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Continuous Cover Forestry as an aid to biodiversity conservation in Boreal commercial forests

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Ltd**

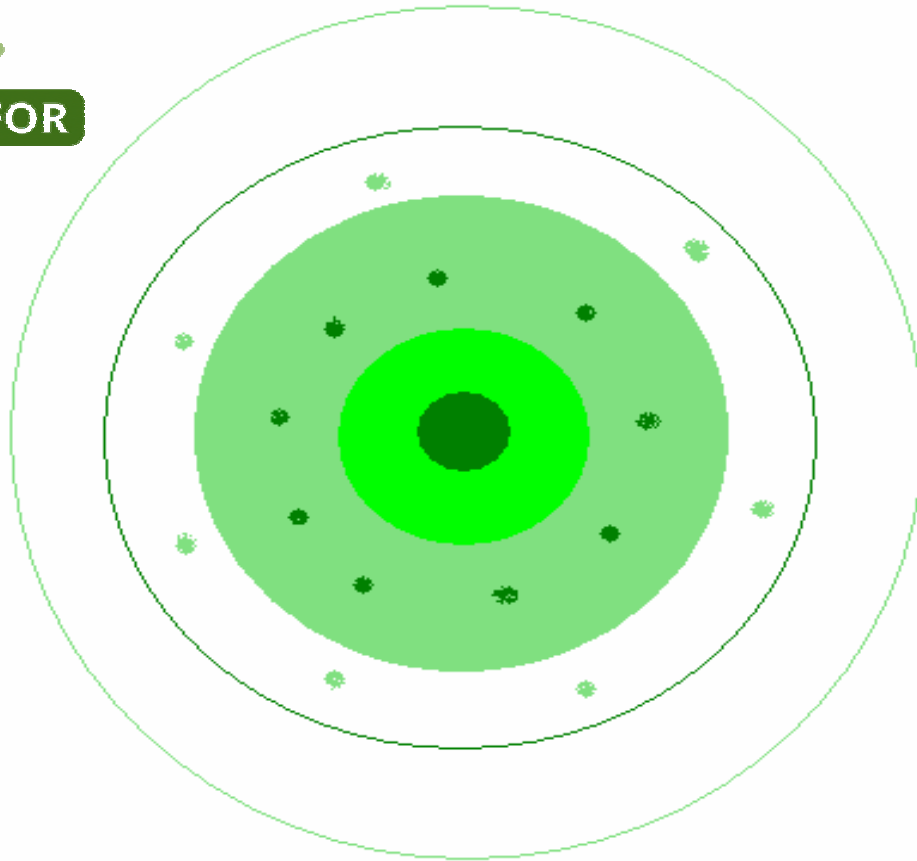


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- Why Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF) is important
- What CCF cannot achieve
- What we don't know
- Europe needs IFM = Integrated Forest Management!



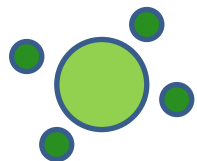
Forest conservation and management for biodiversity:
What are the needs?



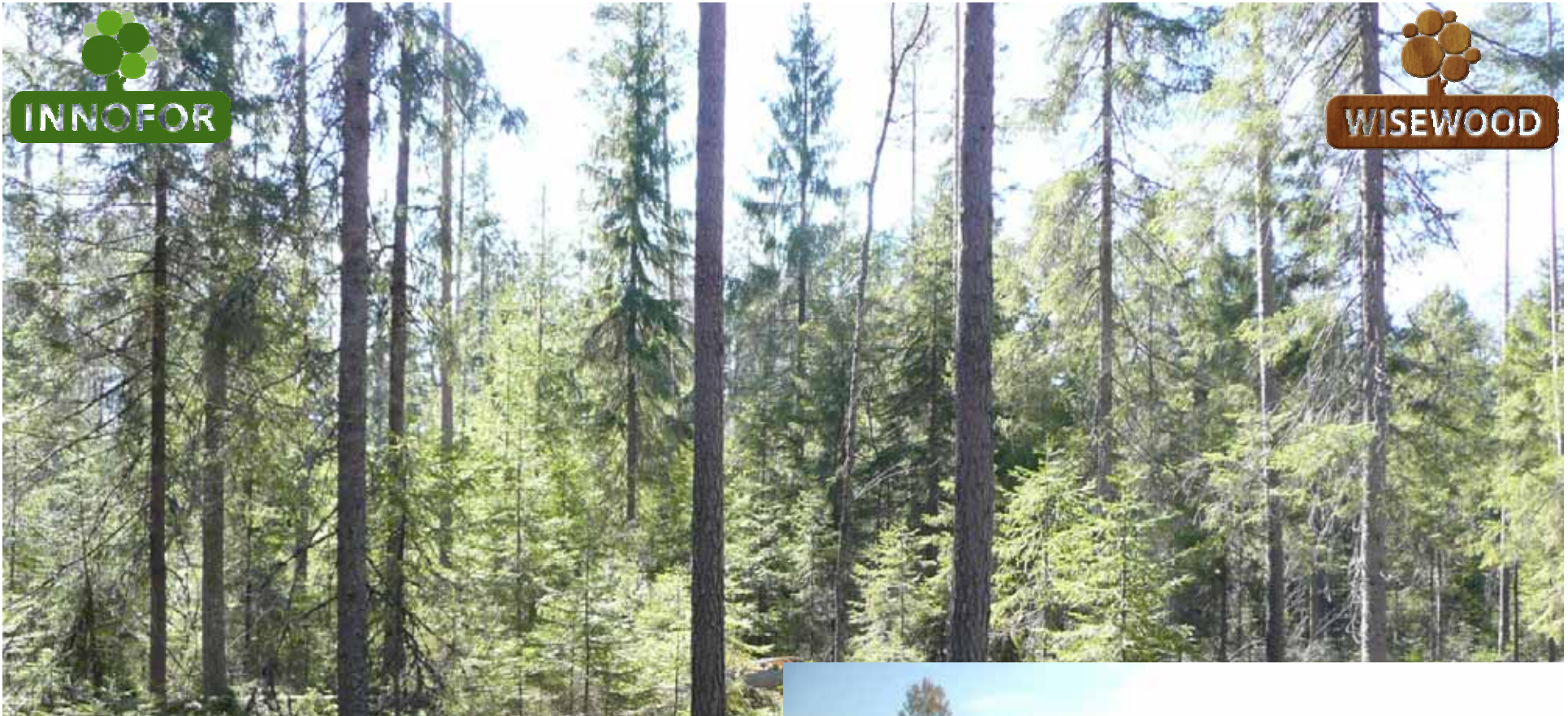
Strictly protected forest = at least 10%



Continuous Cover Forestry = at least 10%



Other commercial forestry with set-asides



Why does CCF work ?

Why is this important for biodiversity ?

Doesn't certification already do all this?





Natural forest dynamics

- Fires leave lots of dead wood, some live trees, and usually are local
- Very old trees frequent
- Uneven-aged
- Mixed stands of native tree species
- Mosaic of different successional stages
- Forest regenerates itself

Clearcuts do not mimic natural processes!

Plantation forestry

- Fires suppressed; dead wood usually removed
- Very old trees possible (but rare)
- Even-aged
- Mono- or bicultures, can be non-native
- Successional only in blocks
- Frequently regenerated by planting



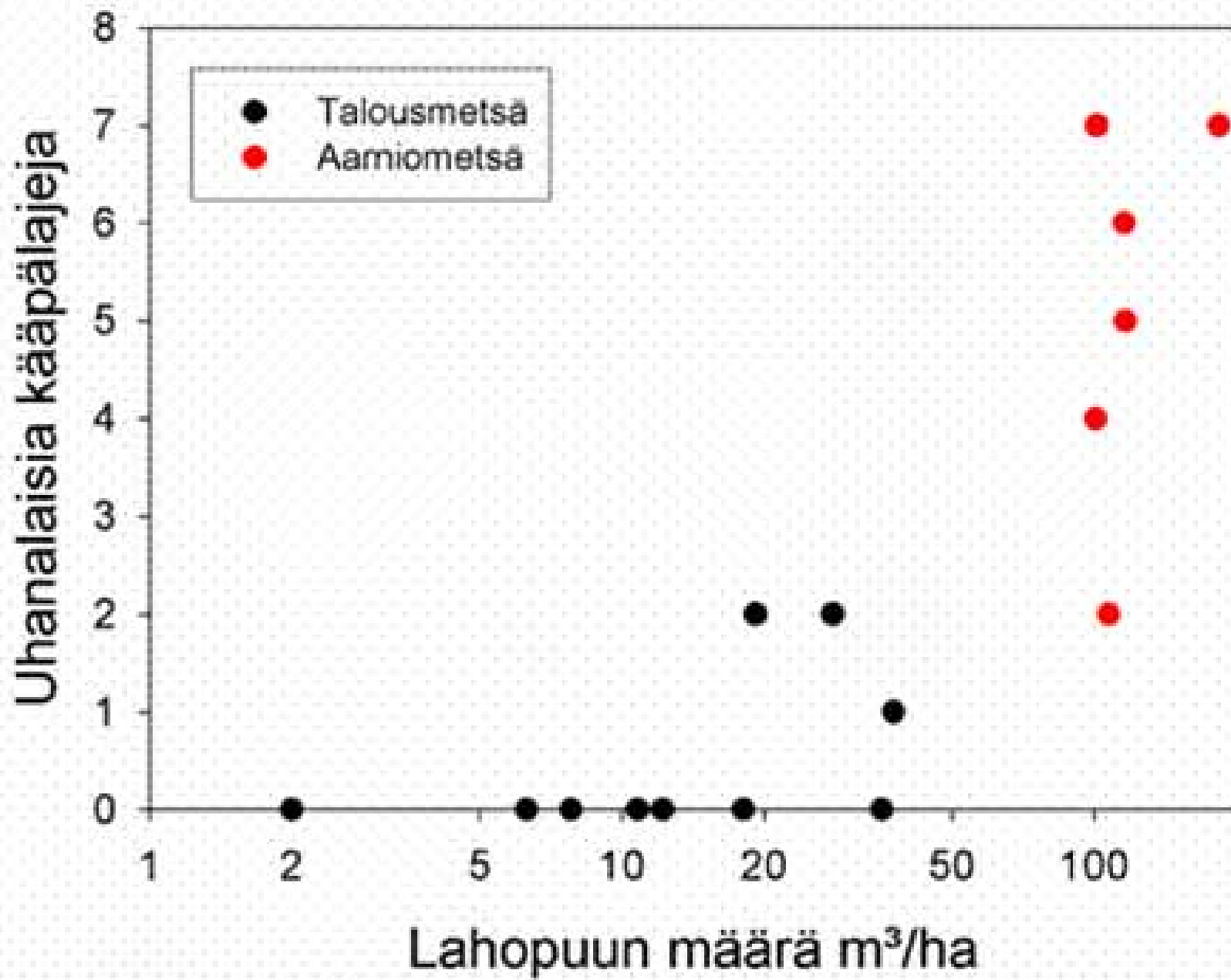
CCF vs. Natural forest dynamics

Natural forest dynamics

- Fires leave lots of dead wood, some live trees, and usually are local
- Very old trees frequent
- Uneven-aged
- Mixed stands of native tree species
- Mosaic of different successional stages
- Forest regenerates itself

Continuous cover forestry

- Fires suppressed; dead wood more frequent (to 10m³/ha not a problem)
- Very old trees possible
- Uneven-aged
- Mixed stands of native tree species
- Mosaic of different successional stages
- Forest regenerates itself





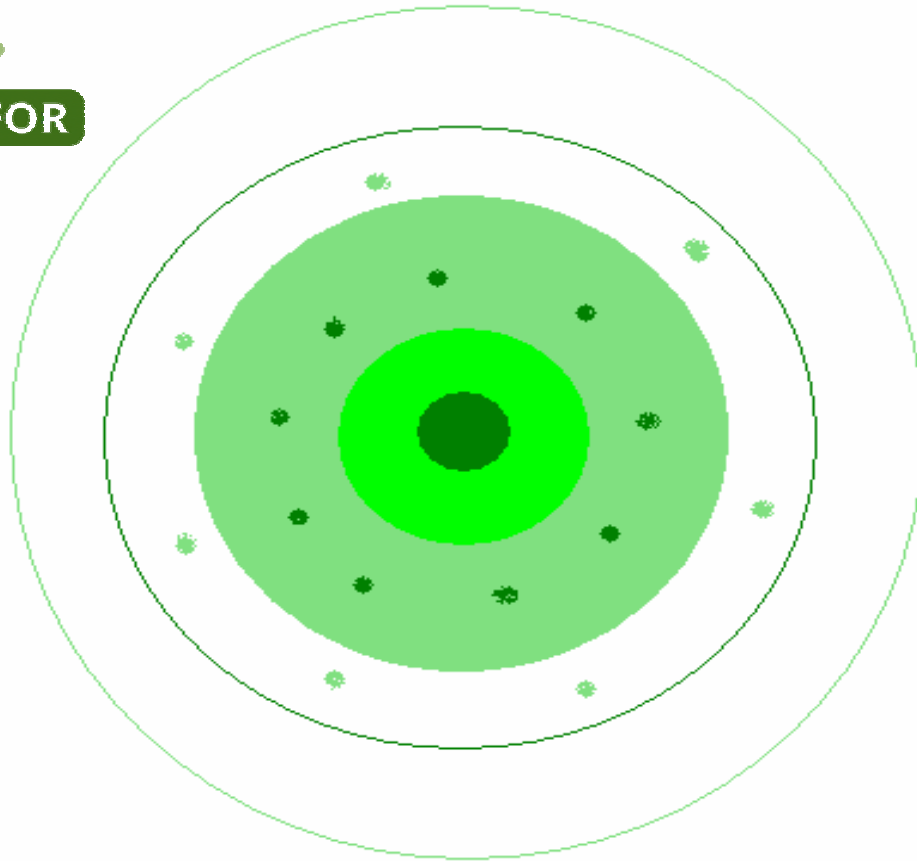
CCF is a natural starting point for progressive commercial forestry

Cont. Cover Forestry



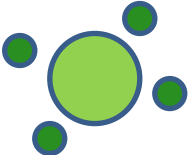
- High thinning produces saw timber crop every 15-30 years
- No or very little regeneration cost
- Retains *reasonable* recreational value
- Retains forest cover around set-aside, *with positive effects*
- *Probably* retains many more species than plantation forestry

Plantation forestry

- Low thinning, crop once every 50-80 years
- Often planted seedlings: high costs
- Clearcut retains no recreational value
- Set aside usually destroyed if surroundings are clearcut
- Known to drive many specialised species to extinction



Forest biodiversity protection: towards Integrated Forest Management

-  Cont. Cover Forestry cannot replace this! → Compensation schemes needed
-  Continuous Cover Forestry could be 50+% of forests
-  Small set-asides are useless without CCF



Thank you!

