



# Sustainable forest management

Management of tropical production forests

*Sustainable forest management within EU international partnerships*

*W. Ellenbroek - April 5, 2022*



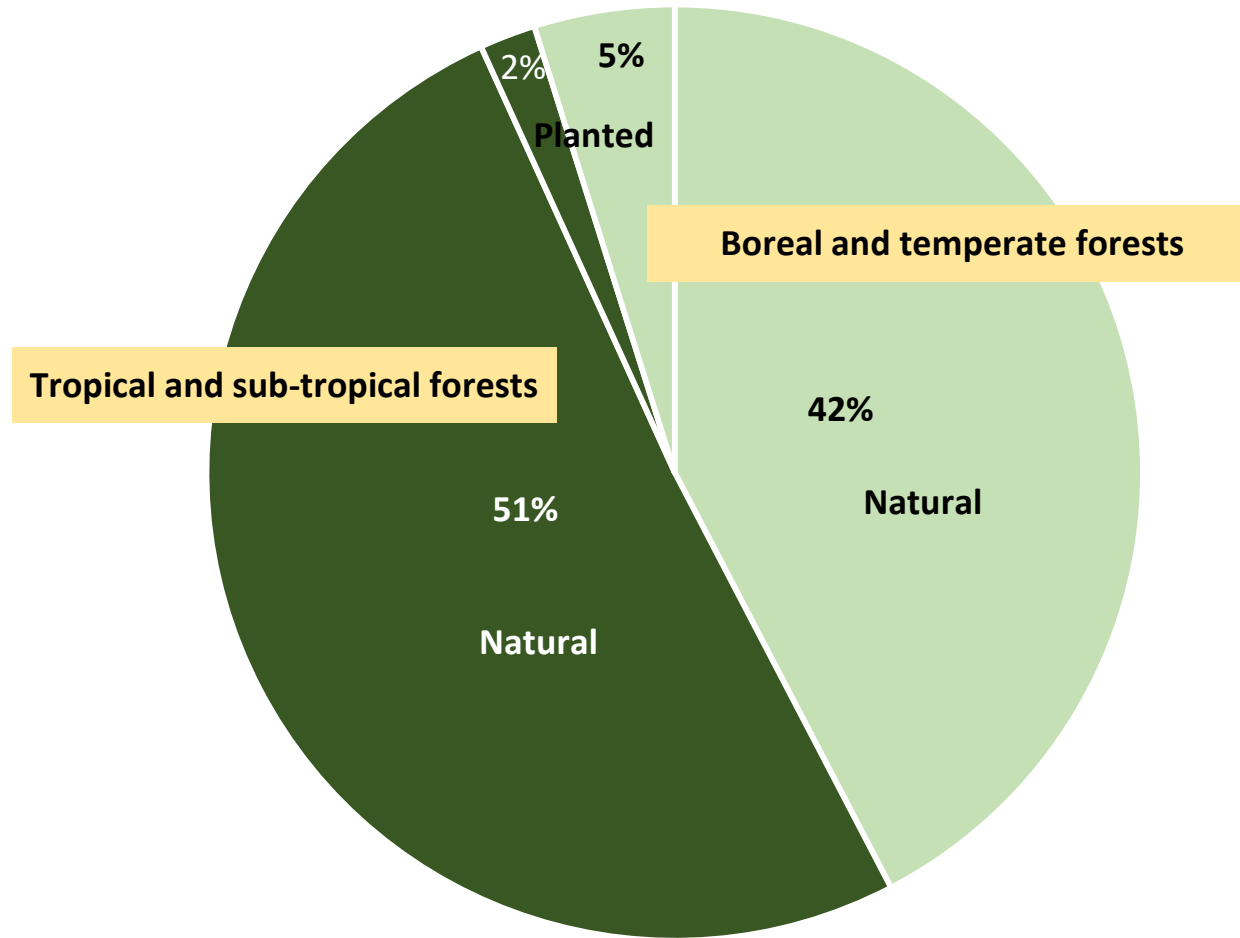
# Do we need forests for economic development?

## Wood – elementary for development:

- **Population growth** – house construction
- **Middle class** – home improvement, fibres for paper or hygiene products, garden wood, ...
- **Forests as economic assets** generating employment, foreign exchange and state revenue
- **Environmental services** that support the economy (water for irrigation, etc.)

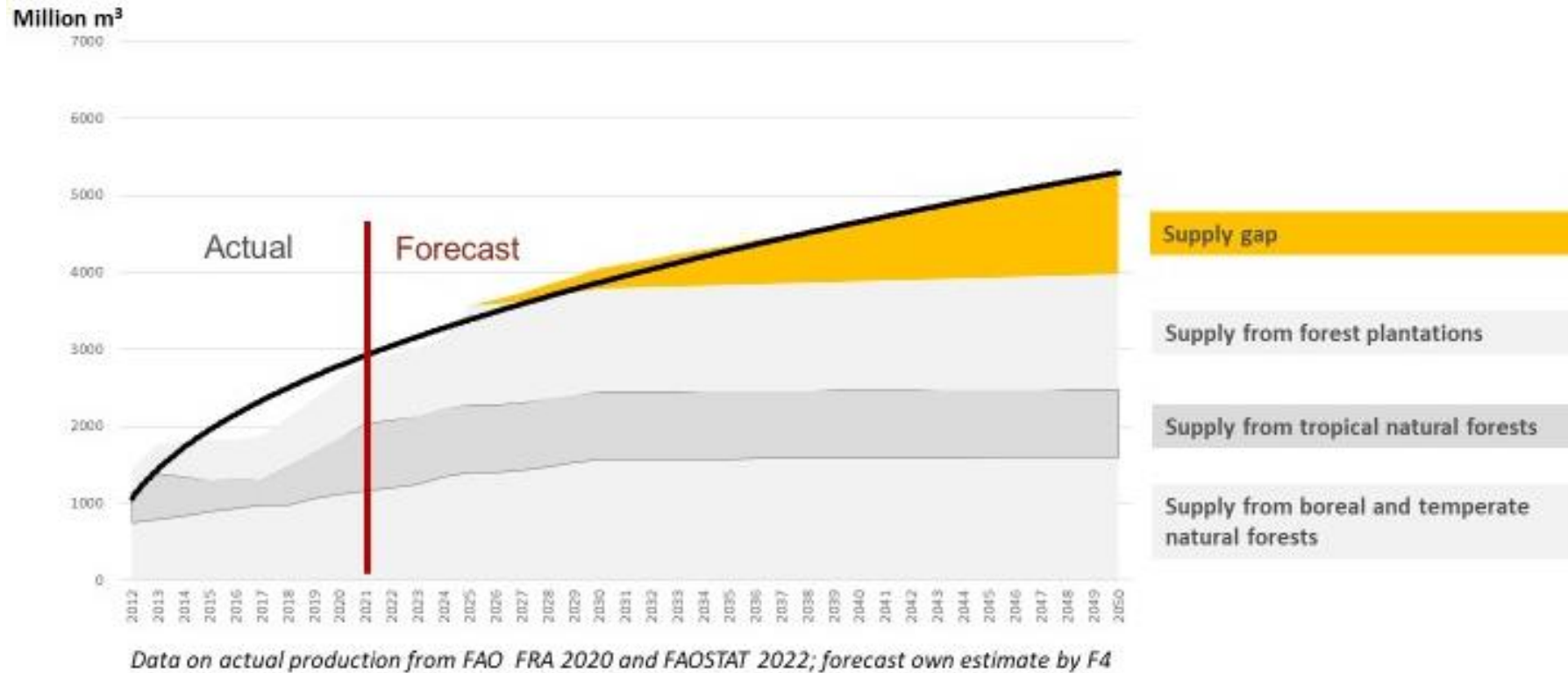


# Global forest cover



- **Global forest cover (2020):** 4,060 million ha (31% land mass)
- **Tropical and sub-tropical forest cover (2020):** 2,130 million ha (53%)

# Is there enough wood production?



**Tropical wood producing countries with a negative wood trade balance:**

- Bolivia
- Cambodia
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Ivory Coast
- Ecuador
- Honduras
- Kenya
- Malaysia
- Mexico
- Peru
- Philippines
- Uganda

(FAOSTAT 2020)

# Tropical forests: low rate of utilisation

Tropical and sub-tropical forest cover (2020):

2,130 million ha

- **production forests: ~400 million ha i.e. only ~20%**

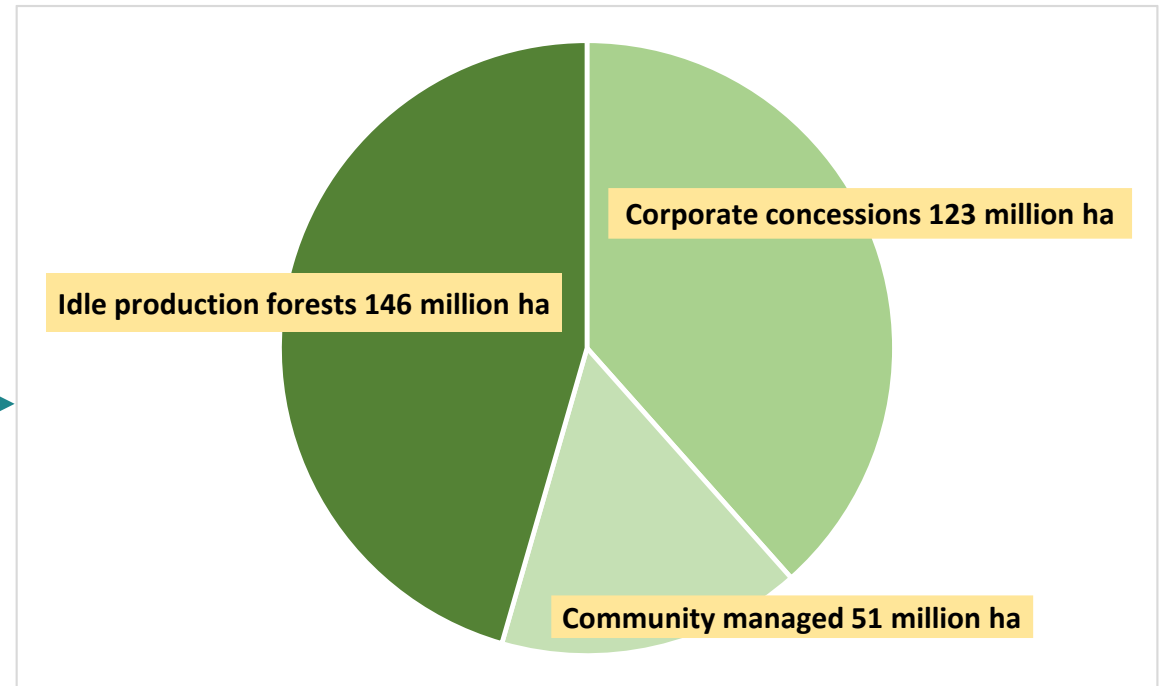
- Natural forests: 320 million ha

- Forest plantations: 78 million ha

- Corporate management

- Community management

- **Unallocated: 45%**

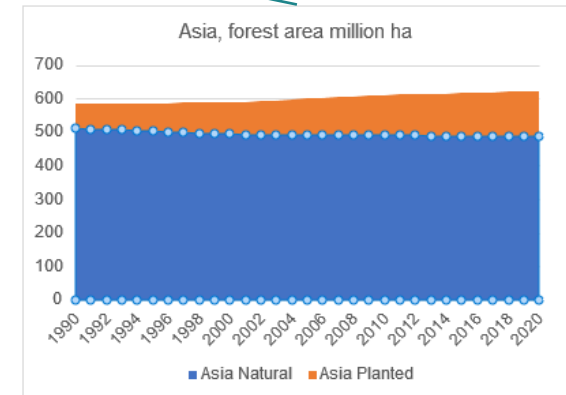
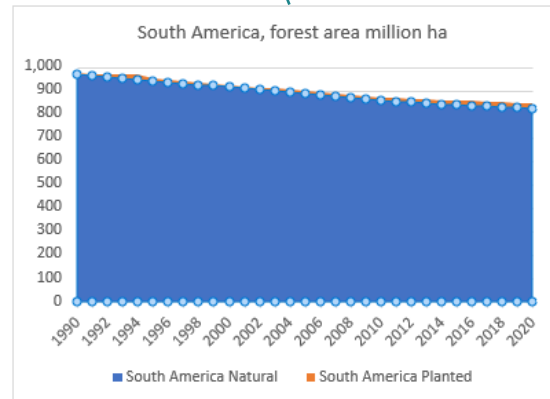
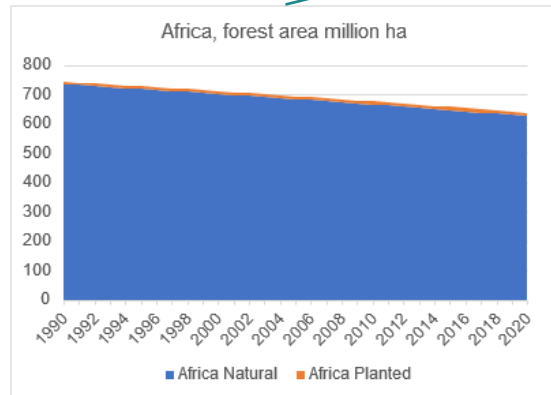


# Deforestation – a tropical issue

Global forest loss (1990-2020): **6 million ha/year** (0.1 %)

- **Tropical forest loss: 9 million ha/year** (0.4 %)

*(FAO Forest Resources Assessment 2015 and 2020)*





# What drives deforestation: this?





.... Or this?

80% or more due to agricultural expansion





# Sustainable forest management: what is it?



**Sustainability:** present day production and consumption must not be to the detriment of production and consumption of future generations. (*Brundtland report 1987*).

**Sustainable Forest Management:** to ensure that forests supply goods and services to meet both present-day and future needs. (*UN General Assembly / FAO*)

Forest management that is ecologically appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable. *Forest Stewardship Council*.

# Sustainable forest management – does it work in practice?

- No

## THE CONVERSATION

Academic rigour, journalistic flair

**Cut less, leave longer: decades of data show we are over-exploiting tropical rainforests**

Published: September 8, 2021 11:34am BST

- Yes – when safeguards are respected

- Reduced impact logging
- Cutting less than annual forest growth
- Science-based: growth monitoring via permanent sample plots
- Conservation blocks: harvest area smaller than licensed area

- FLEGT
- FSC / PEFC

# Sustainable forest management – economically viable?



## Constraints:

- Low productivity
- Large areas
- High costs (logistical, social)
- Taxation and regulation more stringent than for agriculture
- Loss of productive area ('open access')
- Price distortions, low prices



How to enhance the economic performance of the forest sector?

Corporate management

Community management





# Community forestry

Management of tropical production forests by local communities

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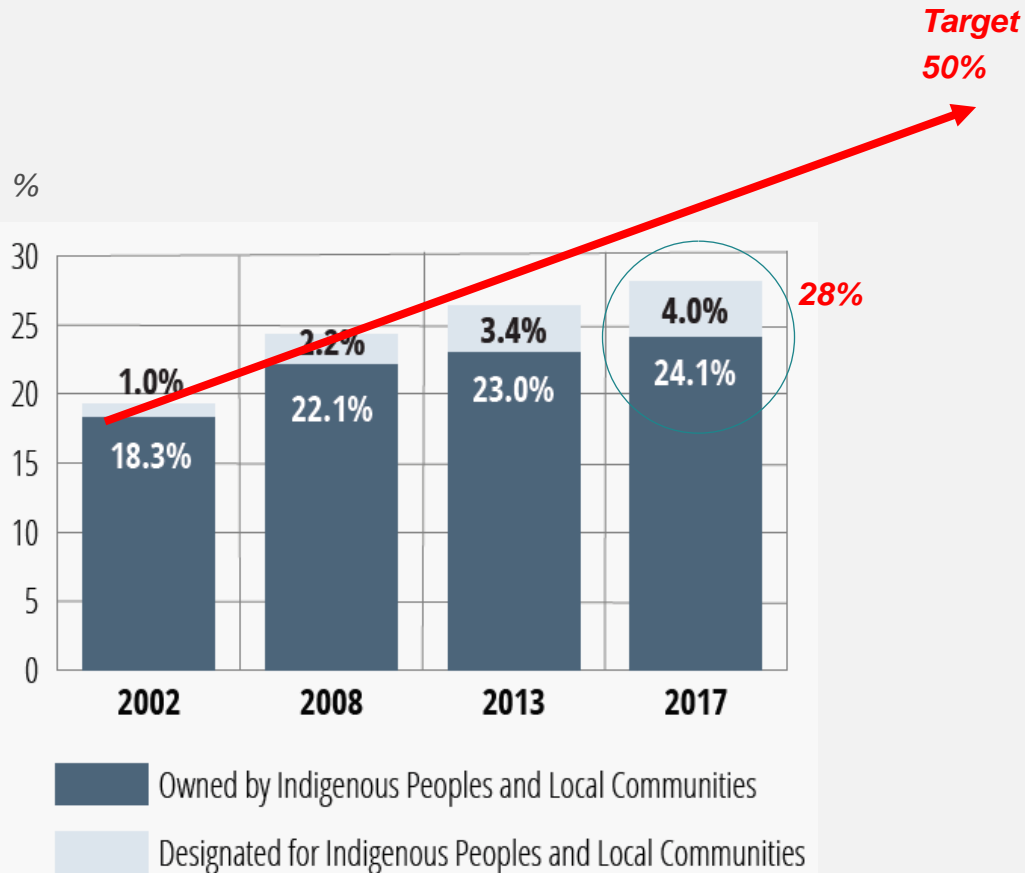


# Community forestry – core concepts



- Rights-based approach - livelihoods and ecological benefits combined
- State allocates forest ownership or user rights to a community
- Organisation: forest committee or forestry enterprise - 'Social enterprises'
- Forestry rules and regulations apply

# Community forest lands – limited commercial use



Data drawn from 33 LMICs comprising nearly 85% of LMIC forests in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Source: *Rights and Resources Initiative 2018*

Forest land under community ownership or tenure:

- More area claimed than formalised: 50% claimed, 28% recognised
- Recognition of rights highest L-America (36%) and Asia (32%); lowest in Africa 7%
- **<10 % for production**

*(Rights and Resources Initiative 2018; FAO Global Forest Resources Assessments 2015 and 2020)*



# Community forestry – can it work?

- Sustainable logging beyond the means of communities (knowledge, skills, finance)
- Small or degraded forests



- **Community forestry in general has not delivered on expectations**
- *Many CBF regimes are still performing below expectations and could do much better if provided with the right “keys”.  
FAO Forestry Paper 176, 2016.*





# Community forestry – yes it can work

## In the (sub-)tropics:

- Brazil
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- DRC

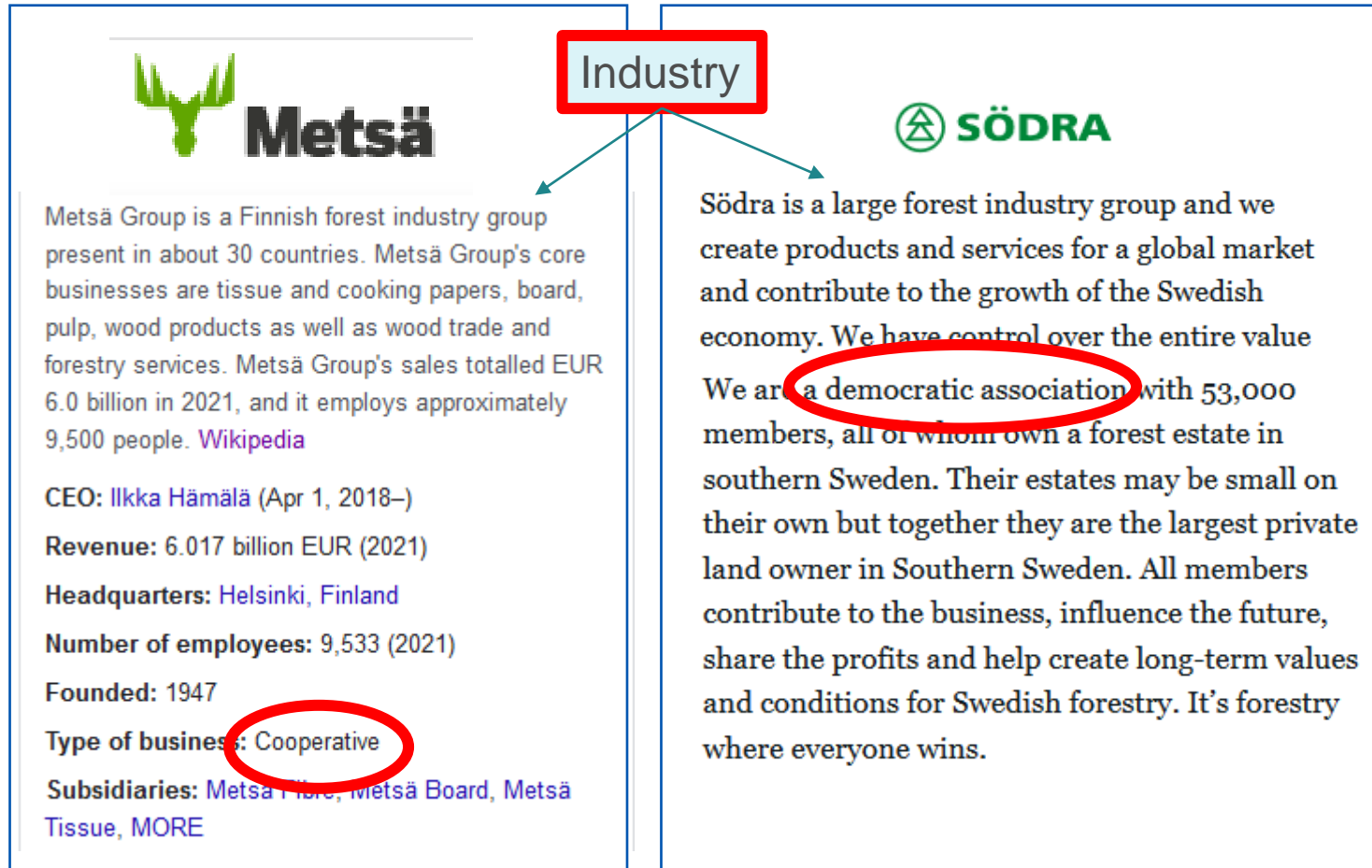
## In boreal and temperate zones:

- Canada
- USA
- Sweden, Finland, Norway



Red Compa/ACOFOP

# Community forestry – at scale



## Our Services in Norway

NORSKOG was formed in 1950 and is a member organization of forest owners in Norway. Our members own or manage over 1.2 million hectares of forestland. Our strength is in the ability to act on behalf of the forest owners in Norway that benefits all, but with the very large efficiencies that a collective can provide. In addition to the activities around advocacy, advice and information, NORSKOG provides a number of excellent services in Norway including:

- buying and selling forestry assets
- day-to-day forest management and planning
- support in communication with local and central authorities
- forest taxation
- support in voluntary forest protection mechanism
- certification
- wood trade
- silviculture and nature-based tourism
- research and development projects related to forestry and wood industry

**Services**



# The way forward – **think big**

- 
- **Business approach:** sufficient area, adaptive business model, financial self-reliance
  - **Integration** into associations or cooperatives
  - From project approach to **sector approach**
  - From NGO support to professional **domestic services network**



# Options for EU support

## 1. Strategy:

- Better data - country baseline reports
- Sector strategy



## 2. Conducive environment:

- Governance:
  - Boundary protection, no 'open access'
  - Infrastructure (transport, electricity, ICT)

## 3. Business plans

- Sufficient forest production capacity (re-sizing, enrichment planting)
- Diversification
- Off-season income

## 4. Capacity development:

- Community level
- Association, cooperative
- External service providers

## 5. Finance

## 6. Demand:

- Domestic demand: Green procurement
- International demand: EU trade links (product development)

# Thank you



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