

State of Europe's Forests 2011

Trends and challenges

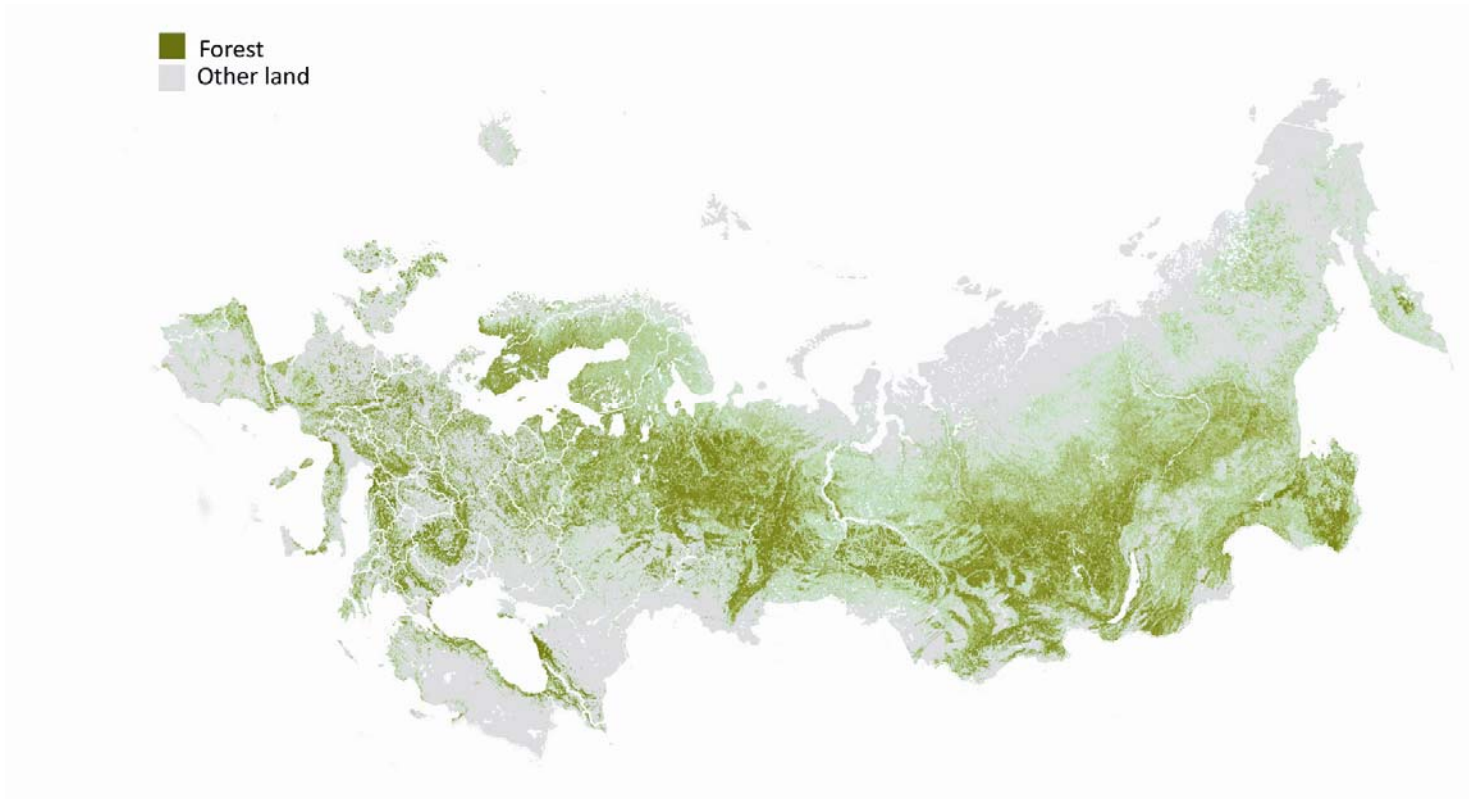


State of Europe's Forests 2011

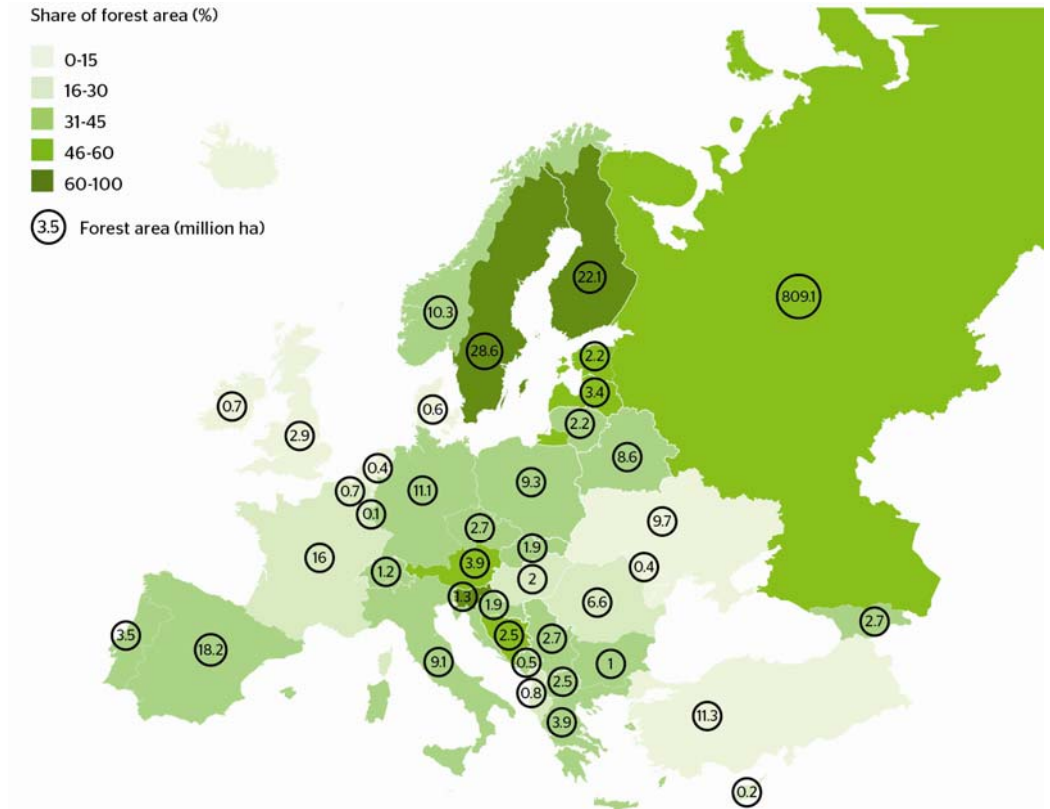
- Provides a comprehensive and fact-based picture of forests and sustainable forest management in Europe
- The best ever information on Europe's forests
- Addresses policy challenges
- Jointly prepared by FOREST EUROPE, UNECE and FAO
- Based on input from 400 correspondents and experts, 60 authors and 27 national and international organisations all over Europe



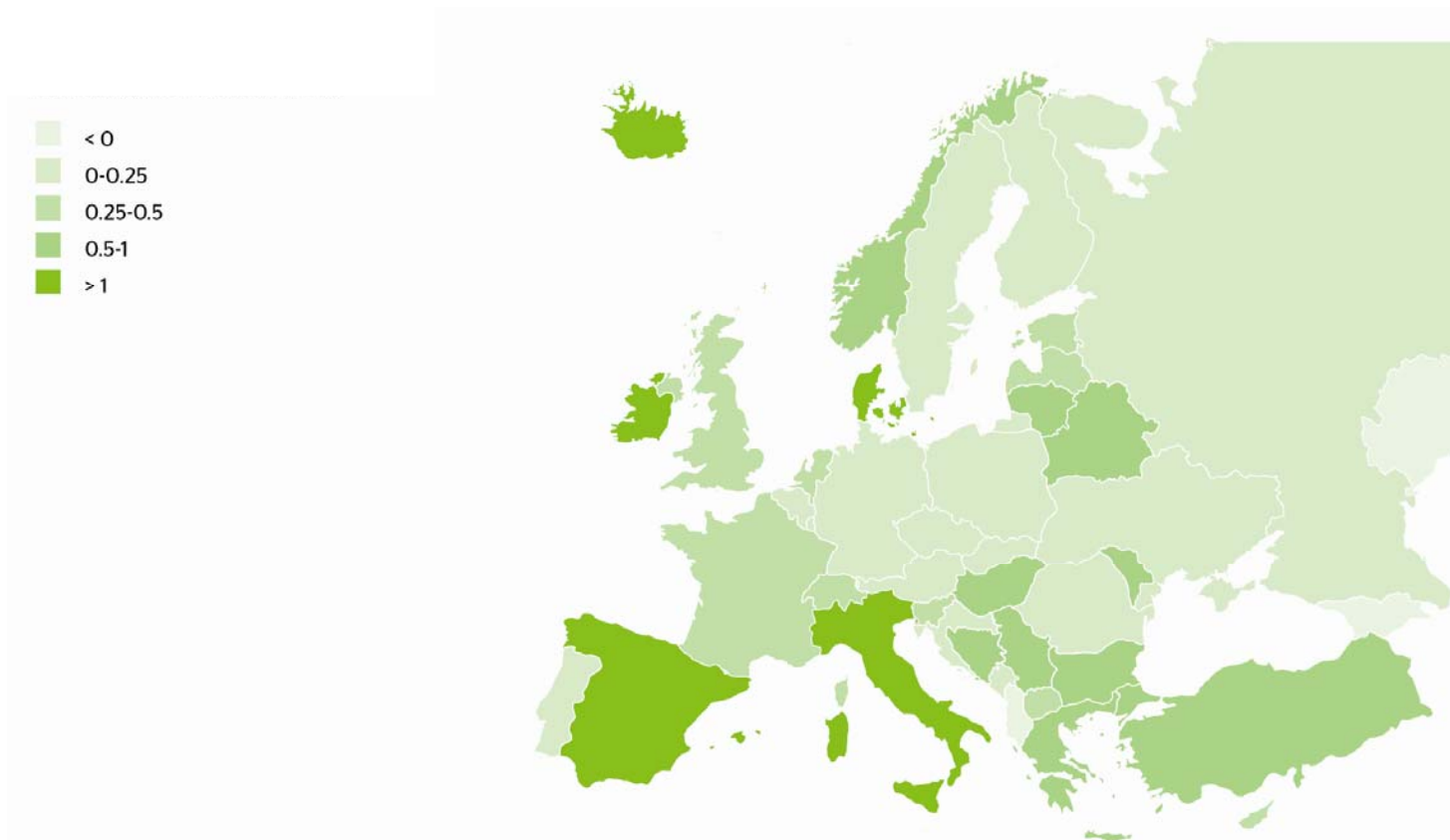
Forest area: 1,000,000,000 ha (25% of world total)



Forest cover: 45% of total land area (32% without Russia)

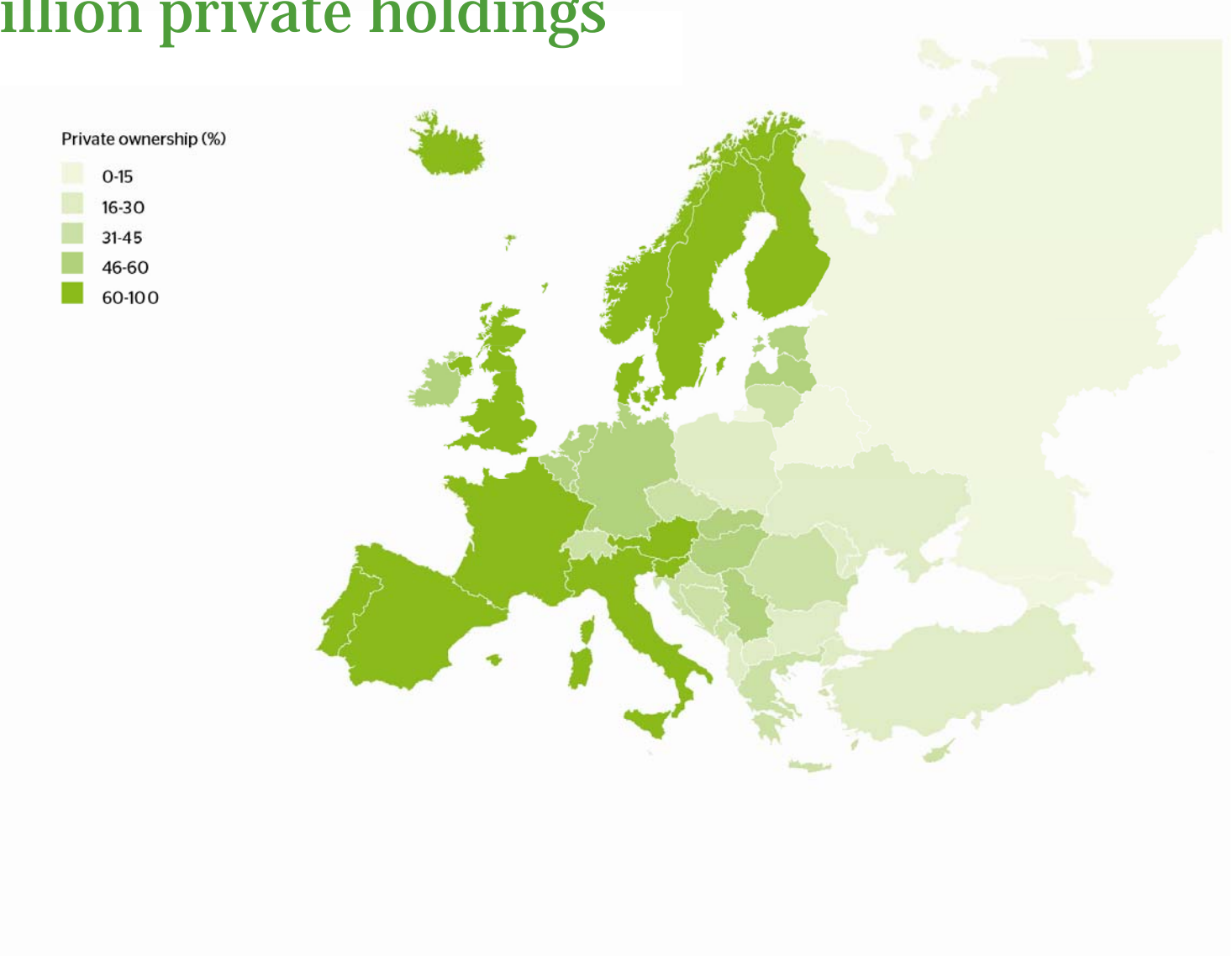


Change of forest area: +0.8 million ha/year



Share of public and private forest, 2005

~30 million private holdings

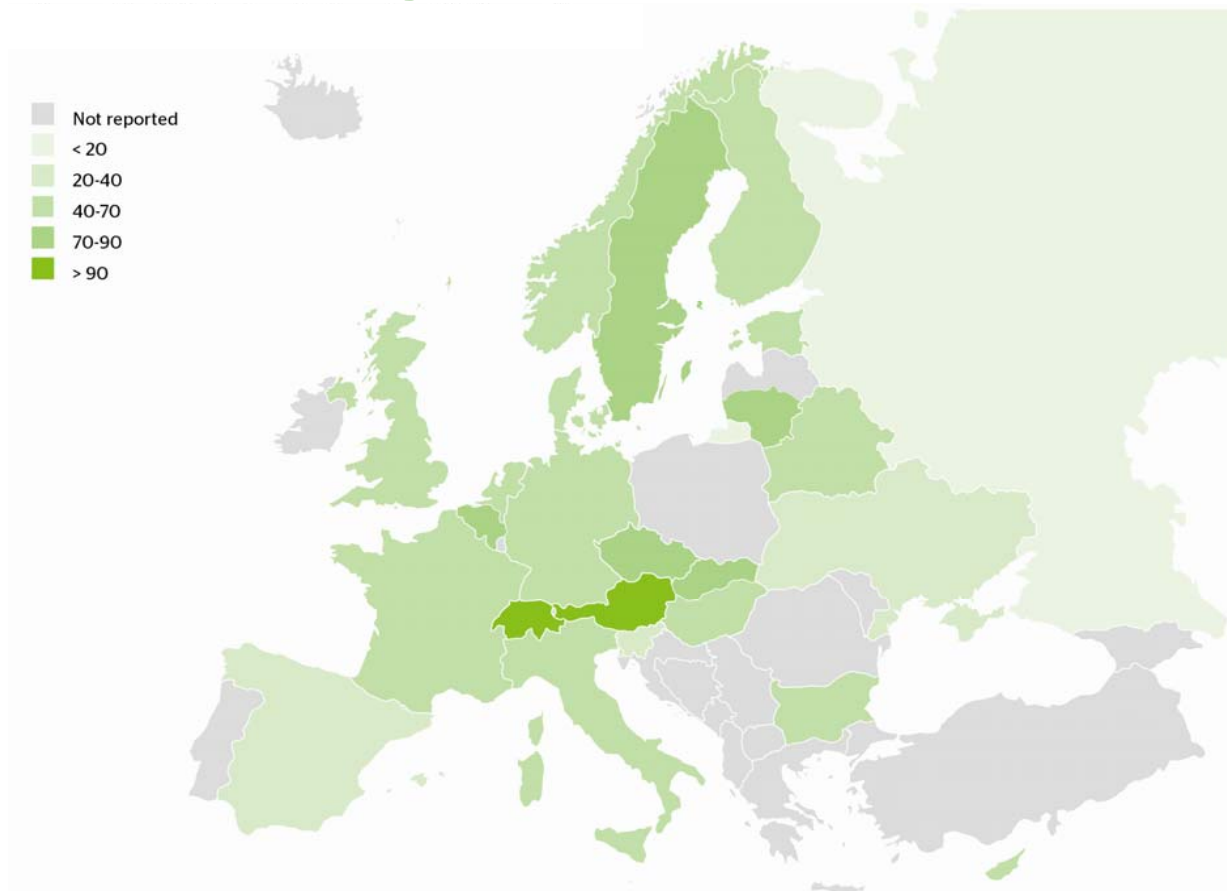


Selected positive findings

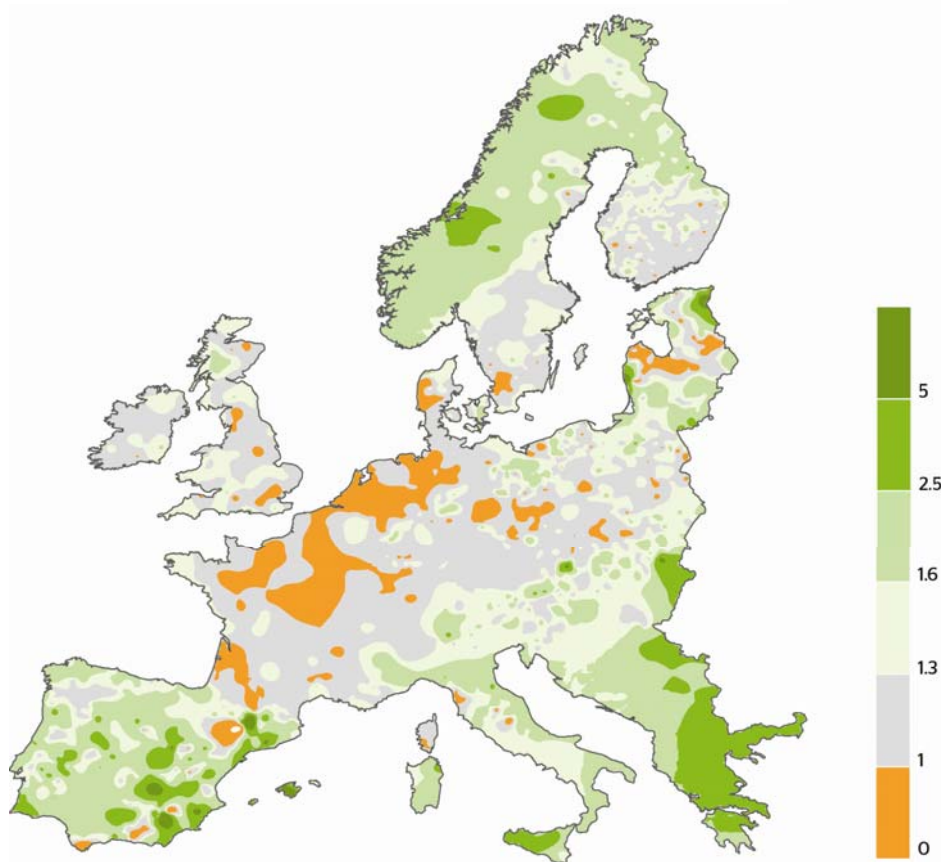
- 870 million tons of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere annually
- The area of protected forests is expanding
- Forest management practices increasingly promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- Most forests have a management plan
- About 1% of gross domestic product
- 4 million jobs in the forest sector



Ratio of felling to net annual increment, 2010



C/N ratio in forest soils

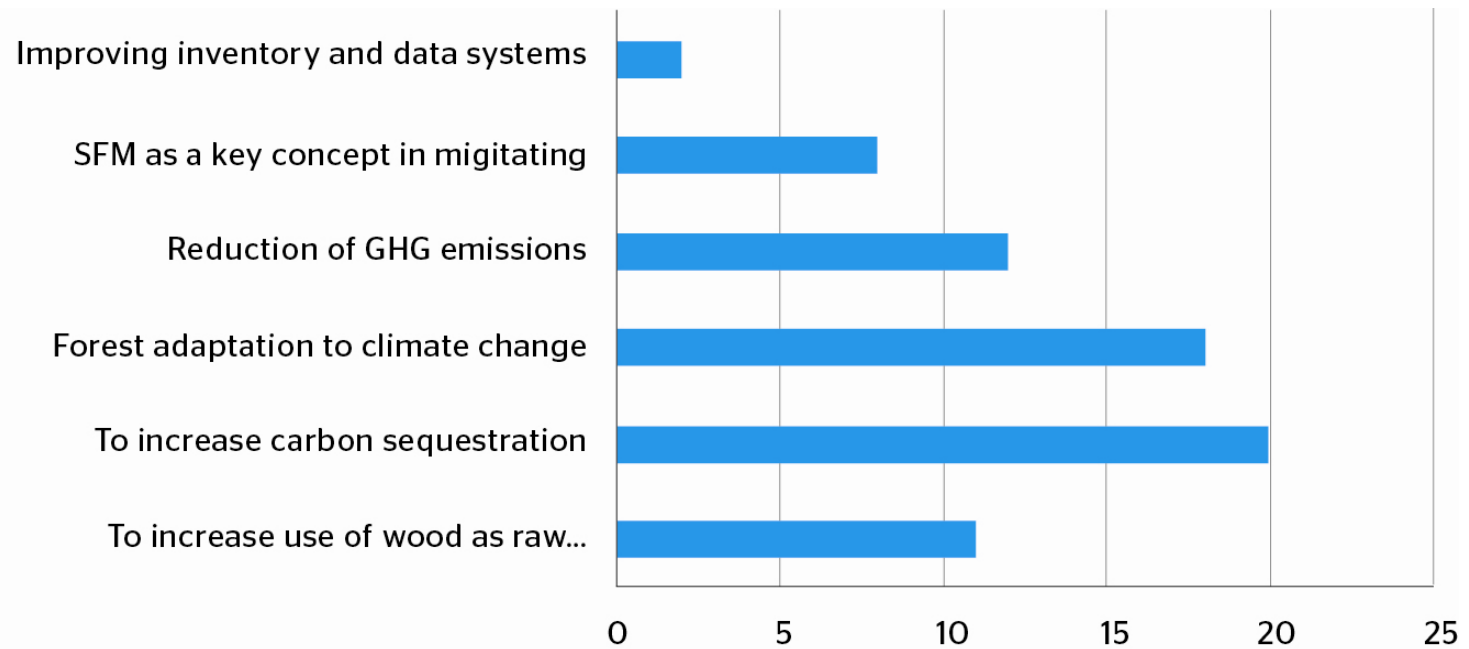


Policies, institutions and instruments

- Increasing influence of international processes and other sectoral policies: climate change, energy, biodiversity and agriculture
- Policy objectives and instruments have been adapted in most policy areas in more than half the reporting countries since 2007
- National policy objectives have changed, notably on
 - biodiversity
 - carbon balance
 - production and use of wood
 - land use and forest area
- Lack of coherence with other policy areas still a challenge



Many countries have explicit objectives on the forest related carbon balance



Is forest management in Europe sustainable?

- An experimental method, based on data provided for the State of Europe's Forests 2011 report, provided promising initial results
- For most country groups and criteria, the results are satisfactory
- Some threats to forests and sustainable forest management were identified
- The method should be further developed and improved



Threats to forests

- Excessive **nitrogen deposition** putting forest soils at risk
- Most damage caused by **insects and diseases**
- Area burnt by **forest fires** not falling
- **Fragmentation** of the forest landscape is increasing
- In a very small number of countries, **forest area** itself is falling due to external pressures and **fellings** are higher than **increment**



Challenges to forest management

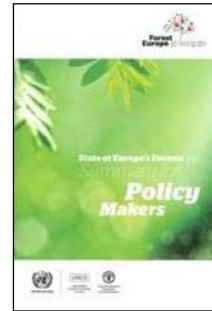
- **Workforce** is shrinking, old, too many accidents
- In a few countries, **net revenue** of forest enterprises is negative
- **Information** problems, especially in South-West and South-East Europe



Challenges for forest policies

- **Climate change** mitigation and adaptation: find the right path and maintain sustainable forest management
- Mobilise enough **wood for energy**
- Reconcile **biodiversity** goals with other societal demands on forests, for example provision of renewable material and energy
- Use the potential of the forest sector to **foster green economy**





All those who worked on the State of Europe's Forests 2011 hope that the report will be used to formulate sound and effective future policies

More information is available on:

www.foresteurope.org
www.unece.org/timber

