



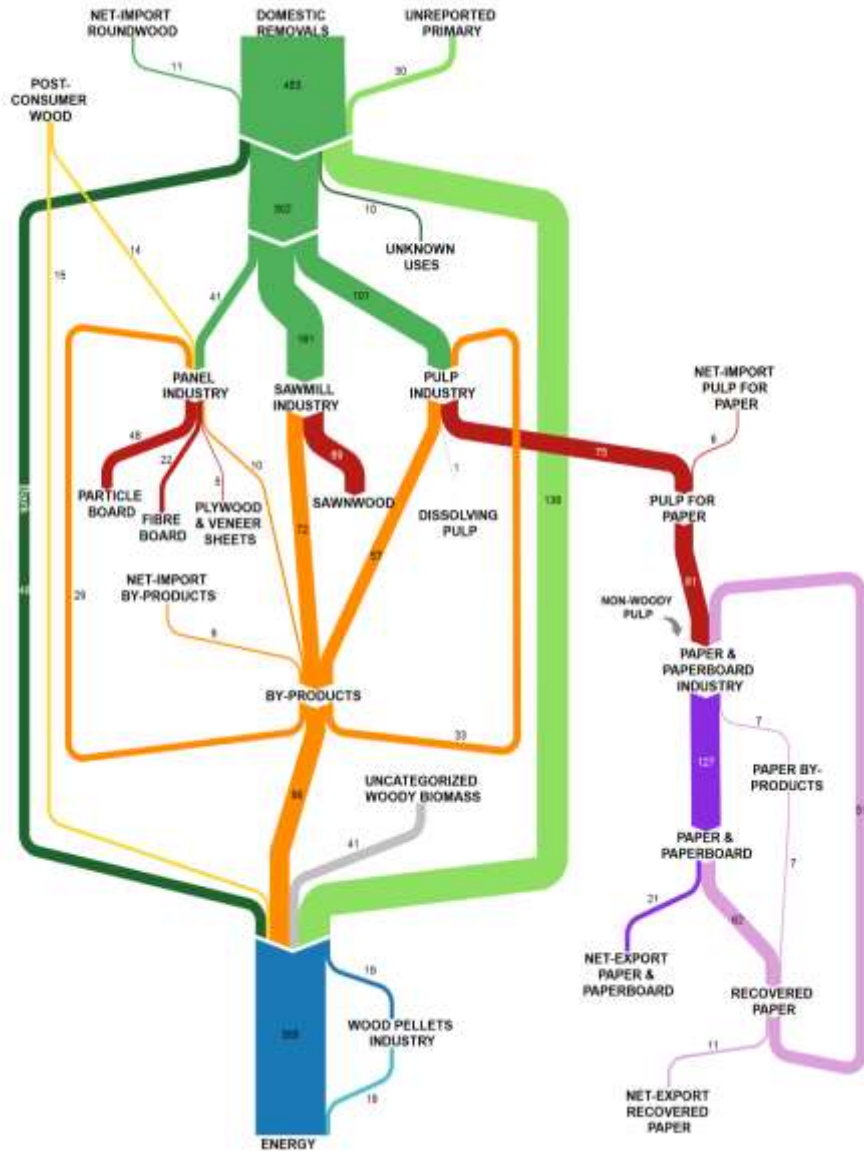
EC Guidelines on Closer to Nature Forest Management



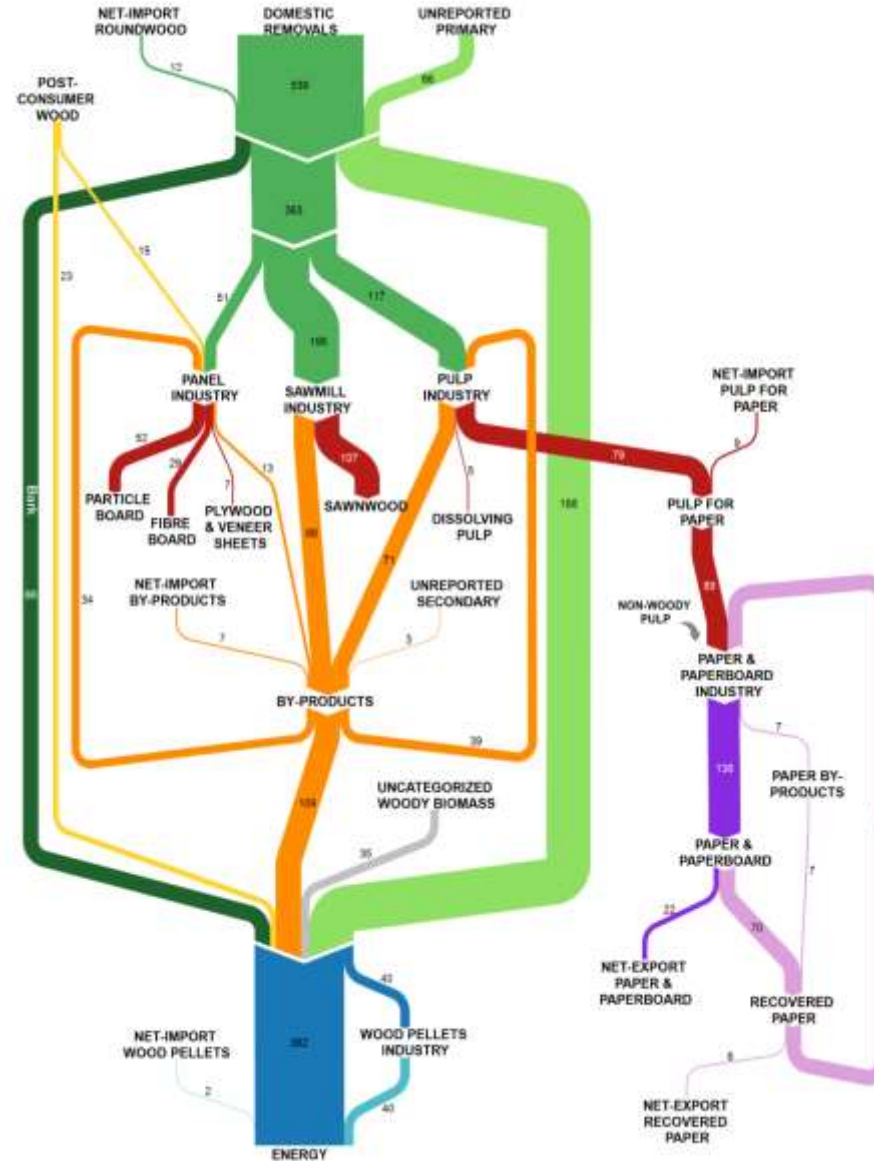
Stefanie Schmidt
DG ENV. D1

EU Demand for Woody Biomass

year 2009 - EU

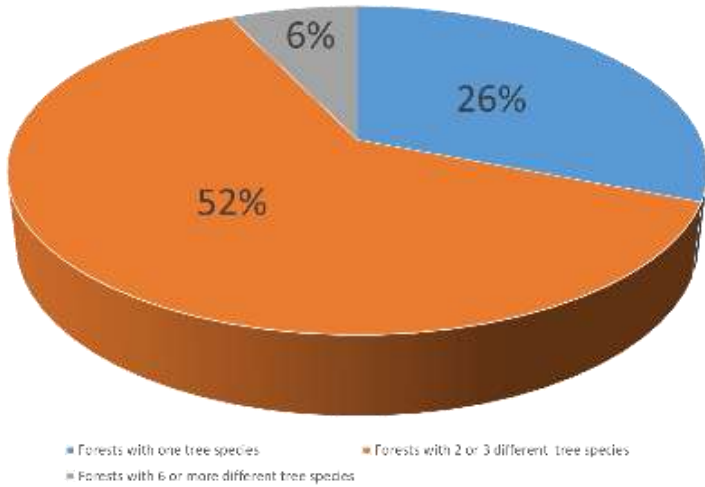


year 2017 - EU

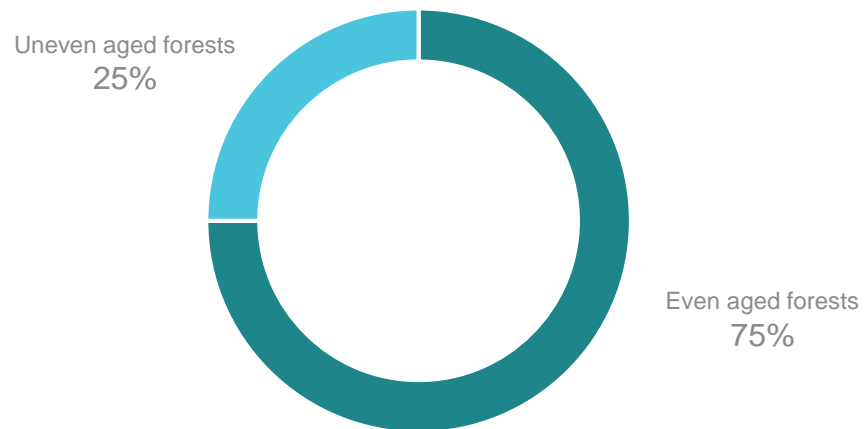


Forests in Europe

Percentage of forests based on the presence of different tree species

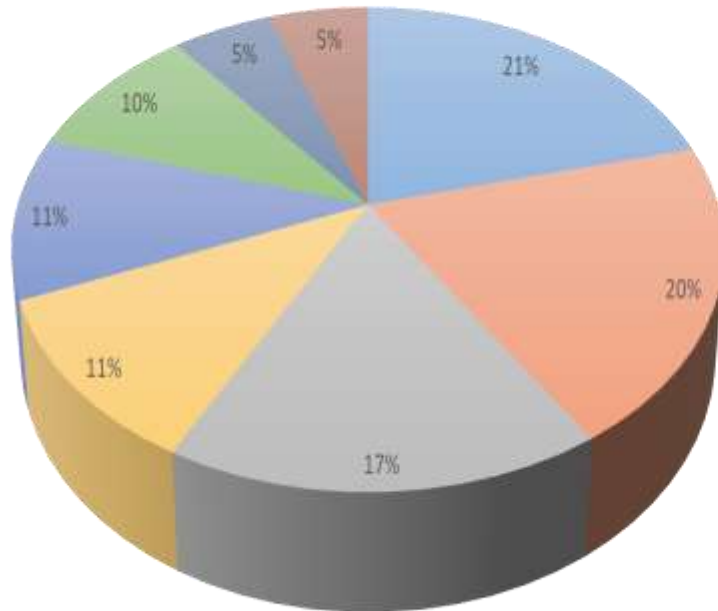


Forest age structure in the EU

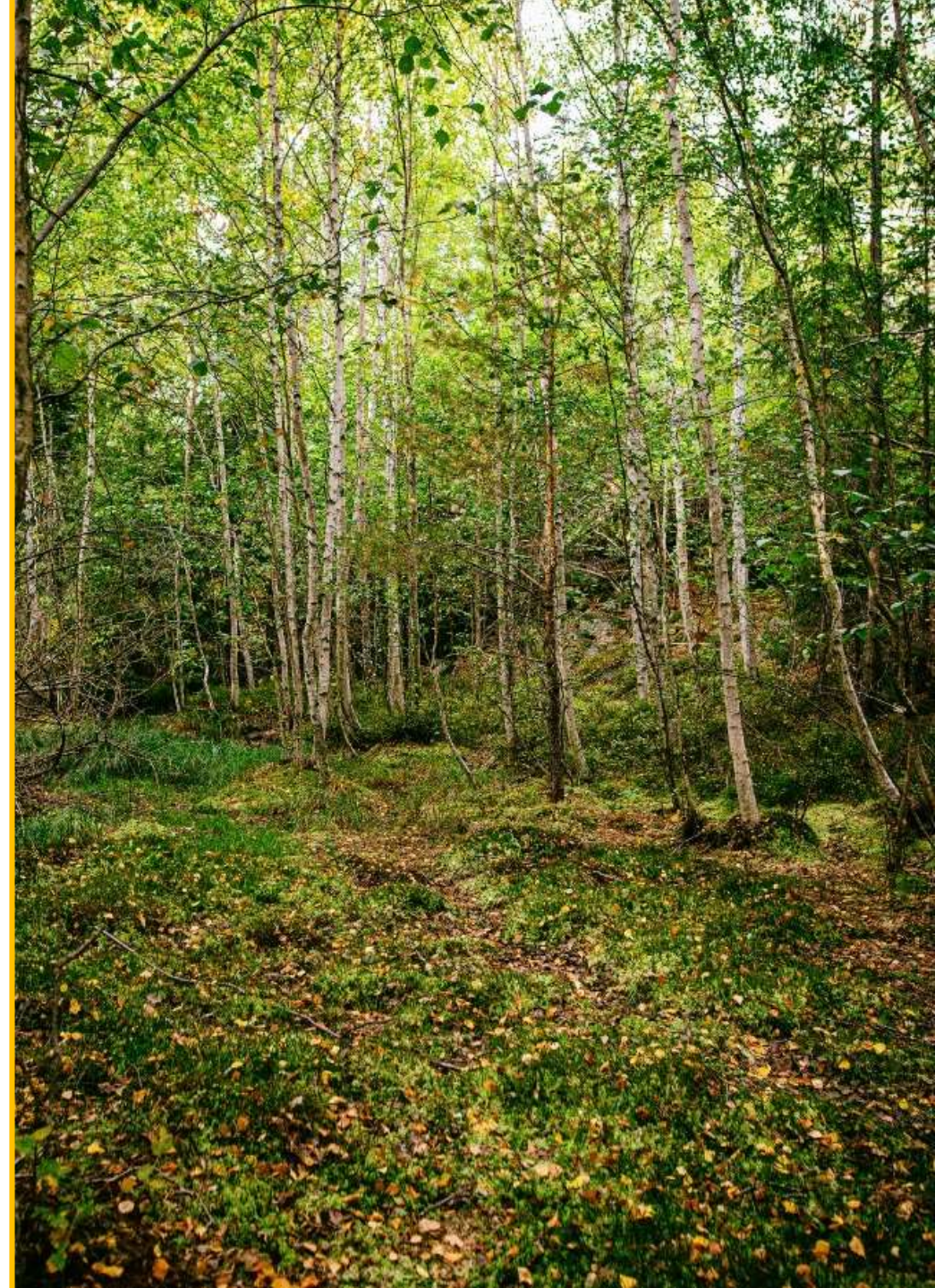


Forests in Europe

Share of the different pressures on forest biodiversity in the EU



- Removal of dead and dying trees
- Clear-cutting, removal of all trees
- Removal of old trees
- Conversion to other types of forests including monocultures
- Forest management reducing old growth forests
- Conversion to forest from other land uses, or afforestation
- Modification of hydrological conditions including drainage
- Replanting with or introducing non-native or non-typical species



The Policy Context

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030:

*“To increase the quantity of forests and improve their health and resilience”
[...] “biodiversity-friendly forestry practices such as closer to nature forestry
should be further developed.”*

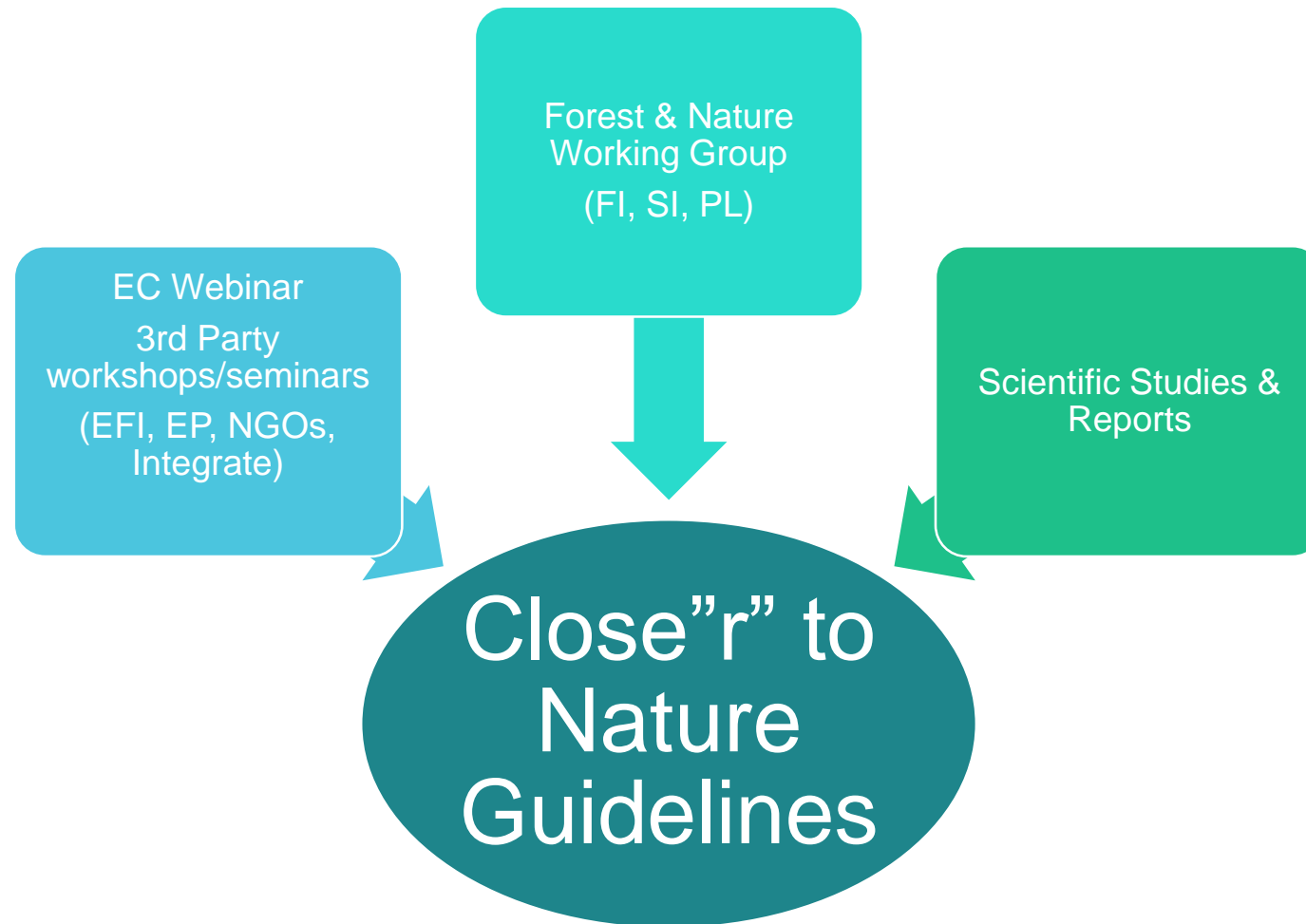
*“To support this, the Commission will develop guidelines on biodiversity-
friendly afforestation and reforestation and closer-to-nature-forestry
practices.”*

New EU Forest Strategy for 2030:

*“a set of multiple practices to ensure multifunctional forests by combining
biodiversity and increased carbon absorption with timber-related revenues”*



Preparatory Process



Scope and Objectives

Assist competent authorities and key stakeholders in developing and promoting biodiversity-friendly and adaptive practices in forestry at and across different scales, discussing challenges and showcasing good practice.

Enhance Structural complexity for more heterogeneous, irregular, mixed forests in height, diameter, age, species, with a mix of denser and sparser parts according to the natural mix of species and structure pending the type of forest.

Promote natural forest dynamics and save on resource investments such as planting by using and orientating these dynamics. Natural disturbances are capitalised to create dead wood, horizontal and vertical differentiation strengthening biodiversity.



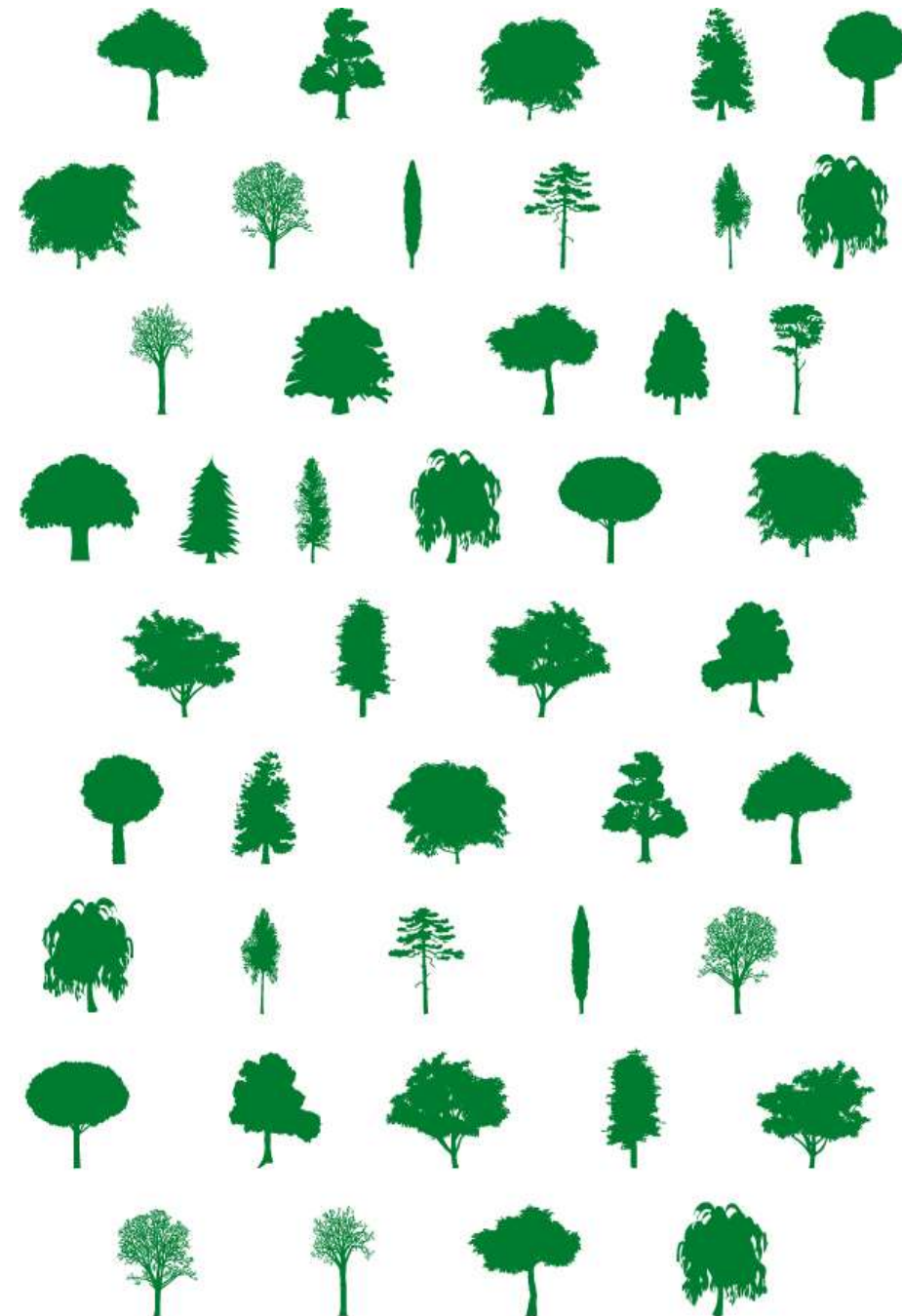
Toolbox & Enablers

Closer to Nature Toolbox

- Promoting natural tree regeneration
- Ensuring respectful harvest conditions
- Minimize other management interventions
- Preserving and restoring forest soils and water
- Maximising balanced deadwood retention
- Setting areas aside
- Taking a scale-specific approach
- Managing ungulate species at natural carrying capacity

Critical enablers

- Training and Skills
- Economic Viability
- Mapping and Monitoring
- Planning the Transition
- Adaptive Management & Climate Change Resilience
- Taking account of forest fires



Point for Discussion

How could Integrate contribute to closer to nature forest management in Europe?

- Thresholds and Ranges
- Marteloscopes as possible reference sites
- Good practice examples
- and/or.....?





Thank you for your attention