

## North European Forests

Forests cover about 60% of the land area in the Nordic-Baltic countries. Forest businesses and products constitute an integrated part of the economy, especially in more rural areas. Forest products are key inputs in the transition from a fossil-based economy to a bio-based one.

Simultaneously, forests also provide for several other ecosystem services. These include services such as carbon storage, clean water and air, biodiversity, aesthetics, cultural and social services that benefit humanity. The aim of the network “ProFor” is to highlight and discuss the key synergies and trade-offs between forest production and other ecosystem services based on a Northern European perspective.

Photo credit: Lars Högbohm

## Vision:

*To enhance the sustainable use of forests in Europe  
by promoting sustainable forest management*



# PROFOR

Promoting sustainable forestry  
in a growing bioeconomy



**A joint North European Research network**

Including

Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden





Photo credit: Lars Högbon

## Background:

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and different EU policies demonstrate the need for a transition towards a more resource efficient and sustainable economy. This involves the establishment, extraction, processing, consumption and recycling of renewable natural resources and the services they help provide us.

North European forests are central in the transition to a bioeconomy, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and oil-based materials, maintaining different ecosystem services, promoting economic development and in creating new job opportunities.

The transition to a bioeconomy includes an increase in the demand for wood and wood products. This transition has already started but it needs to be more elaborate and accelerated. A sustainable forestry sector could, and should, play a central role in this transition.

Forests and forestry sectors constitute an important part of the economy, and the intended bio-based economy in most of the Baltic and Nordic countries, especially in rural areas that are typically forested.

## Aims of the PROFOR network:

- Enhance forest resilience and practical implementation of climate-smart forestry and use of forest resources in a growing bioeconomy.
- Increase the interaction between science and policy, and bring together research, markets, industry and stakeholders from these sectors in the participating Northern European countries.
- Advocate for research and innovation in the areas of sustainable forestry, and promote participation in EU-funded projects.



Photo credit: Lars Högbon