



**FOREST EUROPE**

Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK)



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## WEBINAR

# DROUGHT ADAPTATION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

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### General objective and context

Forest Europe continues the journey to delve into measures we might take at regional, national and international level to support Europe's forests to adapt to drought, to unravel the science behind these recommendations and provide practical guidance on the measures.

Extreme droughts are expected to increase in frequency and severity and together with rising temperatures weaken trees, threatening forest ecosystems and the services provided. Extensive tree dieback and mortality related to drought have already been detected across the globe and require more effective strategies to adapt forests to such droughts and increasing forest resistance and resilience. During the webinar we are looking at the extreme drought event in 2018 in Central-Europe and its devastating impact on beech forests. **We will discuss the vulnerability of European beech, but also provide insights into recovery mechanisms.** Recovery is a central part of resilience, however, often overlooked: to what extent is recovery after drought events possible and is recovery related to acclimation? In a next step we will introduce the **development of a decision support tool** in use in the state of Hesse, Germany, providing every single forest owners in Hesse **with site specific recommendations of forest development types** ("Waldentwicklungsziele"), consisting of mixed species to disperse the risks of damage. Furthermore the webinar will provide latest insights gained from studying practical strategies for minimizing vulnerability to drought, eg. by **thinning as a means of increasing the drought tolerance of existing forests in the short term**, before long-term adaptation through species changes may be possible. Finally, we are looking at the relationship of the **hemiparasitic pine mistletoe and its host (during dry periods) and learn about the measures taken by forest management**, experiences from Poland and Switzerland.

This webinar is part of the FOREST EUROPE's "From the roots to the canopy" series and organized in Collaboration with the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL).

### Webinar description

**Format, language, duration and date:** Online, English, 2,25 h webinar, 17 May 2024, from 10:00 - 12:15 h CEST

**Audience:** Presentations open to interested public (online streaming and chat), experts, students, research organizations, forest managers/owners, FE signatories, observers, FOREST EUROPE FoRISK network, etc

#### Agenda:

Individual talks will be 15-20 minutes and tailored for the non-expert. The main goal of the event is to provide European forest managers and policy makers updates on the science that is made on the topic.

Activity	Speakers
General Introduction, Background of the Webinar – FOREST EUROPE, FoRISK	Julia Haas, FOREST EUROPE
1.Presentation: “Extreme drought event in Central-Europe in 2018; Its impact on beech forests and their recovery”	<u>Ansgar Kahmen</u> , Dept. Physiological Plant Ecology Group, University of Basel, CH
2. Presentation: “Maps for Climate risk and forest development types”	<u>Heidi Döbbeler</u> , North-West German Forest Research Institute, NW-FVA, DE
3. Presentation: “Potential of thinning to increase drought tolerance of forests”	<u>Julia Schwarz</u> , Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL, CH
Q&A	
4. Presentation and panel discussion: Pine and mistletoe– insights from Poland and Switzerland “The impact of mistletoe on Scots pine performance in a dryer future”  “Problem with mistletoe in Poland”	<u>Andreas Rigling</u> , Dept. of Environmental Systems Science, Institute of Terrestrial Ecosystems, ETH Zurich, CH  <u>Wojciech Kędziora and Roman Wójcik</u> , Dept of Forest Management Planning, Geomatics and Forest Economics, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, PL
Q&A	
Summary and Good bye	Julia Haas

**Output:** Summary of the session will be shared on the FOREST EUROPE website