BFW BUNDES FORSCHUNGS ZENTRUM FÜR WALD

Raw Material Availability in the CEE Region: Short- & Mid-Term Perspectives and Long-Term Challenges

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CEE Wood Industries Meeting

Prague 22./23. May 2025

Climate crisis reached European forests!

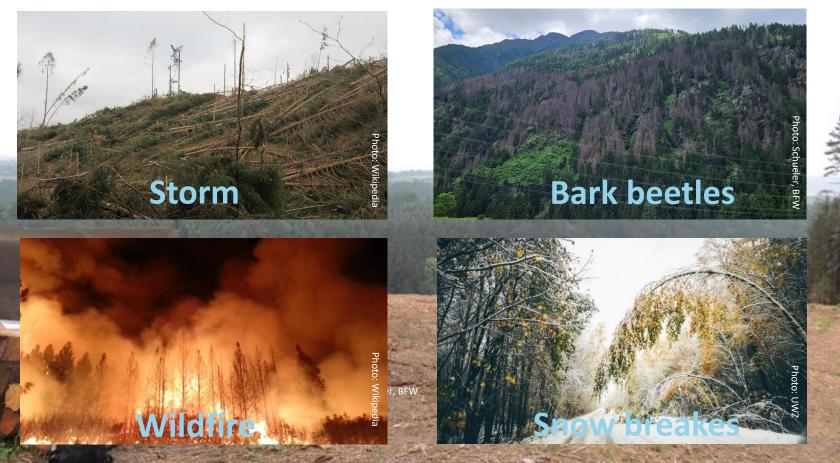
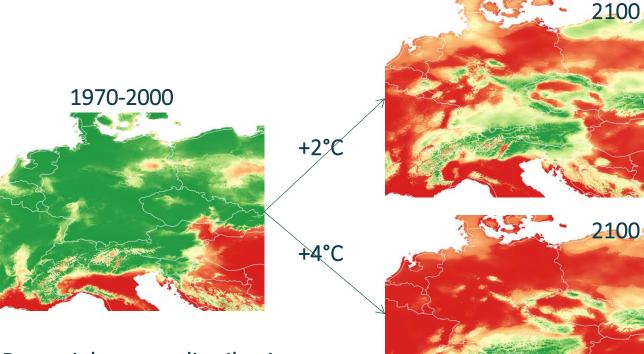


Photo: Hoch, BFW

Consequences of climate change

➔ Decrease of cultivation areas for European conifers

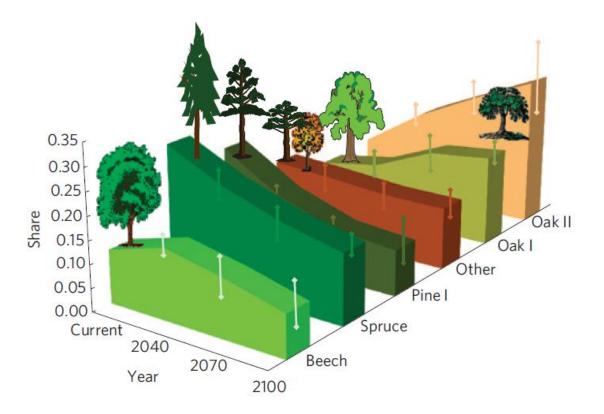


Potential spruce distribution area

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Consequences of climate change

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Consequences of climate change

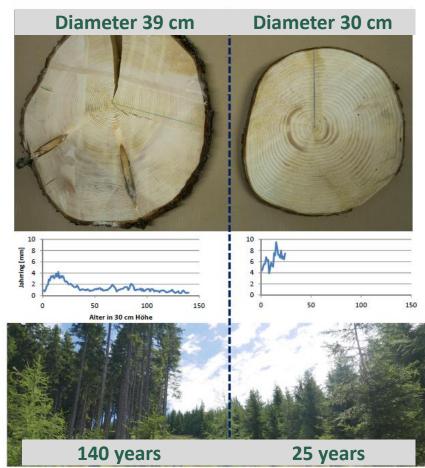
Increase of forest growth since mid of the 20th century

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Table 1 | Change of the characteristics of 75-year-old foreststands 2000 in relation to 1960.

	Forest stand attribute	Change from 1960-2000 in %	
		N. spruce	E. beech
Pretzsch et al. 2014	Dominant tree height, ho Mean tree diameter, dq Mean tree volume, \bar{v} Stand volume growth, PAIV Standing volume stock, V Tree number, N Mortality rate, MORT Mean tree volume increment \bar{iv} Shift of $\bar{iv} - \bar{v}$ -allometry	N. spruce +6 +9 +34 +10 +6 -17 NS +32 +25	E. beech +9 +14 +20 +30 +7 -21 -17 +77 +57
	Shift of $N - \bar{v}$ -allometry	NS	NS

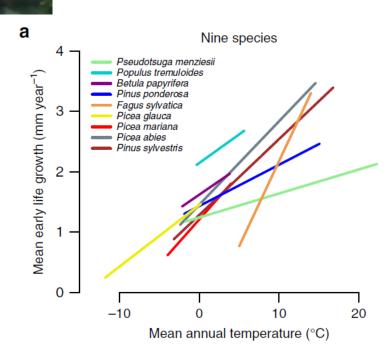
Spruce on 1200 m Altitude



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Temperature – Growth - Age

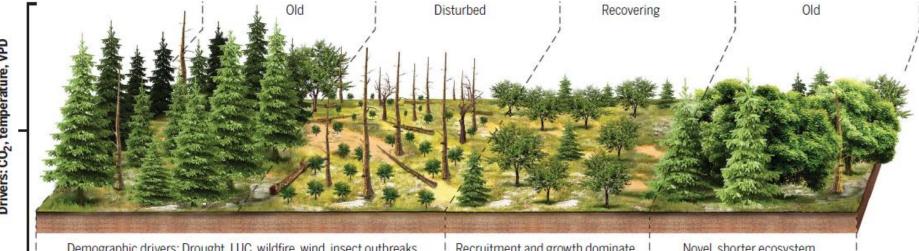
• Temperature increases growth



Brienen e

BEW **Temperature – Growth - Age** Temperature increases growth BUT: Maximum age of trees declines **Spruce** Chance for **Beech** а b better growth Nine species Nine 700 and higher CO2 Pseudotsuga menziesii Populus tremuloides 600 · Mean early life growth (mm year⁻¹) Betula papyrifera sequestration inus ponderosa Fagus sylvatica 3 Maximum age (year) 500 -Picea glauca Picea mariana Picea abies 400 . Pinus svlvestris 2 300 -200 -**Higher risk** to set CO₂ 100 free 0 0 10 -1010 20 -10Mean annual temperature (°C) Mean annual temperature (°C)

BFW **Consequences of climate change**



Demographic drivers: Drought, LUC, wildfire, wind, insect outbreaks

Recruitment and growth dominate

Novel, shorter ecosystem

A conceptual diagram of the components of forest dynamics and the disturbances that drive them. In the far-left panel, a mature ecosystem is responsive primarily to localized mortality, and the primary drivers of demography are chronically changing variables such as CO₂, temperature, and vapor pressure deficit (VPD). In the next panel, the system is disturbed by fire, insect outbreak, or another large-scale perturbation that removes most of the overstory trees,

and species adapted to rapid postdisturbance recruitment become established. In the third panel, recruitment and growth dominate demographic processes, with mortality increasing over time as competition leads to self-thinning. In the last panel, a mature ecosystem is dominated by species that have replaced the original community in response to chronic environmental changes, leading to a novel ecosystem.

Source: McDowell et al., Science 2020 - https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aaz9463

Consequences: forests in transformation!

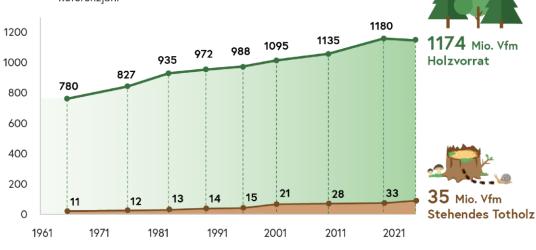
Bundesministerium Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft

Vorratsentwicklung – Ertragswald

(in Mio. Vorratsfestmeter)

– – – Referenzjahr

Quelle: BFW 2025



First time since the forest inventory has been established the **timber stocks in Austrian forests are NOT increasing**!

Due to:

- Increasing disturbances
- More reforestations and young stands
- More deciduous trees

Von Günter Pilch

er Verweis auf Österreichs Waldreichtum ist gemeinhin rasch zur Hand, wenn es um die Frage geht, wie klimafreundlich das Land ist. Tatsächlich filtern die heimischen Wälder Jahr für Jahr mehrere Millionen Tonnen des ausgestoßenen Kohlendioxids nachträglich wieder aus der Atmosphäre und haben die Repu-120 blik über die Jahre verlässlich beim Erreichen ihrer Klimaziele 100 unterstützt. Damit geht es allerdings zu Ende: Der Wald kann 80 nicht mehr ausreichend CO2 binden und gibt es in zunehmender Menge ab, wie die neuen Zahlen ues Umweltbundesamts (UBA en Var 🔤 tiri Laut der am Montag veröf-20 fentlichten Treibhausgas-Inventur des UBA haben Österreichs Wälder im Jahr 2023 in

Summe 5,4 Millionen Tonnen zu-

... Österreichs Wald wird zum Klimasünder

Das grüne Herz der Republik ist am Kippen: Die Wälder stoßen durch den Klimawandel mehr CO₂ aus als sie noch aufnehmen können.

sätzliches CO2 verursacht, also um diese Menge mehr CO2 ausgestoßen als aufgenommen. So hat es das seit Beginn der Be-Technin in the inst len weltere Landnutzungsbereiche wie Grünland und Äcker ein, er-

gibt sich sogar ein überschüssiger CO2-Ausstoß von 7,5 Millionen Tonnen, was rund elf Prozent der gesamten heimischen Treibhausgasemissionen entspricht.

In den Zahlen spiegelt sich wider, dass Österreichs Wählder da-

sinc, inen m.p

en u.

u <u>isci</u> ei Senke zu einer CO2-Quelle zu werden, also das Klima nicht länger schonen, sondern zusätzlich belasten. "Der Grund dafür sind die stärker werdenden Folgen des Klimawandels", sagt

Der CO₂-Ausstoß

Österreichs direkte Treibhausgasemissionen sind 2023 um 6.5 Prozent auf 68.6 Millionen Tonnen CO2-Äquivalent gesunken. Hauptverantwortlich dafür sind laut UBA Klimamaßnahmen und der Ausbau erneuerbarer Energieträger. Rückgänge gab es in allen Sektoren, vom Verkehr (minus 3,9 Prozent) über Gebäude (minus 13.7 Prozent) bis zu Industrie und Energiegewinnung (minus 10 Prozent).

UBA-Klimaexperte Günther Lichtblau. "2023 hat als heißes. trockenes Jahr den Wald unter Stress gesetzt. In der Holge hat of an ings W. St. Runniz gebeoeli Zuwachs ist geringer ausgefallen." Auch den Waldböden macht der Trockenstress zu schaffen, weshalb auch dort mehr CO2 entwichen ist als gebunden werden konnte.

he has 1 the

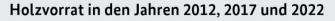
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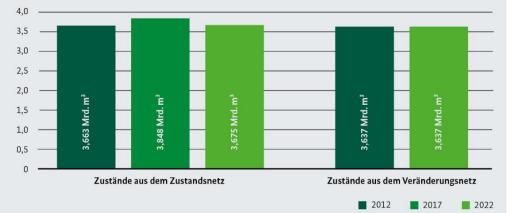
BFW Forests in transformation!

Not only Austria!



 $\bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc$

in Mrd. m³



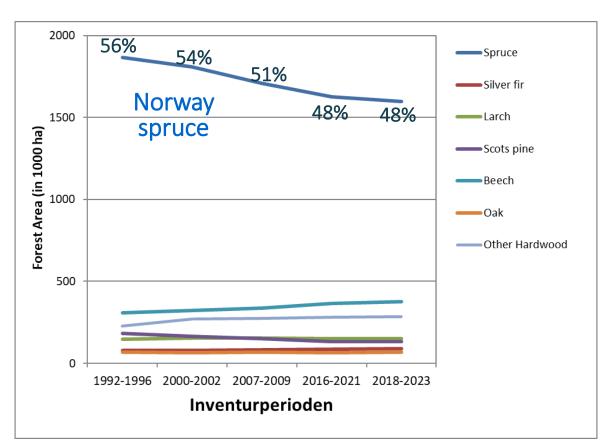
Basis links: Holzboden im jeweiligen Zustandsnetz 2012, 2017, 2022, alle Bestandesschichten Basis rechts: vergleichbarer Holzboden im Veränderungsnetz der Periode 2012–2022, alle Bestandesschichten



Germany: Bundeswaldinventur 2024





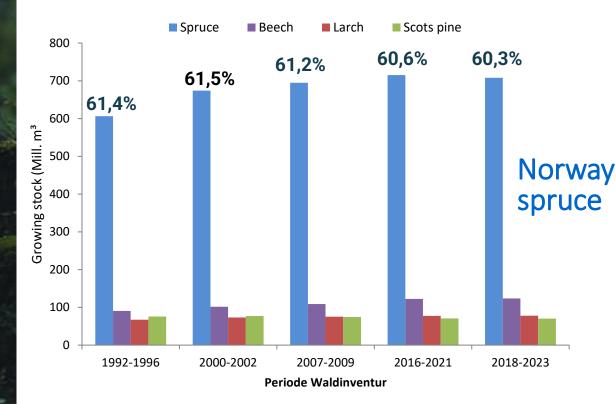


Decline of spruce forest area !

Forest Area

Austrian Forest Inventory (www.waldinventur.at)

Austrian Forests – Norway spruce

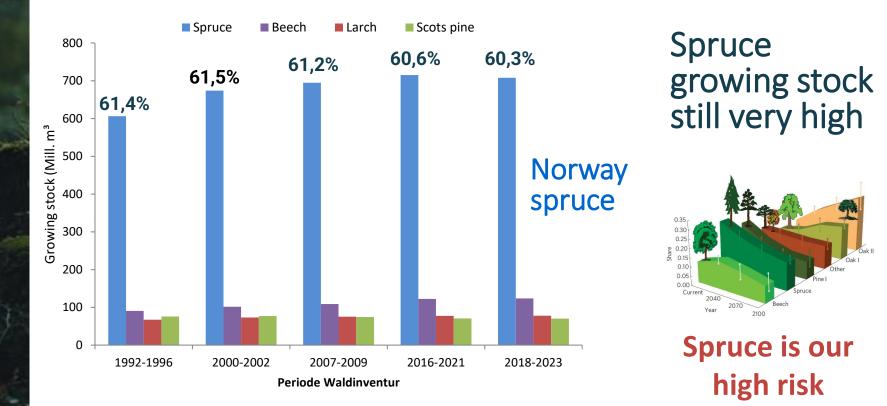


Spruce growing stock still very high

Austrian Forest Inventory (www.waldinventur.at)

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Austrian Forests – Norway spruce

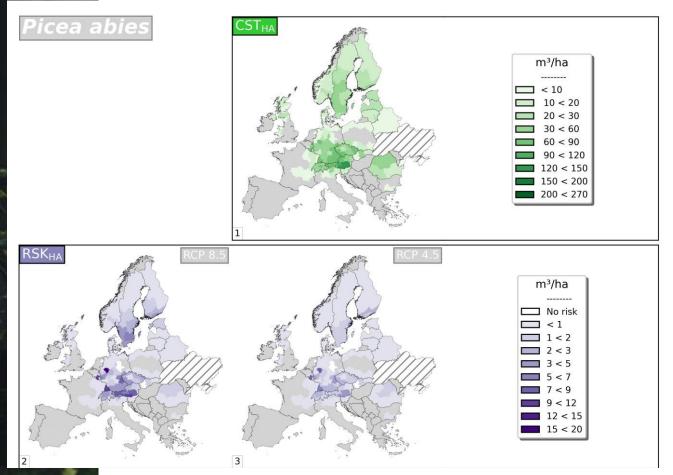


species!

Austrian Forest Inventory (www.waldinventur.at)

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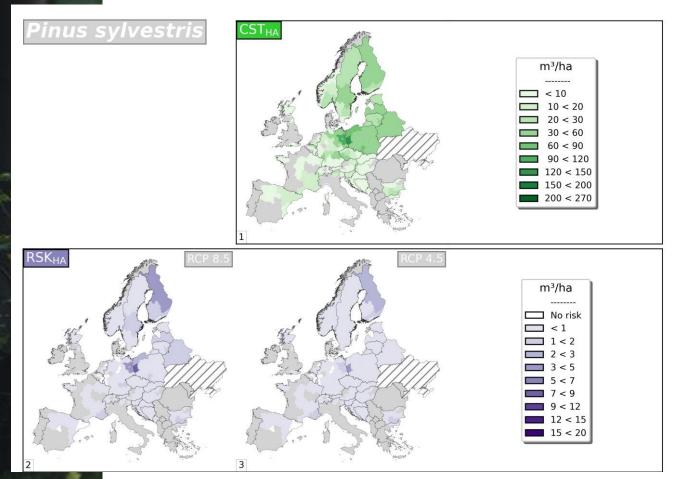
BFW Calculating Risk Maps



Growing stock per Nuts3 region

Growing stocks with high risks in climate change

BFW Calculating Risk Maps



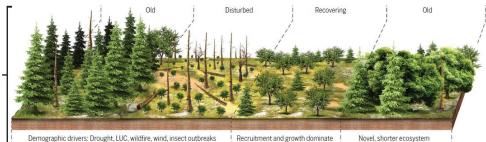
Growing stock per Nuts3 region

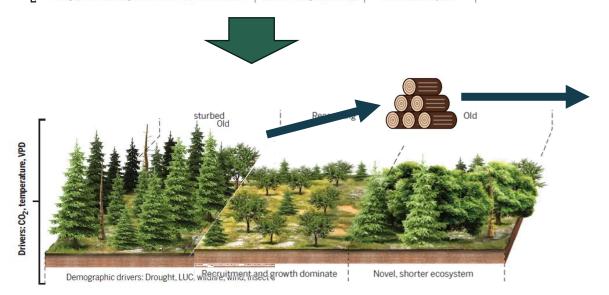
Growing stocks with high risks in climate change

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What to do?

Drivers: CO₂, temperature, VPD



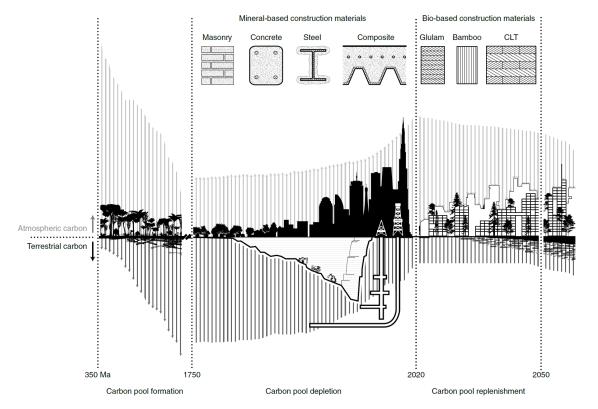




BFW Evolution of terrestrial carbon pools

PERSPECTIVE

NATURE SUSTAINABILITY



Churkina, Schellnhuber et al. 2020

Fig. 1 | Processes responsible for formation, depletion and potential replenishment of land carbon pool and changes in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations over time. Left panel: over millions of years the carbon pool on land was formed and CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere slowly declined because

Three lines to defend forest ecosystem services in climate change

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Assisted Migration, climate resilient genotypes, stronger thinning measures

Planting other native species and species mixtures

Planting nonnative tree species

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New silvicultural treatments "Trees need space"

Instead of "Early-moderat-frequent" Today "Early- strong- rarely"

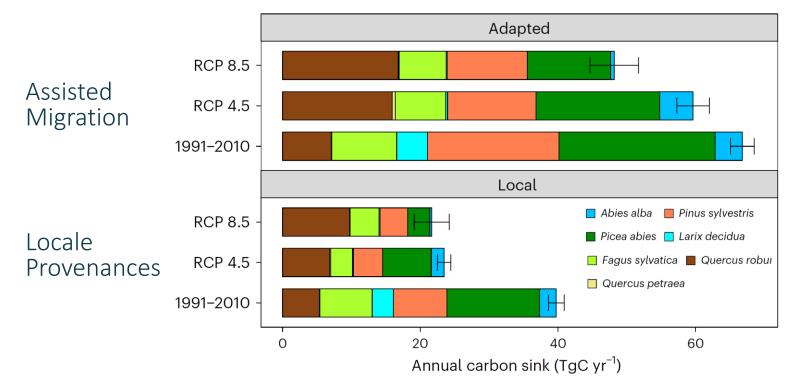
Advantages:

- Increases single tree stability
- Improves water availability for each tree
- Decrease rotation time
- <u>Reduces Risk</u>

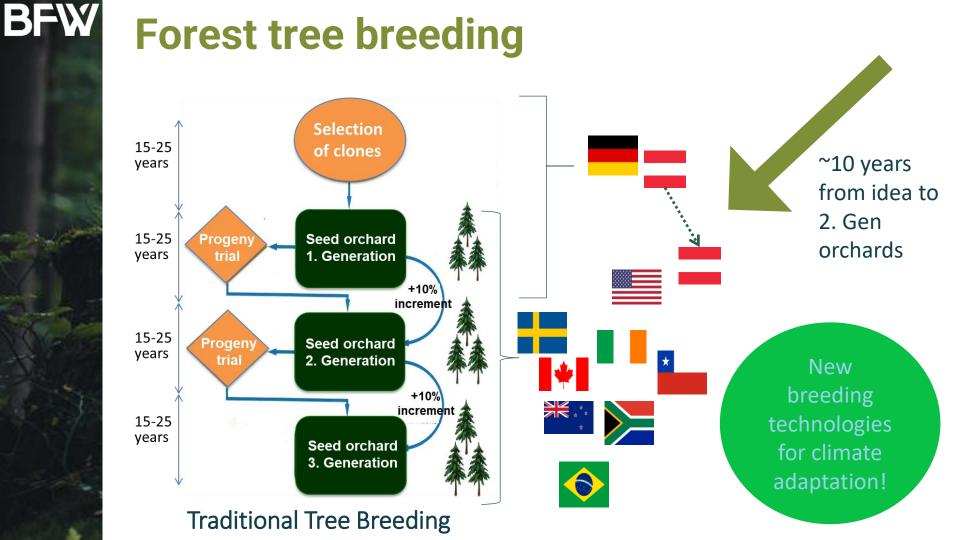


Impact of assisted migration on forest carbon sequestration

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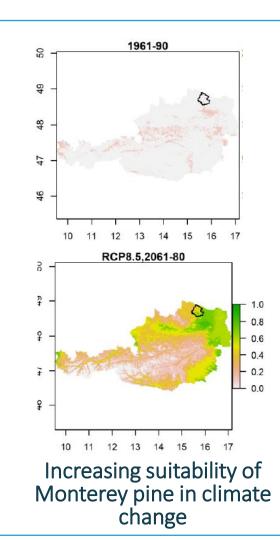


Annual Carbon Sequestration in Million Tonnes or Terragram in above ground living biomass of Age Classes I+II (until 40 years)









BFW Extended management and utilization of broadleaved species





BFW Climate change mitigation vs. adaptation



Conclusion

- European (and CEE) forests are at a turning point due to the effects of climate change
- But growing stocks (of conifers) in Europe are still high and contribute to increasing damage risks for carbon budgets and for timber markets!
- Future production areas for conifers will be much smaller than today
- Various silvicultural adaptation measures are available

 but require large scale implementation, otherwise
 long-term availability of softwood resources are
 seriously at risk

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Many thanks for your attention!

Kontakt

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