

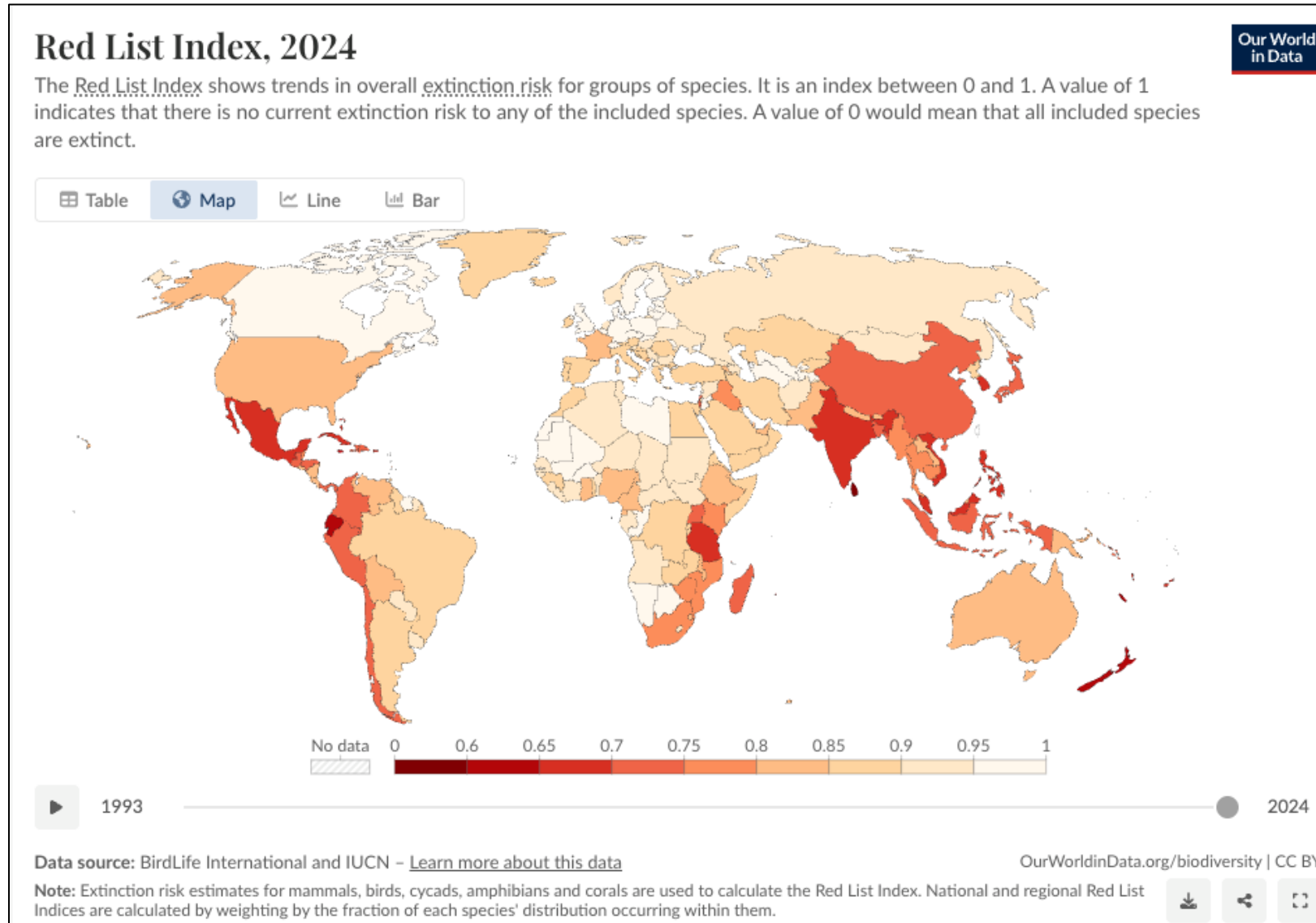
Adressing information gaps in forest-biodiversity policies

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16 July 2026

Trends in biodiversity can be presented in many ways.

Where do we have most signs of a “nature crisis”?



1. Efficiency in nature conservation is often not addressed

- If nature conservation is an important part of the economy
 - Then principles such as scarcity, opportunity cost and efficiency need to be applied
- This is usually missing from conservation aims and policy
 - For example “30% of land should be protected” (CBD, Kunming)
- We need:
 1. More stringent approaches to costs, losses and benefits from conservation measures
 2. Wider and more integrated options for conservation that can help drive efficiency

2. Climate and biodiversity aims are not aligned in forests

- Climate benefits from forests come from
 1. Storing carbon in forest and wood-based products
 2. Wood-based products displacing fossil-based alternatives
- Both of which are highest from actively managed forests
- Biodiversity benefits from forests are mainly associated with unmanaged forests.
 - At the same time, biodiversity benefits in actively managed forests are often overlooked

3. The role of biodiversity for the economy appears overstated and underevidenced in politics

EU Commissioner Roswall at EU Green Week 11 June 2026:

- “every single euro invested in restoring degraded ecosystems generates up to €38 in economic returns.”

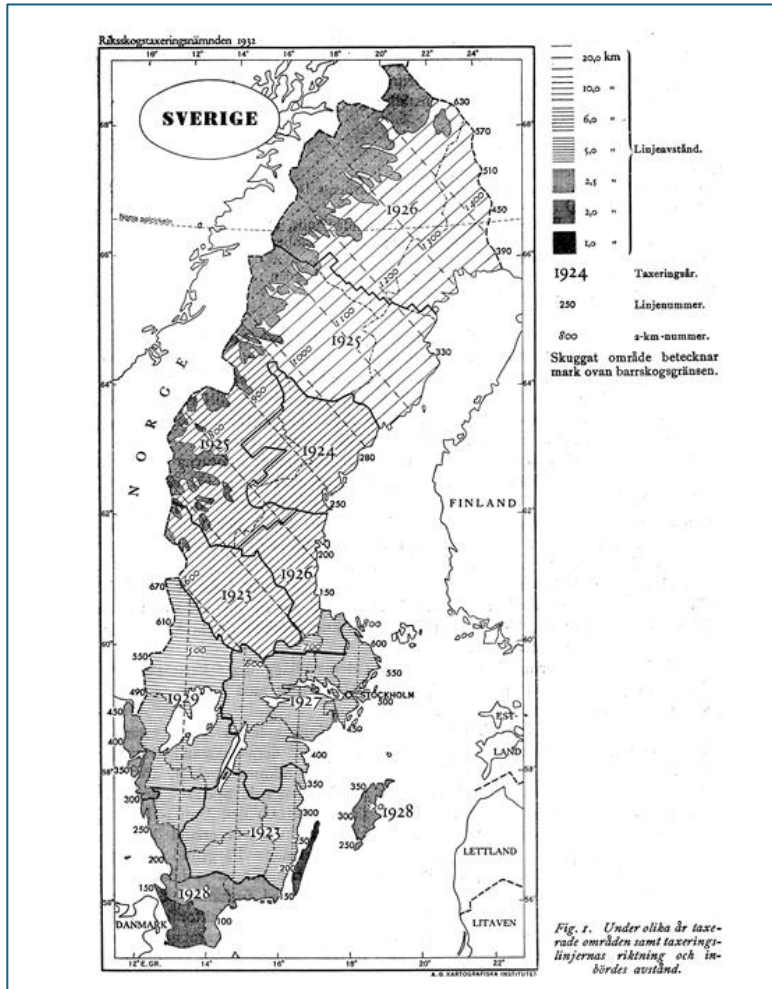
World Economic Forum “The New Nature Economy Report” 2020:

- “Half of World’s GDP Moderately or Highly Dependent on Nature”
- connected with: “25% of our assessed plant and animal species are threatened by human actions, with a million species facing extinction, many within decades”

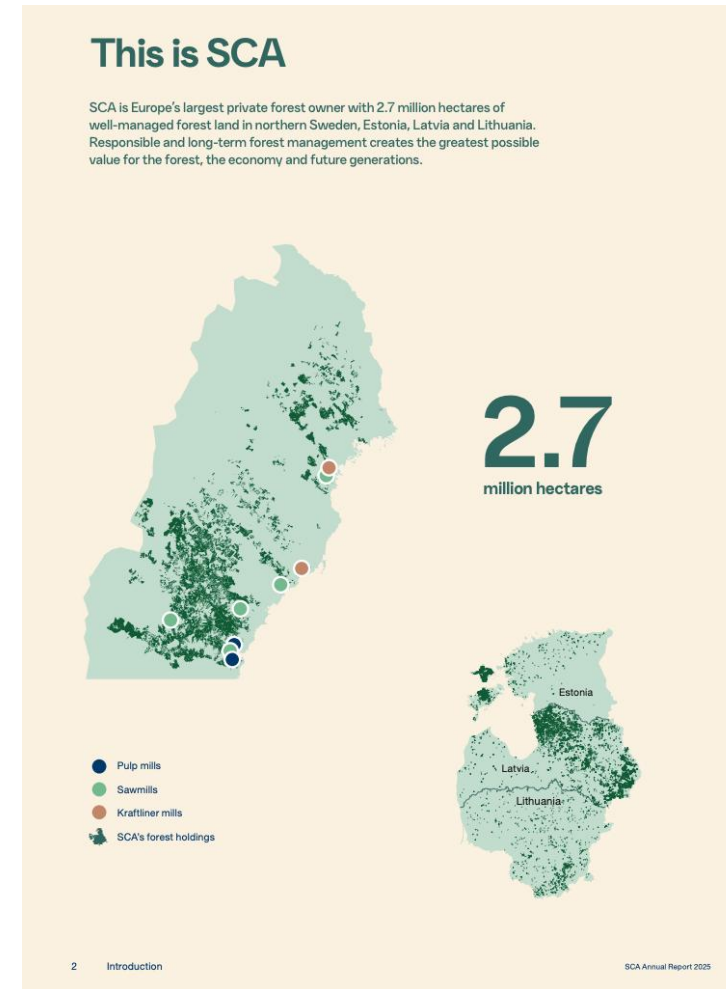
4. Poor knowledge and simplified policy creates problems

- Science has not delivered well on knowledge and methods for integrated decisions on biodiversity
 - Studies are fragmented and unsystematic
- Instead we are preached oneliners, often not substantiated
 - “One million species are threatened with extinction” (IPBES)
 - “80% of European habitats that are in poor condition” (EU Commission)
- Foggy knowledge situation underpins opinionated policy
 - with imprecise measures

Sweden: Long-term systematic data exist



National Forest Inventory since 1924



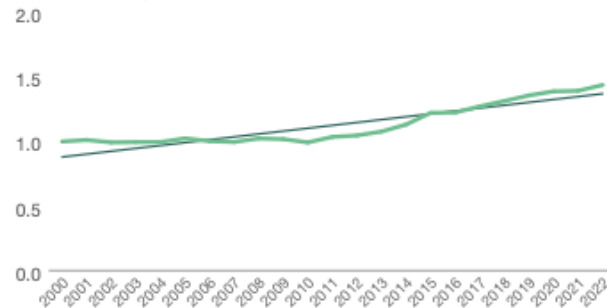
Can be applied eg on large forest holdings

Reveals some positive trends for biodiversity in managed forest landscapes

Indicators for biodiversity – relative change

Dead wood

Index 1 = average 1996–2000

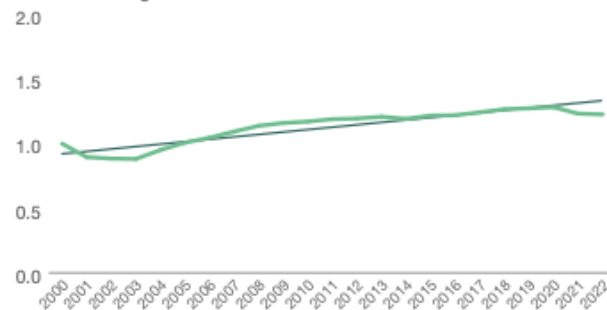


The volume of dead wood is one of the most important factors for biodiversity in the forest landscape. In Sweden, more than 5,000 species depend on dead wood at different stages of decomposition, including various ticks, beetles and birds. The volume of dead wood has increased by approximately 44%. The increase is mainly the result of the Company leaving dead trees and creating dead wood in conjunction with harvesting, as well as dead wood being left behind after storms (2011, 2013) and insect damage (2009–2016).

Relative change Trend

Deciduous trees

Index 1 = average 1996–2000



Deciduous trees play an important role for many species, including a large number of insects. Birds benefit as the insects provide a source of food and they nest in the deciduous trees. Many fungi and lichens also depend on deciduous trees. The volume of deciduous trees has increased by 23%. The increase is primarily because deciduous trees are left standing to a greater extent in conjunction with clearing and thinning. Deciduous trees are also left standing to a greater extent in connection with basic environmental consideration in harvesting.

Relative change Trend

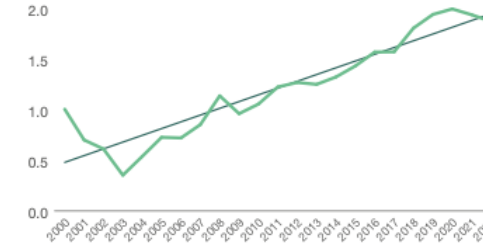
Source: Data for indicators is produced by the Swedish National Forest Inventory at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

Data is based on measurements of a large number of sample plots unknown to SCA. For more information, see page 145.

¹⁾ As the basis for comparison, a mean value of the outcomes between 1996 and 2000 has been used.

Old, thick deciduous trees

Index 1 = average 1996–2000

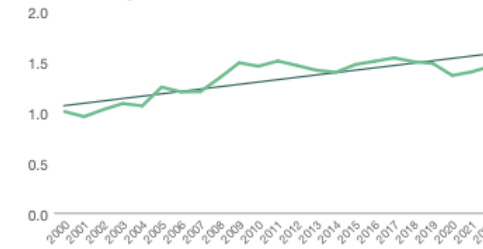


The supply of thick deciduous trees is important since it benefits many bird species, eventually producing habitats in the form of old, dead hardwood. Some mosses and lichens only live on older deciduous trees, such as willow, aspen or birch. The volume of thick deciduous trees in our forests has increased by 86%. The increase has mainly been due to a larger proportion of forests becoming older and thus more deciduous trees growing thicker.

Relative change Trend

Old forest

Index 1 = average 1996–2000

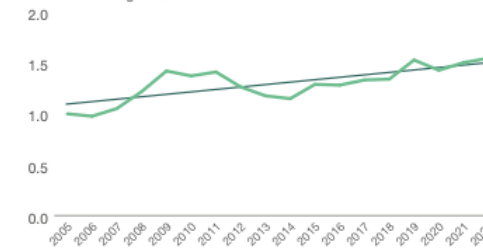


Older forests are important for many species, particularly those that are not very competitive. The percentage of old forest (≥141 years) has increased by 45%. The increase is primarily due to the fact that voluntarily set-aside and older managed forests have grown older. The older managed forests are largely maintained with combined targets, for example using continuous-cover forestry methods.

Relative change Trend

Old forest with specific indications of conservation value (SICV)

Index 1 = average 1996–2000



Older forests with specific indications of conservation values are forests that are both older and have a high frequency of important structures, including dead wood, trees of varying ages and very thick trees. The percentage of old forest with specific indications of conservation value has increased by 55%.

The increase is due partly to aging of voluntarily set-aside forests, and partly to an increase in the proportion of this type of forest in the forests SCA manages for timber production, or combined targets.

Relative change Trend

Thank you.