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Strategy plan 2026–2030

Nordic Forest Research (SNS)



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Nordic Forest Research (SNS) is a co-operating body under the Nordic Council of Ministers and has been a unifying factor in Nordic forest research since its establishment in 1972.

Vision

SNS is a leading hub for joint forest research contributing to a sustainable and resilient Nordic society.

Mission

SNS will increase synergy and collaboration within forest research in the Nordic countries, and link research with policy and practice.



SNS
Nordic Forest Research



Strategic framework

The following documents have formed the basis for the development of SNS's strategy 2026-2030:

- UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Goals 3, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15 are regarded as being particularly relevant.

- Nordic Council of Ministers' Vision 2030

The Nordic region will become the most sustainable and integrated region in the world in 2030. This means that we work in the interests of a green, competitive and socially sustainable Nordic Region.

- The Karlstad Declaration

Declared on June 19, 2024, the Nordic Council of Ministers for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MR-FJLS) expressed their ambitions for Nordic cooperation for preparedness, robustness, and resilience related to food supply and forestry.

- Nordic Co-operation Programme for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry 2025–2030

The co-operation programme influences the strategic focus for SNS's operations. Its three goals set the course for Nordic co-operation in the 2025–2030 period: 1) Further the green transition, 2) Boost competitiveness and 3) Bolster our resilience.

- Action plan 2025-2027 for the Cooperation Programme for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry 2025-2030

The five areas of focus for EK-FJLS (Agriculture) and EK-FJLS (Forestry) and their overall priorities are considered for SNS's strategic work.

- SNS Statutes

The statutes define SNS's boundaries and mandate. Paragraphs 1 (purpose), 2 (tasks) and 3 (working method) have been considered in the development of this strategy.





Strategic focus areas

The following focus areas will be leading the operations of SNS, such as topics for open calls, strategic projects, and other activities during the years 2026-2030.

SNS will strengthen the knowledge base for providing:

- Higher value creation from forest products and services
- Resilient forests and forest management
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Safeguarding of forest biodiversity

Forest resources are important for economic value creation at local, regional and national levels. As the amount of biomass extracted from forests is limited, a high priority should be given to increasing the added value of extracted forest resources. Higher value creation from forest products and services and new innovative value chains can contribute to vitalising the Nordic rural areas, securing recruitment and retention of a younger and more diverse workforce in the sector, as well as contributing to a fossil-free bioeconomy by substituting fossil-based products with sustainable wood-based materials.

Resilient Nordic forests are essential because they can better withstand and recover from damages, extreme weather events, and crises, thereby sustaining important ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water purification, timber production, and biodiversity. Resilience and joint crisis preparedness is crucial for ecological, economic, and social sustainability, ensuring that forests can continue to provide benefits and support the Nordic society in the face of the growing global challenges.

Nordic forests deliver a great variety of products and services. There are many potential synergies between different societal goals that require more focus. Mitigating the negative effects of climate change and adapting to changed environmental conditions is of great importance for the function of Nordic forests. At the same time, conservation and enhancement of forest biodiversity are essential for securing long-term resilience, acting as natural buffers against climate-related risks.





Operational goals

This section describes four operational goals that will be used to guide annual planning and future strategic work.

Strengthen research cooperation within the Nordic region

SNS shall:

- Actively seek cooperation with other Nordic organisations, inside and outside the Nordic Council of Ministers
- Initiate and finance Nordic networks and projects within the relevant areas
- Initiate, manage and support projects and activities to support a Nordic joint knowledge base
- Participate in Nordic network activities

Strengthen the Nordic position within SNS's area of responsibility in the European research arena

SNS shall:

- Participate in relevant European partnerships and cooperational initiatives, and maintaining contact with relevant European institutions and other international bodies
- Promote joint Nordic projects on relevant European and international levels to increase Nordic involvement and impact in international arenas.
- Organise activities to lower the threshold for Nordic participation in the European research arena

Transfer of and dialogue around SNS-based knowledge

SNS shall:

- Promote outcomes from funded networks and projects through SNS's website and social channels
- Organise and support seminars, conferences and workshops
- Contribute to Nordic policy formulation by advising the Nordic Council of Ministers (MR-FJLS) and senior officials committees (EK-FJLS)
- Prioritise funding of activities aiming to narrowing the gap between research and applied forestry, facilitating the transfer of research results into practice.

Contribute to equality and social inclusion in the Nordic forest sector

SNS shall:

- Prioritise funding projects that include a diversity of academic and stakeholder applicants in terms of gender, nationality, discipline and experience
- Educating and connecting PhD students with SNS funding
- Actively sustain and promote SNS's equality guidelines amongst funded networks and projects
- Initiate activities that promote gender equality in Nordic forest research



Toolbox

The following four main tools will be used to address the strategic focus areas and to achieve the objectives of SNS:

■ Funding

Funding research networks and projects is a core activity of SNS's mission.

■ Collaboration

Strengthening collaborations that generate results and synergies, which cannot be obtained solely by national efforts.

■ Policy support and advice

Linking research with policy and providing sound, evidence-based, policy-relevant information to the Nordic Council of Ministers (NMR) and other policymakers.

■ Communication

Communicating and facilitating knowledge between researchers and policymakers and practitioners by providing numerous meeting places and information pipelines.

