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RESDINET NEWS

When disturbances cascade in forests: From field observation to evidence-based resilience



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Around 30 researchers from Slovakia, Finland and Sweden gathered in Tatranská Javorina for the RESDINET project's final meeting and workshop week. Field excursions and modelling sessions focused on forest disturbance ecology, linking real-world observations with simulation tools to understand bark beetles, root rot and climate stress. The event showcased global expertise, local impact and evidence-based solutions for forest resilience.

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At the RESDINET seminar in Tatranská Javorina, researchers from Slovakia, Finland and Sweden showcased the latest advances in forest disturbance research. Talks ranged from drone-based spectroscopy and hyperspectral early-warning signals to tree genomics and bark beetle modelling. The seminar highlighted RESDINET's mission to combine data, ecology and AI for evidence-based forest protection.

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During the RESDINET final meeting, researchers spent two days in the Tatra Mountains observing how windstorms, bark beetles and root-rot fungi shape mountain forests. Field excursions revealed how disturbance cascades can lead to landslides and long-term forest decline, underscoring the need for accurate diagnosis and early action. The visits connected real landscapes with modelling and remote sensing work, demonstrating RESDINET's mission to turn data into evidence-based resilience strategies.

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In the High Tatras, RESDINET researchers observed how wind, drought, bark beetles and root-rot fungi interact to undermine spruce resilience. Field evidence showed that *Armillaria* infection weakens young trees, making them more vulnerable to beetle attack and slope failures during extreme weather. By combining field data with remote sensing and modelling, RESDINET is developing tools to detect stress early and forecast risks. This research supports evidence-based forest management in a changing climate.

WHEN DISTURBANCES CASCADE IN FORESTS