LIFE IN FORESTS

Improved communication, cooperation and capacity building for preserving biodiversity in Natura 2000 forests

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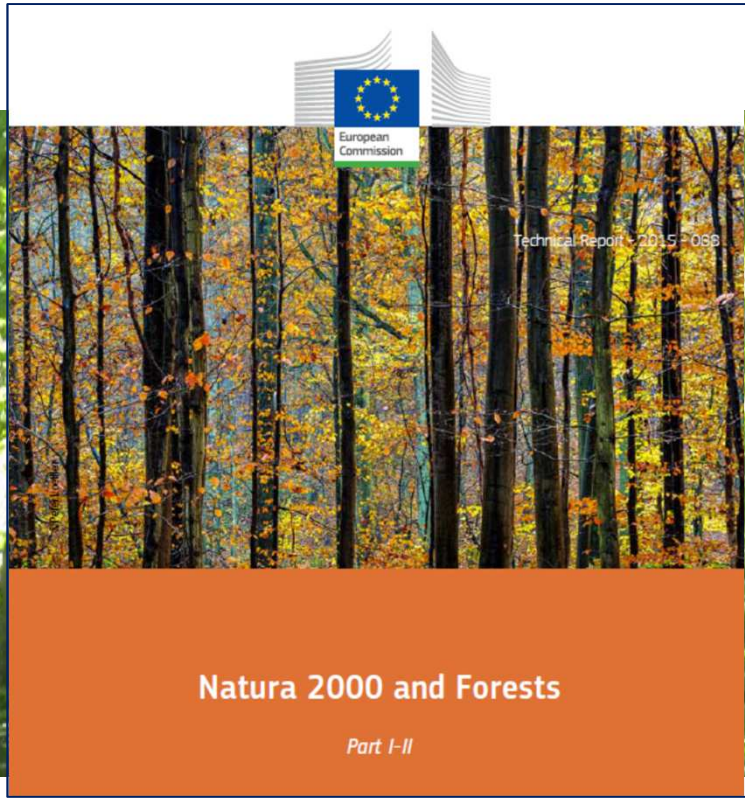
EXAMPLES OF NATURA 2000 FOREST MANAGEMENT - EUROPEAN OVERVIEW

LIFE IN FORESTS CONFERENCE
21-22 MARCH 2017
SOPRON, HUNGARY

With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union and the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture.

Forests in Natura 2000



49% of European Natura 2000 = forest

21% of european forests = Natura 2000

Natura 2000 forests EU28 = 38 384 200 ha

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How to manage the forest in N2000 site?

What is the proper management from the point of view of „habitats and species ecological requirements”?

- Do nothing?
- Do as usual?
- Do as usual with some biodiversity-targeted modifications?
- Do conservation?

How to find the consensus / compromise with other forest use?

- Who is the owner?
- How to motivate the owner?

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From the point of view of ecological requirements

Do nothing?

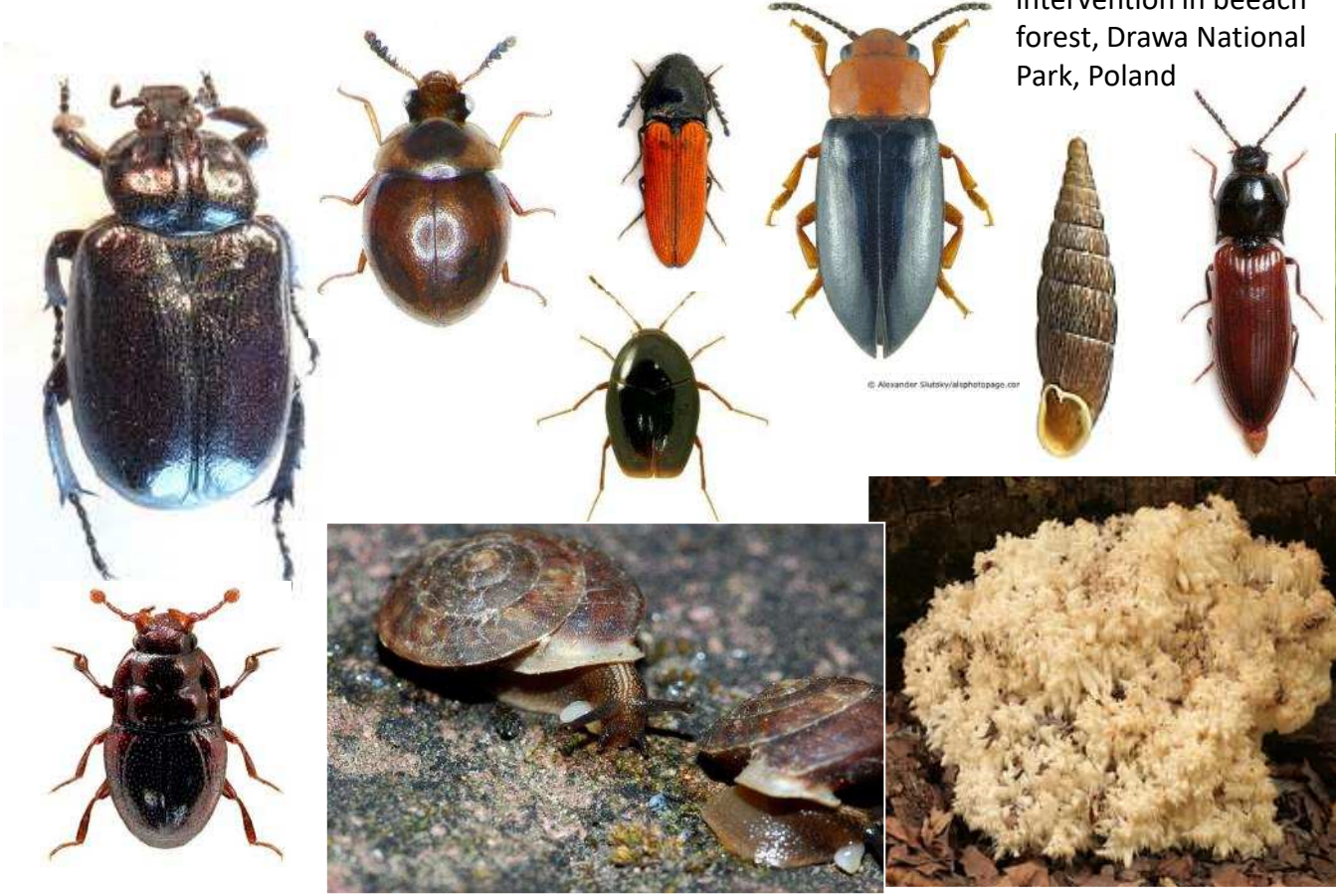
Non-intervention approach:

- in many cases relevant for forest ecosystem, so as for Natura 2000 forest species & habitats

From the point of view of ecological requirements

Do nothing?

Examples of biodiversity restored after 20-year non intervention in beeach forest, Drawa National Park, Poland



May be also a biodiversity restoration tool in formerly managed forest

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Do nothing?

What about disturbances, sometimes large-scale?

in some cases non-intervention seems to be the best to be done…

Wikimedia Commons, Longdistancer

Fot. S. Szubzda BULiGL Białystok – Dokumentacja aneksu…

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Do nothing?

But:

- For some forest habitats & species not relevant approach!
- Sometimes disturbance-dependent biodiversity elements excluded

silvipastoral systems

forest meadows

fire-dependent forests

oak forests

open-forest species

termophilous xylobiontic species

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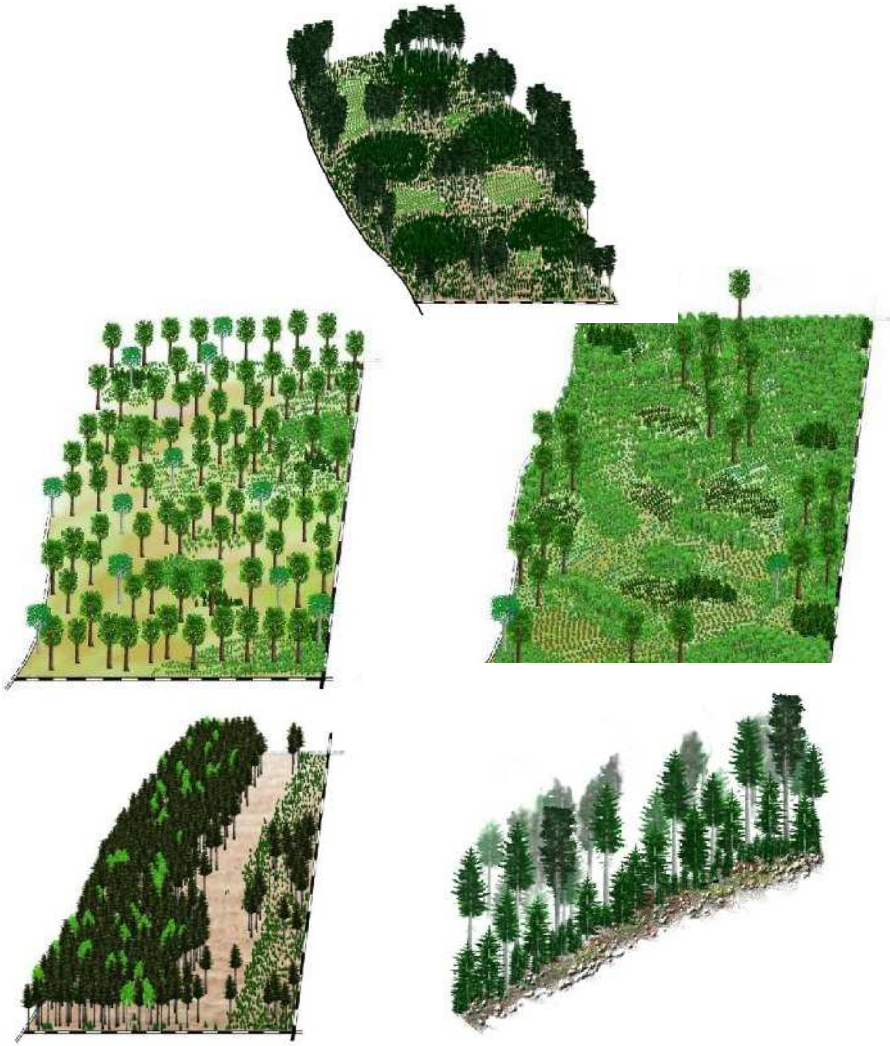
Do as usual ?



various silviculture systems

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Do as usual ?

Traditional management systems, presently abandoned – usually valuable for biodiversity !

Dehesa in Spain

Wikimedia Commons

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Do as usual ?

Fot. Wikimedia Commons, Andrej Chudy

Some species really benefit

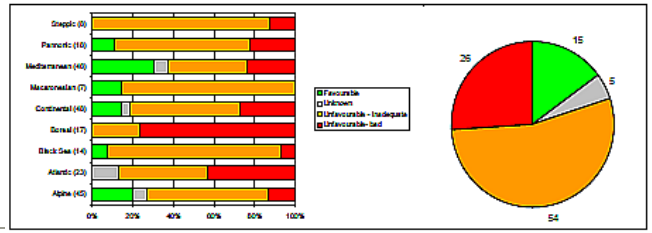
Case: Lullula arborea and clearcuts

… but some not

Common argument:
„if the forest is good enough to be designated as Natura 2000 it means the management is appropriate”

Against:

- Extinction debt concept
- Structural deficites
- Euroepan conservation status estimation:



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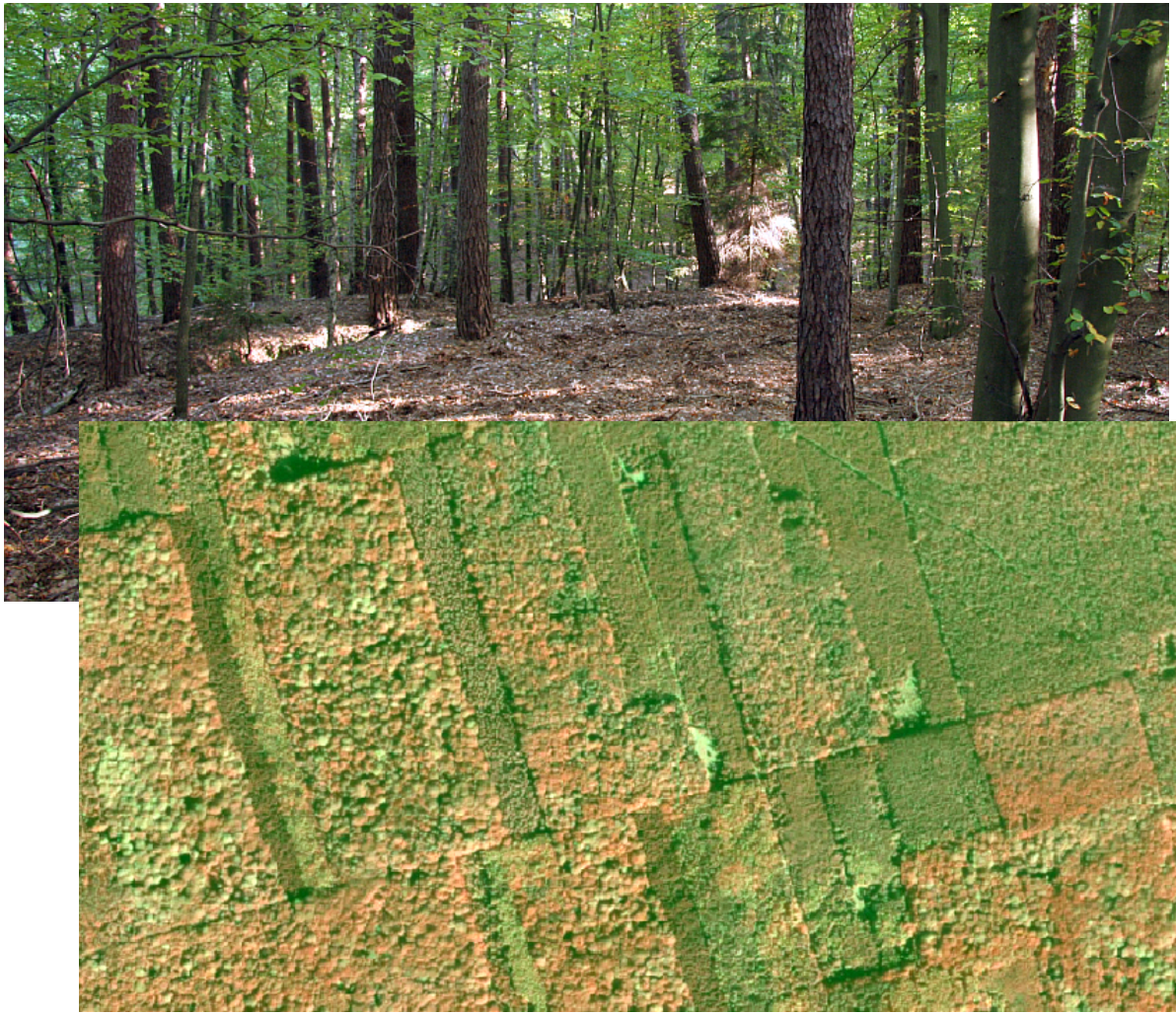
Do as usual with modifications?



Adjusted species composition – imitating the natural one

- restoration of species composition in many cases necessary

Söderåsen LIFE project, Sweden

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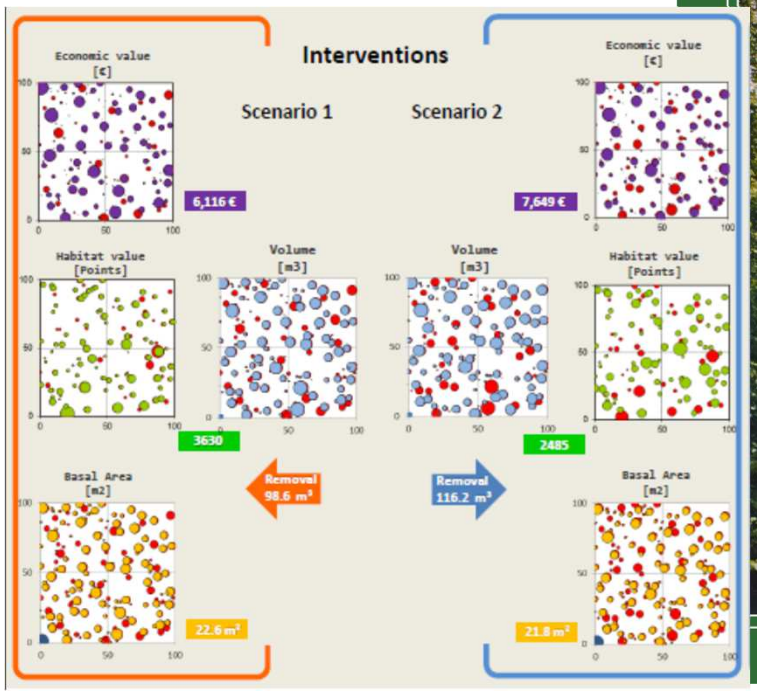
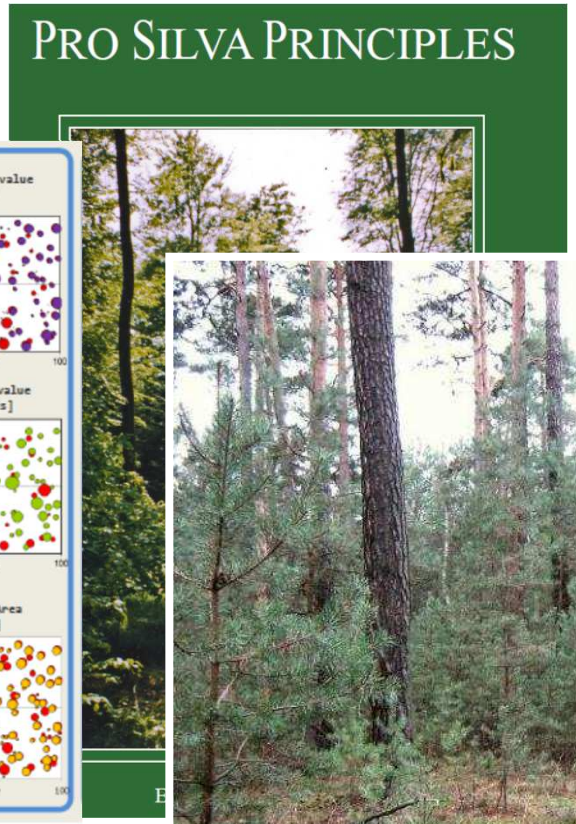
Do as usual with modifications?





Modified silvicultural system?

„Individual tree felling systems" - advanced silviculture, allowing ecological adjustments

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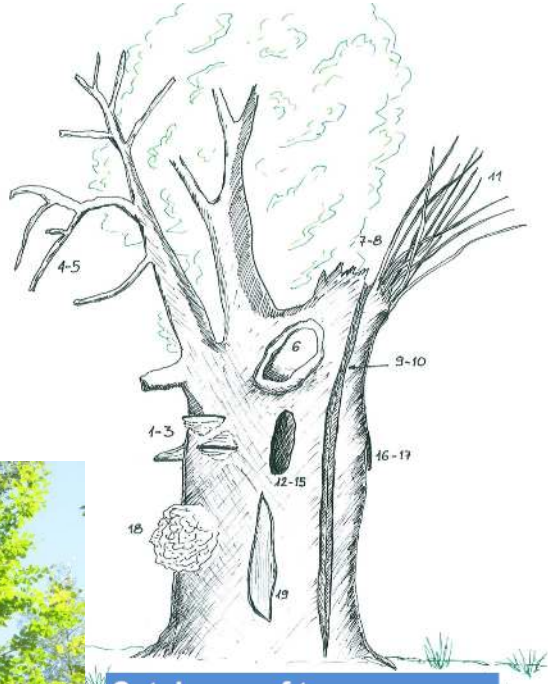
Do as usual with modifications?



Catalogue of tree microhabitats

Reference field list

Key structural elements:

- deadwood
- „biodiversity trees", microbiotopes

Ecological requirement for deadwood: 20-40 m^3/ha, with some places with much more, with appropriate quality

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From the point of view of ecological requirements

Do conservation?

- Fire management
- Miming natural disturbacces
- Remove alien species
- Creating deadwood
- Creating micorhabitats
- Restoring forest grazing
- Species specific measures…

… usually NOT the same approach as typical contemporary forest management

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How to find the point of compromise?

Stakeholders

Interests

Economy

Forest owners

General society

Motivation instruments:

- Appropriate Assessment
- Forest Management Plans
- Forest-Environmental Measures
- Specific Contractual Measures

Poland, two contradictory demonstration for Bialowieza Forest management

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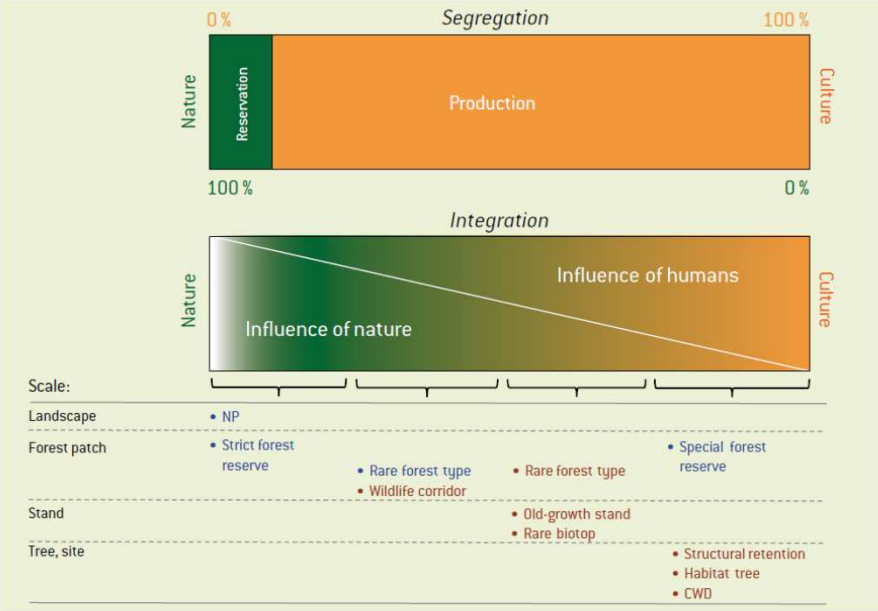
Land share vs land spare



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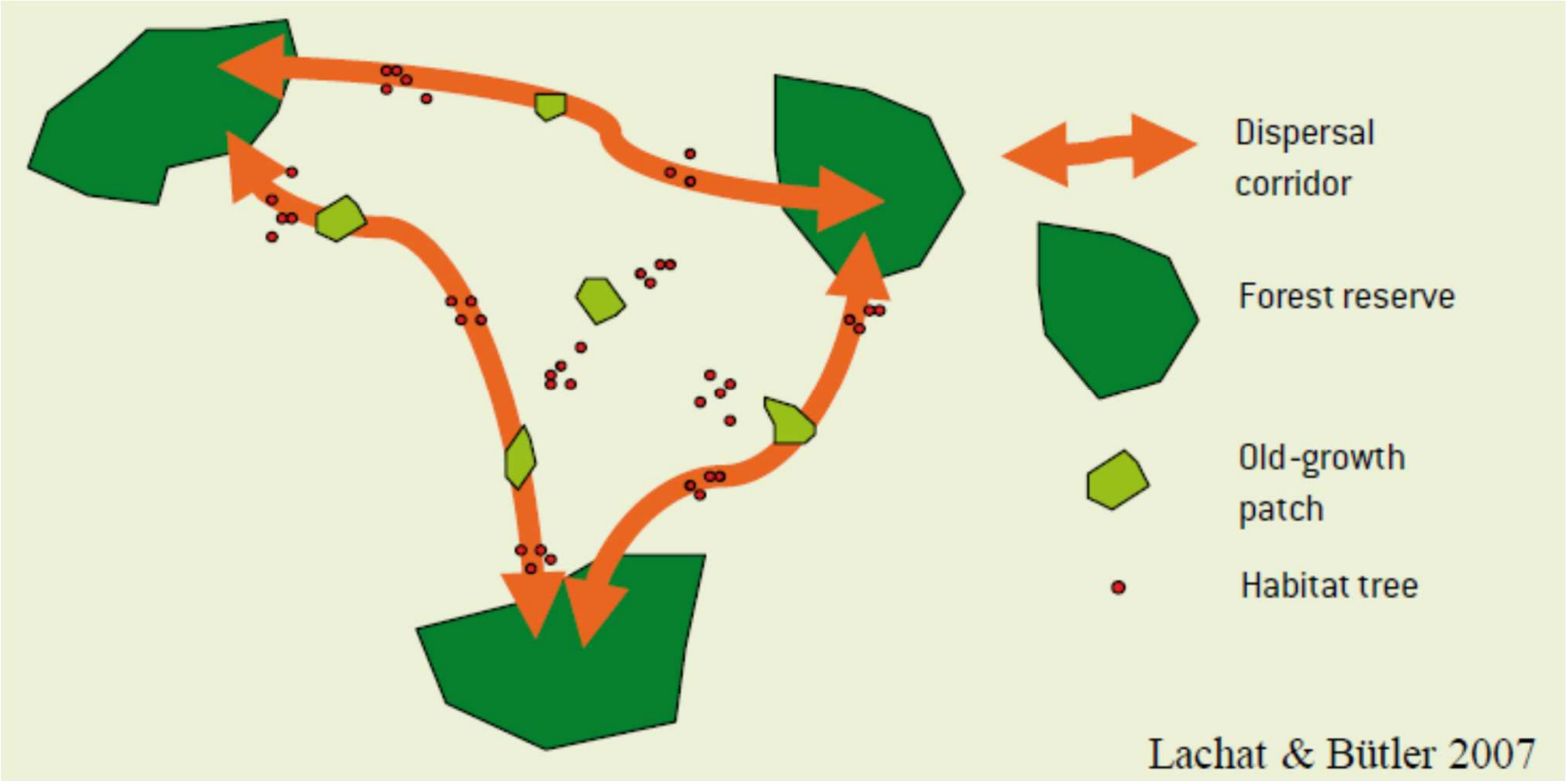
Multifunctional ≠ all in one

Spatial structure:



From: T. Schulz & H. Cosyns, Integrate+ project

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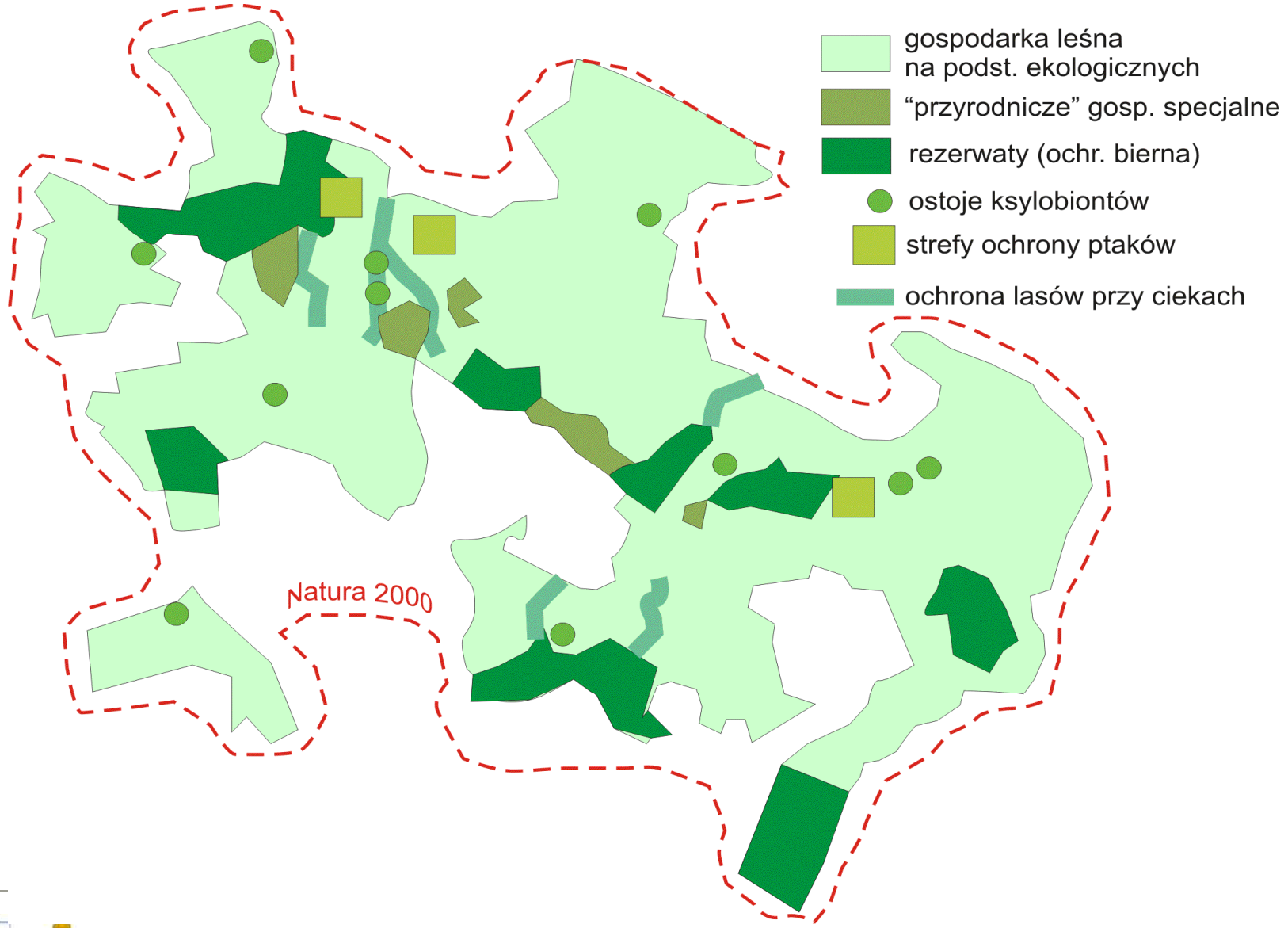
Multifunctional ≠ all in one



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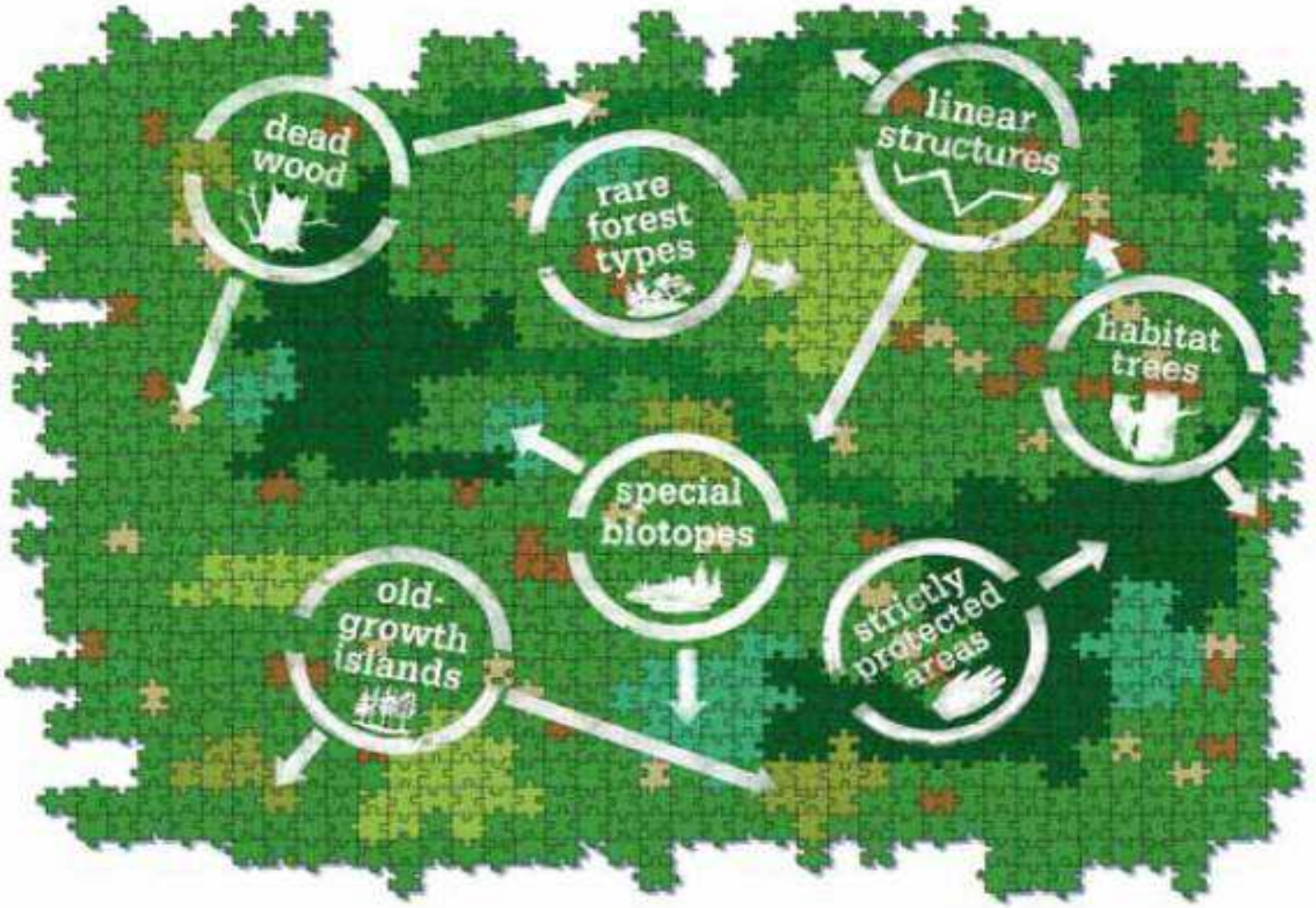

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Biodiversity needs silvidiversity

Thank you for your attention

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