

# Forests and biodiversity - approaches of Lower Saxony

## State Forest conservation concept



Total protection is only one option



### Restoration projects

for specific areas

- functions of ecosystems
- ~ 1 % area share

### Protected areas

Legal obligation and self responsibility

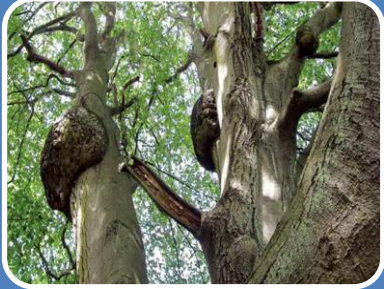
- Specialized management ~ 25 %
- unmanaged forest ~ 10 %

Integrated forest management with 13 „LÖWE“ principles

**Long Term Ecological Forest Development**

- Ecological basis for silvicultural decisions and practice
- Complete area

# Long Term Ecological Forest Development



## Preservation of old trees, protection of rare & threatened species

- old forests (> 160 y.) ~ 6 % strictly protected
- habitat trees ~ 3 % of area, with TreM, single or in groups
- Dead wood 28 m<sup>3</sup>/ha (> 10 cm) (→ before Bark Beetle)



## Building a network of conservation areas such as

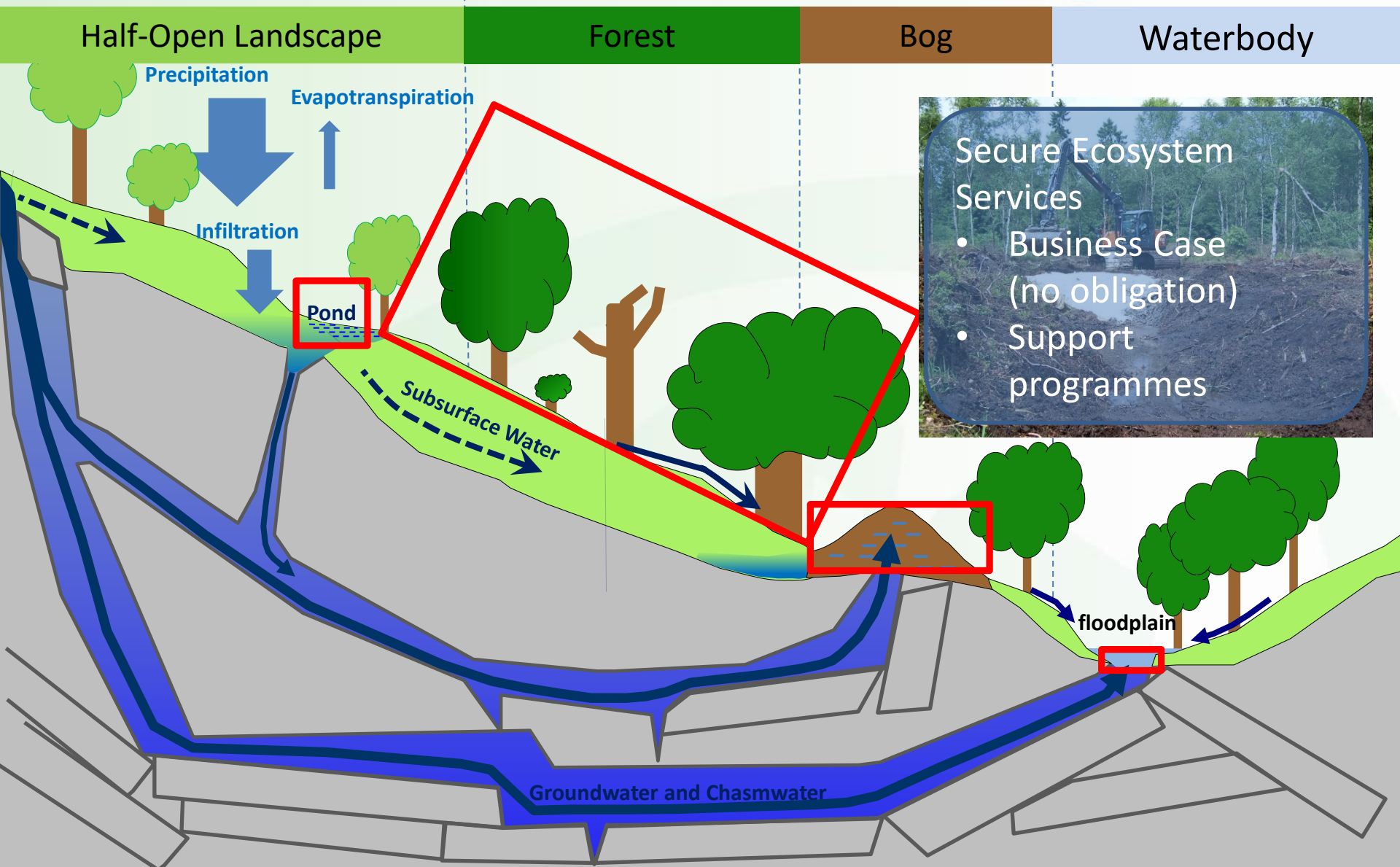
- Natural forests
- Cultural-historical management forests (e.g. woodpasture)
- Shade-intolerant management forests (e.g. oakforest, bogforest)



## Structuring and managing the edges of forests

- ecological gradients as hotspots of biodiversity
- 6.200 km exterior and 15.000 km interior forest edges

# Restoring Functional Relationships of Landscapes



Secure Ecosystem Services

- Business Case (no obligation)
- Support programmes