Final European Conference - LIFE GoProFor

INTRODUCTION TO PARALLEL SESSIONS
February 18th, 2022

Why this document?
This short document aims at contextualizing the parallel session you have chosen to participate in, as part of the European Conference "Towards forest management in line with the protection and conservation of biodiversity", organized by LIFE GoProFor project.
This document also wants to anticipate some elements that may be useful for you to contribute to the best during the session.

The themes
"Training" and "Tools and indicators for forest management" are two very broad and articulated themes, and they are to be considered very relevant because, in line with the direction promoted by the Strategies, they concern not only forest management within protected areas by the managers of these areas, but also affect all forestry actors, such as forest professionals, technicians, forest owners, forest actors and stakeholders.

It should be emphasized that the two topics, dealt with in 2 parallel sessions, are closely linked because, in a broader framework, the correct use and application of indicators and tools for better forest management cannot be separated from being conveyed by effective and concrete training activities.

Furthermore, it is very important that tools, indicators and training are concretely applicable and economically sustainable.

Goals of the sessions
LIFE GoProFor wants to ask for the contribution of those present, representatives of the forestry and conservation world at European level, on these two issues

The two parallel sessions are therefore aimed at gathering information and consideration useful to define basic elements and a work plan applicable by a target often not specialized in the naturalistic field.

Through these sessions the project, with the support of the participants, wants to contribute to the following objectives:

1. (I&T) make available existing indicators and good management practices, and more appropriate tools for their application
2. **(Tr)** encourage, through training, the adoption of indicators, tools, standardized and shared good management practices, on a large scale, by those who work in the forests

Results
The outputs of these sessions will be elaborated in a final report, and shared with the actors of European governance.

How it works

<u>In the first part</u> of each session some concrete experiences are shared, which can be considered as "inspiring stories", helping the participants to get to the heart of the topic.

<u>In the second part</u>, all participants will be asked to indicate, through surveys, the degree of importance of some aspects relating to the topic dealt with.

Participants will also be able, through the chat, to add further contributions, or to modify and integrate some aspects proposed by the project.

A brief introduction will be illustrated for each survey, aimed at contextualizing and clarifying what is proposed

Below we anticipate these premises, to allow you to immediately get to the heart of the topic.

REMEMBER: in order to actively participate in surveys make sure you have updated zoom to its latest version.

How to do:
https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362233-Upgrading-Zoom-to-the-latest-version

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SESSION: TOOLS AND INDICATORS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT

Premise 1.1:
Forestry requires a lot of knowledge. Conventional forestry requires knowledge about certain characteristics of the forest (volumes, number of trees, diameter distribution, etc). Integrating aspects related to biodiversity requires more complex analysis. This is especially true for more mature forest stands. For better economic sustainability of biodiversity-conscious silviculture, supporting tools and methodologies can be put in place.

Premise 1.2:
Having examples of available successful experiences can be extremely helpful. This is also true in for forest management integrated with biodiversity conservation. Many initiatives have collected these best practices (BPs) and made them available.

Premise 2.1:
Indicators are quantitative (indices) and qualitative-descriptive parameters that, when periodically measured or observed, show trends and directions of change. They can be measured with easy-to-apply protocols (ex, such as citizen science) or with methodologies of a high technical-scientific level.

Premise 2.2:
In recent years, in the forest sector, methods to assess biodiversity in terms of potential have been developed, through indirect measurement of micro and macro habitats. The experiences shared at the beginning of this session represent some examples. These methods are often easy to apply, and have relatively little impact on operating costs.

SESSION: TRAINING

Premise 1.1:
Forest management integrated with biodiversity conservation needs to take into account factors related to the forest stand and protect forest biodiversity. In line with this, the New EU Forest Strategy 2030 advocates the application of silvicultural models called "close to nature forestry".

Premise 1.2
In general, training in the forest sector is mainly concerned with aspects related to conventional forestry techniques and the execution of forestry works. However, as illustrated at the beginning of the session, in Europe several initiatives exist that promote an intersectoral and interdisciplinary exchange among foresters and conservationists. These contribute to increasing skills and knowledge of the actors of the forest sector.

Premise 1.3
In Europe already many experiences, tools, and projects exist, which are aimed at improving interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. It remains to be decided which of these are most useful and effective to better integrate forest management and biodiversity.

Premise 1.4
Starting from the positive experiences with training tools, which successfully integrated knowledge on forest management and biodiversity, it might be possible to aim for a dedicated European training-network in this field.