

## Managing Austrian Beech Forests for Climate and Biodiversity

Dieses Projekt wird aus Mitteln des Klima- und Energiefonds gefördert und im Rahmen des Programms Austrian Climate Research Programme (ACRP) durchgeführt

# ManageBeech

Is it actually possible to truly **integrate climate and biodiversity objectives in forests**? And if so, how? ManageBeech aims at reconciling long-lasting scientific and stakeholder controversies hampering the solution of this puzzle. It does so by building on existing knowledge, data, and simulation results, and seeks to put issues into perspective. The driving hypothesis behind the research questions of ManageBeech is that the translation of the state of ecological knowledge into practical solutions and their widespread application is hampered by socially constructed and negotiated differences between science and policy and between disciplines. We will focus on the **Austrian Beech and Spruce-Fir-Beech forests**. The preparatory workshop for the elaboration of ManageBeech with forestry and conservation experts showed as one outcome a deficit of trust in the validity of the objectives of the various stakeholder groups.

**Forest managers** take pride in reconciling sustainable silvicultural concepts and the need to meet economical ends by timber production. In contrast, **conservation experts** claim that forest management negatively affects biodiversity and that without targeted measures biodiversity will continue to decline. By focusing our efforts on developing a **common understanding, narratives, and toolsets** between forest and conservation experts, we can achieve the targets of the various political strategies much more efficiently. We will work towards these aims in the course of an **interdisciplinary, participatory project** involving scientists from the relevant disciplines, policy makers and practitioners.

