

<b>Projektnamn:</b>	Business-oriented action plan for Sudden Large-scale Forest Damages (SLSFD)
<b>Projektägare:</b>	SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET
<b>RUS prioriterad område:</b>	Prioritering 4: Västerbotten - en region med hållbara livsmiljöer att bo, verka och leva i
<b>RUS delprioritering:</b>	4.1 Kapacitet för samverkan och samhandling
<b>Berörda län</b>	Västerbotten
<b>Berörda kommuner</b>	Bjurholm, Robertsfors, Storuman, Malå, Norsjö, Vännäs, Dorotea, Umeå, Vindeln, Nordmaling, Åsele, Sorsele, Skellefteå, Vilhelmina, Lycksele
<b>Sökt belopp:</b>	1 400 741 kr
<b>Sökt projektkostnad:</b>	5 645 876 kr
<b>Projektperiod:</b>	2026-09-01 - 2029-02-28

### Sammanfattande beskrivning till Projektbanken

Klimatförändringar och extrema väderhändelser skapar ett behov för skogsbruket att identifiera och kvantifiera nuvarande och framtida risker för plötsliga storskaliga skador på skogen samt att utveckla handlingsplaner för att mildra de negativa effekterna för alla som är beroende av skogen och för att öka skogsbrukets motståndskraft. Redan idag påverkar förändringarna skogsbruket inom Botnia regionen och de ekonomiska och ekologiska följderna av t.ex. stormskador, skogsbränder, granbarkborreangrepp, torka och eventuella nya skadegörare förväntas öka avsevärt i framtiden. Syftet med projektet är att ta fram gemensamma handlingsplaner för regionen för ska vara bättre förberedd när skogsskador inträffar samt att utbyta erfarenheter, anpassningsåtgärder och klimatsceniernas betydelse för den framtida skogens hälsa och tillväxt. Inte bara till direkt nytta för skogsbruket utan också för människor och verksamheter som är indirekt beroende av skogen för sin inkomst.

### Förslag till beslut

BIFALL:

SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET beviljas **1 400 741 kr**, dock högst **24,81 %** av godkända kostnader uppgående till 5 645 876 kr för projektet *Business-oriented action plan for Sudden Large-scale Forest Damages (SLSFD)* för projektperioden 2026-09-01 - 2029-02-28. Beslutet har fattats med stöd av förordning (2003:596) om bidrag för projektverksamhet inom den regionala tillväxtpolitiken och i förekommande fall förordning (2015:210) om statligt stöd för att regionalt främja små och medelstora företag. Medel disponeras ur anslaget 1:1.

REGION VÄSTERBOTTEN beviljar stöd av följande skäl:

Projektet ligger i linje med Västerbottens regionala utvecklingsstrategis prioritering 4: Västerbotten - en region med hållbara livsmiljöer att bo, verka och leva i och delprioritering 4.1 Kapacitet för samverkan och samhandling

Projektet uppfyller kraven fastställda i Region Västerbottens *Agenda för hållbar finansiering* och bidrar i hög grad till prioritetshöjande aspekten *Sammanhållen region* och delvis till prioritetshöjande aspekten *Hållbar regional tillväxt*.

## Bedömda resultat och konsekvenser

### Urvalskriterier och prioriteringar

I nedanstående två tabeller framgår hur projektet uppfyller Region Västerbottens krav och prioritetshöjande aspekter fastställda i Agenda för hållbar regional finansiering.

KRAV fastställda i Agenda för hållbar regional finansiering	Nej	Ja
Projektet är avgränsad från den sökandes ordinarie verksamhet i fråga om tid, ekonomi och arbetsinsats		X
Projektet har en projektlogik som visar vilka problem ska lösas, vad ska uppnås, genom vilka åtgärder projektets mål uppnås och med vilka resurser detta görs		X
Jämställdhet är integrerad i projektet		X
Mångfald inklusive integration och andra sociala aspekter är integrerad i projektet		X
Ekologisk hållbarhet är integrerad i projektet		X
Ekonomisk hållbarhet är integrerad i projektet		X

PRIORITETSHÖJANDE ASPEKTER fastställda i Agenda för hållbar finansiering	Inte alls	I låg grad	Delvis	I hög grad	I mycket hög grad
Projektet bidrar till att Västerbotten är en sammanhållen region				X	
Projektet bidrar till hållbar regional tillväxt			X		
Projektet bidrar till positiva hållbarhetseffekter genom insatser som i huvudsak syftar till att hantera regionala hållbarhetsutmaningar inom jämställdhet, mångfald inklusive integration och andra sociala dimensioner och miljö och klimat.					

**Sammanfattande bedömning**

- Ansökan avser medfinansiering till Interreg Aurora.
- Ansökan avser ett samverkansprojekt mellan i Finland Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences (SeAMK) (LP), Finlands skogscentral samt på svensk sida Skogsstyrelsen och SLU.
- Sökanden har skickat in en snarlik ansökan tidigare (hösten 2024) som då bifölls av Region Västerbotten, projektet föll dock i ett senare skede och erhöll inte finansiering från Interreg Aurora.
- Ansökan bedöms ligga i linje med prioriterat område 4 Västerbotten en region med hållbara livsmiljöer, att bo, verka och leva i och delprioritering 4.1 Kapacitet för samverkan och samhandling i Västerbottens regionala utvecklingsstrategi
- Ansökan bedöms uppfylla kraven i agenda för hållbar regional utveckling.
- Ansökan bedöms i hög grad bidra till prioritetshöjande aspekten Sammanhållen region och delvis till Hållbar regional tillväxt i agendan för hållbar regional utveckling.
- Området projektet ska arbeta inom bedöms som viktigt och aktuellt.
- I ansökan relativt otydlig involvering av och efterfrågan från projektets tilltänkta målgrupp.
- Till skillnad mot föregående ansökan så går sökande organisationer själva in med en mindre del medfinansiering i sitt projekt.
- Projektpartnerskapet har stärkts jämfört med föregående ansökan då partnerskapet inte endast består av akademiska organisationer utan även har med Skogsstyrelsen som samverkanspart i projektet.

**Ersätter beslutet ett tidigare/annat beslut?**

-

**Resurser och finansiering**

-

**Bilagor**

-

**Beslut expedieras till**

Verksamhetschef Nils Enwald

## Projekt-PM

ÄrendelD  
20379717Diarie-nr  
REGAC 143-2026

### Sammanfattning

Klimatförändringar och extrema väderhändelser skapar ett behov för skogsbruket att identifiera och kvantifiera nuvarande och framtida risker för plötsliga storskaliga skador på skogen samt att utveckla handlingsplaner för att mildra de negativa effekterna för alla som är beroende av skogen och för att öka skogsbrukets motståndskraft. Redan idag påverkar förändringarna skogsbruket inom Botnia regionen och de ekonomiska och ekologiska följderna av t.ex. stormskador, skogsbränder, granbarkborreangrepp, torka och eventuella nya skadegörare förväntas öka avsevärt i framtiden. Syftet med projektet är att ta fram gemensamma handlingsplaner för regionen för ska vara bättre förberedd när skogsskador inträffar samt att utbyta erfarenheter, anpassningsåtgärder och klimatsceniariernas betydelse för den framtida skogens hälsa och tillväxt. Inte bara till direkt nytta för skogsbruket utan också för människor och verksamheter som är indirekt beroende av skogen för sin inkomst.

### Vilket/vilka problem vill projektet lösa?

This Interreg Aurora project aims to address the urgent need for comprehensive action plans to mitigate and respond to sudden large-scale forest damages in the Bothnia region - a region divided in two by the gulf of Bothnia and further divided in subregions in Finland and in Sweden, respectively. The subregions share common features, culturally and economically and they are all characterized by their extensive forest resources. They are also increasingly vulnerable to various risks associated with climate change, including storms, pest infestations, and wildfires. The project seeks to equip forest sector stakeholders with the necessary tools and strategies to enhance their resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of these challenges.

Forests play a crucial role in the economic, ecological, and social fabric of the project region. They provide raw materials for the forest industry, support biodiversity, and contribute to carbon sequestration, which is vital for mitigating climate change. However, the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, driven by climate change, pose significant threats to these forest ecosystems. Sudden and large-scale forest damages (SLFD) can lead to substantial economic losses, disrupt supply chains, and have long-term ecological impacts. Climate change is increasing the prevalence of wild-fires, storms, pest and diseases in the entire Interreg Aurora region with direct and indirect economic consequences to the forest industry. Yet, the economic consequences on the industry as a whole and a cohesive plan on how to respond to SLFD is still lacking in the region.

The objective of the project is to develop joint action plans for sudden large-scale forest damages (SLFD) in the Bothnia region, defined as consisting of the regions Västerbotten in Sweden and Ostrobothnia, Southern Ostrobothnia and Central Ostrobothnia in Finland. Climate change and associated extreme weather events, already affect forestry practices in the Bothnia region and in coming decades the impact of climate change and ecological changes is expected to increase significantly. Thus there is a need to now identify and quantify the extent of damages that we experience today (for example wind damages, forest fires, spruce bark beetle infestations, droughts) and as well predict the risk for various large-scale damages in the future. With that knowledge, we can estimate the costs

associated with each damage and develop action plans to mitigate potential negative effects on forestry and forest-related activities and increase resilience. The action plans intend to increase preparedness by exchanging empirical knowledge, measures for adaptation and utilization of damaged wood and by sharing climatic scenarios and consequences for future forests. The action plans will not only benefit forestry directly but also equally all people indirectly dependent on the forest for their living and outcome, regardless of background, gender and origin. The project fits with general sustainability goals of the project region i.e. maintaining/creating a circular economy that can deal with climate change while creating economic opportunities and infrastructure. It will simultaneously maintain the natural resources and ecosystems in order for the region to be a lively place also for coming generations. Cross-border collaboration allows us to increase the capacity of the region to understand the impacts and optimize solutions by sharing experience, knowledge and lessons learnt to SLFD. It will remove obstacles and pave the road to increased efficiency and effectiveness of the responses to SLFD by pooling resources and respond strategically to combat SLFD. By harmonizing policies and regulations, it will promote effective outcomes, ensuring a resilient and sustainable forest sector.

### **Förväntat resultat av projektet på kort och lång sikt**

Short-term goal - the project will result in joint action plans that in turn will facilitate to reduce the impact of sudden large-scale forest damages (SLFD) in the Bothnia region.

To achieve this the following actions (sub-goals) will be fulfilled:

1. Training stakeholders in identifying and quantifying SLSFD - now and in the future
2. Develop skills for estimation of the costs associated with each sudden large-scale forest damage and how sensitive the cost is for changes in climate scenarios, forest management practices and choice of business strategy.
3. Analysis of current strategies of various actors in the forest sector to adapt to SLFD and, based on that and the achievements in the other sub-goals, development of joint action plans.
4. Improve planning and preparation for future events that cause SLFD

Cross-border cooperation is essential for the Interreg Aurora project to effectively address the challenges posed by sudden and large-scale forest damages in the project region.

The following points highlight the importance of this collaborative approach:

Forests in both regions face similar risks due to climate change, including storms, pest infestations, and wildfires. These challenges do not recognize national borders, and their impacts can be widespread, affecting ecosystems and economies on both sides of the gulf of Botnia. By working together, the region can develop a unified approach for risk assessment, prevention, and mitigation, ensuring that strategies are comprehensive and effective. Piloting this new kind of SLFD-action plan in project region will make it easier to create similar plans in other cross-border regions within the Interreg Aurora region. Cross-border cooperation facilitates the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices within the project region. Both Finland and Sweden have a long history of forestry and have developed advanced techniques and technologies for forest management. By sharing this knowledge, the project can leverage the strengths of each region, leading to more innovative and effective solutions.

Pooling resources, including financial, human, and technical, allows for more efficient and effective project implementation. Cross-border cooperation enables the regions to share the costs and benefits of research, development, and implementation of strategies. This collaborative approach ensures that resources are used optimally, avoiding duplication of efforts and maximizing the impact of the project.

Engaging a diverse range of stakeholders from both regions, including forest owners, authorities, industry representatives, researchers, and policymakers, ensures that the project benefits from a wide array of perspectives and expertise. This inclusive approach fosters a sense of shared responsibility and commitment to the project objectives, leading to more robust and widely accepted outcomes.

By working together, the region can build a more resilient forest sector that is better prepared to respond to sudden and large-scale forest damages. Cross-border cooperation enhances the capacity of the region to adapt to climate change, ensuring that forest ecosystems and the communities that depend on them are protected and sustainable in the long term.

Cross-border cooperation facilitates the alignment and harmonization of policies and regulations related to forest management and climate change adaptation. This ensures that strategies developed through the project are compatible and can be implemented seamlessly across the region. Harmonized policies also promote greater collaboration and coordination within the region, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Long-term goal - the project will

1. result in greater general awareness of the actions needed to prevent, mitigate or to accomplish the best possible solution in a new situation due to a SLFD.
2. illustrate the need of potential new regulations at the national level in Sweden and in Finland to avoid or reduce the effect of SLFDs
3. result in adjustments and streamlining of regulations that may exist on the National level in Sweden and Finland which may reduce the effect of the action plans
4. result in increased cooperation between Sweden and Finland also in other business-related areas as a spin-off effect of the project
5. result in improved communication and sharing of information between the forest sector in the region

Long-term cross-border cooperation facilitates the alignment and harmonization of policies and regulations related to forest management and climate change adaptation. This ensures that strategies developed through the project are compatible and can be implemented seamlessly across the project region. Harmonized policies also promote greater collaboration and coordination within the regions, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes. Promoting long-term cross-border cooperation is crucial for achieving the objectives and results of the Interreg Aurora project. By leveraging the strengths and resources of the region, the project can develop and implement comprehensive strategies that enhance the resilience of forest ecosystems and the forest sector, ensuring a sustainable future for the project region. Overall, the goal is to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of forest ecosystems and the forest sector in the region.

**Assess and Quantify Risks:** Conducted through assessments to identify and quantify the risks of sudden and large-scale forest damages in the region. This includes mapping vulnerable areas and understanding the potential impacts on forest ecosystems and the forest sector.

**Develop and Implement Strategies:** Create and implement effective strategies and action plans to prevent, mitigate, and respond to sudden and large-scale forest damages. These strategies will be based on best practices, results from scientific research, and stakeholder input, ensuring they are practical and widely accepted.

**Enhance Stakeholder Preparedness:** Improve the preparedness and response capabilities of forest sector stakeholders, including forest owners, industry representatives, local communities, and policymakers. This will involve capacity-building activities, such as training, workshops, and the development of guidelines and toolkits.

**Promote Sustainable Forest Management:** Encourage the adoption of sustainable forest management practices that enhance the resilience of forests to disturbances. This includes diversifying tree species, implementing adaptive silviculture techniques, and maintaining healthy forest structures.

**Foster Cross-Border Collaboration:** Strengthen cross-border cooperation between Finland and Sweden to share knowledge, resources, and best practices. This collaborative approach will ensure that strategies are comprehensive and effective, benefiting both countries.

**Integrate Climate Change Adaptation:** Incorporate climate change adaptation measures into forest management practices and policies. This will help to safeguard forest ecosystems and the forest sector against the long-term impacts of climate change.

## **Målgrupp**

The project focuses both on forest operators directly affected by forest damages, for example, forest planning, forest machines, wood transportation, forest associations and centres, as well as organisations and people indirectly dependent on the forest for their living, for example, Sami villages and reindeer herders. The forest owners and forest industry will be the main beneficiaries who will have a clear response strategy to SLFD by using robust economic analysis of viable alternatives. Through consultation, workshops, surveys, advisory committees, and pilot projects, this project will solicit inputs from forest authorities, local communities, policymakers and environmental organizations to create a final joint action plan.

The primary target group for the Interreg Aurora project includes a diverse range of stakeholders within the forest sector in the project region. These stakeholders will directly or indirectly be affected by sudden and large-scale forest damages and play a crucial role in preparing for damages and in the sustainable management and resilience of forest ecosystems.

The target group comprises:

**Forest Owners:** Individuals and organizations that own and manage forest lands. They are directly impacted by forest damages and are key players in implementing preventive and adaptive measures.

**Forest Industry Representatives:** Companies involved in the forestry supply chain, including logging, timber processing, and paper manufacturing. Their operations are significantly affected by disruptions in forest resources.

**Local Communities:** Residents and local businesses that rely on forests for their livelihoods, recreation, and cultural values. Their well-being is closely tied to the health of forest ecosystems.



**Policy Makers and Authorities:** Regional and local government officials responsible for developing and enforcing policies related to forest management and climate change adaptation.

**Researchers and Academics:** Experts from universities and research institutions who provide scientific knowledge and technical expertise to support evidence-based decision-making.

**Environmental Organizations:** NGOs and advocacy groups focused on forest conservation and sustainable management practices.

The involvement of the target group in project planning is essential to ensure that the strategies and actions developed are practical, effective, and widely accepted. The Interreg Aurora project has adopted a participatory approach to engage the target group throughout the planning process.

### Projektets hållbarhetsaspekter

In the process of planning the project as well as the planned project, sustainability aspects have been considered and will be considered by digital meetings to reduce travelling and save the participants from the need of time-consuming travelling.

The plan is to arrange integrated workshops so that all WP can benefit from the organisation without being overloaded with multiple meetings. We will utilise online and hybrid meetings to reduce the need to commute. In cases of needing to commute, we will use the mode of transport with the lowest carbon foot print. We will also strategies the best mode of implementing activities so as to reduce time, stress and unnecessary financial needs.

The diversity aspect has been considered by involving people indirectly dependent on the forest for their living and outcome, regardless of background, gender and origin.

This project will promote and encourage active participation of both women and men at all levels to ensure gender balance, consistent with the engagements of each consortium partner.

Forestry sector is not renown for its balanced ratio, in comparison to some other industrial sectors. This project ensure that at least half of the leaders of the WP are led by women which will lay a foundation for a gender balance strategy by ensuring that, in particular, the dissemination, exploitation, communication and training activities (and stakeholder engagement activities take into account the gender dimension. Strongly supporting the EU strategy Union of Equality, will also be a commitment for equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). To foster an inclusive scientific community and industrial community, this project will take actions to challenge structural discrimination and stereotypes that are often present in science and research, so all stakeholders will be able to collaborate and thrive regardless of differences based on on gender, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, or age.

### Kostnadsbudget

Kostnadsslag	Totalt
Personal	4 032 769
Schablonkostnader	1 613 107
<b>Summa kostnader</b>	<b>5 645 876</b>
<b>Projektintäkter</b>	
<b>Summa faktiska kostnader</b>	<b>5 645 876</b>
Bidrag annat än pengar	



Kostnadsslag	Totalt
Summa bidrag i annat än pengar	0
Summa totala kostnader	5 645 876

## Finansieringsbudget

Finansiär	Totalt
Total offentligt bidrag annat än pengar	0
LÄNSSTYRELSEN I NORRBOTTENS LÄN, Interreg Aurora	3 681 374
SKOGSSTYRELSEN	237 216
SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET	326 545
Total offentlig kontantfinansiering	4 245 135
Total offentlig finansiering	4 245 135
Total privat bidrag annat än pengar	0
Total privat kontantfinansiering	0
Total privat finansiering	0

Finansiering	Totalt
Region Västerbotten 1:1	1 400 741