



*Rome, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011*  
**Parallel Session**

Present and future role of forest resources in the socio-economic development of rural areas

## **Parallel Session 1**

# ***Forests, conservation of biodiversity, landscape protection and public services.***

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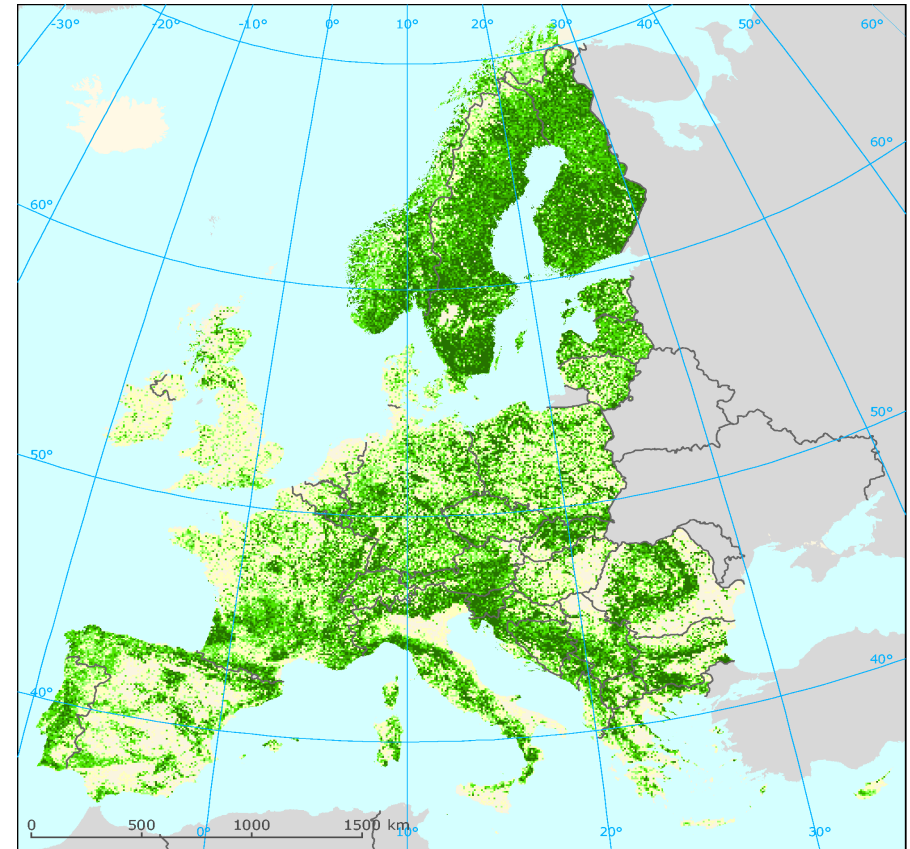
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# Forests of Europe

- EU has 5% of world's forests
- 42% of the EU land area is forests and 'other wooded land'
- mostly semi-natural forest and plantations, very little 'old-growth' forest left
- growing in area, timber volume and carbon stock
- EU volume of timber removed is not keeping pace with annual growth (only 60% of annual increment is felled)



# Forest types

<i>forest type</i>	<b>mono-functional</b>	<b>multi-functional</b>	<b>conservation</b>
<i>perception of the forest</i>	primary production	production plus environmental and social benefits	managed for nature and people
<i>characteristics</i>	intensive production of timber and other wood products	‘closer to nature’ forestry, some timber production, with trade-offs between different functions	old-growth forests, nature reserves, protective forests, urban forests



# Forest public services and market goods

## Forest public services

- biodiversity
- protection of soils and water
- carbon storage and sequestration
- social and cultural services

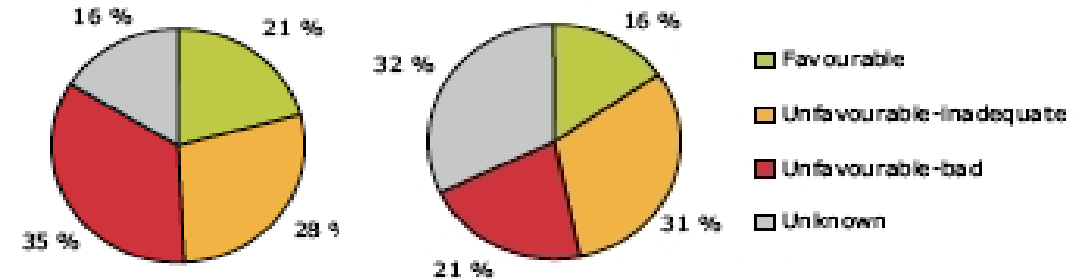
## Forest market goods

- wood
  - sawn timber, wood-based panels, pulp for paper, cork, renewable energy from firewood, chips and bark
- non-wood
  - berries, mushrooms, game, 'green' tourism

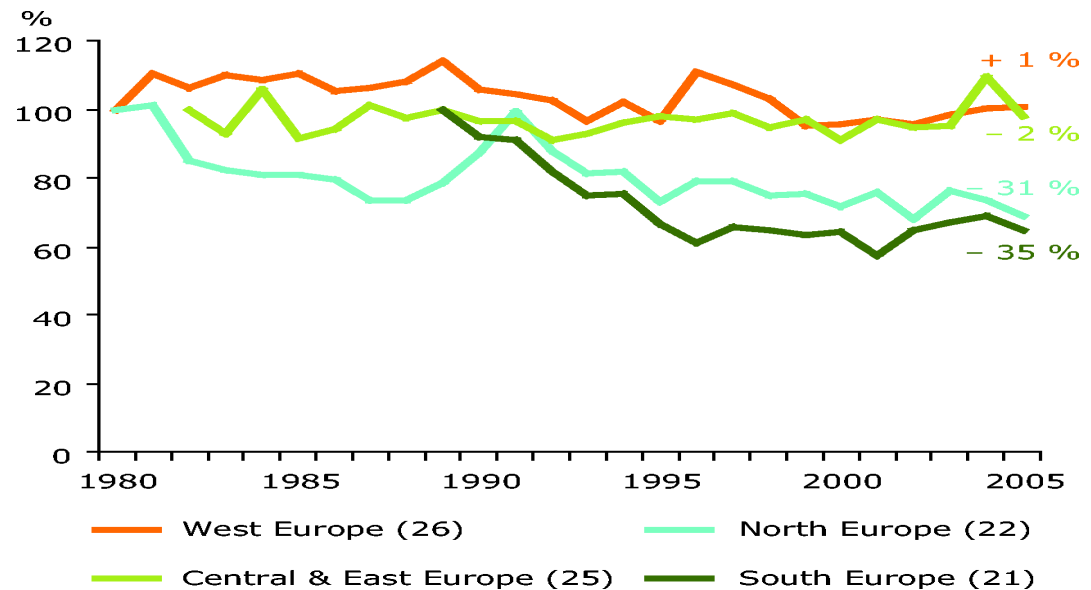


# Forest biodiversity

- species, forest structure, genetic material and soil
- 'old growth' forests, undisturbed by man have richest biodiversity and carbon stores
- 30% of terrestrial Natura 2000 sites are forest habitats
- 170 forest species identified in the Habitats Directive
- threats: lack of management, fragmentation, air pollution, pathogens, climate change

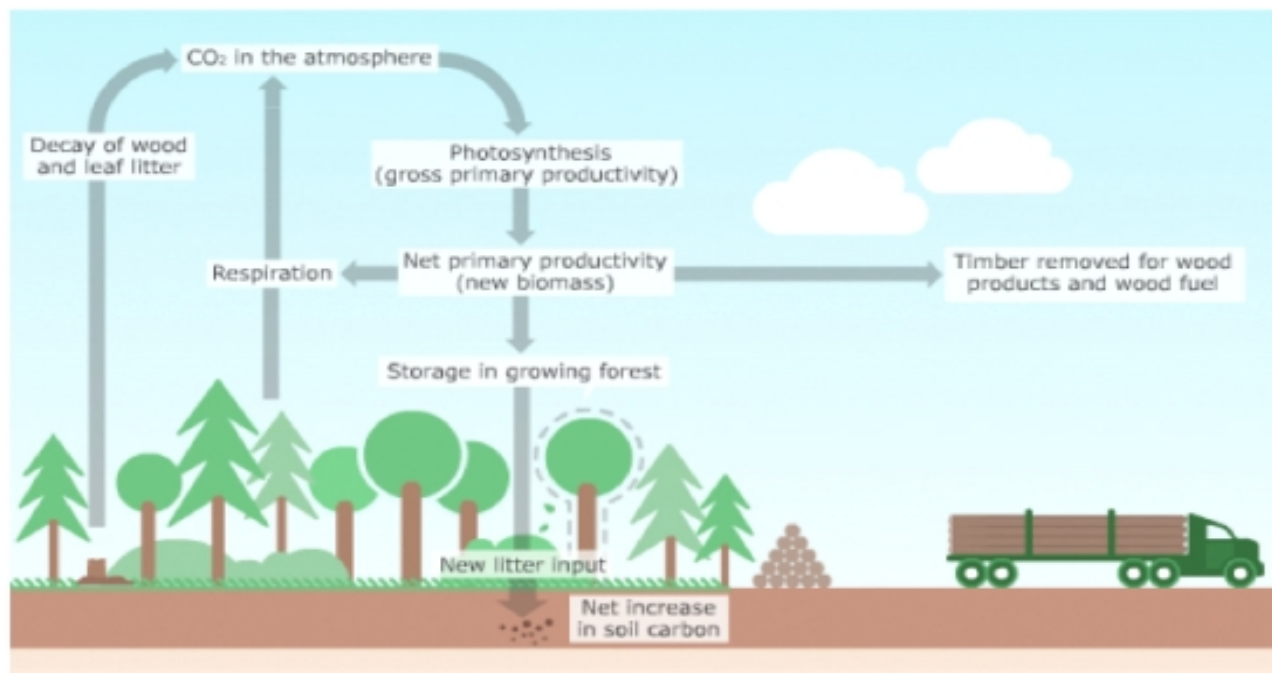


status of Natura 2000 forest habitats and species



populations of common forest bird species

# Carbon stored in EU forests



- estimated 9.8 billion tC stored in EU forest biomass
- forest biomass carbon
  - 73% above ground 20% below ground 7% in deadwood
- each year the increase in EU forest biomass carbon is equivalent to about 9% of EU emissions
- potential long-term carbon storage in wood products

# Carbon sink or carbon source?



- at present EU forests are a carbon 'sink', storing more carbon than they produce
- meeting EU renewable energy targets could increase by a factor of 2 or 3 the demand for biomass from agriculture and forests
- if fellings exceed annual growth some forests will become a temporary source of carbon after 2020
- fell more timber or plant more trees?

# Forests in the landscape



- prevent soil erosion by limiting run-off and reducing windspeed
- enrich soil organic matter
- store and purify rain water, improving water quality and reducing flooding
- protective functions important in alpine and Mediterranean regions

# Forests and people



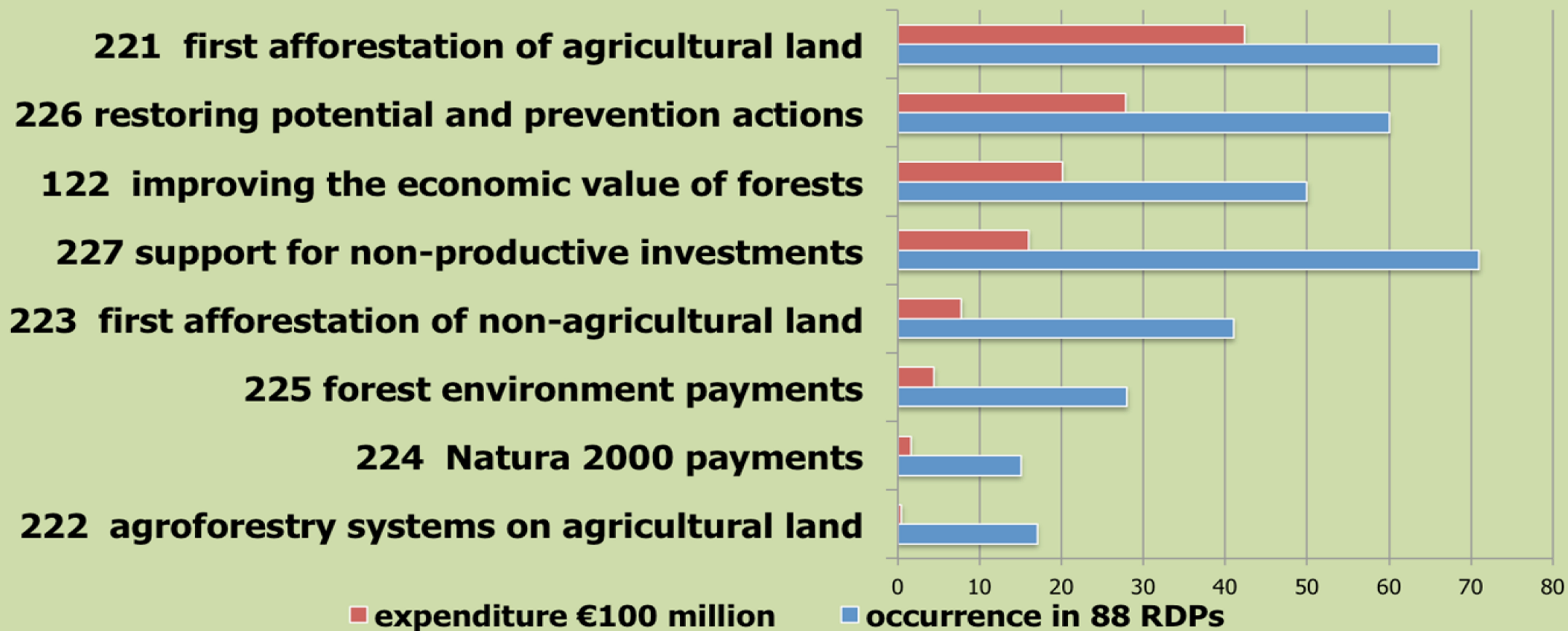
- quality of life
  - micro-climate buffer around urban areas
  - recreation opportunities
  - improving physical and mental health
  - cultural and historic values
- jobs and businesses
  - vitality of remote rural areas
  - 350 000 people directly employed in forest management

# Can we supply all these forest services?



- trade-offs
  - bio-energy and biomass vs. carbon storage and enriching biodiversity?
  - farming or forestry or both?
- coping with the effects of climate change
  - risks of fires, storms, forest pathogens
  - shifting climatic range of forest types
- rewarding the future supply of forest services

# RDP forestry measures 2007-13



€16 billion of RDP expenditure allocated to these and other forestry related measures, equivalent to 7-8% of total RDP funding for 2007-13

Examples of projects on the new ENRD database at  
[http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects/en/projects\\_home.cfm](http://enrd.ec.europa.eu/projects/en/projects_home.cfm)

# Rural development policy after 2013?

- CAP reform, new budget, new legislation for 2014-20 RDPs

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

The CAP towards 2020:

Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future

*'Agriculture and **forestry** play a key role in producing public goods, notably environmental such as landscapes, farmland biodiversity, climate stability and greater resilience to natural disasters such as flooding, drought and fire.'*

## Some key questions:

- Can future support be targeted at long-term public benefits of EU forests?
- Lessons from the current RDPs and Forest Action Plan?
- What should be the priorities for 2014-20, and how do we deal with the trade-offs?
  - EU Biodiversity 2020 target for FMPs, Natura 2000 and HNV forests?
  - Carbon, energy, protecting water, soils and the forests themselves?



*Thank you  
for your attention!*

Photographs:

European Environment Agency, European Parliament, Forestry  
Commission, JRC, C Keenleyside, Nordic Forestry

## PAPERS

- European forest biodiversity status indicator
- High Nature Value forest areas: national forest inventory data Italy
- Life Project + DINAMO to increase the supply of ecosystem services Italy
- Response of insect communities to fire disturbance in Mediterranean forests
- Valuations of monumental trees and other natural resources for conservation and outdoor activities in Sicily
- Recreational function of a rural forest in Belgium.
- Evaluating the restorative potential of urban green space



# POSTERS

- Italian ex situ conservation of plant biodiversity
- Woodland ecosystem services evaluation Italy
- Forest and dune: eco-days to explore Cuma Forest, Italy
- A case-study of a multifunctional urban forest in Belgium

