



The „Marin Dracea” National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry (INCDS), Bulevardul Eroilor 128, Voluntari 077190, Romania, represented by dr. Serban Octavian DAVIDESCU, General Director

and

The Croatian Forest Research Institute (CFRI), Cvjetno naselje 41, 10450 Jastrebarsko, Croatia, represented by doc. dr. Sanja Perić, Director

(hereinafter: Parties)

are concluding this

Memorandum of Understanding

ART. 1

The Parties agree on a partnership, with the shared objective of fostering scientific collaboration and promoting mutual interests in forest and forestry research and innovation.

ART. 2

The Parties shall develop and expand long-term mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of forestry and forestry research and innovation, in accordance with the legislation of their respective states.

ART. 3

Considering the friendship and good-neighborly relations between the two countries, and recognizing the value of a partnership in addressing complex scientific challenges, the Parties agree on the importance of the following topics:

- Better understanding of the development of forests related to their ecological, social, and economic functions, as well as their role in the conservation of natural resources;
- The protection of forest ecosystems' status, the conservation and enrichment of biodiversity, and the increase in forest resources as priorities in forest policy, in line with the concept of sustainable and balanced development.
- Monitoring and assessing the ongoing degradation of forests due to local, regional, and global threats;
- Enhancing the understanding of forest restoration needs, risks and best practices as well as assessing success indicators and restoration impact on ecosystems, biological diversity and ecosystem services;
- Exchanging knowledge regarding the role of forest reproductive material in view of changing demands and restoration challenges.
- Recognizing the need to improve the quality of scientific research, to serve as a foundation for practices in the field of forestry;

- Understanding the necessity of integrating research activities with practical procedures, as well as creating a solid theoretical foundation for applying scientific and technological progress in forestry;
- Recognizing the necessity of strengthening international cooperation in the research field of forestry, both at the regional and European level;
- Improving the level of cooperation through common activities aimed at the exchange of knowledge and the professional development of early-stage researchers.

ART. 4

Subject to mutual consent, the areas of cooperation will include any program offered at either institution that is deemed desirable and feasible by both sides, and that both sides consider favourable for fostering and developing the cooperative relationship between the two institutions.

The specific fields for the cooperation are as follows:

- Sustainable Forest Management in the context of Climate Change impact on forest ecosystems;
- Forest Biodiversity conservation;
- Genetics and Forest Tree Breeding;
- Forest Protection and Integrated Pest Management;
- Long-term Research/Monitoring on forests and valuation of Ecosystem services provided by them;
- Inventory of national forest resources (NFI) and National inventory of greenhouse gases emissions (NIGHG);
- Ecological reconstruction of degraded lands through afforestation;
- Applying of Geomatics techniques in forestry;
- Sustainable forestry as a Foundation for Wood Energy, bioproducts and biomaterials research and development;

ART. 5

The Parties shall give priority to the following forms of cooperation:

- Exchange of experience and research results in areas of priority interest to both countries;
- Development of joint research projects;
- Organization of courses, internships, seminars, and conferences;
- Joint publication and dissemination activities;
- Exchange of educational, methodological, and scientific-technical materials.

ART. 6

The mode of cooperation for specific activities implemented under this Memorandum shall be mutually discussed and agreed upon in writing by both Parties before the initiation of those activities. Any such agreements entered into, as outlined above, will form appendices to the Memorandum.

ART. 7

Each Party shall designate a liaison officer to develop and coordinate the specific activities agreed upon.

The designated liaison officers for this Memorandum are:

**"Marin Drăcea" National Institute for
Research and Management in Forestry
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Dr. sc. Nenad Potočić, Scientific Advisor,
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Notification of any change in liaison officers may be made by letter without amending this Memorandum.

ART. 8

This Memorandum shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of the signature, with the understanding that it may be terminated by the appropriate authorities of either party giving six months of prior notice to the other party in writing, unless an earlier termination date is mutually agreed upon. The Memorandum may be amended or extended by mutual written consent of the two parties.

This Memorandum is made in duplicate in English.

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have offered their signature on

**"Marin Drăcea" National Institute
for Research and Development in
Forestry INCDS, Romania**

**Croatian Forest Research Institute,
Croatia**

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Dr. Serban Octavian DAVIDESCU
General Director

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Doc. dr. Sanja Perić
Director

Voluntari, on 17.08.2022

Jastrebarsko, on 22.09.2022



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