



# Forestry in Finland today

A.L.P.A. NB FOREST VISIT TO PONSSE PLC 20.-27.10.2024

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# Some milestones from history



- Christianity: ca 1000 west: Roman Catholic, east: Greek Catholic
  - 1156 peasant Lalli murders bishop Henrik on ice of the lake Köyliö
- Church reform 1527 -> the major religion becomes Lutheran Church
  - Michael Agricola translates the Holy Bible in Finnish
- 1809 -1917, Grand Duchy of Finland, period of Russian rule
- Independence December 6<sup>th</sup> 1917, in connection with the Russian Revolution

# Starting point was not easy..

## Finland 1916:

- population 3.3 million
- Life expectation:
  - men 43 years
  - women 49 years.

## Main catastrophies:

- Years of famine 1865-1868: 150 000 victims
- Civil war 1918 : 37 000 lost their lives
- Second WW 1939-1945
  - 97 000 victims
  - 400 000 refugees to be resettled



Eero Järnefelt 1893

# The success story

Forestry in Finland today is a continuation from ambitious national policy aiming to

- Industrialization
- Economic growth
- Social development

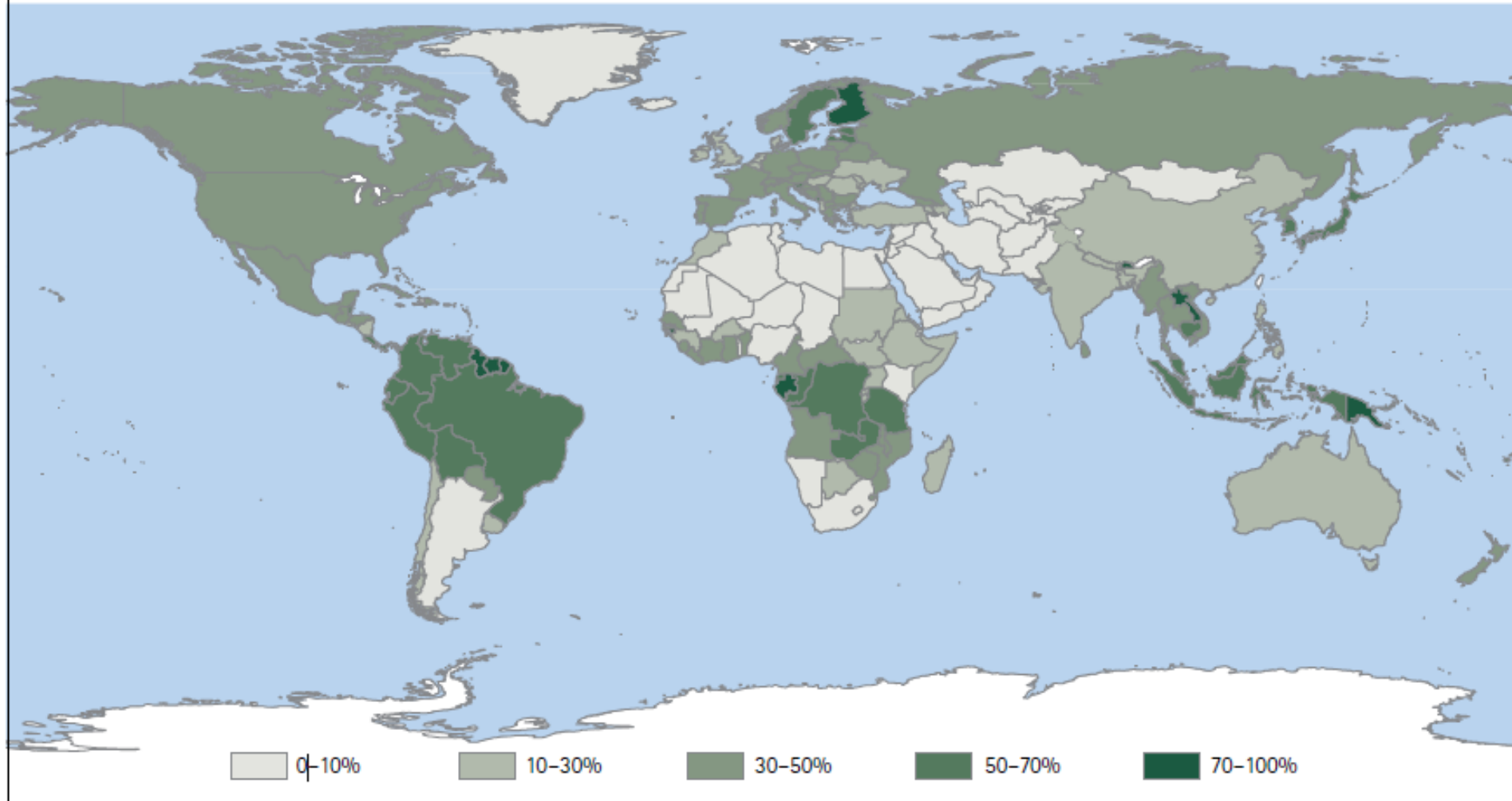
The results: Nordic welfare state and “laboratory of forestry”



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FIGURE 3 Forest area as a percentage of total land area in 2015



# Major exporters of forest product



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Finland owns 0,5% of the worlds forest resources

Percentage of global exports (2020).

- Sawnwood: Russian Federation (21%); Canada (17%); Sweden (9%); Germany (7%); **Finland (5%);** Austria (4%); United States of America (4%); Belarus (3%).
- Pulp for paper: Brazil (25%); Canada (14%); United States of America (11%); Indonesia (8%); Chile (7%); **Finland (6%);** Sweden (6%); Uruguay (4%); Russian Federation (4%).
- Paper and paperboard: Germany (12%); United States of America (9%); Sweden (8%); **Finland (7%);** Canada (5%); Indonesia (5%); China (4%); Austria (3%); Russian Federation (3%); Belgium (3%); France (3%); Italy (3%).

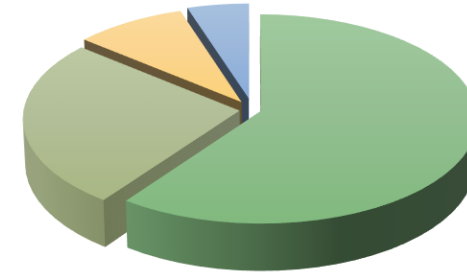
# Forests and forestry in Finland



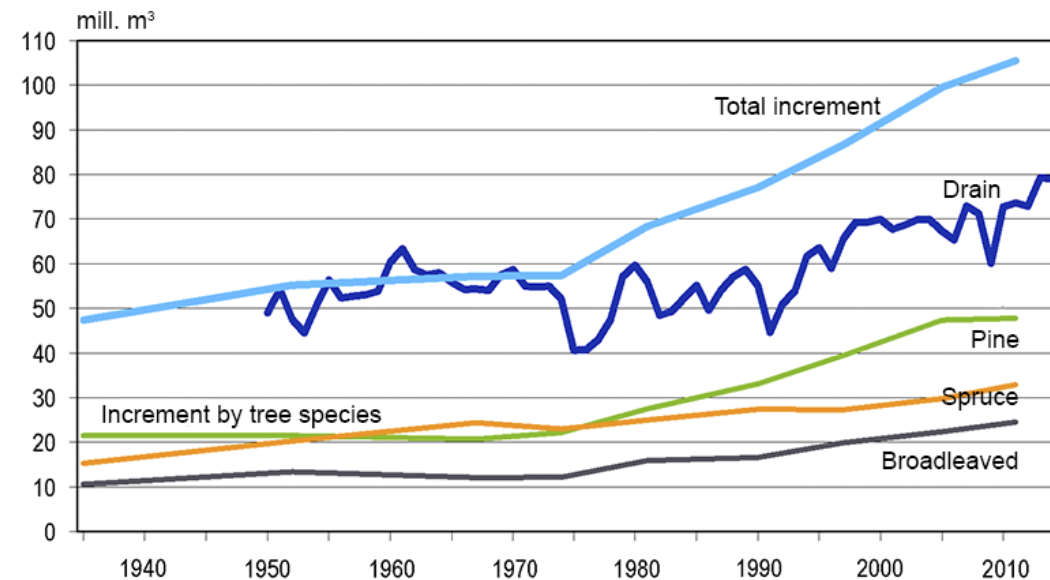
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- 23 million hectares of forests (total land area 30.4 million hectares)
- Annual increment 107 million cubic meters/year (AAC about 80 M m<sup>3</sup>)
- Growing stock 2.5 billion cubic meters – growing stock has steadily increased over last 50 years
- Investments in silviculture since 1965
- Annual increment of growing stock has exceeded the total drain by one fourth on average since the mid-1970s
- 3 million hectares, 13 % of area are conservation areas.



■ private individuals (60 %) ■ state (26 %)  
■ private companies (9 %) ■ others (5 %)



# Growing stock by tree species

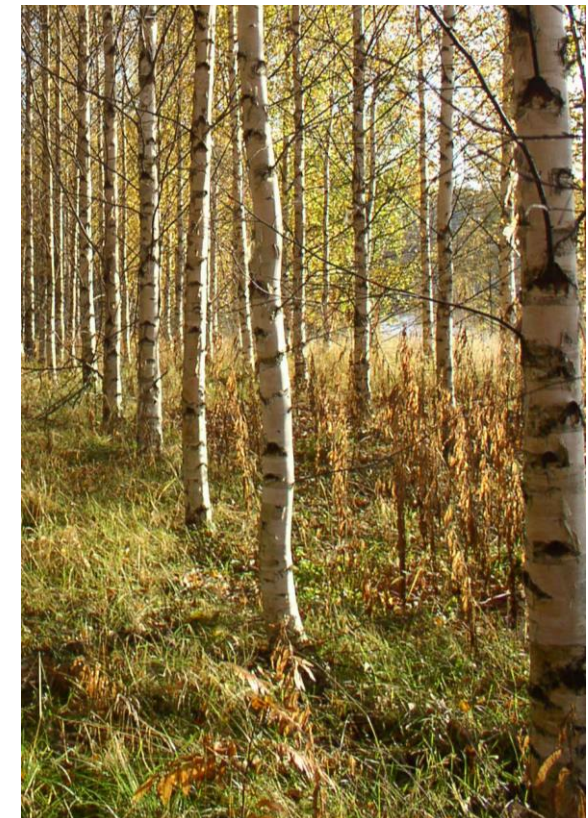
Scots pine  
Pinus silvestris  
48%



Norway spruce  
Picea abies  
34%



Birch  
Betula pendula  
15%





# Forestry actors:

- Family forest owners:
  - Over 600 000 forest owners, average size of the holding 30 ha.
  - Local level: Forest management associations
  - National level: The Central Union of Agricultural and Forest Owners (MTK)
- State forests: Metsähallitus,
- Forest contractors , Forest industry, SME sawmills, Industrial forest owners (UPM, Tornator)
- Some NGOs:
  - Nature conservation: Greenpeace, WWF, Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto, BirdLife
  - Recreation: Scouts, Suomen latu, Metsästäjien keskusjärjestö...



# Public opinions are diverse

Everyman's rights ensure the rights to hike, pick berries and mushrooms, and enjoy forests and lakes in various ways.

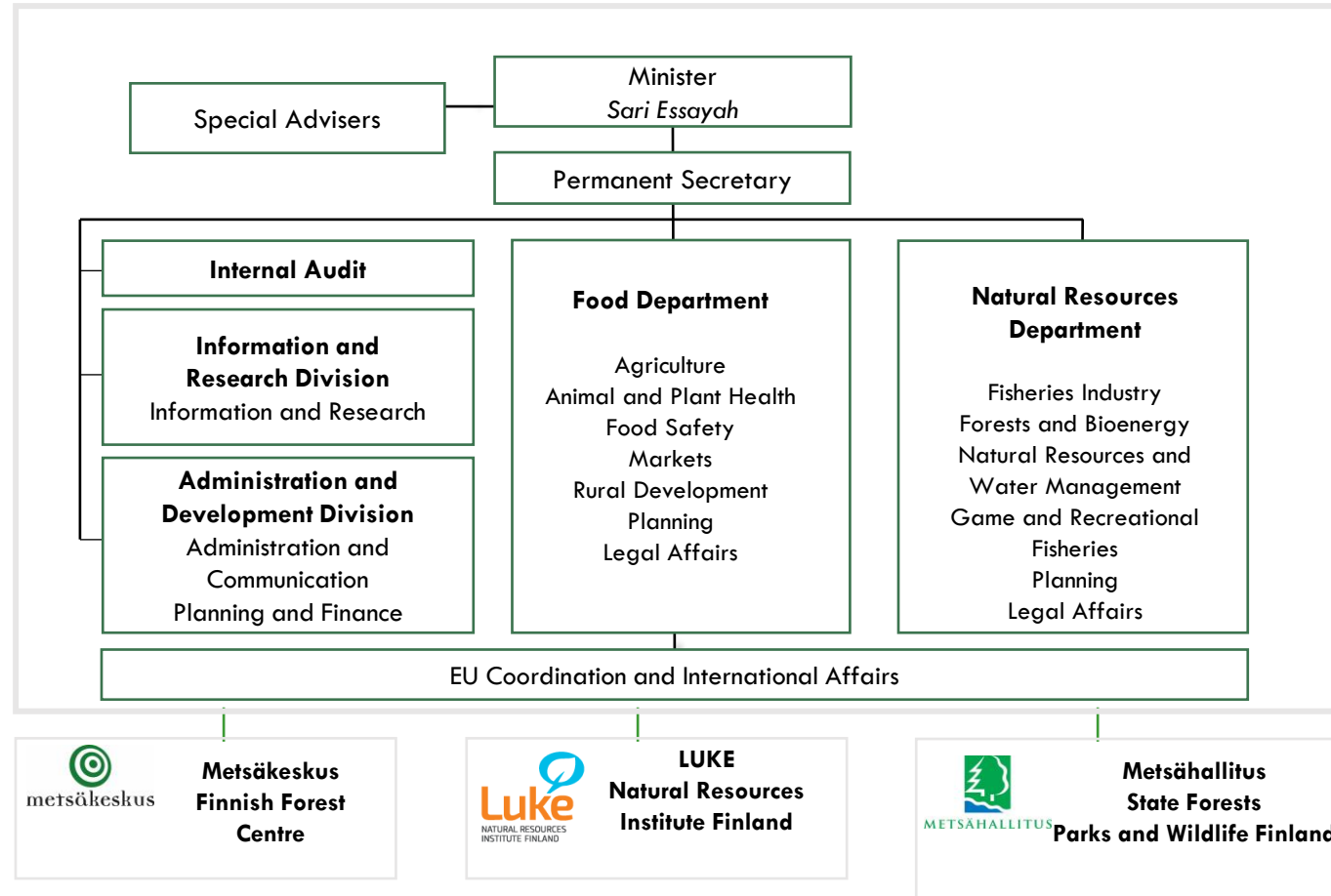
- Nearly every fifth Finn over the age of 20 owns some forest,
- Several interest groups with different opinions on forestry: hikers, cyclists, hunters, conservationists, etc.
- Thanks to the everyman's rights everyone certainly has an opinion on how the forest should be managed.



# Forest Administration



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# Enforcing Forest Act



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Regulation, examples:

- Forest Act
- Rio Biodiversity Agreement 1992
- The Habitats Directive
- Nature Conservation Act
- The Antiquities Act
- Protecting watersheds
- Urban Planning Act

# Forestry in practice



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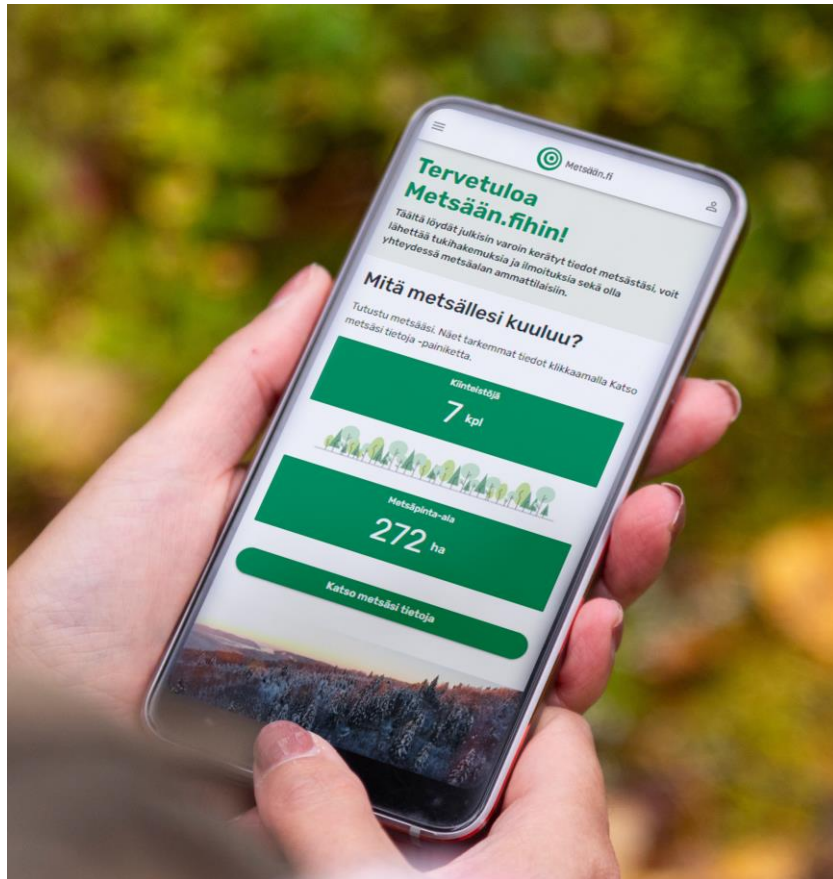
- Family forests: 600 000 owners, average size of the holding 30 ha.
- About 83% of the fellings take place in private family forests.
- Other forestry livelihoods!
- Multiple needs for biodiversity, recreation
- International agreements and regulation (BD Climate)
- Averagely cuttings size varies between 1- 3 hectares
  - Intermediate and selective cuttings 540 000 hectares
  - Final cuttings 181 000 hectares (2023).



# Forestry in practice - Metsään.fi service



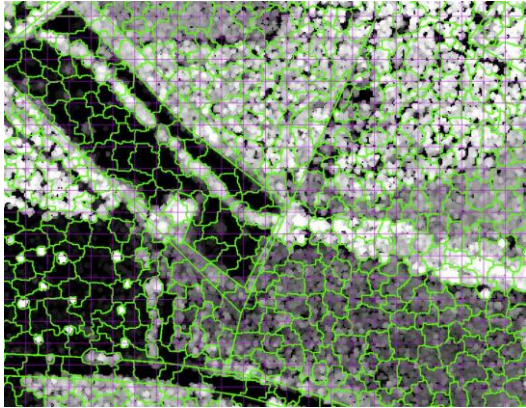
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- A service for forest owners and companies.
  - Over 60 000 forest owners use Metsään.fi each year.
  - Over 1 000 registered company users.
- Includes information on natural values, silvicultural work, fellings, as well as maps and aerial photographs.
  - 12.7 million hectares of forest and nature data is available in the service.
- The service is easy to use.
  - Forest information can be found in one place by both forest owners and companies.
- The Metsään.fi service is provided by the Finnish Forest Centre, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
- [Find more information online.](#)

# Forestry in practice

1. remote sensing inventory



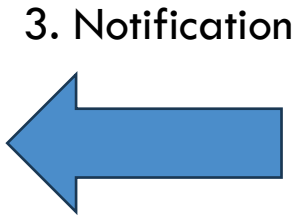
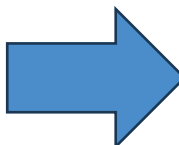
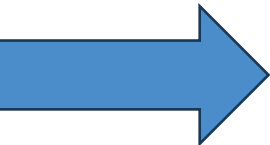
2. Authorities



4. Forest owners, timber trade



5. Operations



3. Notification

6. Updating

# Climate change



# Estimated impacts of climate change



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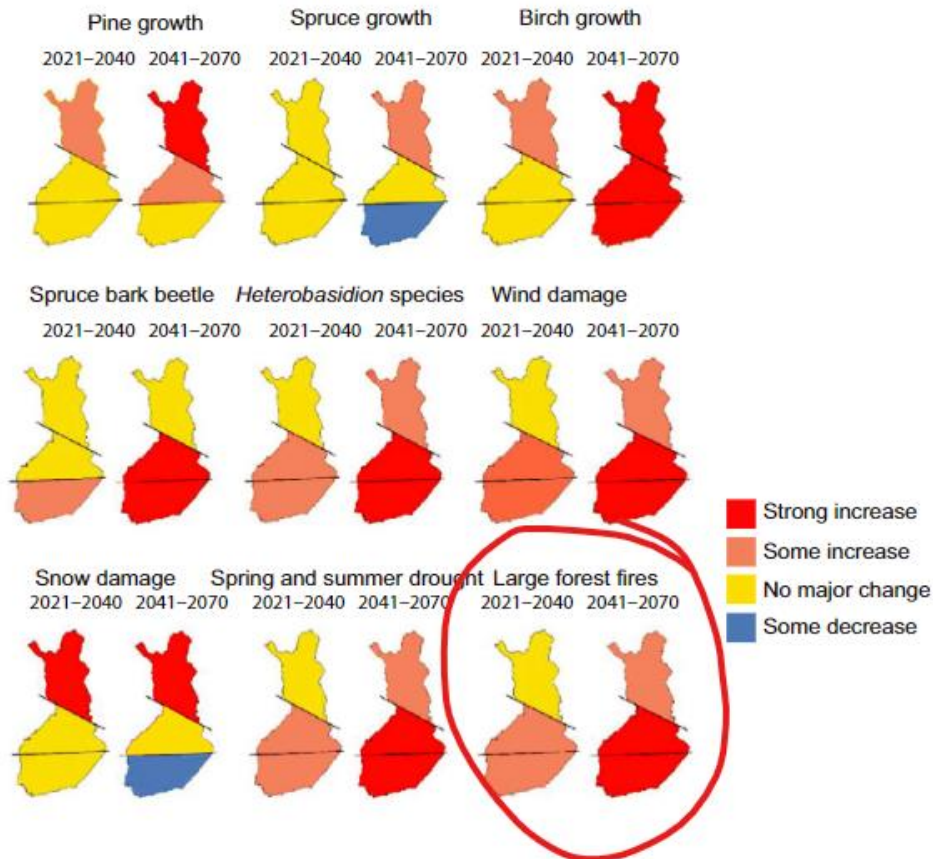


FIGURE 10 Estimated impacts of climate change (corresponding to RCP4.5) on forest growth and the major climate-induced risks (edited from Äijälä, Koistinen, Sved, Vanhatalo, & Väisänen, 2019). The baseline period is 1981-2010

# Kiitos!

Photo: Karsikko tree in Patvinsuo National Park,  
Lieksa, North Karelia (Leena Leskinen)

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