

Policy recommendations for Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFP)

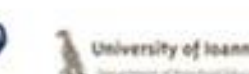
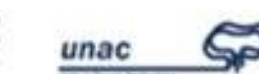
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- 1. Why Policy recommendations for NWFP?**
- 2. Where do they stem from?**
- 3. INCREDIBLE outputs - Policy Recommendations**
- 4. Call for Action for NWFP**

1. Why Policy recommendations for NWFP?

Non-Wood forest products (NWFP) have received little attention in the policy debate in the last 30 years, and this is in sharp contrast with the high **VALUE**, though still insufficiently acknowledged, they generate

NWFP are part of Europe's **cultural legacy**. They contribute to **human health and well-being** and to the achievement of the United Nations' *Sustainable Development Goals*, in their **social, environmental** and **economic** dimension.



Social and cultural dimensions
(SDG 1, 2, 3 5, 10)

NWFPs sustain household economies

NWFPs contribute to social integration, gender balance, and equality

The collection and production of NWFPs are part of Europe's cultural heritage

NWFPs contribute to health and well-being

Environmental dimension
(SDG 12, 13, 15)

NWFPs diversify forests management in Europe

NWFPs are instrumental in maintaining high biodiversity value agro-ecosystems and other priority habitats

NWFPs contribute to sustainable land management

Economic dimension
(SDG 8, 9, 12)

NWFPs supply raw materials for bio-based industrial sectors

Europe is a key player in the NWFP trade

Their current and potential economic value escapes statistics and foresights

1. Why Policy recommendations for NWFP?

- In Europe, including formally and informally marketed and self-consumed products, the value of NWFP has been estimated at some €23 billion yr⁻¹
- 90% of European households regularly consume NWFPs, while 26% collect some type of NWFP at least once a year, for self-consumption or sale.
- Europe is a net importer and accounts for 50% of the global imports of NWFP (€4.2 billion) and 40% of exports (€3.4 billion).

1. Why Policy recommendations for NWFP?

Therefore, NWFP represent an unrevealed, sometimes untapped, source of **Nature-Based Solutions** that can significantly contribute to Europe's policy priorities within the framework set by the **European Green Deal (2019)**.

In the policies for the EU Green Economic restart NWFP should play a substantial role:

Common Agricultural Policy post 2020,

New Industrial Strategy for Europe 2020,

European Biodiversity Strategy 2030,

Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe 2020,

EU Farm to Fork Strategy,

EU Forest Strategy,

*EU action to Protect and Restore the
World's Forests 2019,*

EU Climate Action

2. Where do policy recommendations stem from?

- multi-stakeholder interactions and lessons learned from across the Mediterranean basin within the initiatives of the H2020 *INCREDIBLE Thematic Network (iNets)*



resins



aromatic &
medicinal plants



cork



wild mushrooms
& truffles



wild nuts &
berries

2. Where do our recommendations stem from?

Scoping Seminar (1 per iNet)

Science-practice events in multiple locations (more than 40)

Interregional seminars on specific innovation issues (3 per iNet)

Cross-cutting seminars to share experience with other sectors (3)

Open Innovation Challenges to mobilise ideas on specific problems (3)

Training sessions on entrepreneurship in NWFPs

An **international Policy Forum** recommendations for regulation

→ A repository of relevant knowledge, cases and experts

2. Where do our recommendations stem from?

- Capitalisation of previous research projects: **StarTree** and the **COST ACTION FP1203** (European non-wood forest products network)
- Reviews: **EUSTAFOR**, **Universities** Padua, Valencia, **USDA Forest Service**
- **FAO** - United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation
- inputs from the **IUFRO** (International Union of Forest Research Organizations) **Task Force** on *Unlocking the Bioeconomy and Non-Timber Forest Products*

<https://incredibleforest.net>

<https://star-tree.eu>

<https://www.nwfps.eu>

<https://www.iufro.org/science/task-forces/bioeconomy-and-non-timber-forest-products>

2. Where do our recommendations stem from?

Meeting the IUFRO Task Force on NTFP - Two interactive sessions on 16 and 17 September 2020



Global experts collaborate towards policy actions for NWFPs

36 experts in non-wood forest products (NWFP) from around the world joined a two-part, **online peer review process** towards policy recommendations for NWFPs developed by partners in the INCREDIBLE project

3. INCREDIBLE outputs

A **proposal of actions** has been summarised by the INCREDIBLE consortium, described in the **“White Paper”**

Soon available at: <https://incredibleforest.net/>

[White Paper](#) draft

A Technical (staff-working) Document providing further links and references to the points presented in the white paper will be circulated



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3. INCREDIBLE outputs - the White Paper

1. Securing conservation and supply of NWFP

2. Building competitive and equitable NWFP value chains

3. Transparency, data and information flow on NWFPs

4. Enabling conditions

3.1 SECURING THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY OF NWFPs

Enhance the resource base

Ensure sustainable harvest levels and fair and secure access to the resource

Set up and improve monitoring systems and inventories

3.3 TRANSPARENCY, DATA AND INFORMATION FLOW ON NWFPs

Improve visibility of NWFPs

Traceability and innovative labelling

Facilitate access to data on production, commercialisation, and trade.

3.2 BUILDING COMPETITIVE AND EQUITABLE VALUE CHAINS

Develop innovative and territorial value chains

Innovative fiscal and labour regimes

Equitability and the role of producer organisations

3.4 ENABLING CONDITIONS

Coherence of institutional action

Improve financial support

Foster innovation, knowledge transfer and extension capacity

3. INCREDIBLE outputs - the Policy Forum

250 people from more than **33 countries** *to reflect on policy actions needed for NWFP*



- ✓ International organizations,
- ✓ national and subnational administrations
- ✓ Academia and research institutes
- ✓ enterprises and sectoral organizations

[Policy Forum presentations](#)

3. INCREDIBLE outputs - Manifesto of Alghero

A **Manifesto** has been launched
to get support and
commitment for action
among institutions, associations
and enterprises

[the Manifesto](#)

Manifesto of Alghero

A commitment to promote the
contribution of non-wood forest products
to inclusive and green growth and eco-
social progress in Europe and worldwide



4. Call for action

Policy makers (legislators) must recognise NWFPs as part of our collective heritage, as a relevant but mostly informal economic sector and as natural resources that require proper attention, coherent policy frameworks and management.

Governments can propose legislation to regulate picking and harvesting activities, labour conditions, taxation, trade, etc. to secure rights for producers and consumers, and transition towards transparent markets and knowledge-based strategic decision making.

The **European Commission** should lead the identification of the most produced/collected and consumed NWFPs in member states, clarify the production systems (e.g. farmed, semi-wild or wild products) and ensure the adequate labelling according to international standards; enhance traceability of wild food products, incorporate NWFPs to Forest Information System for Europe and to Farm Sustainability Data Network. It should also promote coordinated activities of member states through European programs for key NWFPs.

4. Call for action

Market operators can share information and data on production/collection, processing and trade, they must respect due diligence rules when mandatory, and they can implement voluntary certification schemes to secure sustainability, traceability and fair benefit sharing.

Producers and other operators can integrate in different types of organisations (e.g. associations, cooperatives, interbranch organizations) in order to strengthen the bonds along and across value chain operators, enhancing transparency and fairness within.

Local development agencies, and agricultural and forestry advisory services must take an active role to better address NWFPs related knowledge and technology gaps, and to better support NWFP-based development opportunities.

4. Call for action

The **research community** could better support all these efforts, enhancing coordination across countries to address relevant knowledge gaps, and support training, knowledge transfer and awareness raising activities.

NGOs can advocate, facilitate and encourage action, while

consumers can be better informed and empower themselves to factor elements of origin, quality, sustainability and fairness in their purchase decisions.

4. Call for action

*Above all, we must all **pursue shared visions** on desirable, sustainable and plausible futures, and advance with empathy towards a common understanding on the **inter-linkages between nature conservation, sustainable forest & land management**, and collectively reflect on the production and consumption patterns that will help us advance towards a sustainable, circular, **inclusive** and fair bioeconomy.*

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Forestas

*Agenzia forestale regionale pro s'isvilupu de su
territòriu e de s'ambiente de sa Sardigna*
Agenzia forestale regionale per lo sviluppo
del territorio e dell'ambiente della Sardegna



REGIONE AUTÒNOMA DE SARDIGNA
REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Thank you!



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