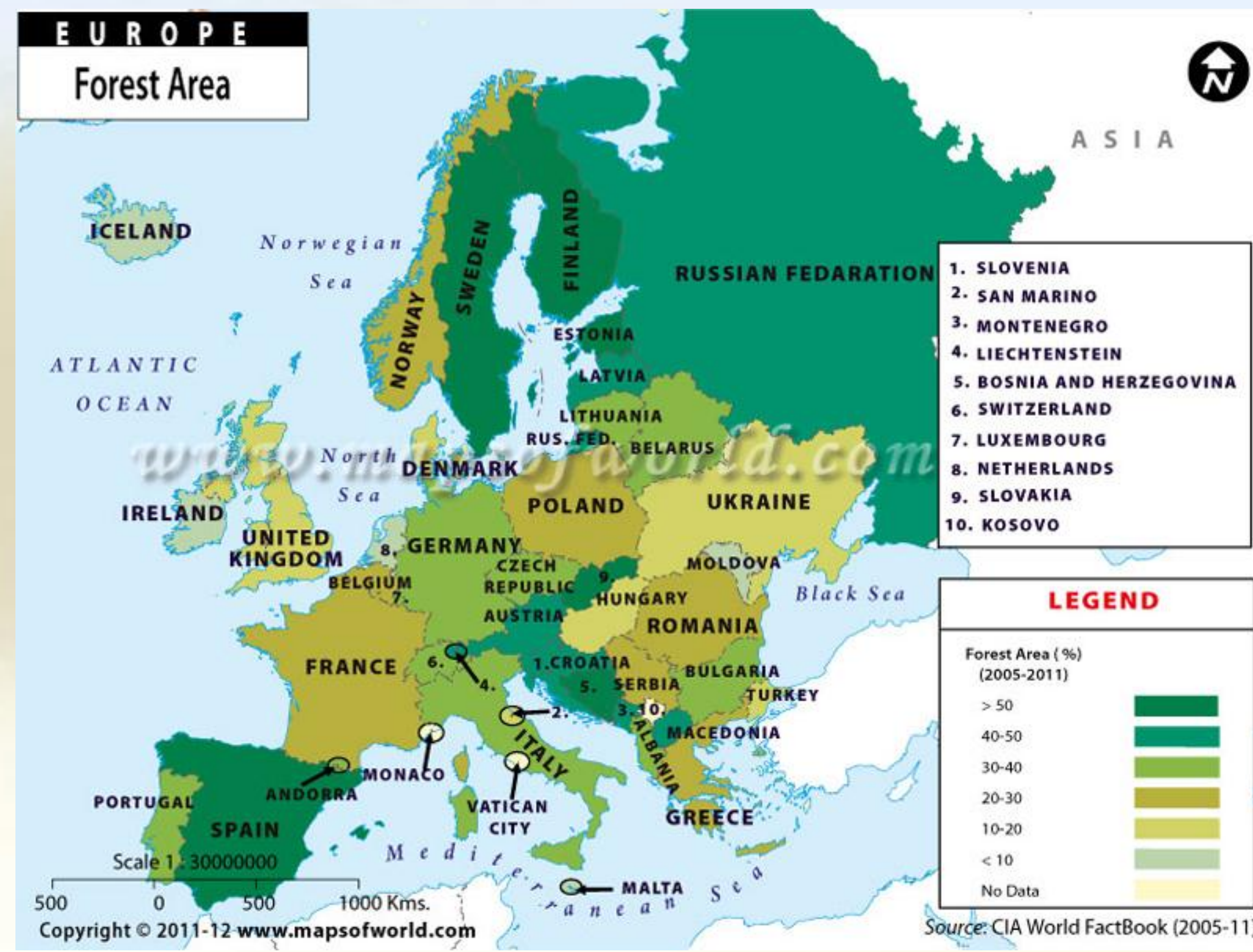
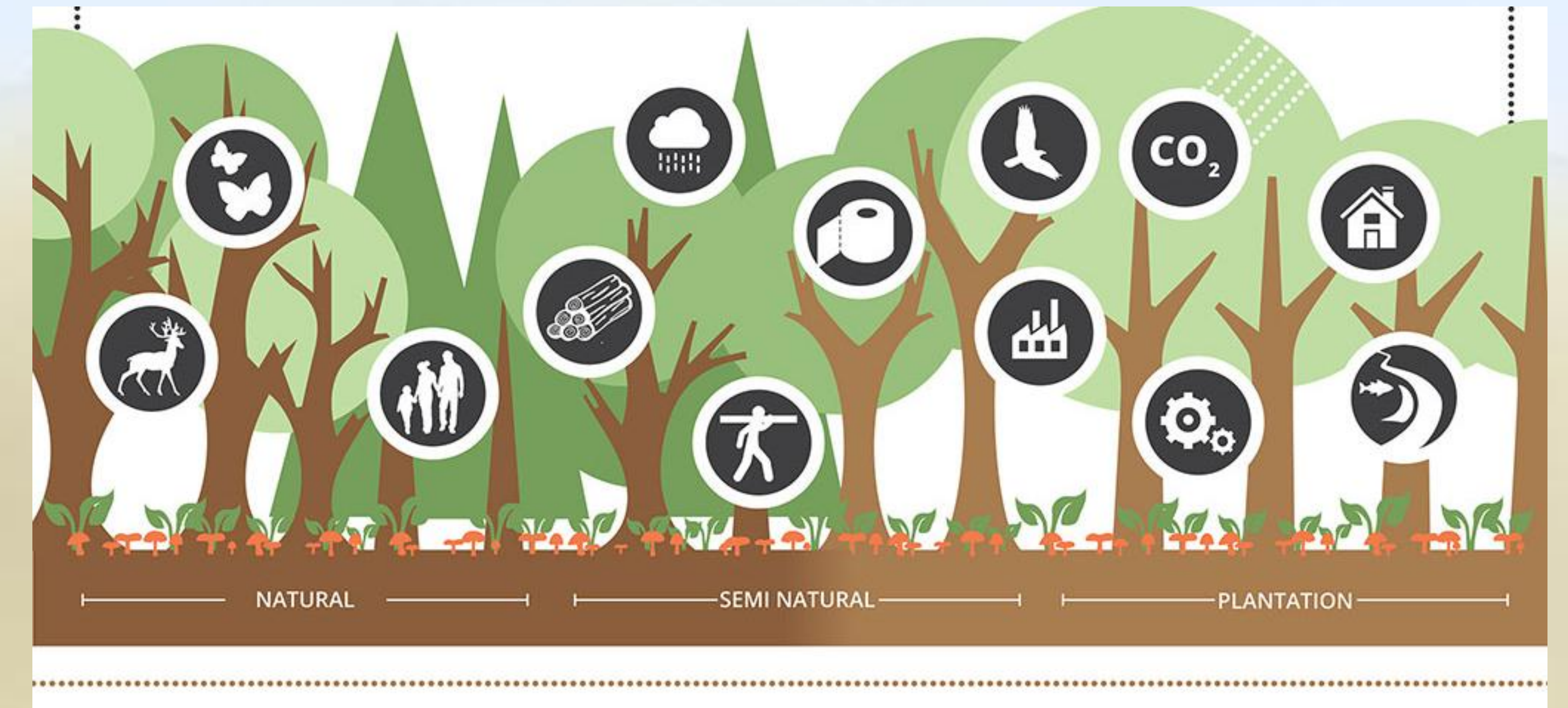


# Forest Functions in European Forest

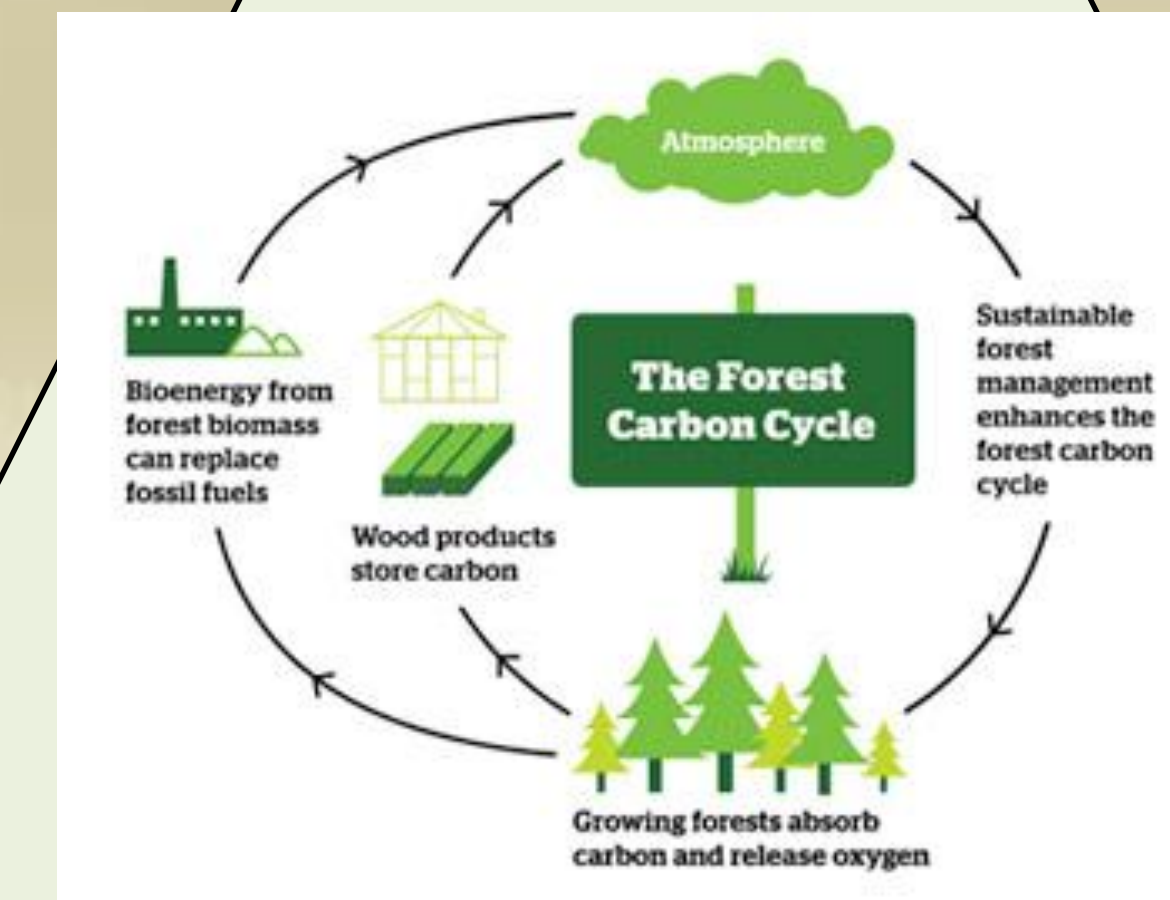
Annaleena Vaher, Stefan Herdy, Tomass Rudzinskis



The European Union currently contains 5% of the world's forests and EU forests have continuously expanded for over 60 years. EU Forests and Other Wooded Land now cover more than 42% of EU land area



Forest functions ; natural, semi natural and plantation



## Ecological function

### Protecting plants and animals

It is very important to protect animals and plants who are living in European forests. It will help to forfend ecological diversity and natural balance.

### Abiotic factors

When the climate conditions become particularly difficult, the forest can suffer. Both extreme weather conditions and unsuitable human intervention can be formidable enemies to the forest. For example heat and cold, wind and fire.

### Carbon sequestration

The role of forests in the carbon cycle and their importance as carbon sinks within the broader debate about climate change has already been noted. Forests also release carbon naturally through decomposition and forest fires; carbon dioxide is also released when wood that has been harvested is broken down, for example through combustion.



### Tourism

The increased awareness and interest in ecotourism presents an obvious opportunity for forest managers.

### Recreational functions of forests

Recreational activities offered by forests include camping, fishing, hiking. All offer positive health benefits to participants, but can also provide great benefit, including financial reward, to local communities as well as forest authorities.

## Sustainable forest

It is very important that this three functions aren't seen as separate ones. This functions ( economic function, ecological function and cultural & social) have to work together as an essential contribution to a sustainable forest.

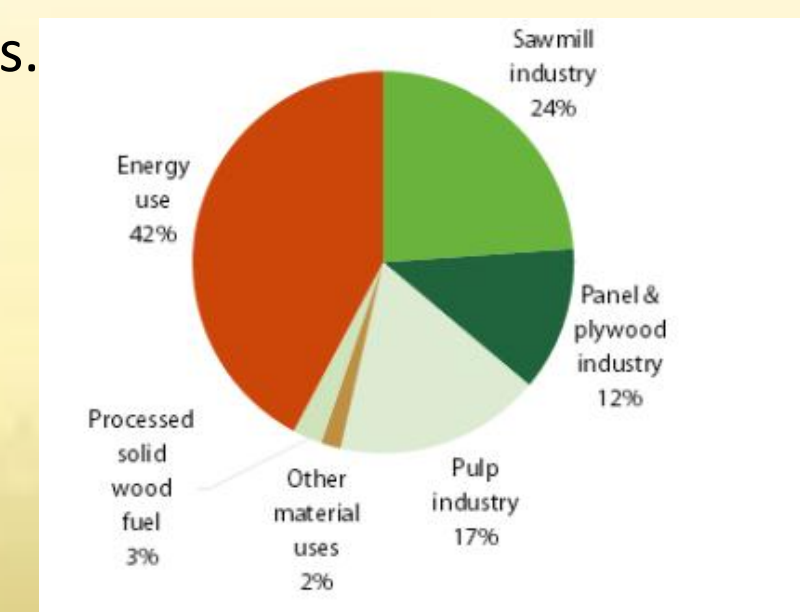
Such a connection for example could be a forest related education, tourism and natural forest management.



## Social & cultural

### Wood production – industry

Alongside their environmental benefits, forests provide resources, most notably wood. The harvesting of wood can be done without compromising other forest functions if it is done in a sustainable manner, in other words, without compacting soil, causing soil erosion, or disturbing the reproductive cycle of plants or animals.



Wood resources use in the EU-27, 2010 (% share of total volume in m<sup>3</sup>)

### Energy

Wood for use as an energy source (a fuel) comes not only from tree felling, but also from selective thinning

of managed forests and other forestry practices (direct sources).

### Non-wood products

Non-wood products from plants, fungi and animals include food spices and herbs and genetic breeding stock.



## Economic function