



Acronym	DEADWOOD-DIST
Full Title	DEadwood Addition Distance-based effects on WOODland Development and DISTurbance recovery
Partner(s)	Department of Geosciences and natural resource management, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Grant Theme	Establishing Climate-Smart Forestry and forest restoration pilots in Europe with citizen and stakeholder engagement
Start Date	April 2026
Duration	12 months
Description	Deadwood shapes regeneration dynamics, yet its role in forest recovery remains poorly understood in spatially explicit terms. This project establishes a forest restoration pilot to test how distance to deadwood influences (1) tree establishment, (2) growth of young trees, and (3) key Climate-Smart Forestry indicators. The experimental design is (4) co-developed with the local forestry unit hosting the site, ensuring direct management relevance. (5) Citizen engagement is achieved through MSc students in forest and nature management who co-design a monitoring scheme accessible to non-specialists. All data will be open access and integrated into the ForestWard Observatory, delivering baseline datasets, and protocols for long-term monitoring and scaling. Preliminary analyses indicate that deadwood effects on establishment and growth are species-specific and poorly captured by common metrics such as deadwood volume. Instead, positive effects emerge at particular distances for certain species, suggesting species-specific “Goldilocks zones” of influence. The pilot is embedded within the long-running Sønderjylland forest recovery experiment, with three contrasting post-disturbance management treatments in windthrown spruce plantations: non-intervention, salvage logging followed by non-intervention, and salvage logging followed by planting. Divergent trajectories across treatments provide a unique platform for isolating distance-dependent deadwood effects. The site featured in multiple peer-reviewed studies, demonstrating strong scientific and management relevance. The FORWARDS grant will establish deadwood–distance pilot plots, install standardised logs, plant trees at defined distances, and complete baseline measurements. The project combines an observational distance gradient study of spontaneous regeneration with a controlled experiment, with long-term data collection ensured through integration into an extended funding framework.



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