



# Weihenstephan Declaration on Forests and Forestry in Climate Change

**Joint Declaration of the Bavarian State Government  
and the Forest Associations and Organisations of Bavaria**

**Bavarian Forest Day  
Freising-Weihenstephan  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

**Climate change is already happening.** It is largely caused by human behaviour, especially the burning of fossil fuels. Without effective climate protection, the necessary measures to adapt to climate change will be in vain. Everyone worldwide is asked for help, in which forests and forestry play an active role.

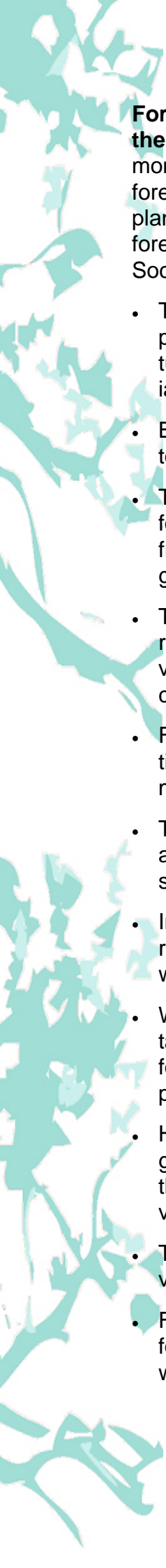
**Forests are essential for our society.** They provide raw materials and energy, protect the soil from dehydration and erosion, regulate the water balance, improve climate, air and water quality, provide a refuge for animals and plants, and offer a place for people to relax and remain healthy.

**Forests and their functions are in danger.** Climate change endangers particularly those tree species that are susceptible to heat, drought, storms or pests. It modifies forest communities and affects forest functions. Forest owners and the timber industry face the threat of considerable economic damage – and the forest and timber sector is one of the most important industries in Bavaria.

**Forests and forestry mitigate the effects of climate change.** For centuries forestry has helped stabilize the climate through afforestation and sustainable forest management. Because of the storage of carbon in the forest and in timber, and the use of wood as a raw material and CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral fuel, the release of vast quantities of greenhouse gases is avoided. We want to and can increase this contribution to active climate protection!

**Stable forests and intelligent timber use play a key role in climate protection.** The maintenance and extension of forests are thus important political and legislative goals in climate protection. Sustainable action must go from being a principle of forest economics to one of global survival. We therefore want

- to adapt our forests and their sustainable exploitation to climate change,
- to maintain the forests permanently as carbon reservoirs whilst at the same time providing as much timber as possible and
- to increase the use of timber as a work material of the future and climate-friendly source of energy.



**Forests and forestry are victims – and at the same time indispensable helpers in the fight against climate change!** Climate protection and adaptation measures require money and committed forest owners, as well as sufficiently large numbers of qualified foresters and forestry personnel. Prevention is cheaper than repair. We therefore must plan for the future and invest in trees and minds, hands and tools! Forest owners and the forestry industry cannot achieve this alone: they also expect support from the State and Society.

- The State of Bavaria is helping as best it can within its bounds of resources and staff – politically, with expertise, and financially – with the development of forests for the future and with adaptation to climate change; the corresponding measures in the 'Bavarian Climate Programme 2020' are a step in the right direction.
- By 2020, in privately and community-owned forests alone around 100.000 hectares are to be converted to climate-tolerant mixed forests.
- The Federal German Government is called upon to set up a “Forest Climate Fund” for forest-related climate protection and adaptation measures, using the funds it receives from emissions trading and opting to include forest CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration in its national greenhouse gas inventory.
- The greater importance of research, teaching, advising, promoting and training as a result of climate change has to be taken into account. Forest practice should be provided as soon as possible with site-specific planting recommendations for all tree species suitable for future climate conditions.
- For forest owners, favourable conditions must be created to increase timber exploitation within the limits of sustainability; in areas with little forest cover, afforestation measures should be promoted effectively.
- To foster sustainable forest management, structural disadvantages should be reduced according to forest law by a tailored-to-need forest development, forest ownership restructuring, and reliably supported, efficient forest associations.
- In all areas of society work is needed towards an increased use of timber as raw material, building material, working material, and renewable source of energy; we ourselves will set a good example.
- Without intact protection forests, there are huge risks for natural hazards in the mountains and far into the foothills; areas at risk must be identified across the region, and efforts in the course of the Bavarian “Mountain Forest Initiative” to tend and rehabilitate protection forests must be intensified.
- Hoofed game populations managed according to the legislative principle “Forest first, game second” are a prerequisite for forest conversion and stable forests, especially in the mountains; in order to implement this we need the responsible help of all those involved, especially hunters.
- The dehydration of peatlands leads to peat decline and converts them from CO<sub>2</sub> reservoirs into sources of CO<sub>2</sub>; suitable peatlands should thus be stabilized.
- Forests and forestry primarily need solar energy for trees to grow. The consumption of fossil fuels in forest management has to be reduced to a minimum by applying efficient working procedures and using modern technology.

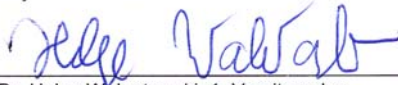
**Decisive action, together, in solidarity!** Forests and forestry are broadly positioned and rooted in society. We must show solidarity with our children and grandchildren, as well as world-wide with those people who will be most affected by climate change.

The Weihenstephan Declaration signals unity and a new departure: the challenges that climate change brings for the whole of society must be met. Forests and forestry play and will play an active and leading role in doing so, both now and in future!

Weihenstephan, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2008



Dr. Günther Beckstein, Ministerpräsident  
Bayerische Staatskanzlei



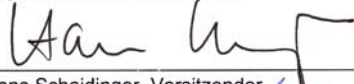
Dr. Helge Valentowski, 1. Vorsitzender  
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Reinhardt Neft, Vorstandsmitglied  
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Gudula Lermer, 1. Vorsitzende  
Bayerischer Forstverein e. V.



Hans Schaidinger, Vorsitzender  
Bayerischer Städtetag



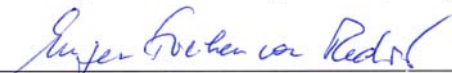
Gunther Hahner, Landesvorsitzender  
Bund Deutscher Forstleute e. V.



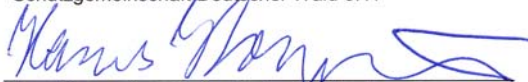
Dr. Jürgen Bauer, Geschäftsführer  
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Armin Amrehn, Landesvorsitzender  
Industriegewerkschaft Bauen-Agrar-Umwelt, LV Bayern



Eugen Freiherr von Redwitz, 1. Vorsitzender  
Schutzgemeinschaft Deutscher Wald e.V.



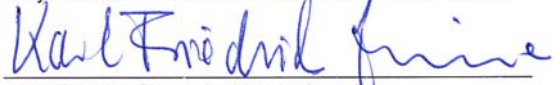
Hans Kornprobst, Stellvertretender Vorsitzender  
Verband der höheren Verwaltungsbeamten in Bayern



Olaf v. Löwis of Menar, Geschäftsführer  
Verein für forstliche Standortserkundung e. V.



Josef Miller, Staatsminister  
Bayer. Staatsministerium für Landwirtschaft und Forsten



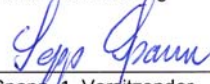
Karl-Friedrich Sinner, Landesvorsitzender  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Naturgemäße Waldwirtschaft,  
Landesgruppe Bayern



Bernhard Weiler, Vorsitzender der Forstlichen  
Zusammenschlüsse in Bayern  
Bayerischer Bauernverband



Josef Mend, Vizepräsident  
Bayerischer Gemeindetag



Josef Spann, 1. Vorsitzender  
Bayerischer Waldbesitzerverband e. V.



Dieter Hüttlinger, Landesvorsitzender  
Bundesverband freiberuflicher Forstsachverständiger e. V.  
Landesgruppe Bayern



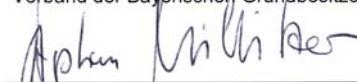
Horst Gleißner, 1. Vorsitzender  
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Prof. Dr. Eckhard Kennel, 1. Vorsitzender  
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