

The importance of dead wood in the forest

- As the forest matures and some trees die, the **ecosystem** becomes more **complex** and **biodiversity** increases.
- More than **25%** of **forest species** depend on **dead or senescent wood** at some point in their lives.
- Dead wood of **different tree species, size, stage of decay and position** is required to accommodate the wide diversity of associated species.



Dryocopus martius

Many vertebrates **breed** in the cavities of dead wood and **feed** on the insects that live in it.



Daedaleopsis tricolor

Fungi are crucial in the **decomposition** of dead wood, because they allow nutrients to be recycled.



Rosalia alpina

Mature forests with dead wood are the **habitat** of endangered specialist species.