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## Overview

In November 2013, 28 organisations from 11 countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) began the European collaboration FP7 project **SIMWOOD (Sustainable Innovative Mobilisation of Wood)**.

This four-year project seeks to provide solutions on how to mobilise forest owners, promote collaborative forest management and ensure sustainable forest functions in order to mobilise the present unlocked wood resources in Europe.

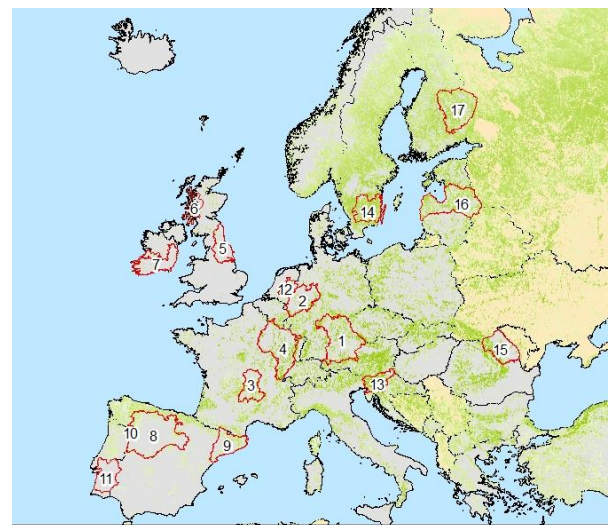
We work in **17 regions across Europe**, selected for their high relevance to Europe's wood mobilisation challenge. In our model regions, we have made a detailed analysis of the present situation, and the barriers and challenges for wood mobilisation which currently exist. Now we are working on identifying objectives, developing possible tailor-made solutions, and selecting some to be tested in a series of pilot projects.

In the regions, we have Regional Learning Laboratories (RLLs) as an integral part of the research process. This is linked to existing initiatives in the region, and is collaborative: teaming up with regional stakeholders to obtain fresh findings on the region's specific status quo, chances and proposed solutions.

In this issue, we focus on our work in two regions:

- **Overijssel & Gelderland, the Netherlands**
  - **North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany**
- and the Regional Learning Laboratory in
- **Lower Saxony, Germany**

We also have a roundup of news from the SIMWOOD regions.



1. Bavaria, Germany
2. **North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany**
3. Auvergne, France
4. Grand-Est, France
5. Yorkshire & North East England, UK
6. Lochaber, UK
7. Southern and Eastern Ireland
8. Castile and León, Spain
9. Catalonia, Spain
10. Nordeste Transmontano, Portugal
11. Alentejo, Portugal
12. **Overijssel & Gelderland, the Netherlands**
13. Slovenia
14. Småland, Sweden
15. North-east Romania
16. Latvia
17. Eastern Finland

## Challenges for forest management and wood mobilisation in the Netherlands

### Focus on Overijssel & Gelderland

#### Background

The Netherlands has set itself an ambitious target for the bioeconomy which will to a large extent depend on wood. Already now, the Netherlands is a large net importer of wood. Where will all the extra wood for the Netherlands come from in the future? Some of it may come from domestic sources. Within Simwood we study and try to solve wood mobilisation in two important provinces for wood provision: Overijssel and Gelderland. Together, they account for a third (139 500 ha) of the Dutch forests. Both provinces are very rural with small forests scattered in an agricultural landscape.



*SIMWOOD region Gelderland and Overijssel: two provinces in the east of the Netherlands*

The Netherlands has no national forest policy; rather it is part of an overall nature policy. Furthermore, implementation has been decentralised to the provinces who implement the subsidy programme (SNL). Provincial policy is more focussed on nature than on production goals where the awarded subsidy is higher for nature oriented management than production oriented management.

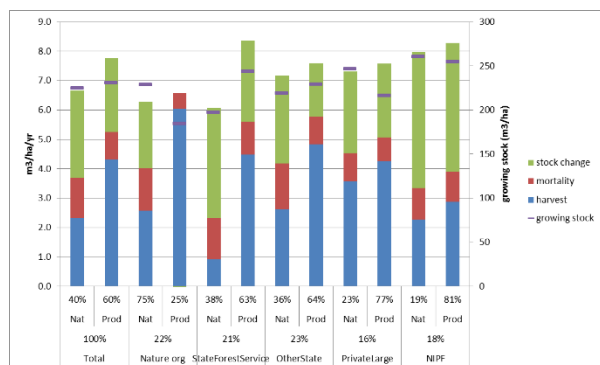
Municipalities sometimes play a role in the market uptake of renewable energy, including bioenergy. At the same time, they own about 10% of the forest area. In a highly urbanised country like the Netherlands, multiple use forests are extremely important.

#### Present state and management issues with respect to mobilisation

In order to identify mobilisation possibilities, it is important to analyse the current state of forest resources and management trends. The forest area in the Netherlands expanded from 2% in 1750 to 11% currently. A large part of the expansion was due to afforestation of poor soils (heathlands and drifts sands) a century ago. The resulting monoculture Scots pine plantations have slowly developed into more mixed forests due to the invasion of oak, beech and especially birch.

The total amount of stemwood that is harvested from Dutch forests is 1.25 million m<sup>3</sup> per year, about half the annual increment. This harvest covers about 10% of the annual consumption. Due to the low felling rate, the average age of the forest is increasing, and the annual increment per ha is decreasing. Forests are very important for recreation and nature protection.

An analysis of the permanent plots of the National Forest Inventory (NFI) revealed interesting differences between owners. The larger nature protection organisations, the State Forest Service and other public owners seem to follow the provincial policy goals as defined in their subsidy system rather well. They all show a clear difference in harvest level between forests designated to nature on the one hand, and production forests on the other hand. For private owners the difference is much smaller. Non-industrial private forest (NIPF) owners harvest on average the least, while larger private owners harvest the most. The low harvesting in NIPF is reflected in the high average growing stock in these forests.



Average harvest, mortality and stock change as measured in 494 permanent plots in Gelderland/Overijssel between NF15 (2001-2005) and NF16 (2012-2013), and average growing stock as measured in NF16, separated per owner type in forests with nature protection designation (Nat) and forests with production designation (Prod). The total height of the bar is equal to the gross increment.

Consequently, there is a considerable potential for additional harvest in the NIPF ownership category. This potential is about 40 000 m<sup>3</sup> per year (8% of the current harvest in the region), assuming a similar harvest level as for the larger private owners. In this respect, the main barriers for wood mobilisation are:

- Many small forest areas: 20% of forest area is smaller than 5 ha, 50% is smaller than 50 ha;
- Many different and small-scale forest owners (30% of the area is owned by owners having 5 ha or less);
- Private owners of small forest areas are difficult to reach for policy makers.

In addition, potential exists in the intensification of management in production forests of all owner categories except nature organisations. Regional modelling shows that each of these groups may mobilise an additional 40-50 000 m<sup>3</sup> annually. Thus, the harvest level could increase by about 40-50% compared with the current situation.

Barriers here include:

- Too many stakeholders work individually; each (exploitation?) organisation has its own collection structure;
- Trees that have reached the target diameter are often not harvested;

- Lack of incentive or willingness to invest in forest regeneration.

Private owners form a heterogeneous group, and not much is known about their motivations and attitude towards harvesting. This is especially the case for the owners of less than 5 ha of forest. Therefore, two surveys of NIPF owners were conducted. One dealt with Gelderland and Overijssel as a whole, and one focussed on the Twente region. The surveys focussed on characteristics of NIPF owners and their motivations regarding forest management and harvesting.

### SIMWOOD's work in the region

#### Surveys on NIPF owners

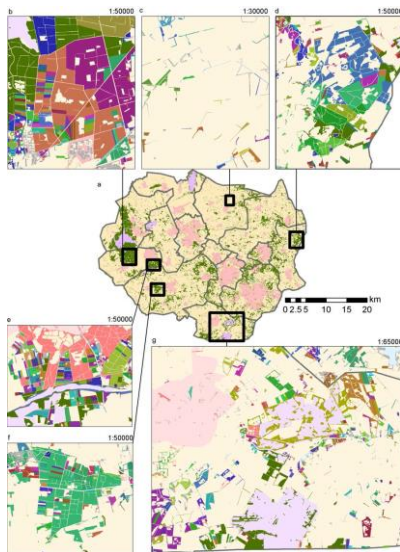
The main conclusions of the first survey were that the most important management objective of the forest owners is to conserve and increase the ecological value of their forest. For most of the owners (73%) harvesting is a means to that end: on average, harvesting accounts for roughly half of their income from forests, and subsidies account for one third of their income from forests.

In the more detailed survey (Twente region), all private owners and small public owners (municipalities) (3029 in total) that owned more than 0.5 ha were approached. In addition, an analysis was done of the ownership information held in the cadastre. Most owners are between 50- and 70-years-old, and 80% live less than 5 km from their forest.

Many owners (32%) would be willing to take part in a collective for wood harvesting. The importance of training and knowledge dissemination was clear because many owners indicated a lack of knowledge regarding forestry, the sector as a whole, harvesting and available subsidies.

Based on this detailed survey, a Plan of Approach was developed by Alterra and BTG in which the following actions were proposed to increase wood mobilisation by NIPF owners:

- Knowledge dissemination to NIPF owners;
- Encouraging cooperation among NIPF owners, by: (1) providing initial subsidies for a number of new collectives, and (2) appointing a “wood mobilisation coordinator” to help foster collective action;
- Increasing the financial returns for forest management and wood mobilisation.



Map showing the level of fragmentation in the Twente region. Because of the large number of owners, the same colour is used to represent more than one owner. Source: Clercx et al. 2016.

This Plan of Approach was also used to provide input for the national Action Plan for Forestry and Wood (see below) by the government and forestry organisation to substantially increase the wood supply from Dutch forests.

### Pilot projects

SIMWOOD work in the region is mainly concentrated in two areas:

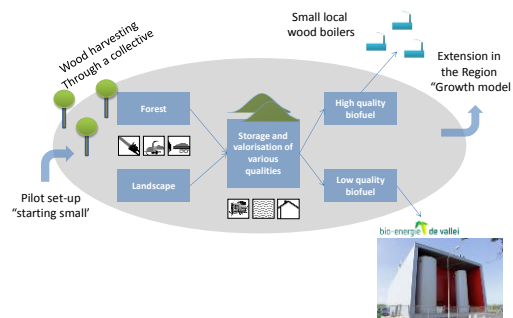
- an area in Gelderland (called the Food Valley Region), where a pilot project has been conducted in which a collective was formed to combine harvesting of forestry and landscape elements.
- The Twente region (in the south of Overijssel), where a pilot project is being conducted in which the opportunities for a biomass module (a

decision support system) for handling the logistics of top- and branch wood.

### Pilot project: Food Valley

One of the pilot projects carried out in the region involves the bundling of harvesting and logistics activities, which is expected to increase efficiency and therefore lower costs, which increases the economic viability of forest and landscape management.

In this pilot project a collective was formed, and maintenance and harvesting activities were carried out jointly. The project involved owners of both forests and landscape elements. Another part of the project was the inclusion of bioenergy producers as customers for the forest residues.



Conceptual illustration of the Food Valley project

The Food Valley project is now continuing, although the SIMWOOD part has ended. The project will now be evaluated according to the SIMWOOD methodology.

### Pilot project: Biomass Module

This pilot project is aimed at the Twente region. The central project concept is that cooperation is encouraged through bundling of activities, and logistical costs (for chipping, storage and transport of wood) can be lowered. One way to facilitate the bundling of these activities is through the development and use of a dedicated GIS-based biomass module.

This biomass module is now being designed, and is to be tested together with *Natuurmonumenten*, one of the three large forestry and nature organisations in the Netherlands. It is

expected that once these organisations are convinced that bundling of activities can be beneficial, others (private owners) will follow.

It is expected that in the second half of this year the biomass module will be tested (on paper) using actual harvesting data of *Natuurmonumenten* and some private owners. The results will be presented at the next Regional Learning Lab (in early 2017).



*Regional Learning Lab, Biomass Module pilot project, October 2015.*

### National Action Plan for Forest and Wood

In 2015, several nature organisations, societal organisations, the timber industry, bioenergy sector and the Ministry of Economic Affairs have jointly initiated an “Action Plan for Forest and Wood”. The background is that we will be needing more and more biomass in the future, and wood is a major part of that. To substantially increase the supply of wood from Dutch forests a number of actions have been defined, of which the most prominent are:

- Increase of the forest area in the Netherlands by 100 000 ha in the next 30 years;
- Increase the harvest of wood from the forest;
- Secure the sustainability of (domestic and foreign) wood;
- Develop applications of wood in the Netherlands (wooden buildings, cascading use);
- Foster Investment, update regulations, improve communication.



*In the Netherlands recreation is of utmost importance with >100 million visits per year. This can go very well hand in hand with increased wood mobilisation.*

This Action Plan is now being published, and measures to maximise the impact of the plan are being considered. Especially the first action – increase the forest area in the Netherlands by 100 000 ha – is very ambitious. So far it is clear that there is a lot of support for this measure within the various organisations represented in the Action Plan, and there are convincing arguments to be made for this policy proposal.

It is expected that also during the SIMWOOD General Assembly in the Netherlands in November 2016 this policy proposal will be mentioned during the two keynote speeches by Mr Roel Feringa (Ministry of Economic Affairs) and Mr Sylvo Thijsen (Staatsbosbeheer).

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## Focus on North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW, Germany)

### Background

NRW is located in the western central part of Germany. With 18 million inhabitants, it is the most densely populated federal state. About 915 000 ha (27%) of the territory is covered by forest, with an equal balance of coniferous (52%) and broadleaved tree species (48%), dominated by spruce (36%), beech (18%) and oak (16%). Some 67% are privately owned forest, belonging to a total of 150 000 owners. The role of income from forests is diminishing and many properties are managed only irregularly or not at all.

### Land fragmentation of private forest owners

The increasing fragmentation of privately-owned forest land represents one of the main challenges for wood mobilisation. Today the largest unused potential of wood resources is found in small-scale private forest, which is defined as a property of less than 20 ha per owner.

There are an estimated 16 million private forest owners in Europe, and 2 million in Germany. Private forests in Germany account for 4.8 million ha or 47% of the total forest area. Out of these, 2.8 million ha belong to owners with less than 20 ha. The average size of private forest properties is 2.5 ha, which means that a majority of owners hold only around 1 ha of land or even less.

The historical origin of today's fragmented private forests is linked to the conversion of proprietary systems of the Commons (in German: Allmende) at the end of the 19th century, when forests owned by communities were divided among private citizens. Over the generations, these small land parcels were further divided e.g. under the traditional practice of partible inheritance (in German: Realteilung), which demanded the property to be divided as equal shares among the heirs.



*An example of a fragmented private forest area in Germany. The red lines show the boundaries of the small land parcels (Source: Wipfel et al. 2007.)*

Fragmentation of private forest property has many disadvantages for forest management. Because of the small size of the property, often with unfavourable shape and unclear borders, and sometimes complicated ownership forms (such as communities of heirs), these forests can barely be managed productively. Small, dispersed forest properties with difficult access results in high costs for timber harvesting per hectare.

The rather small amount of harvestable timber represents a low source of income for individual owners. In turn, small amounts of bundled timber, e.g. from group thinning, result in lower prices for the sold timber. The harvesting planning requires an increased effort of communication and coordination between the high number of owners, which often face neighbourhood problems e.g. boundary disputes.

This eventually also leads to silvicultural problems, because the backlog of harvesting also has a negative impact on productivity and stability of forest stands in the longer term.

## Pilot project “Forest land consolidation of community forests in NRW”

The pilot project investigates the effectiveness of two combined solutions.

**Forest land consolidation (FLC)** is a land development instrument implemented by a regional planning authority. Through a regulated land consolidation in close cooperation with the local forestry actors, fragmentation of forest properties is dissolved through realignment of land parcels into larger blocks, along with an official update of the land cadastre.

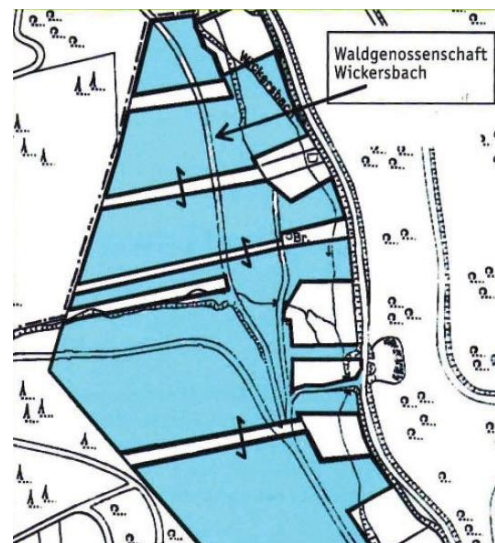
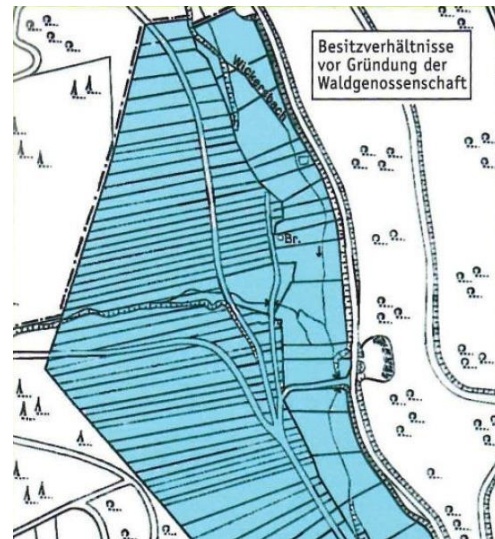
**A forest cooperative society (FCS)** is a form of community forest owned under a shareholder principle. Their main characteristic is that the members do not own a particular land parcel of a forest area, but hold ideal shares of the whole community forest property. The advantage of FCS is that small individual land parcels do not need to be taken into account for planning and harvesting; thus FCS can enable viable management of small-scale forest properties.

The ‘NRW Community Forest Act’ provides a unique legal framework in Germany (GWG Gemeinschaftswaldgesetz 1975; Community Forest Act). The GWG permits transfer of private forest properties into FCS and merging of several FCS into one larger FCS as part of an official FLC.

The bottleneck for wider acceptance and implementation of FLC and FCS is the widespread reluctance of private forest owners to join and commit to cooperative initiatives. The purpose of the pilot project is to evaluate the state of knowledge of this complex, but clearly effective integrated wood mobilisation solution, and make it more accessible to the target group.

The NRW pilot project evaluates five successful best practice cases, which provide convincing, tangible evidence on the benefits of FLC and FCS for individual owners and wider impacts for SFM. One of these cases is described here.

## FCS Wickersbach: Transferring private forest property into a community forest



*FLC Wickersbach. Situation before and after the forest land consolidation. (a) Highly fragmented original property of 9.15 ha of 67 owners. (b) New FCS of 8.5 ha founded by 57 private owners. A few non-consolidated private parcels remain within the FLC (Source: Büdenbender & Ahlborn 2010).*

The area is located close to the city of Siegen in the county of Siegen-Wittgenstein in NRW, Germany. The area showed a high degree of fragmentation as a result of the continued division of property over the decades.

The total 9.15 ha were divided into 93 land parcels with an average size of 984 m<sup>2</sup> and a typical parcel shape of 120 × 8 m. The area belonged to 65 private owners including 8 communities of heirs with 22 heirs in total.

Because of these difficult conditions, thinning and harvesting had occurred only sporadically, and the forest was poorly tended and showed unproductive growth. Transferring this area into a forest owner association to improve the situation did not make sense, which is why the idea emerged to convert the area into a new FCS. The main driver of this initiative was the local office of the state forest service.

Establishing a new FCS from private land means that the private owners have to give up their real property and convert it into ideal shares of a community. Unsurprisingly, owners were reluctant when the idea was first proposed to them. Various different interests and concerns had to be considered. The main arguments against the idea were:

- Owners were concerned, that the conversion of the real property into ideal shares of the FCS would in fact result in value losses and a restricted disposition of the property.
- Owners preferred to continue the management of their real property on their own.
- Owners had private reasons, e.g. remembrance of family members, family heritage, nostalgic views of past agricultural work of the land, etc.
- Owners feared that the state forest office intended to dispose of the land and that private ownership rights would be undermined.

A long series of individual consultation meetings was needed to dispel these doubts and convince the private owners of the greater benefit of the FCS.

The conversion had to be planned well in advance by the forestry office. The owners needed to be well informed about the valuation of the land

parcels, the compensation of differences in value, the determination of the value of shares in the FCS and the future perspectives for improved forestry, before they considered the idea positively. With this critical information at hand, finally 57 out of the total 65 private owners, representing 90% of the area, agreed to it and filed the official request for the consolidation.

Following the legal procedure according to the NRW Community Forest Act GWG § 39 ff., the forestry office drafted in close cooperation with the land registry the statute and a stock book, which contains the compilation of land parcels and the distribution of ideal shares according to the contributed properties per owner. These were approved during the founding assembly of the new FCS by a majority of its members. The board of the FCS was elected. After approval of the statute by the Higher Forest Authority, the foundation of the FCS was completed and the legal property was transferred to the community of joint owners.

#### Evaluation in view of wood mobilisation

The main outcomes of the initiative are:

- A new FCS was founded by 57 private owners who transferred their property into the FCS.
- 75 parcels of land were consolidated to form an area of 8.5 ha.
- The administration has been simplified as there is only one board and accounting for the FCS.
- The forest harvesting has been reactivated and is significantly more effective in the FCS.

However, from the economic point of view, the FCS is still too small to be managed continuously. The area's shape is also not ideal, because several non-consolidated parcels have remained within the FCS area. A further consolidation with a larger adjacent FCS would be an optimal solution.



## Conclusions

Community forests in NRW comprise around 42 000 ha or 4.5% of all forests. Today, there are around 270 FCS with 17 500 owners, mainly located in south NRW. The regional planning and forestry authorities have a long experience with land consolidation of FCS to improve structural defects of small-scale private forests.

NRW is the only German federal state with a modern Community Forest Act (GWG) ensuring FCS as a legal body. Other states lack a comparable legal basis, so consolidations into FCS are not possible. NRW's legal instruments for FCS to improve structural defects in forests comprise:

- **New foundation** of FCS per GWG § 39 ff.
- **Consolidation** of FCS per GWG § 26 ff.
- **Consolidation** of forest land through the Land Consolidation Act BGBI I 546
- **Transfer of private land parcels** into adjacent FCS and conversion into ideal shares
- **Purchase of private land parcels** by adjacent FCS following a forest valuation

The new foundation of the FCS Wickersbach could be accomplished, because community forests are rather well known in the Siegerland. In regions of NRW where they are less known, private owners remain suspicious about the cooperative character of FCS.

However, other best practice cases show how private owners could be reactivated by joining an existing FCS as part of a FLC proceeding. These cases are also explored by the NRW pilot project.

The concept of ideal shares in FCS represents a solution to overcome structural deficits for forest management and timber marketing in small-scale private forests. The lessons learnt from FCS in NRW are also of relevance to other European countries facing similar issues of land and ownership fragmentation.

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## Focus on Lower Saxony (Germany)

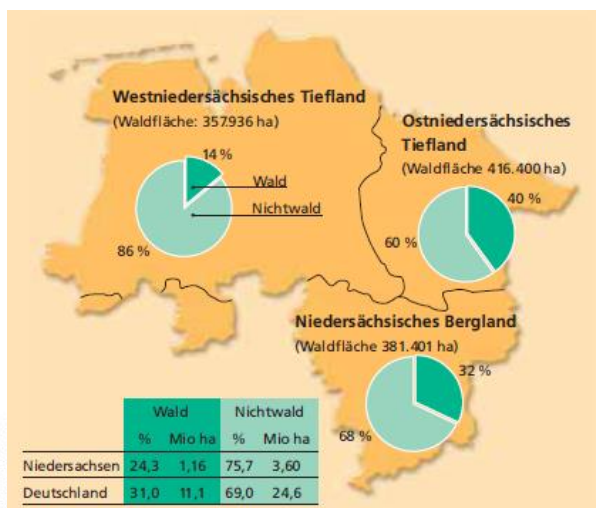
### Background

Lower Saxony is situated in northwest Germany. The region has an area of 47 600 km<sup>2</sup> and 7.9 million inhabitants. The forest area is 1.2 million ha (25% of surface area) compared with 2.6 million ha (72%) of farmland. The forest area is mostly owned by farmers.

Lower Saxony's forests are dominated by conifers (55%). The main tree species of economic importance are: pine (29%), Norway spruce (17%), beech (14%) and oak (13%).

### Forest ownership

Private forest owners	59%
Federal State Forests	5%
Lower Saxony State Forests	29%
Communal (governmental) forests	7%
Total	100%



Proportions of forest (wald) and non-forest (nichtwald) land in Lower Saxony.

In Lower Saxony the growing stock has increased in recent years. The timber stock in the region is 300 million m<sup>3</sup> with the growing stock in private forests accounting for 170 million m<sup>3</sup>.

Forest recreation is important in Lower Saxony. The region is known for the "Lüneburger Heide",

a large area of heath and forest in the northwest of the state. Therefore, multifunctional use of forest lands (recreation, conservation, etc.) is an important consideration.

### SIMWOOD's work in the region

KWF is an associated expert in Forest Work and Technology in the German pilot projects within the SIMWOOD project. KWF was invited by the Forest owners' association of Lower Saxony and the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection of Lower Saxony to initiate an additional pilot project.

The pilot project focuses on the mobilisation of forest owners to manage small, fragmented forest areas. Therefore, a combined demonstration and exhibition-fair was organised by KWF and regional partners in October 2015. The audience of the exhibition was forest owners as well as professional consultants in technical aspects of timber harvesting.

The major objective was to strengthen the interest of forest owners in sustainable forest management and to provide advice concerning practical forest work.

### Three Implementation Steps:

**1. Preparation:** a stakeholder workshop (introduction to topic and objectives). Organisation of Focus Days by KWF and joint regional partners, for the dissemination of basic knowledge and procedures to owners of small forests.



Focus-days: Presentation of forest equipment; Picture: KWF

## 2. Focus days including:

- a) professional seminars / workshops with open and panel discussion;
- b) practical field demonstrations to familiarise the target groups with advanced equipment and technology and its appropriate handling as well as the economic and biophysical conditions;
- c) additional special field demonstrations and topical exhibition.



Focus-days: Field demonstration; Picture: KWF

**3. Evaluation of success and identification of success factors** by visitor inquiries during the Focus Days. Analysis of wood mobilising results in the region. Follow-up of visitor survey and stakeholder inquiries following the event.

### First Results

A key stakeholder is the forest association “Hohe Heide”, an assembly of five forest owners’ associations (FBG) which aims to strengthen the local impact of the forestry sector. Another important stakeholder is the Lower Saxony Chamber of Agriculture (LWK), which is a service provider offering advice to forest owners. The aligned timber marketing organisation (WK Hohe Heide) represents more than 4000 members and a managed forest area of nearly 57 000 ha.

Nearly 5000 visitors attended the two-day event in October 2015 “Sustainable management of small forests”. There was a practical demonstration of working methods and intense

discussion of the management of small forests. In total there were 170 exhibitors.

### Contacts in the region

The SIMWOOD local team includes the German Centre for Forest Work and Forest Technology (Kuratorium für Waldarbeit und Forsttechnik-KWF), the Lower Saxony Landwirtschaftskammer (Chamber of Agriculture - LWK) and the cooperation of forest owners in Lower Saxony

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## Regional News

### SIMWOOD at the 54th International fair of Agriculture and Food - AGRA 2016, Slovenia

From 20-25 August, the SIMWOOD project participated in the 54th International Fair of Agriculture and Food-AGRA 2016 in Gornja Radgona, Slovenia. The AGRA fair is, with more than 120 000 visitors, 1800 exhibitors and 30 participating countries, the main agricultural professional fair in south-central Europe. The aims and results of the SIMWOOD project, including development of pilot project outputs within Regional Learning Lab (RLL) activities, were presented to a wider public.



*SIMWOOD presented at the AGRA Fair.*

A SIMWOOD RLL workshop took place on 21 August 2016 and opened the question of access to forestry information for the average Slovenian forest owner. Access to comparatively rich forest database in Slovenia is often confronted with difficulties due to its complexity. By taking into account different constraints and desires of the forest owners, access to existing databases about forests can be adapted in a way that will allow easy review and use of this information. We have presented some proposed solutions on that field – adaptation of the SFS Forestry Data Viewer, new solutions for forest property plan and the SIMWOOD info portal for forest owners ([www.slovenski-gozdovi.org/](http://www.slovenski-gozdovi.org/)). Feedback from workshop participants will be used in further development of the SIMWOOD pilot project.

### Study tour by Energikontor Sydost and the Linnaeus University to Bavaria

Representatives from the municipality of Uppvidinge, and the SIMWOOD partners **Energikontor Sydost** and the **Linnaeus University** took part in a study tour to Bavaria, 26-28 September 2016, as part of a knowledge and experience exchange, within the frame of a Regional Learning Lab. The tour involved visits to a sawmill, alpine forest, gasification plant, forest owner's association, biofuel handling, a producer of wooden house frames, and local politicians. The tour hosts were the German SIMWOOD partner, **Bayerische Landesanstalt für Wald und Forstwirtschaft (LWF)** (Peter Aurenhammer). The tour inspired many ideas concerning processes, technical solutions and cooperation. A [report](#) of the visit is available (in Swedish with English summary).



*Visit to Kempten Biomass plant (photo: Oskar Jonsson).*

### Spanish Sustainable Forest Research Institute (iuFOR) news

In September a group of students from the University of Oregon and the MEDfor program spent two weeks learning about Mediterranean and Atlantic forests management at the Sustainable Forest Research Institute (iuFOR), University of Valladolid. The course helped the students to understand the historical relevance of forestry in Europe, and the different objectives and resources of the forests in Spain. During the

two weeks, students learned about the SIMWOOD project and its objectives.



*Oregon State University and MEDfor students visiting a Scots pine forest at Sierra de la Demanda.*

The results of the Spanish pilot projects were presented by iuFOR (and Agresta, ECM Ingeniería Ambiental) at the European Researchers Night on 30 September.



*SIMWOOD presentation, Vallalodid.*

## Conferences

SIMWOOD results were presented at the following conferences:

- 7-9 September, **FACESMAP Final Conference**, “Forest ownership changes in Europe: trends, issues and needs for action”, COST Action FP1201, Vienna, Austria
- 3-7 October, **Mountains 2016** conference, Bragança, Portugal

- 5-7 October, **EuMIXFOR Final Conference**, “Integrating Scientific Knowledge in Mixed Forests”, COST Action 1206, Prague, Czech Republic

## Publications and Articles

Pérez, F., Nunes, L., Sil, A., Azevedo, J.C. 2016. *FlorNExT<sup>®</sup>, a cloud computing application to estimate growth and yield of maritime pine (Pinus pinaster Ait.) stands in northeastern Portugal*. Forest Systems 25(2), eRC08.  
[doi:10.5424/fs/2016252-08975](https://doi.org/10.5424/fs/2016252-08975)

*Mobilising the timber resource: GiB awakes in northern England*. Forestry Journal [UK] 6/16.

The **June issue** of the Forestry Journal featured an article on SIMWOOD results and in particular the Grown in Britain initiative.

## Who to contact for more information

If you would like to become involved in our **Regional Learning Labs**, please contact the **coordinator for your region**. You can find them on the **SIMWOOD website**: [www.simwood-project.eu/contacts.html](http://www.simwood-project.eu/contacts.html)

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