



**BIO4ECO**

**Interreg Europe**



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# Result Oriented and Sustainable Resource Management in Forestry

**Aiga Grasmane, LFOA Managing Director**

Project partner Latvia – Latvian Forest Owners' Association

[Aiga.Grasmane@mezaipasnieki.lv](mailto:Aiga.Grasmane@mezaipasnieki.lv)

17 September, 2020 | BIO4ECO final conference, Barcelona

# Latvian Forest Owners' Association

**Founded in 2005**

**Main task – to promote sustainable and economically efficient forestry in Latvia**

**Represents more than 400 members**

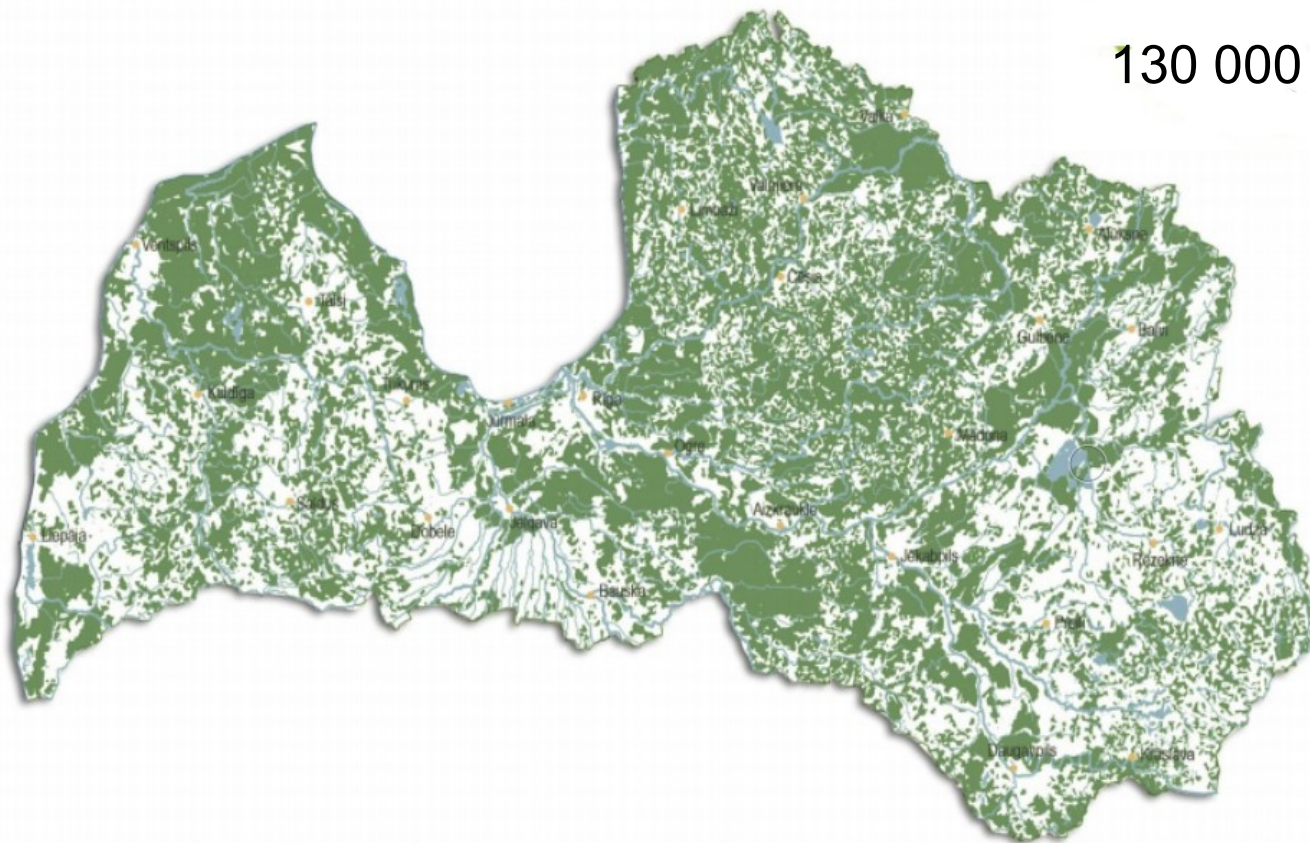
**LFOA members manage 1,90 mill. ha of forest land, which is about 57% of the total forest area in the country**



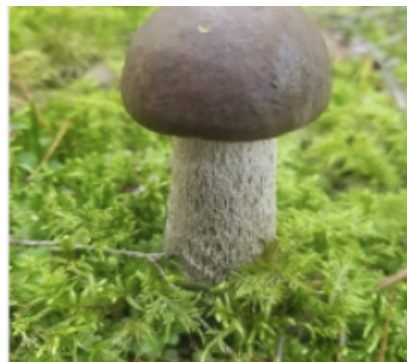
# Forest cover in Latvia 52%

Important for national economy, biodiversity, recreation, bioeconomy, climate, ao.

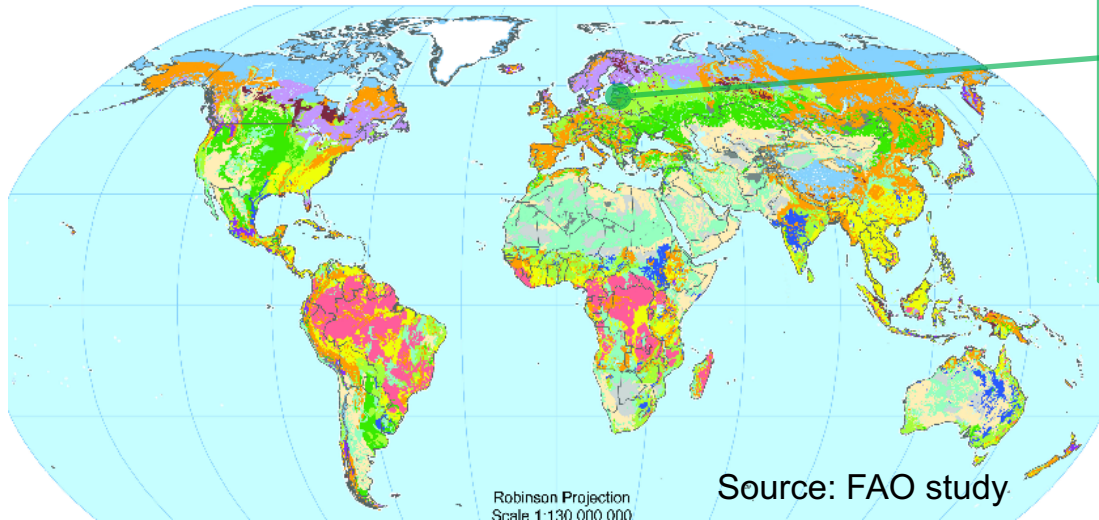
130 000 forest owners







# What we have achieved...



Latvia has increasing potential of resources (from agriculture, forestry, biodegradable waste) for promoting Bioeconomy

Source: FAO study

## Rural Development plan 2014-2020:

- Forest stand improvement 81 760 ha
- Afforestation 5 298 ha



- All together 87 058 ha more productive forest





# Good collaboration with researchers

**New knowledge about forest – more advanced risk reduction in forest management:**

- **Wind damage and prevention actions** (video produced for forest owners on research);
- **Pests and disease protection;**
- **Advanced forest reproduction material – better adaptation to climate changes and productivity;**
- **and other measures...**



- **Steps to Forest sector strategic goal – increase of Latvia's forest productivity by 25%, 2050**



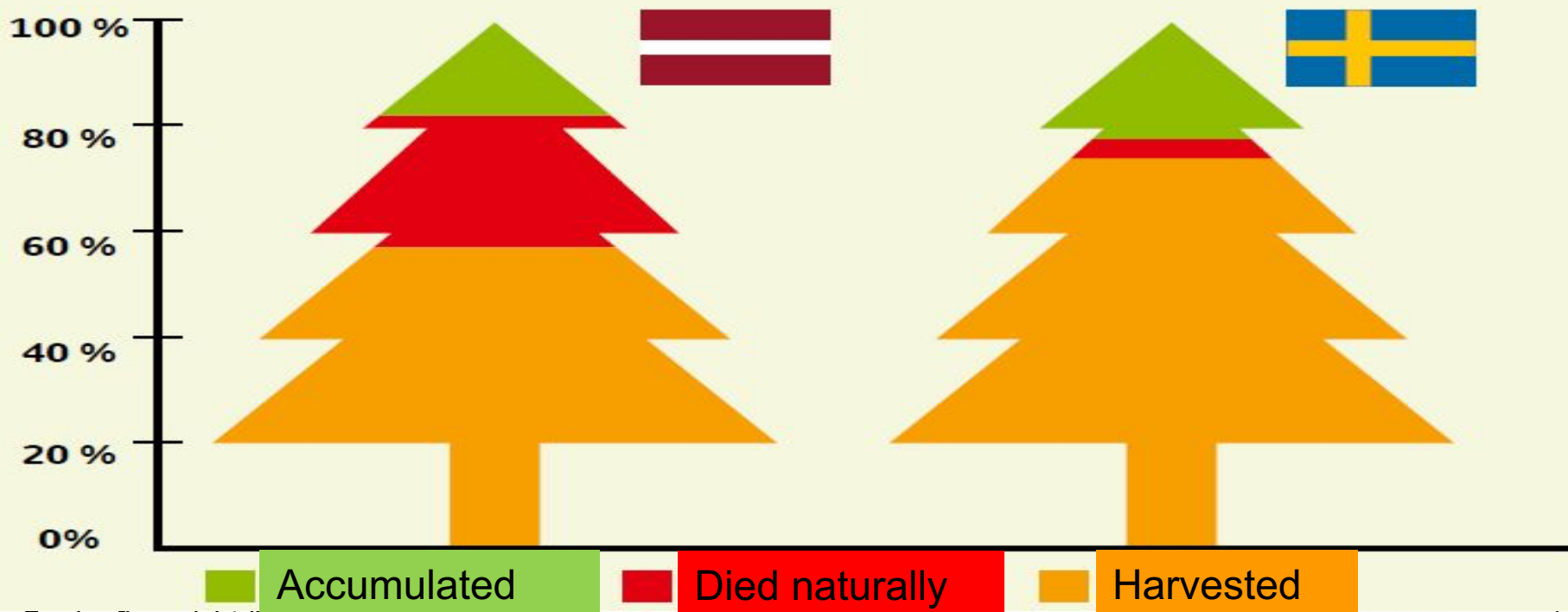
# BIO4ECO Action plan

- Helped to structure our thoughts and plans

*Forest owners elaborated changes in legislation to equalize the mean diameter values for regeneration felling with the Baltic and Nordic countries.*

- Unfortunately, this proposal faced heavy opposition from green NGOs.

## *Rational use of annual forest growth*

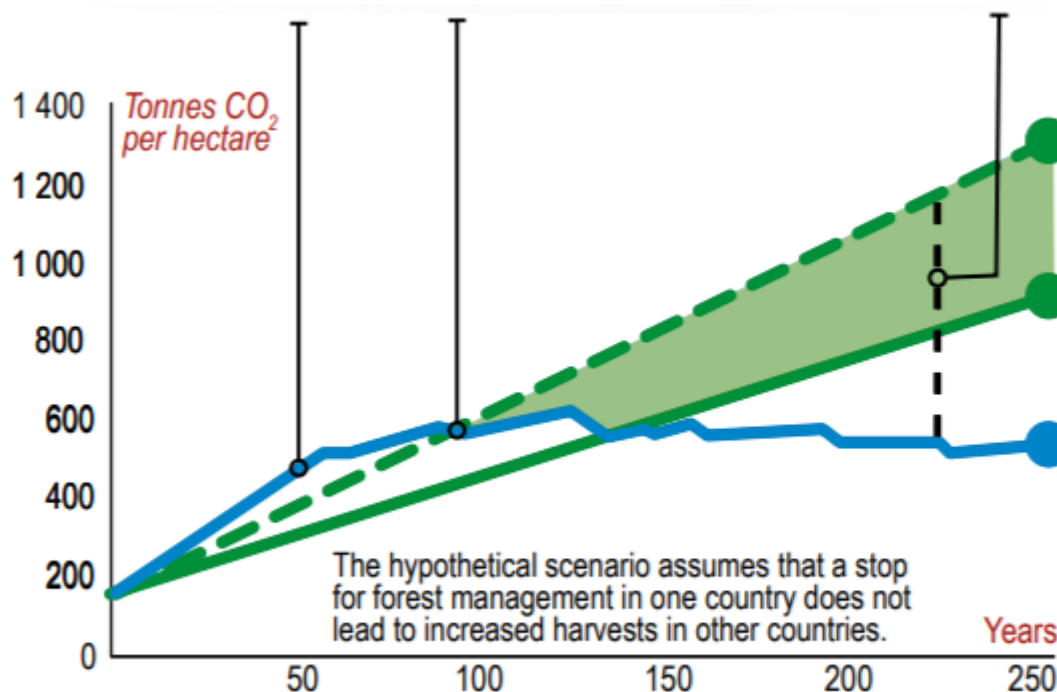


# Future challenges ...

## The European Green Deal - make Europe climate neutral by 2050:

- Emission reduction
- CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation

Managed forest has great CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation potential



### Managed forests – future

The raw materials are used as they are today, but also for new products that reduce the need for fossil raw materials.

### Managed forests – today

The raw materials are used for wood products, paper and replacement of fossil raw materials, mainly energy.

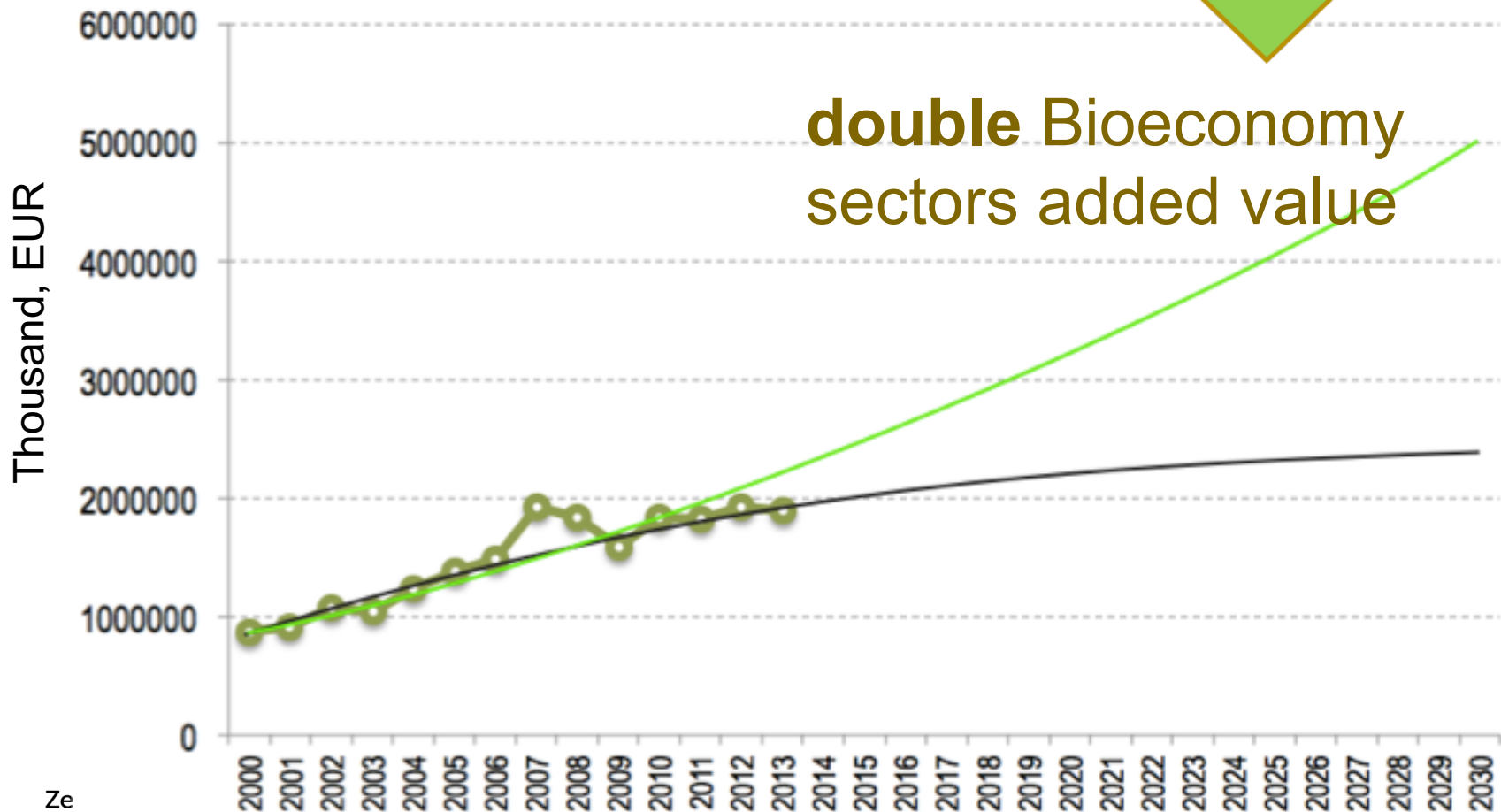
### Preserved forest

After the growth phase, a saturation phase is reached when carbon uptake and release balance each other out. The forest will be a static carbon store.



# Bioeconomy Strategy in Latvia

- Use knowledge for smart forestry
- Manage forest economically viable





# BIO4ECO

Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## Thank you!

Questions welcome



*Project smedia*