

EUROPEAN FORESTS



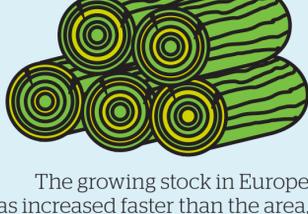
Forest area in Europe amounts to **215 million hectares**, equivalent to 7 times the area of Italy. Other wooded lands cover an additional area of 36 million hectares.

Forests cover **33%** of Europe's total land area.

GROWING



Europe is the only region of the world with a positive net change in forest area during the last 25 years.



In this period forest area in Europe has increased by **17.5 million hectares** (almost half of the area of Italy).

The growing stock in Europe has increased faster than the area, which means that the average standing volume of wood per hectare has grown.

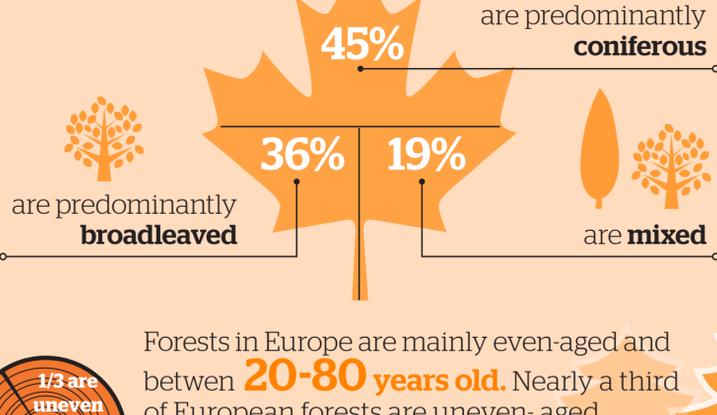
Over the last 25 years, total growing stock of forests in Europe has increased by an average of **403 million cubic meters** each year. This corresponds approximately to a daily increase in the total stem volume of living trees in European forests equivalent to twice the volume of the Eiffel Tower.

All this means that European forests today:

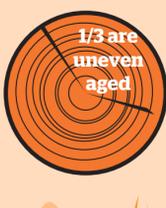
- Cover a bigger surface
- Have more and bigger trees



HOW ARE EUROPEAN FORESTS?

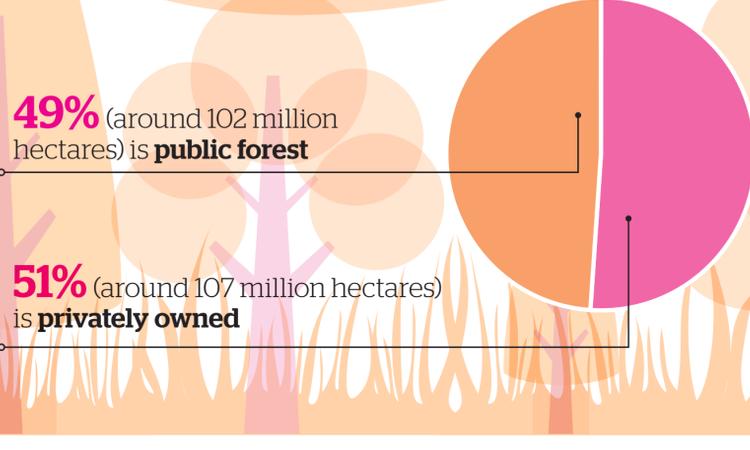


Forests in Europe are mainly even-aged and between **20-80 years old**. Nearly a third of European forests are uneven-aged.

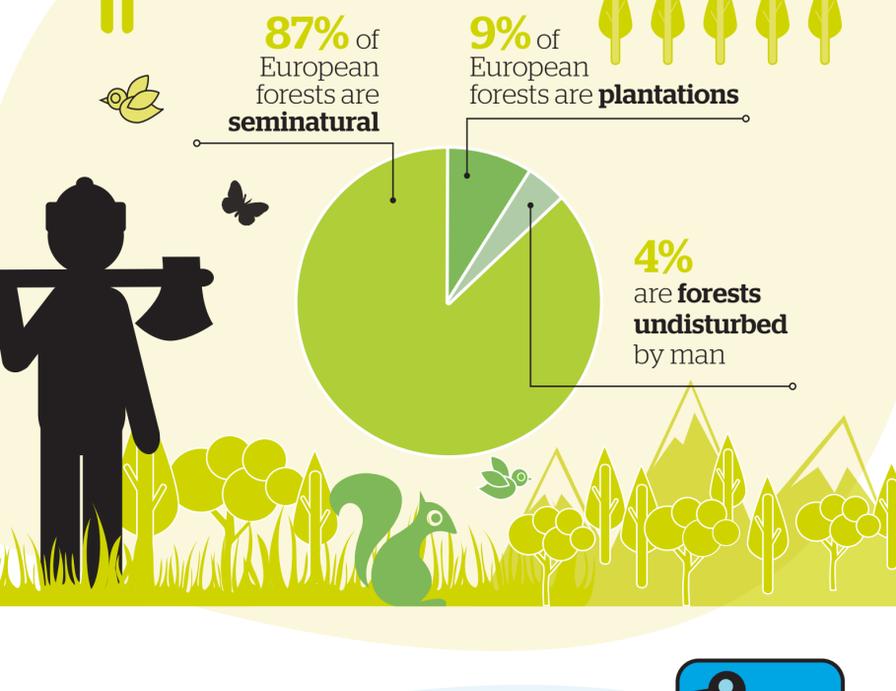


The area of old forests with trees with a wider spread of ages is **tending to increase** slightly.

The number of private forest holding is increased:



European forests cannot be understood separately from the human history:



BIODIVERSITY



European forests are home to many species that can be found only in these ecosystems.

Deadwood is an important habitat for a large number of forest species such as insects and other invertebrates, and a refuge and nesting place for mammals, birds and other animals.

The average volume of deadwood, both standing and lying, ranges between **8-20 m³/hectare** in the forests of Europe.

Forests are an incredible source of biodiversity: not only because of the diversity of species living in the forests, but also because of the genetic diversity within the different species.

About **30 million hectares** (14% of the total area) of forests have been protected in Europe with the main objective of protecting biodiversity.

In 2015 **501,567 hectares** were managed for the *in situ* genetic conservation of forest trees. The total area for *ex situ* conservation is **11,533 hectares** and **1,027,434 hectares** for seed production in Europe.

Forest Europe growing life
Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe

Source: FOREST EUROPE, 2015. State of Europe's Forests 2015 <http://www.forest-europe.org/fullsoef2015>

Information elaborated without including Russian Federation, due to the lack of current data from this country