



EUROPEAN FOREST
INSTITUTE

Fate of European forest

Robert Mavsar


A photograph of a forest with tall, thin pine trees. The sky is a clear, pale blue. Some of the trees have yellowish-brown needles, suggesting an autumn setting. The text "Do forests need us?" is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

Do forests need us?

Do we need forests?



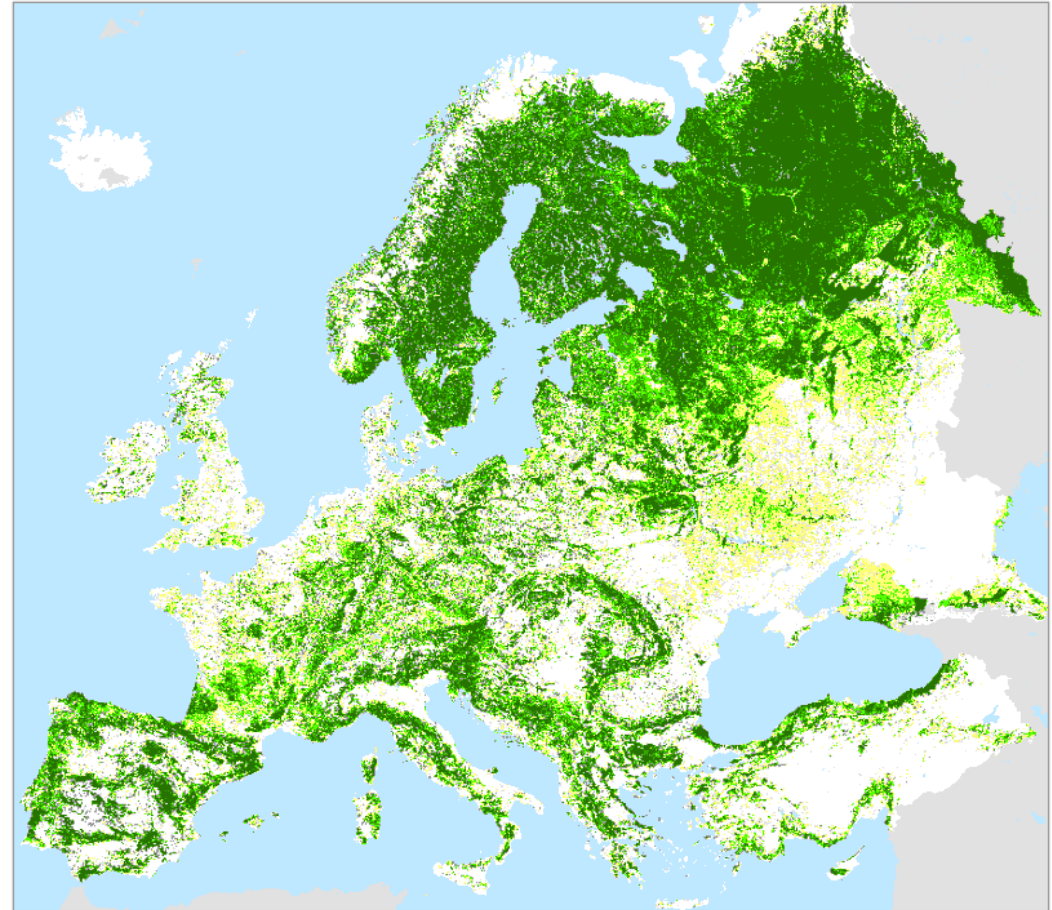
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- State of European Forests
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State of forests

Key Facts and Figures

- 170 M ha (**37% of EU** land or France, Poland, Spain and Finland combined)
- Malta (<0.1%) -> Finland 74%



Economic importance

- 500 M m³ wood harvested/year
- Economic output: 55.8 kM EUR/year, 4.5 million jobs



Much more than wood

- Capturing **13%** of CO₂ emissions
- Key for the sustainability of: **biodiversity, water and soil**



Social importance

- Recreation, health, aesthetic beauty,...

26%

of EU households collect non-wood forest products



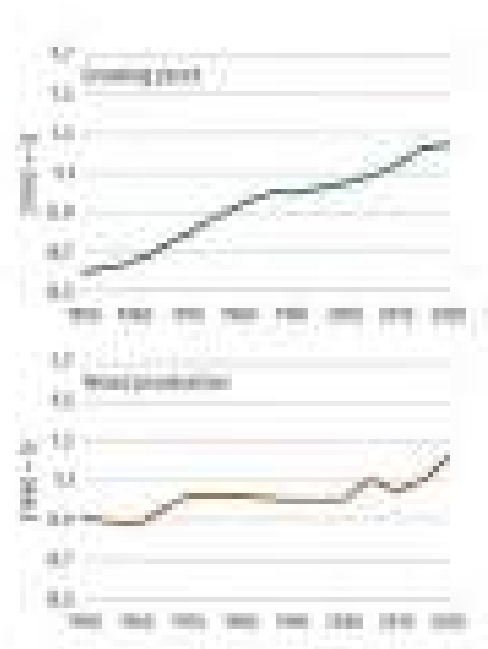
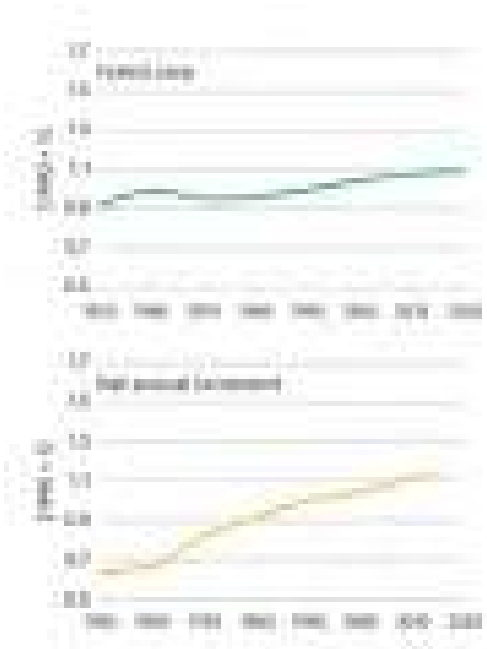
such as berries, mushrooms, aromatic, medicinal and decorative plant material, nuts, fruits, sap and resin.

(EU 28 and including the European part of Russia).

Their economic value (including self-consumed products) was estimated to be comparable to 70% of the annual roundwood removals value in Europe



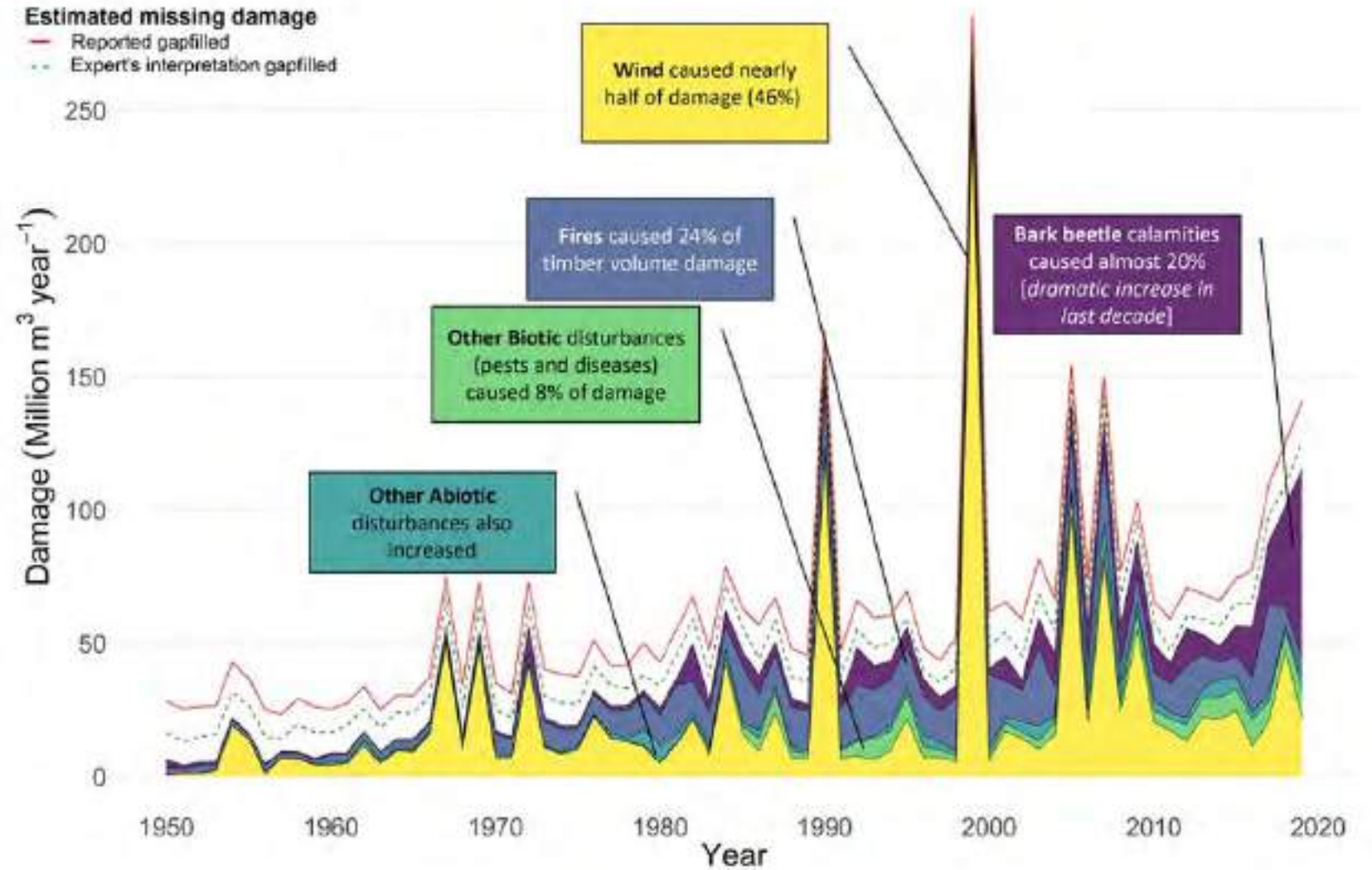
Trends



Challenges and Threats

Climate change impacts

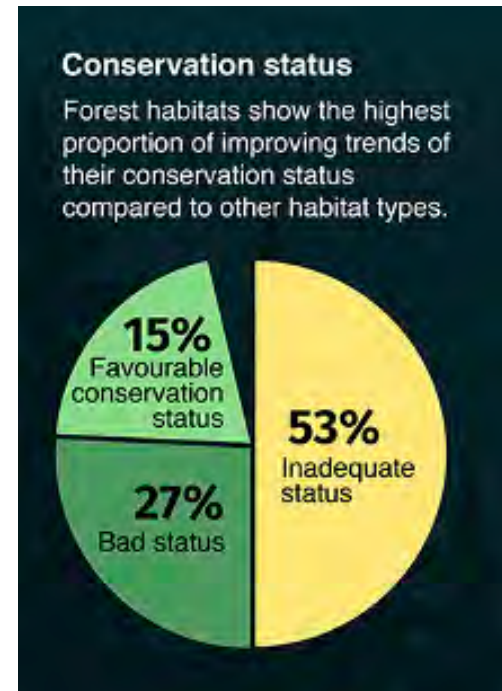
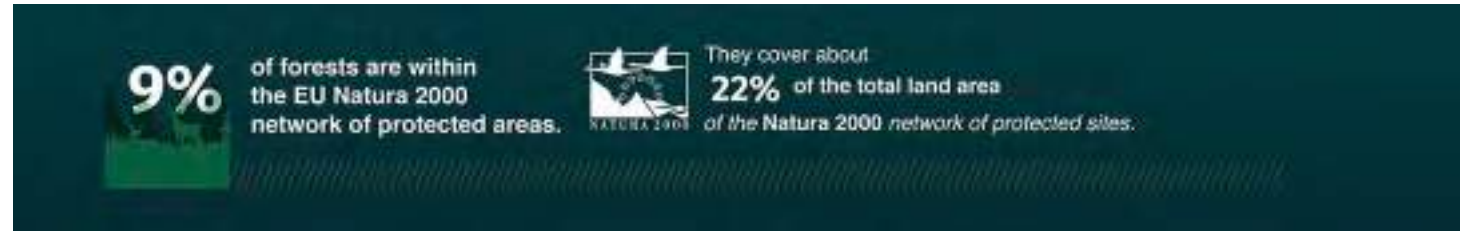
- increased fires, droughts, pests.
- increased damages
- decreasing CO₂ storage capacity



Patacca, M., Lindner, M., Nabuurs, G.-J. and Schelhaas, M.-J. 2023. Significant increase in forest disturbances since 1950s. Policy Brief 4. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb4>

Biodiversity loss

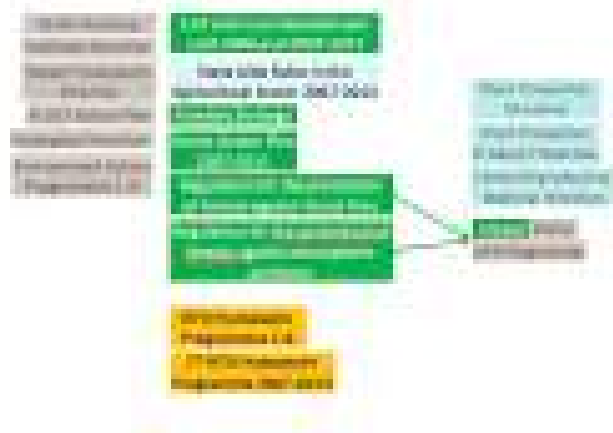
- intensive forest management (promotion of selected tree species)
- socioeconomic Pressures (agriculture, urbanization, and land-use conflicts)



Responses and Opportunities

Policy and governance efforts

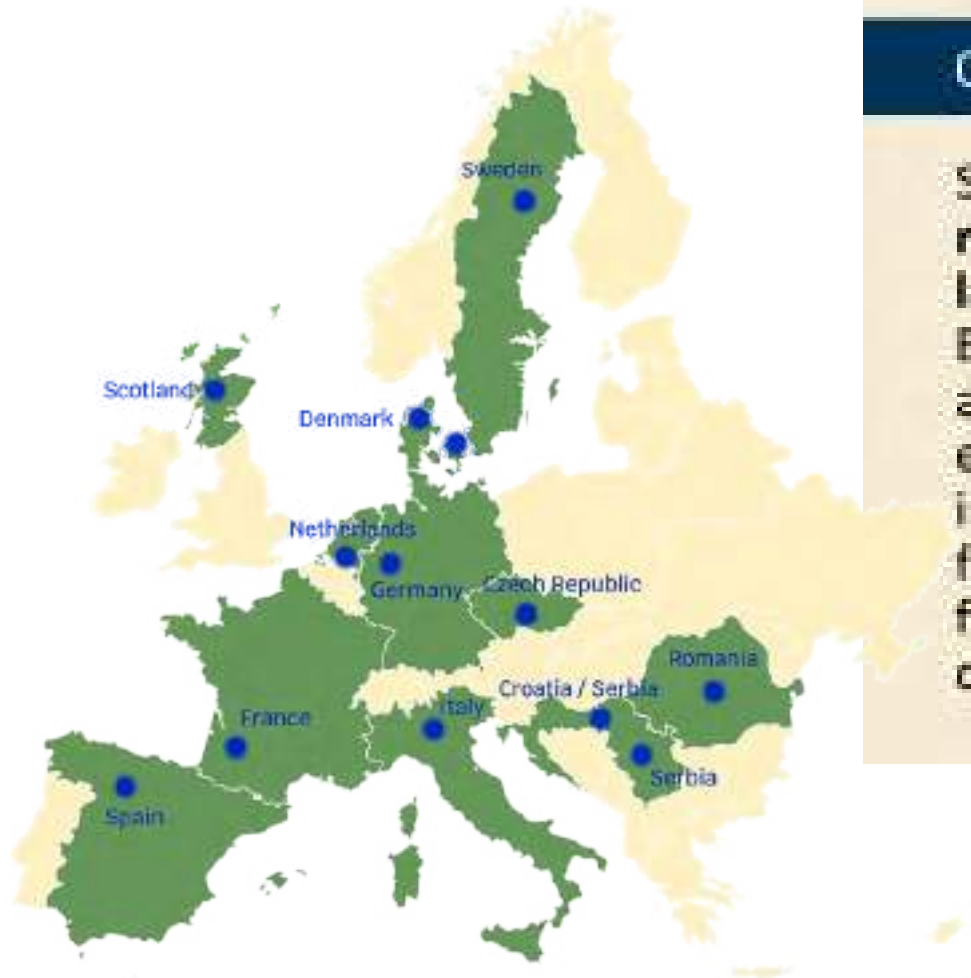
EU Forest Policy Environment 1979-2007



EU Forest Policy Environment 2024

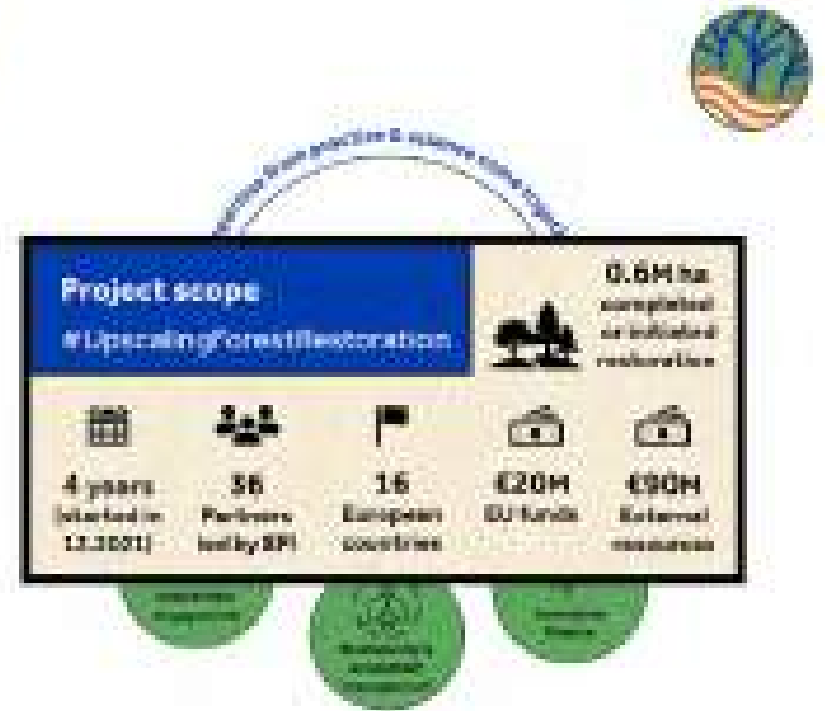


Restoration and afforestation



Overall goal

SUPERB aims to restore forest landscapes across Europe by creating an enabling environment for the implementation of forward-looking forest restoration at different scales.



3 billion trees initiative

Under the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 commits to planting at least **3 billion additional trees** in the EU by 2030

LIVE STATUS COUNTER FOR EU

22,672,954 additional trees planted and reported in EU27

58 Active Organisations

27 EU27 Countries

Source:
MapMyTree dataflow available on Reppublica platform for reporting on biodiversity and climate data to the European Environment Agency (EEA)

A new economic paradigm

Circular Bioeconomy





Future directions

- **Proactive Adaptation and Mitigation:** integrating climate change adaptation into forest policies and management.
- **Rethinking Economic Models:** forestry practices, valuing ecosystem services, and building resilient landscapes.



Research and international cooperation

- key for guiding adaptation and mitigation



Conclusion



Do forests need
us?

Do we need
forests?



*Building
better
understanding*