

## BERRIES, MUSHROOMS AND GAME MEAT ARE IMPORTANT NON-WOOD PRODUCTS

Forest-related services and the use and maintenance of non-wood products are an important component of forest management in Finland. Everyman's Rights grant the universal right and opportunity to everyone to use forests for recreation, outdoor activities and collecting berries and mushrooms, insofar as this causes no damage or disturbance.



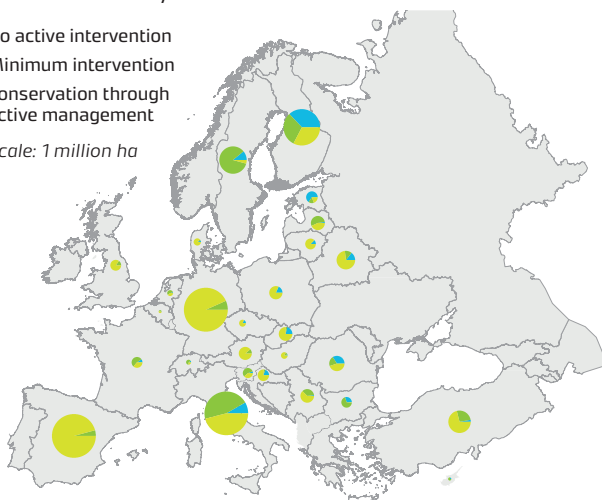
Photo: Erkki Oksanen/Luke

## SHARE OF STRICTLY PROTECTED FORESTS LARGEST IN EUROPE

The area of strictly protected area accounts for 9% of Finland's total forest area. The total area of protected forests and forests under restricted use is 2,7 million hectares, or 12% of all forests. Dead wood has an important role in conserving forest biodiversity. The average volume of dead wood on productive forest land is 5.7 m<sup>3</sup>/hectare.

- No active intervention
- Minimum intervention
- Conservation through active management

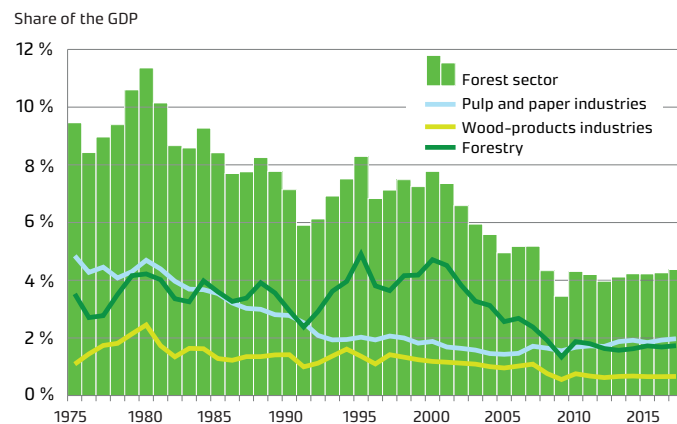
Scale: 1 million ha



Source: State of Europe's Forests.

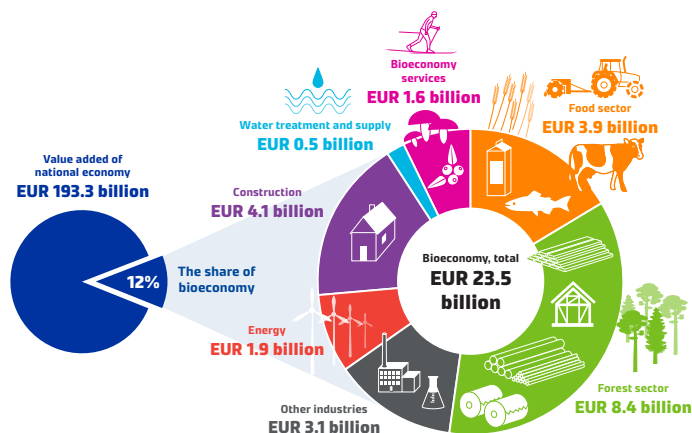
## ONE FIFTH OF THE VALUE OF FINLAND'S GOODS EXPORTS COMES FROM THE FOREST SECTOR

Forest industry products accounted for one fifth of Finland's total value of export of goods in 2017. The most important market area for Finnish forest industry products is Europe. The value added (EUR 8.4 billion) created by the forest sector contributed over 4% of the Finnish GDP, and the forest sector employed directly about 59 000 people.



## FOREST SECTOR - THE CORNERSTONE OF A SUSTAINABLE AND CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY

In 2017, the value added generated in the forest sector amounted to EUR 8.4 billion, representing 36% of the total value added in the Finnish bioeconomy. This share has remained stable in the 2010s. Due to current increased forest industry investments and an increased sustained felling potential, forestry and the forest industry are expected to play a leading role in the Finnish bioeconomy also in the future.



## OVERALL POLICIES

The **National Forest Strategy 2015–2025** aims at:

- ▶ Creating a competitive operational environment for forest business.
- ▶ Renewing the forest sector, and its structure in order to diversify forest products.
- ▶ Continuing to use forests according to the principles of sustainable forest management.

The **Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy** aims at increasing the bioeconomy output to EUR 100 billion by 2025 and to create 100 000 new jobs. Strategic goals are:

- ▶ A competitive operating environment for the bioeconomy.
- ▶ New business from the bioeconomy.
- ▶ A strong bioeconomy competence base.
- ▶ Accessibility and sustainability of biomasses. The Finnish forest sector has as central part of Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy.

Finland's forests contribute to the **UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030**. A number of the SDG 15 "Life on land" targets and indicators focus explicitly on forests. In addition, forest ecosystems and related services contribute also to other SDGs e.g. on climate actions, clean water, human health, economic growth, clean energy, responsible consumption and production and sustainable cities and communities.

### SOURCES

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# Finland's forests 2018

Based on FOREST EUROPE Criteria and Indicators of Sustainable Forest Management

- Forest resources
- Productive functions
- Health and vitality

- Biological diversity
- Protective forests

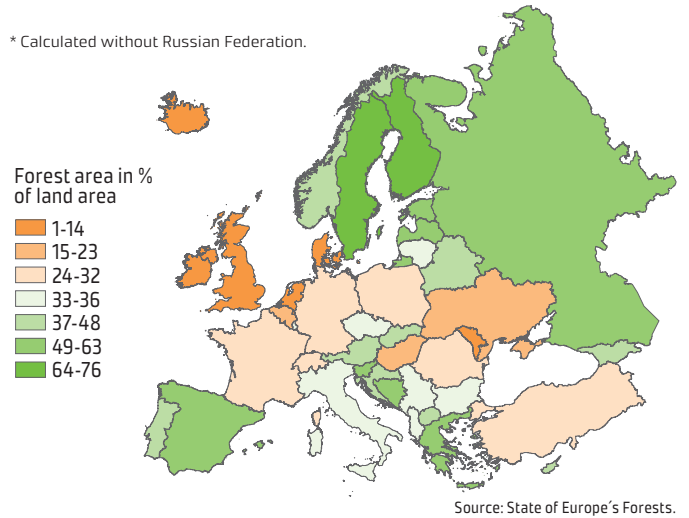
- Socio-economic functions



## FINLAND - A COUNTRY OF FORESTS

About 22.8 million hectares (75%) is under forests in Finland, representing about 10% of the forest area in Europe (215 million ha)\*. The forest area in Europe increased by 17.5 million ha of over the last 25 years - a result of afforestation and natural forest expansion.\*

\* Calculated without Russian Federation.



## FINLAND'S FORESTS ARE MAINLY OWNED BY PRIVATE PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

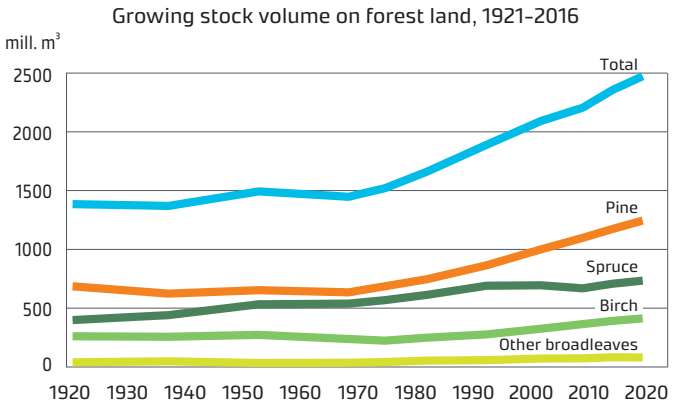
Forest ownership category	Forest land area	Growing stock	Annual increment	Commercial roundwood removals
Share (%)				
Private	60.9	64.7	74.6*	82.1
Companies	8.2	8.7	-	-
State	25.4	20.8	25.4*	17.9
Other	5.4	5.7	-	-

\* State and companies data merged for increment and removals.



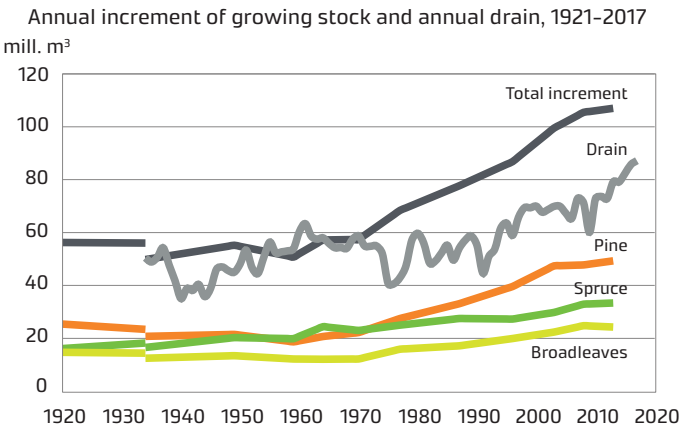
## GROWING STOCK HAS STEADILY INCREASED OVER LAST 50 YEARS

According to the Finnish National Forest Inventory (NFI) the volume of growing stock has increased by more than 40% since 1971, being now 2,473 million m<sup>3</sup>. The most common tree species in Finland are Scots pine (50% of growing stock volume forest land), Norway spruce (30%) and birches (17%). In Europe, over the last 25 years, the total growing stock in forests has increased by an average of 403 million m<sup>3</sup> each year.



## ANNUAL INCREMENT OF GROWING STOCK IS HIGHER THAN FELLINGS

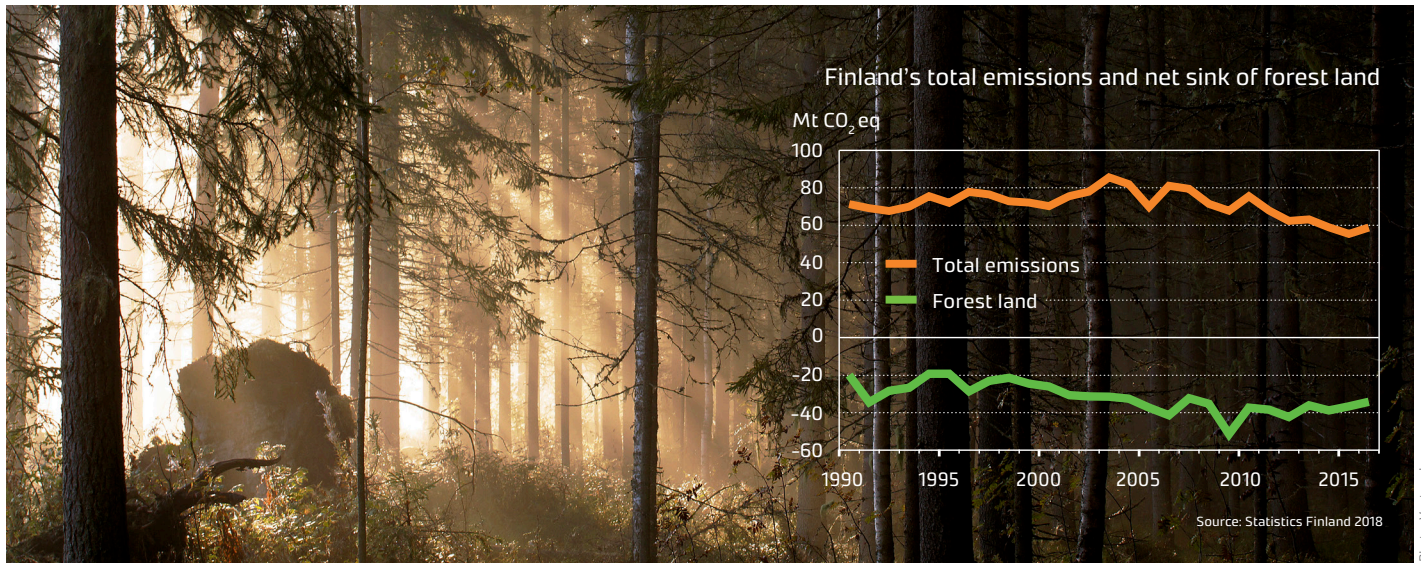
According to the NFI, the annual increment of growing stock was 107 million m<sup>3</sup>\*. The annual increment has exceeded the annual drain by about 30%. The amount of harvested volume since the mid-1970s equals to the current volume of the tree stock. The sustained felling potential of Finnish forests is estimated as 83 million m<sup>3</sup> per year for the years 2015 to 2024.



\* in the years between 2004 and 2012

## FINLAND'S FORESTS ARE A CONSIDERABLE CARBON SINK

The annual net sink of forests varies annually mainly due to harvesting. The average sink has been about 38 million CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent tonnes over the last 10 years. Concurrently the wood products gave a net sink of 2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Recently the forest sink has covered about 60% of the Finland's total emissions excluding the emissions and removals of land use and forestry.



## FINLAND PROMOTES WOOD AS BUILDING MATERIAL

In Finland, wood accounts for about 40% of all building materials. Nearly 80% of detached houses have a wooden frame. Wood as renewable raw material provides a long-term carbon sequestration potential, and thus is promoted in Finland for use in construction, above all for building blocks of flats in wood.



## WOOD-BASED FUELS ACCOUNT FOR ABOUT 25% OF TOTAL ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Using wood for energy increases self-sufficiency in energy production, promotes good silviculture and reduces the use of fossil fuels. Different residues and side streams - such as black liquor, sawdust, bark, woodchips are widely used for the production of heat and electricity. Nowadays sawdust and woodchips are also used for the production of transport biofuels or other bioliquids. The share of wood-based fuels of all renewable energy sources accounted for over 83%.

