

# Our forests – our future

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Reinhardt Neft, President of EUSTAFOR  
Brussels, April 25th

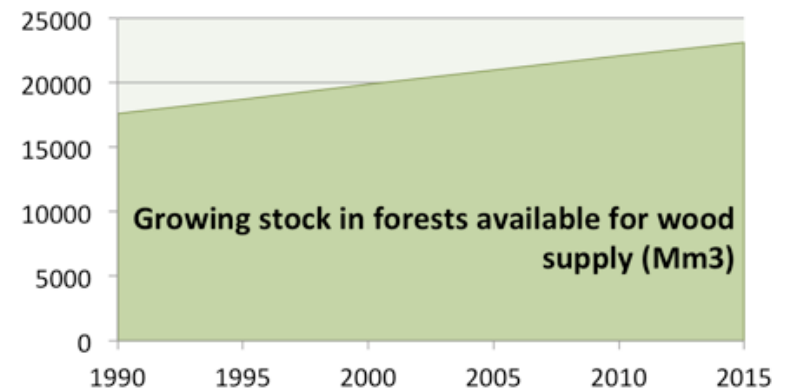
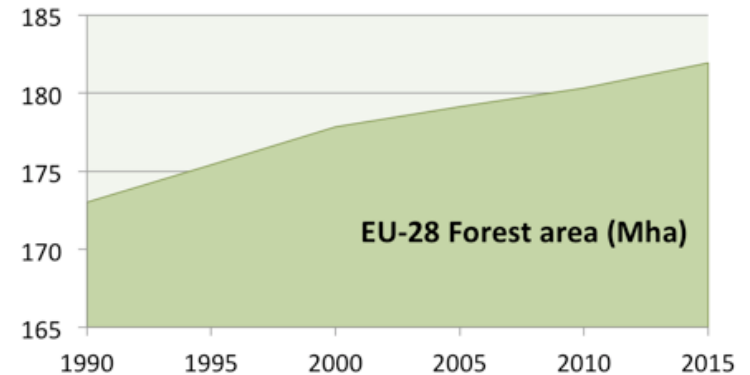
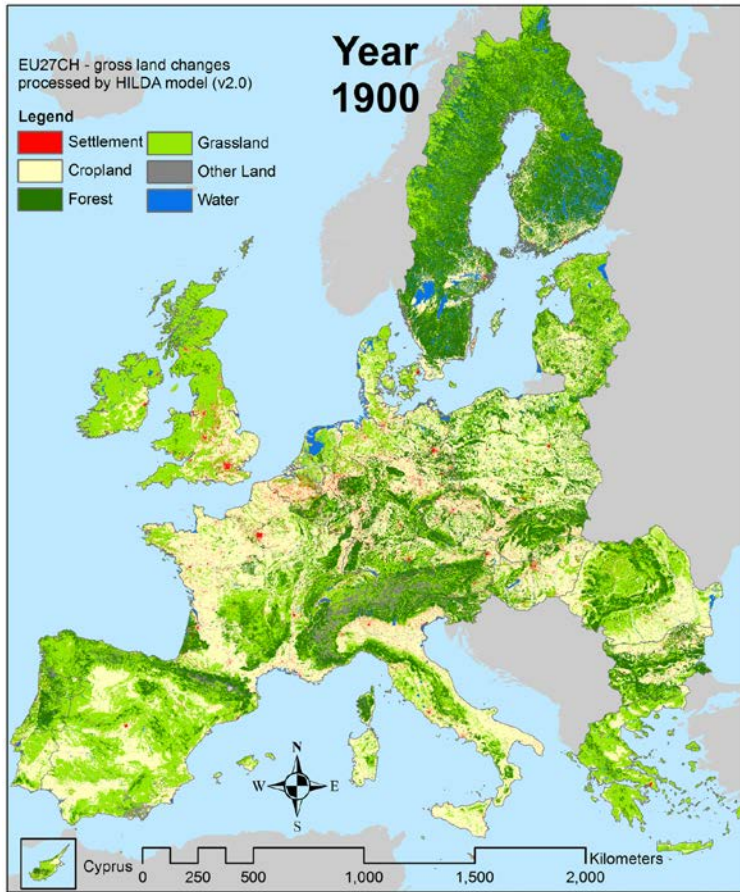


# Facts about EUSTAFOR

- » EUSTAFOR has 34 members in 24 European countries
- » major concerns are sustainable forest management and sustainable wood production
- » Total land area managed ~ 49 million ha (~ 30% of EU forests);
- » Number of employees ~ 100.000
- » Protected forests ~ 8,3 million ha
- » (Forest) Natura 2000 areas ~ 7,9 million ha
- » Annual increment ~ 200 million m<sup>3</sup>
- » Annual harvest ~ 120 million m<sup>3</sup>



# EU forests are growing



EU forests - a growing resource\*

- 185 million hectares
- Felling / Increment = 65%

\*Data source: Eurostat



R. Fuchs et al, *Historic land changes in Europe*,  
*Biogeosciences*, 10, 1543–1559, 2013

# EUSTAFOR Strategy for a better future

## I) Climate change

### » Challenges:

- EU-Forests are in danger! Loss of the ecosystem services and the function as carbon sinks

### » Objectives:

- Forests need management to adapt to climate change (e.g. planting, grooming, thinning, harvesting)
- Forest owners need financial support to deal with the impacts of climate change



# EUSTAFOR Strategy for a better future

## II) Sustainable Circular Economy

### » Challenges:

- focus on innovations in the move from a fossil-based to a bio-based economy
- support regional cycles and rural development

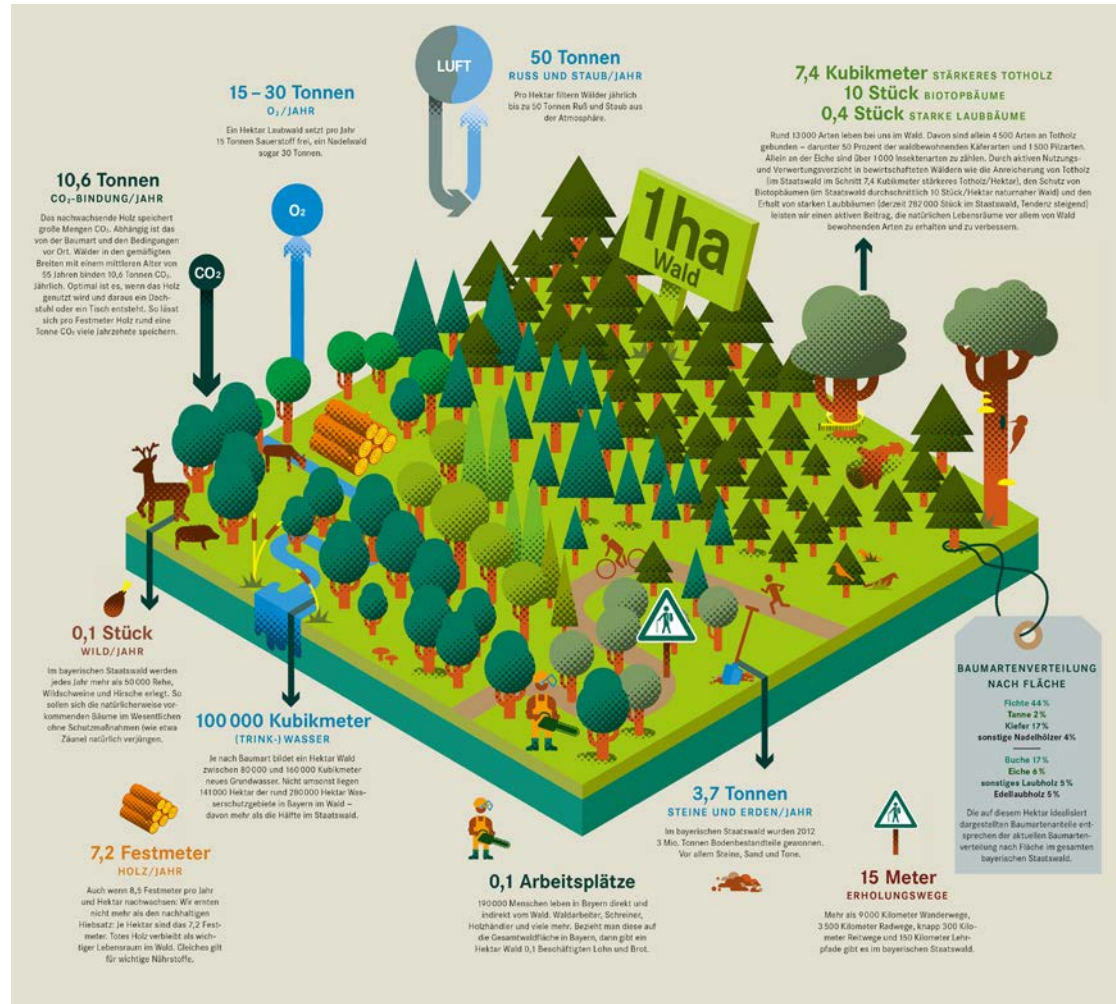
### » Objectives:

- develop new markets for new wood based products
- identify limits and potential for additional mobilization of biomass



# EUSTAFOR Strategy for a better future

## III) Multipurpose forestry



# EUSTAFOR Strategy for a better future

## IV) Biodiversity

### » Challenges:

- protect and increase biodiversity in managed forestry

### » Objectives:

- increase dialogue with society
- combine protection measures with sustainable forest management practice
- support research in protected and managed forests



## Conclusions:

- » Forest management has many dimensions:
  - keeps forests healthy, resistant and productive
  - provides renewable resources like wood and non timber products
  - protects and increases biodiversity
  - enables recreation in nature and promotes human health
- » Forest management adds to sustainable development
- » Forest management needs holistic and stable policy framework at national & EU level

Forest management creates our future!





Thanks for your attention!

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Enjoy (Y)OUR forests!

