

# **Sabatini, FM, B Hendrik ... F Horváth ... T Kuemmerle (2021) European primary forest database v2.0. SCIENTIFIC DATA 8(1) Paper:220, 14 p.**

Reference: Sabatini Francesco Mari, Bluhm Hendrik, Kun Zoltan, Aksenov Dmitry, Atauri Jose A., Buchwald Erik, Burrascano Sabina, Cateau Eugenie, Diku Abdulla, Duarte Ines Marques, Fernandez Lopez Angel B., Garbarino Matteo, Grigoriadis Nikolaos, Horvath Ferenc, Keren Srdan, Kis Alen, Kraut Ann, Ibisch Pierre L., Larrieu Laurent, Lombardi Fabio, Matovic Bratislav, Melu Radu Nicolae, Meyer Peter, Midteng Rein, Mikac Stjepan, Mikolas Martin, Mozgeris Gintautas, Panayotov Momchil, Pisek Rok, Nunes Leonia, Ruete Alejandro, Schickhofer Matthias, Simovski Bojan, Stillhard Jonas, Stojanovic Dejan, Szwagrzyk Jerzy, Tikkanen Olli-Pekka, Toromani Elvin, Volosyanchuk Roman, Vrska Tomas, Waldherr Marcus, Yermokhin Maxim, Zlatanov Tzvetan, Zagidullina Asiya, Kuemmerle Tobias (2021) European primary forest database v2.0. SCIENTIFIC DATA 8(1) Paper:220, 14 p.

Short reference: Sabatini et al. (2021)

First author: Sabatini FM

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## **Abstract**

Primary forests, defined here as forests where the signs of human impacts, if any, are strongly blurred due to decades without forest management, are scarce in Europe and continue to disappear. Despite these losses, we know little about where these forests occur. Here, we present a comprehensive geodatabase and map of Europe's known primary forests. Our geodatabase harmonizes 48 different, mostly field-based datasets of primary forests, and contains 18,411 individual patches (41.1 Mha) spread across 33 countries. When available, we provide information on each patch (name, location, naturalness, extent, and dominant tree species) and the surrounding landscape (biogeographical regions, protection status, potential natural vegetation, current forest extent). Using Landsat satellite-image time series (1985–2018) we checked each patch for possible disturbance events since primary forests were identified, resulting in 94% of patches free of significant disturbances in the last 30 years. Although knowledge gaps remain, ours is the most comprehensive dataset on primary forests in Europe and will be useful for ecological studies, and conservation

planning to safeguard these unique forests.

[nature conservation](#)

[map: forest management map](#)

[remote sensing: space image](#)

[ecosystem: disturbance, pollution](#)

[informatics, database, software](#)

[General, other ...](#)

Notes

For Austria, Switzerland, and Hungary, additional data on primary forests exists but it is not currently open-access, and therefore not considered here.

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