



# Global Forest Biodiversity Initiative

*People, Nature, World, Diversity*

## GFB I Organization and Function

Jingjing Liang, Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Thomas Crowther

# Inaugural Global Forest Biodiversity Initiative Conference & GFBI-FECS Joint Symposium 2017

Our species thanks to



北京林业大学  
Beijing Forestry University



Forest Ecosystems  
a SpringerOpen Journal  
[www.forestecosyst.com](http://www.forestecosyst.com)



*"This is an era of big data."* - Prof. Xiuhai Zhao (2012)

G F B



Data Users

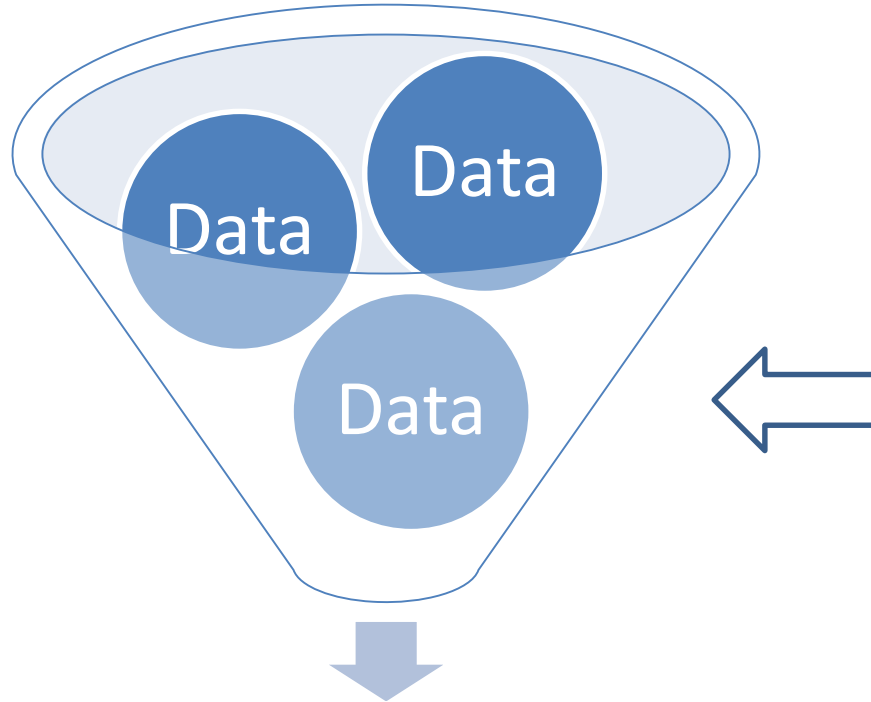


Data Owners

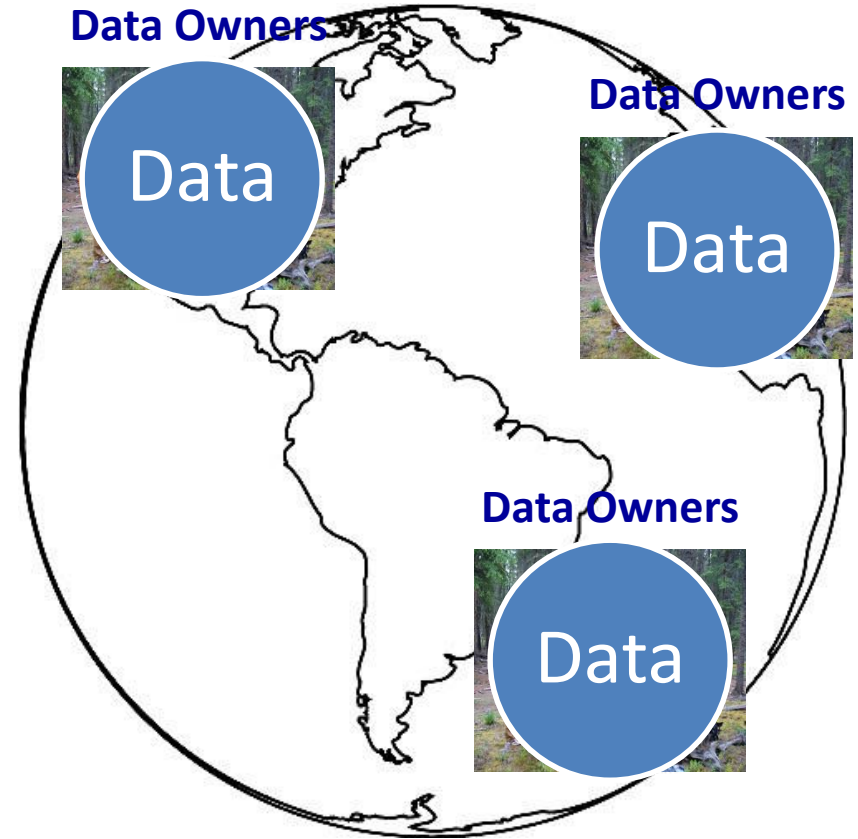
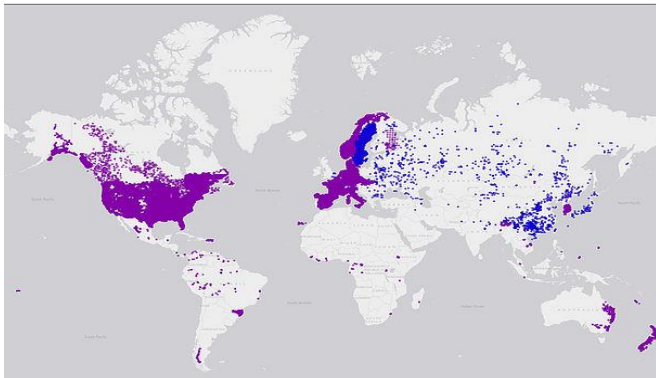


statu viae

# GFBI data compilation

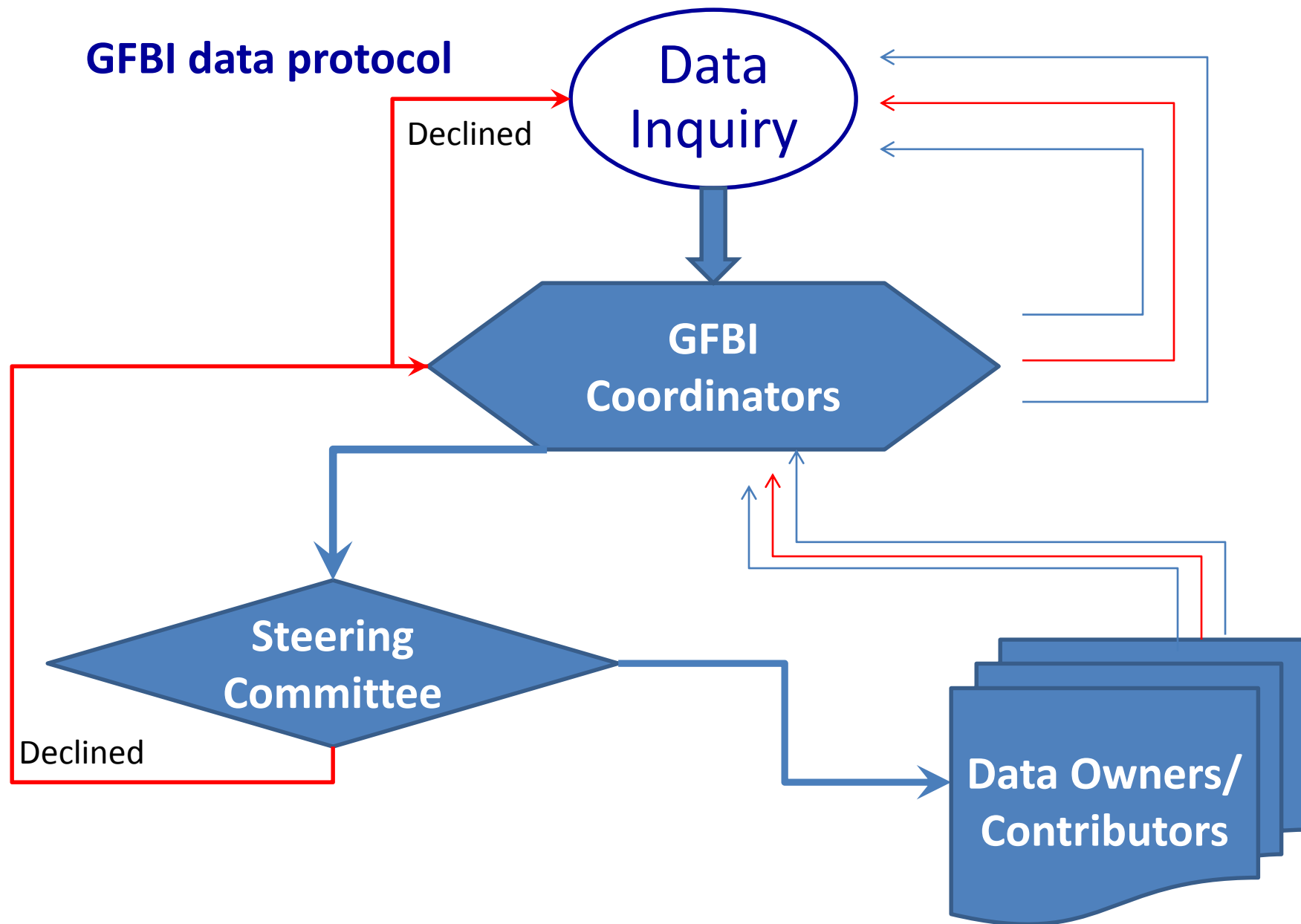


GFB Database v.2.0



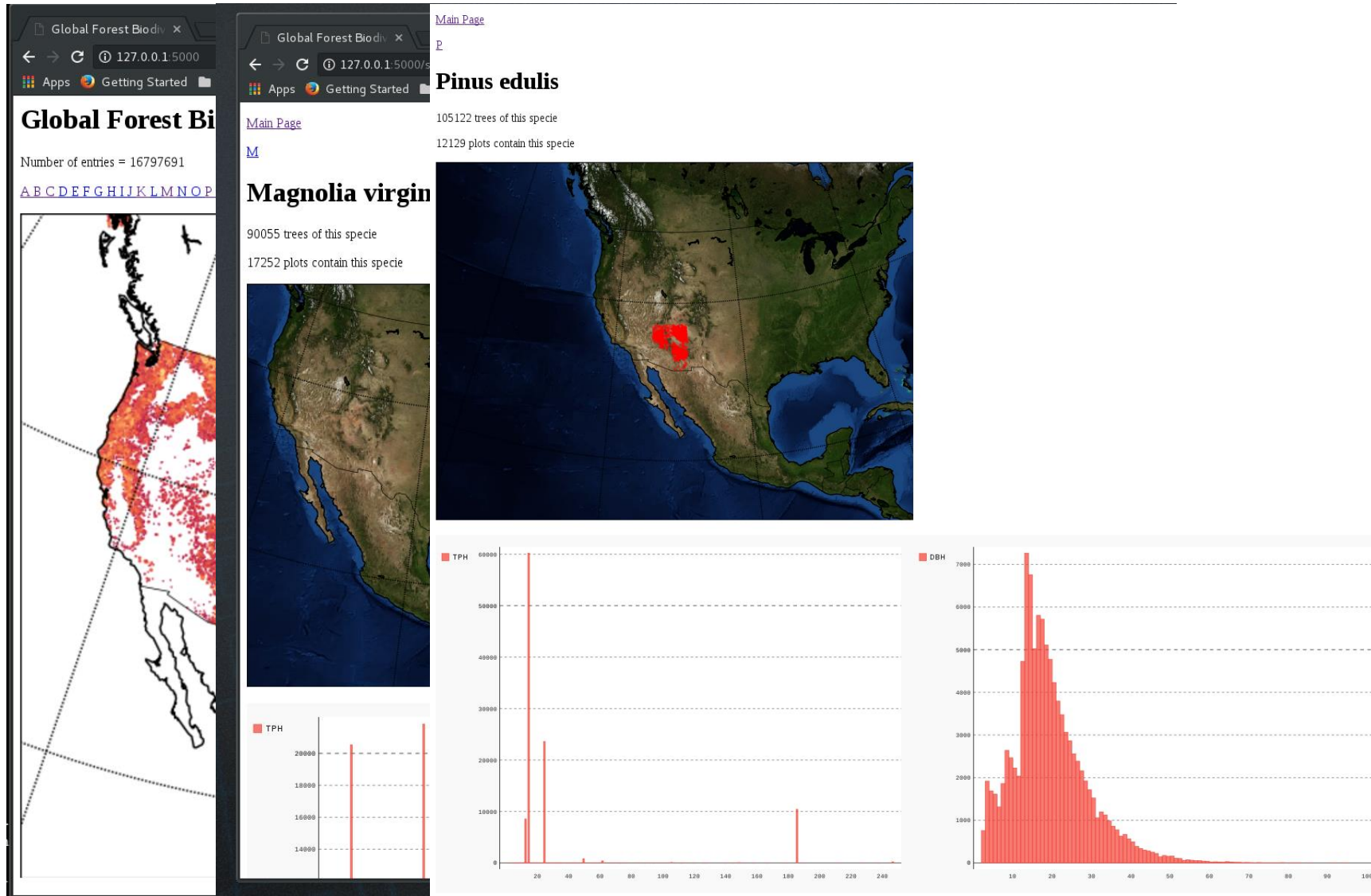
- GFBI studies and manages the world's largest forest inventory database;
- With over 1.23 million plots from across the world;
- The database covers more than 90 countries in all the continents except for Antarctica

# GFBI data protocol





# GFBI web interface- forthcoming



## Origins of GFBI



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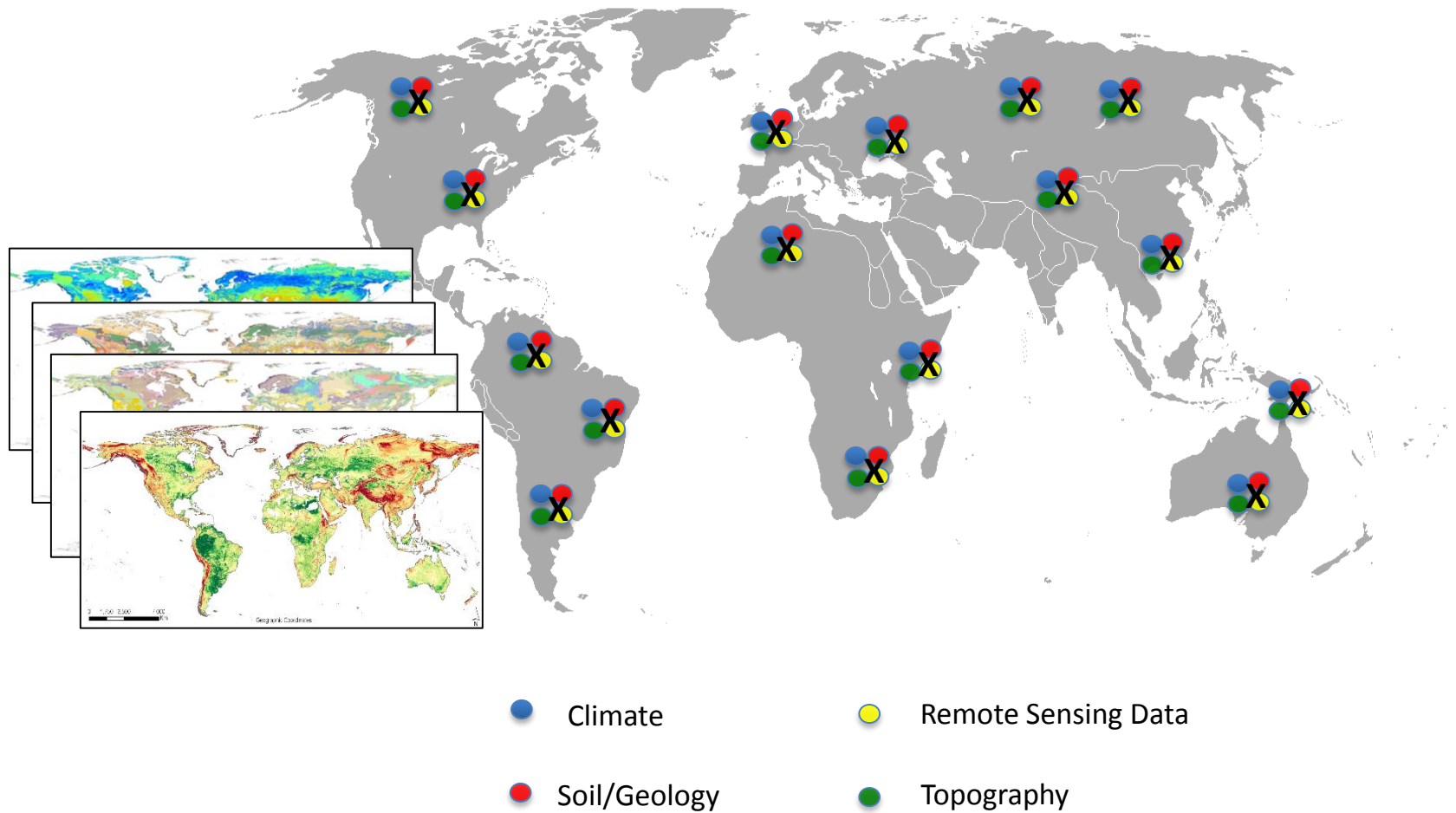
# Origins of GFBI

429,775 plots

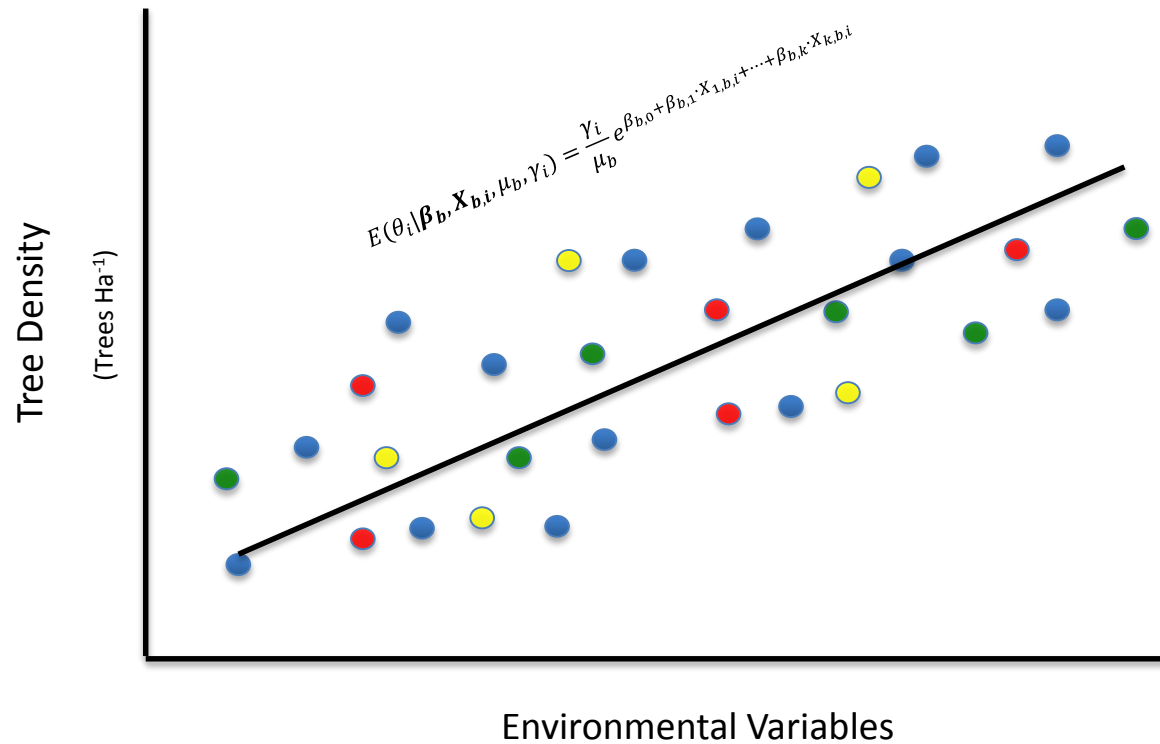




# Origins of GFBI

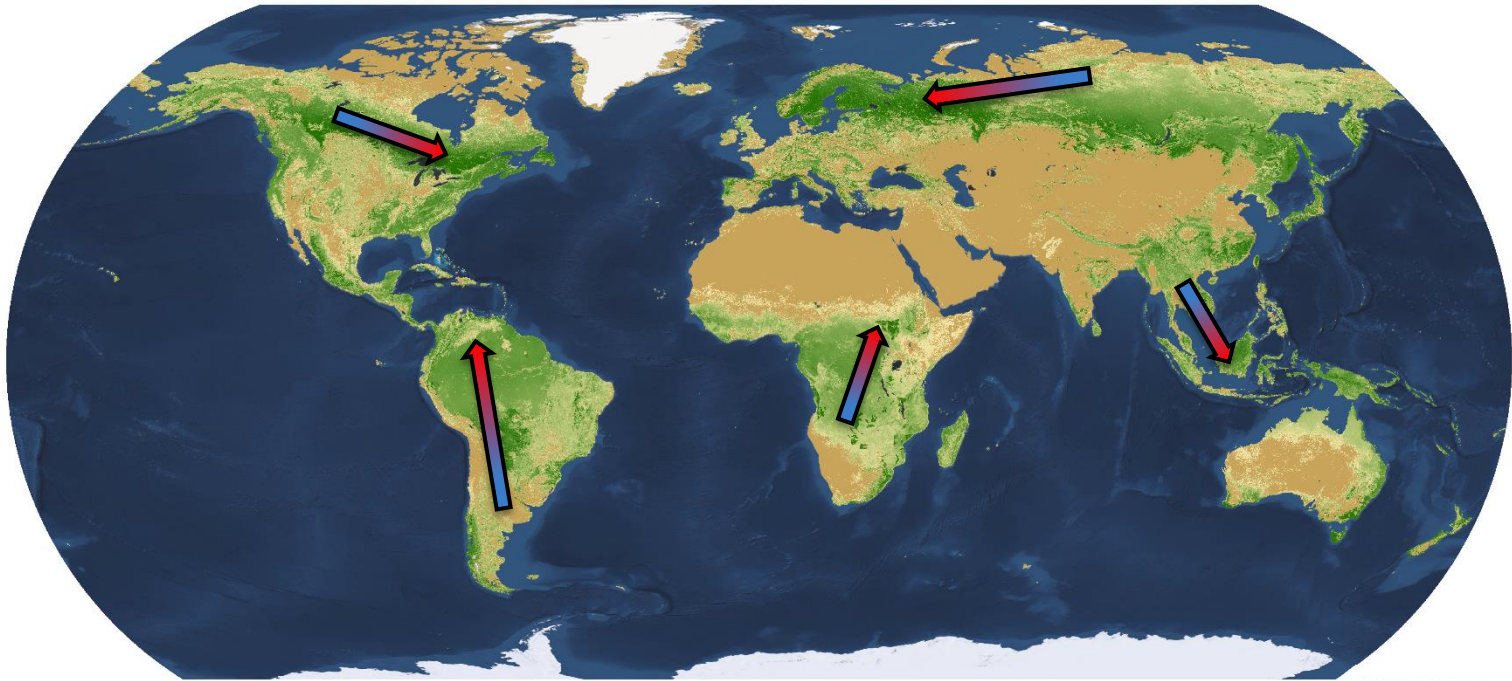


# Origins of GFBI



# Origins of GFBI

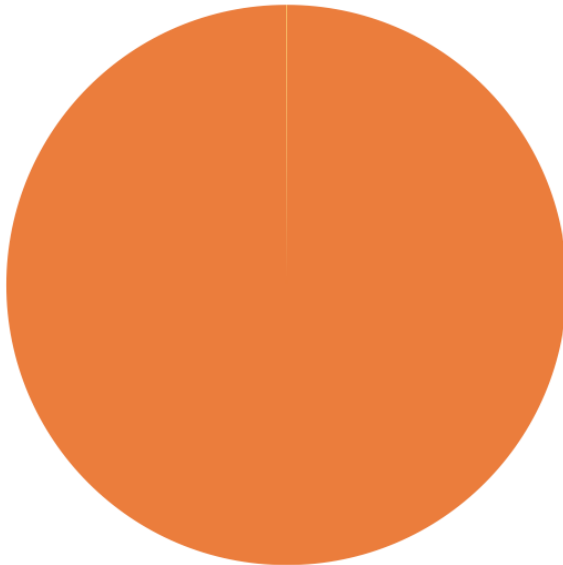
Crowther *et al.* (2015). Nature



3 trillion trees on  
Earth

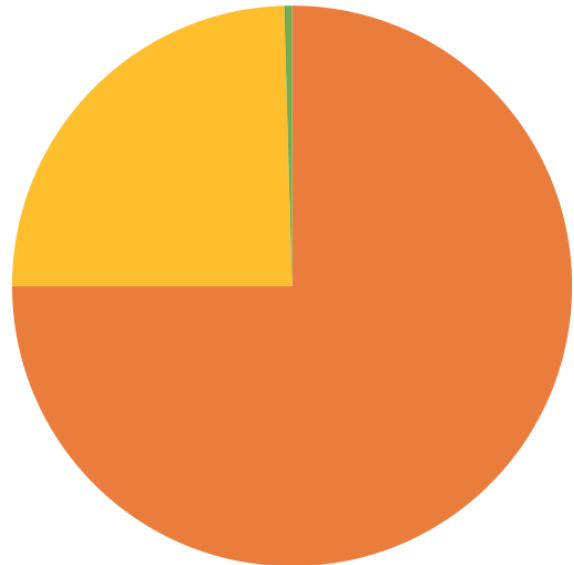


# Origins of GFBI



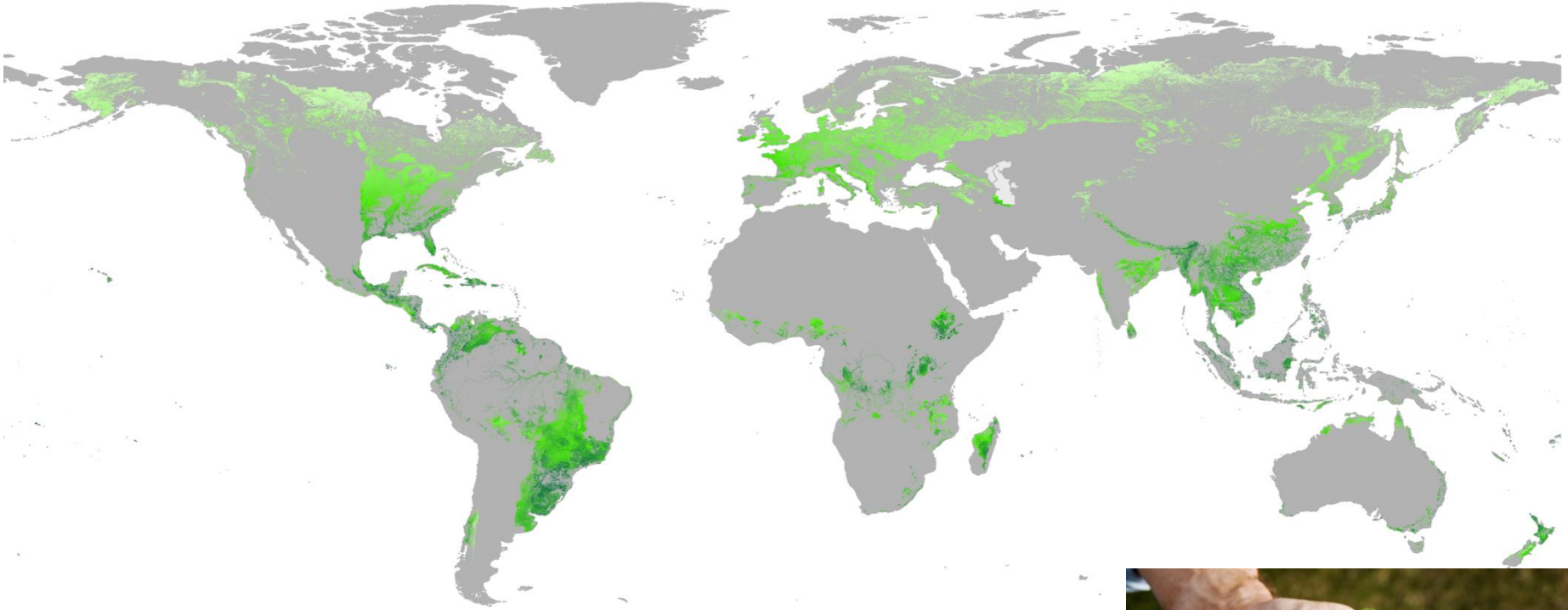
The Billion Tree  
Campaign

**14 Billion  
new trees**



The Trillion Tree  
Campaign

# Origins of GFBI



**Room for 1.3 trillion more**



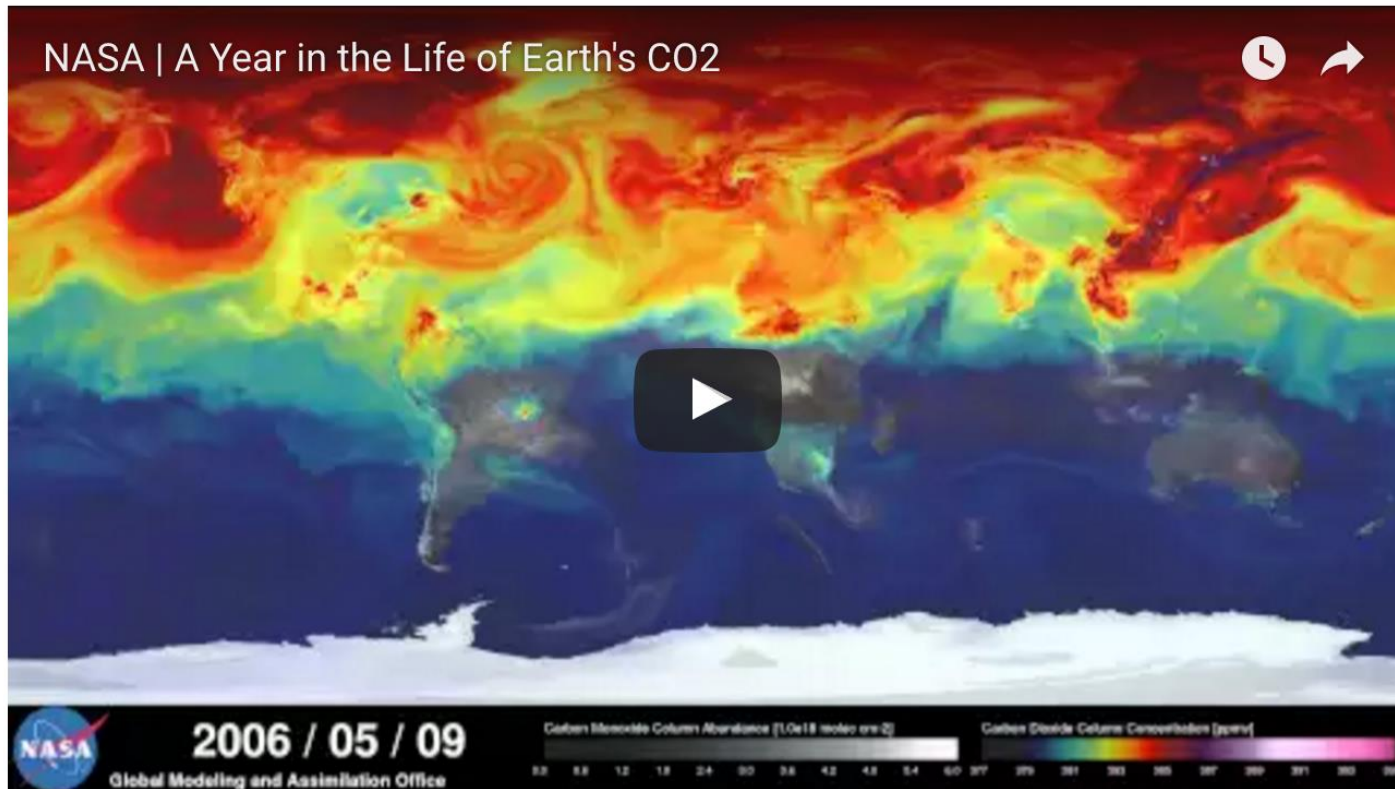
# Origins of GFBI



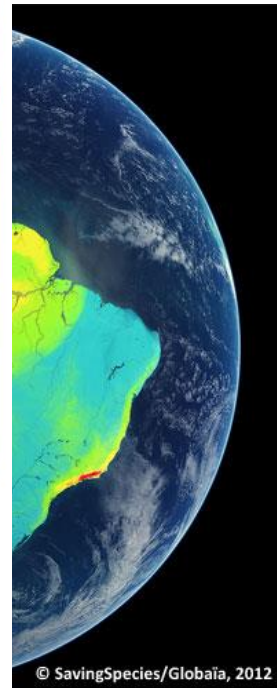


# Origins of GFBI

Mafipula

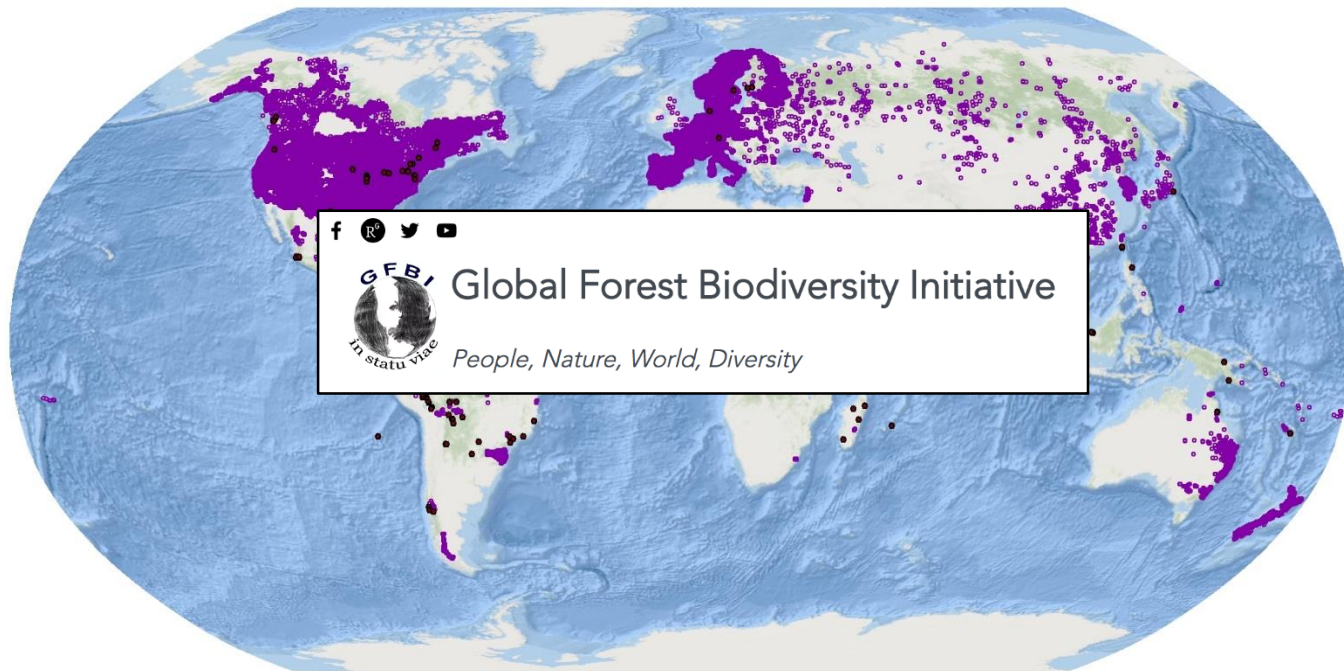


Consider the fantastic scale of this global dance. It starts, as I said, with 3.1 trillion trees. That's the latest census, published a few months ago in the science journal *Nature* ([see page 201](#)) by Yale's Thomas Crowther, a Climate and Energy Institute postdoctoral fellow. If he's right, there are more trees on Earth than there are stars in the Milky Way.



# Origins of GFBI

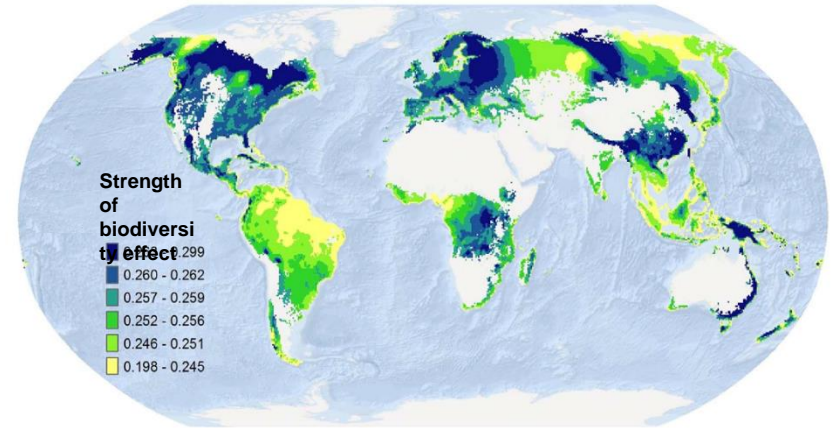
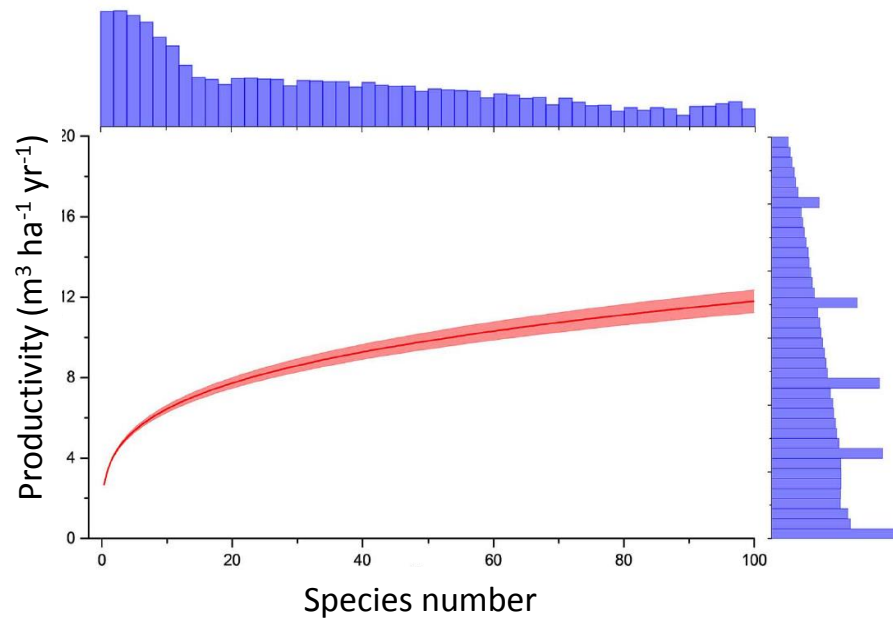
**Over 1.2 M  
Forest Inventory  
Plots**



Esri, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors

# Origins of GFBI

Liang *et al.* 2016  
Science



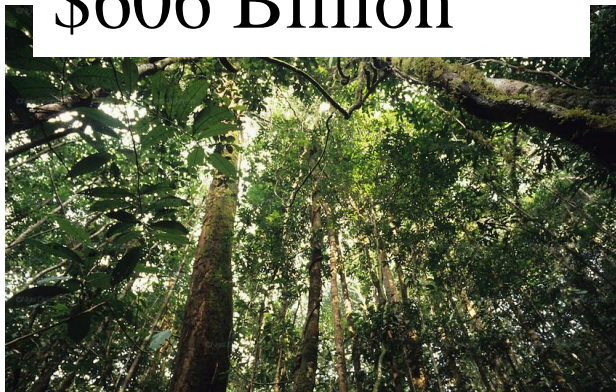


# Origins of GFBI

Liang *et al.* 2016  
Science



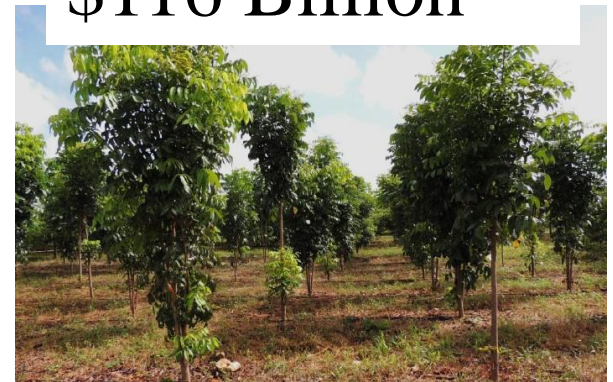
\$606 Billion



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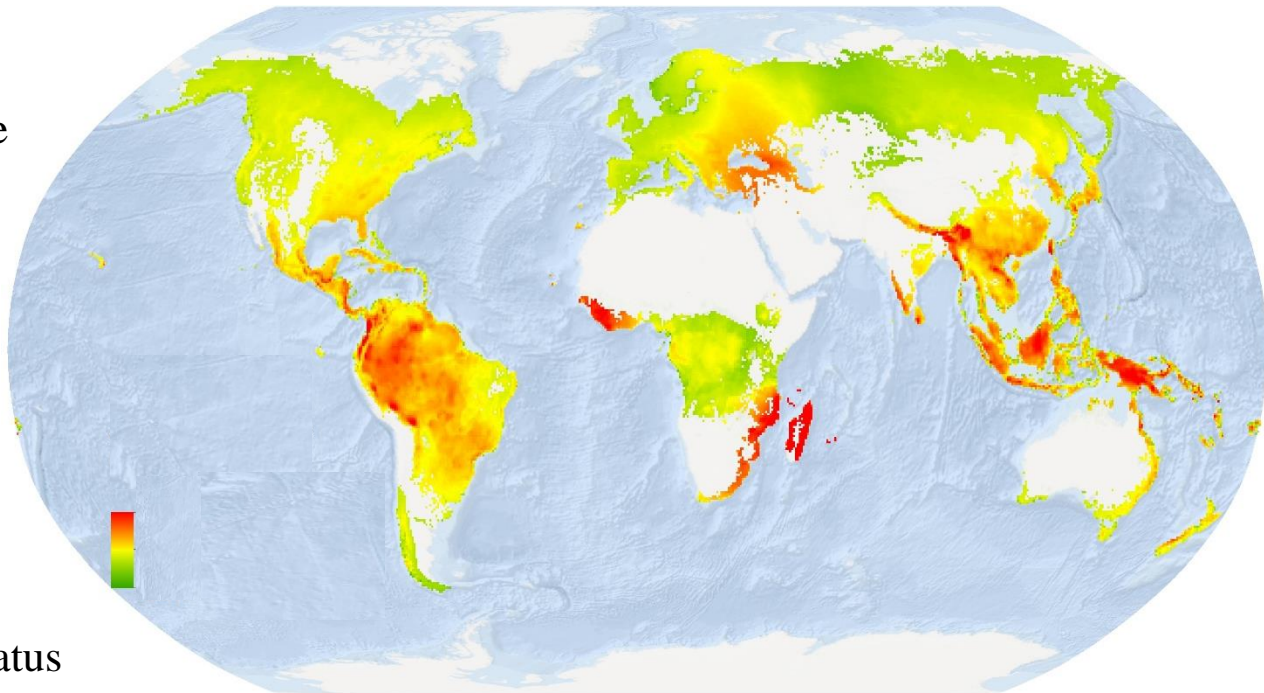
\$116 Billion



>

# Origins of GFBI

- Biomass
- Carbon Storage
- Productivity
- Wood density
- Tree Diversity
- Foliar C:N
- Mycorrhizal status
- Water Content
- Etc etc



# A vision on GFBI

..a lasting and recognised independent network in global forest-related studies based on a large ground truth dataset,

Active in a wide array of fields: from biodiversity to climate change and the forest sector.

GFBI is mostly a virtual network, though with hubs and a governance structure



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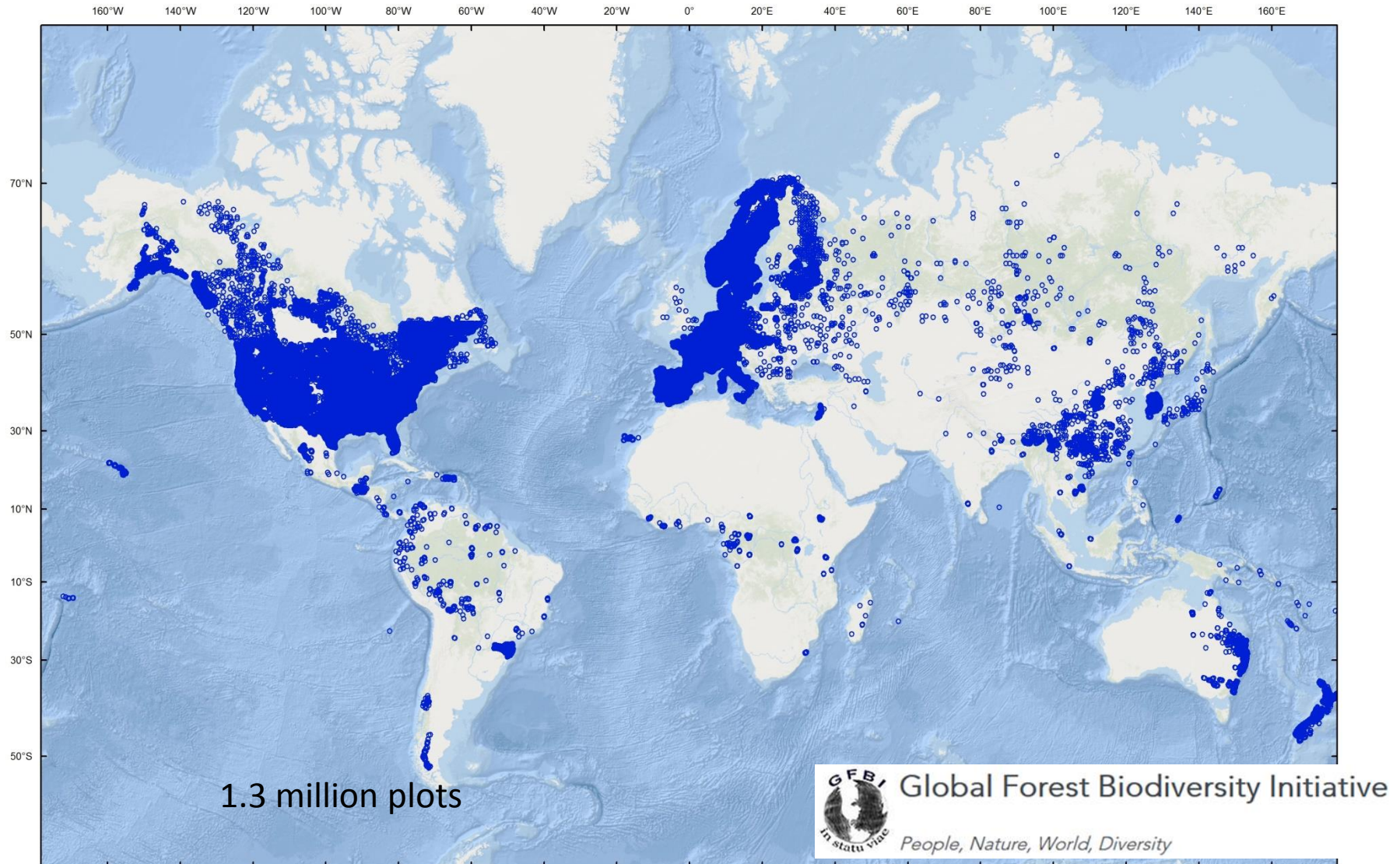


# 1599 map of arctic exploration by Willem Barentsz





# An unprecedented amount of forest groundtruth data has been compiled



# Will be of enormous importance to areas like:

- Biodiversity assessments
- Carbon balance assessments
- Forest resource assessments
- Forest sector outlook studies & sustainable harvesting
- Ground truthing
- Etc..



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# Biodiversity

Will greatly enhance our capacity to understand the role of diversity for e.g. resilience of the system, or productivity, or e.g. its role in connection to soil fungi, or effectiveness of reserves.

connecting to other more local data sets  
will be crucial



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# global forest carbon analyses

## IPCC assessments

9

### A Large and Persistent Carbon Sink in the World's Forests

Yude Pan,<sup>1\*</sup> Richard A. Birdsey,<sup>1</sup> Jingyun Fang,<sup>2,3</sup> Richard Houghton,<sup>4</sup> Pekka L. Werner A. Kurz,<sup>6</sup> Oliver L. Phillips,<sup>7</sup> Anatoly Shvidenko,<sup>8</sup> Simon L. Lewis,<sup>7</sup> Josep Philippe Ciais,<sup>10</sup> Robert B. Jackson,<sup>11</sup> Stephen W. Pacala,<sup>12</sup> A. David McGuire,<sup>13</sup> Sampo Aapola,<sup>5</sup> Stephen Sitch,<sup>7</sup> Daniel Hayes<sup>14</sup>

The terrestrial carbon sink has been large in recent decades, but its size and location are uncertain. Using forest inventory data and long-term ecosystem carbon studies, we estimate a total forest sink of  $2.4 \pm 0.4$  petagrams of carbon per year ( $\text{Pg C year}^{-1}$ ) globally for 1990. We also estimate a source of  $1.3 \pm 0.7$   $\text{Pg C year}^{-1}$  from tropical land-use change, consistent with gross tropical deforestation emission of  $2.9 \pm 0.5$   $\text{Pg C year}^{-1}$  partially compensated by a carbon sink in tropical forest regrowth of  $1.6 \pm 0.5$   $\text{Pg C year}^{-1}$ . Together, the fluxes comprise a net forest sink of  $1.1 \pm 0.8$   $\text{Pg C year}^{-1}$ , with tropical estimates having the largest uncertainties. Our forest sink estimate is equivalent in magnitude to the terrestrial sink deduced from fossil fuel emissions and land-use change sources minus ocean and atmospheric sinks.

Forests have an important role in the global carbon cycle and are valued globally for the services they provide to society. International negotiations to limit greenhouse gases require understanding of the current and potential role of forest C emissions and sequestra-

tion in both managed and unmanaged forests. Estimates by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) show that the net uptake by terrestrial ecosystems ranges from less than 1 to as much as 2.6  $\text{Pg C year}^{-1}$ . More recent

### Forestry

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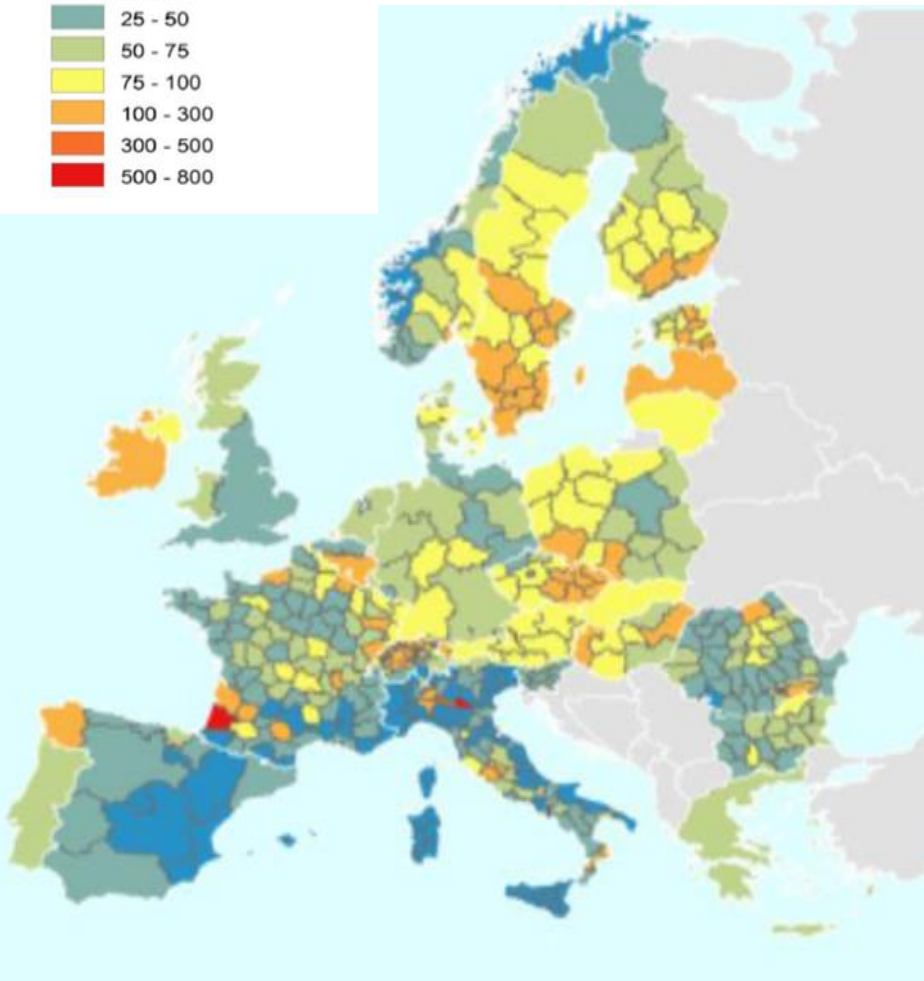
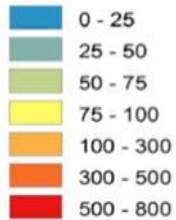
Mike Apps (Canada), Eduardo Calvo (Peru)

This chapter should be cited as:

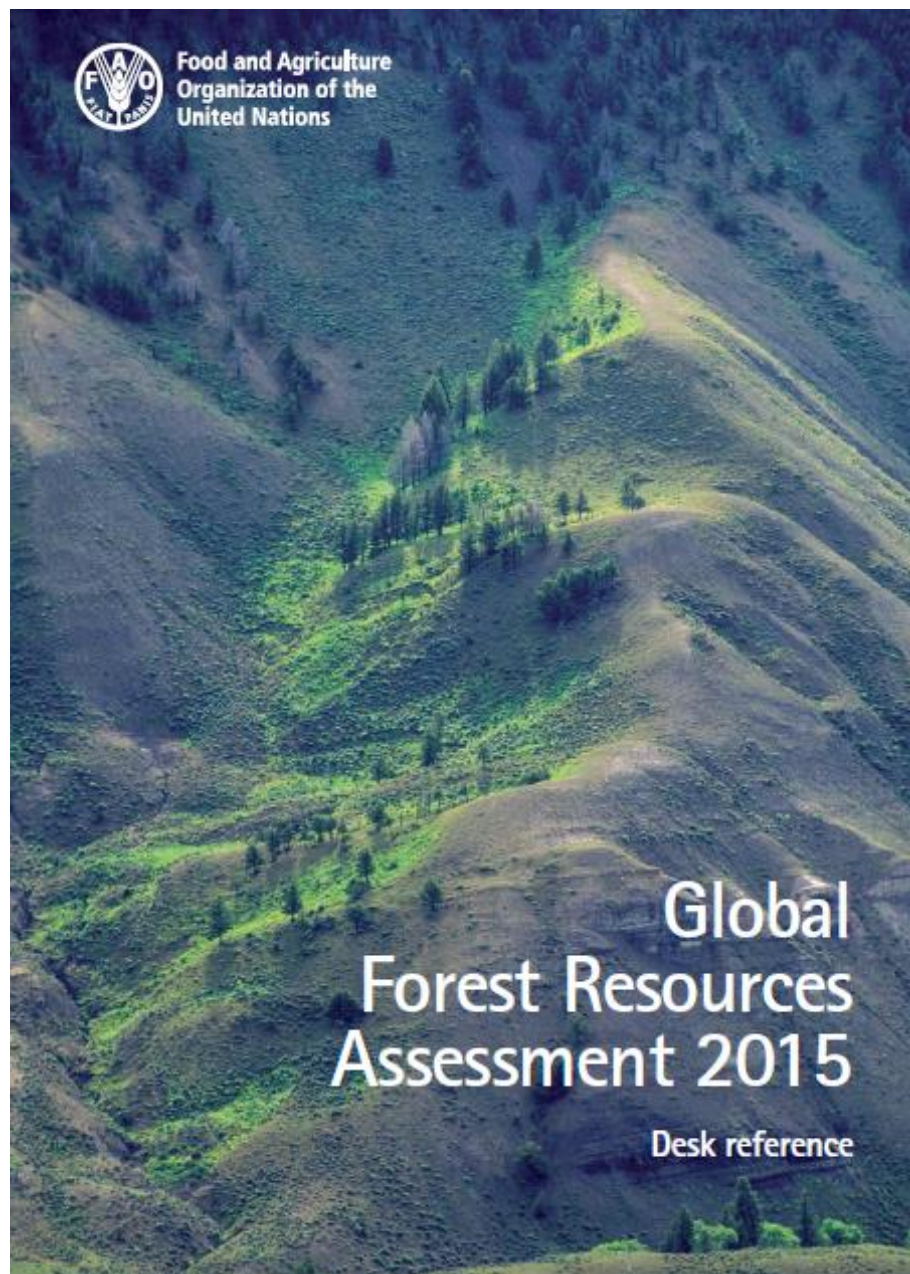
IPCC, 2006: *Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*. Geneva: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

# Examples where we are now: even in Europe often only regional assessments

Forest harvest intensity (%)



EFISCEN: Harvesting intensity as % of increment (*Levers et al. 2014*)



GFBI can greatly  
improve global  
forest resource  
assessments



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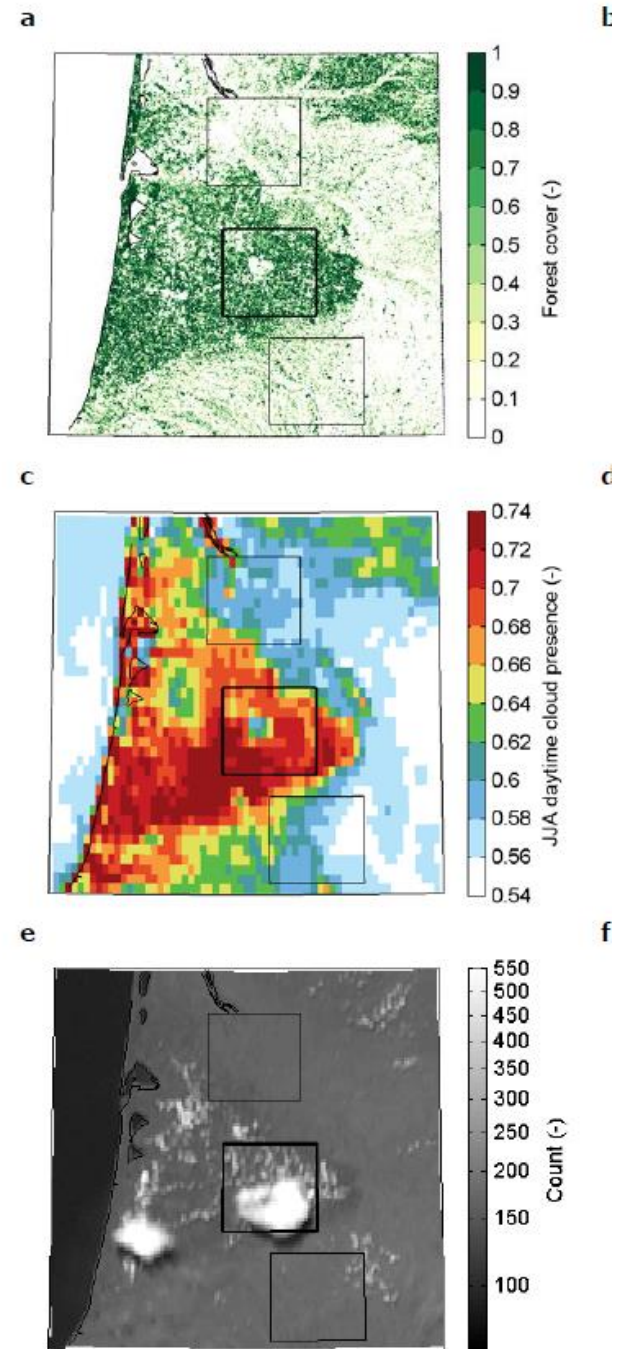
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# GFBI not only in relation to timber

it can serve in REDD+  
and non-timber forest  
products & ecosystem  
services

Cloud formation over forests  
(Teuling et al. 2016)



# And resource outlooks

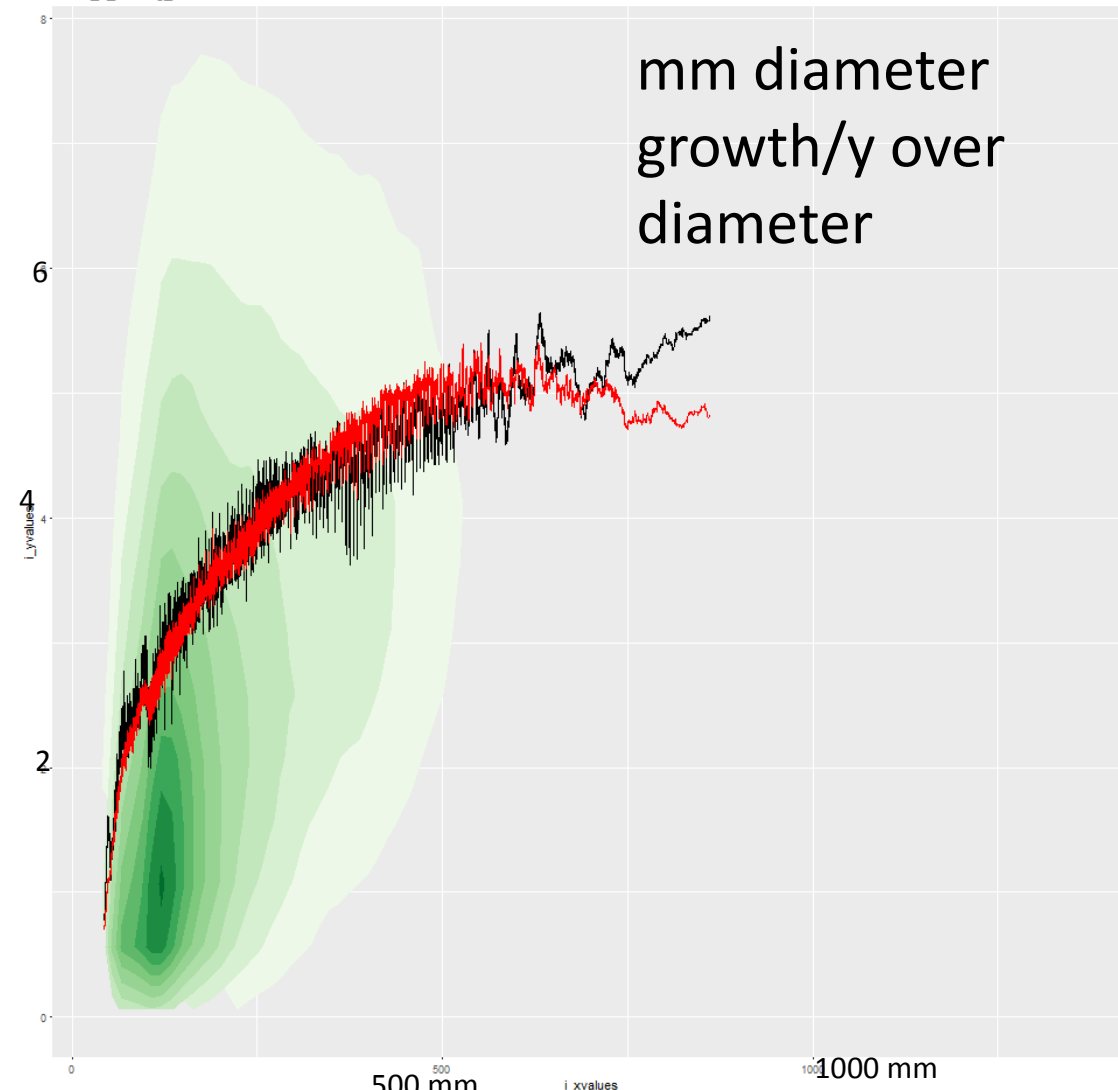
A much better coupling of forest sector models to resource models is now possible.

FAO, UNECE and  
also US-RPA outlooks  
hampered by  
limited knowledge  
of the forest resources



# More generic and wider applicable growth functions can be fitted now.

Picea\_7\_movavg\_zoom

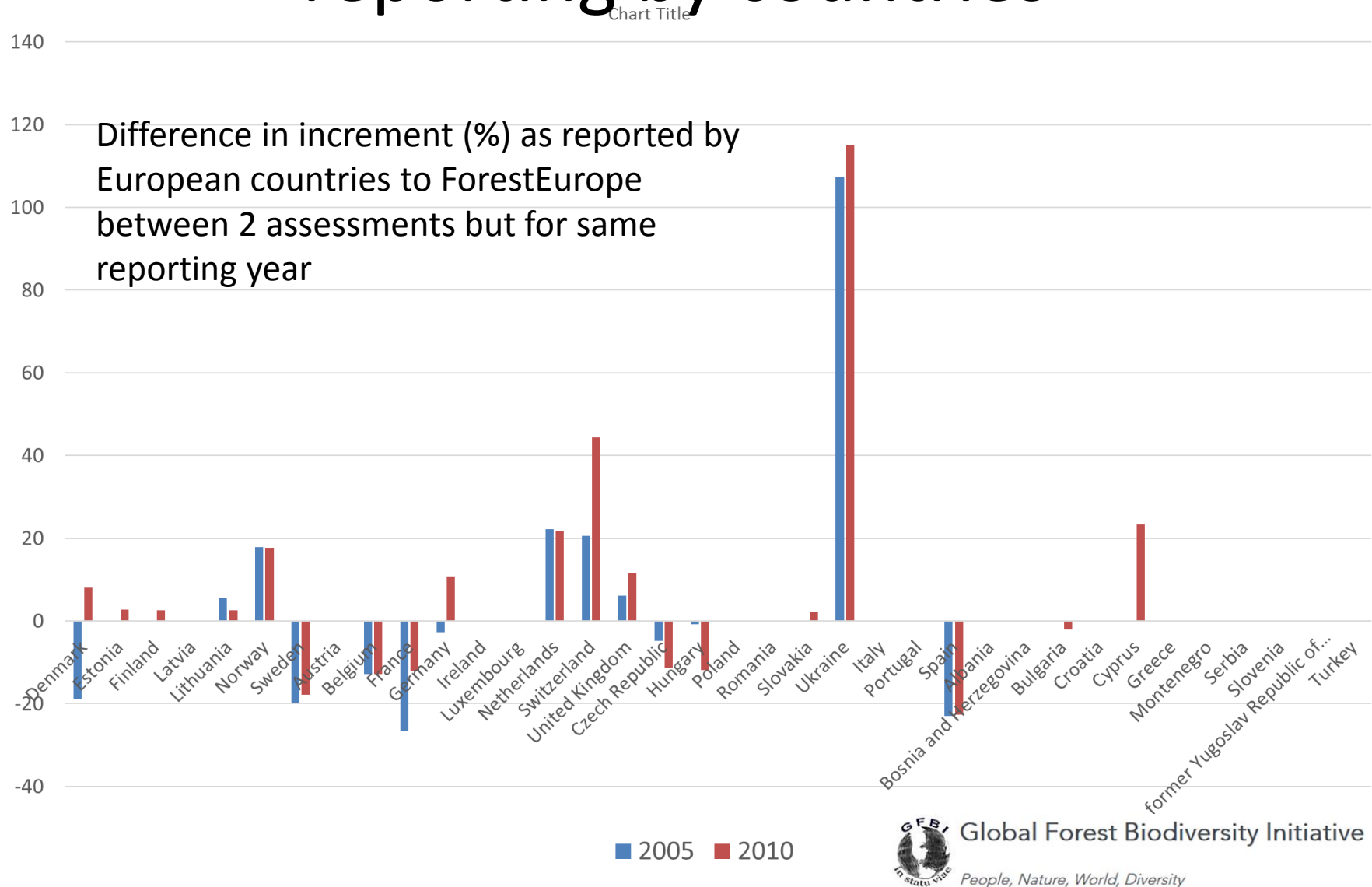


e.g. Picea abies

Schelhaas, Hengeveld,  
Nabuurs et al. for  
Europe based on  
192,000 NFI plots.  
(gathered before GFBI)  
Subm to FECS



# At present still large uncertainty in reporting by countries



# Much better ground truthing of remotely sensed data

GLOBAL BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES, VOL. 21, GB1012, doi:10.1029/2006GB002760, 2007

Effects of soil freezing and thawing on vegetation carbon density in Siberia: A modeling analysis with the Lund-Potsdam-Jena Dynamic Global Vegetation Model (LPJ-DGVM)

Beer, <sup>1,2</sup> W. Lucht, <sup>3</sup> D. Gerten, <sup>3</sup> K. Thonicke

Received 18 May 2006; revised 8 November 2006;

The current latitudinal gradient in biomass in high latitudes. Understanding their relative importance. is required to

## LETTER

### Global patterns of drought recovery

Christopher R. Schwalm<sup>1,2</sup>, William R. L. Anderegg<sup>3</sup>, Anna M. Michalak<sup>4</sup>, Joshua B. Fisher<sup>5</sup>, Franco Biondi<sup>6</sup>, George Koch<sup>7</sup>, Marcy Litvak<sup>7</sup>, Kiona Ogle<sup>8</sup>, John D. Shaw<sup>9</sup>, Adam Wolf<sup>10</sup>, Deborah N. Huntzinger<sup>11</sup>, Kevin Schaefer<sup>12</sup>, Robert Cook<sup>13</sup>, Yaxing Wei<sup>13</sup>, Yuanyuan Fang<sup>4</sup>, Daniel Hayes<sup>14</sup>, Maoyi Huang<sup>15</sup>, Atul Jain<sup>16</sup> & Hanqin Tian<sup>17</sup>

Drought, a recurring phenomenon with major impacts on both human and natural systems<sup>1-3</sup>, is the most widespread climatic extreme that negatively affects the land carbon sink<sup>2,4</sup>. Although twentieth-century trends in drought regimes are ambiguous<sup>5-7</sup>, many regions more frequent and severe droughts are expected in the twenty-first century<sup>3,7-9</sup>. Recovery time—how long it takes for a system to return to its pre-drought functional state—

Precipitation–Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI)<sup>24</sup>, in which negative values indicate more severe drought relative to average term conditions. SPEI can be based on a range of integration (for example, 24-month SPEI integrates water status over 24 months; see Methods), so we evaluate recovery time at both integration time (1-, 6-, 12-, and 24-month SPEI) and at both integration time (1-, 6-, 12-, and 24-month SPEI) and at both integration time (1-, 6-, 12-, and 24-month SPEI) and at both integration time (1-, 6-, 12-, and 24-month SPEI). This allows multiple lines of evidence to be comprehensive while providing an extensive sample of about 4.5 million events.

e.g. study like below was based on MODIS, Fluxnet and Terrestrial global vegetation models

doi:10.1038/nature

# Unprecedented possibilities, but ..

## GFBI's success depends on Good Governance



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# This is what we want to discuss with you this week

- Ownership and use
- Access to data
- Role of data suppliers: members
- Steering committee & Board
- Dealing with requests for data and studies
- Data centres: Lleida, Beijing, ETH



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There are no dragons,  
only opportunities

Thank you !



Acknowledgement :  
Beijing Forestry University  
Journal Forest Ecosystems