



1. General information

- Forest Research Institute (FRI), Sofia was established in 1928 as Forest Experimental Service – part of the Bulgarian Ministry of Agriculture and State Properties
- FRI is independent research body within the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)
- FRI has a total staff of 104 including 92 researchers and specialists and 12 employees in the administration. It incorporates 5 departments and 2 laboratories, including: Department of Silviculture; Department of Forest Ecology; Department of Forest Genetics, Physiology and Plantations; Department of Forest Entomology and Phytopathology; Department of Forest Resources; Forest Pedology laboratory and Ecology of Game Fauna laboratory
- FRI performs basic and applied research in the following main fields:
 - Forest ecology
 - Biological diversity of the forest flora and fauna
 - Monitoring of forest resources
 - Close-to-nature and multifunctional forest management
- Through the publishing house of BAS, the Forest Research Institute publishes the journals “Nauka za gorata” (Forest Science) and Silva Balcanica
- More than 170 PhD students have graduated from FRI, Sofia. Most of them were involved in science and forestry practice. Students are educated within 7 accredited specialities
- Researchers from FRI have delivered lectures and practical exercises on forest ecology, dendrology, silviculture, forest plantations, forest inventory, phytogeography, physiology of forest tree species, environmental protection, forest pedology, economics of forest management, forestry mechanisation and other scientific disciplines in higher educational institutions, such as: University of Forestry, Sofia; Veliko Turnovo University; University of Architecture, Building and Geodesy, Sofia; Agrarian University, Plovdiv; Centre for Euroeducation and Science, Sofia; ENGREF, Nancy (France) etc
- Courses and seminars have been organized by FRI for training and qualification improvement of specialists, working for the structures of the State forest agency and Ministry of Environment and Water are regularly organised

2. Recent FRI projects linked to sustainable forest ecosystem management

- Assessment and monitoring of air pollution effects on forests. International cooperative programme “Forests”. Period of implementation: 1986–2008. Coordinator for FRI, Sofia: Prof. B. Rossnev
- Multi-functional management of coppice forests: contributions to rural development, maintenance of biodiversity, and climate change mitigation and adaptation in natural resource management. Assigned by SEE-ERA.NET (Integrating and strengthening the European research area in Southeast Europe). INTAS Ref. № 06–1000031–10648. Period of implementation: 2007–2008. Coordinator for FRI, Sofia: Dr Tzvetan Zlatanov
- Inventory and strategy for sustainable management of virgin forests in Bulgaria. Assigned by the Royal Dutch Society for Nature Conservation. Period of implementation: 2004–2007. Manager Prof. Ivan Raev, FRI, Sofia
- Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management in Bulgaria. Assigned by UNDP-GEF. Coordinator for FRI, Sofia: Dr Ivan Marinov
- Community-Based Rehabilitation of Degraded Land in Balkan Countries”. Assigned by UNDP-GEF. Coordinator for FRI, Sofia: Dr Ivan Marinov
- OAK–MAP (GZ56.810/25-VA26/2000). Austrian BMLFUW Project, ARC-Seibersdorf. Coordinator for FRI: Dr Georgi Hinkov
- Genetic resources of broad-leaved forest tree species in Southeastern Europe. Bulgaria – Moldova – Romania – Luxemburg. IPGRI Project. Coordinator for FRI: Prof. A. Alexandrov
- Distribution and modelling of radiocesium (¹³⁷Cs) transfer in the soils-plant system. Assigned by Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and water. Manager: Dr Maria Grozeva-Sokolovska, FRI, Sofia
- Douglass fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) in Bulgaria – growth, state and perspectives. Assigned by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science. Contract № SS–1302. Manager: Dr Emil Popov, FRI, Sofia
- Inventory on naturally sustainable ways to control the density at establishment and management of Scots pine (*Pinus silvestris* L.) plantations in Rila Mountain. Assigned by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science. Contract № MU–SS–1103. Manager: Dr Tatyana Stankova, FRI, Sofia
- Action plan for wild cat (*Felix silvestris* Schr.) conservation in Bulgaria. Assigned by Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water. Manager: Dr Ivan Petrov, FRI, Sofia

3. Future priorities in regard to sustainable forest ecosystem management

- Studying the adaptation of forest ecosystems to the global physical environment conditions changes – climate properties, groundwater supply, air and soil pollution etc. Targeted departments: Department of Silviculture; Department of Forest Ecology; Department of Forest Entomology and Phytopathology; Department of Forest Genetics, Physiology and Plantations; Pedology laboratory
- Assessment of biological and genotype diversity of forest flora and fauna in Bulgaria as part of South-eastern Europe. Targeted departments: Department of Forest Genetics Physiology and Plantations; Ecology of Game Fauna laboratory; Department of Forest Ecology; Department of Silviculture; Department of Forest Entomology
- Development of knowledge base for sustainable and close to nature forest management in changing environmental and socio-economical conditions. Targeted departments: Department of Silviculture; Department of Forest Genetics, Physiology and Plantations; Department of Forest Ecology; Department of Forest Entomology and Phytopathology; Department of Forest Recourses; Pedology laboratory
- Development of knowledge base for forest fauna management, including game species and those of conservation importance. Targeted departments: Ecology of Game Fauna laboratory; Department of Forest Entomology and Phytopathology