

STOREP
Associazione italiana
per la storia dell'economia politica

Viterbo, 27th May 2022



19th Annual
Conference

**Bioeconomy development and forest
strategy: the Italian recent experience**

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TESAF Dipartimento Territorio
e Sistemi Agro-Forestali




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Outline

- The way to the National Forest Strategy (NFS)
- Objectives and contents
- A focus on bioeconomy (some critical issues)
- Final considerations

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Outline

*How you climb a mountain
is more important
than reaching the top*
Yvon Chouinard

- **The way to the National Forest Strategy (NFS)**
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The way to the NFS

Legislative Decree No 34 of 3 April 2018

- **1st meeting:** 1st April 2019
 - **2nd meeting:** 7th May 2019 (Annual Forest Report presented)
 - **3rd meeting:** 10th June 2019
 - **4th meeting:** 19th July 2019 (1st **complete draft**)
 - **5th meeting:** 12th September 2019 (2nd **simplified draft**)
- Presentations in FI, RM and MI; WGs on environmental and productive issues
- **6th meeting:** 12th February 2020 (3rd **draft**)

Ph. 1 WGs

1st March 2020: public consultation launched; 9+ meetings and webinars

- **7th meeting:** 9th June 2020 (webinar); discussion about **296 comments/feedback** received
- **8th meeting:** 5th November 2020 (webinar); **Public Consultation Report approved**

January 2021: Report published

Final review of the NFS

- **9th meeting:** 16th June 2021 (webinar): technical approval of the **NFS**

**Ph. 2 Public
consultation**

- **June-December:** formal approval by MIPAAF, MISE, MITE, MIC, CdC

Ph. 3

- **9th February 2022:** publication on OJ

Ph. 4



Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali

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Filiere
per le Imprese
Pesca e Acquacoltura
Ippica
Difesa delle piante
Programmi nazionali
Etichettatura alimentare
Foreste

Consultazione pubblica per la predisposizione della Strategia Forestale Nazionale per il settore forestale e le sue filiere

Si è chiusa la fase di consultazione pubblica sulla bozza di Strategia forestale nazionale. Sono pervenuti 286 contributi, che sono stati vagliati dal Gruppo di lavoro che aveva redatto la prima bozza. Si proseguirà con l'iter istituzionale previsto dal D.lgs 34 del 2018. Il Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali ringrazia tutti coloro che hanno inviato il proprio contributo.

Esito della Consultazione pubblica - Analisi dei contributi (1013.74 KB)

 **Strategia Forestale Nazionale**

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/15339>

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Feedback and reactions

Feedback and comments received during the NFS public consultation, per main stakeholder group

Groups	N. of feedback	% on total
Citizens	128	43.2%
Non-profit Orgs	55	18.6%
Private sector Orgs	10	3.4%
Unions and labor Orgs	16	5.4%
Academia	34	11.5%
Research Orgs	14	4.7%
Public Orgs	39	13.2%
Total	296	100%

+ 32 invalid feedback

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Final report on the public consultation process

January 2021

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3 main «hot» topics targeted by feedback:

- Active forest management
- Biomass for energy (coppice management, cascading approach)
- Actions against property fragmentation and forest abandonment

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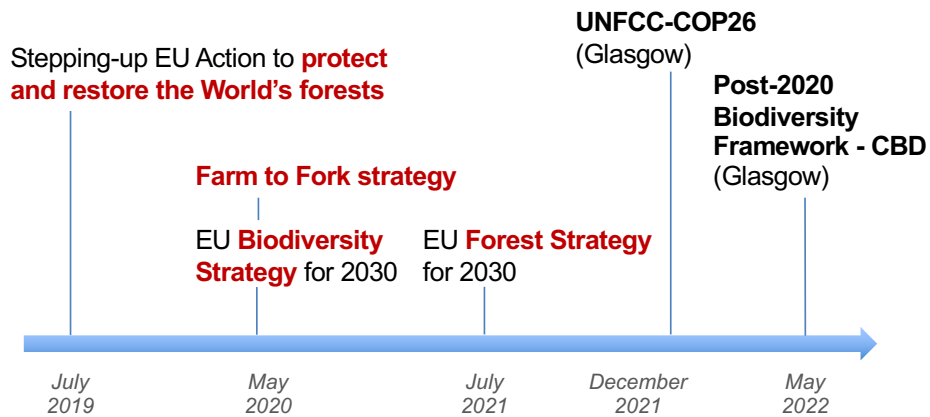
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NFS within a broader policy framework

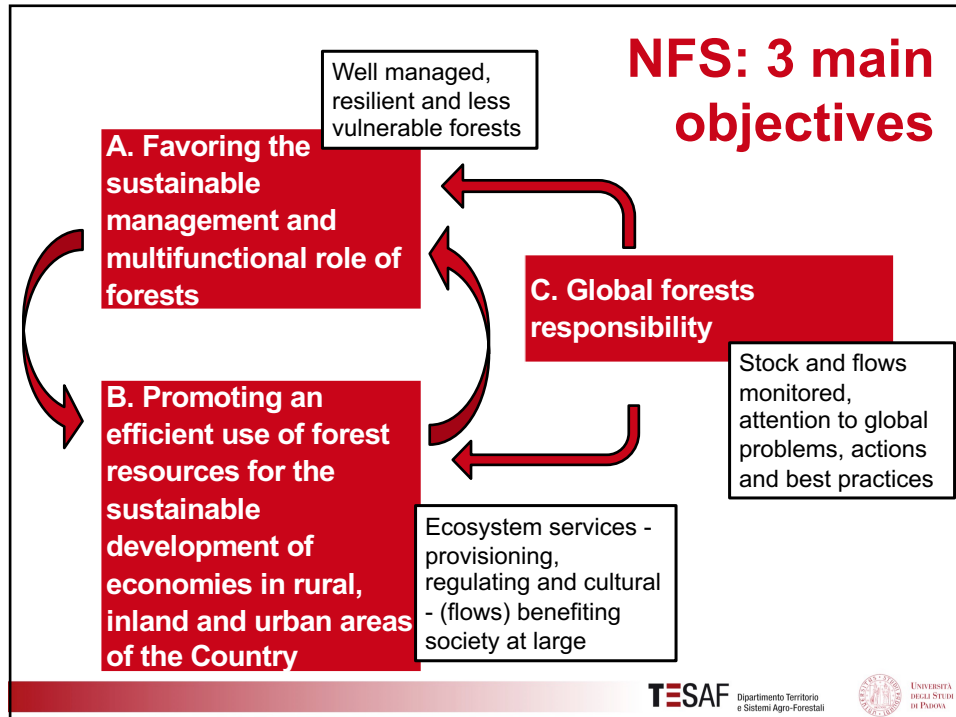


NFS: the mission

A 20-year long perspective

Favoring extensive and **resilient** forests, rich in **biodiversity**, capable of contributing to **mitigation and adaptation** actions **to the climate crisis**, offering **ecological, social and economic benefits** for rural and mountain communities, for today's citizens and for next generations.

The National Forest Strategy will **encourage the protection and responsible use of natural resources**, with the involvement of all, in actions driven by sustainability, collaboration and unity of action criteria



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NFS: actions (1/2)

For each of the 3 main objectives a set of operational actions has been defined

MAIN OBJECTIVE A – OPERATIONAL ACTIONS	
A.1	Forest programming and planning, and landscape management and conservation policies
A.2	Ecosystem services (ES) and payments for ES
A.3	Land and water management, regulation and protection
A.4	Biological diversity of forest ecosystems
A.5	Damaged forest resources and prevention of natural and anthropic risks
A.6	Mitigation of/adaptation to climate change
A.7	Reforestation management
MAIN OBJECTIVE B – OPERATIONAL ACTIONS	
B.1	Sustainable forest management
B.2	Training of forest operators and improved operational capacity of forest enterprises
B.3	Local supply chains
B.4	Forest-based socio-cultural services
B.5	Forest products traceability
B.6	Responsible consumption and procurement
MAIN OBJECTIVE C – OPERATIONAL ACTIONS	
C.1	Information and social and environmental responsibility of citizens
C.2	Research and technology transfer
C.3	International dimensions of forestry policies

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NFS: actions (2/2)

Specific actions	
A.S.1	Extreme events management
A.S.2	Coordination of fire prevention and fighting
A.S.3	Genetic resources
A.S.4	Poplar and other plantations for wood production
A.S.5	Monument trees and old-growth forests
A.S.6	Urban trees and forests
A.S.7	Riparian and lowland forests
A.S.8	Conservation status and forest ecosystems' Red List
A.S.9	Agroforestry and management of cork-oak forests
A.S.10	Forests and wild fauna

Supporting actions	
A.St.1.	Monitoring of socio-economic and environmental indicators, coordination and publication of data and statistics
A.St.2.	Updating of the normative framework
A.St.3.	Forest policy coordination
A.St.4.	Stakeholders consultation
A.St.5.	Wood cluster

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NFS vis-à-vis the National Bioeconomy Strategy: selected critical issues



A new bioeconomy
strategy for a
sustainable Italy

Wood **biomass**
production

Reform of the **public**
institutions operating in the
forestry sector

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A. Wood biomass production

Bioeconomy → increasing demand for biomass

Some possible **tradeoffs**:

- Wood for energy vs. Industrial wood
- Provisioning services (including renewable energies) vs. Biodiversity, regulating and cultural ES
- Rural development vs. Rural (mountain) areas abandonment
- Local resources vs. Imported resources

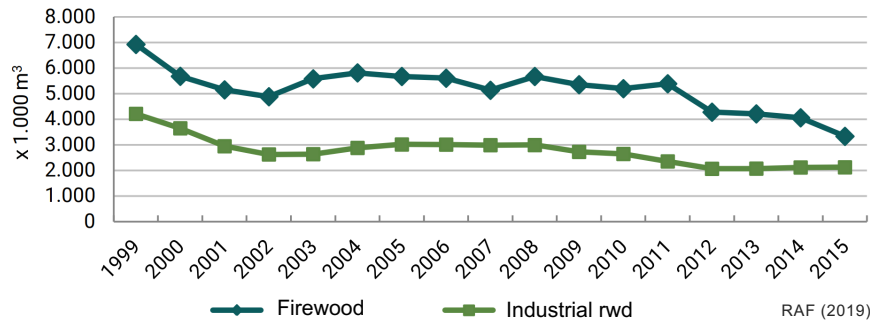
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Removals (2/2)

Domestic wood removals per final use (1 000 m³)



Issues in terms of:

- **Limited** overall **amount** of removals
- **Poor quality** of removals (>60% firewood)
- **Unreliable data/statistics** on domestic production

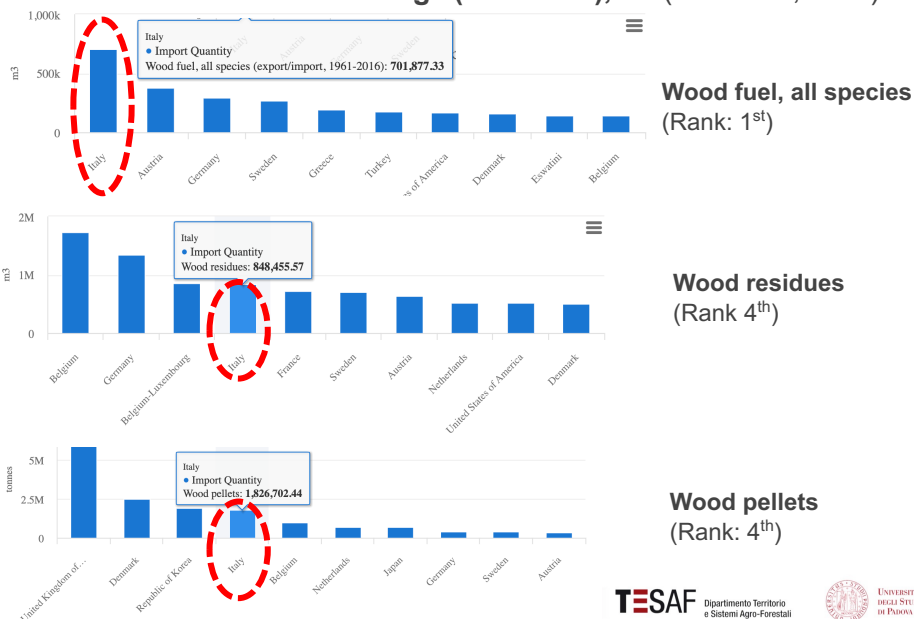
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Imports

Top 10 countries - Import Quantity Average (1993/2020), m³ (FAOSTAT, 2022)



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A sound governance system may support the implementation of a cascading approach and favor synergies between wood removals and increased stability and resilience of forest ecosystems

B. Reform of the public institutions operating in the forestry sector (1/2)



INFC, 2005

Some barriers:

- **Public forests** (mainly municipalities, high production potentials) = **36.5%** of total forests → limited investments, a silent rewilding
- **No active management** operations on about **37%** of national forests (INFC, 2015)
- About **15%** of forests have a **management plan** in place

B. Reform of the public institutions operating in the forestry sector (2/2)



Some barriers (continues):

- **Investments in other policy areas/targets** (e.g., fire fighting, seasonal forest workers, PEFC certification...)
- **Historical prevalence of command-and-control tools** (constraints, 32% forests classified as protected areas)
- The only country in Europe with a specialized **Forest Police Corp** depending on the **Ministry of Defense**

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Final considerations

The NFS has a key role in:

- promoting the **development** of the forest sector
- **reducing risks/tradeoffs** and **emphasizing synergies** among different areas/needs
- facilitating **multifunctional and responsible** forest management choices
- favoring the **dialogue** among different **stakeholder groups**
- supporting **links and consistency between forest policies and other sectors' policies** (bioeconomy, conservation, international trade, energy, climate change...)

The main green infrastructure of the country has a huge potential to support present and future sustainable development challenges but it's time to speed-up





Are there barriers or gaps on the way?

Not really in terms of natural, human and financial capital...

...rather in terms of resource governance and partnership development among different public & private actors