



MAKING THE EU WORK
FOR PEOPLE & FORESTS

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Sinca, Romania
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EU forests and climate

Forests have the potential to help us to stay well below 2 degrees

- Currently EU forests cool the climate
- But forests can also be the cause of warming
 - Forest management in EU has had a warming impact on climate since 1750 [Naudts et al.](#) 2016
- Will EU policy make best use of the climate potential of forests in the future?



Natural biodiverse forests are best for climate

- Store carbon and continue to accumulate it for hundreds of years [Luyssaert et al 2008](#)
- Resilient and adaptable to environmental change [EASAC 2017](#)

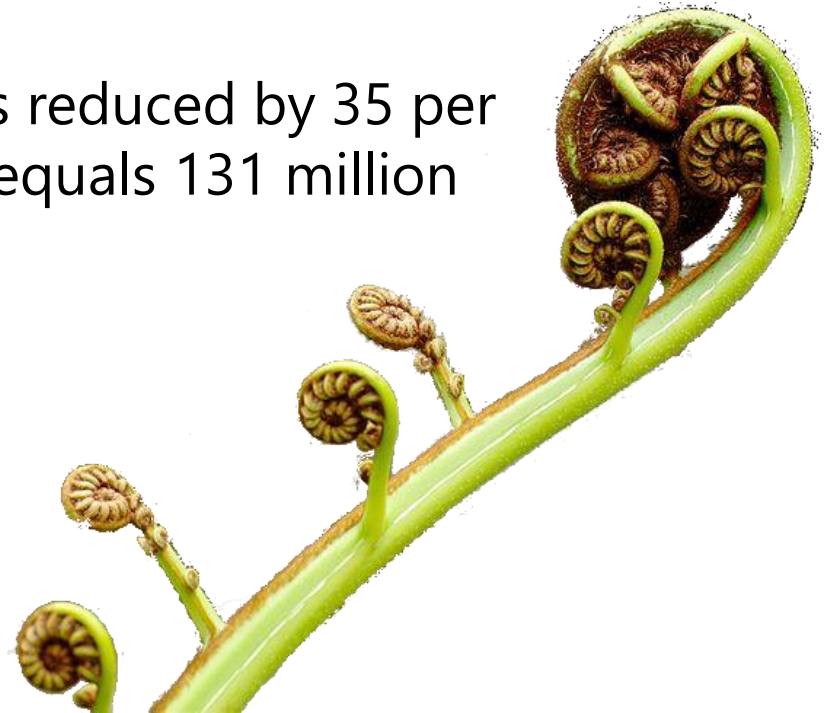
Biodiversity is not doing well

- Only **2-3 %** of EU forests undisturbed
- More wood extraction and conventional logging drive biodiversity loss Woodcock et al. 2015 [Brunet et al. 2010](#); [Paillet et al. 2010](#)
- Only **26% of forest species** and **15% of forest habitats** of European interest (listed in the EU's Habitats Directive) were in 'favorable conservation status' between 2007-2012. [EEA 2016](#)
- 532 forest species extinct IUCN 2009

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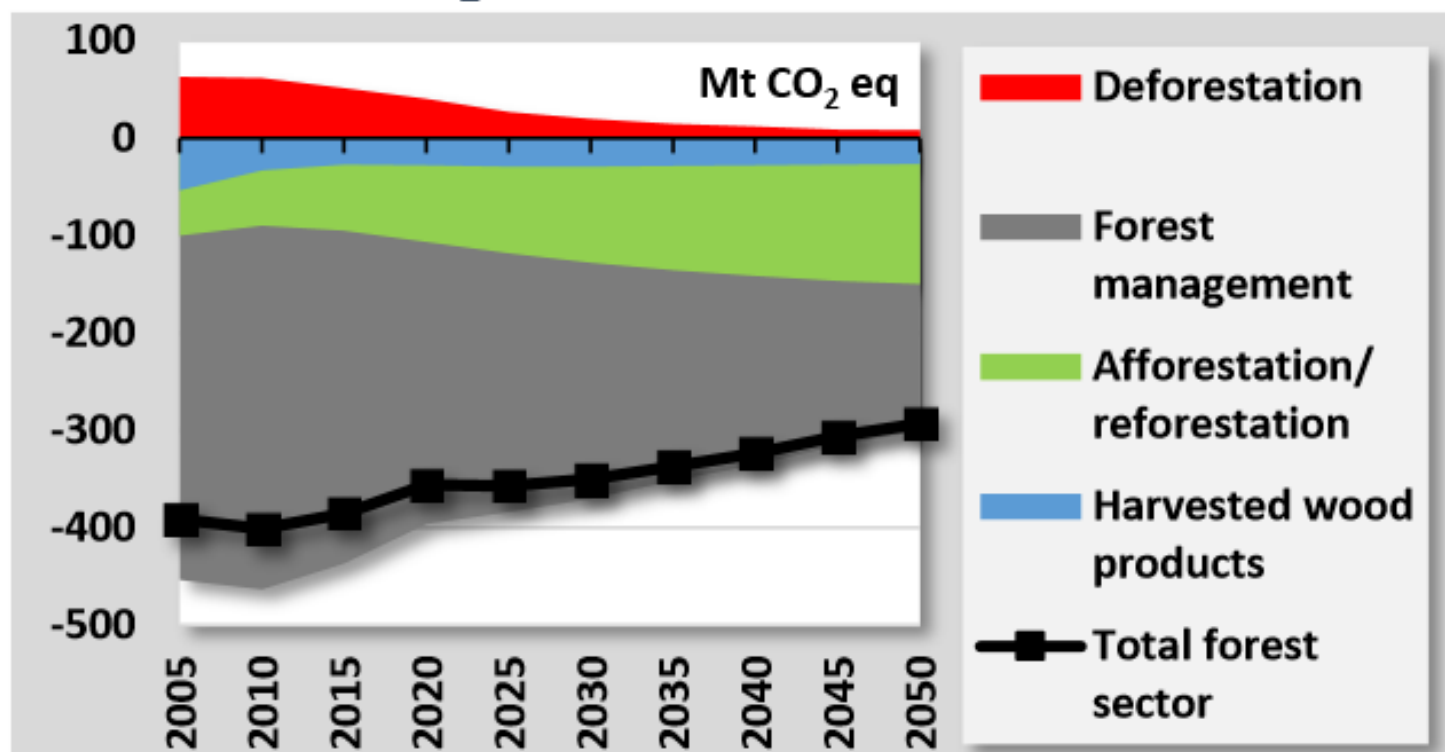
EU forest carbon sink is declining

- In 2015 forest management carbon sink was 37 million tonnes (~10%) smaller than in 2009. [UNFCCC reporting](#)
- By 2030, it is estimated that
 - Forest harvest increase from 516 million m³ (2005) to 565 million m³
 - The forest management sink is reduced by 35 per cent (compared to 2010) that equals 131 million tonnes. [LULUCF Impact Assessment 2016](#)



Decline continues until 2050

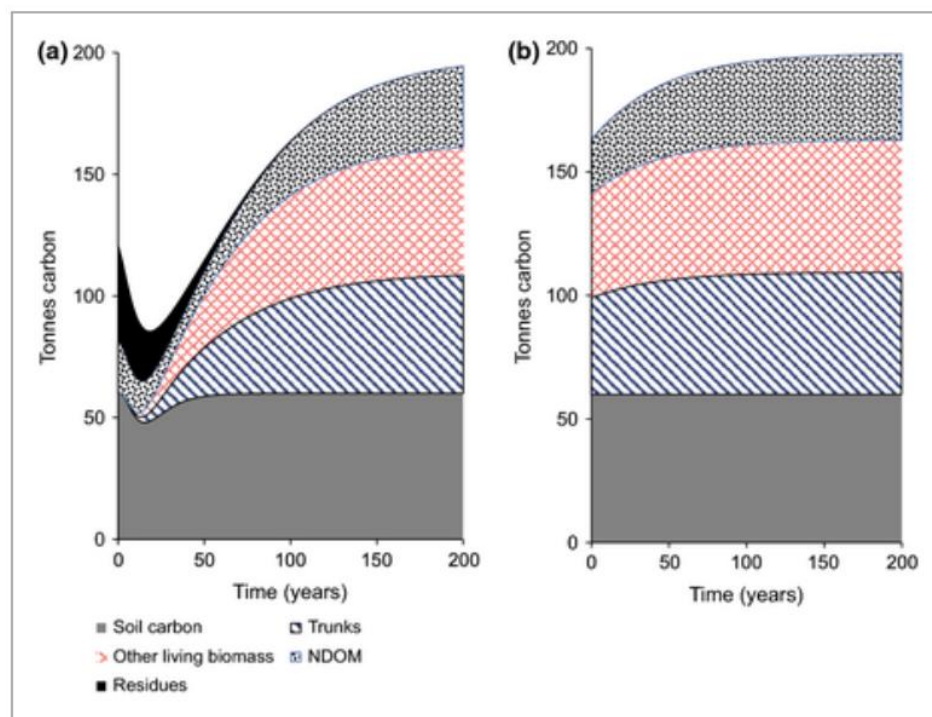
**FIGURE 73: DEVELOPMENT OF THE EU28
EMISSIONS/REMOVALS IN THE FOREST SECTOR IN
MT CO₂EQ UNTIL 2050**



Source: [EU ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND GHG EMISSIONS - TRENDS TO 2050](#)

More harvesting = more emissions

Development of the carbon pools of a single stand in a case where no residues were harvested. (a) The harvest scenario. (b) The no-harvest scenario. [Holtsmark 2013](#).



Southern Finland
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Burning whole trees is bad for climate



In 2020 wood use for energy is projected to be at the level of 2013 total wood harvesting!

[Forest Strategy 2013](#)



Case study Finland

Energy Strategy 2016

- Heavy reliance on forest bioenergy drives demand of forest chips, biofuels and high risk biomass resources such as stumps
- A 15 million m³ (**23 %**) increase in forest harvesting
→ Decrease in forest management carbon sink of 55-60%



Transferring emissions from one sector to an other

Table 1: Estimated development of emissions in Finland if climate and energy strategy is implemented/or is not implemented²⁰

Sector	2014 emissions (MT CO2)	2030 With Existing Measures (MT CO2)	2030 With Additional Measures (MT CO2)
Emissions Trading System (Power and large industry)	29	21	21
Effort-Sharing Regulation (Agriculture, Transport, Waste, Buildings and Small industry)	30	26	21
Land-use and Forestry sector (LULUCF)	-21	-6	-4...-7
Total	38	41	36...39

→ **The climate impact of Finns remains at current levels until 2030**

EU policy is not taking us to Paris

To stay in Paris Agreement temperature limits rapid and deep emission reductions **AND** negative emissions are necessary.

- **LULUCF Regulation:** Accounting for emissions and sinks must be based on the climate impact and its change. Economic incentives to maintain sink.
- **Governance Regulation:** set targets to enhance sinks.
- **Renewable Energy Directive:** No subsidising of burning of whole trees.
- **EU funding:** No destruction, more protection and restoration.
- Enforcement of **Nature Laws**





Ramp up support for sinks

Safe and effective ways to keep carbon out of the atmosphere through forests [Nabuurs 2013](#) [Bhatti 2012](#) [Pukkala 2016](#) [Heinonen 2016](#) [Peura 2018](#)

- Conserving old growth and high carbon forests
- Stopping deforestation
- More continuous cover cultivation & natural management methods
- Supporting biodiversity
- Letting forests mature
- Lowering harvesting levels
- Recycling of wood material
- Long lasting products

Time for climate action is now, not in 2050

Atmosphere cares for net emissions
– no matter the source

We need to take better care of forests to make it



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Thank you!

Koli National Park, Finland
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EU forests and climate

PA: maintenance and enhancement of sinks and storages

According to the EU Forest Strategy
Member States:

- should demonstrate how they intend to increase their forests' mitigation potential through increased removals and reduced emissions
- should demonstrate how they enhance their forests' adaptive capacities and resilience



EU forests & biodiversity

CBD: 17% of all habitat types to be conserved

EU Forest Strategy: MS should achieve a significant and measurable improvement in the conservation status of forest species and habitats

"Sustainable forest management means using forests and forest land in a way, and at a rate, that **maintains their biodiversity**, productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil, now and in the future, relevant ecological, economic and social functions, at local, national, and global levels, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems."

