



Taking care of  
forest for  
protecting local and  
global ecosystems  
and human life

3<sup>rd</sup> Newsletter

# CAREFOREST

## Forest and Human Life

The environment includes all the natural and human-made elements and phenomena that act in a very close interdependence and ensure life on Earth.

The natural elements have a well-defined role in the functioning of ecosystems, influencing ecological balance and, by extension, human life and human societies. Forest is one of the components of nature that forms an ecosystem itself that supports the life of an impressive number of plant and animal species.



## The situation of forest fires in Europe

In 2019 a total area of 161,473 ha of protected land was burnt. This is three times the extension of protected areas that were burnt in 2018 and is one of the worst figures in the last 6 years, only exceeded in 2017. Romania was the most affected country in 2019, and burnt protected areas in France and Spain account for approximately 16% each. On the other hand, Italy recorded more fires than any other EU28 country.

In 2019, fires of over 30 ha affected 24 of the EU28 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom), burning 333,542 ha in total, around 2.5 times the area recorded in 2018.



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# Resources

## Environmental awareness

The Biggest Flower in the World  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us\\_c1WIyGTM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Us_c1WIyGTM)

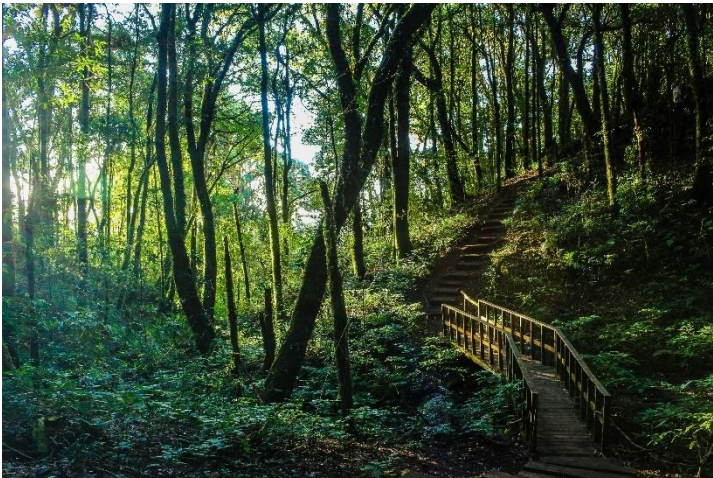
## Forest economics

Conservation Strategy Fund  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSUx8XzYbinaFowhJYXHU8Q>

## Sociology of Natural Resources

The tragedy of the commons  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxC161GvMPc>



Plastic Pollution: How Humans Are Turning the World into Plastic  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R57IzU2VJlQ>



# Video competition

Partners have started disseminating the project's video competition.

The competition will be divided into two categories:

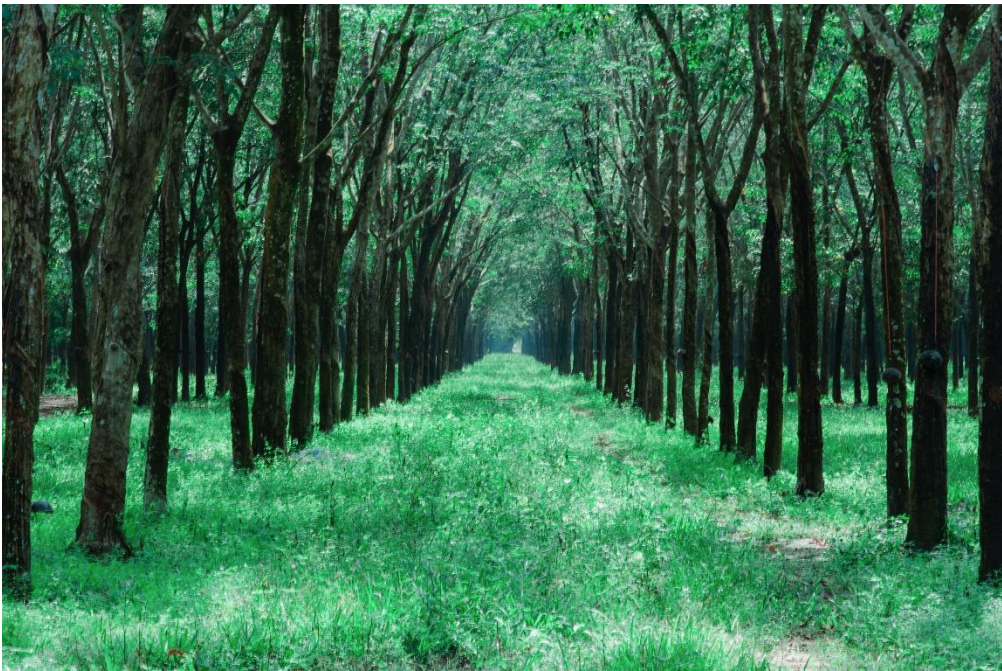
-  Up to 13 years old
-  From 14 to 18 years old

The content of the video must be related to forest, forest life, fire protection and sustainable rural development.

On May 27, 2021, the winner of the will be announced. Prizes will be the following:

- First prize of a check worth 600€ to spend on a computer (in both categories)
- Second and third prize of a check worth 250€ to spend on a tablet (in both categories)

***Come on and take part in the competition!!!***



# The Enchanted Forest

## Poem by Joseph T. Renaldi

<i>I enjoy strolling along the narrow path,</i>	<i>I hear the strange sounds of the forest</i>
<i>As it meanders through the forest.</i>	<i>As I quietly make my way,</i>
<i>It generates a feeling of relaxation,</i>	<i>And stop to observe the wonders</i>
<i>And puts my troubled mind to rest.</i>	<i>Nature unfolds for me this day.</i>
<i>The forest is peaceful and quiet.</i>	<i>I enjoy strolling along the narrow path,</i>
<i>I appreciate its immense cover of shade,</i>	<i>It brings a welcome peace of mind to me.</i>
<i>And I feel focused and comfortable</i>	<i>I thank the forces of nature</i>
<i>In this sanctuary nature has made.</i>	<i>For this moment of soothing serenity.</i>
<i>I feel a sense of enchantment</i>	<a href="https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/theenchanted-forest/">https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/theenchanted-forest/</a>
<i>In the cool, refreshing air,</i>	
<i>As I seek the hidden secrets</i>	
<i>That the forest had to bear.</i>	

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Forests have dominated Europe's surface for thousands of years, covering up to 80% of its land area. Many, many years ago, if we were a squirrel, we would certainly be able to go from the North to the South of Europe, jumping from branch to branch, always on the trees! Nowadays, the territory has changed, and the appearance of European forests is now more dependent on how humans manage them, leaving just a few patches of pristine forest.

Currently, forest coverage in Europe does not exceed 43% (but these numbers include extensions of monocultures). The world scenario is much more negative, with just about 31% of coverage. We only need to think about the great impact of tropical forest destruction to get a picture of the reduction of forest land globally.

The diversity of forest ecosystems in Europe has been studied and evaluated by experts from the European Environment Agency, which brought together in different categories the different types of European forests - "European Forest Types". In this classification, they were able to establish 14 categories of forests, which were determined by the differences in biodiversity of each one. Among these various forest types, we can find, for example, boreal, alpine, conifer, birch and oak forests, and deciduous forests, but also forests made up of introduced species (forests more related to the production of raw materials).

Regardless of the type of forest we are referring to, it is undeniable that these are fundamental to human life thanks to their provision of ecosystem services!

# A Europe full of forests



## Future events



*Meeting Norway April 2021*

*Last Meeting Santiago de Compostela May 2021*

*Multiplier Events*

ME in Portugal - March 2021

ME in Norway - March 2021

ME in Romania - April 2021

*Learning Activity*

LA in Santiago de Compostela – May 2021



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