Is the European forest sector ready to transform? European forest policy from an environmentalist's perspective

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The campaigning NGO for greater environmental and social justice, with a focus on forests and forest peoples rights in the policies and practices of the EU

content

- EU Forestry Strategy and EU FAP
- Biomass
- Climate Change
- Biodiversity
- New EU Forest Strategy
- Missed opportunities …

FERN's mission is to achieve greater environmental and social justice, focusing on forests and forest peoples' rights in the policies and practices of the European Union.

EU Forestry Strategy (1)

- EMPHASISES the importance of the multifunctional role of forests and sustainable forest management based on their social, economic, environmental, ecological and cultural functions for the development of society and, in particular, rural areas and emphasises the contribution forests and forestry can make to existing Community policies,

EU Forestry Strategy (2)

Identifies as substantial elements of this common Forestry Strategy:

- *sustainable forest management as defined by the MCPFE in Helsinki 1993, and the multifunctional role of forests as overall principles for action;*
- *the principle of subsidiarity, given the fact that the Treaty establishing the European Community makes no provision for a specific common forestry policy and that responsibility for forestry policy lies with the Member States, nevertheless taking into account that, pursuant to the principle of subsidiarity and the concept of shared responsibility, the Community can contribute positively to the implementation of sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests*

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Evaluation EU Forestry Strategy - 2005

"...while the EU Forestry Strategy is based on subsidiarity and shared responsibility, there are a number of EU policies and initiatives that affect forests and forestry. There is a need to strengthen coherence between EU policies, as well as co-ordination between the Commission and the Member States, and to establish adequate monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Strategy, so that the various functions of forests and their links with other policies are addressed in a coherent way in the policy formation process"

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EU Forest Action Plan

The overall objective of the EU Forest Action Plan is to support and enhance SFM and the multifunctional role of forests. It is based on the following principles:

- *national forest programmes as a suitable framework for implementing international forest-related commitments;*
- *the increasing importance of global and cross-sectoral issues in forest policy, calling for improved coherence and coordination;*
- *the need to enhance the competitiveness of the EU forest sector and good governance of EU forests;*
- *respect for the principle of subsidiarity.*

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The action plan is not an action plan in our view

- Internal contradictions: how to “weigh” environmental, social and economic
- No clear performance based results
- Does not provide a vision, but pleases all sectors

Key activity 7: “contribute towards achieving the revised Community biodiversity objectives for 2010 and beyond”

- Activities proposed: exchange of information and dialogue between the Commission and Member States
- Mid-term evaluation: Many stakeholders organisations stated that it was difficult to assess to what extent the EU FAP results can drive changes in practice and that there was little to no effect of the EU FAP on the ground (or in the forest) on the issues concerned
- Ex-post evaluation: It is not possible to discern what impact, if any, activities under Key Action 7 have had on Community biodiversity objectives, because their potential impact could only be indirect. Implementation was only partial, ...”

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Biomass

The Climate and Energy package

1. A 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels;
2. Raising the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%;
3. A 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.

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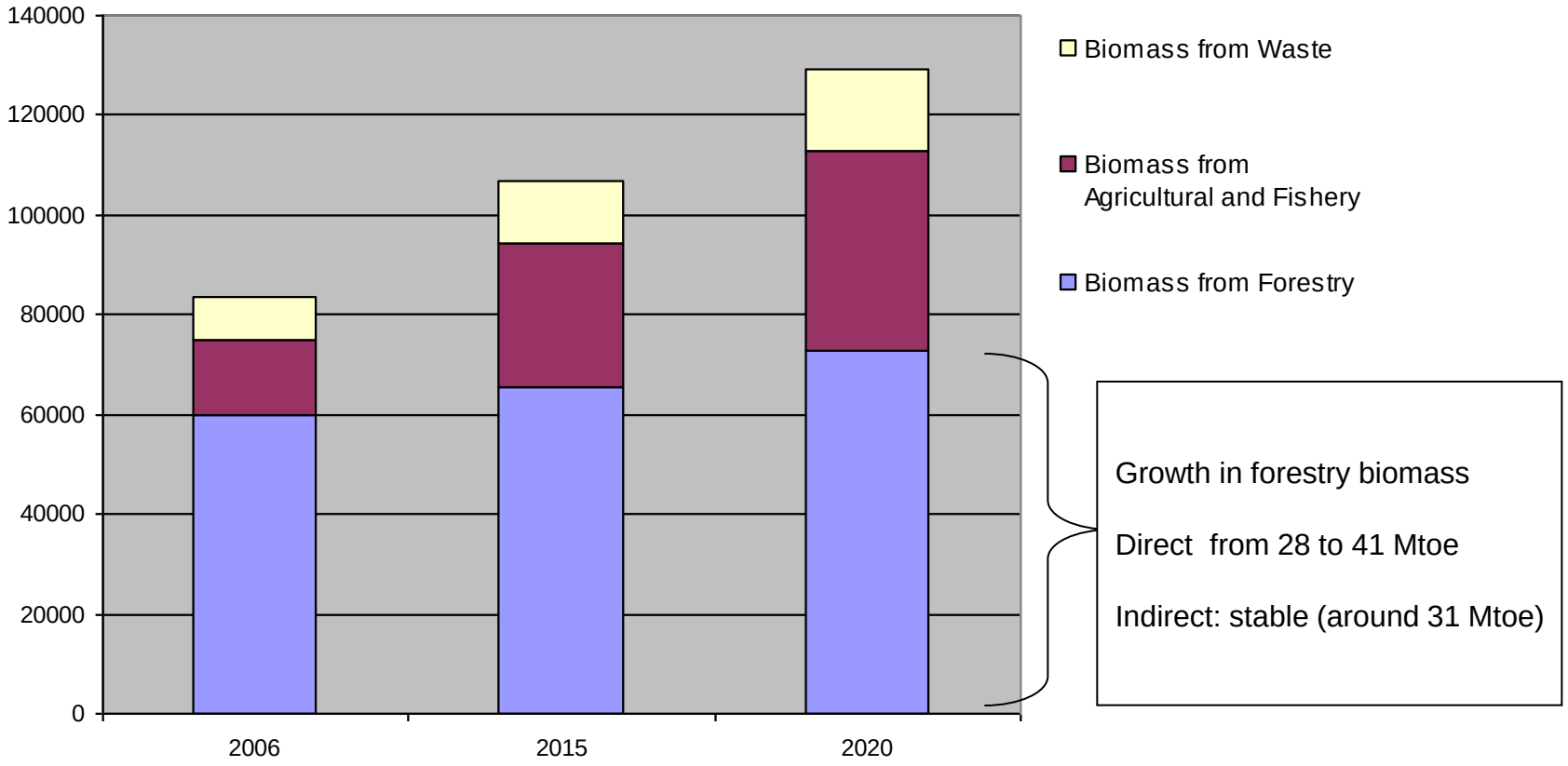
Bioenergy supply (Ktoe)

Primary energy from biomass supply (ktoe)



Source: 25 NREAPs
2006: domestic biomass + imported biomass – exported biomass
2015 and 2020: domestic biomass

Source: European Commission

"The fossil fuels burned in 1997 were created from organic matter containing 44 × 1018 g C, which is >400 times the net primary productivity (NPP) of the planet's current biota."

Source: Dukes, J.S. (2003). Burning buried sunshine: human consumption of ancient solar energy. Climate Change 61: 31-44.

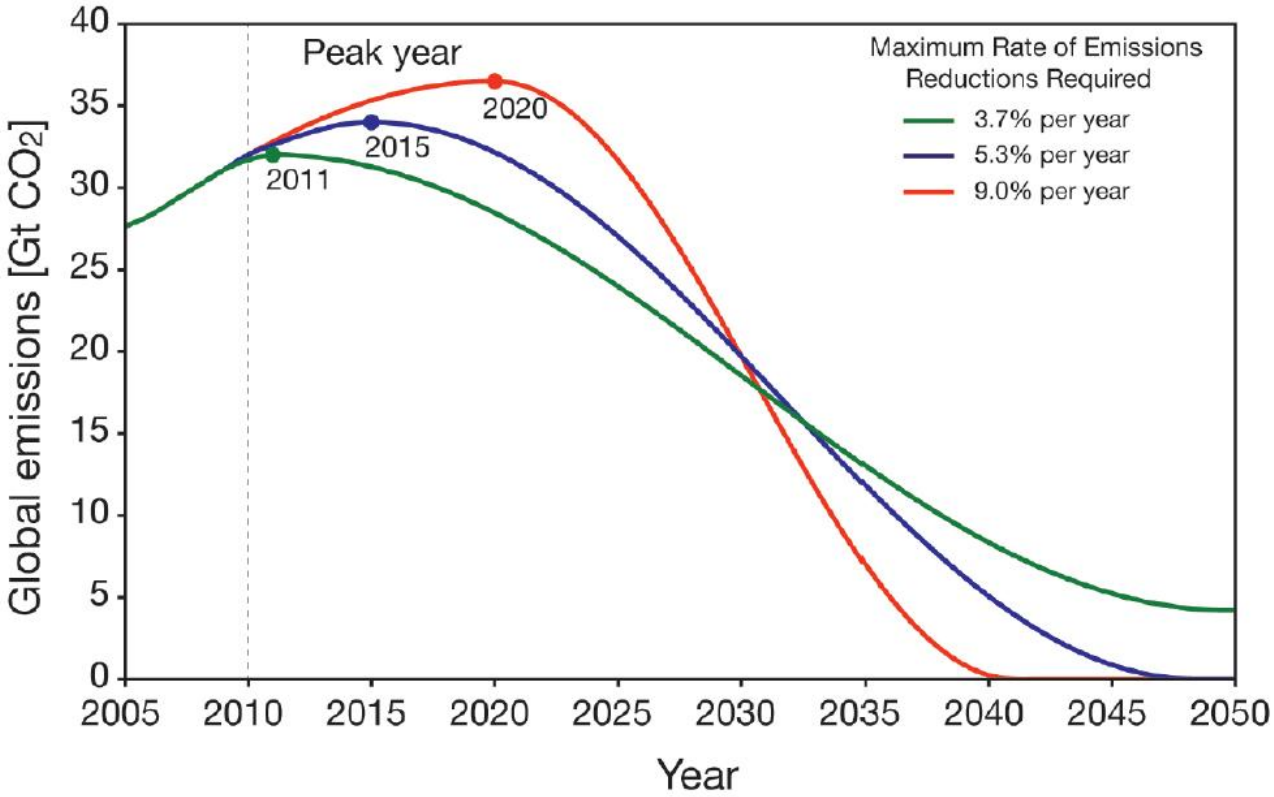
Biodiversity: luxury or necessity?

We don't really have a choice about whether to act or not. We lost the luxury of choice a long time ago

Janez Potocnik, October 2010,

Time is running out

- Emissions pathways to give 67% chance of limiting global warming to 2ºC



Source: The Copenhagen Diagnosis 2009

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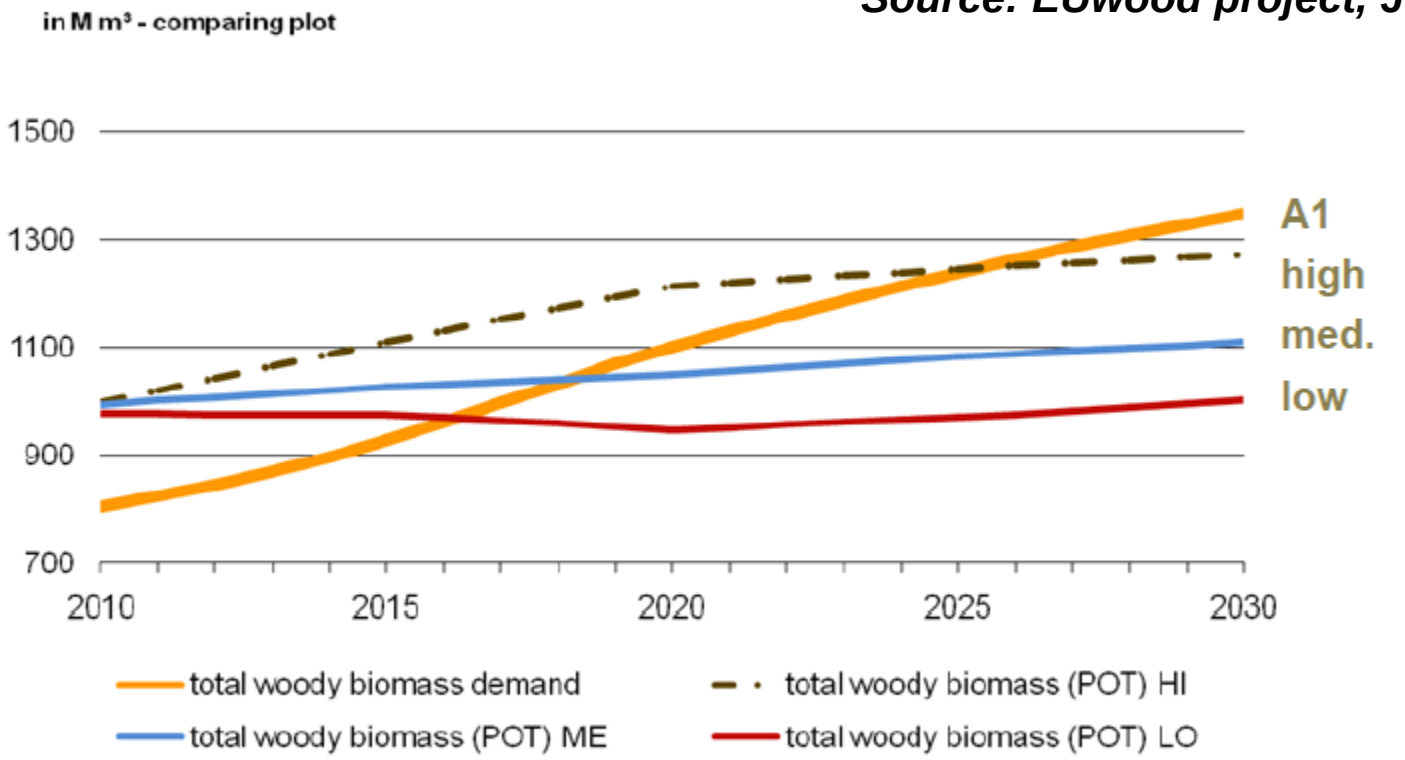
Do demand and supply match?

- EU27 - total woody biomass demand and potential with low, medium and high mobilisation scenario

Source: EUwood project, June 2010



Source: MANTAU, Wood resource balance, EUwood – team 2010 (VERKERK/LINDNER/ANTILLA/ASSIKAINEN: EFISCEN forest resources and constraints; LEEK, N.: Post consumer wood; OLDENBURGER J.: Landscap care wood; SAAL, U.: industrial residues; MANTAU/SAAL: Wood industry; PRINS, K.: Policy options; JOHNSONS, R. EFSOS calculations)

Megatrend wood supply – 2020

- Increasing demand for wood through population and economic growth
- More expensive wood
- Where should the wood come from?

Western EU	Deficit
Eastern EU	Deficit
Rest of Eastern Europe	Balanced
Russia	Is probably at production ceiling under current conditions
Japan	Deficit
China	Huge deficit

New Zealand & Australia	+ 40 million m^3
South East Asia	Beginning deficit
India	Deficit
Africa	Beginning deficit
Latin America	Expansion potential
USA	Deficit
Canada	Deficit

Source: Sten Nilsson. Global Wood Supply. European Parliament, 10 November 2011.

How does EU bioenergy policy deal with increased use of biomass ?

- Sustainability of biomass is not sufficiently guaranteed
- The scarcity of supply is ignored at policy level and there is no overarching framework to ensure scarce resources are used environmentally and efficiently
- There is a lack of coherence with other policies at EU and national level
- There is a lot of talk about imports but plans are vague on how much will be imported and from where it will come

And what after 2020?

- *« The expected rise in the use of biomass after 2020 heightens the need to use existing biomass resources more efficiently and to accelerate productivity growth in agriculture and forestry in a sustainable manner in the EU and globally. …*
- *At the same time, it is important to take strong global action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and help ensure the availability of biomass at competitive prices …*
- *This will be addressed through the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive and the EU Bio-economy Strategy, the proposed reform of the CAP, the forthcoming EU Forest Strategy and the EU action on climate change and on development cooperation. »*

EC Communication: Renewable Energy: a major player in the European Energy market – COM(2012)271

Climate change

The need to increase awareness on CC

Yet climate change will affect all lead markets bioenergy, wood construction, biobased products affecting resource worldwide

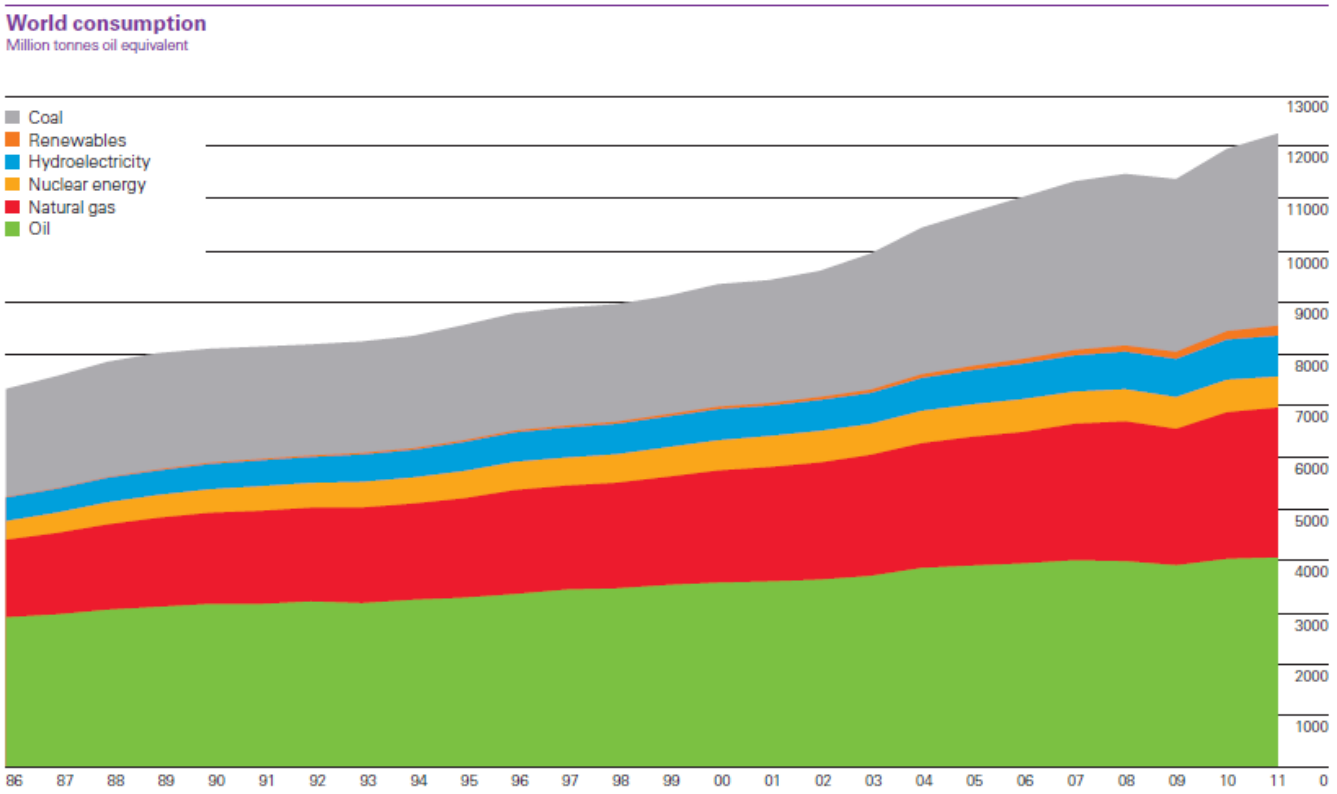
- **In quantity**
  - Because of production areas swift
  - Because of growth rate changes
  - Because of damages
- **In quality**
  - Because of new conditions

Climate Change	Species	Direct Impact	Potential Impact on Timber Properties
Increased temperatures	Sitka spruce	Increased growth, lammas growth	Lower wood density, increased branchiness
	Scots pine	Increased growth, lammas growth	No impact on density, increased branchiness
	Oak	Increased growth, lammas growth	Higher density, increased branchiness
Drier summers	Sitka spruce	Earlier switch to latewood	Higher wood density, drought cracks, ring shake
	Scots pine	Reduced growth	Little impact on density
	Oak	Drought stress	Increased shake
Wetter winters	Sitka spruce	Shallower rooting and increased leaning	Compression wood, poorer form
	Scots pine	Increased leaning	Compression wood, poorer form and heavier branching
	Oak	Increased lean	Tension wood
Milder winters	Sitka spruce	Earlier flushing	Risk of frost damage
	Scots pine	Earlier flushing	Risk of frost damage, more blue stain
	Oak	Earlier flushing	Risk of frost damage, reduced vessel size
Increased storminess (?)	Sitka spruce	Increased wind damage, leader loss	Higher levels of compression wood, poorer stem form
	Scots pine	Increased wind damage, leader loss	Higher levels of compression wood, poorer stem form
	Oak	Increase lean	Higher levels of tension wood
Increased pest and disease	Sitka spruce	*Dendroctunus micans, Armillaria Heterobasidion*	Reduced growth rates
	Scots pine	*Dothistroma septosporum, Tomicus*	Reduced growth rate and increased mortality
	Oak	*Phytophthora, Amillaria* and *Biscogniauxia spp*	Reduced growth rate and increased mortality

Source: Presentation Christophe Orazio, Increasing awareness about climate change in the regions, ROKFOR conference, December 2012

Biomass: does it contribute to climate change mitigation?

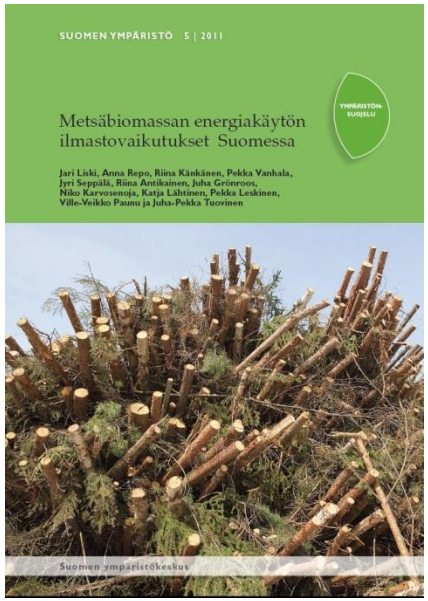
Is biomass substituting fossil fuels or rather an add-on to fossil fuels?



World primary energy consumption grew by 2.5% in 2011, less than half the growth rate experienced in 2010 but close to the historical average. Growth decelerated for all regions and for all fuels. Oil remains the world's leading fuel, accounting for 33.1% of global energy consumption, but this figure is the lowest share on record. Coal's market share of 30.3% was the highest since 1969.

Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy, June 2012

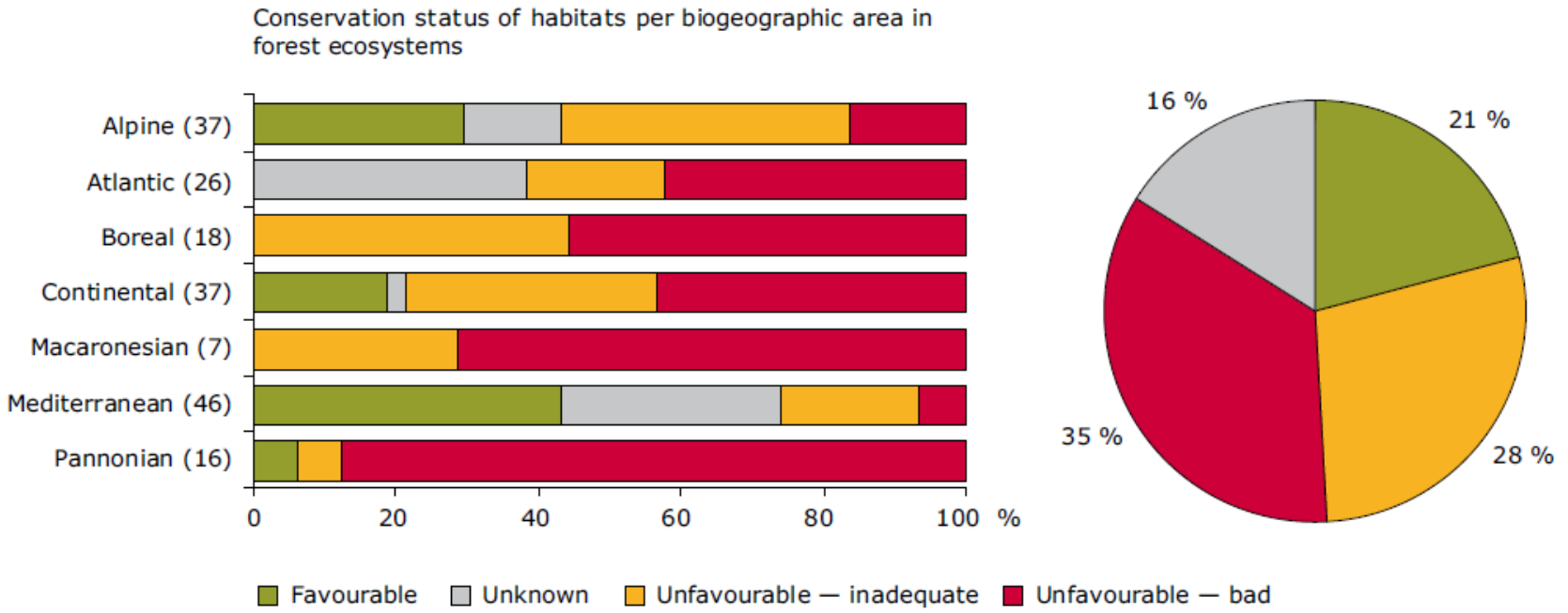
What are impacts of (intensified) forest management practices on climate?



Weaker carbon sink capacity of forests undermines the majority of climate benefits from forest energy

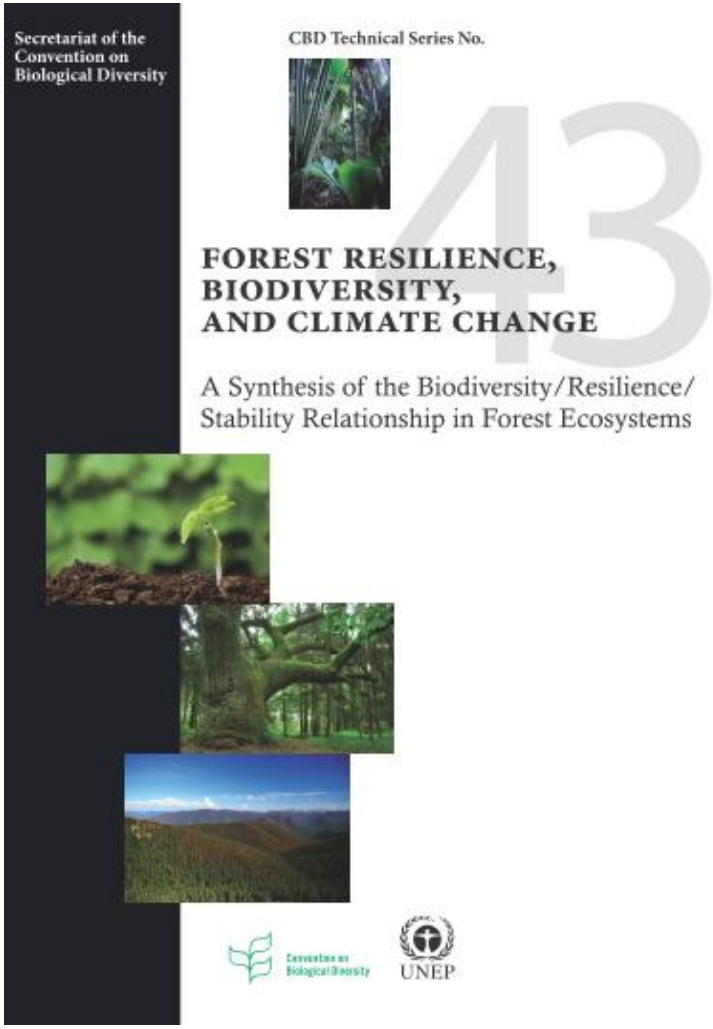
How to balance the different forest functions?

Figure 6.2 Conservation status of habitat types of European interest in forest ecosystems (statistics by region on the left, overall statistics on the right)



Source: EEA (2010). EU 2010 biodiversity baseline

"Maintaining and restoring biodiversity in forests promotes their resilience to human-induced pressures and is therefore an important 'insurance policy' and safeguard against loss of forest value and functionality and against expected climate change impacts."

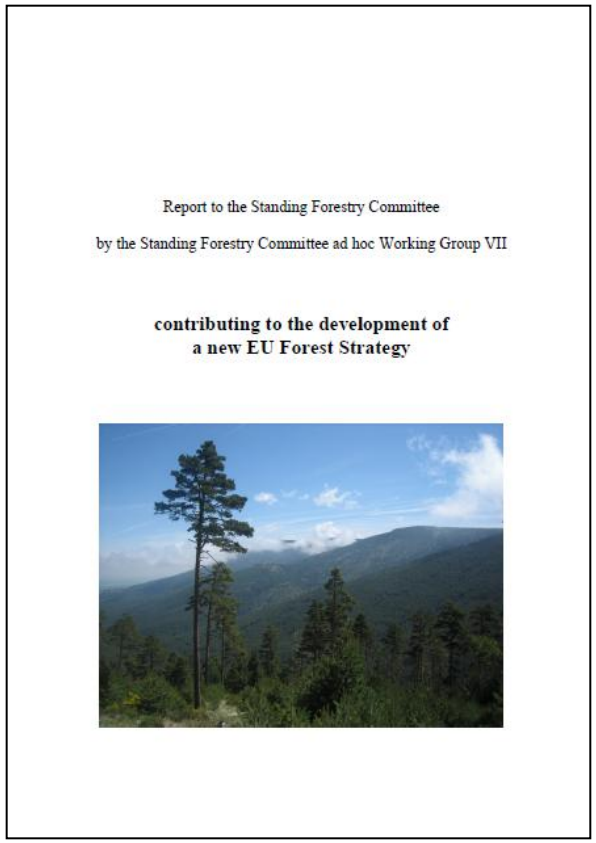


Bioenergy production: contributing to EU biodiversity and climate change objectives?

© Hans Sundström, SSNC

New EU Forest Strategy
A missed opportunity? Or looking the other way?

The new EU Forest Strategy: could this be a starting point?


Report to the Standing Forestry Committee

by the Standing Forestry Committee ad hoc Working Group VII

contributing to the development of a new EU Forest Strategy

Principles

- Sustainable forest management (SFM) and multifunctional role of forests.
- Continued provision of forest goods and services within the limits of what forests can sustainably supply.
- Enhanced coordination when preparing forest and forest sector related EU policies.

“There is a risk that we use our resources beyond the planet's capacity. The key word has to be efficient use of our resources. Sustainability.”

“Resource efficiency, climate change and energy provision will dominate the environmental agenda in forestry in the future. Finding the right linkages and solutions, based on sound science and up to date information, will be crucial.”

Janez Potocnik, 15 May, 2012 – ThinkForest event, Brussels

EU Resource Efficiency Initiative

- A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship Initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy
- Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe
- Consultation: options for Resource Efficiency Indicators

What about forests and forest products?

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The Resource Efficiency Initiative should provide a framework for a discussion on what forests in the EU can sustainably supply:

- what can forests in the EU sustainably supply, which demands can be met and which choices have to be made
- what are the current demands for forests in the EU (in terms of environmental and social services, wood and fuel) and where are the conflicts between the demands
- what policy initiatives would be needed to ensure that the current conflicting demands would effectively be dealt with and resolved. Policy would have to refocus on supply rather than demand

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THANK YOU

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