

# BOOK OF **ABSTRACTS**

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## **Collaborative network of permanent forest plots in Portugal: knowing the present to be able to predict the future**

T5.13 Forest without borders: National Forest Inventory Networks and their potential for large scale monitoring and reporting

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**Abstract:** Forecasting forests growth and yield facing climate and global changes is increasingly challenging. Yet the ability to accurately predict forest development remains the basis of forest management. In Portugal, numerous research projects from universities, forestry companies and public entities, across different forest systems, tree species and stand structures, which included the installation of plots, have generated important datasets. However, given the long timeframe needed for planning and difficulties in securing funding for proper monitoring, so far, there has been no comprehensive overview based on a broader survey of Portuguese forests. For the first time, in Portugal, the Experimental Forest Plots Network Project, included in the TransForm Agenda[1], aims to establish a network of permanent plots, covering the main forestry species and the various associated silvicultural systems to represent the diversity of forest systems and stand's structure and yield across distinct forest regions. It will be possible to assess the responses to climate change in different forest species and silvicultural systems. It will also contribute to providing complementary data to the National Forest Inventory (NFI) so that Portugal can join the European ICP Forests plot network, and thus contribute to providing data and information to the national and European scientific community on the state of the Portuguese forest. A new governance model and information sharing processes will be defined specifically for this purpose. This innovative project will create a unique opportunity to enhance, in a collaborative way, sound knowledge about the forests in Portugal. It is also expected that the leverage of synergies will contribute to significantly increase the decision-making capacity. Key words: permanent forest plots network; climate change studies; international forest knowledge; ICP Forests European; National Forest Inventory.

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