

Forest Monitoring in Europe: Exploring prospects for enhancements and future directions

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Overview

- How a forest monitoring system can be developed
- Advantages and disadvantages of maps in forest monitoring
- The PathFinder vision of a European forest monitoring system

How a forest monitoring system ideally should be developed

- Clear political goals defined
- Information gaps identified
- Experts propose a methodology
- Experts implement and improve the system

HOW THE EU FOREST MONITORING SYSTEM MAY BE DEVELOPED

(MY PERSONAL IMPRESSION)

How a forest monitoring system ideally should be developed

WE HAVE CONTRADICTIONING GOALS

– Clear political goals defined

**– THEREFORE, WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT INFORMATION WE NEED –
WE WANT IT ALL**

– Information gaps identified

**POLITICIANS DO NOT UNDERSTAND STATISTICS,
THEREFORE WE NEED MAPS**

– Experts propose methodology

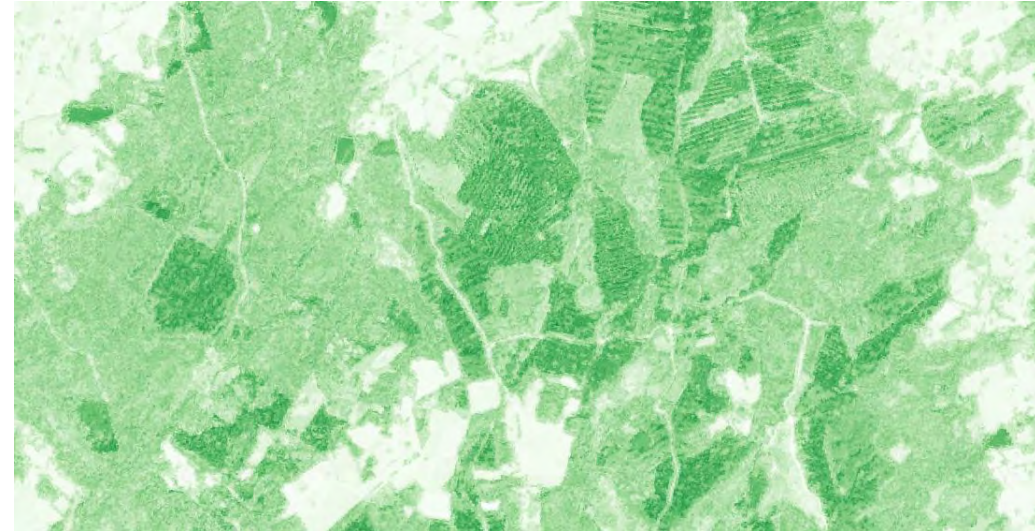
**– WE MAKE VERY QUICK DECISIONS, THEREFORE MAPS NEED TO
BE REAL TIME**

– Experts implement and improve the system

**USE SATELLITES BECAUSE IT LOOKS MODERN, AND
WE INVESTED A LOT OF MONEY INTO COPENNICUS**

About maps...

- Maps are not the truth
- Pixel-level uncertainty in this map is >50%
- Much of the uncertainty is systematic error
- “Pixel counts” are typically severely biased
- Should not be used to inform policymaking directly
- Pixel counts should be corrected with (field) reference data to be reliable
- Maps can be useful as a first impression locally, e.g., to inform where to look more closely
- “All [maps][...] are wrong, but some are useful” (George Box, 1976)



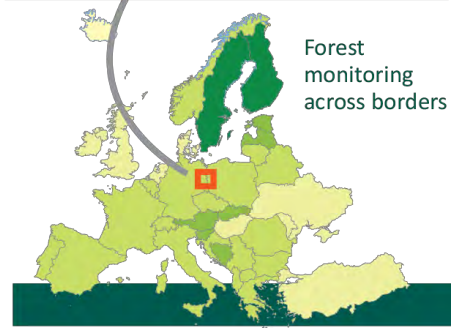
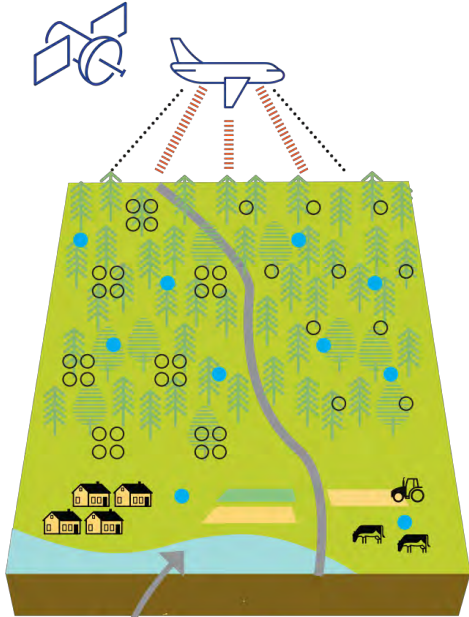
Overview

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An integrated forest monitoring and pathway assessment system for the EU

Forest monitoring

- NFI and ICP-Forests field plots
- Standardized plots

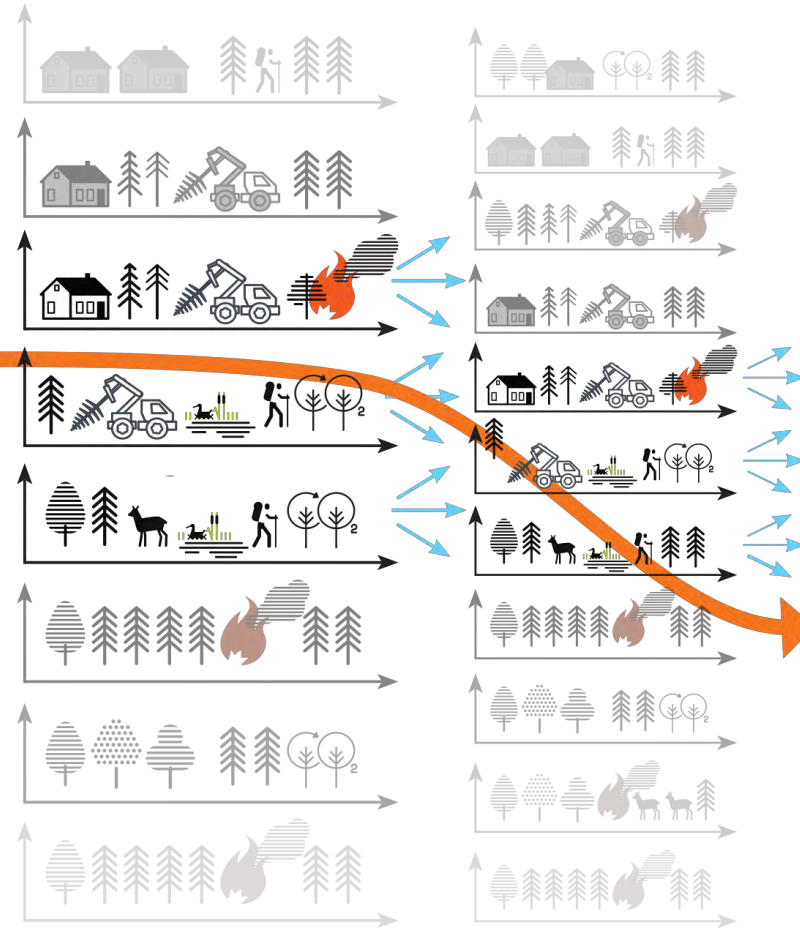


Maps and estimates

- Forest C stock change
- Biodiversity
- Bioeconomy



Future forest scenarios



Pathway assesment

Co-designed with stakeholders. Explores scenarios to identify required policies for forest management pathways that reach targets and consider trade-offs.



CLIMATE TARGETS

2030

2050

2100

Continuous monitoring enables the informed adjustment of policies, if “off-track”



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An integrated forest monitoring and pathway

Forest monitoring

- NFI and ICP-Forests field plots
- Standardized plots

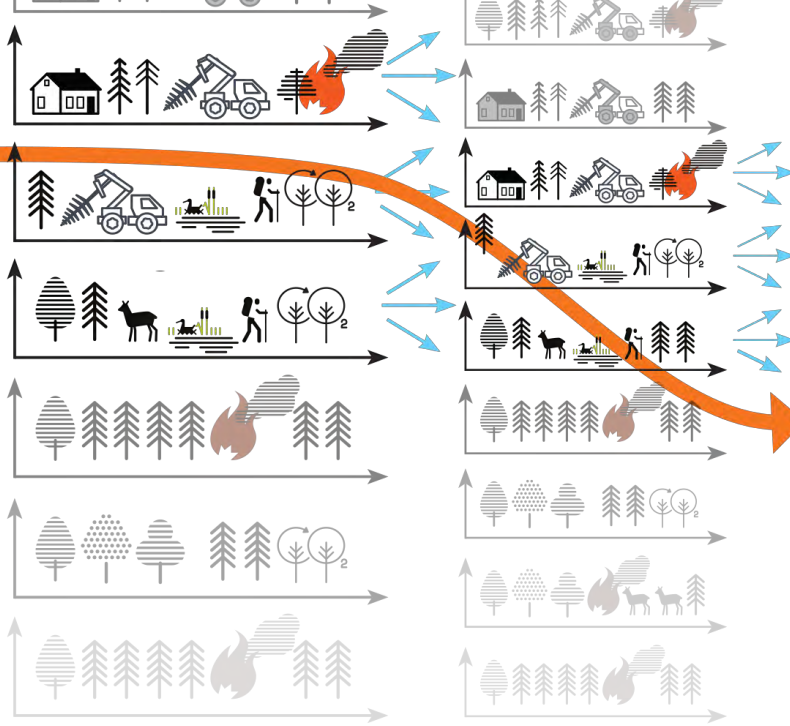
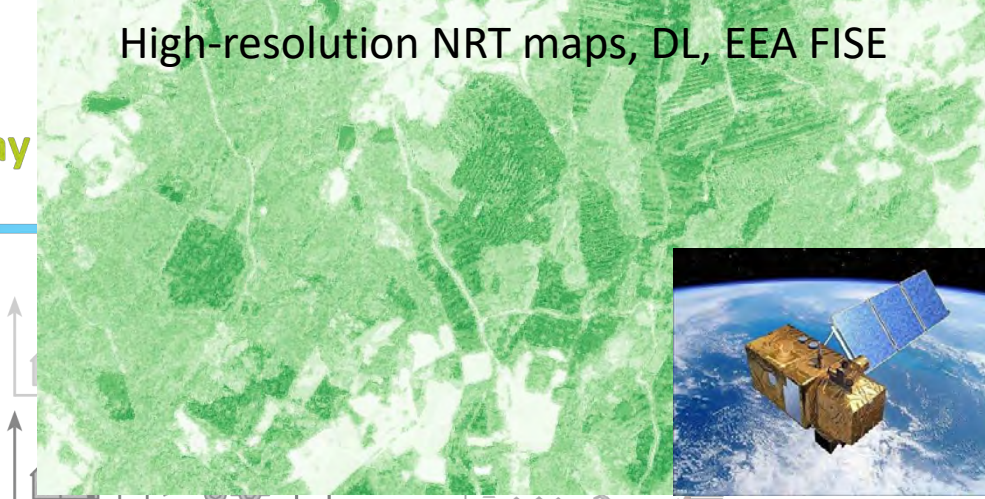


Maps and estimates

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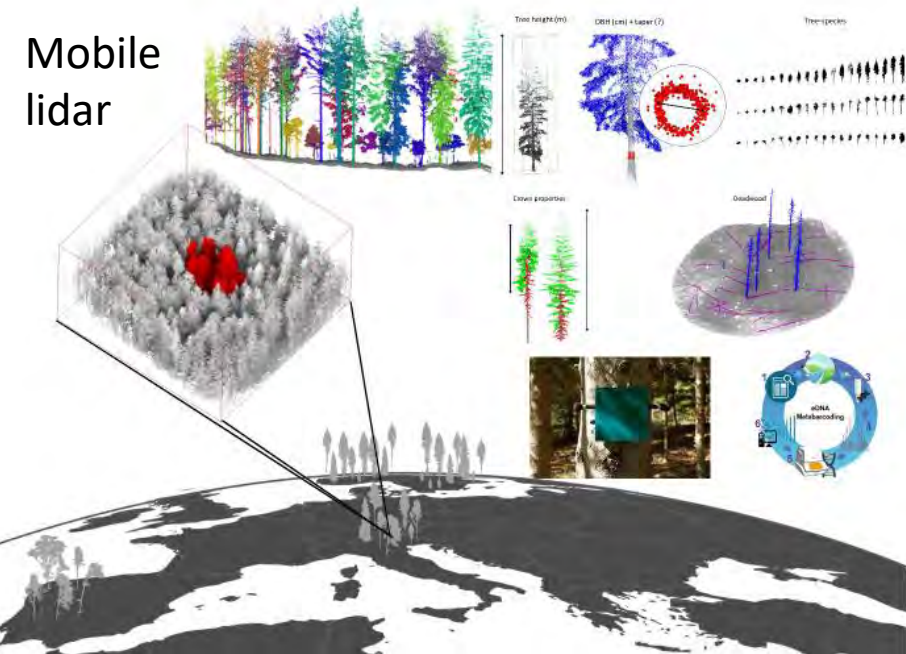


High-resolution NRT maps, DL, EEA FISE



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targets
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Mobile lidar



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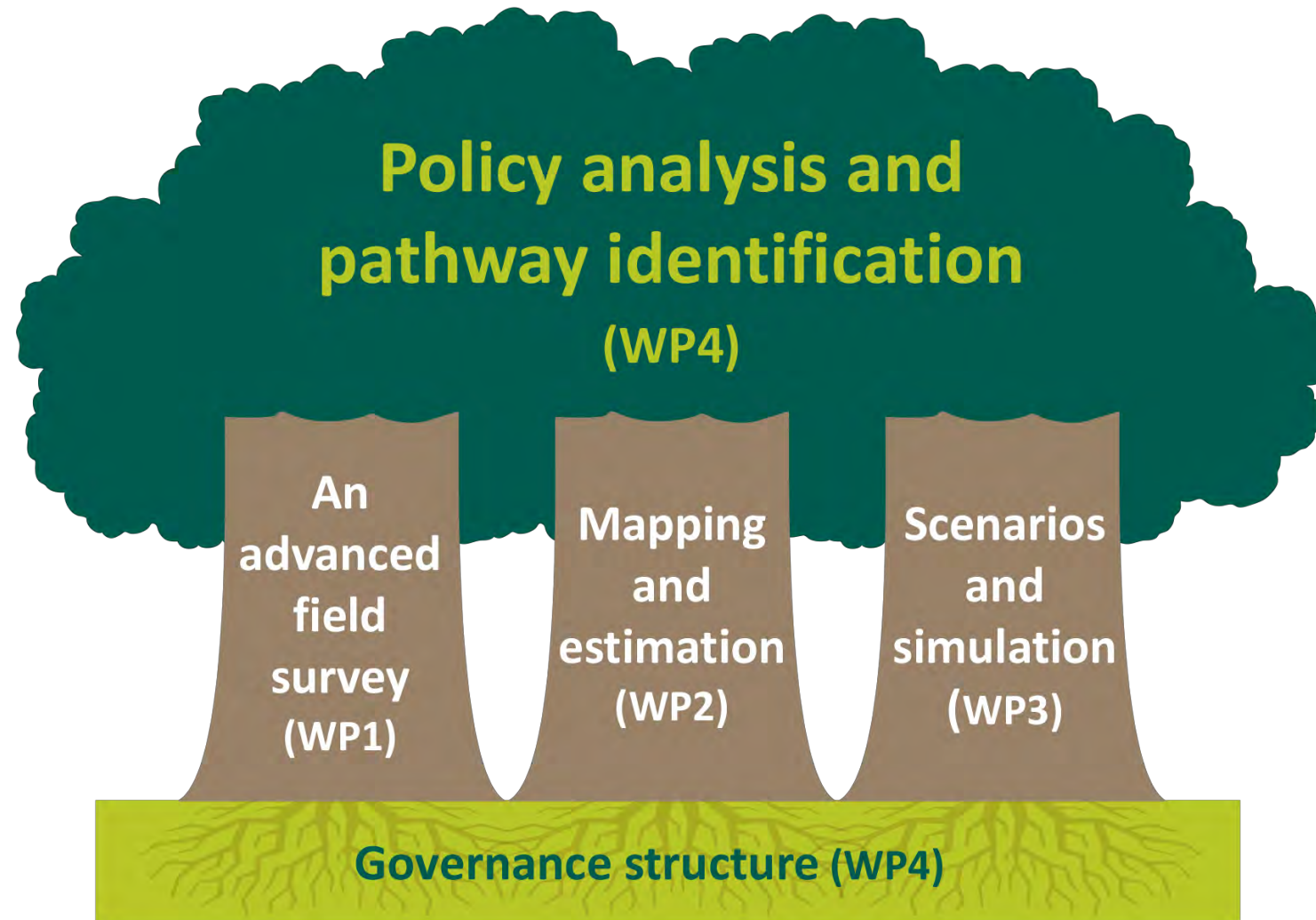


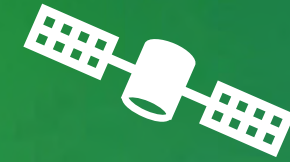
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PathFinder – Towards an Integrated European Forest Monitoring and Policy Pathway Assessment Framework





<https://pathfinder-heu.eu>

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