



Environmental Paper Network

Finnish forestry model - an example to follow?

Otto Miettinen

Environmental Paper Network

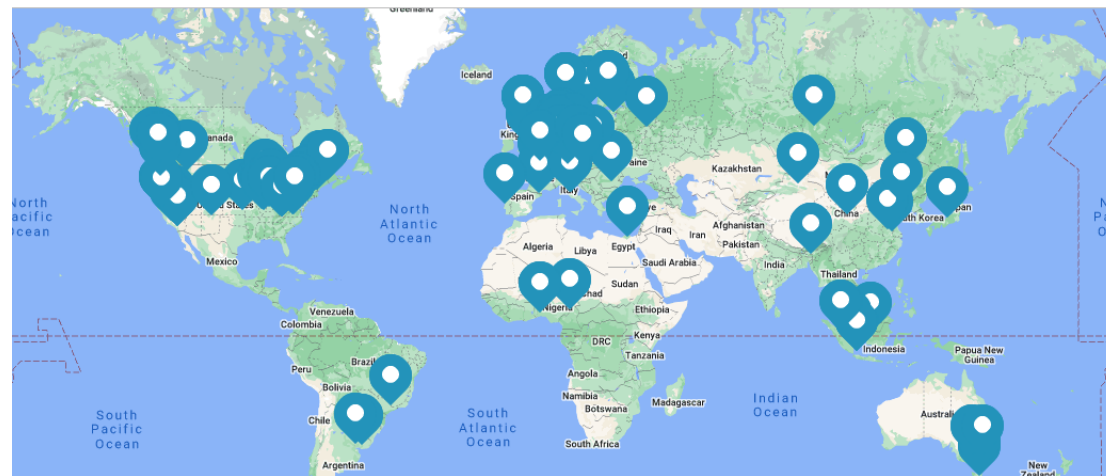
6.12.2023



Environmental Paper Network

- Network of >200 civil society organizations
- Paper Vision: decreased consumption, transformation of the paper industry
- Biomass: Criticism of large-scale wood burning as a climate solution

Members of the Environmental Paper Network



For Forests country group: Austria, Finland, Sweden and Slovenia

“Informal strategic partnership” established in
17.10.2022 between Ministers of Forestry

Irene Šinko:

“By establishing the informal strategic partnership, we endeavour to draw attention of the four Member States, inter alia, to the important role of forests and forestry in transition of the European Union to the sustainable, green, climate-neutral and competitive circular bioeconomy.”

JOINT STATEMENT

of the Ministers responsible for Forestry of Austria, Finland, Slovenia, Sweden

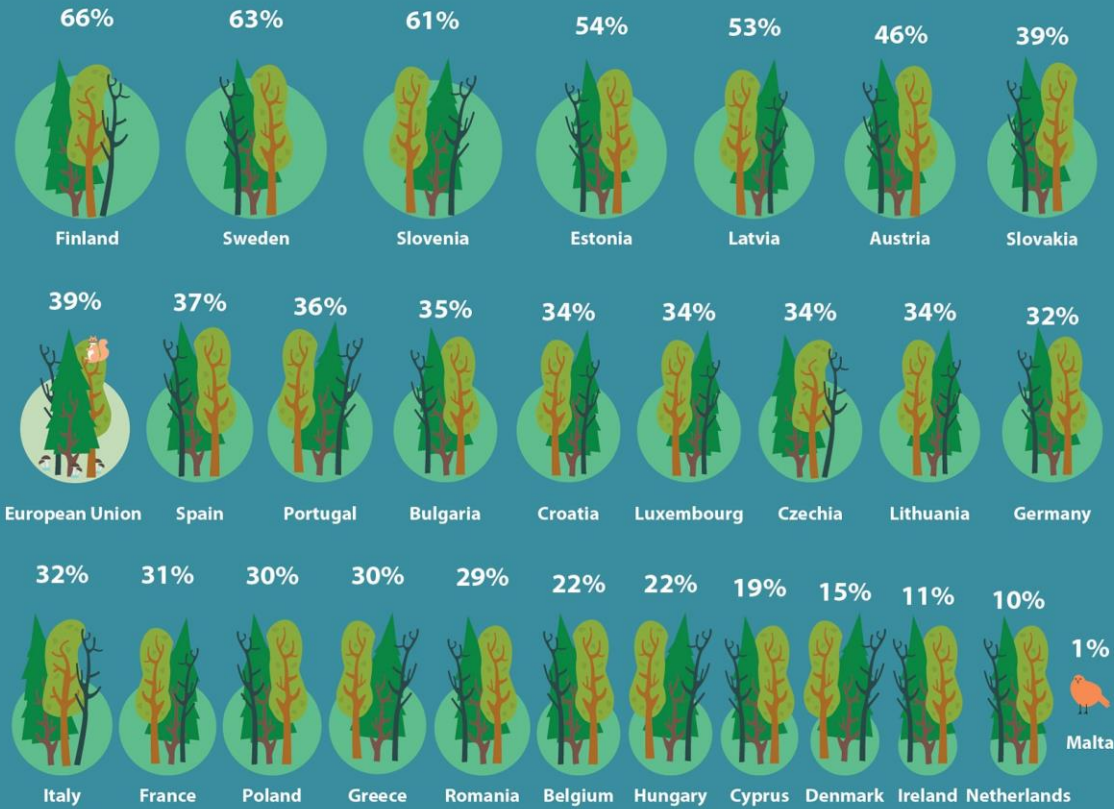
**Informal meeting of Forest Ministers of the
"FOR FOREST GROUP"**

**25 – 26 September 2023, Vienna and Stuhleck,
Austria**

**„Shaping the future of European forests and the
forest based sector – leading the way forward”**

Area covered by forests in 2020

(% of total area*)

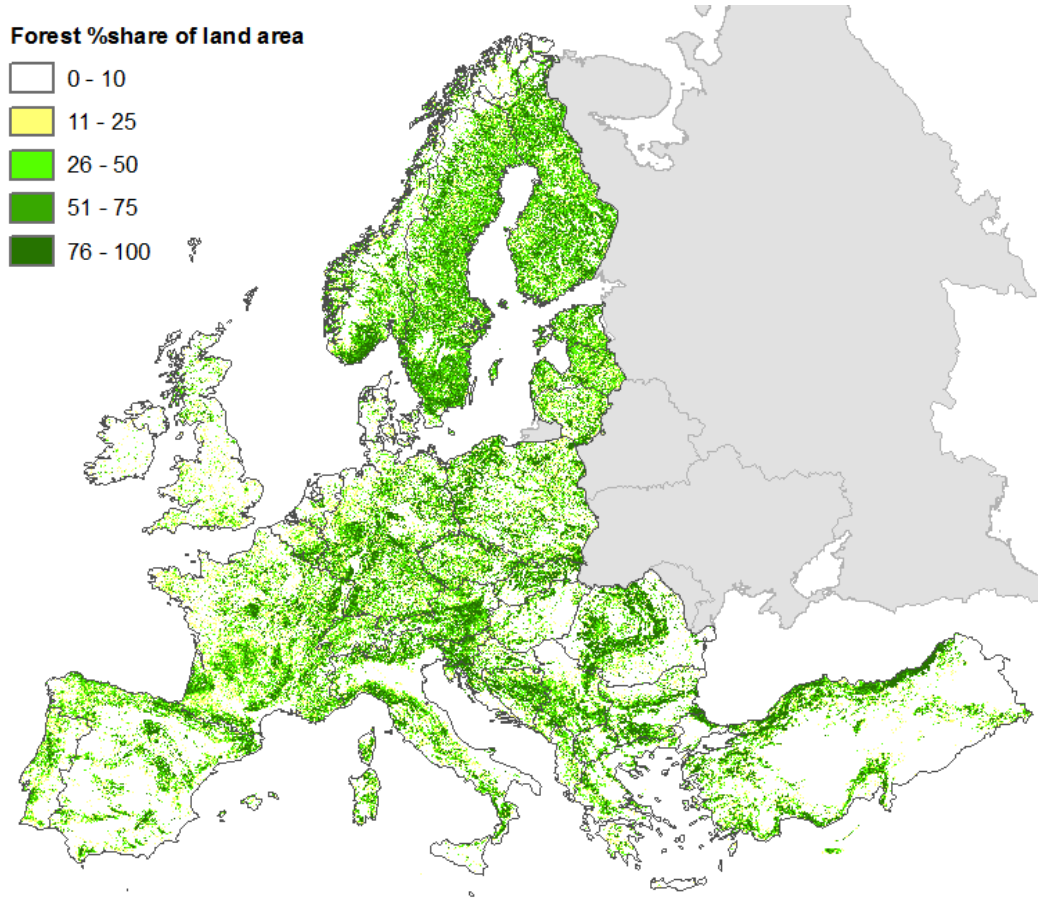
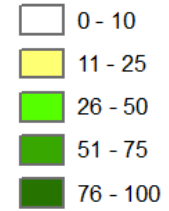


Forests data: estimates; source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - Forest Resources Assessment, European Forest Accounts (EFA)
 * 2016 data used for the total area.

#EUForests

ec.europa.eu/eurostat

Forest %share of land area



Source: State of the European forests 2020

For Forests country group: Austria, Finland, Sweden and Slovenia

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Joint statement 26.9.2023

Economic interests, ownership rights

“care must be given to avoid additional requirements and costs for the enterprises and forest owners”

“Entrepreneurial freedom within the framework of national forest laws”

Promotion of wood use

“Forest-based products are renewable, resource efficient, versatile and essential for the growing sustainable bioeconomy”

“The production of **energy** from woody biomass is one of the cornerstones of a sustainable energy mix”

National self-determination

“The concrete design of sustainable forest management should be adapted to national, regional and local conditions in order to achieve the best possible impact”

“EU Member States and forest holdings must be given the necessary leeway in the design of forest development and forest management”

For Forests country group: Austria, Finland, Sweden and Slovenia

Helsinki Times

Finland forms group with three other countries to
defend forest industry in EU

FINLAND / 19 OCTOBER 2022

Former MEP, Minister Sari Essayah to the EU: 'Forest issues should not be approached "through the back door"'

2.11.2023 / ARTICLE
CLIMATE CHANGE, SILVICULTURE



Appointed in June as Finland's Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Sari Essayah is also known as a former racewalker with one World Championship and one European Championship under her belt. Photo: Vilma Issakainen / Finnish Forest Association

'Finnish forest management could serve as a model,' says Sari Essayah, former Member of European Parliament and newly appointed Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

Source: forest.fi

Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry **Sari Essayah** (Christian Democrats) suggests that other European countries should model themselves on how Finland and Sweden manage their forests.

'I have done my best to introduce to the EU decision-makers the idea that they should observe how Finland does it. I don't know if it's too self-satisfied to say this, but unfortunately, the forests in many European countries are in poor shape. To some extent, they have been destroyed through ill-considered policy,' says Essayah, MEP for Finland in 2009–2014, when interviewed by forest.fi

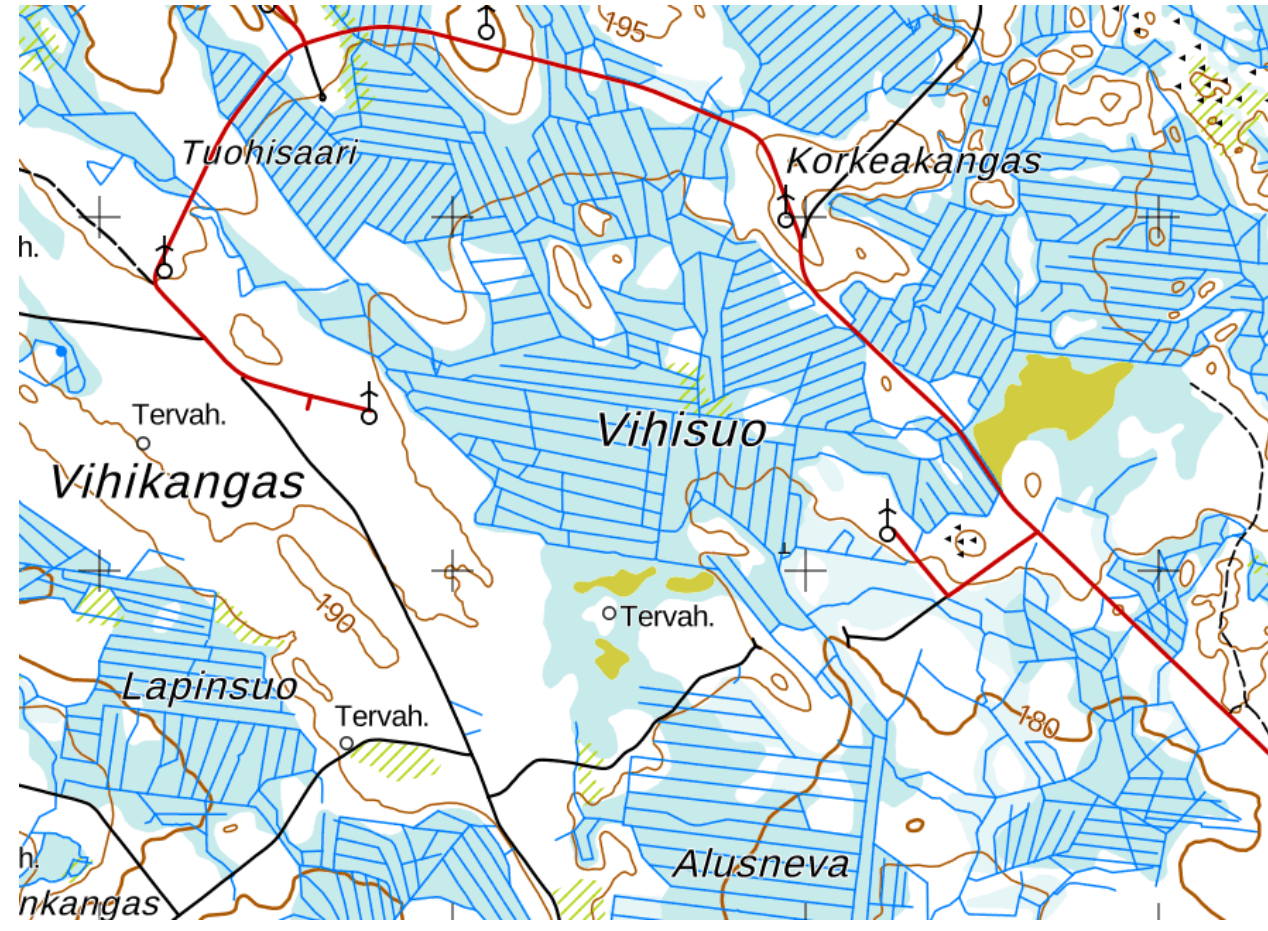
'The postwar forestry in Finland is a success story and the basis of our national economy. In addition, we do have protected nature and national parks. Everyone's rights enable all citizens to enjoy a hike in the forests, for example,' Essayah says.

What is the Finnish forestry model? in forests

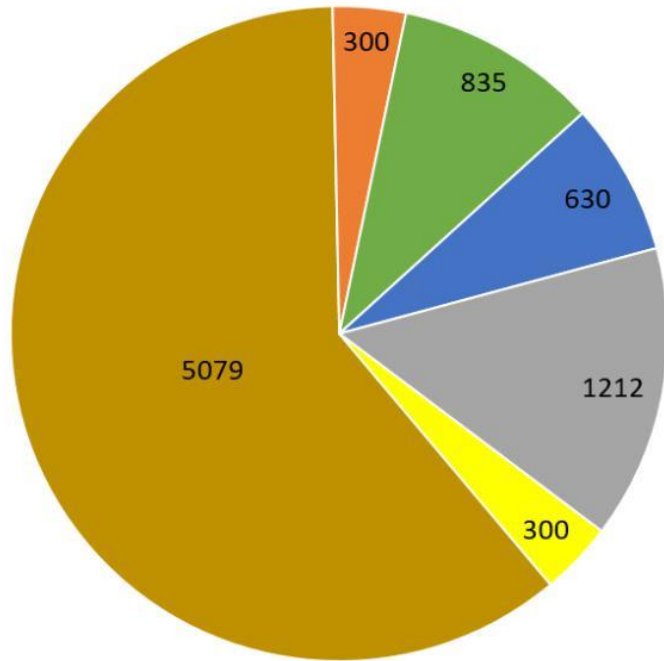
- intensive clearcut forestry with a rotation of 60-100 years
- native species based
- extensive – over 90% of productive forest land is managed, i.e. 2/3 of Finnish land area
- geared toward pulp wood production



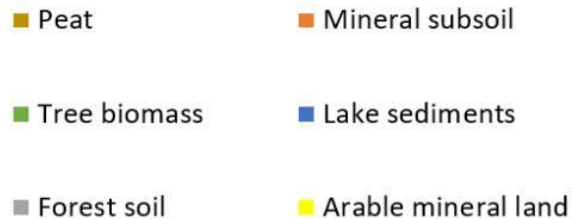
What is the Finnish forestry model? peatland drainage



Carbon storage in Finland



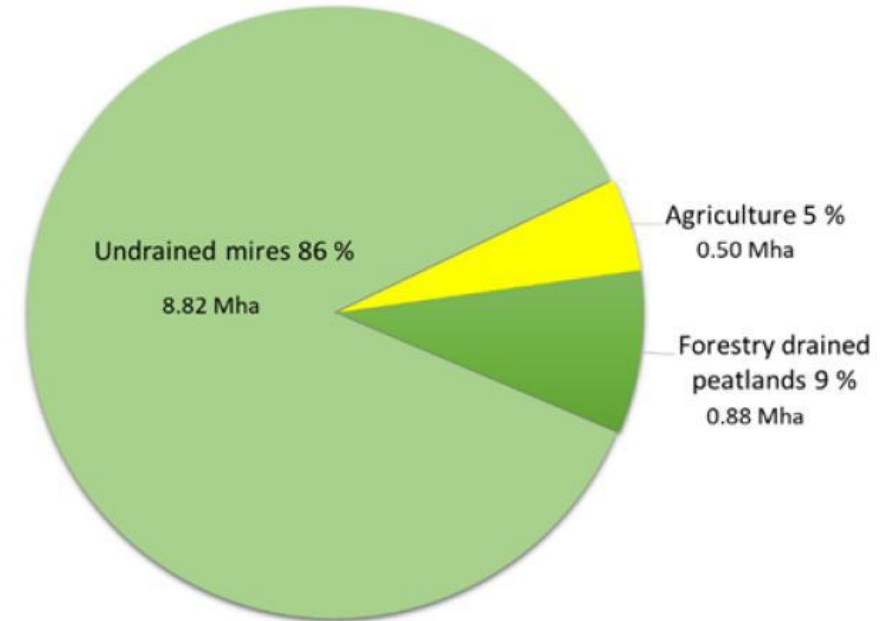
Carbon storage (Tg = Mt)



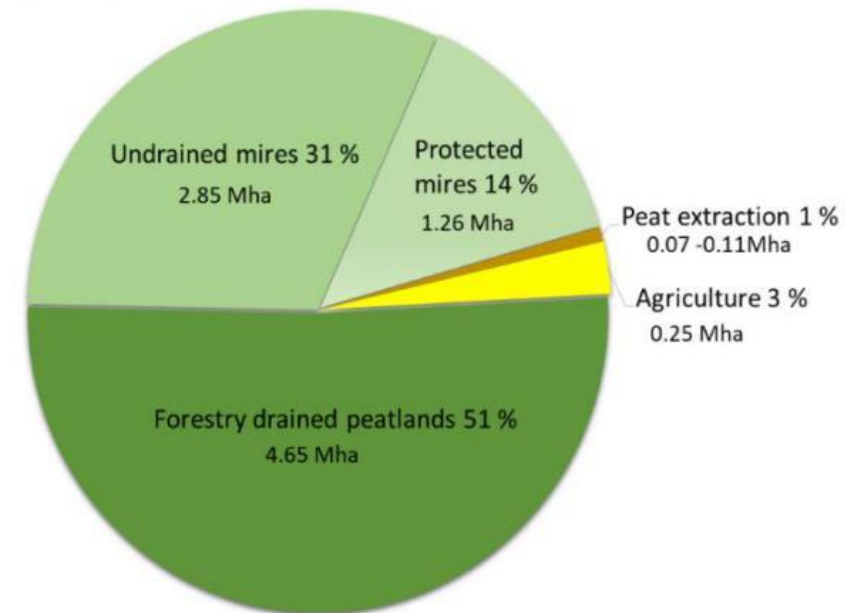
30% of Finnish land area is peatland

Loss of peat soil carbon
1950-2015 due to humans:
338 Mt CO₂-eq
>7 times Finnish GHG emissions

A) 1950, 10.2 Mha



B) 2015, 9.1 Mha

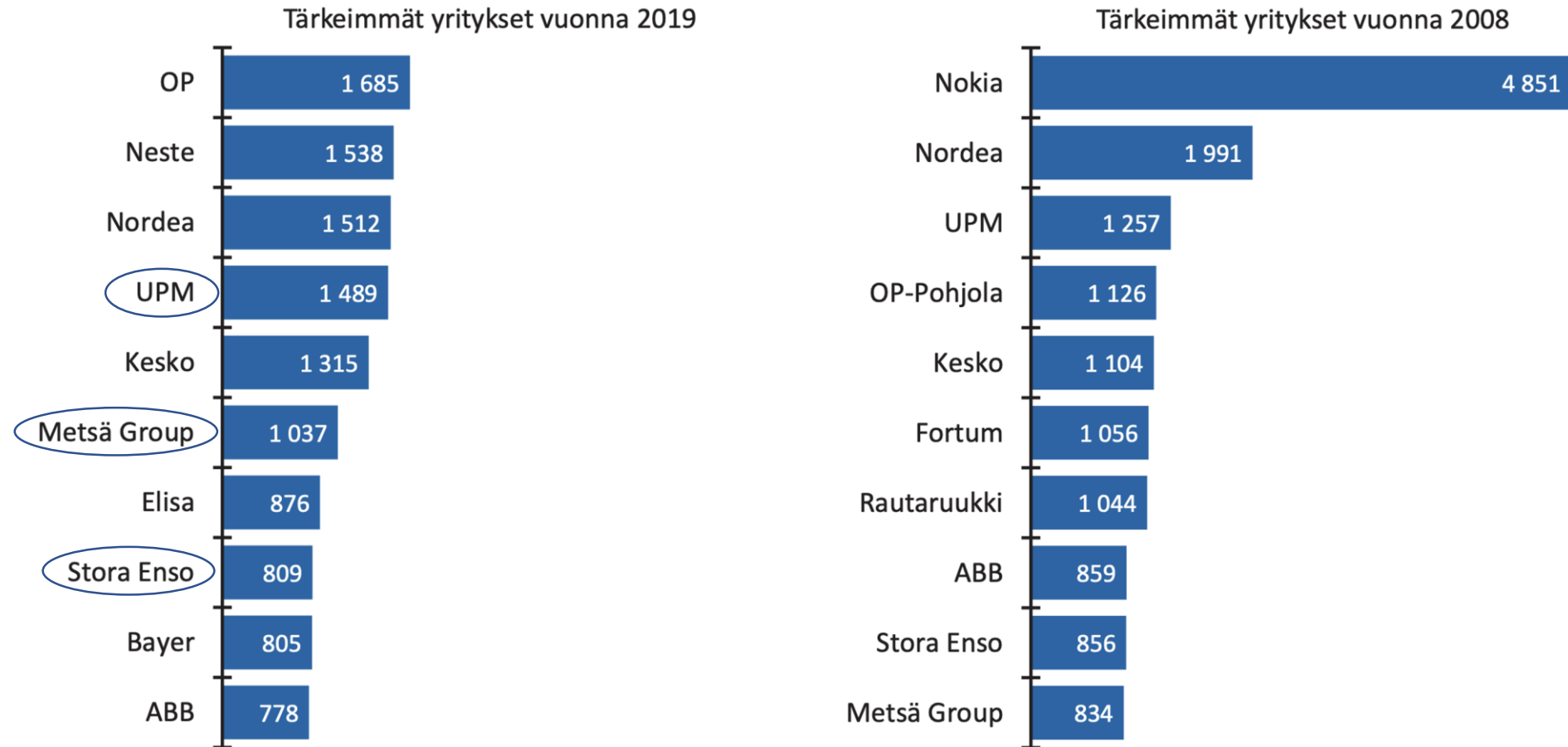


What is the Finnish forestry model?

economics

- >600 000 private forest owners control 60% of forest area; state lands, 25%, are concentrated in low productive areas
- 3 giant companies dominate the industry (UPM, Stora Enso, Metsä Group)
- automatized – work force declining but still significant employer in rural areas
- close state–industry link: significant tax revenue but also subsidies

Finnish companies by revenue





What is the Finnish forestry model? industry influence in politics

Timo Jaatinen appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment
26.10.2023 13.33 [PRESS RELEASE](#)



Timo Jaatinen

On 26 October 2023, the Government appointed Timo Jaatinen, Master of Social Sciences, as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment for the period of 6 November 2023–5 November 2028.


Timo Jaatinen has served as State Secretary to the Minister of Employment and the Minister of the Climate and the Environment since the end of June 2023. Prior to that, he had

a long career in leadership positions in various lobbying organisations: more than ten years as CEO of the Finnish Forest Industries Federation, the Finnish Port Federation and the Federation for the Brewery and Soft Drinks Industry. In addition, Jaatinen has served as Special Adviser to the Minister in three different ministries.

The post of Permanent Secretary is filled for a maximum term of five years at a time. A total of 23 applications were received for the post.

The Permanent Secretary is the most senior official of the Ministry who manages, develops and supervises the activities of the Ministry and its administrative branch. In addition, the Permanent Secretary coordinates the activities of the Ministry and its administrative branch with those of other ministries and their administrative branches.

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What is the Finnish forestry model?

Narrative

Former MEP, Minister Sari Essayah to the EU: 'Forest issues should not be approached "through the back door"'

2.11.2023 / ARTICLE
CLIMATE CHANGE, SILVICULTURE



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Time of transition in forest industry?

- forest industry is still significant part of the
... but its share of economy has declined and keeps declining
- paper production is decreasing, partly replaced by cardboard
... but also pulp imports are increasing and more wood is being burned
=> trend toward lower added value from cut wood
- the industry tries to re-brand and invests in innovation, but so far this has little economic significance

Forests, logging and climate

UPM METSÄ Tietoa >

Metsät hiilensitojina

Kasvatavat puut sitovat yhteyttämisprosessissaan ilmakehästä hiilidioksidia ja varastoivat sen sisältämän hiilen puuaineeseen. Tästä syystä metsät ovat ”maapallon keuhkot” ja metsien hoidolla on keskeinen merkitys ilmastonmuutoksen torjunnassa.



Yksi kuutiometri elävää puuta sisältää noin 200 kg hiiltä. Suurin osa puun sitomasta hiilestä pysyy varastoituneena puuhun koko sen eliniän ajan. Puiden lisäksi hiiltä on sitoutuneena myös maaperään, pintakasvillisuuteen ja etenkin soiden turvekerrokseen.

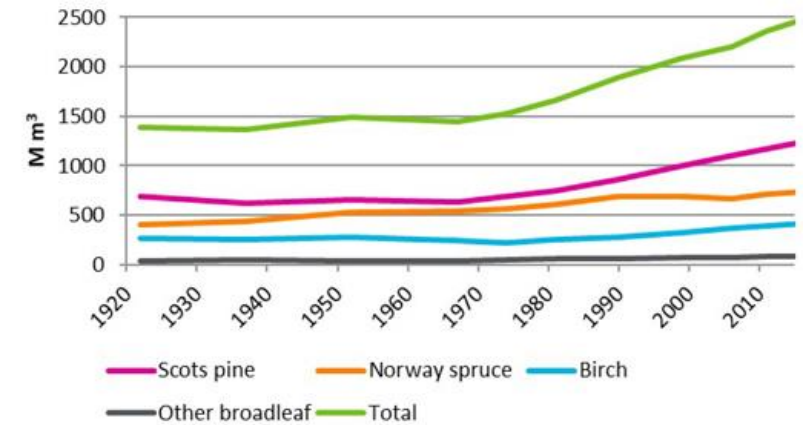
Usein ajatellaan, että koskemattomat metsät ovat parhaita hiilinieluja. Näin ei kuitenkaan ole, sillä hyvin hoidetut ja nopean kasvun vaiheessa olevat metsät sitovat hiiltä kaikkein tehokkaimmin. Näin ollen metsien talouskäyttö ei edistä ilmastonmuutosta vaan kasvatusmetsiköt ovat parhaita hiilidioksidin sitoimia.

UPM:

”Often it is said that untouched forests are the best carbon sinks. This is not the case, because well managed and fast-growing forests act as the most efficient carbon sinks. Thus forest management does not contribute to climate change.”

Volume of growing stock

a.



Korhonen KT, Ahola A, Heikkinen J, Henttonen HM, Hotanen J-P, Ihalainen A, Melin M, Pitkänen J, Räty M, Sirviö M, Strandström M (2021) Forests of Finland 2014–2018 and their development 1921–2018. *Silva Fennica* 55 (5):10662. doi:doi:10.14214/sf.10662

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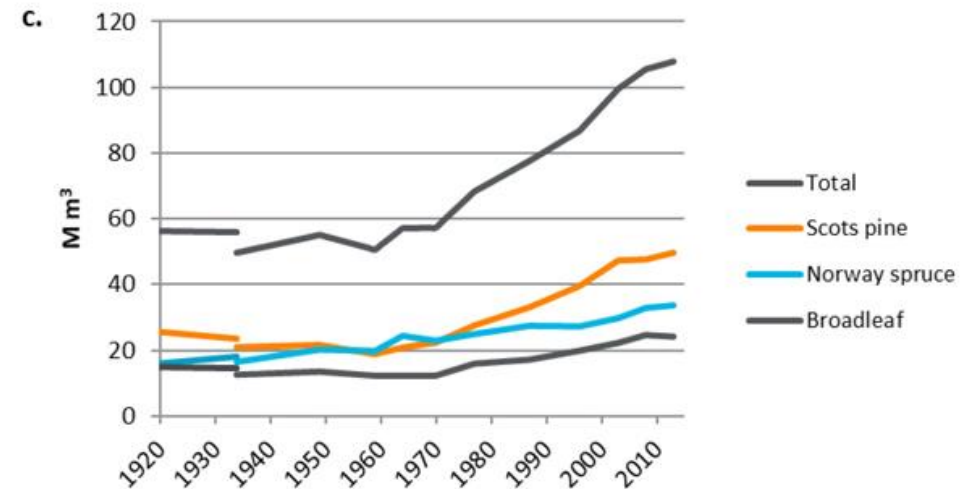
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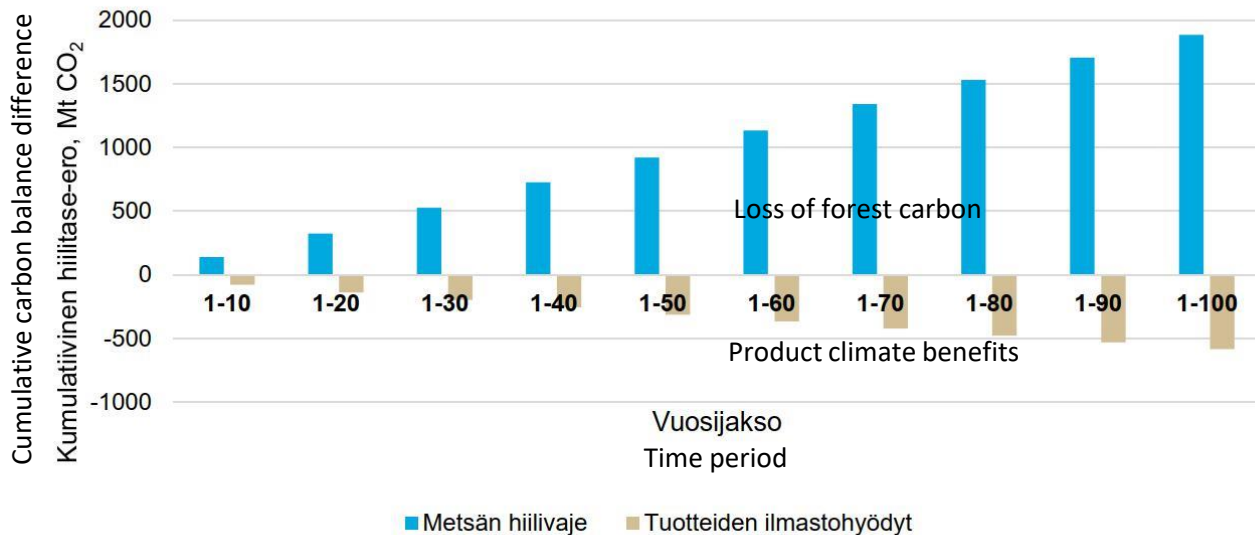
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Annual increment of growing stock



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Climate neutrality through substitution?



Kuva 17. Hakkuutasojen 72 ja 81 miljoonaa m³ vuodessa väliset kumulatiiviset hiilitase-erot eri vuosijaksoina JALOSTUSHYÖTY, LANNOITUS JA ILMASTOMUUTOS (JLILM)- skenaarioissa. Positiivinen arvo kertoo, että hakkuutaso 81 milj. m³/v aiheuttaa lukuarvon osoittaman määrän hiilidioksidipäästöjä ilmakehään metsänielun vähenemisenä hakkuutasoon 72 milj. m³/v nähden. Vastaavasti negatiivinen arvo kertoo tuotteilla saavutettujen ilmastohyötyjen määrän.



SUOMEN
ILMASTOPANEELI
The Finnish Climate
Change Panel

”Forests and climate: logging, carbon sinks
and substitution benefits of wood”

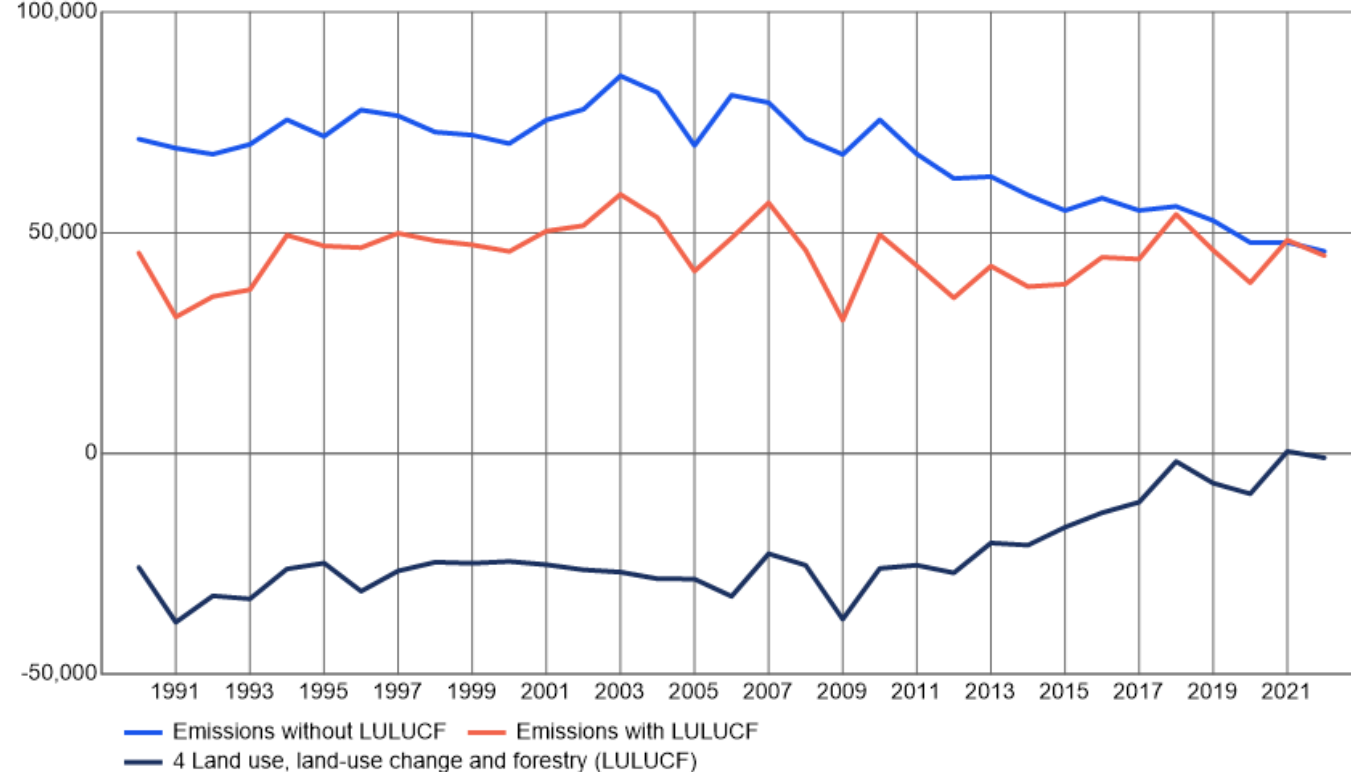
METSÄT JA ILMASTO: HAKKUUT, HIILINIELUT JA PUUN
KÄYTÖN KORVAUSHYÖDYT

JYRI SEPPÄLÄ, TERO HEINONEN, ANTTI KILPELÄINEN, HELI PELTOLA,
TIMO PUKKALA, MATTI SIHVONEN, SAMPO SOIMAKALLIO, SALLY
WEAVER, TIMO VESALA, MARKKU OLLIKAINEN

Suomen ilmastopaneeli
Raportti 3/2022

Declining forest carbon sink

Total greenhouse gas emissions excluding and including the LULUCF sector in 1990 to 2022*
Thousand tonnes of CO₂ eq. (GWP=AR5, *instant preliminary data)

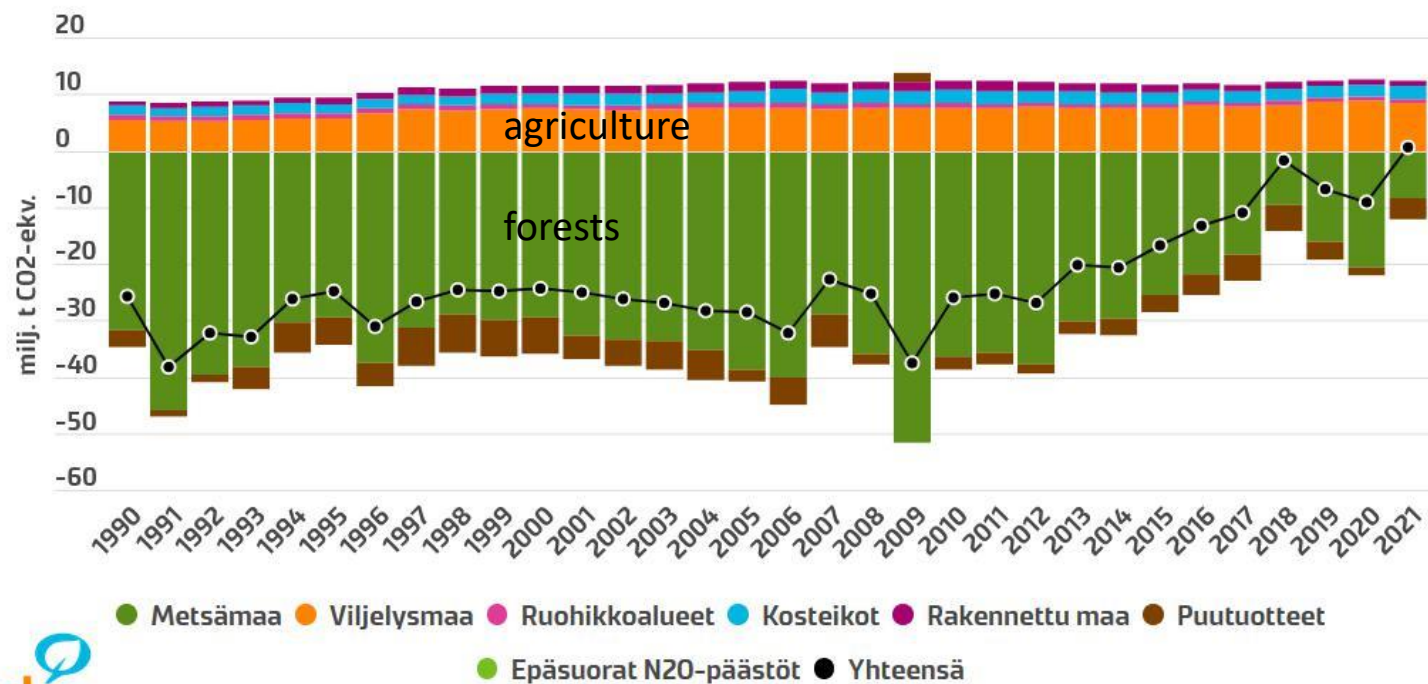


Source: Statistics Finland, greenhouse gases

Declining forest carbon sink

LULUCF-sektorin päästöt ja poistumat maankäyttöluokittain (milj. t CO₂-ekv.)

Positiivinen luku on päästöä ja negatiivinen poistumaa (nielu).

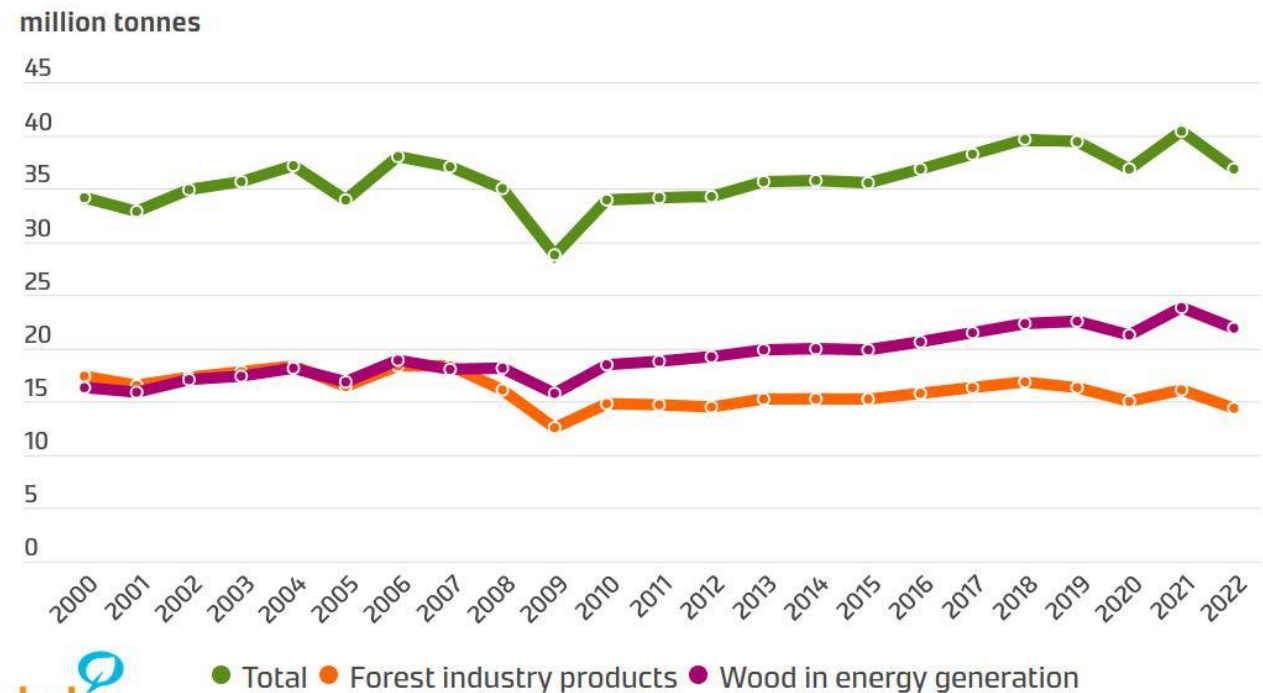


Why are forest carbon sinks declining?

- High logging levels for pulp and packaging
- Increasing use of biomass



Use of wood in dry-matter, 2000-2022



Why are forest carbon sinks declining?



THE FINNISH CLIMATE CHANGE PANEL PROJECTS CONTACT FI SV



The Finnish Climate Change Panel – bringing science and decision-making together

The Finnish Climate Change Panel is an independent advisory council of top-level Finnish scholars that promotes the dialogue between science and policy-making. The Panel provides scientific advice for policy-making and reinforces interdisciplinary insight in the operation of different sectors. The Panel is tasked with assessing the coherence of climate policy and the sufficiency of the implemented measures to answer the challenges of climate change. The Panel gives its opinion on climate policy plans and produces reports to support the preparation and implementation of climate policy and legislation in Finland.

The work of the Panel is based on the Climate Change Act. The first Panel was established in 2012. The current Panel was appointed on December 19th, 2019 for the next four-year term based on recommendations from research and higher-level educational institutions. The Panel's members represent different branches of science from educational sciences to atmospheric sciences. The current Panel consists of 15 top-level specialists chaired by Markku Ollikainen, Professor of Environmental and Resources Economics at the University of Helsinki.

Briefing paper 7.6.2023:

The main causes of the collapsed sink are:

- i) high harvesting levels over a long time (2016-2022)
- ii) higher soil emissions from peatland forests
- iii) observed decrease in forest growth (too strong thinning, final cuttings for younger & smaller trees than before).

In the background, there is a policy failure: there is no sufficient policy to maintain sinks and reduce soil emissions (both forestry and agriculture).

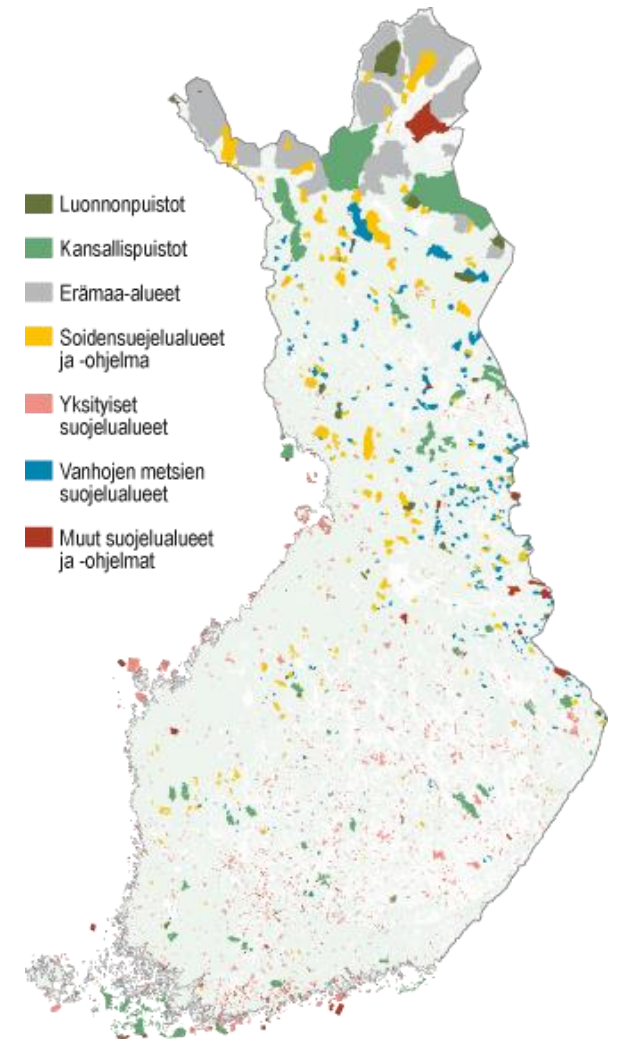
=> Finland will not achieve its 2021-2025 EU [climate/LULUCF] target

Finnish forest and climate policies collide

- Finland's climate law stipulates climate neutrality by 2035
- This target is heavily dependent on what happens in the forests and forest industry
- Currently, high logging levels (particularly for energy) and ambition to increase them further severely undermine climate targets
- Finland has not yet felt the negative consequences of climate change (pest outbreaks) and little discussion on adaptation takes place
- Status quo in forest sector will lead to failure in climate policy

Biodiversity conservation

- The combination of intensive forest management and too small set-aside areas has led to dramatic decline in forest-dependent biodiversity
- Conservation area network highly biased and inadequate
- 6% of productive forest land protected; in the southern half of Finland < 3%



Suomen lajien uhanalaisuus

Punainen kirja

The 2019 Red List of Finnish Species

2019

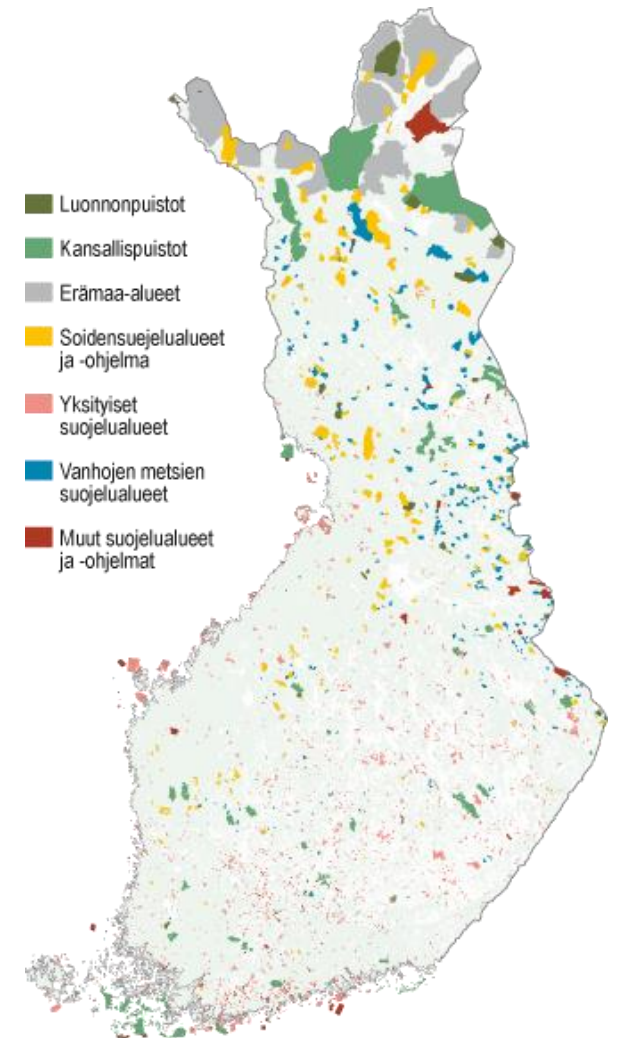
- 22 418 species were included in the assessment
- 6 683 species (29,8 %) red-listed



Kuva 11. Punaisen listan lajien jakautuminen ensisijaisen elinympäristön mukaisesti.
Figure 11. Distribution of red-listed species by primary habitat.

Biodiversity conservation

- The combination of intensive forest management and too small set-aside areas has led to dramatic decline in forest-dependent biodiversity
- Conservation area network highly biased and inadequate
- No wholistic conservation planning for forests
- Watering down of old-growth conservation as part of EU's Biodiversity Strategy, objecting high protection goals
- Lowering ambitions of EU's Nature Restoration Law – costs feared too high (peatlands)



Finnish forestry as a sustainable role model?

- Failures: focus on bulk production and bioenergy, climate impact, biodiversity conservation
- Influenced heavily by pulp industry interests
- Hardly applicable outside the boreal zone
- Sustainable future? A profound transition to climate friendly products, carbon neutral logging level, more continuous cover forestry and conservation areas

Hvala
Kiitos
Thank you

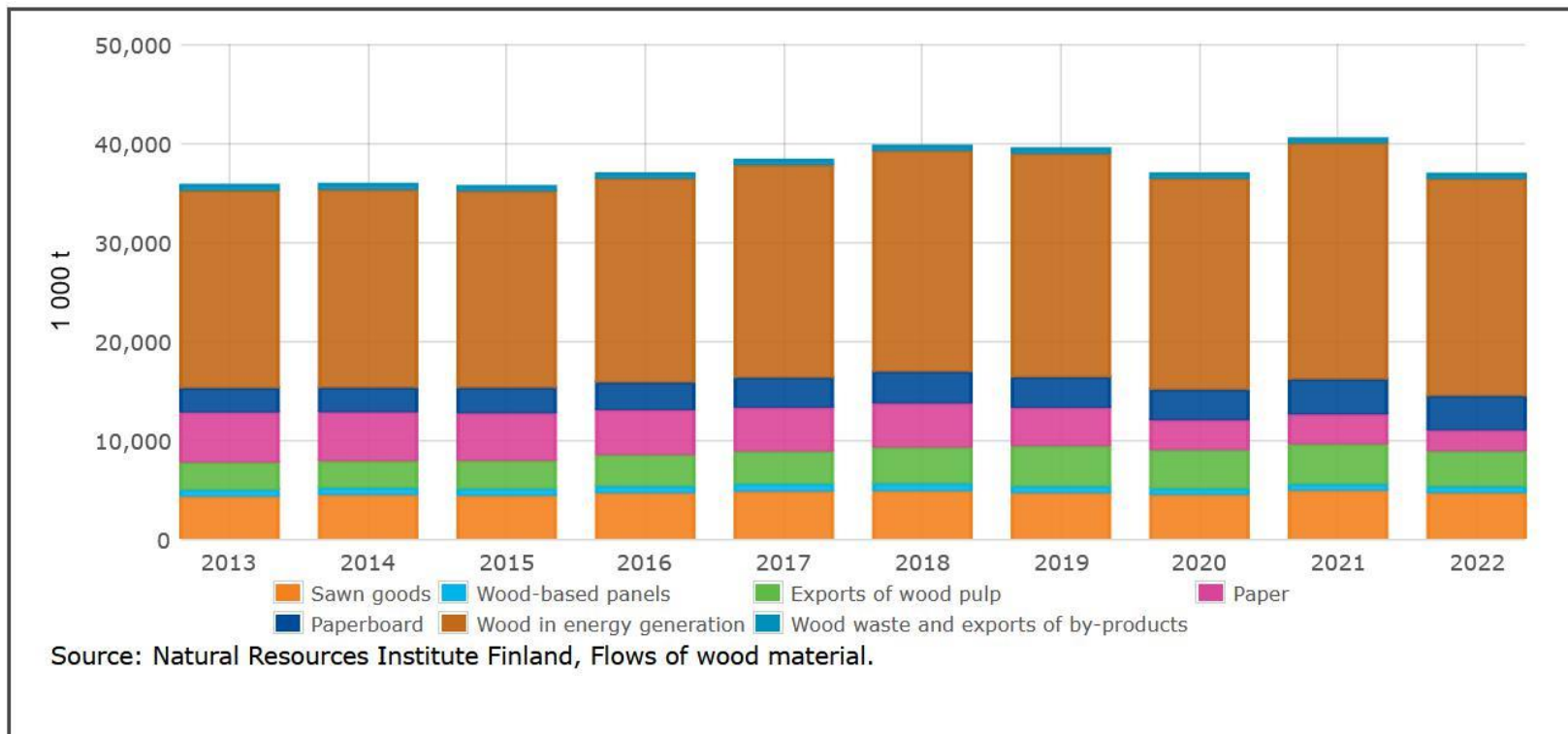
Photo credits:
Olli Manninen
Greenpeace Nordic



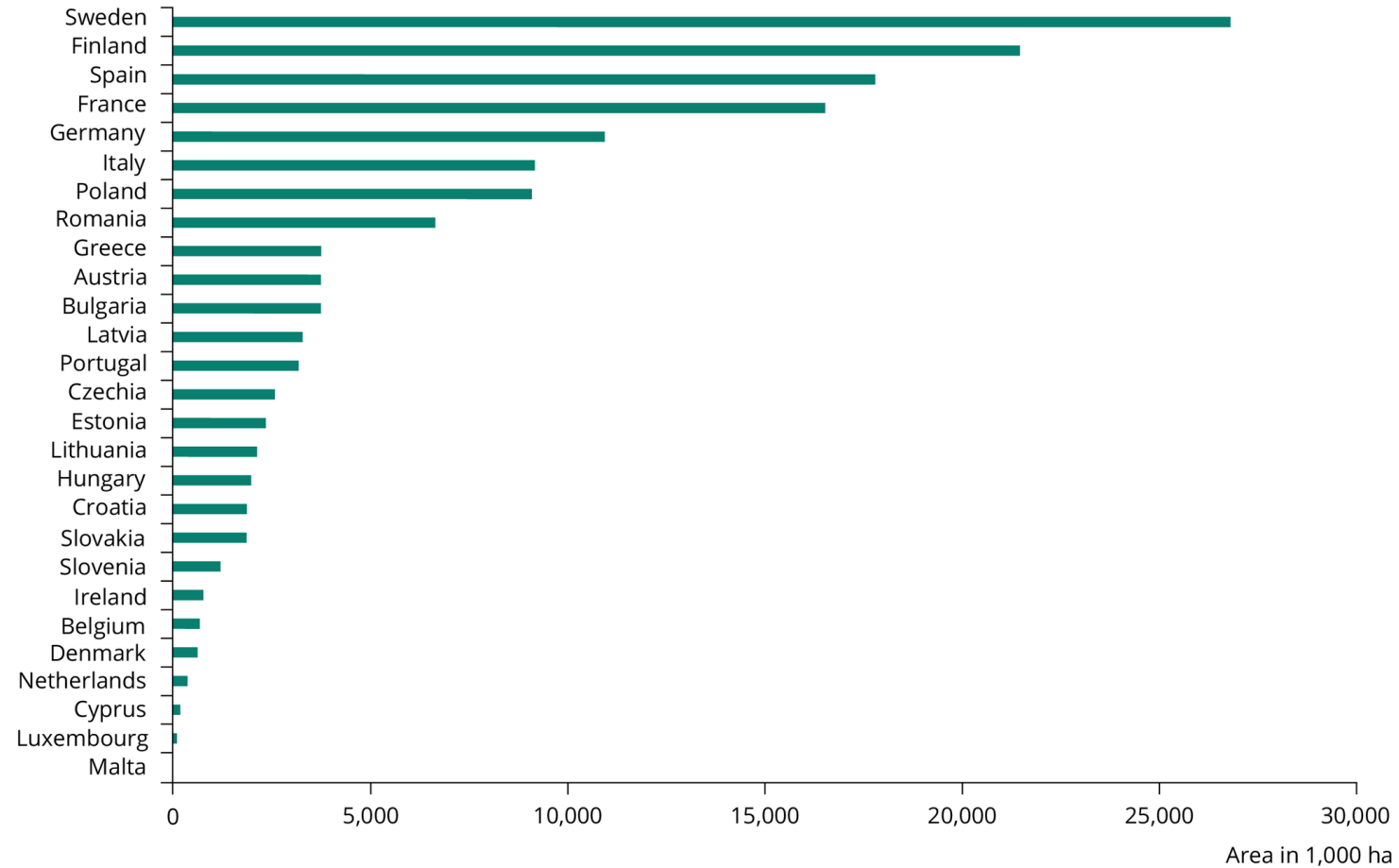
- tax rebates for private forest owners 170 mEUR / year, focus on increased wood production (VTV 13/2023)
- tax rebates for wood biomass burning 470 mEUR / year

Breakdown of wood us by end product

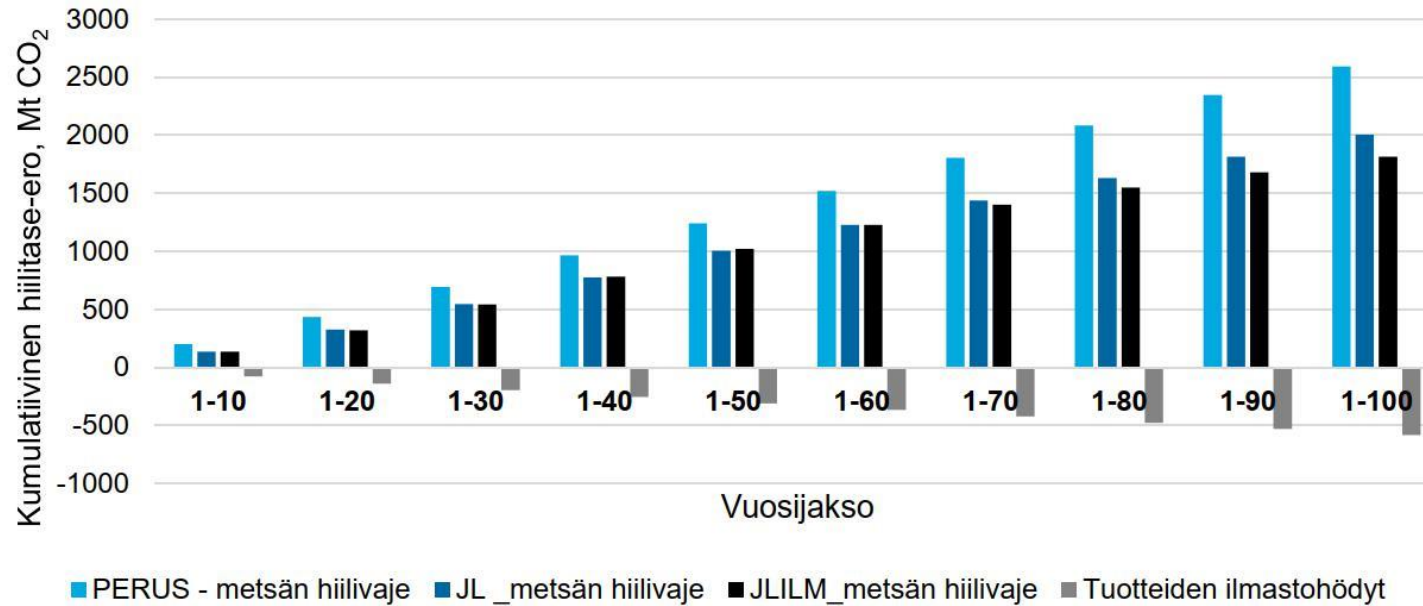
Tying up of wood material in end products (in dry-matter of wood)



Forest area in EU-27, 2020

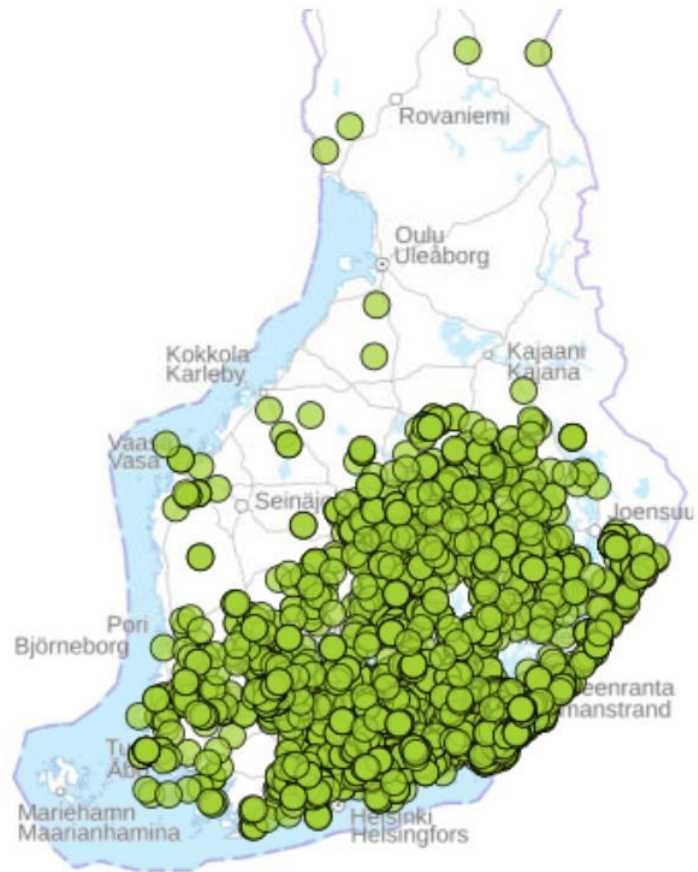


Reduced logging scenario



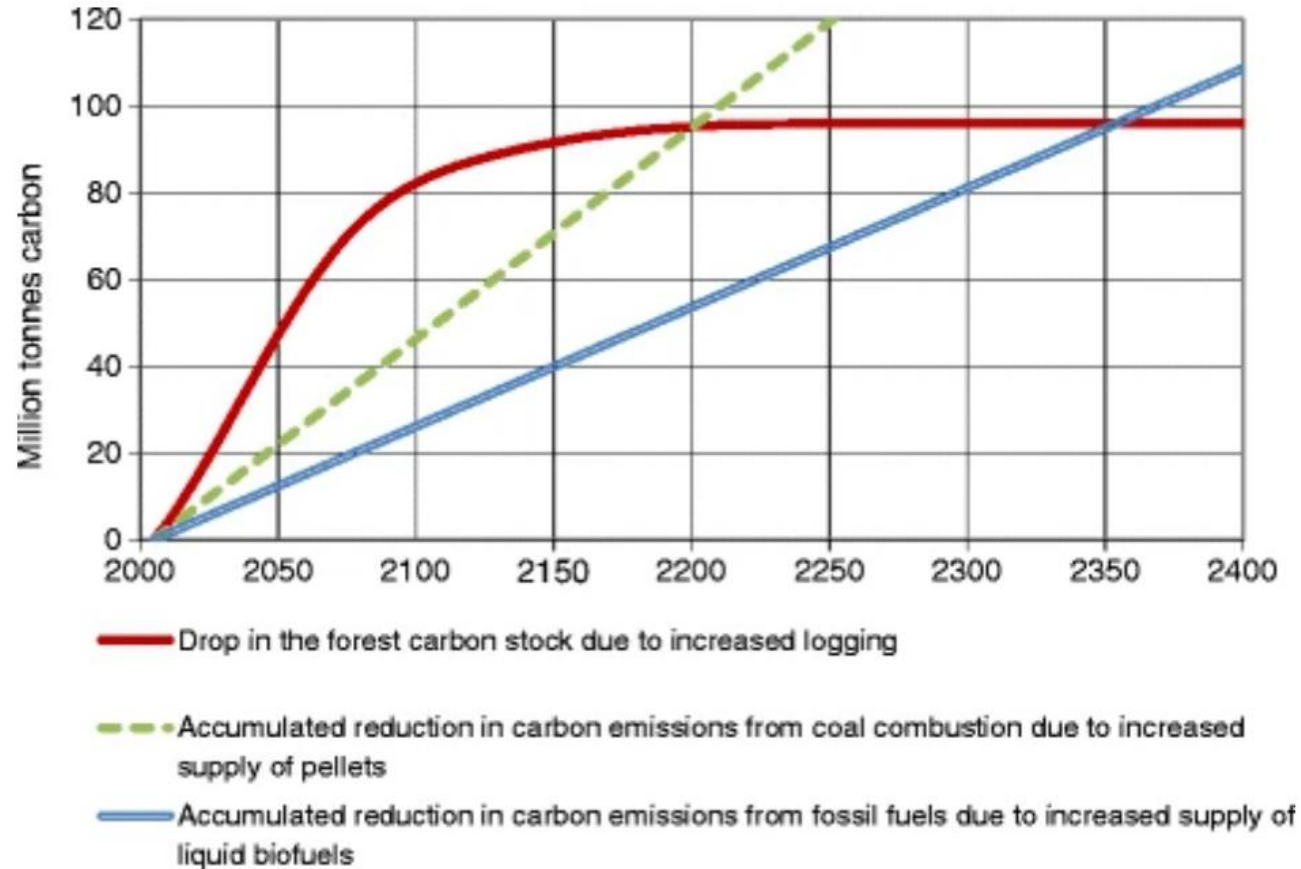
Kuva 16. Hakkuutasojen 63 ja 72 miljoonaa m³ vuodessa väliset kumulatiiviset hiilitase-erot eri vuosijaksoina PERUS, JALOSTUSHYÖTY JA LANNOITUS (JL) ja JALOSTUSHYÖTY, LANNOITUS JA ILMASTOMUUTOS (JLILM)- skenaarioissa. Positiivinen arvo kertoo, että hakkuutaso 72 milj. m³/v aiheuttaa lukuarvon osoittaman määrän hiilidioksidipäästöjä ilmakehään metsänielun vähenemisenä hakkuutasoon 63 milj. m³/v nähden. Vastaavasti negatiivinen arvo kertoo tuotteilla saavutettujen ilmastohyötyjen määrän.

Pest insect outbreaks 2023

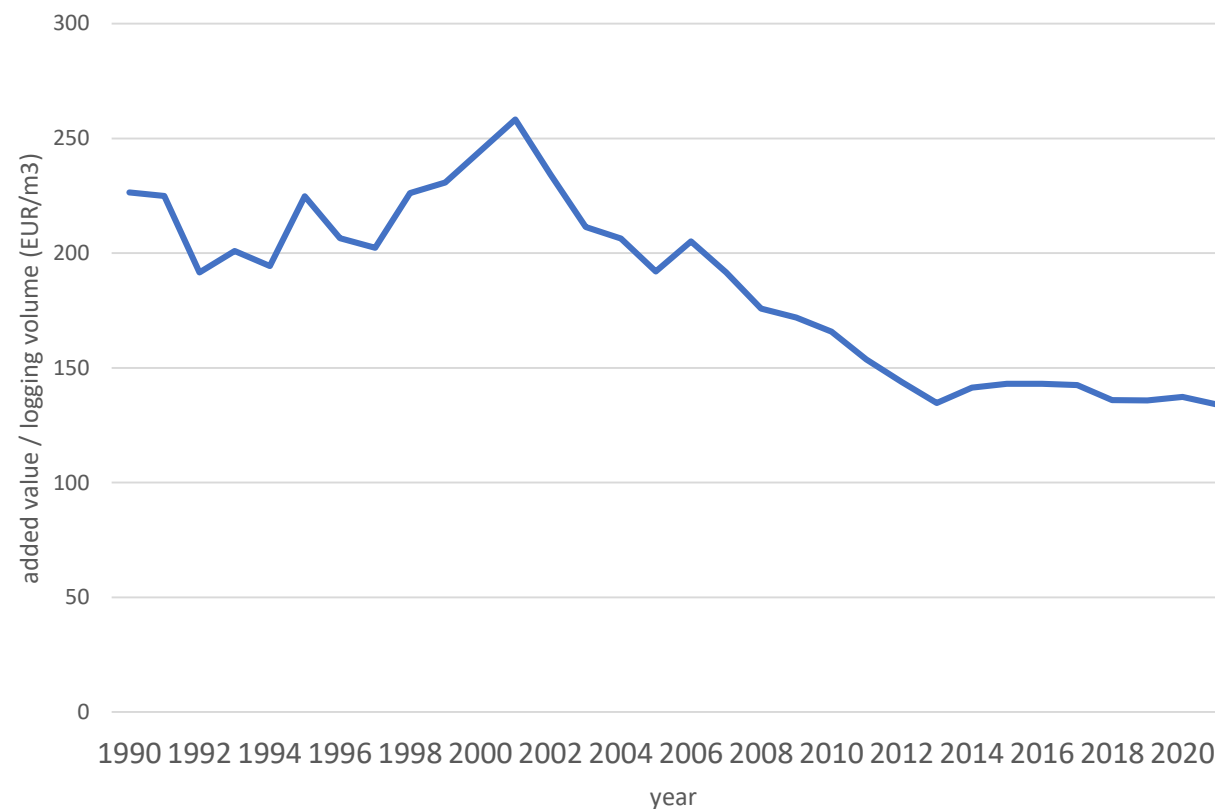
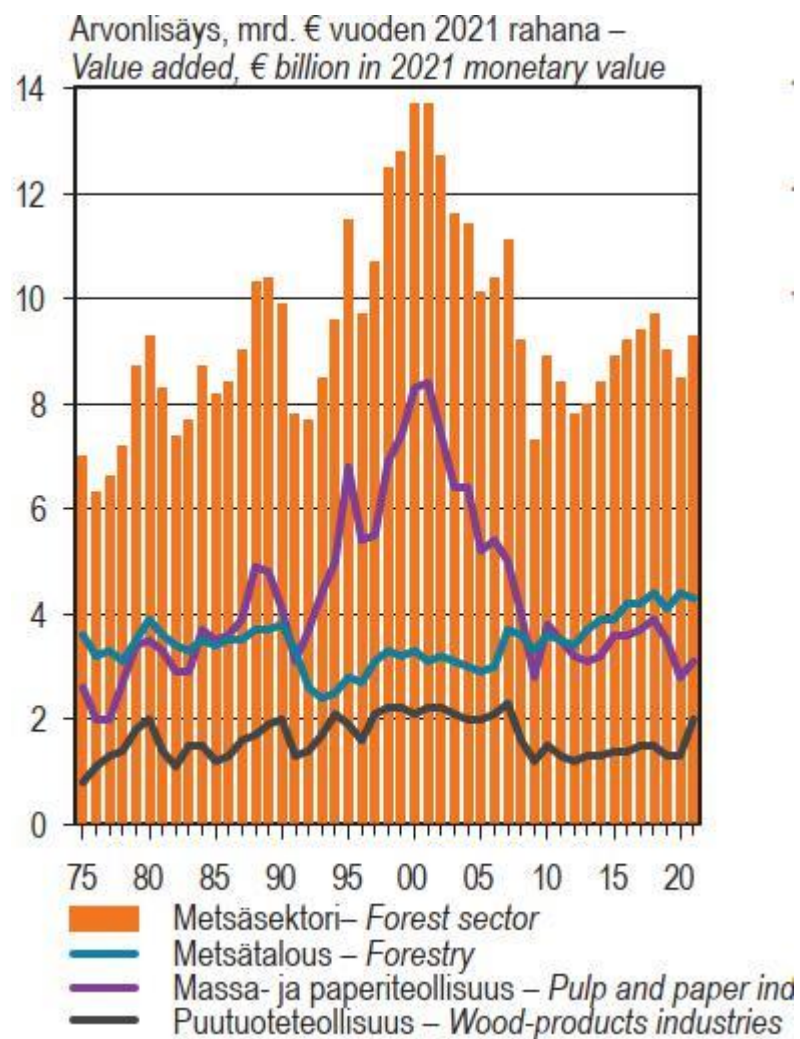


Source: LUKE

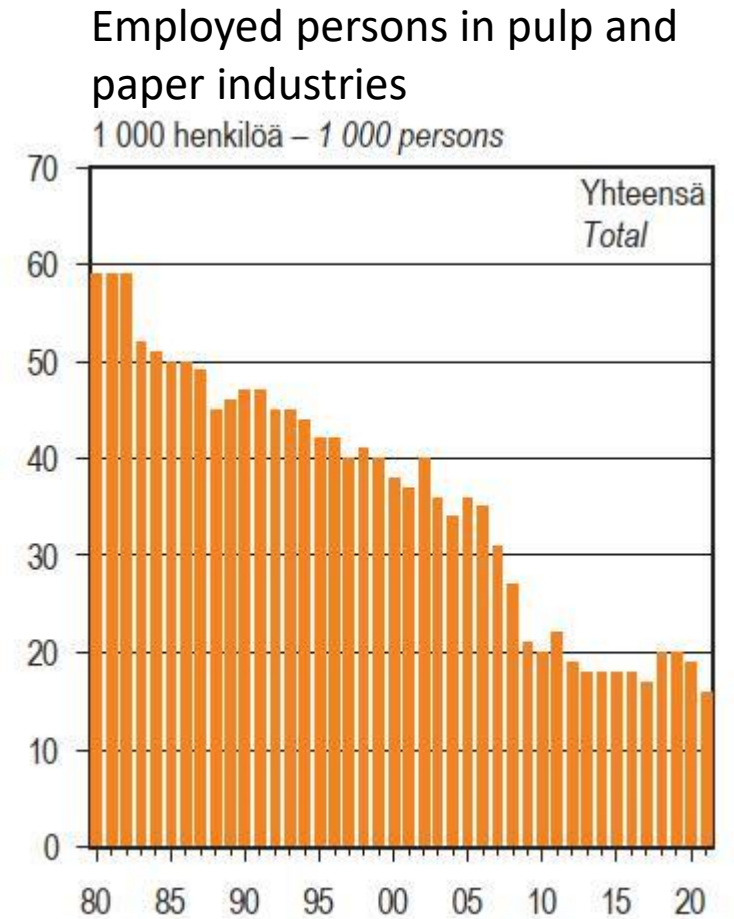
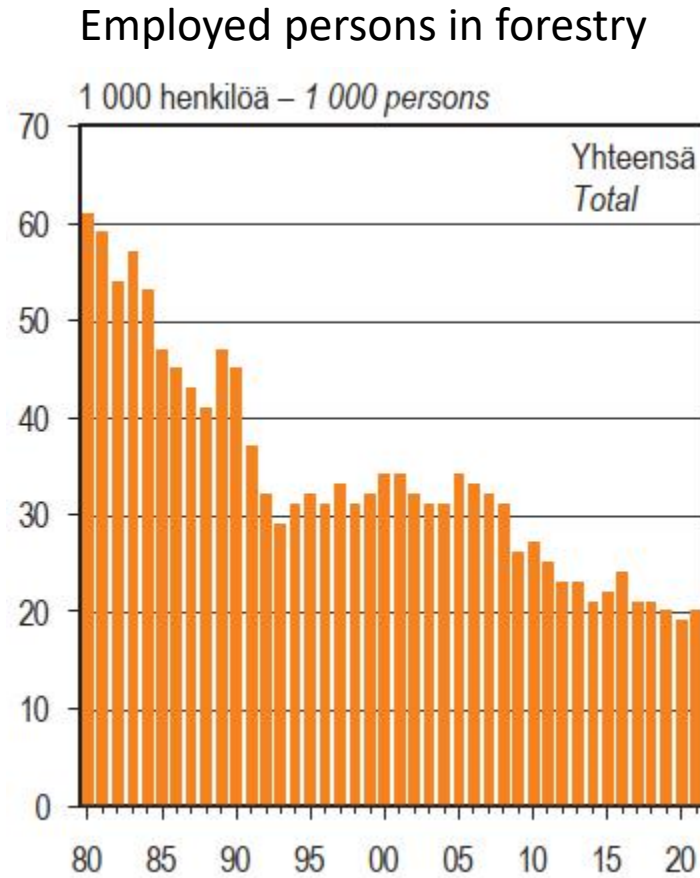
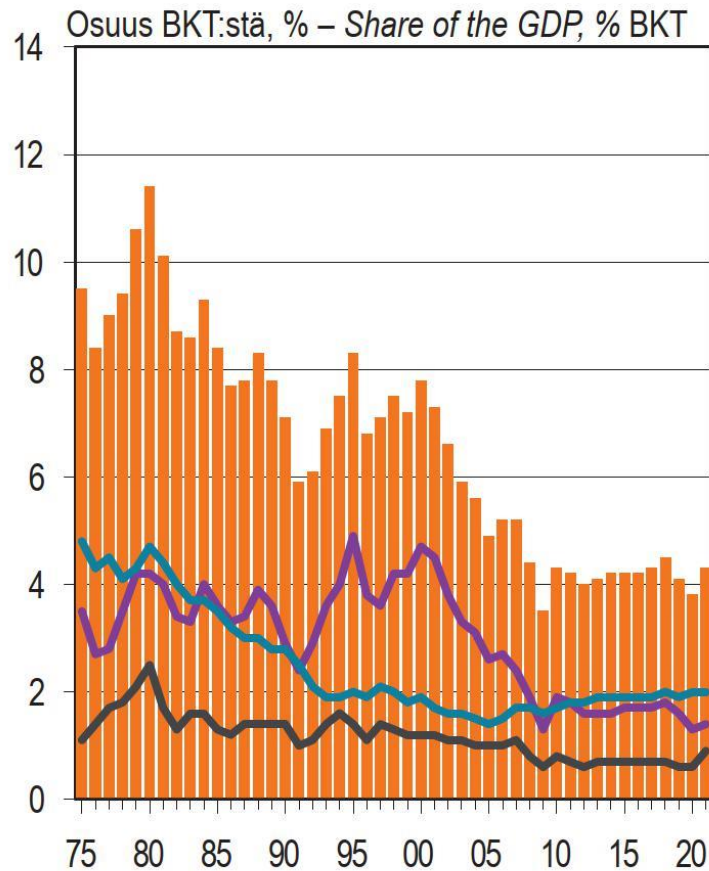
Carbon balance of logging for bioenergy



Development of added value by forest industry



Forest industry economic impact



Official policy objectives



Fig. 3. The influence of various discourses on the policy objectives. The size of the shapes reflects the frequency of language related to the discourses.

EM – bioeconomy, market orientation
GG – carbon storage, expertise
CE – civil society participation, biodiversity

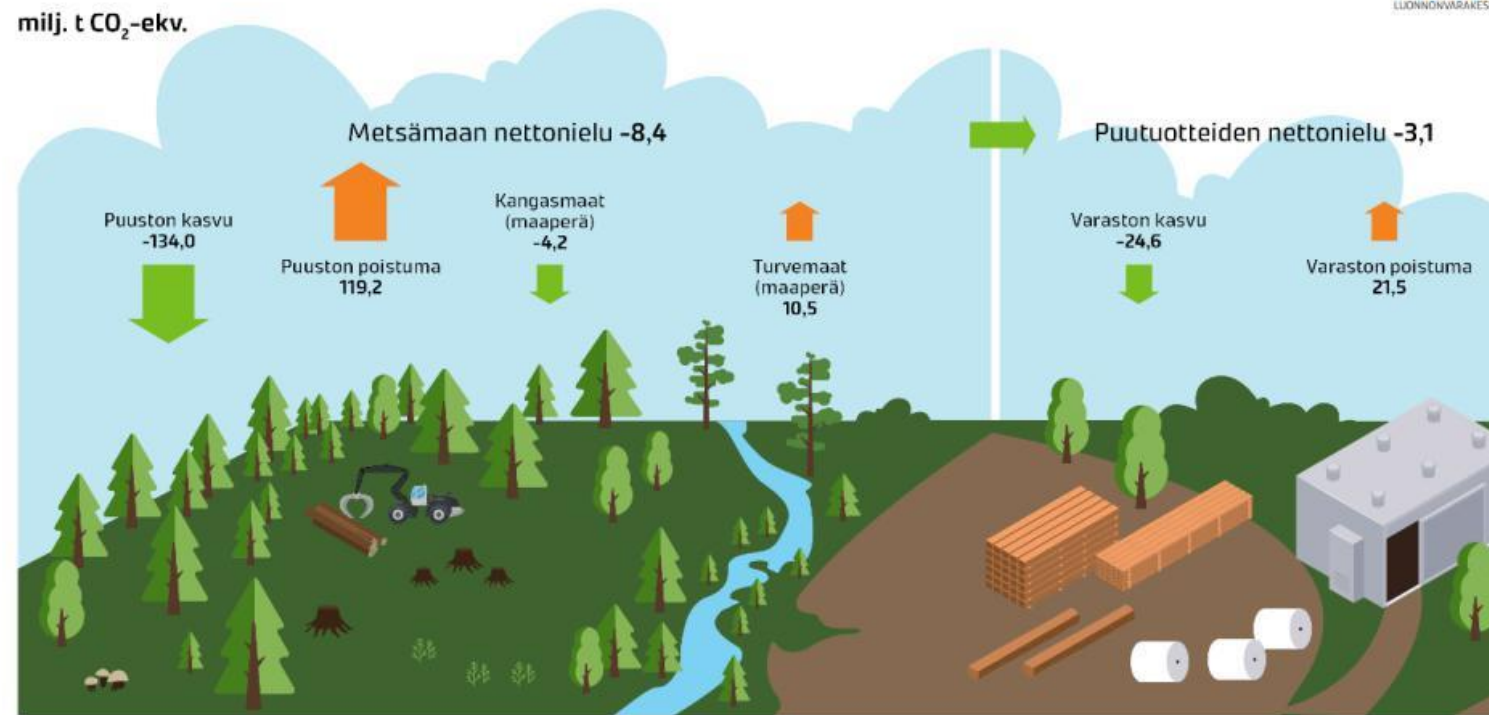
“There is a risk that a forest-based bioeconomy will simply continue forestry business-as-usual if current problematizations and proposed solutions reflected in forest policy remain unchallenged.”

Forest and wood products GHG balance 2021

Metsämaan ja puutuotteiden kasvihuonekaasutase 2021



milj. t CO₂-ekv.



Lähde: Luonnonvarakeskus

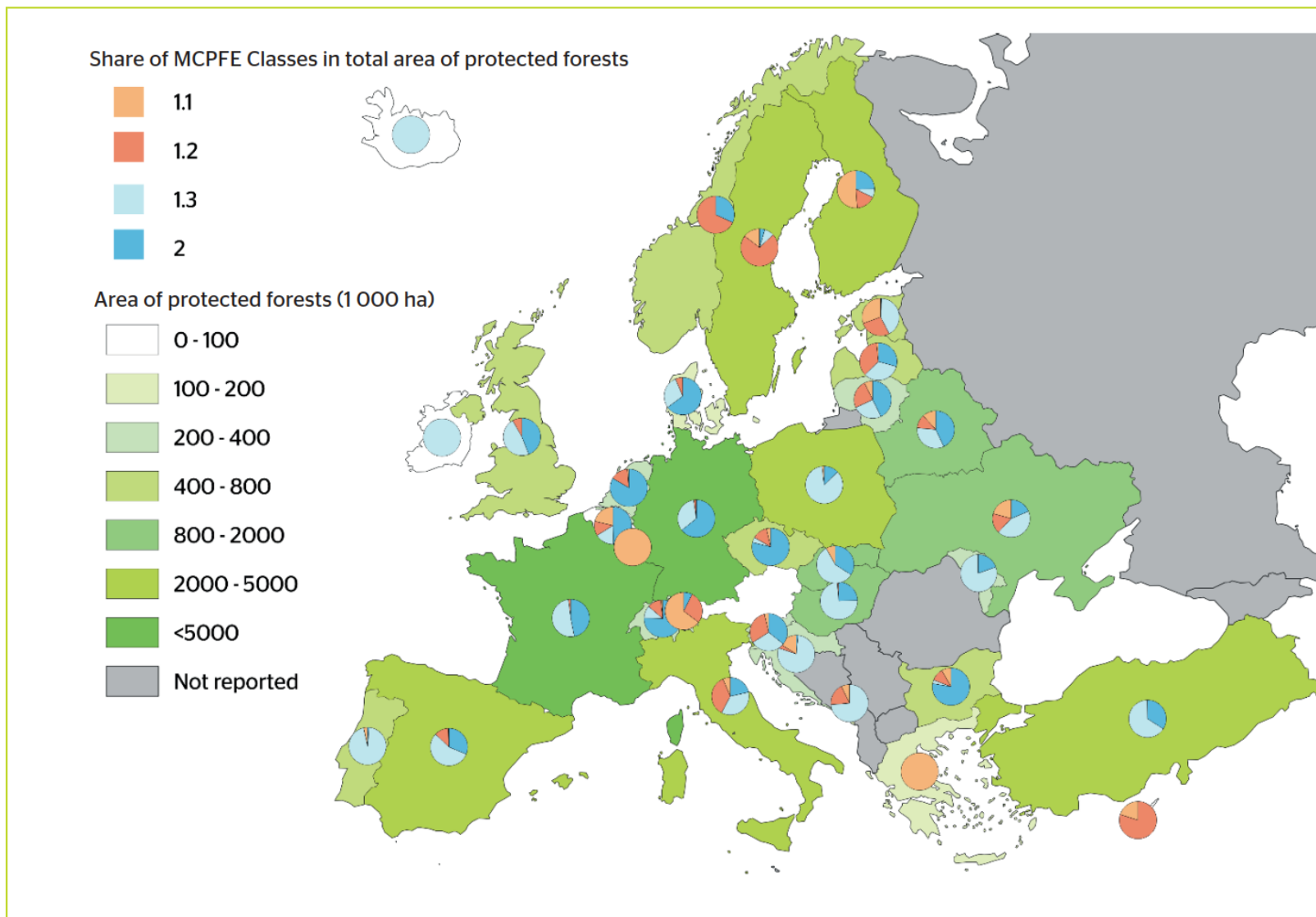


Figure 4.9-1: Area of protected forests and the share of MCPFE Classes in this area, by country, 2015

Note: MCPFE Class 1 for biodiversity protection subdivided to 1.1 - no active intervention, 1.2 - minimum intervention, 1.3 - conservation through active management and MCPFE Class 2 for landscape protection.

Source: State of Europe's Forests 2020



#FreeBongku Stop Criminalizing Indigenous Peoples!



 Dede Kurnia eka satria started this petition to Pengadilan Negeri Bengkalis

ENGLISH VERSION | [BAHASA INDONESIA](#)

Why is it that so many small farmers are threatened to be imprisoned recently? The latest case is Pak Bongku (58 years old). Pak Bongku is a small farmer, Indigenous to the Sakai tribe in Suluk Bongkal, Bengkalis, Riau.

He is sentenced to 1 year in jail and fined for 500 million Indonesia Rupiah (over USD \$30,000), only because he was cultivating land!

EPN (2019) Conflict Plantations. Chapter 1: Revealing Asia Pulp & Paper's trail of disputes across Indonesia

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The village of Suluk Bongkal (Riau province, Sumatra) was fire bombed on December 18th 2008 when its residents resisted eviction from their lands to make way for a pulpwood plantation under APP supplier and sister company Arara Abadi (Sinar Mas).⁴⁶ Local sources told Amnesty International that a two-year-old died after she fell down a well during the confrontation, while a two-month-old baby died from burn injuries.⁴⁷ Villagers in Suluk Bongkal have been trying to establish their right to 2,900 hectares of land since 1997. But even with written proof of their tenure rights dating back to 1940, they have been unable to convince the authorities and APP of their land rights.