



Horizon Europe SMURF project EU Conference on small private forest holdings

Session 1 Policy, research and management

Rome, 20-22 May 2025
Venue: FAO Headquarters

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CEPF Vice President

Opportunities of the SMURF project

Opportunities we see:

- Greater visibility for small forest owners
- Possibilities for Networking and new collaborations
- Knowledge exchange and learning

To realise the opportunities, it's important that SMURF...

- Engages directly with forest owners
- Respects the diversity of ownership structures and management practices
- Focuses on practical, ground-level needs



Joint work of European forest and landowner organisations

Several organisations represent forest owner interests at European level

- There might be differences in organisation, but there is good collaboration

3 key organisations (all in session 1) coordinated for SMURF conference

In Session 1, we will present jointly:

- **CEPF:** Forest ownership structures and aims of forest owners' advocacy in Europe
- **ELO:** Importance of ownership rights, forest management and use of forests
- **COPA COGECA:** Policies helping forest owners in the active use of forests



Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF)



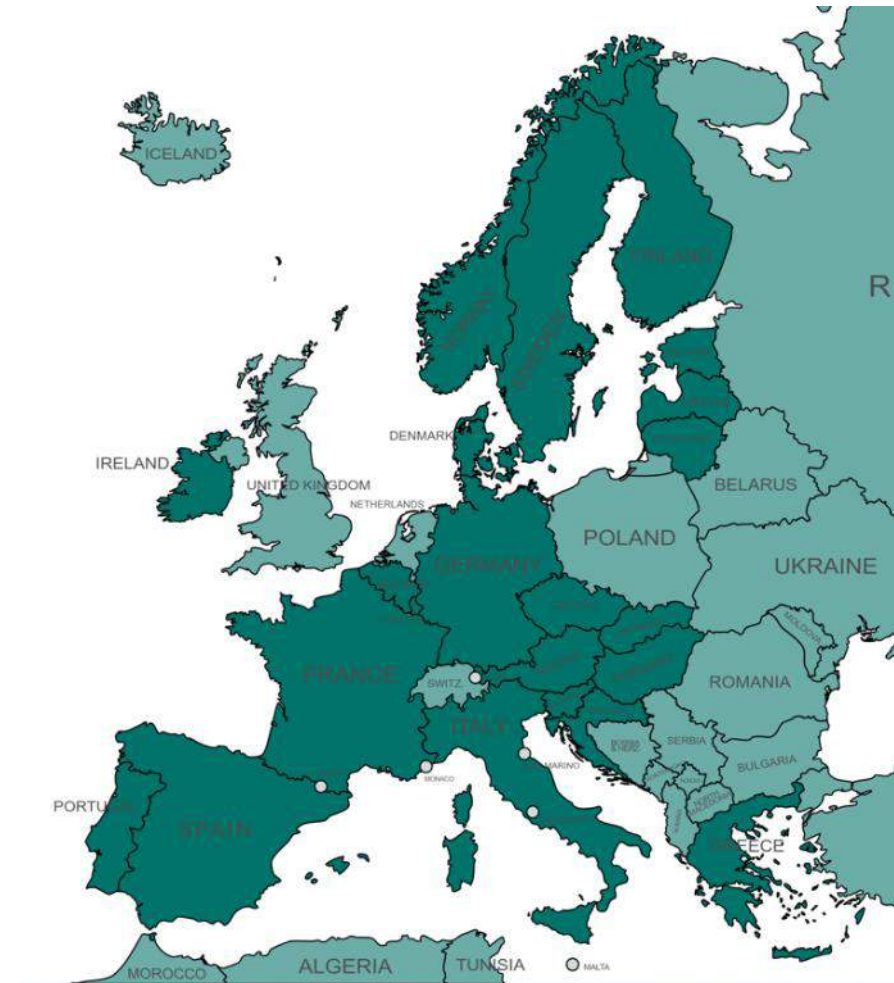
CEPF Members

22 Ordinary members – national associations:



4 Associated members:

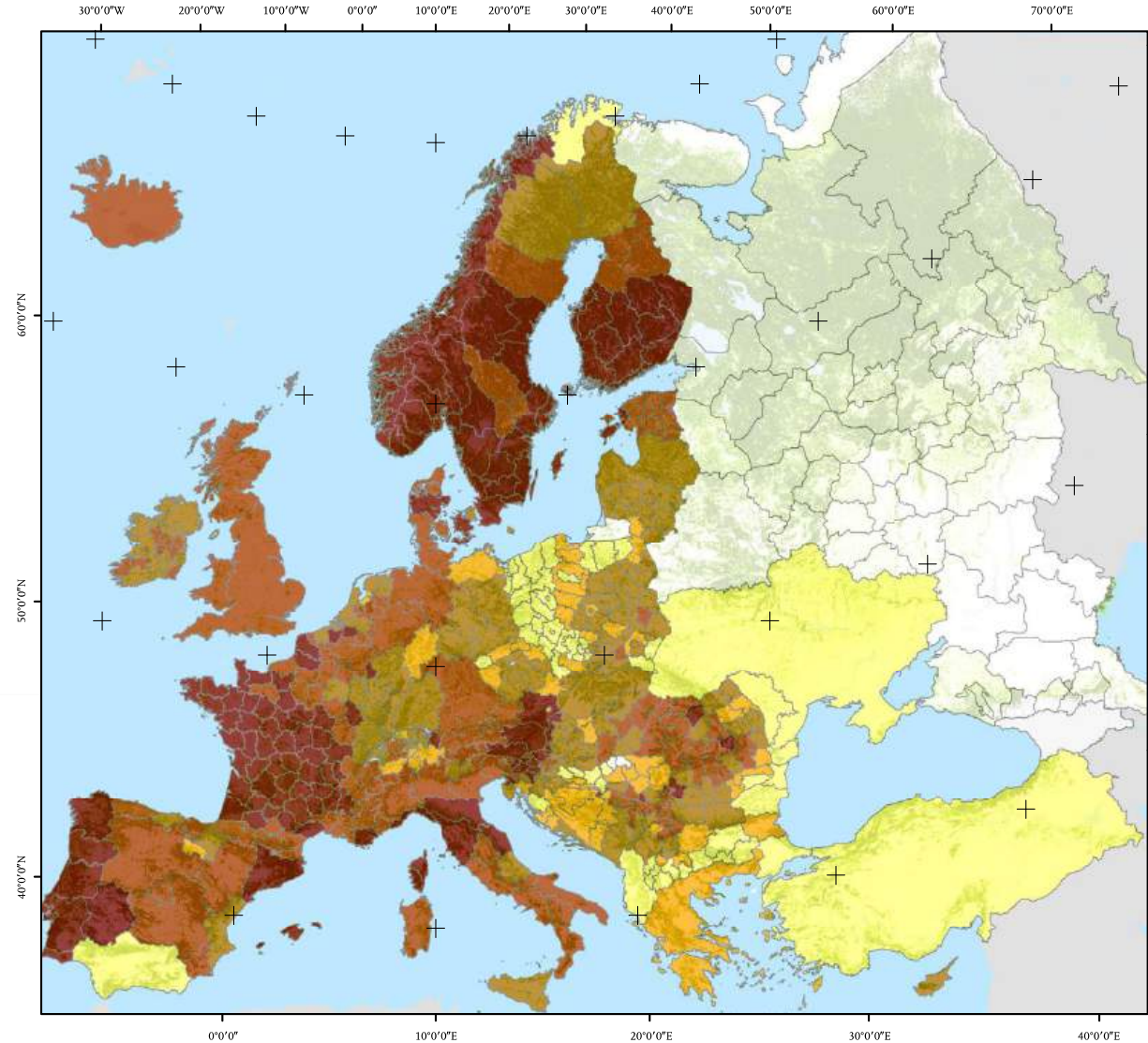
CONFI, Waldverband Österreich, UCFF,
Familienbetriebe Land und Forst Bayern



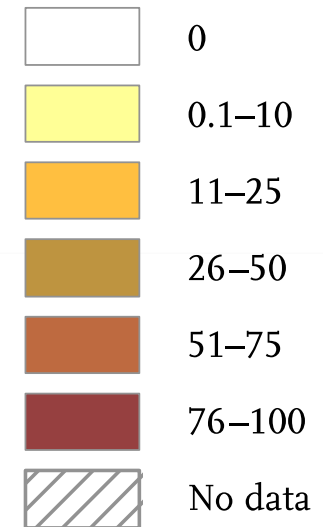
Forest Ownership structures



60% of EU forest area is privately owned



Proportion of forest land in private ownership (%)



Distribution of private ownership across Europe (Pulla et al., 2013)

European forests are highly diverse



~15 million forest owners in EU



What is a small forest owner? importance of their motivations !

Available data* suggests that:

- In most countries, majority of forest owners (>90%) is small (≤ 10 ha)
- “Small” is different, e.g. see higher share in Nordics of owners with 11 - 500 ha
The number of private owners with ≥ 500 ha is low across all of Europe

Forest owners motivations

- Is critical, but at risk in certain regions.
- Active forest management must at least be profitable if we are to build a biocircular economy that is more compatible with climate change mitigation.



What impact do these structures and motivations have ?

Diversity of owners

↔ Diversity of EU forest



A great fragile force to promote:
the diversity of forest management adapted to local conditions

Challenges of small ownership:

- Fragmentation and abandonment
- Limited resources and economic viability
- Legal and structural barriers

**CEPF, ELO and COPA COGECA work
together to overcome these challenges**



CEPF aims in Europe



Bridging the gap between EU discussions and practices

Digesting EU current
policy discussion



Bringing practice's
experience

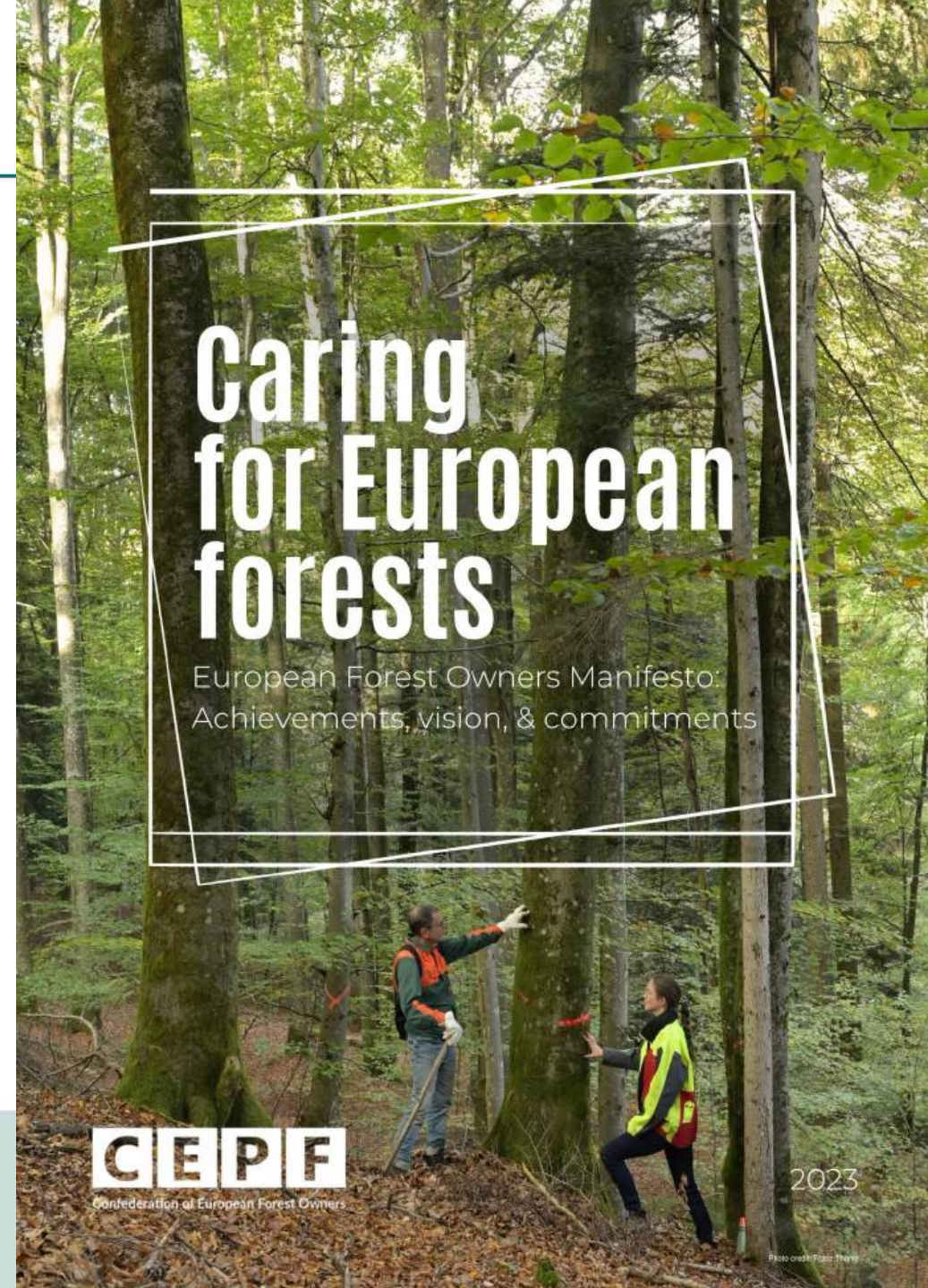


Partnerships



CEPF Manifesto*

1. Enhance collaboration with Forest Owners
Support our work
2. A 'one size fits all' approach cannot work



EU Forest Owners' messages

- Support for a robust bioeconomy
- Rebalanced and streamlined EU forest-related legislation
- Strong property rights
- R&I on forest management practices





Thank you for your attention.

Luc Bouvarel,
CEPF Vice President

www.cepf-eu.org

