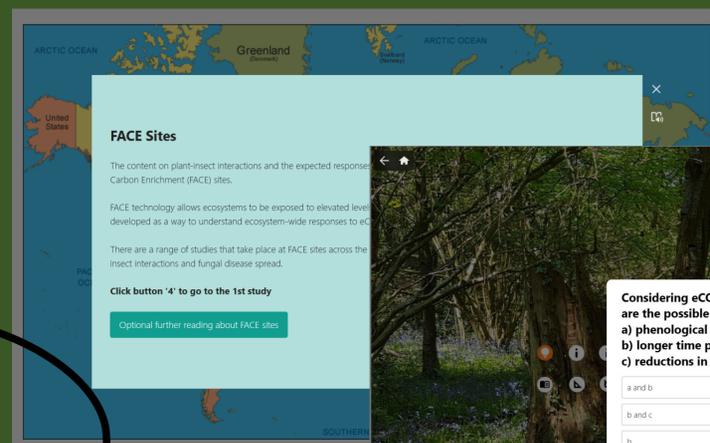


# Trees in Time: Securing the Future Workforce for Global Forest Health

## Undergraduate Research: Enhancing Student Interest in Ecology

- Low interest in plant sciences and ecology among biology students across all key-stage levels<sup>1</sup>, despite growing need for professional expertise within these areas<sup>2</sup>.
- Therefore, we designed evidence-based teaching resources to enhance student interest by emphasising translation of local ecological research to address societal challenges: food security, climate-induced migration...
- But students were largely already aware of value of ecological research- what is holding students back from further study?
- Academic opinions: school-level delivery of plant and ecology topics, career uncertainty and inopportunity...

Introducing cutting-edge FACE research and applying it to global challenges



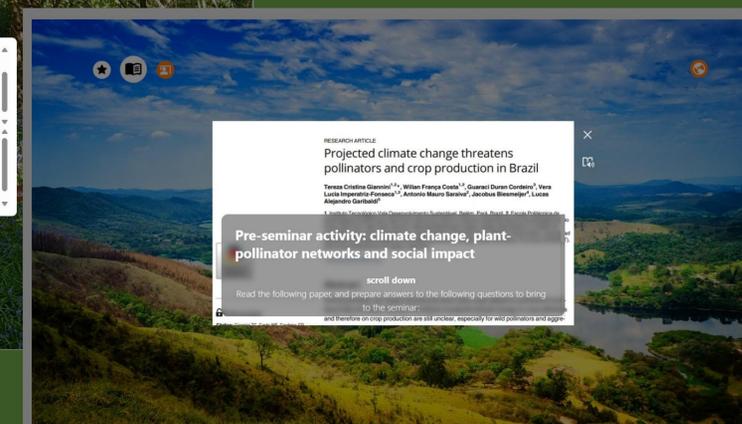
Evidence-based learning resources for ecology education



Scan me to access the digital lesson!



Emphasis on real-world applications and sociopolitical context



## Similar challenges for the Forestry Sector

- As part of the UK government's Net Zero by 2050 strategy, the Forestry sector needs to create 30,000 Ha of new woodland per year<sup>3</sup>.
- However, the number of students applying to Forestry related courses and training programmes in Further and Higher Education is declining each year<sup>4</sup>...
- How can we reverse this trend to secure the increasing number of forestry professionals required to meet this target?

How can we Inspire Students to Mobilise the Future Forestry Workforce?  
Add your ideas to the tree!



### Acknowledgements

With special thanks to Leah Worthington for collaboration in creating the teaching resources, and Professor Jeremy Pritchard for his supervision in the piloting of the resources in the University of Birmingham's 1st Year Biosciences degree programmes.

### References

<sup>1</sup> Stroud *et al.*, (2022). DOI: 10.1002/ece3.9019 <sup>2</sup> DfE (2022). *Sustainability and climate change: a strategy for the education and children's services systems.* <sup>3</sup> Gov.UK (2021). *UK's path to net zero set out in landmark strategy.* <sup>4</sup> Forestry Skills Forum (2021). *2021 Annual Report.*