



# Private forestry in & Estonia



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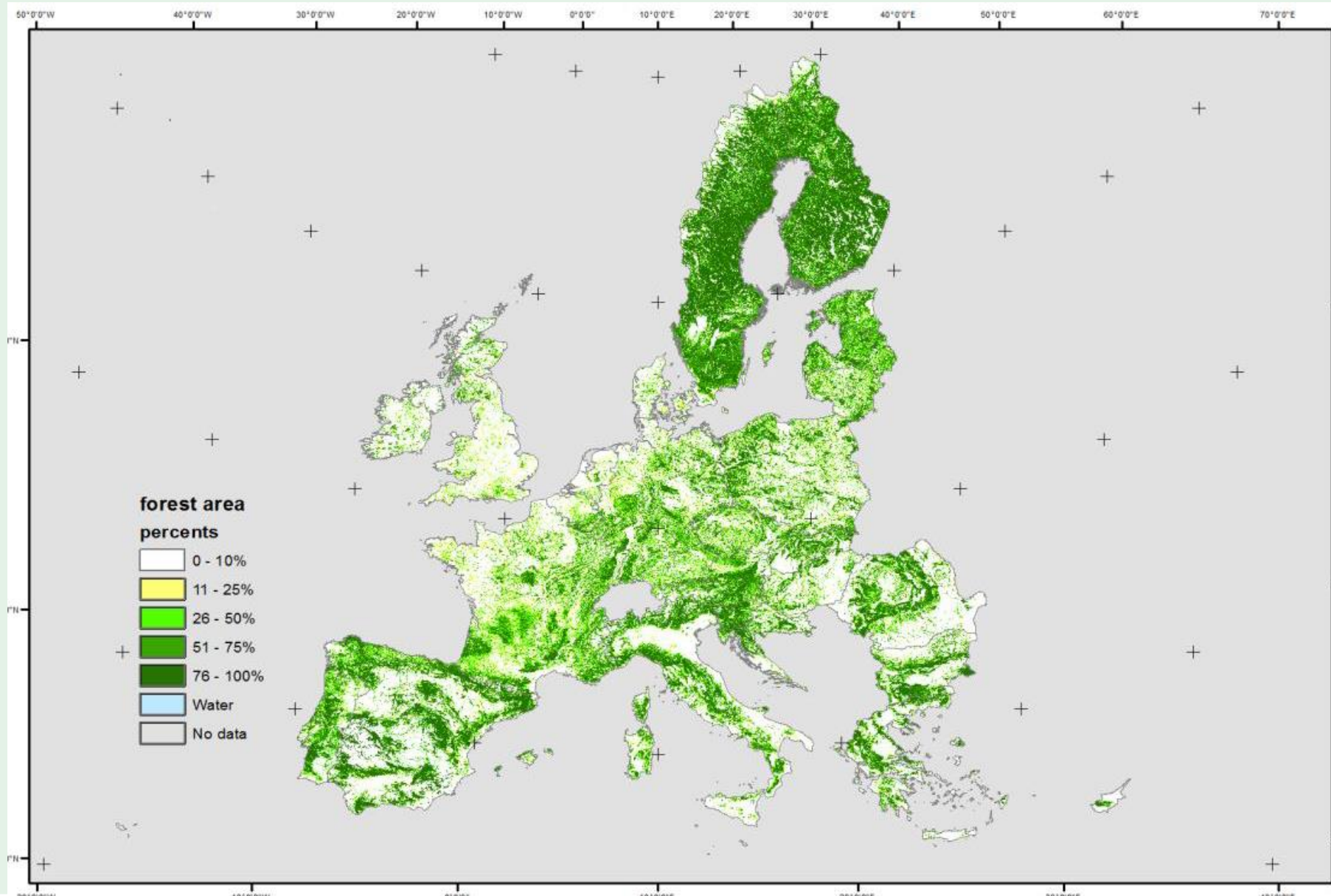
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# Estonia:

- Population - 1 311 870 (2014)
- Territory – 45 227 sq.km
- The highest mountain – Suur Munamägi 318 m (also the highest in all 3 Baltic states)
- Independent from 1918 – 1940 and since 1991 (Soviet occupation 1940 – 1991)
- Religion – mostly atheists (ca 71%)
- Ca 2/3 of population are Estonians, who identify themselves primarily by language,
  - where is no articles and future senses but are 15 cases 😊
- Forests – ca 50,6% of land territory
- Hunting – wolves, lynxes and bears are shot yearly

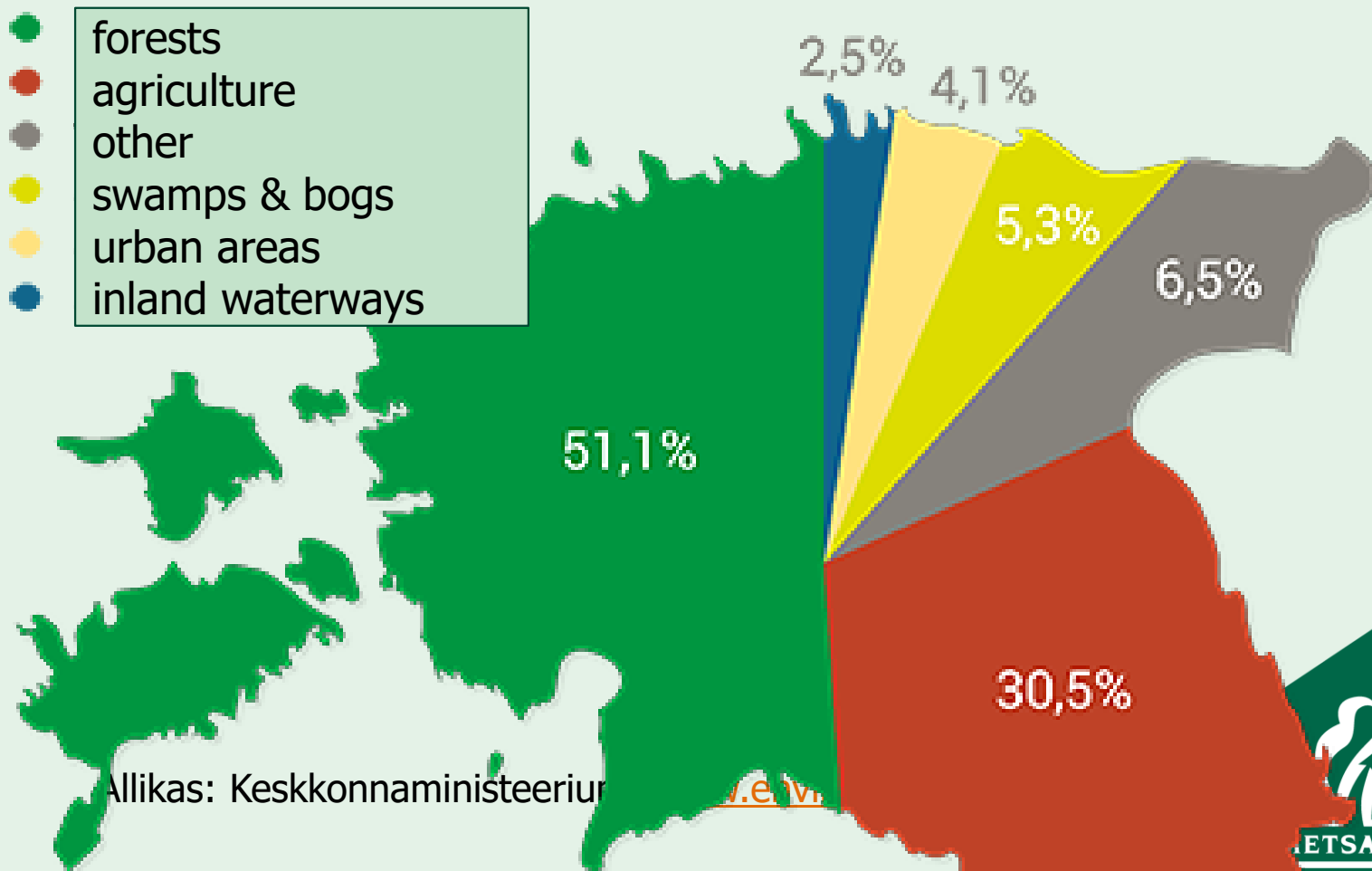


# European forests on the map



# Estonia – half is forest!

## Eesti pindala jagunemine maakategoriate järgi



Allikas: Keskkonnaministeerium, 2017. a. arv

# Forest applications



Christmas tree in Rakvere  
central square

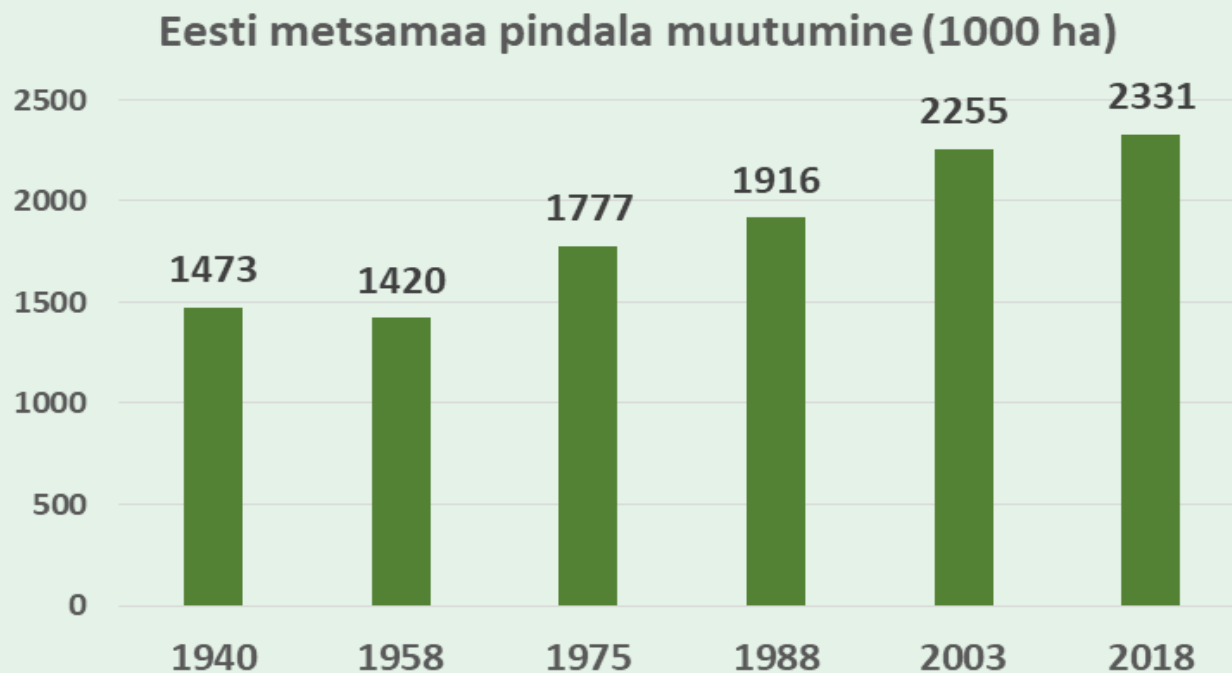


*Craterellus tubaeformis*,  
picked up from snow

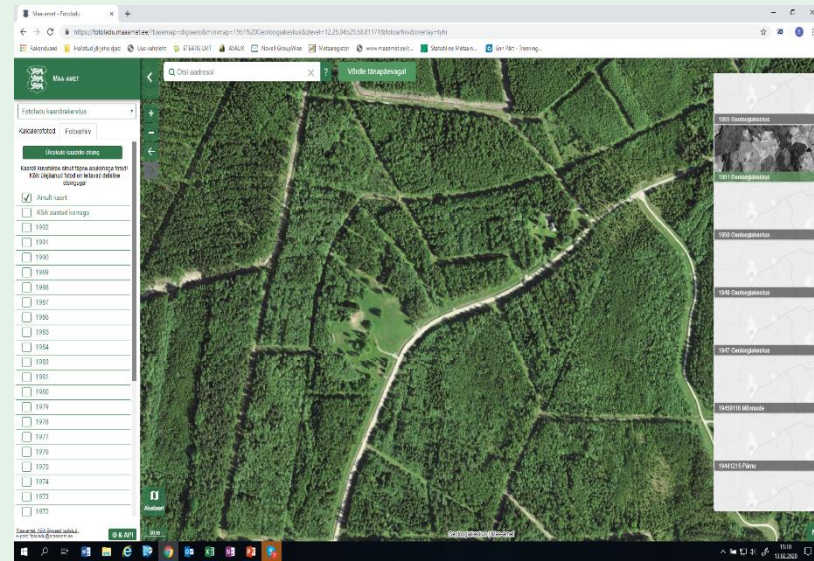
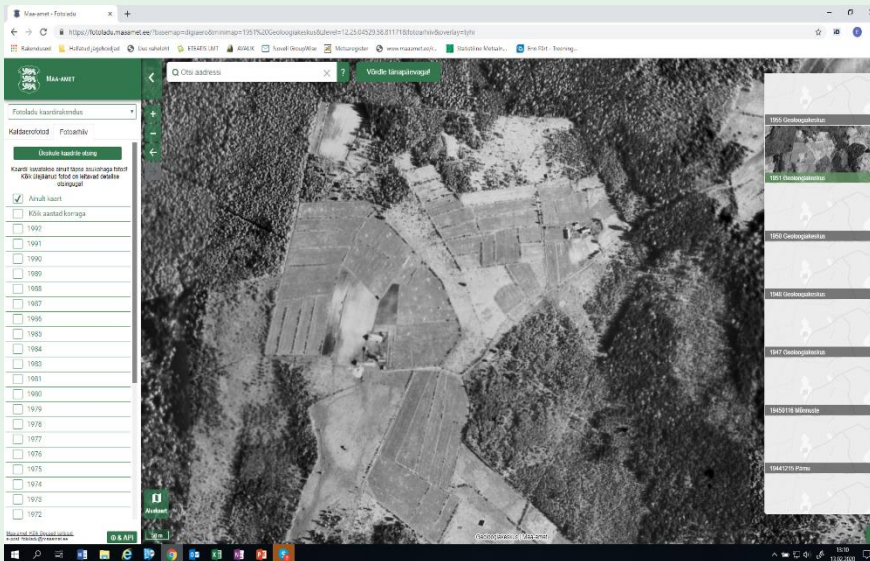
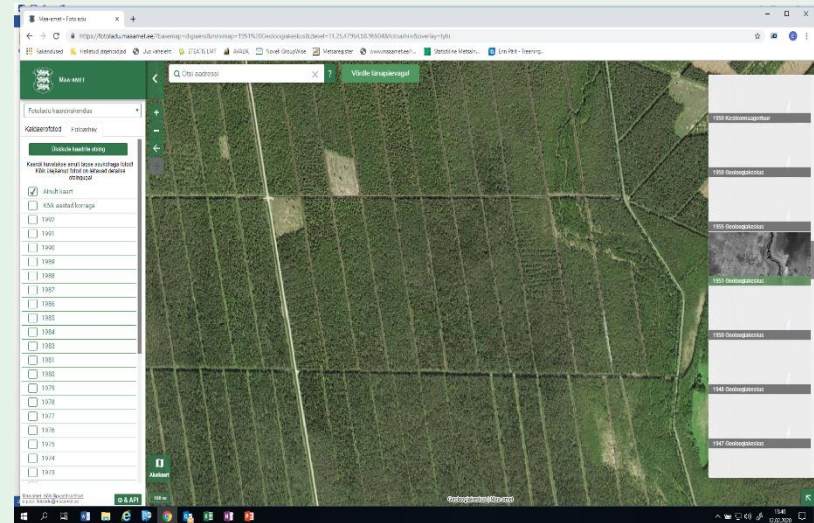
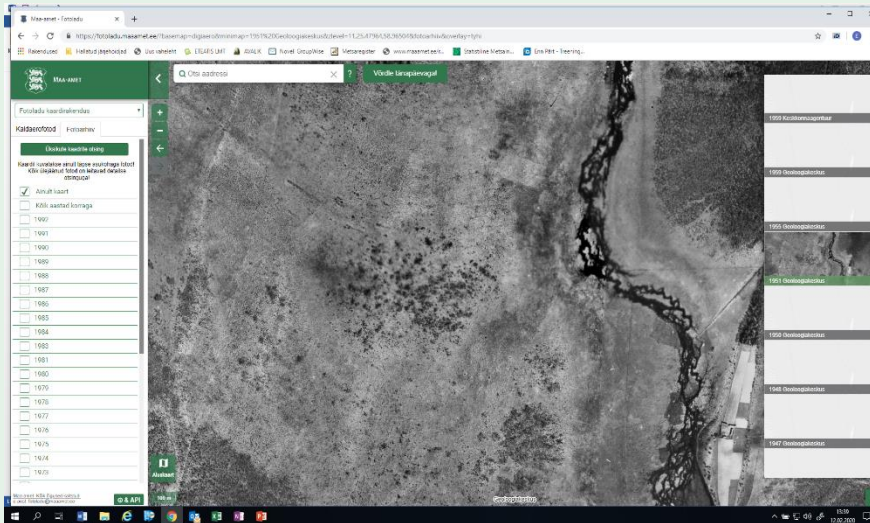


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# Changes in the area of Estonian forest land



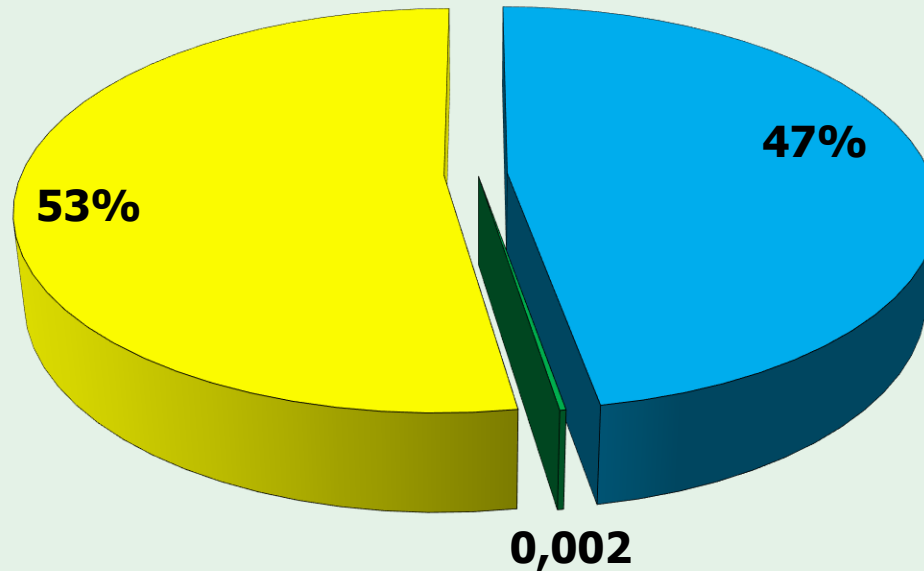
# Changes in the area of Estonian forest land



The same places in aerial photo 1951.a. and now, bogs and fields have become forests

# FORESTLAND OWNERSHIP – half is private!

2,2 mil. ha of forestland



■ Eramaa   ■ Munitsipaalmaa   ■ Riigimaa

Private

Municipal

State



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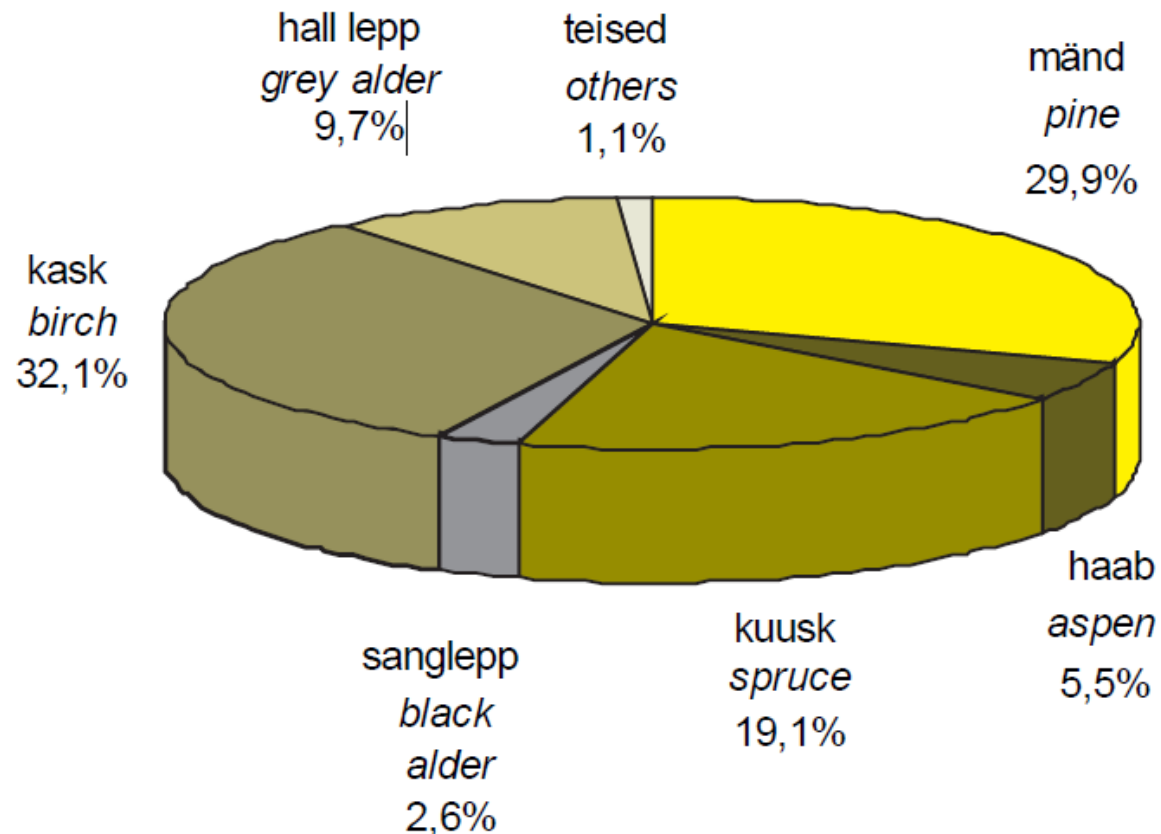


# Forestland ownership

Country	State forest	Private forest	Other
<b>ESTONIA</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>1% ownership not set</b>
<b>LATVIA</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>Local government forests 1%</b>
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	<b>49,7%</b>	<b>40,3%</b>	<b>Forest reserved for restitution 10%</b>



# Distribution of growing stock in private forest



# Forestry is a very hot topic in society

➤ The catalyst was idea to lower the cutting age of spruce stands on fertile forest types (concerns few % of all spruce stands)

➤ **Consequences:**

- Demonstrations, petitions, public letters for saving of forests;
- Series of very negative articles about forest managers;
- Doubts about all that is told by state about forests



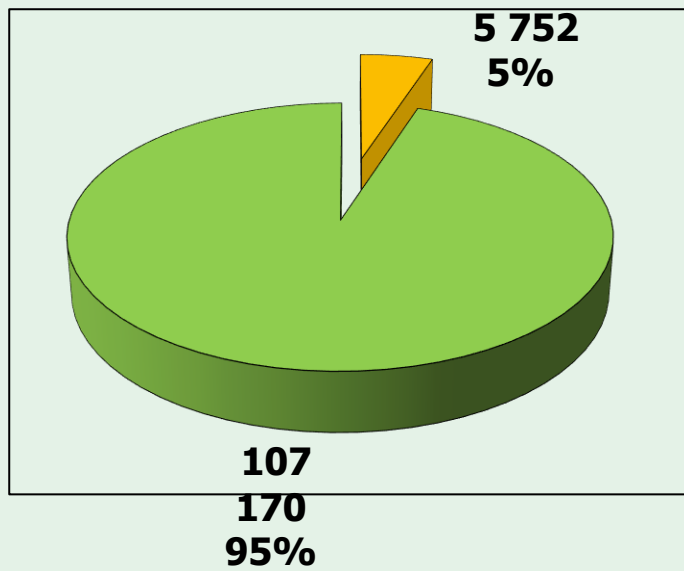
# Forestry policy or forest war?



# PRIVATE FOREST OWNERS

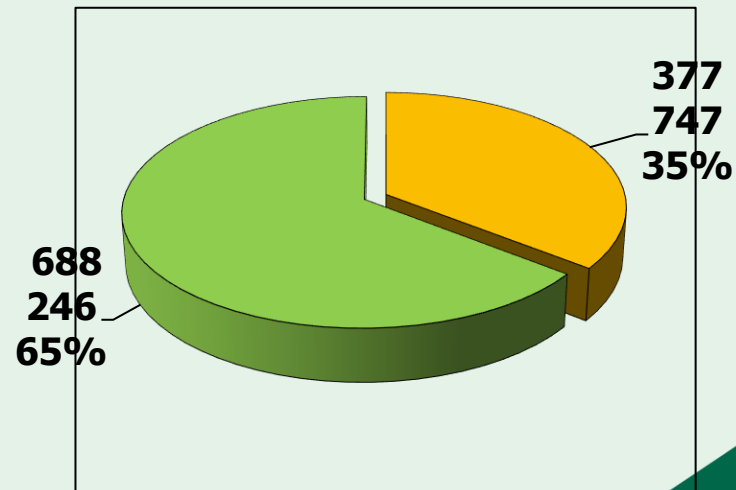
*80 000 forest owners own 1,066 mil ha of forestland*

**Number of forest owners – legal persons and individuals**



Source: Ministry of Environment

**Area of forestland – legal persons and individuals**



# Private forest owners

## Average size of property:

Legal persons 65,7 ha;

Individuals 6,4 ha

**44,4 % of forest owners own less than 2 ha of forestland**

## Ordinary forest owner:

living far from property  
and having no forestry  
education

**State forests** are managed  
by State Forest Management  
Centre (RMK)

<http://rmk.ee/en>



# Private forest

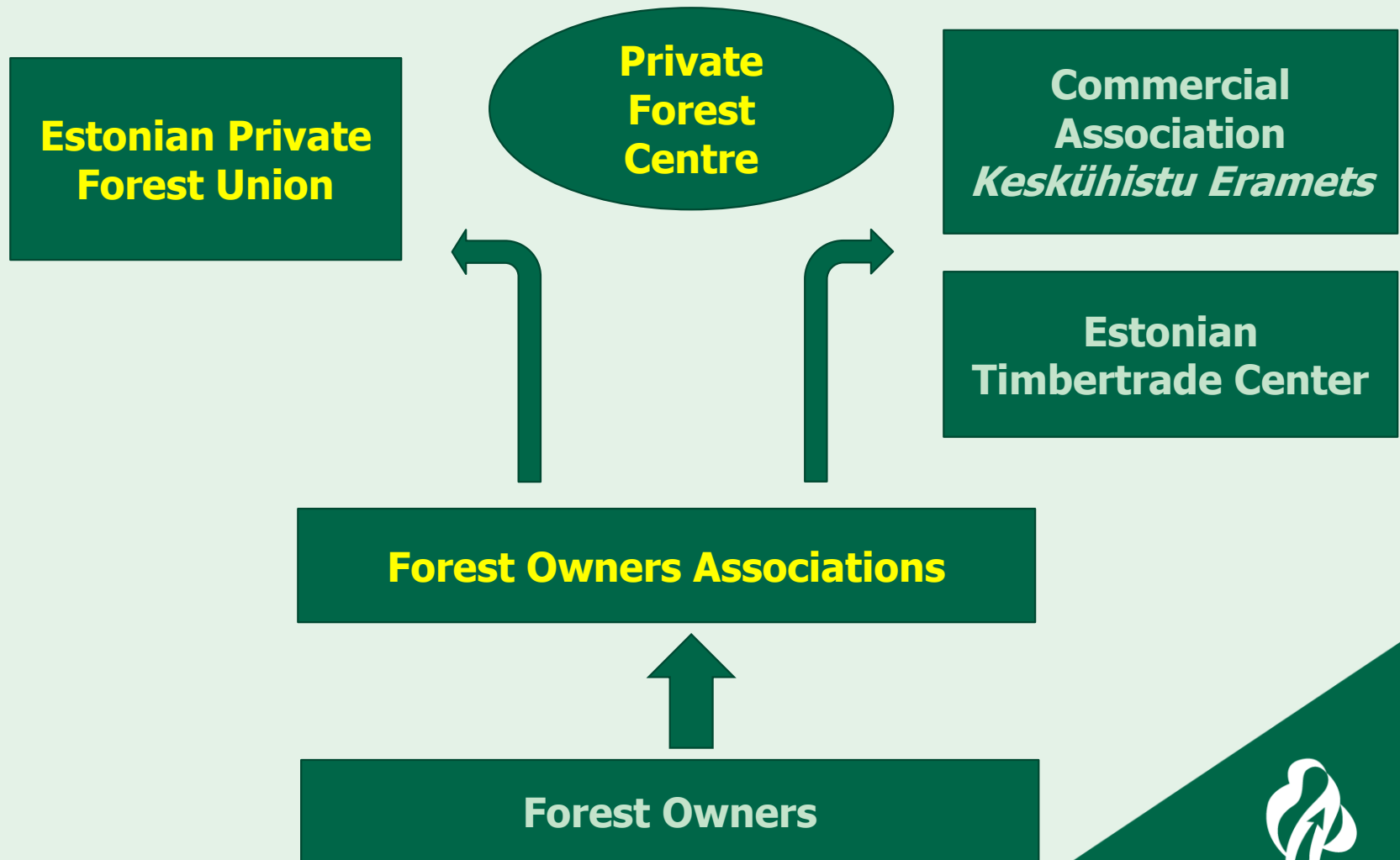
X=6533089, Y=410113  
B=58°55'39.1", L=22°26'20.85"



X-GIS. Maa-amet. Kõik õigused kaitstud.

0 50 100 150m

# Support system for private forest owners





# Private Forest Centre – since 1999

- Foundation under the Ministry of Environment
- private legal body, but financed by the state,
- 35 employees (incl. 10 local controllers)
  
- **Development centre for private forestry**





# Private Forest Centre

## Tasks:

- Administration of national and EU **subsidies** for private forest owners
- **Development of private forestry support system**
- other development activities related to private forestry (communication projects, promotion of bioenergy, training courses)





Activity	Budget of subsidies for 2018 mil. eur
<b>NATURA</b> 	4,4
<b>Silvicultural investments (thinning, restoring damaged forests, pruning, preventing game damages etc.)</b> 	1,5
<b>Forest inventory</b>	0,3
<b>Forest regeneration</b>	1,2
<b>Support for Forest Owners` Associations and certification</b>	0,7
<b>Extensionist service (advisory system)</b>	0,45
<b>Restoration of forest ditches</b>	0,2
<b>Protection of key habitats</b>	0,16
<b>Maintenance of cultural heritage</b>	0,02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,93 mil. eur</b>

# Forest Owners` Associations

## What could forest owner get from FOA:

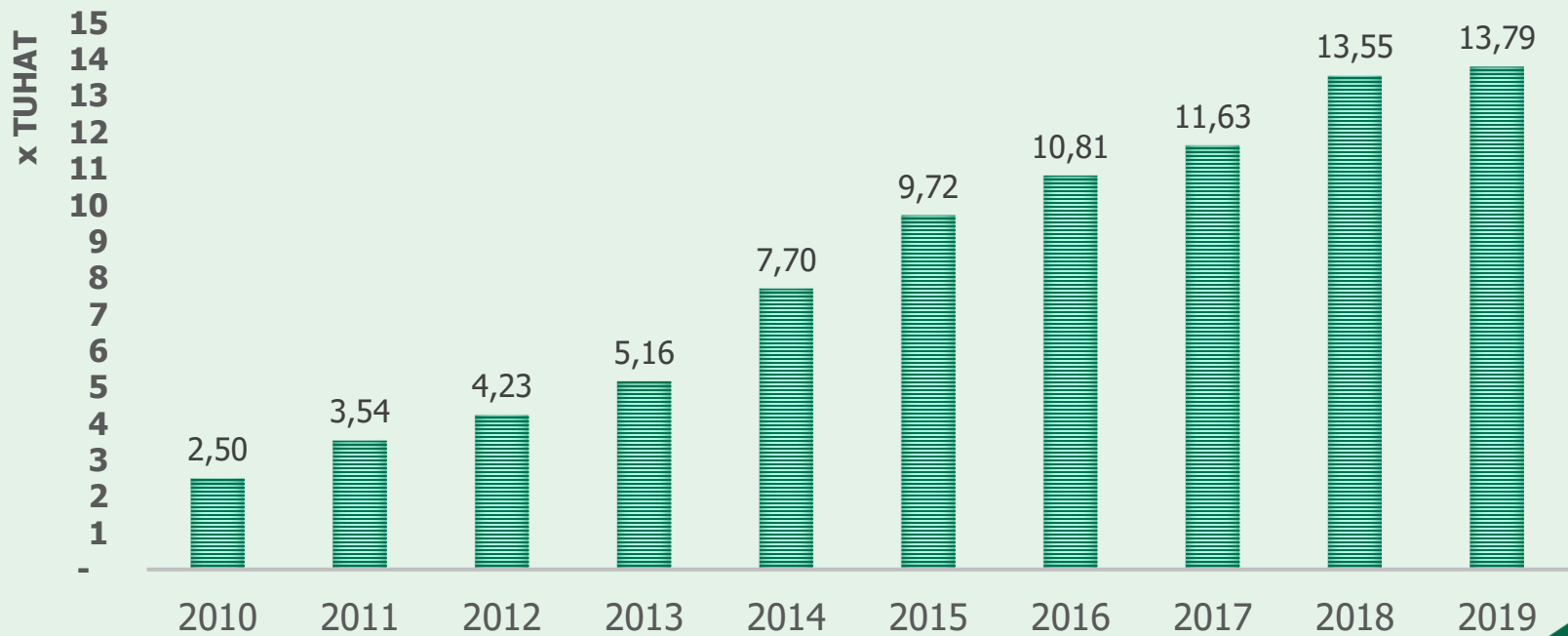
- Information and advice
- Applying for subsidies from Private Forest Centre
- Representation in forest policy questions
- Support in silvicultural activities
- Procurement of seedlings
- Joint wood sale
- Certification

**About 25 active associations in Estonia**

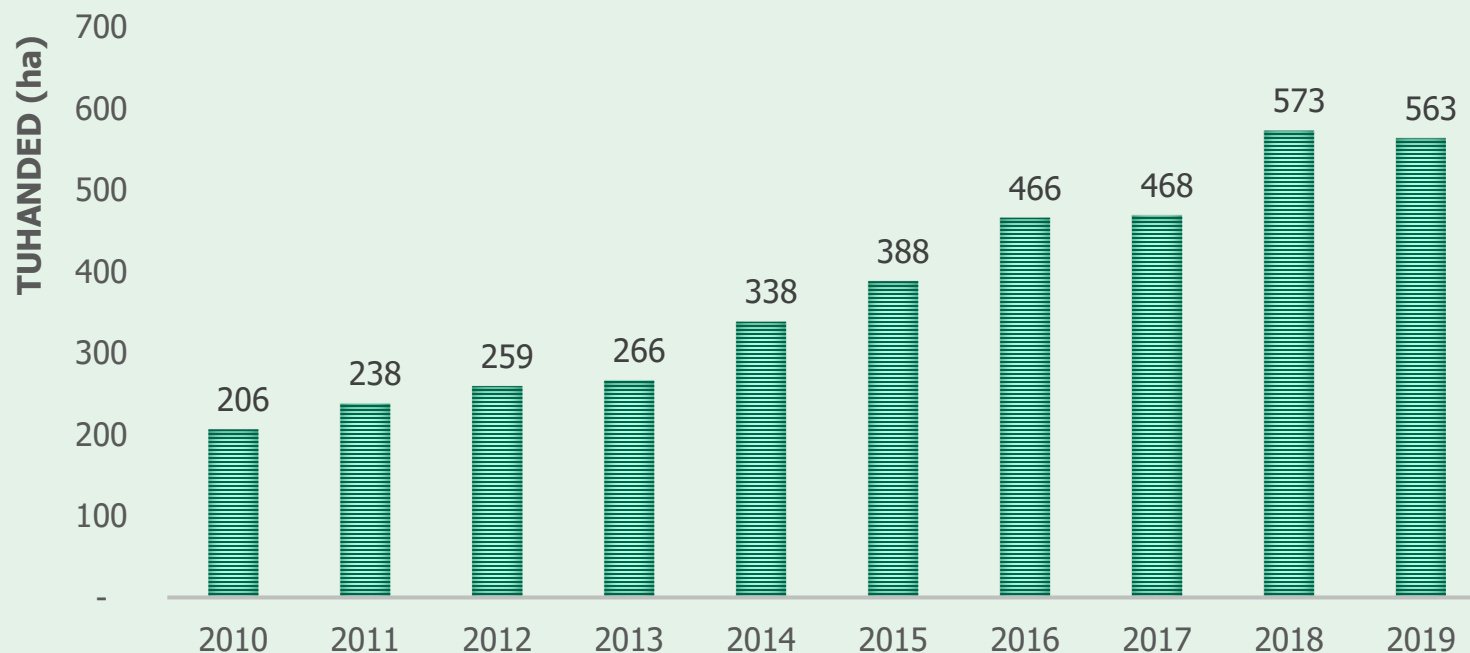


**Trend: from soft organizations to forest management organizations**

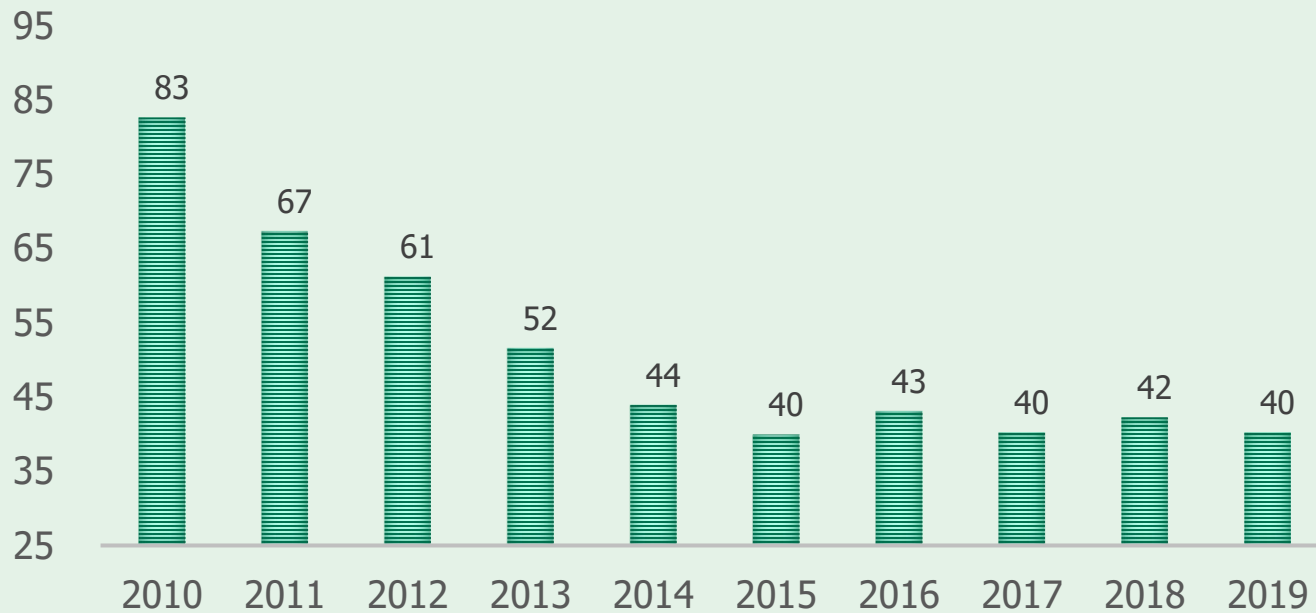
# Members of FOA`s



# Forestland owned by members of FOA`s



# Average area of forestland of members of FOA`s (ha)





# Transactions with forest land

- Yearly transactions – ca 30 000 hectares sold
- it is equal 3% of Estonian private forests
- Average price 3000+ EUR/ha
- Transactions' amount more than 100 MEUR
- Transactions in all Baltic states ca 400 millions €/y



# State`s current message

## Forestry Development Plan up to 2020:

- To increase overall felling volume in Estonia (max. felling 15 mil. m<sup>3</sup>/year)
- To increase reforestation in private forests (40% of clear-cut areas have to be regenerated)
- Increase area of pre-commercial thinnings/cleanings and thinning

**Summary:** we have to do more in our forests! Good SUPPORT SYSTEM for private owners is needed



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# Future perspectives

The same development has to be continued:

- More wood to the market (1 mil. scbm by 2020)
- More thinnings
- More forest regeneration
- More forest certification
- Uniting under one brand ([www.metsauhistu.ee](http://www.metsauhistu.ee))



Rakvere  Metsaühistu

  
ERAMETSakeskus

# Future perspectives

- New forestry development plan up to 2030 - intensive and emotional debates, very difficult to reach consensus
- Very strong pressure to decrease cutting volumes!
- Impact of LULUCF still unclear



# Thank you!

## Additional information

➤ [www.eramets.ee](http://www.eramets.ee)

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