



Urban Forests in Europe – What can National Forest Inventories tell us?

The COST Action FP1204 GreenInUrbs has initiated a pan-European survey to establish a baseline understanding of how urban forest resources are either considered or presently recorded in National Forest Inventories. The research is the first attempt to create such a comprehensive overview. The results can support expansion of National Forest Inventories to include urban forests and to recognise their contribution to the quality of the urban environment and the well-being of urban dwellers.

Urban areas are extending their influence on an increasingly large proportion of forested land located in and around cities and towns. These forested lands are normally referred to as Urban Forests. It is currently thought that Urban Forests are under-represented in policy and practice. Data to quantify and characterize the resource are still, by and large, lacking or fragmentary.

An expansion of National Forest Inventories (NFI) to include Urban Forests will be a major step forward in their recognition and safeguarding. Inclusion of Urban Forests in NFI would be in line with the evolution of forest inventories as multipurpose resource surveys, broadening their scope to include additional variables and to encompass non-traditional components.

The research is supported by European Environment Agency (EEA), European Forest Institute (EFI), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Nordic-Baltic Centre of Advanced Research on Forestry Serving Urbanised Societies II (CARE-FOR-US).

For further information you can contact:

Anders Busse Nielsen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden (anders.busse.nielsen@slu.se or abn@ign.ku.dk)

Mariagrazia Agrimi, University of Tuscia, Italy (agrimi@unitus.it)

Robert Hostnik, Slovenia Forest Service, Slovenia (robert.hostnik@zgs.si)

Fabio Salbitano, University of Florence, Italy (fabio.salbitano@unifi.it)