionality of forest habitats (including soils) through a variety of measures and management forms that integrate restoration as much as possible into 'normal' forest and landscape management.
2. Deliver evidence-based practical knowledge on sustainably and successfully managing, governing, and financing restoration by learning about barriers and enablers for restoration from the wealth of past and ongoing forest restoration projects and activities from across Europe and beyond.
3. Improve societal support for restoration and benefits from restoration by fully considering societal demands and expectations of restoration and co-designing adequate and favourable approaches and plans through inclusive and transformative stakeholder and community engagement.
4. Launch an interactive online Marketplace, where market agents (landowners, funders etc.) can post calls for or offers of sustainable restoration actions (in terms of biodiversity and carbon gain and social acceptance) and find insights into sustainable financing that take cost-effectiveness, socio-economic benefits, involvement, and just access into account.
5. Deliver a multi-language Forest Ecosystem Restoration Gateway that serves as the central knowledge platform for anyone interested or working in restoration to obtain evidence-based guidance on forest restoration, including restoration-support tools, manuals and guidelines.
6. Create a large and powerful multi-stakeholder network and movement for the development, uptake, and upscaling of transformative forest restoration approaches and actions. We engage with many actors, including the 90 regional to international associate project partners (signed letters of support) who represent key stakeholders and who in one way or another have influence on the majority of European forest landscapes (e.g., agricultural and nature protection ministries and government agencies from over 20 European countries, landowner associations, certifiers, funders, NGOs etc.).

In WP 5 "**Governance and Society**", University of Freiburg, Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy will first map key international, EU and (sub-)national policies relevant for restoration in all demo countries. It will assess policy coherence, focusing on the ability of policies to drive positive transformative change towards effective restoration in the context of multiple objectives. This assessment will cover: (i) analyses of trade-offs and synergies between policies horizontally across key policy sectors (climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation, forestry, water protection, agriculture and rural development, sustainable forest management, sustainable finance) and vertically across levels of governance (international-EU-national-regional). Second, the Freiburg team will validate in "real-life" setting the policy coherence assessment, policy drivers and transformative

change through assessment of key EU and (sub-)national policymaker and stakeholder perceptions and experience. Third, through a discourse social network analysis the decision-making rationales, implementation structures, and interrelations between policy sectors and their actor networks will be assessed to identify and better understand the policy and societal drivers and barriers of transformative change towards large scale forest restoration.

In terms of methodology, the research work will review existing literature and combine online stakeholder surveys with key informants' expert interviews, building on stakeholder mapping in WP2. The RESTOR+ (WP3) databases will be used as additional data sources.