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# Restoring and monitoring European forest



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## Fern

Founded in 1995, we are based in the heart of the EU and the UK, dedicated to protecting forests and the rights of people who depend on them.

Fern was created with the idea of not just campaigning, but also guiding other NGOs to understand and get involved in campaigning at the EU level. We were keen not to speak on behalf of other organisations, but to open space for other organisations to raise their own voices.



## Restoring and monitoring European forest

- The state of European forests
- What does European Green Deal mean for European forest?
- Nature Restoration Law and Forest Monitoring Law

## Europe is a continent of degraded forests.

97% old growth forest lost

Less than 35% of European forest species are associated with a favorable conservation status.

More than 70% of which is even-aged

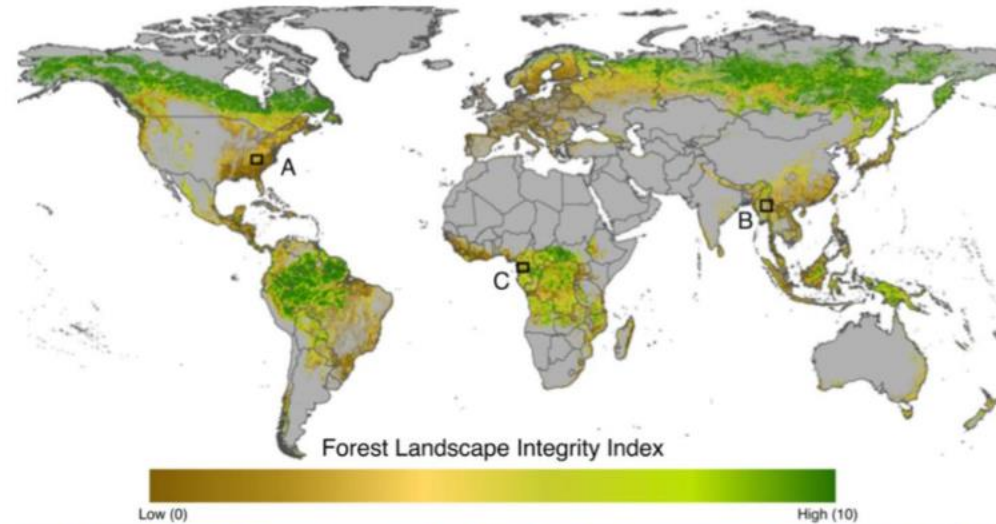


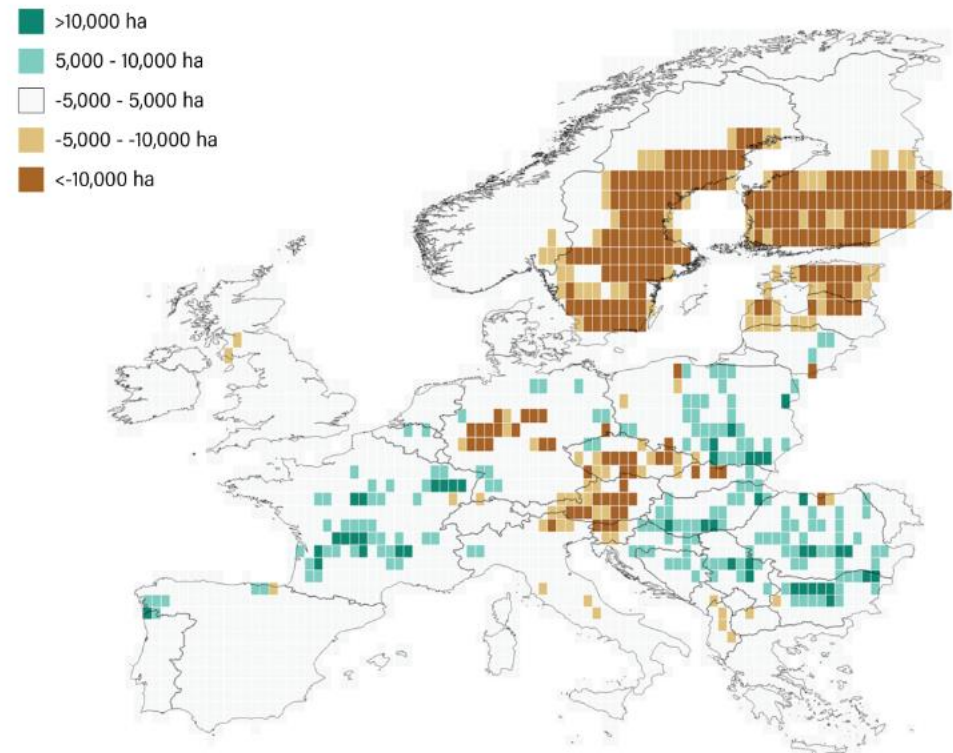
Fig. 1. Global map of forest landscape integrity (combination of quality & extent). Source: Grantham et al. (2020)

## European forests are getting younger

Tall forest (above 15 m) have lost are in decline – more than an area of Slovenia has been lost in 20 years.

Intensive wood harvest is the main reason for tree cover loss.

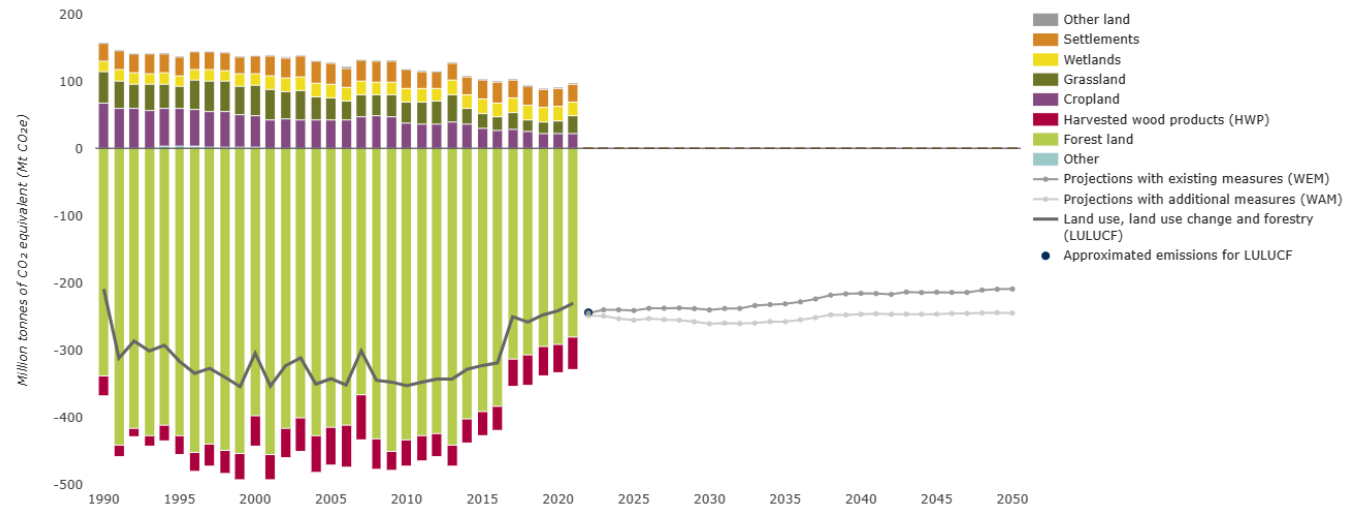
Net change in tall tree cover (height  $\geq 15$  meters) in Europe 2001-2021

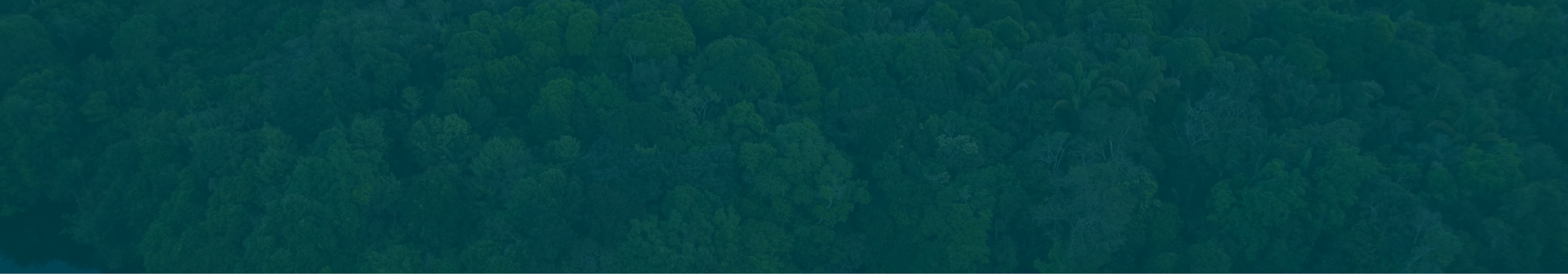


*Note:* Change shown per 50 × 50 km equal area grid cell. *Source:* Turubanova et al. 2023.

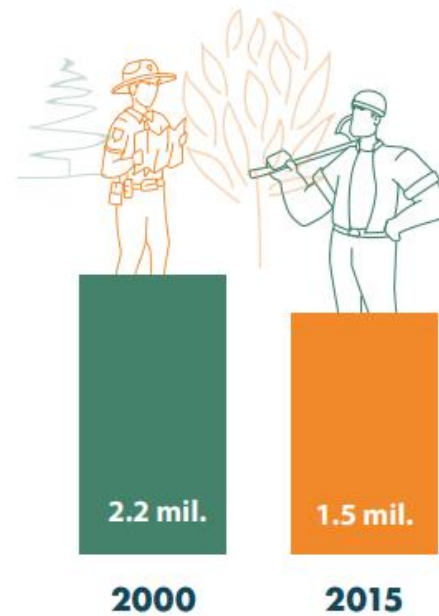
# European forests are less of a sink

Figure 1. EU emissions and removals of the LULUCF sector by main land use category





## Employment in the forest sector



Employment in the forest sector in the EU27 and the UK decreased by about 32% from 2000 to 2015. Source: Forest Europe, *State of Europe's Forest*, p. 179.



## Citizens are not happy with how the forests are treated





## EU response

Climate Law – new land sink target for the EU

European Green Deal – general mandate for interventions

Biodiversity Strategy – new ambition in changing trends in EU

Forest Strategy – comprehensive strategy for EU forest within EGD.



## Key files and outcomes (2)

Deforestation regulation (EUDR)

LULUCF regulation

**Nature Restoration Law (NRL)**

Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)

Packaging regulation (PPWR)

Carbon Removal Certificates Framework (CRCF)

**Forest Monitoring Law (FML)**

# Nature Restoration Law (NRL)

EC: “The European Commission’s proposal for a Nature Restoration Law is the first continent-wide, comprehensive law of its kind. It is a key element of the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#), which calls for binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.”



Brussels, 22.6.2022  
COM(2022) 304 final  
2022/0195 (COD)

Proposal for a

**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

**on nature restoration**

(Text with EEA relevance)

{SEC(2022) 256 final} - {SWD(2022) 167 final} - {SWD(2022) 168 final}

# NRL and managed forests

**Member states must monitor, set benchmarks and ensure trends for :**

common forest bird index;

standing deadwood;

lying deadwood;

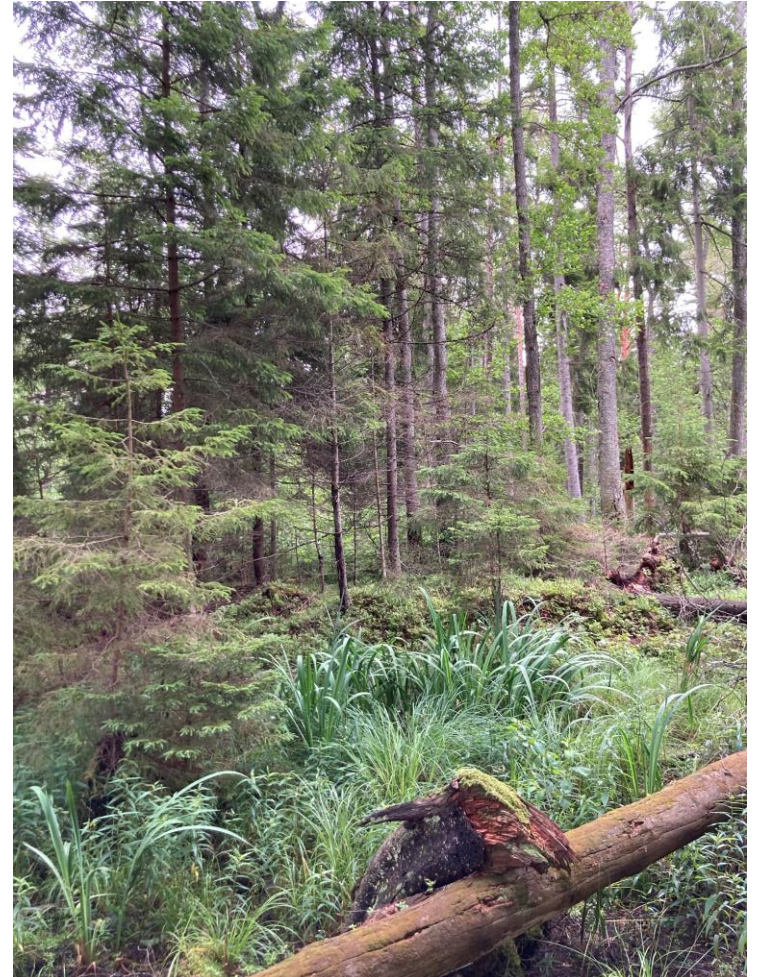
share of forests with uneven-aged structure;

forest connectivity;

stock of organic carbon;

share of forests dominated by native tree species;

tree species diversity



# Forest Monitoring Law (FML)

EC: “Forests play a key role in responding to climate change, preserving and restoring biodiversity, safeguarding health, ensuring water resilience and developing the bioeconomy. However, information on European forests is often incomplete or outdated.

It is crucial to have precise, complete and up-to-date information on European forests. Therefore, the Commission proposed a new law on a monitoring framework for resilient European forests. “



Brussels, 22.11.2023  
COM(2023) 728 final  
2023/0413 (COD)

Proposal for a  
**REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
on a monitoring framework for resilient European forests

(Text with EEA relevance)  
[SEC(2023) 384 final] - [SWD(2023) 372 final] - [SWD(2023) 373 final] -  
[SWD(2023) 374 final]

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# What can good FML do to European forests?

- Add accountability by monitoring existing regulation implementation.
- be informative for future policy decision EU wide and nationally.
- add traceability and fight illegality
- make member states to commit to strategic planning





## What's next?

- How will the new regulations be implemented?
- How will transition to close to nature forest management be funded?
- How will the forest be treated in 2040 targets and objectives?





Thank you

[www.fern.org](http://www.fern.org)