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Presentations	Session 5.1	<i>Comparative analysis of policymaking and implementation regarding integrated forest management.</i>

Abstract Session 5.1 – What drives the integration of nature conservation into forest management? Analysis of practices and driving factors across Europe.

Integrated Forest Management (IFM) is gaining attraction in Europe as an approach to combine multiple forest functions. IFM is a topical issue, but the definition varies quite a bit. While the effects of this management system on biodiversity are increasingly attracting scientific interest, the motivations and possibilities for forest managers and forest owners to actually implement IFM remain less well researched. This paper investigates the factors that – positively or negatively – influence the decisions pertaining to the implementation of nature conservation measures into forest management. More precisely, it does it by addressing the following two questions:

- How do forest managers and experts understand and practice the integration of nature conservation into forest management in different contexts in Europe?
- What is facilitating and what is impeding the integration of nature conservation measures into forest management? Twenty-eight practical cases in nine European countries were selected in an attempt to understand and map out the current and future ecological, socio-political and economic driving forces of IFM in practice. The selected case studies cover different ownerships structures, sizes and geographical regions. By discussing the collected data, the paper aims in providing an overview of how nature conservation and wood production can be integrated in the same stand under very different conditions, and which are the main unifying factors that hamper or facilitate this evolution.

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