

<b>Projektnamn:</b>	Business-oriented action plan for Sudden Large-scale Forest Damages (SLSFD)
<b>Projektägare:</b>	SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET
<b>RUS prioriterad område:</b>	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/Kommun:</b>	Västerbottens, Västernorrlands, Jämtland Härjedalens och Norrbottens län
<b>Sökt belopp:</b>	1 725 744 kr
<b>Sökt projektkostnad:</b>	4 930 698 kr
<b>Projektperiod:</b>	2025-01-01 - 2027-12-31

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, direkt eller indirekt, av skogen och för att öka skogsbrukets motståndskraft. Redan idag påverkar förändringarna skogsbruket inom Botnia området (N. Sve & N Fin.) och de ekonomiska och ekologiska följderna av stormskador, skogsbränder, granbarkborreangrepp, torka och eventuella nya skadegörare förväntas öka avsevärt i framtiden. Syftet är att ta fram gemensamma handlingsplaner för utbyte av erfarenheter, åtgärder för anpassning och tillvaratagande av virke och för att dela klimatscenarier för framtida skogar vara bättre förberedda när skogsskador inträffar i regionen. Inte bara till direkt nytta för skogsbruket utan också för människor och verksamheter som är indirekt beroende av skogen för sin inkomst.

Ansökan avser medfinansiering till Interreg Aurora.

### Förslag till beslut

#### BIFALL:

SVERIGES LANTBRUKSUNIVERSITET beviljas **1 725 744** kr, dock högst **35,00** % av godkända kostnader uppgående till 4 930 698 kr för projektet *Business-oriented action plan for Sudden Large-scale Forest Damages (SLSFD)* för projektperioden 2025-01-01 - 2027-12-31. Beslutet har fattats med stöd av förordning (2003:596) om bidrag för projektverksamhet inom den regionala tillväxtpolitiken. Medel disponeras ur anslaget 1:1.

REGION VÄSTERBOTTEN beviljar stöd av följande skäl:

Projektet ligger 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.

Projektet uppfyller kraven fastställda i Region Västerbottens *Agenda för hållbar finansiering* och bidrar delvis till prioritetshöjande aspekterna *Sammanhållen region och 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.

<b>KRAV fastställda i Agenda för hållbar regional finansiering</b>	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

<b>PRIORITETSHÖJANDE ASPEKTER fastställda i Agenda för hållbar finansiering</b>	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 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 delvis bidra till prioritetshöjande aspekterna Sammanhållen region och 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.
- 100% externt finansierat projekt utan någon egen insats i projektet från sökande.
- Projektpartnerskapet bedöms som relativt svagt med endast akademien som projektpart.

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

-

**Resurser och finansiering**

-

**Bilagor**

-

**Beslut expedieras till**

Strateg: Mikael Johansson Åberg

## Projekt-PM

ÄrendeID  
20369638

Diarie-nr  
321-2024

### 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, direkt eller indirekt, av skogen och för att öka skogsbrukets motståndskraft. Redan idag påverkar förändringarna skogsbruket inom Botnia området (N. Sve & N Fin.) och de ekonomiska och ekologiska följderna av stormskador, skogsbränder, granbarkborreangrepp, torka och eventuella nya skadegörare förväntas öka avsevärt i framtiden. Syftet är att ta fram gemensamma handlingsplaner för utbyte av erfarenheter, åtgärder för anpassning och tillvaratagande av virke och för att dela klimat scenarier för framtida skogar vara bättre förberedda när skogsskador inträffar i regionen. 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?

The Interreg Aurora project aims to address the urgent need for comprehensive action plans to mitigate and respond to sudden and large-scale forest damages in the core regions of Southern-, Central Ostrobothnia in Finland and Västerbotten in Sweden. These regions, characterized by their extensive forest resources, are 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 regions. 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 Interreg Aurora region with direct and indirect economic consequences to the forest industry. Yet, the economic consequences on the industry as a whole, options for economically viable alternative uses of SLFD products 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 Norrbotten, Västerbotten and Västernorrland in Sweden and Pohjois-Pohjanmaa, Keski-Pohjanmaa, Pohjanmaa, Etelä-Pohjanmaa 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 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 pave the way 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 reduction the impact of sudden large-scale forest damages 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. Improve knowledge on how to handle and find possible alternative uses of damaged trees after severe destruction
4. 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.
5. 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 core regions of Southern and Central Ostrobothnia in Finland and Västerbotten in Sweden. 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. By working together, the regions 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 Southern and Central Ostrobothnia in Finland and in Västerbotten in Sweden makes it easier to create similar plans in other regions in both countries.

Cross-border cooperation facilitates the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and best practices between the regions. 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 regions 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 both regions 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 regions. Harmonized policies also promote greater collaboration and coordination between the regions, 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. result in new regulations needed on a 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 regions. Harmonized policies also promote greater collaboration and coordination between 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 both regions, 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 regions of Southern and Central Ostrobothnia and Västerbotten. Overall, the goal is to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of

forest ecosystems and the forest sector in the regions of Southern and Central Ostrobothnia in Finland and Västerbotten in Sweden.

**Assess and Quantify Risks:** Conduct thorough assessments to identify and quantify the risks of sudden and large-scale forest damages in the target regions. 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, 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 regions.

**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 that may be affected directly 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 core regions of Southern and Central Ostrobothnia in Finland and Västerbotten in Sweden. These stakeholders are directly or indirectly 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, sustainability aspects have been considered by having several digital meetings to reduce travelling and save the participants from the need time-consuming travelling. The meetings can be characterized as an open environment with the aim for all to contribute equally (without any assessment of whether we have achieved it). The diversity aspect has been considered by involving as a partner a representative from SSR. We will plan 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.

This project will promote and encourage active participation of women at all levels to ensure gender balance, consistent with the engagements of each consortium partner. Forestry is not -known for its imbalanced 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 gender, sexual orientation, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, or age.

### Kostnadsbudget

Kostnadslag	Totalt
Personal	3 521 928
Schablonkostnader	1 408 770
<b>Summa kostnader</b>	<b>4 930 698</b>
<b>Projektintäkter</b>	
<b>Summa faktiska kostnader</b>	<b>4 930 698</b>
<b>Bidrag annat än pengar</b>	
<b>Summa bidrag i annat än pengar</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Summa totala kostnader</b>	<b>4 930 698</b>

### Finansieringsbudget

Finansiär	Totalt
<b>Total offentligt bidrag annat än pengar</b>	<b>0</b>
Interreg Aurora (Länsstyrelsen i Norrbottens län)	3 204 954
<b>Total offentlig kontantfinansiering</b>	<b>3 204 954</b>
<b>Total offentlig finansiering</b>	<b>3 204 954</b>
<b>Total privat bidrag annat än pengar</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total privat kontantfinansiering</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total privat finansiering</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Finansiering</b>	<b>Totalt</b>
Region Västerbotten	1 725 744