

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A light-colored dirt path runs vertically through the center of the image, separating a dark, calm body of water on the left from a thick forest of green trees on the right. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# FACTS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT FORESTS - AND WHY THINGS ARE BETTER THAN YOU THINK



# WHAT THE NEWS TELL US



All information in this presentation derives from the document State of Europe's Forests 2020, if not otherwise mentioned



# WHAT THE NUMBERS TELL US

## POSITIVE AND INCREASING TRENDS IN EUROPEAN FORESTS

Forest area

Growing stock

Carbon stock

Sustainable harvesting volumes

Tree species diversity

Genetic conservation of trees

Forest area for biodiversity  
conservation

Uneven aged forests

Certified forests

Variety of end-uses

Value of wood based products

Safer working environment

Cleaner air in forests

Investments in forests

Policy measures

Monitoring tools and frequency





A photograph of a forest floor with tall, slender trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows on the mossy ground. The text "FOREST AREA AND VOLUME" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

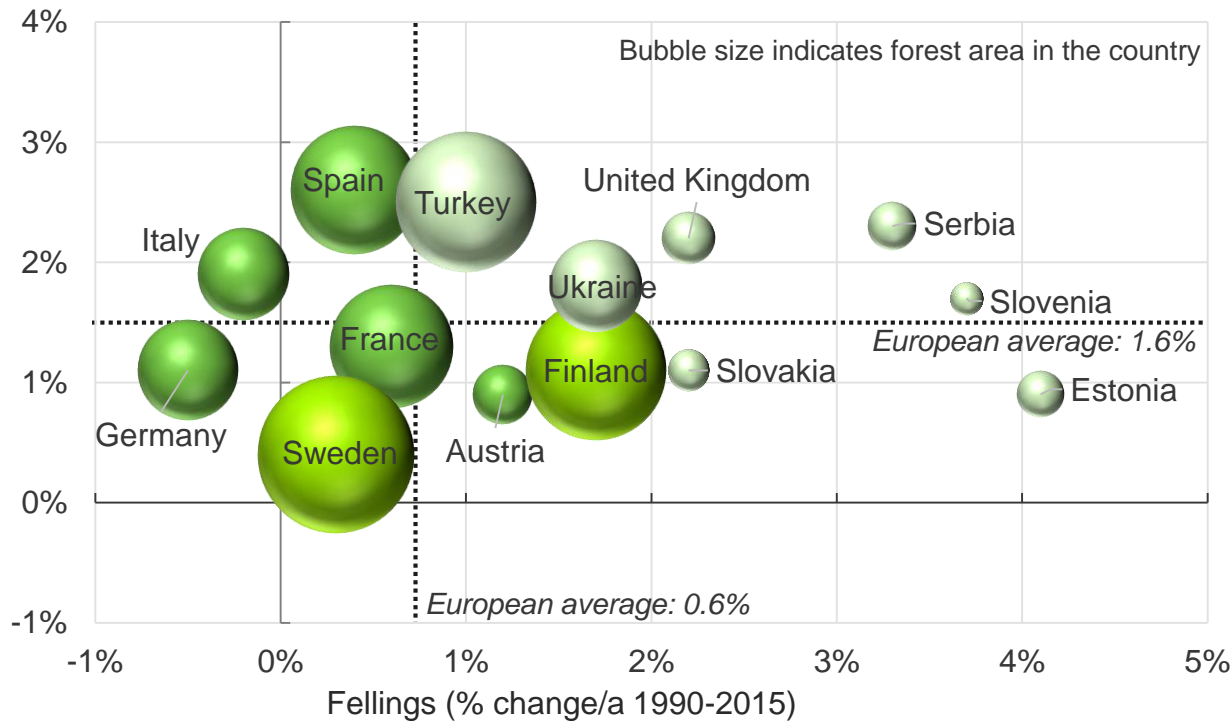
# FOREST AREA AND VOLUME

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# Forest volume increases in all of Europe

Growing stock (%change/annum 1990-2015)



Increase in growing stock 1990-2020: 50%, equal to 1.4% pa

Challenge: the rate of forest expansion may slow down



# The cake grows as you eat it

## EUROPEAN FOREST VOLUME



17.6 billion m³ in 1990

1990-2020:  
+10.4 billion m³

= 28 billion m³ in 2020

## ANNUAL CHANGE 1990-2020

 + 0.61 billion m³ Annual Forest growth

 - 0.45 billion m³ Forest harvesting

 + 0.16 billion m³ Addition to the stock (26%)

 = billion m³

Increase in growing stock 1990-2020: 50%, equal to 1.4% pa

Challenge: natural disturbances in forests require active and sustainable forest management

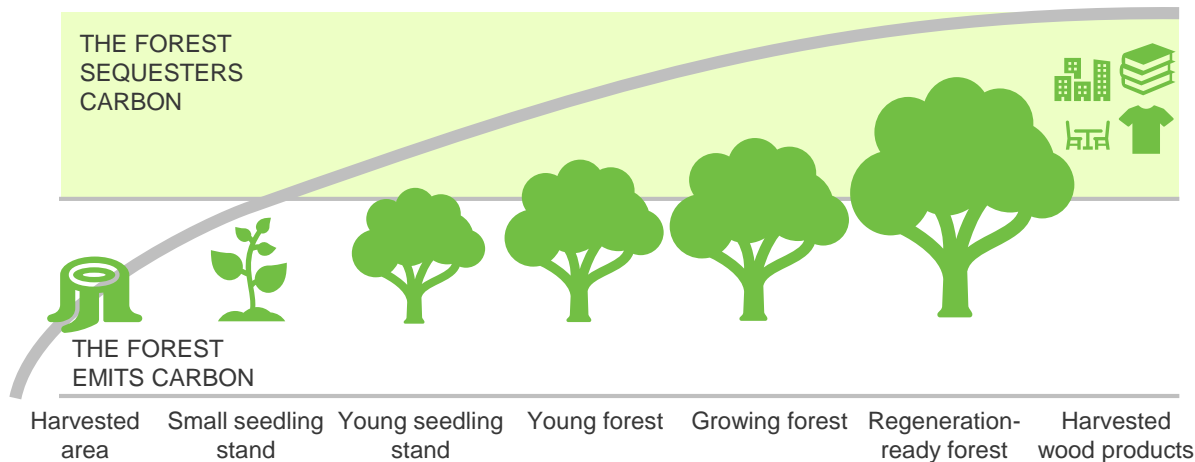




# CARBON SEQUESTRATION

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# Sustainable forest management optimises the climate change mitigation impact

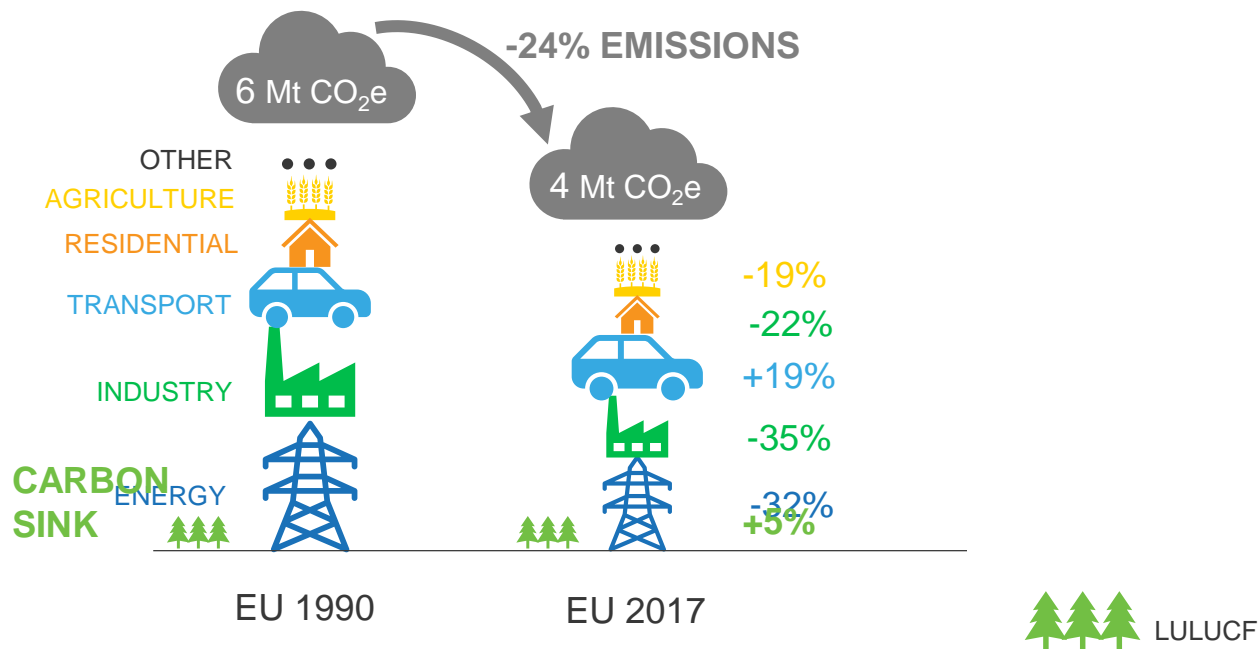


Carbon stored in biomass in Europe 2020: 13,240 Mt. Increase 1990-2020: +50%

Challenge: carbon sinks have shown signs of saturation with ageing forests



# Keeping fossil fuels in the ground is the only way to solve the climate crisis



Source: European Commission

Carbon sink in total forest biomass, growth in EU 1990-2020: 5%

Challenge: sinks fluctuate inevitably and naturally – sustainable forest management can strengthen the sink

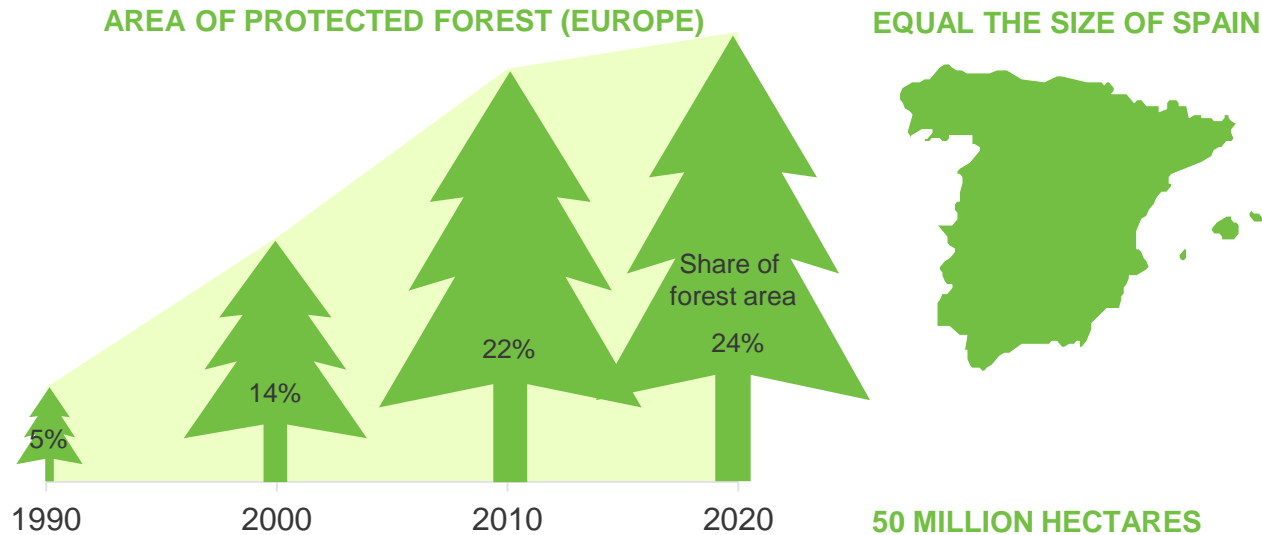


# BIODIVERSITY

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# A fourth of forests are designated for biodiversity protection

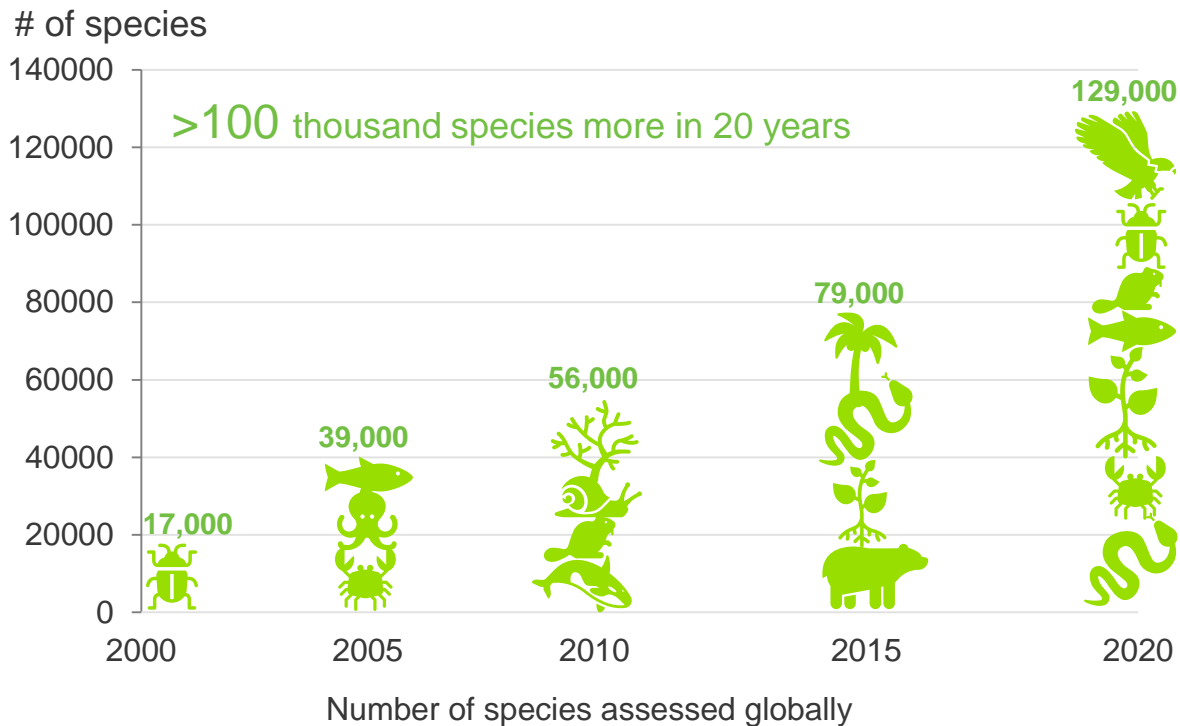


Forests designated for nature conservation: increase by 65% since 2000

Challenge: protected forests may also require forest management in order to avoid degradation

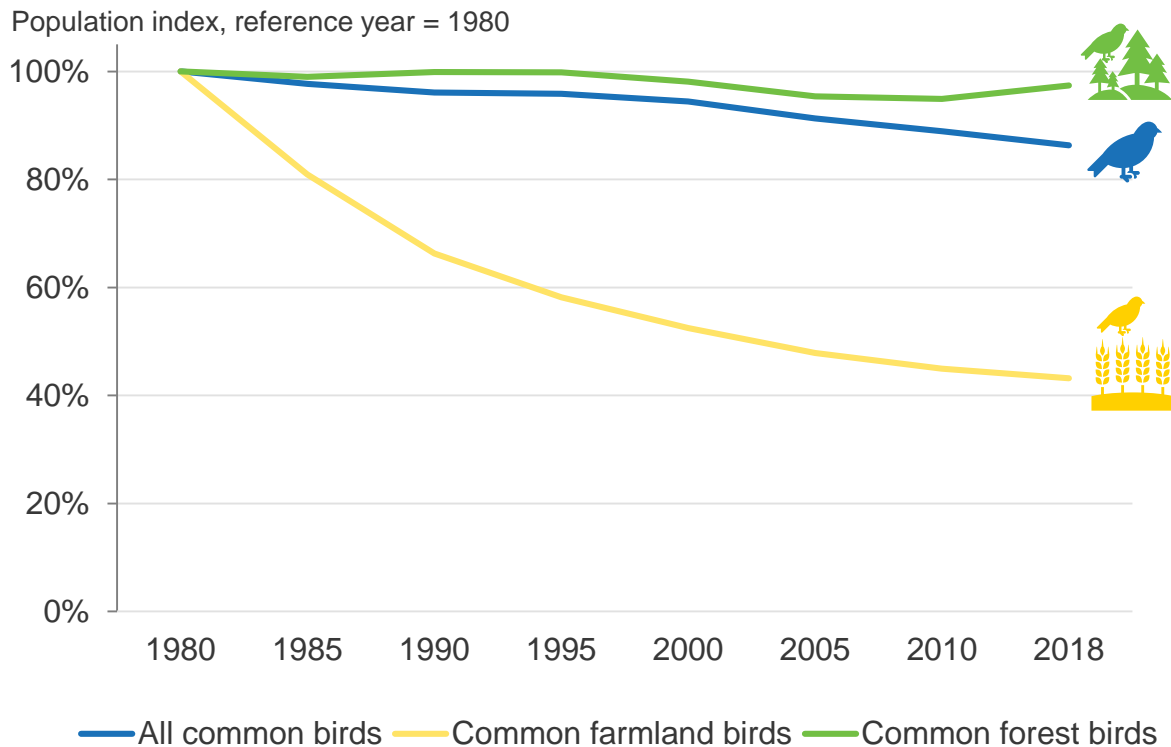


## Knowledge of the status of biodiversity increases constantly





# Forests provide a safe home for birds



Source: EBCC/BirdLife/RSPB/CSO

Challenge: multiple forest management practices need to be allowed to ensure habitat diversity

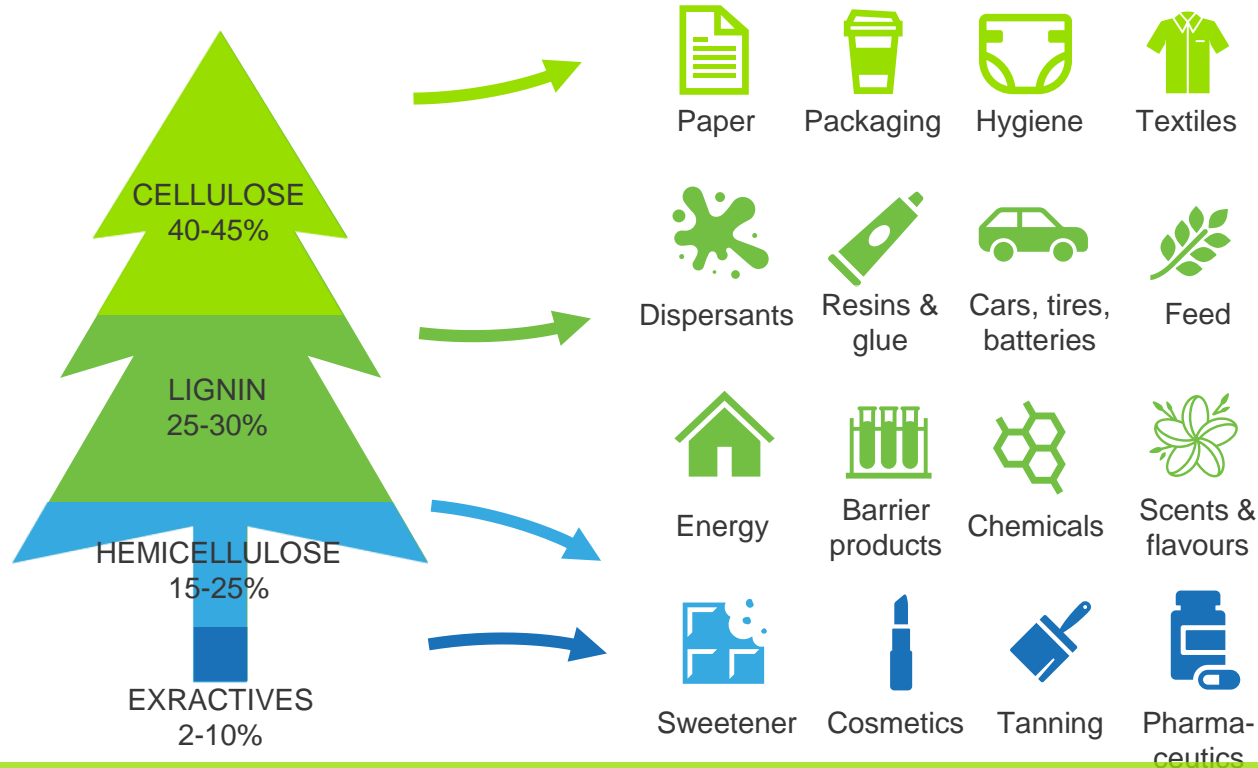


# RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

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# Wood has surprising sustainable end-uses



Consumption in Europe: 1.1 m3 of wood per capita

Challenge: a large share of valuable wood is still used for greening the coal plants





A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The path is made of light brown gravel or dirt and is flanked by lush green grass. Large, mature trees with thick, textured bark line both sides of the path, their branches arching over it. The scene is bathed in soft, natural light, creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

# FORESTS' ROLE IN SOCIETY

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## Deployment of digitalisation has enabled competitiveness, innovations and better jobs

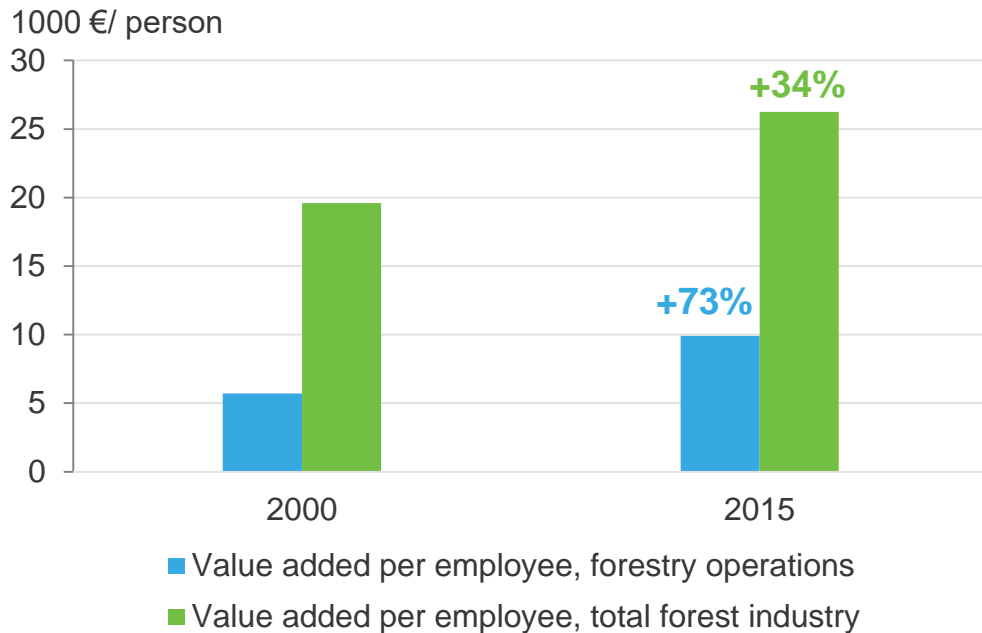


Photo credit: Ponsse Plc.

20% of EU manufacturing companies are in forest-based industry

Challenge: finding skilled workforce is hard while disparities in work methods among EU countries are large

# Multifunctional forests play a role in recreation and wellbeing



**An ultra-trail run along Europe's forest roads and paths would take you the equivalent of 70 times around the globe**



**Should all recreational forest area be equally divided between Europeans, there would be an athletics field (1.2 ha) for every person**



Accessible for public recreation: 70%

Challenge: seeking synergies between multiple ecosystem services



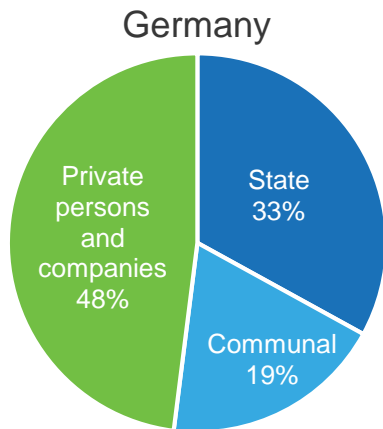


# FOREST OWNERSHIP

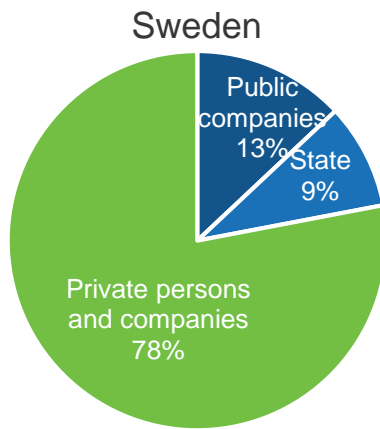
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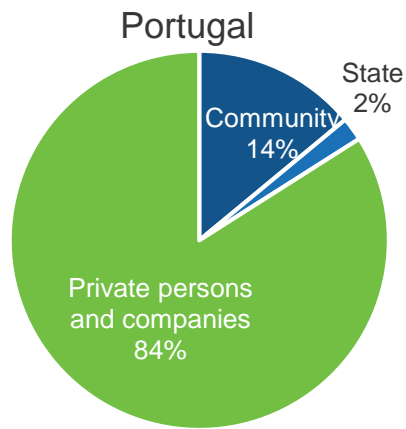
# Millions of Europeans are forest owners



>2 million private owners,  
average size <5 ha



>0.3 million private owners,  
average size ~50 ha



~0.5 million private owners,  
average size ~0.7 ha



Source: [www.forestry.com](http://www.forestry.com), AGDW Federation of German Forest Owner Associations, [www.florestas.pt](http://www.florestas.pt)

Typical private forest owner profile:



Challenge: sufficient market-based return need to be ensured to enable forest owners' biodiversity conservation efforts



THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE

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