

Has the Forest Policy of Latvia reached its goal for conservation of biodiversity, and what can be improved?

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Forest Policy of Latvia

- Adopted in 1998
- The environmental goal: Conservation of the biodiversity at its current level.
- Target: Conservation of diversity of forest habitats and their species ensured

Forest Law (since 2011)

Article 4

(4) At least every five years (..) the Ministry of Agriculture reports to the Cabinet of Ministers on achievement of the goals set in the Forest Policy, including: (..)

2) conservation of biodiversity in forest environment;

Indicators:

Tree species composition

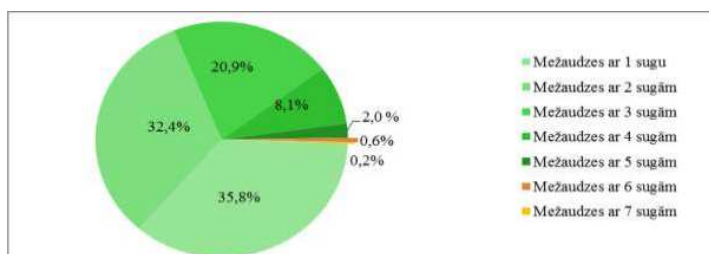
Threatened plant and animal species (%)

Report: Threatened species (birds)

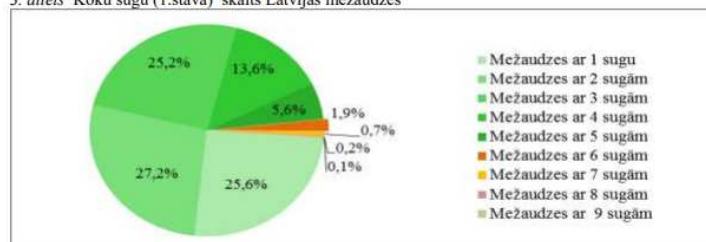
Year	Vulnerable	Endangered	Critically Endangered	Extinct
2014	10	2	7	0
2010	10	2	7	0
2005	10	2	7	0
2000	10	2	7	0
1990	5	7	9	0

https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/ZM/mezhi/meza%20pamatnostadnes/Vides_parskats.pdf

Report: Tree species composition



3. attēls Koku sugu (1.stāva) skaits Latvijas mežaudzēs



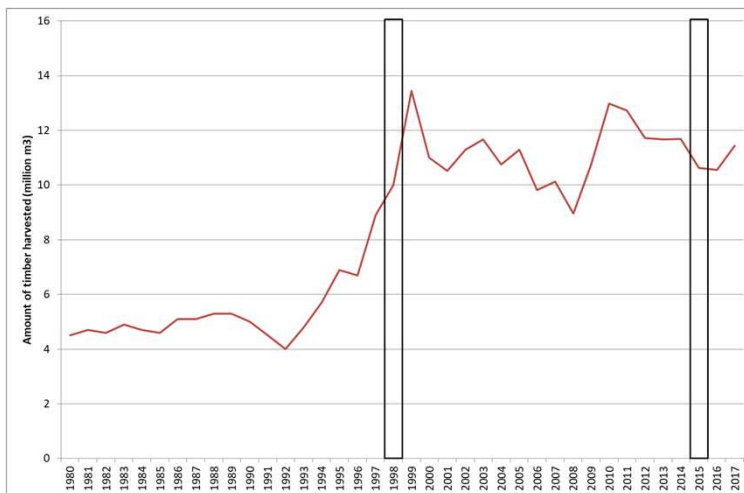
4. attēls Koku sugu skaits Latvijas mežaudzēs

https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/ZM/mezhi/meza%20pamatnostadnes/Vides_parskats.pdf

Guidelines of Forestry and Related Sectors (2015-2020)

- Adopted in 2015
- Policy target 1.1.3. Forest biodiversity maintained at its current level.

Logging intensity



State Forest Service

Reporting under Article 17 of Habitats Directive

Legend: FV Favourable XX Unknown U1 Unfavourable-Inadequate U2 Unfavourable-Bad

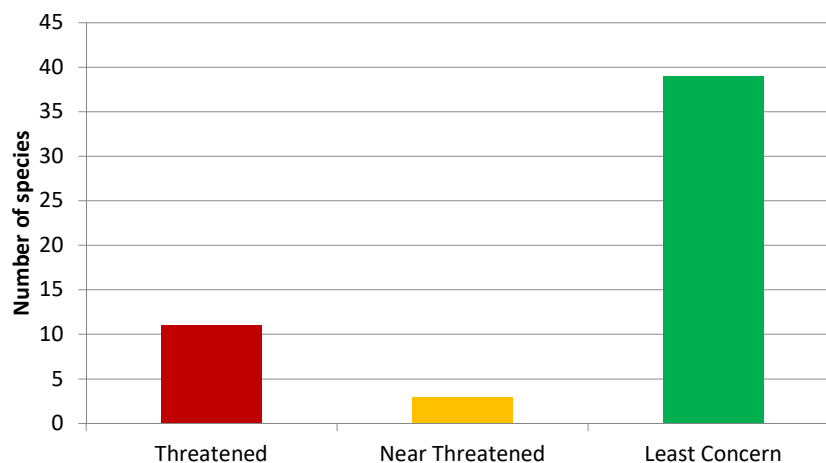
Current selection: 2007-2012, Forests, Latvia, All bioregions.

Treated data from Member States reports

Habitat	Reg	Range (km ²)			Area			Struct & func.	Future prosp.	Curr. CS	Qualifier	Overall asses.		Areas from gridded maps(km ²)					
		Surface	% MS	Trend	Ref.	Surface	% MS					Trend	Ref.	Prev. CS	Nat. of ch.	Range	% MS	Distrib.	% MS
9010 - Western Taiga	BOR	64589	7	0	64589	338	1.3	-	2285	U2	U2	U2	-	FV	c1	69800	7.6	60900	8.2
9020 - Fenoscandian hemiboreal n...	BOR	64589	17.5	0	64589	85	28.6	-	344.90	U2	U2	U2	-	U1+	c1	70700	18.7	36500	21.5
9060 - Coniferous forests on, or con...	BOR	43542	8.9	0	43542	14	0.2	0	14	U2	U2	U2	-	U1-	a	46900	9.4	1900	0.7
9080 - Fenoscandian deciduous sw...	BOR	64589	9.1	0	64589	225	15.1	-	275.90	U2	U2	U2	-	FV	c1	69800	9.7	67800	18.3
9160 - Sub-Atlantic and medio-Europ...	BOR	64589	30.9	0	64589	62.34	32.6	-	211.40	U2	U2	U2	-	FV	c1	73900	33.4	58700	45.3
9180 - Tilio-Acerion forest of slopes...	BOR	64589	27.1	0	64589	65	61.7	x	65	U2	XX	U2	x	U1-	c1	71300	28.7	15600	19.9
91D0 - Bog woodland	BOR	64589	7	0	64589	2000	4.9	-	2000	U2	U2	U2	-	FV	c1	69800	7.7	69100	9.3
91E0 - Alluvial forests with Alnus glu...	BOR	64589	16	0	64589	69	16	-	>69	U2	U2	U2	-	U1-	c1	71300	17.4	59500	34.2
91F0 - Riparian mixed forest of Quer...	BOR	4062	54	x	>4062	4	29.2	x	>>4	U2	XX	U2	-	FV	c1	4300	5.2	1600	27.1

<https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/report/?period=3&group=Forests&country=LV®ion=>

Regional threat status of breeding forest birds (n=53)



Bird species with significant current population trends (n=30)

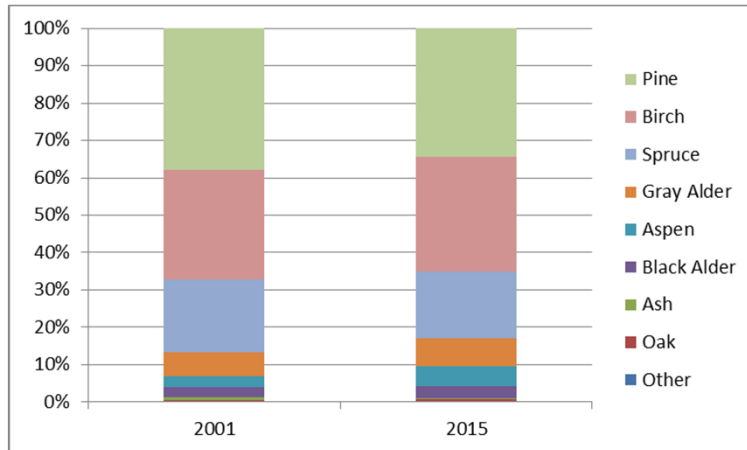
Trend 2005-2018 **	Trend 1970s-1990s*		
	Decline	Stable	Increase
Decline	1	6	0
Stable	3	12	0
Increase	0	8	0

Accipiter gentilis, *Bonasa bonasia*, *Dendrocopos major*, *Dendrocopos minor*, *Anthus trivialis*, *Turdus iliacus*, *Parus palustris*

*Strazds M., Priednieks J., Vāveriņš G. 1994. Latvijas putnu skaits. – Putni dabā, 4: 3–18.

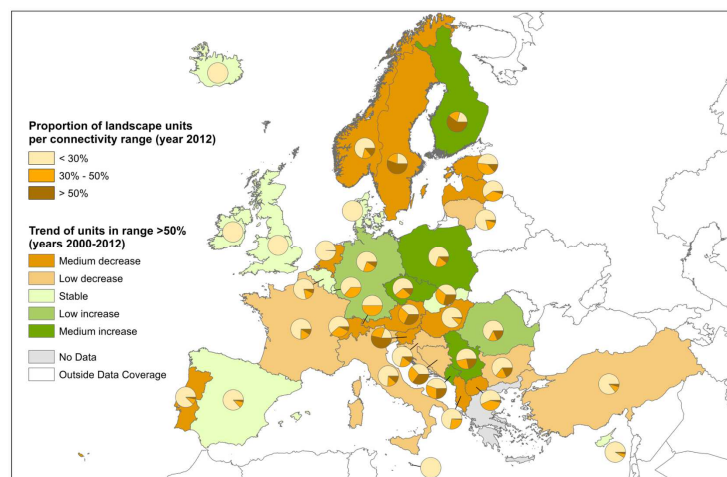
**Auniņš A., Mārdega. I. 2018. Fona monitorings: Dienas putnu monitorings. Gala atskaite par 2018. gadu. Rīga: Latvijas Ornitoloģijas biedrība.

Changes in tree species composition



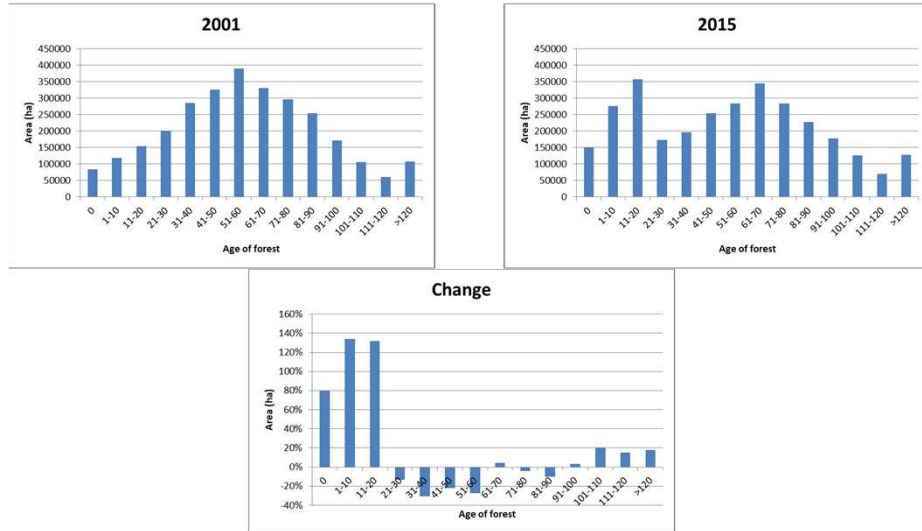
State Forest Service

Fragmentation



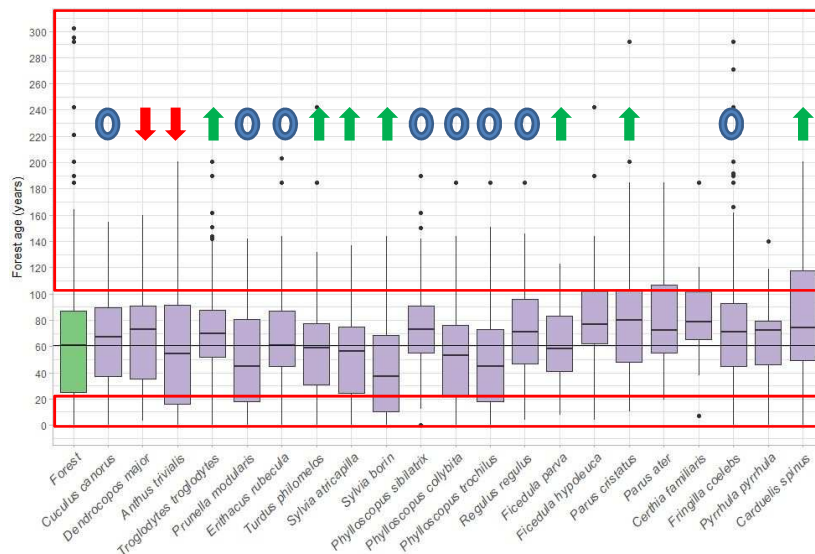
European Commission-Joint Research Centre (JRC);
<http://forest.jrc.ec.europa.eu/activities/forest-pattern-fragmentation>

Changes in age structure

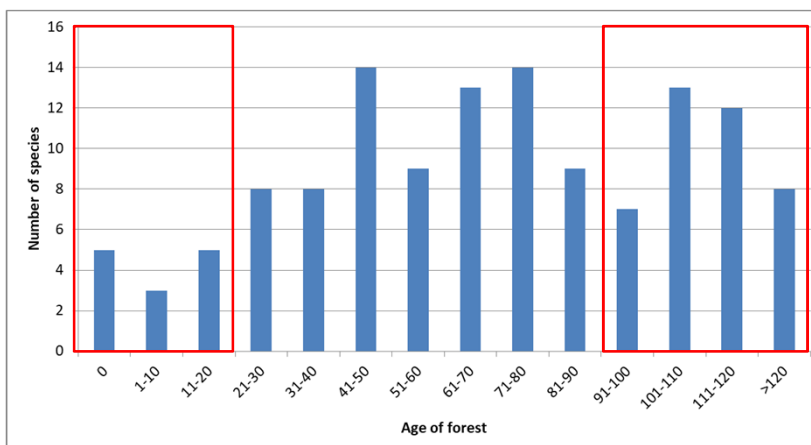


State Forest Service

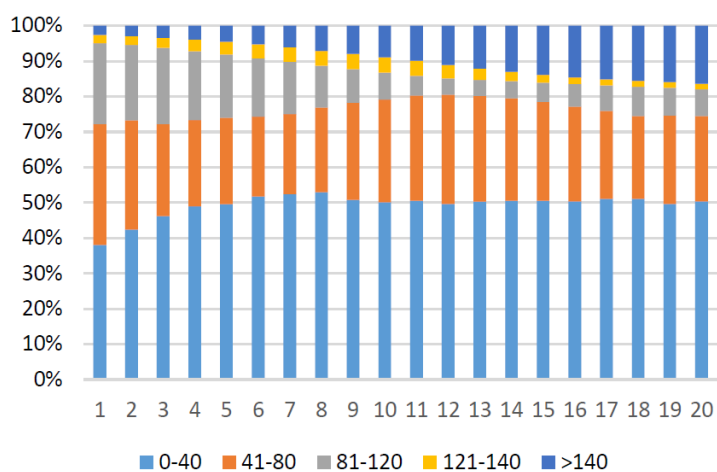
Habitats of common forest birds



Habitat preferences of common forest birds (forage ratio >1)

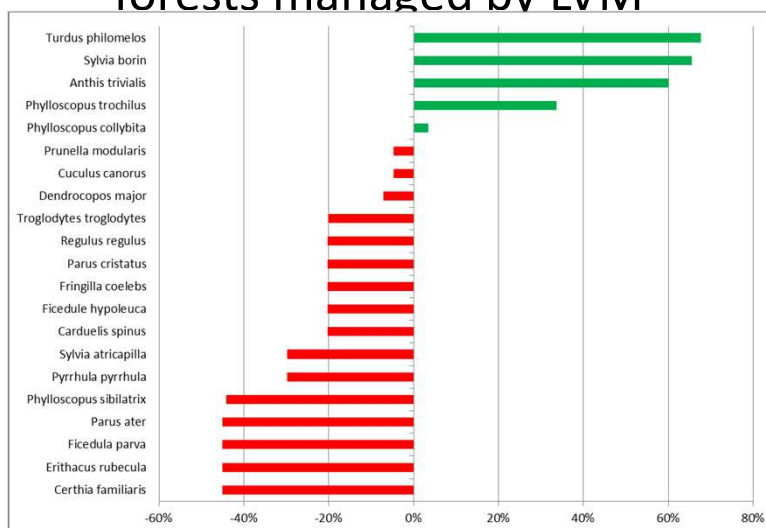


Projected changes in age structure of forests managed by LVM during the next 100 years



Dudelis A. 2017. Meža ilgtspējīgas apsaimniekošanas plānošana LVM, 14.11.2017.

Loss/gain of preferred habitats in state forests managed by LVM



Future tasks

- Set the goal of conservation of favourable conservation status of species and habitats
- Carry out comprehensive and purposeful monitoring of forest biodiversity
- Employ both, land sparing and land sharing, approaches to ensure conservation of habitats for forest species
- Promote use of continuous cover forestry while preserving old-growth forests
- Include the considerations of biodiversity conservation in calculations of the maximum allowed harvesting volume.