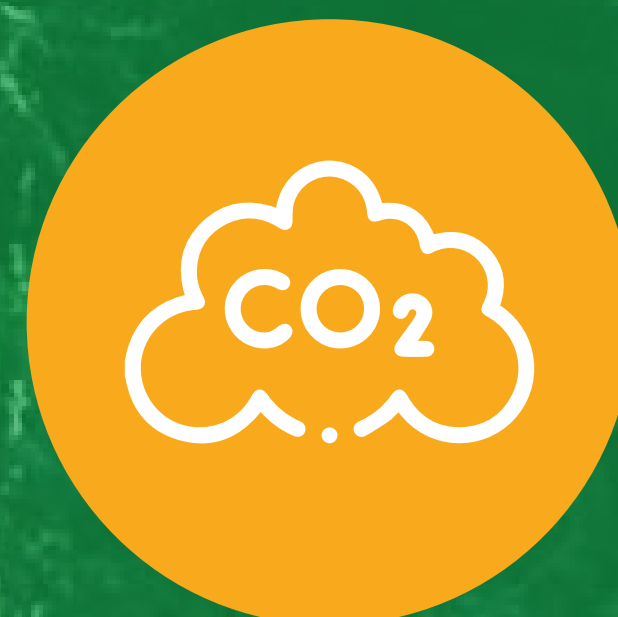


Forest carbon sinks are non-permanent and threatened by human interference (deforestation, degradation), as well as by climate change facilitating natural disturbances.



The EU set ambitious targets to reduce GHG emissions by at least 55% in 2030 and to become climate neutral by 2050. This requires societal and economic reforms, as well as new and additional GHG reduction efforts within all sectors.



Forests and forestry play an essential role in this context as they provide carbon sinks and their products can substitute for emissions-intensive materials, thereby reducing emissions.



Simultaneously, the EU strives to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems and biodiversity loss, which is threatened by forest use. Moreover, climate change and poorly implemented mitigation measures might negatively impact other (forest) ecosystem services, in particular biodiversity, calling for solutions, which account for potentially diverging targets.



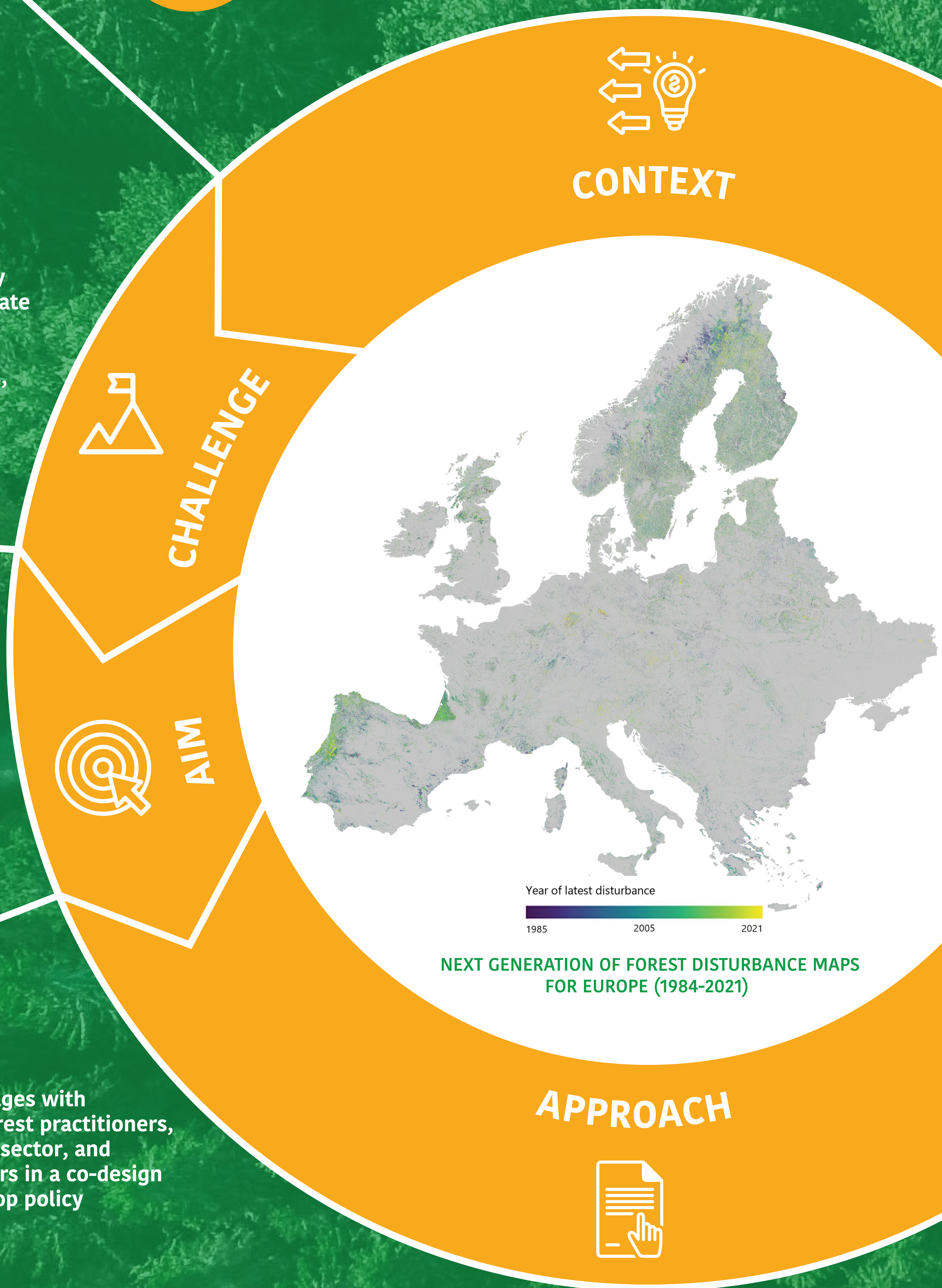
The ForestPaths project aims to co-design, quantify and evaluate holistic forest-based policy pathways to optimise the contribution of forests and the forest-based sector to climate change mitigation, while considering adaptation needs, biodiversity conservation, and forest ecosystem services provisioning.



ForestPaths engages with policymakers, forest practitioners, the forest-based sector, and other stakeholders in a co-design process to develop policy pathways.



ForestPaths aims to improve the understanding of factors shaping decision-making by forest practitioners and provide information about Climate & Biodiversity-Smart (CBS) forest management options across Europe, alongside developing improved forest monitoring methods and modelling tools.



ForestPaths' results will be made openly available through the project's policy support platform CANOPY, tailored for use by policymakers and national and regional competent authorities across Europe. Effects of forest-based mitigation and the trade-offs and co-benefits of policy pathways are evaluated with a next-generation integrated modelling framework.

Authors:

Hans Verkerk
European Forest Institute,
Finland

Giuseppe Cardellini
Flemish Institute for Technological
Research, Belgium

Diana Feliciano
Teesside University, United Kingdom

Mikko Peltoniemi
Natural Resources Institute Finland,
Finland

Lucia Perugini
Euro-Mediterranean Center
on Climate Change, Italy

Thomas A.M. Pugh
Lund University, Sweden

Cornelius Senf
Technical University of Munich,
Germany



Funded by
the European Union

This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under No 101056755, as well as from the United Kingdom Research and Innovation Council. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the EU nor the EC can be held responsible for them.