



## Joint Session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

Location, Turkey – 10-14 October 2011



# Role of European forests in the low carbon forest sector: where are the constraints ?

**Gert-Jan Nabuurs**

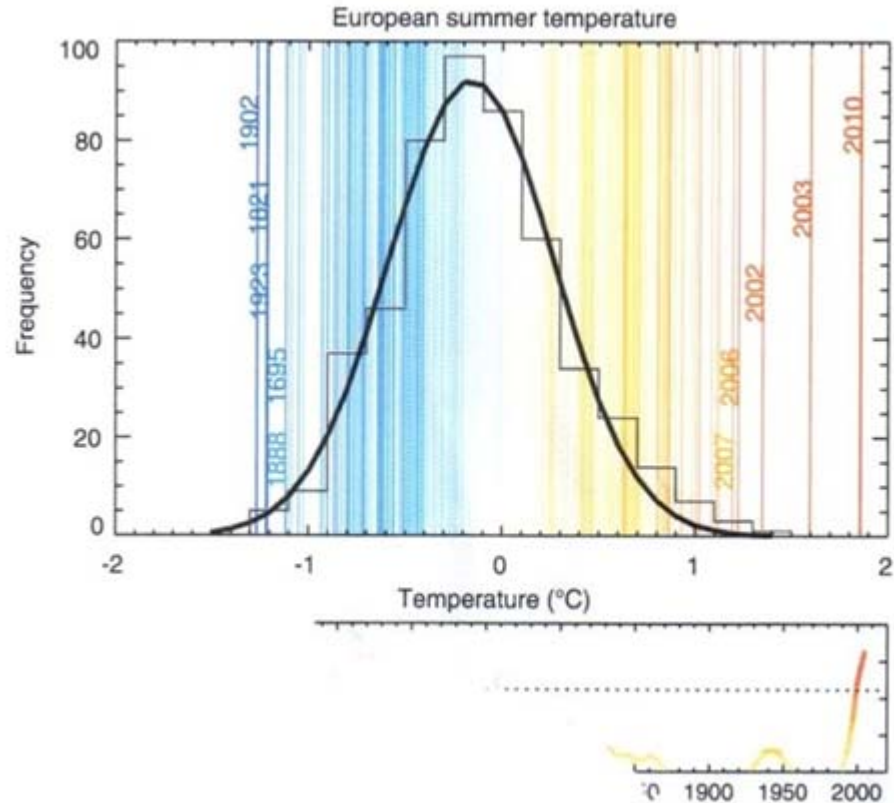
Assistant Director European Forest Institute



# External constraints we face...



30 September, 2008



on April 14, 2011

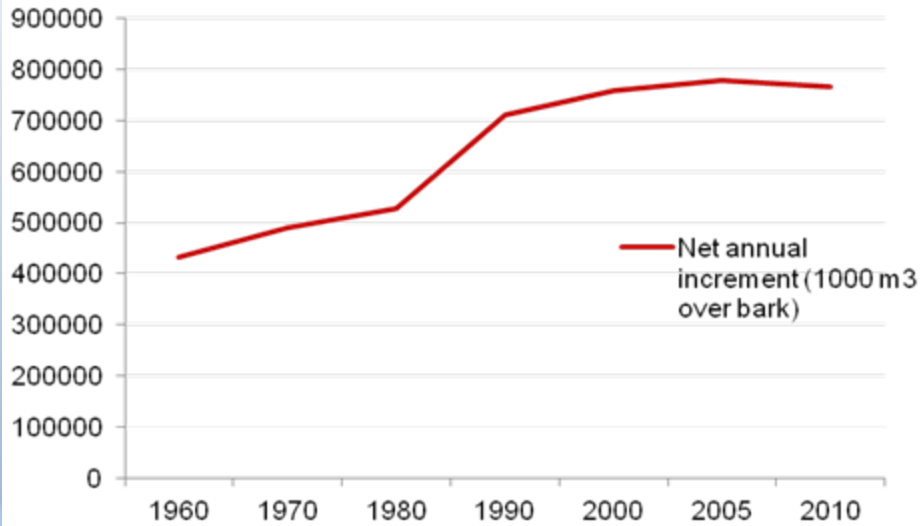
Science, Barriopedro et al. 2011



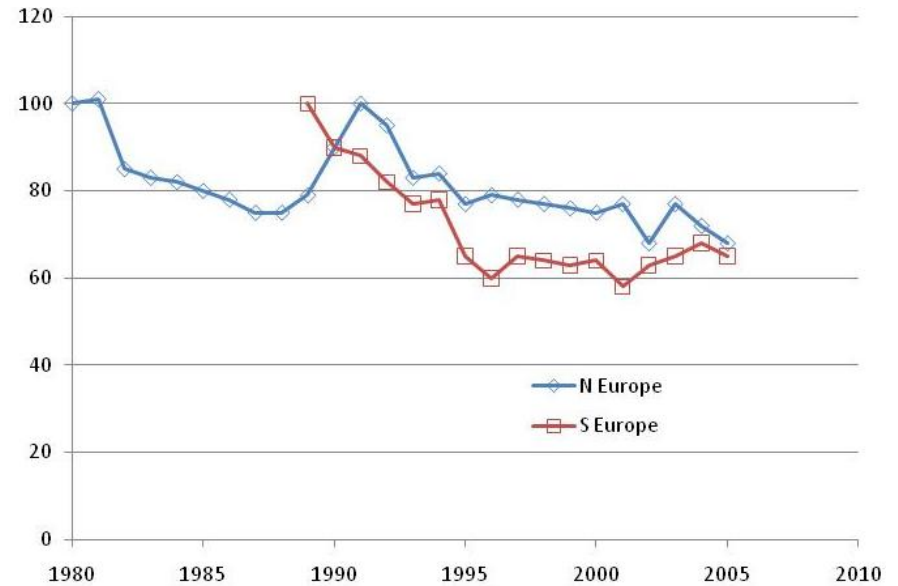
Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey



## Other constraints:



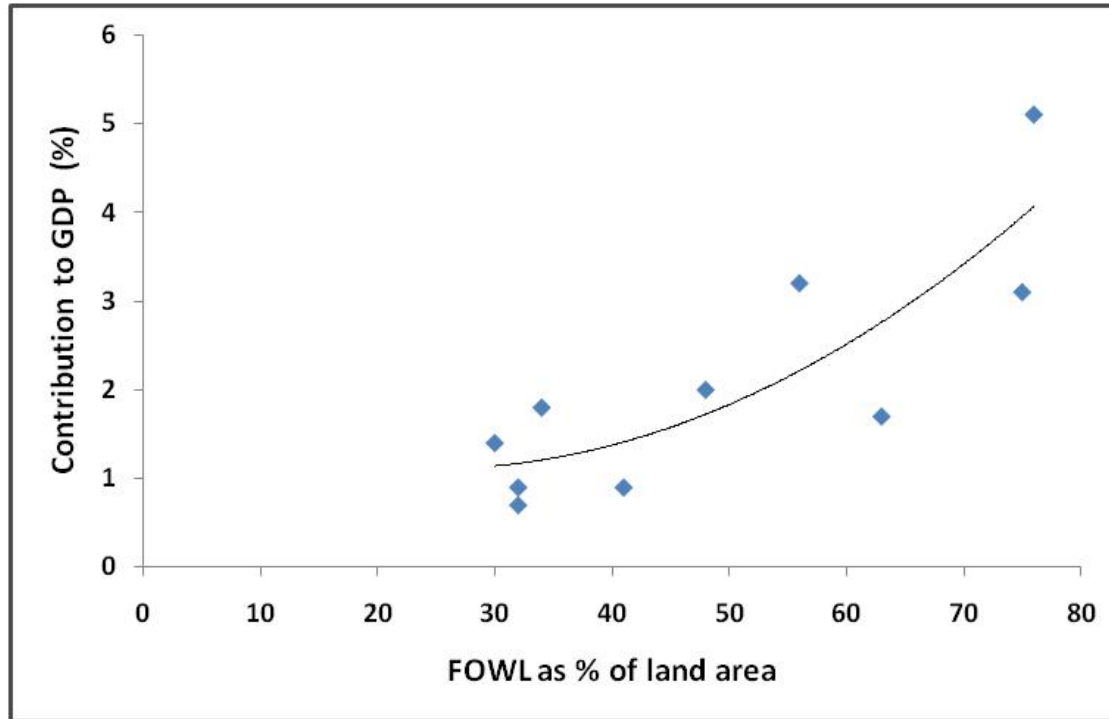
Increment in Europe's forests is curbing  
(UN ECE FAO 2011)



Biodiversity is declining (EEA 2008)



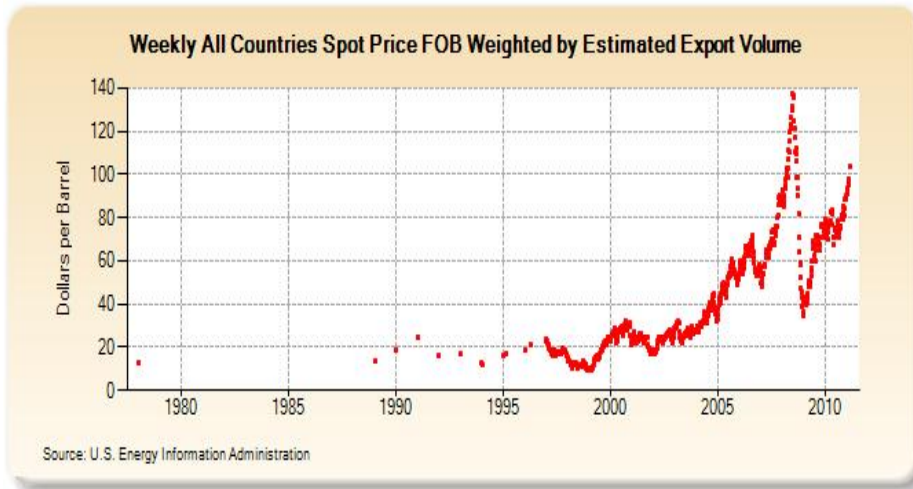
# More challenges....



Contribution of forest sector to GDP is minimal  
(UNECE/FAO 2011)



# Highly volatile oil prices



Paper industry is ready for energy production...but is blocked by concerns over sustainability of woody biomass



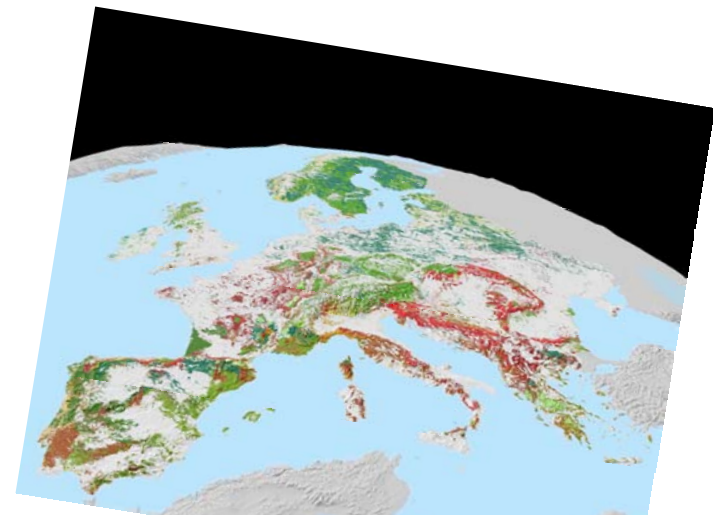
..... as long as the sector is also associated to forest destruction, this will not change.



# Opportunities

- Green economy is a total revamp of how we think and act
- Substitution, sequestration, cascading, are all related, some contradict each other, some complement
- States should be less obsessed by carbon sequestration in forest biomass only; accounting rules should be changed
- Resilient forests; highly site specific measures are needed;
- Sequestration versus emission reduction: depends on site, other demands, and services

How to max sector contr to mitiga adap  
How encourage subst  
Encourage cascading  
How to increase capacity to adapt  
Hw to seq more in biomass and prod



- Measures mentioned before, need upfront public money investment, for changing logistics, allowing recycling, etc
- Forest based industry and forest owners are only ones with access to resource and know how on sust management; but Brussels sees biobased economy mostly from agricultural point of view
- Forest related research is fragmented:
  - more stable forms of collaboration in research (for e.g. Resource analyses like EFSOSII) to be developed in 'KIC's';
  - Europe 2020 strategy on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth offers potential to forest sector. Large communication effort still to go



# Thank you

[gert-jan.nabuurs@efi.int](mailto:gert-jan.nabuurs@efi.int)



Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey

