

# Forest laws and policies for conservation

BirdLife Forest Task Force

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# Forest laws and policies for conservation

1. What is the target?
2. What kind of law / policy  
will help reach the target?
3. How far are we from the  
target in Europe?

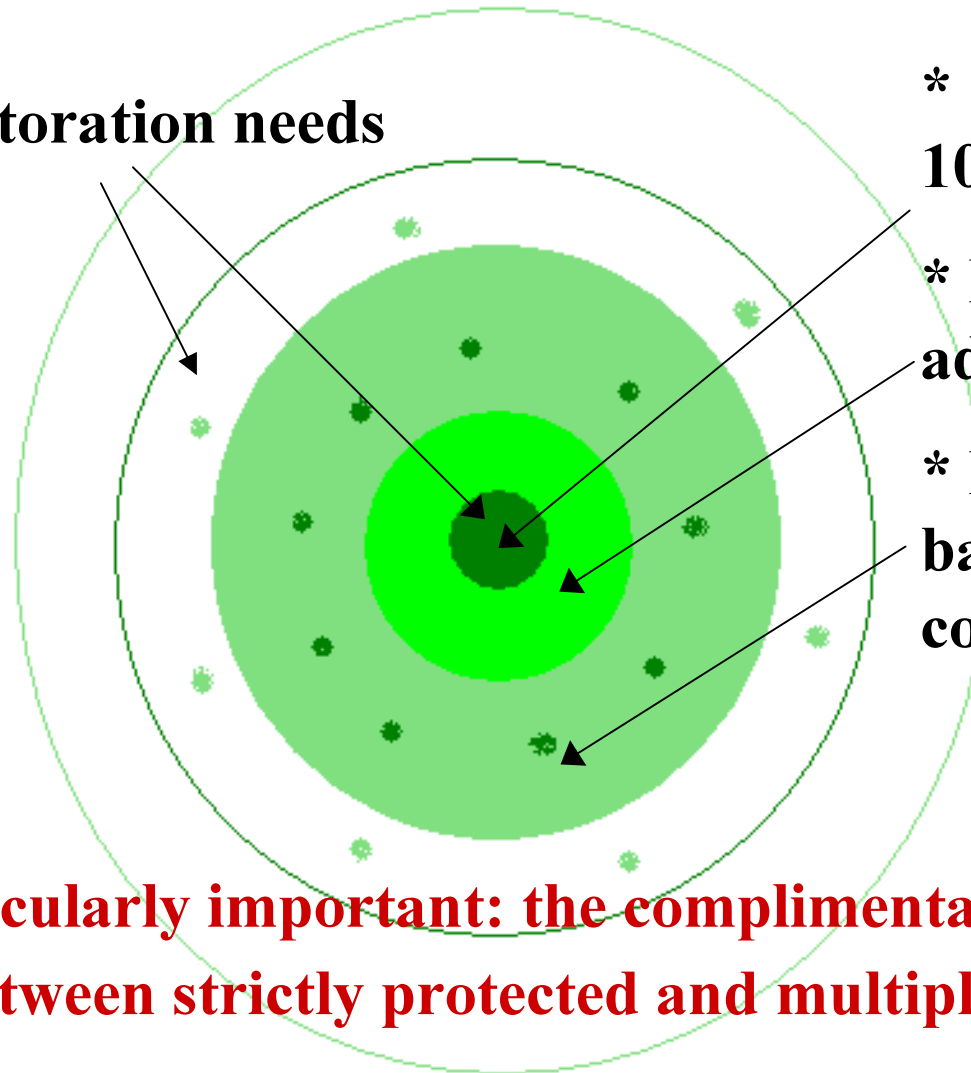
# First Principles

- “Ecological sustainability” = Nature’s limits
- “Social and economic sustainability” = We define and control
- → Nature’s limits essential starting point for good forest laws and policies

**→ Laws & Policies need vision of what are “Nature’s limits”**

# Nature's limits: the ecological targets

**\* Restoration needs**



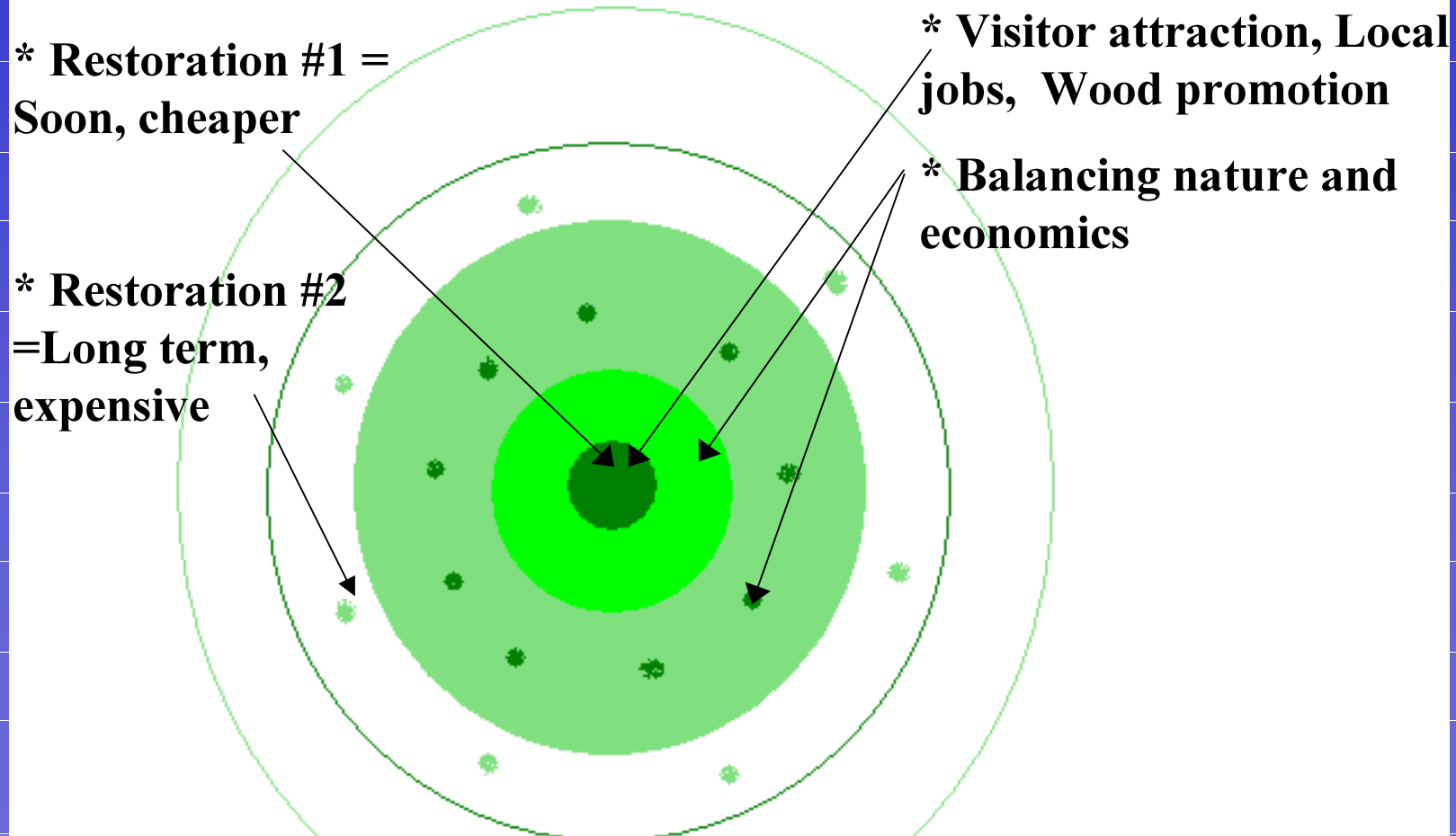
**\* Strict protection  
10%**

**\* Multiple use -  
advanced 10%**

**\* Multiple use -  
basic = rest of  
commercial forest**

**Particularly important: the complimentary relationship  
between strictly protected and multiple-use forests**

# Socio-economic targets in forest conservation



**Particularly important: social benefits of protection  
& cost-benefit analysis of multiple use forests**

# Legal dimensions of forest conservation

- Strict protection, Multiple use, Restoration
  - Where does the law end and policy start?
  - How active should the state be outside the law?
  - What matters are for the state, what for others?
  - What financing instruments are needed for conservation?

# Conservation Law & Forests

- Need to require long term stability of species & habitats
- Need for large forests in the most natural state possible

- Define & protect Woodland Key Habitat properly
- Compensation schemes for landowners

- Require monitoring for success of biodiversity measures

EU: “Favourable conservation status” required... including restoration!

# The Ideal Forestry Law

- Good forestry legislation for biodiversity
  - permits different types of forestry
  - recognises need for restoration
  - should not encourage clearcuts, non-native species, monocultures
  - limits subsidies to commercial side
  - compensation for biodiversity work to landowners
  - State Forest Service production targets not too high

# Special Role of The State Forest Service

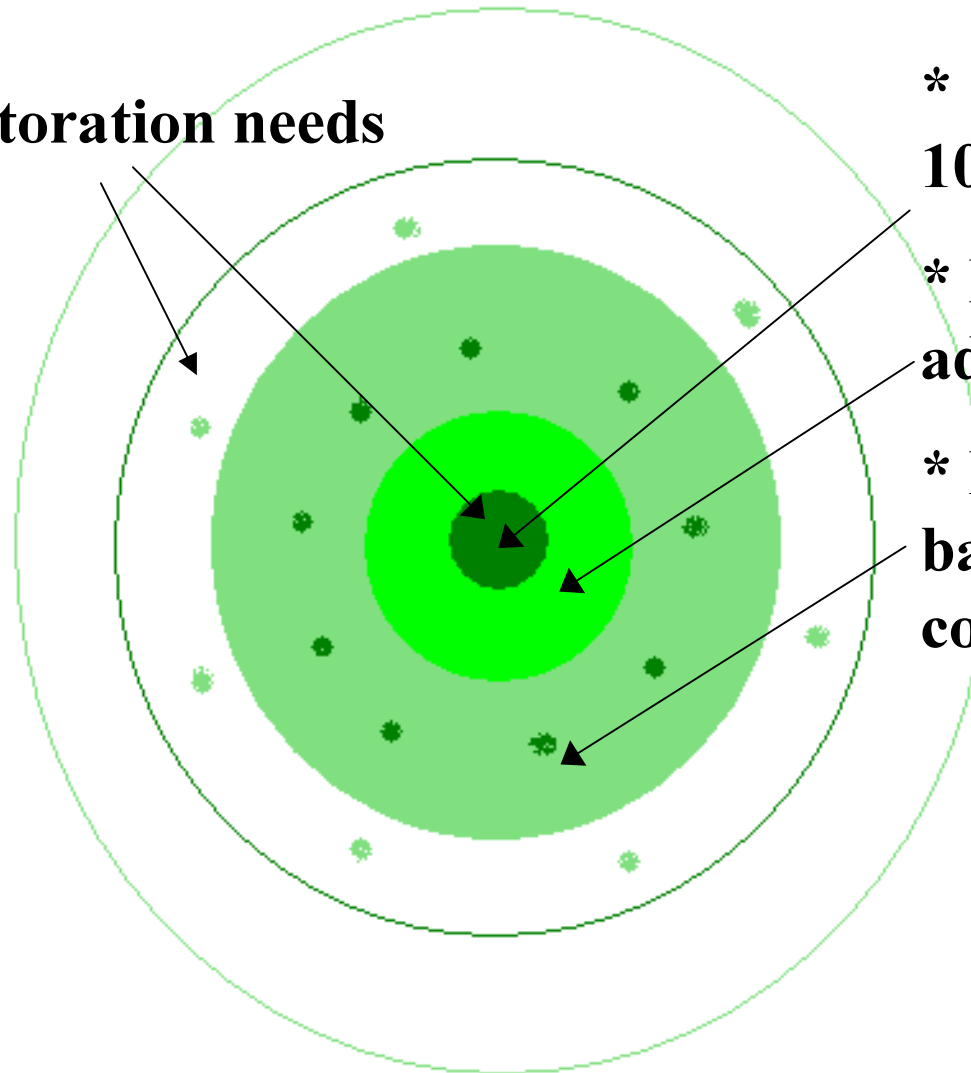
- Source of larger protected areas
- Leader in developing biodiversity-friendly forestry
- Development of sustainable forest tourism
- National forests exchanged for HCVMs
- National forest use part of wide stakeholder consultation
- Profit-making not only from logging

# From Laws to Policies

- Need clear ecological vision of what needs to be achieved
- Conservation programme backed up by sufficient financing
- Must take long-term perspective

# Ecological targets for policy

**\* Restoration needs**



**\* Strict protection  
10%**

**\* Multiple use -  
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**\* Multiple use -  
basic = rest of  
commercial forest**

# From Laws to Ideal Policies

- long-term programme for 10 % strictly protected forests
- special forest management zone for second 10%
- elsewhere: Woodland Key Habitats + dead wood + mixed stands + old trees...
- certification encouraged as voluntary instrument
- restoration needs assessed
- regular monitoring for success
- avoiding fragmentation

# From Laws to Policies

- Socio-economic policies
  - maximising local benefits of protected forest areas
  - advisory service to forest owners emphasises biodiversity
  - National Forest Programme emphasises also advanced processing of wood
  - new biodiversity measures in forests actively researched
  - traditional & innovative financing schemes ... →

# Financing instruments for protection

- national budget funds for forest conservation and compensation schemes to private owners.
- national forests can be used in exchange for HCVEs on private land
- biodiversity levy on logged wood
- tax breaks for companies assisting national parks or protecting own land
- EU Natura 2000 & Rural development funds
- separate education / investment programme for rural areas around protected sites

**SO, HOW ARE WE DOING ?**

# How Are We Doing?

- **EU: “favourable conservation status” ...but**
  - Member States’ average % of strictly protected forest < 2%
  - illegal logging at strictly protected sites
  - “protected forest” can mean almost anything
  - monitoring for conservation success implemented too slowly
  - many compensation schemes for landowners deficient
  - Socio-economic development programmes for protected forests vary widely

**Forest biodiversity levels continuing to fall across Europe**

# Legal dimensions

- **Multiple use forests – typical problems:**
  - “forest” is either strictly protected or fully commercial
  - Woodland Key Habitats too small or not defined
  - no restrictions on clearcut sizes in some countries
  - dead wood removed
  - compensation schemes to landowners insufficient
  - few restoration schemes for native woodland

# Summary

- Importance of strict protection not sufficiently understood
- Multiple-use areas excessively emphasise wood production
- Financial instruments for forest conservation insufficient
- Non-timber commercial use of protected areas underdeveloped
- Need to promote conservation-oriented forest management
- What are the effects of our efforts? Too few are monitoring results in the field!

# The Future

- Greatest challenges to forest conservation are
  - Increasing the amount of strictly protected forest - but also maximising its socio-economic benefits!
  - Improving the cost-benefit of biodiversity measures in commercial forests

**BirdLife Forest Task Force 2005:**

**”Social & economic benefits of forest protection”**

Danke – Thank you!