

## 1.2 The importance of forests



“Forests are a key ecosystem on our planet: without them, life as we know it now would not exist. Thus, protecting them is our essential task. Simultaneously, we depend on goods and services provided by forest ecosystems. If managed sustainably, forests play an indispensable role in climate and biodiversity protection. They protect soils and water resources, provide livelihoods, and contribute to the wellbeing of rural and urban communities. European forests are multifunctional, providing a range of ecosystem services, including the production of renewable materials that are able to substitute for alternatives with a higher environmental footprint, thus also contributing to climate neutrality and overall sustainability.”

State of Europe’s Forests 2020, UNECE, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nation

1. Insert the missing words:

- Forests provide a home to most of the **biodiversity** we find on earth.
- For our water to be **clean** and our soil to be **rich** we need healthy forests.
- Trees and forests are true **allies** in the fight against **climate** and biodiversity crisis.
- Tree **purify** our air, **cool** our cities and take uu **carbon dioxide.**
- By 2030, **3** bilion **trees** will be planted.

## 2. 7 Reasons to Be Thankful for Forests

- **Forests provide clean water**
  - **Forests clean our air**
  - **Forests are habitat for living things**
  - **Forests help us combat climate change**
  - **Forests feed us** (H5P-drag and drop: recognize berries)
  - **Forests are places of recreation and relaxation** (using the internet you can find 3 famous natural parks in Europe; specify the name of the park, the location and the reason you chose it)
  - **Wood products play a vital role in our lives** (name a few wood products and say how important they are for you)
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