

Doctoral research on forest conflicts in the EU, with a special focus on forest bioenergy.

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Forest conflicts?

“disputes and disagreements constitute being a conflict when one group is impairing the activities of another” (Glasl, 1999)

“disagreements and disputes regarding access and management of natural resources” (FAO, 2000)

Summative content analysis, indexing → Database (84 cases)

Geographical location

Conflict type

Conflict intensity

Stakeholders

Emerging patterns

Analysis of forest conflicts in the EU

Location

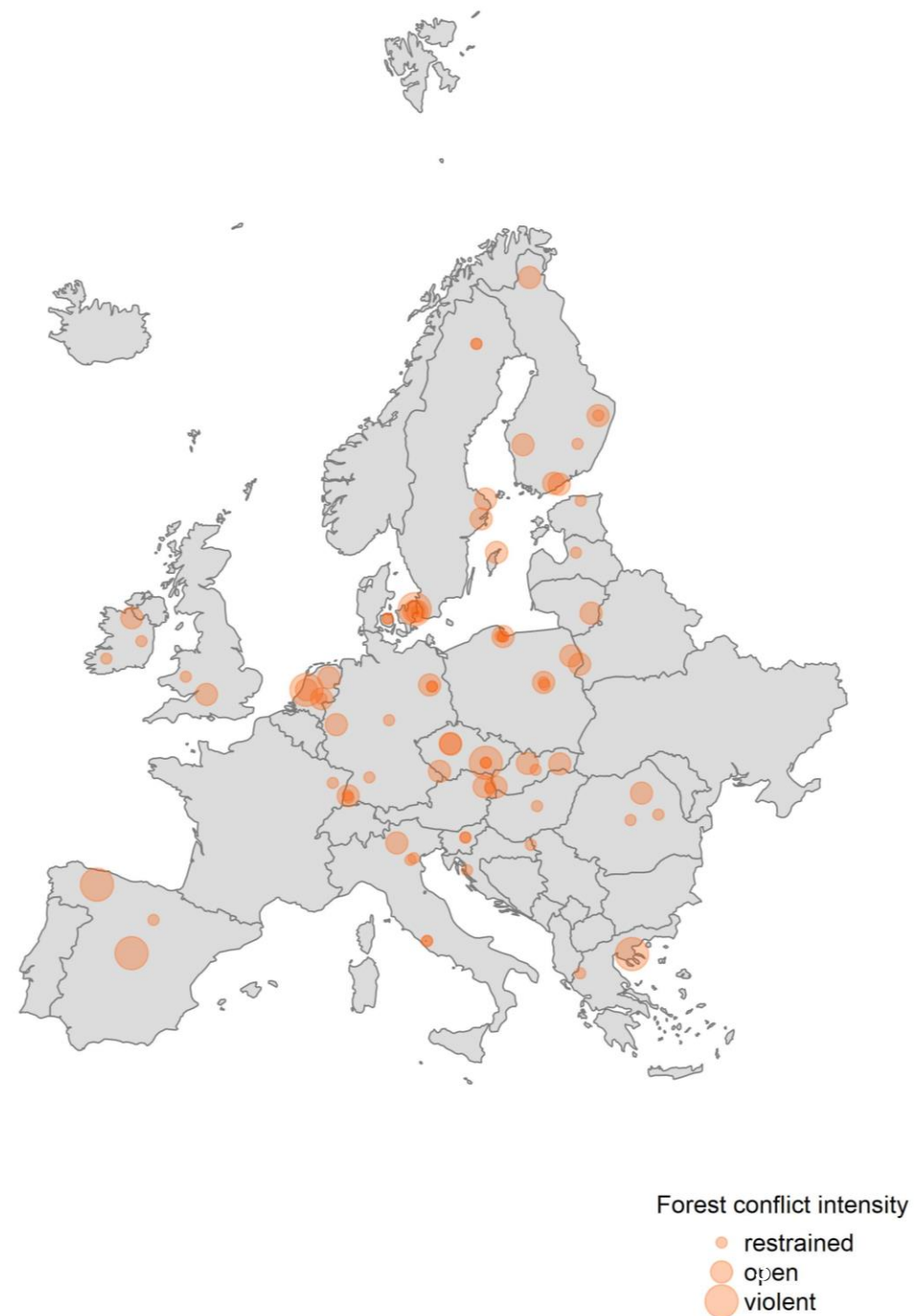
Germany and Poland (9), Finland (8), Czech Rep. (6), Denmark (6)

Intensity

Restrained (46), open (32), violent (6)

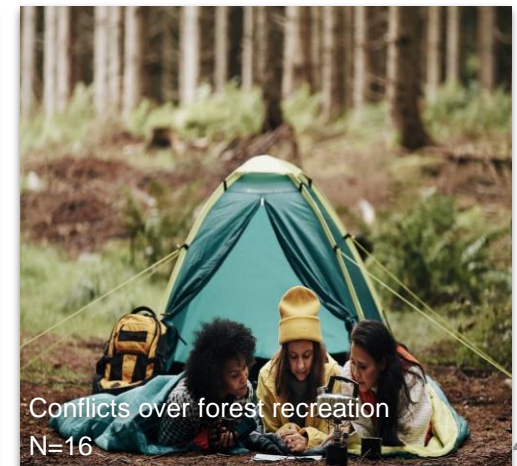
Conflict type

Urban (43), conservation (15), stakeholder (11) conflicts



Forest conflict profiles

Nousiainen. D., & Mola-Yudego, B. (2022).
Characteristics and emerging patterns of forest
conflicts in Europe - What can they tell us?
Forest Policy and Economics, 136, 102671–.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102671>





A drone image of forest in the Haanja nature reserve where a section has been 'clear-cut', November 2020. Photograph: Liis Treimann/Äripäev



'Carbon-neutrality is a fairy tale': how the race for renewables is burning Europe's forests

Wood pellets are sold as a clean alternative to coal. But is the subsidised bioenergy boom accelerating the climate crisis?

by [Hazel Sheffield](#)

alev Järvik stands on a bald patch of land in the heart of Estonia's

Thu 14 Jan 2021 06:00 GM



Renewable energy

This article is more than 4 years old

EU must not burn the world's forests for 'renewable' energy

Letters

A flaw in Europe's clean energy plan allows fuel from felled trees to qualify as renewable energy when in fact this would accelerate climate change and devastate forests



Cutting down trees for fuel releases carbon into the air that would otherwise remain locked up



▲ The remnants of an old-growth forest in northern Sweden. Forest biologist Sebastian Kirpu counted over 100 trees more than 150 years old in these piles. Photograph: Marcus Westberg



Don't burn trees and bushes in converted coal plants!



Deutsche Umwelthilfe, ROBIN WOOD und Peter Wohlleben started this petition to Hamburger Umweltbehörde and 1 other

DE / EN

We need to protect the earth's life support systems. Two German environmental NGOs, Deutsche Umwelthilfe and ROBIN WOOD, have an important concern in this regard: Supported by German forester and author Peter Wohlleben, we want to prevent the burning of wood in converted coal plants in Germany as it is about to happen in Wilhelmshaven and Hamburg. **Please help us by signing this petition, which will be sent to the plant operators and the Environment Ministries of the respective German state governments. Help to stop the plans for wood burning in Germany coal plants!**

The age of extinction

'Forests are not renewable': the felling of Sweden's ancient trees

Forests cover 70% of the country, but many argue the Swedish model of replacing old-growth forests with monoculture plantations is bad for biodiversity. By Marcus Westberg

The age of extinction is supported by

the guardian.org

About this content

Fri 16 Apr 2021 08:00 BST



75,132 have signed. Let's get to 150,000!

At 150,000 signatures, this petition becomes one of the top signed on Change.org!

First name

Last name

Email

- ☐ Yes! Tell me if this petition wins, and how I can help other relevant petitions
- ☐ No, I do not want to hear about this petition's progress or other relevant petitions.

Sign this petition

- ☐ Please share my name and email address with Deutsche Umwelthilfe, ROBIN WOOD und Peter Wohlleben, so that I can receive updates on this campaign and others.
- ☐ Do not display my name and comment on this petition

We process your information in accordance with our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Burning questions: How forests fuel the EU Renewable Energy Directive.(WT)

Objective

To analyse EU RED to identify the role of forests and its development in the strategic policy document.

Document analysis – content analysis + thematic analysis

Process of the DA



Preliminary results
(ongoing research)

RED I (2009)	RED II (2018)	RED III (2023)
Unused potential → innovation. Forest biomass is respectable commodity. Forest biodiversity under the threat. Subject to potential land-use change. Rules and standards to protect forests.	Negative impact of bioenergy production. Vulnerability of forests → SFM. Regulation and standards. Prioritising the use of waste and residues.	Geographical specifications considered. International frameworks followed. Subjected to illegal activities and fraud. Nature protection regulations and sustainability criteria. Cascading principle of biomass use.

Burn them all? – EU Forest bioenergy debate.(WT)

Objectives

Determine potential bridges among actors involved in the forest bioenergy dispute.

Analyse the current dispute around the forest bioenergy in EU.

Explore perceptions of the actors about each other and the effect of the debate on actors' activities.

Recommend approaches that will support the facilitation of the bioenergy-related discussions.

Material: media articles, interviews

Methods: Discourse analysis (Fairclough), thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke)

Interviews:

Contacted 21 → interviewed 8

Actors: academia, ENGOs, industry lobbyists, consultants

Semi-structured interviews with open-ended questions.

Perceptions of actors
about the **current** situation
regarding the forest
biomass use in the EU

- Current forest bioenergy discussion
- Comparison with past

Perceptions of the actors
about **future** situation
regarding the forest
biomass use in the EU

- Future threats, risks
- Positive changes

Relations and
communication

- Communication among actors
- Recommendations for communication

Research diary, observations →

What do we know so far?

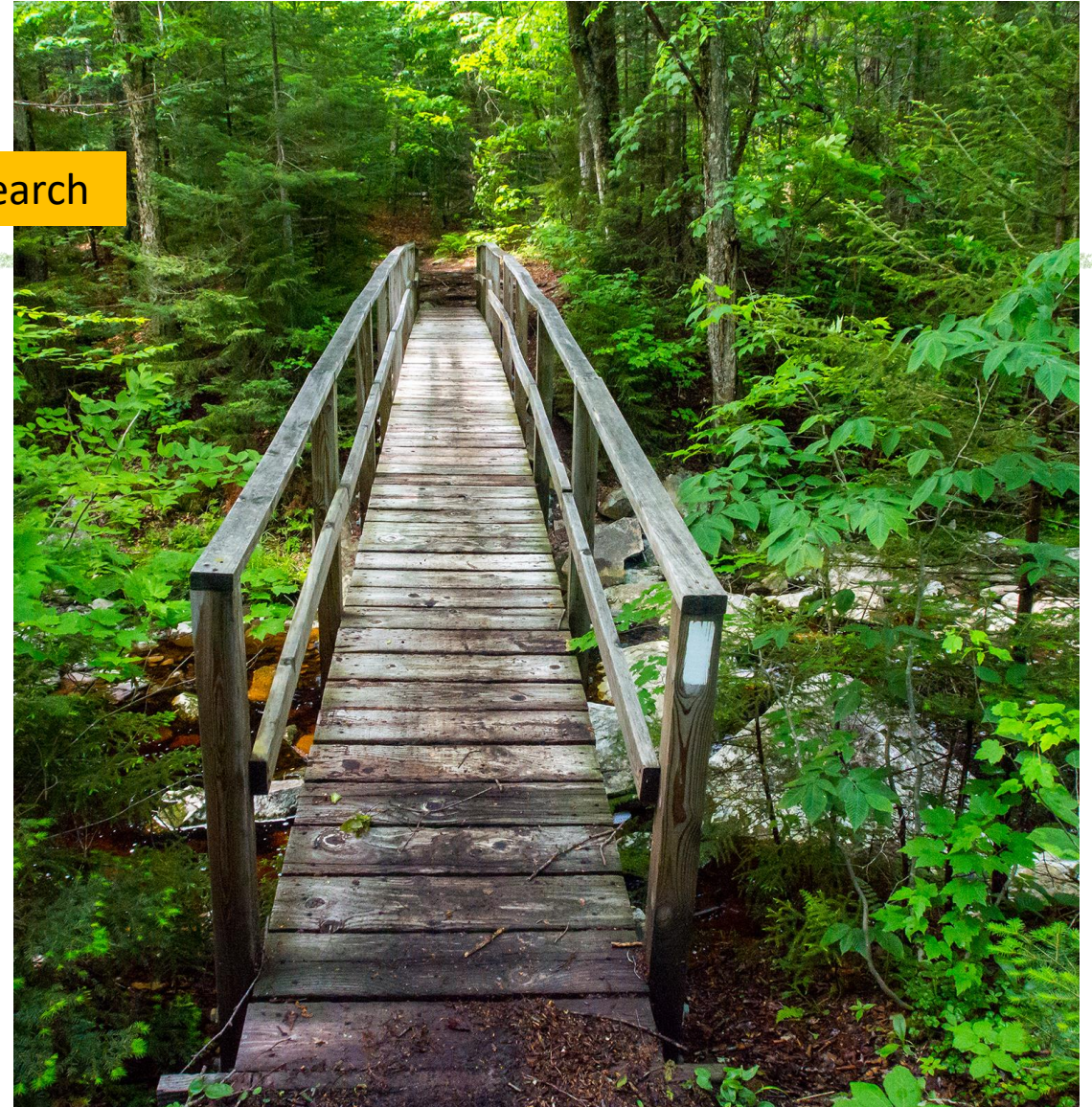
Ongoing research

Based on the research diary notes.

Common understanding across interviewed actors in certain areas that can be considered as **bridges**:

- ✓ Lack of research-based *information*, especially in decision-making.
- ✓ Forest bioenergy should *not be banned*, but clear sustainability standards should be adopted.
- ✓ *Concerns* about the future of forests (also as resources of bioenergy).

"Useful information for communication strategy."



Kiitos!

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Forest conflict profiles with their typical features represented in the study.

Forest conflict profile	Description	Examples
Conflicts over protected areas ($N = 29$)	Conflict arising primarily in and around protected or for nature conservation important areas and national parks. A significant share is related to Natura 2000 areas. Typical forest conservation conflict where establishment or extension of a national park is perceived negatively by local people and some business owners located around the area. Restrictions related to nature conservation in a national park would cause a change in people's privacy, well-being and traditional use of forest resources. Actions were usually manifested as debates about forest use, but many of these conflicts were characterised by protests and petitions. The main stakeholders in these conflicts were local communities and private business owners. It was observed that NGOs and state authorities, and regional administrations were more often involved in these conflicts than in the following two forest conflict groups.	Conflict over the enlarging the existing National Park in Białowieża Forest, Blicharska and Van Herzele (2015) Participatory implementation of the Natura 2000 network, Blondet et al. (2017) Management of Šumava National Park, Riedl et al. (2016)
Conflicts over development in forest areas ($N = 18$)	Construction of highways, building houses or other commercial facilities would cause forest removal. These intentions raised criticism mainly in towns and cities. Such projects would restrain the activities of other forest users. The main concerns are related to pollution of the surrounding environment, well-being, and loss of areas for activities. Petitions against development projects are characteristic of these conflicts. Forests, parks and other green areas are valuable for urban citizens, and therefore local people potentially affected by constructions worry about the loss of greenery surrounding them and improving their life. Other stakeholders often involved in conflicts are private business owners (companies), NGO's supporting the locals, state companies and city administration.	Sport hall construction, Konijnendijk (1999a, 1999b, 2000) Building a golf resort, Bileišis et al. (2014) Forest to be sold to developers, Kozová et al. (2016)
Conflicts over forest recreation ($N = 16$)	Conflicts over the recreational use of forests occurring mainly in urban areas. Various forest users spend their leisure time activities in forests, limiting other users' activities. Typical are complaints and arguments about fast mountain bikers in narrow forest trails, camping and other sports activities, especially if people overcrowd the area. Intensive recreation can damage natural regeneration and intensify traffic in the area. Forest management measures by forestry companies like cutting trees are also perceived negatively by other forest users. Private forest or property owners complain that recreationists do not respect private property and leave trash in the area. Other important stakeholders in these conflicts are the forest company and city administration. The involvement of media and NGOs is lower than in previous conflict profiles.	New roads for recreation, Janowsky and Becker (2003) Mountain biking, Zajc and Berzelak (2016) Traditional "Zelten culture", Konijnendijk (1999a, 1999b, 2000)