

University College Dublin; 29th April 2019 Dublin, Ireland



CONVERSION TO CONTINUOUS COVER FORESTRY (CCF): An adaptive forest management strategy within the context of global climate change (GCC)

Dr. Pavel Bednář

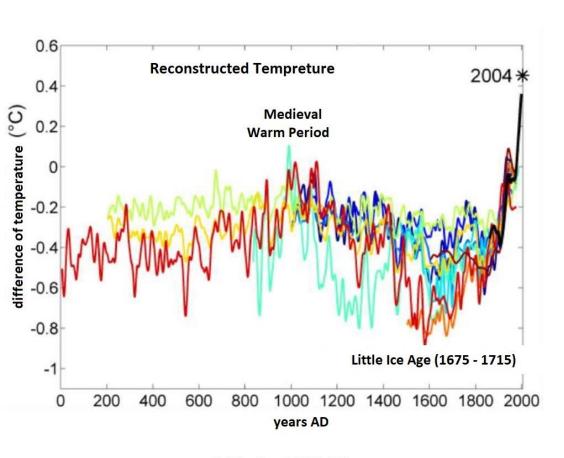
Forestry and Game Management Research Institute (FGMRI)

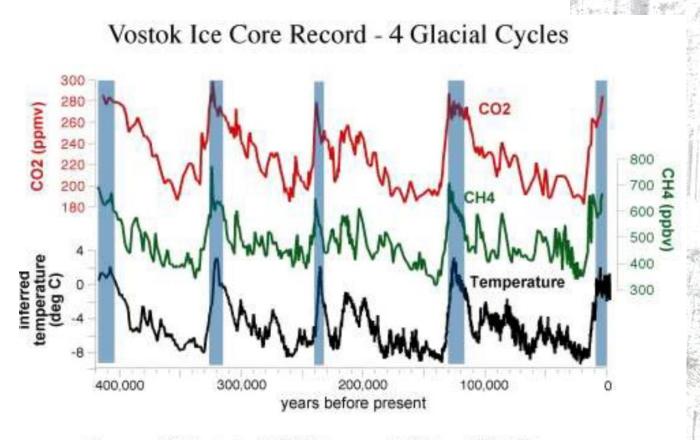
Research Station of Silviculture in Opočno

Czech Republic

Global Climate Change

Temerature; CO2 (CH4) concentration; precipitation; EXTREMES

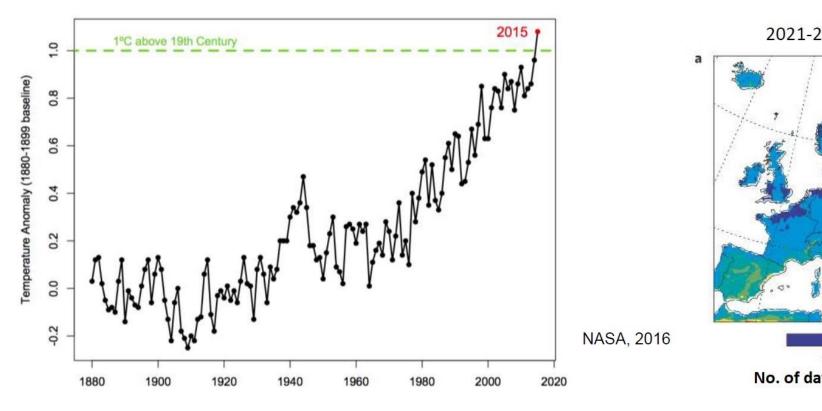


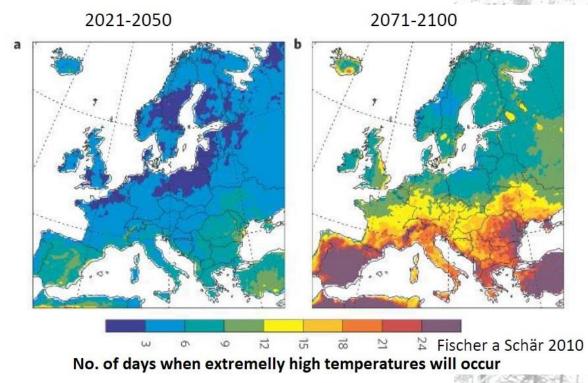


Source: Petit et al., 1999, Nature vol. 399, p. 429-346.

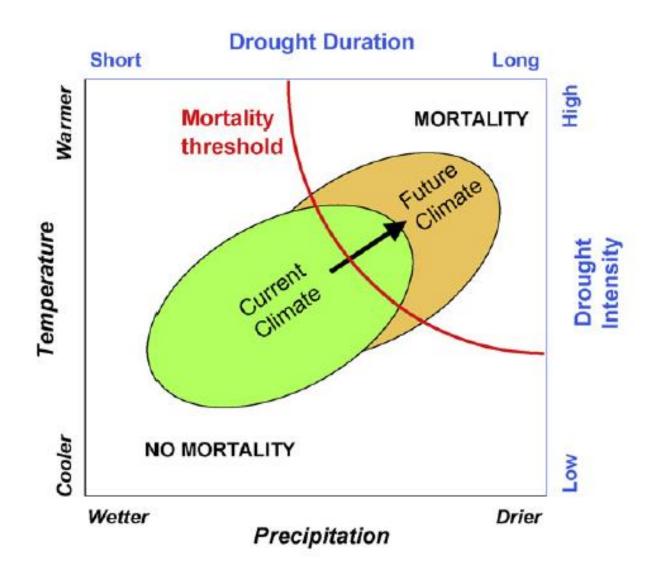
Global Climate Change

Temerature; CO2 (CH4) concentration; precipitation; EXTREMES





GCC - Temperature and distribution of precipitation





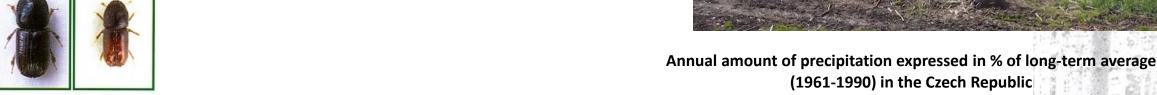
GCC – temperature and distribution of precipitation

- Despite the fact that the total annual amount of precipitation is not changing too much, a distribution of precipitation is changing rapidly. This means:
 - Increase in the extreme events
 - Availability of water during growing season is decreasing
 - Options for vegetation utilizing the water are limited due to extremes

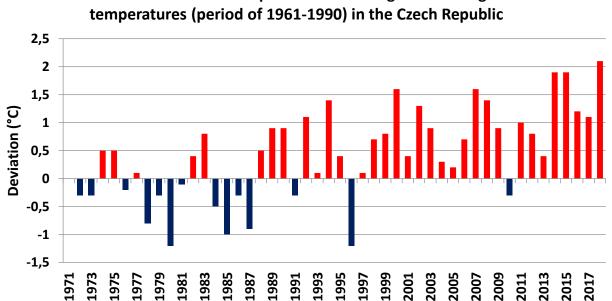


GCC - Temperature and distribution of precipitation

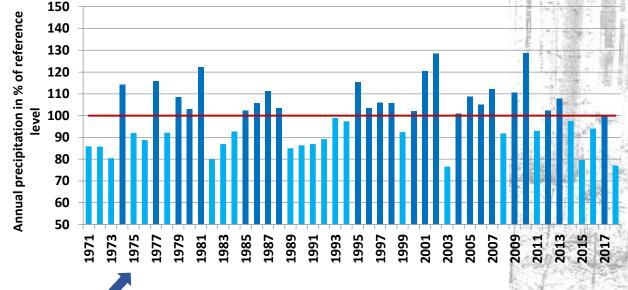




increment of annual temperatures



Deviations of annual temperature from long-term average of



No clear trend of changes at the level of TOTAL ANNUAL amount of precipitation => changes occure at the level of distribution of precipitation within the year

GCC – temperature and distribution of precipitation



Large-scale disturbance by bark beetle

Secondary disturbance agent

(Ips typographus; Ips duplicatus; Pityogenes chalcographus)

- Primary caused by impact of GCC due to serious long-term (at least from 2015) physiological stress in combination with other reasons:
 - tree species composition
 - forest structure
 - forest management systems



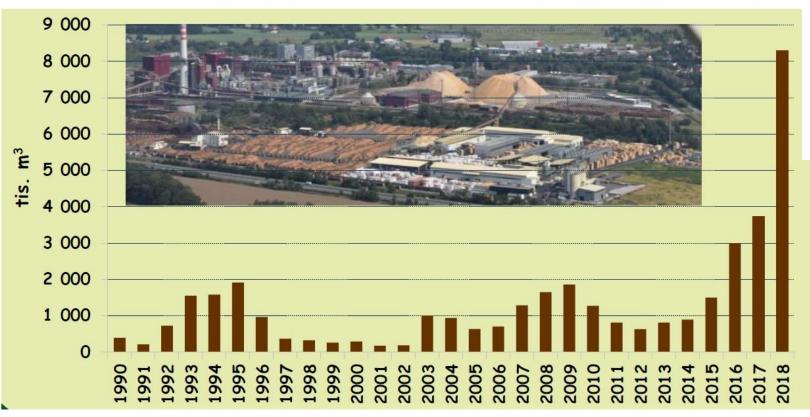
Salvage fellings in 2018 (Czech Rep.)

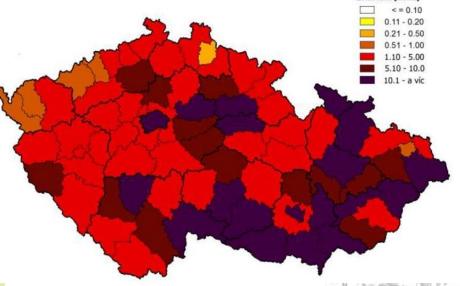


- 14.6 million m3 (2017 12 mil. m3; 2016 9.4 mil. m3)
- Biotics factors 8.4 mil. m3 (2017 4.1 mil. m3; 2016 – 3.6 mil. m3; 2015 – 1.8 mil. m3)
- 95% of biotic damages caused by bark beetles



A volume of salvage felling of Bark beetle wood in the Czech Republic (period of 1990 - 2018)



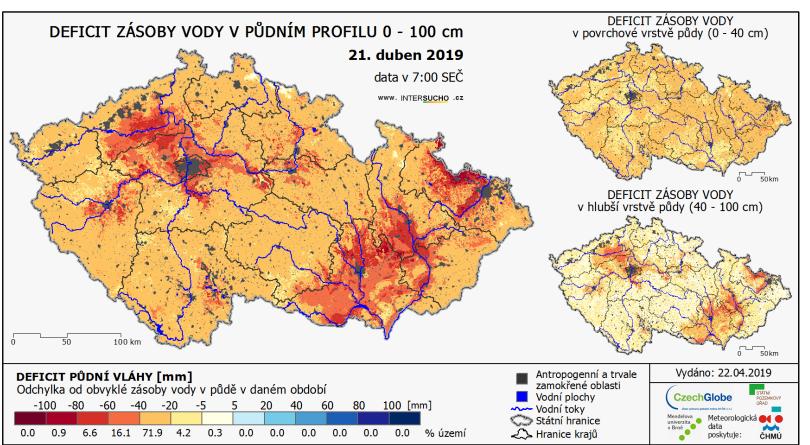


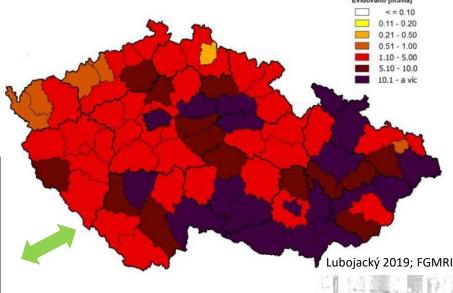




Deficit of soil water: 0 - 100 cm; 0 - 40 cm; 40 - 100 cm; expressed as a difference (mm) of current water supply to long-term water supply (taken on a set date):

21st April 2019; the most often is a lack of 20 - 40 mm (71.9% of area)





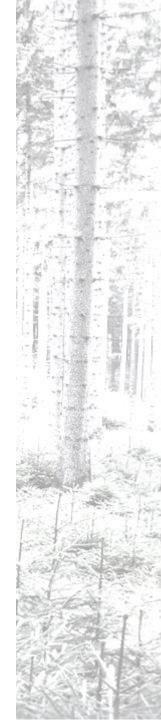




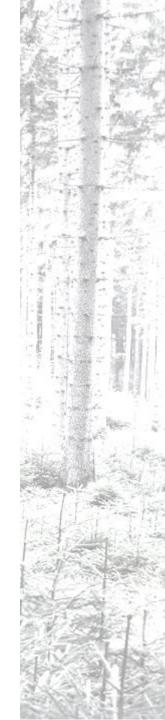




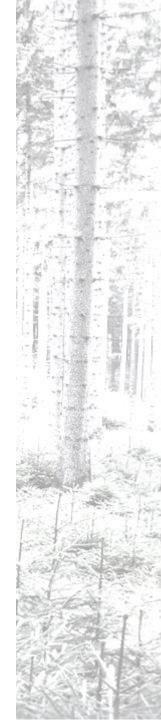












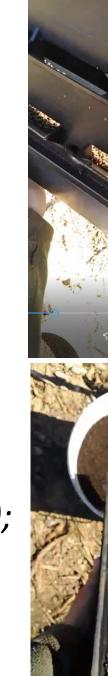


2019 Perspective (pictures from video)...

Video from 20th April 2019;

(showing situation in a pheromone trap);

current situation in the Czech Republic...











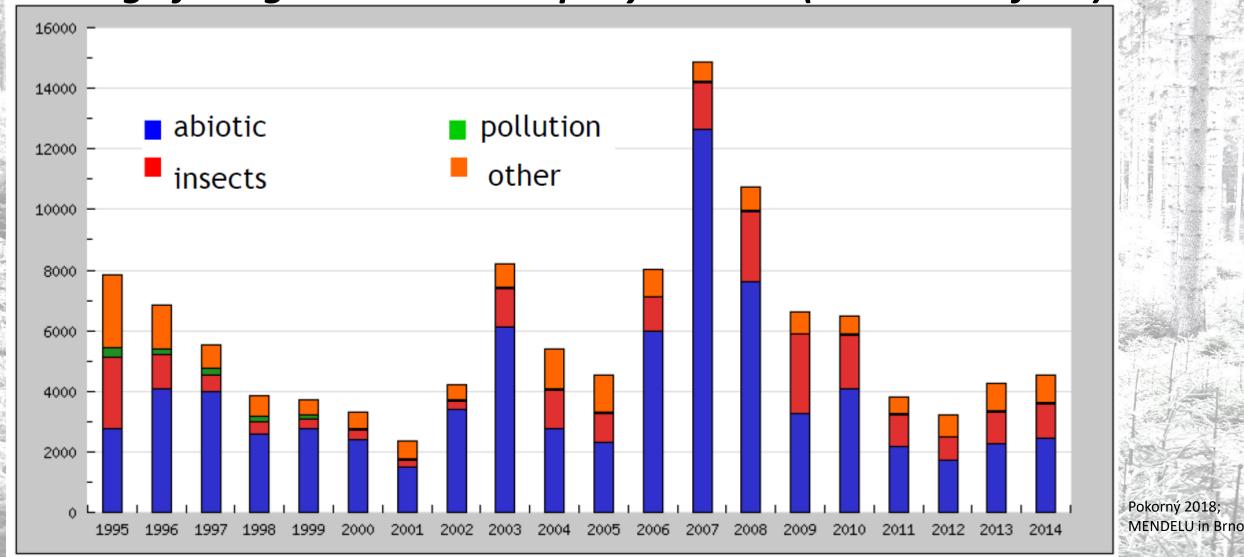
Norway spruce:

- Within all of Europe there are 6 7 mil. ha of secondary pure
 Norway spruce monocultures outside of its origin territory (Teuffel et al. in Spiecker et al. 2004)
- In the Czech Republic N. spruce represents **51.4**% of total forest cover while within natural forest its share was approx. **11.2**%

- Before a bark beetle disaster windfalls often occurred:

Before bark beetle disaster windfalls (and other abiotic agents) often occurred as the main disturbance agent:

Salvage felling in the Czech Rep. by reasons (thousand of m3)



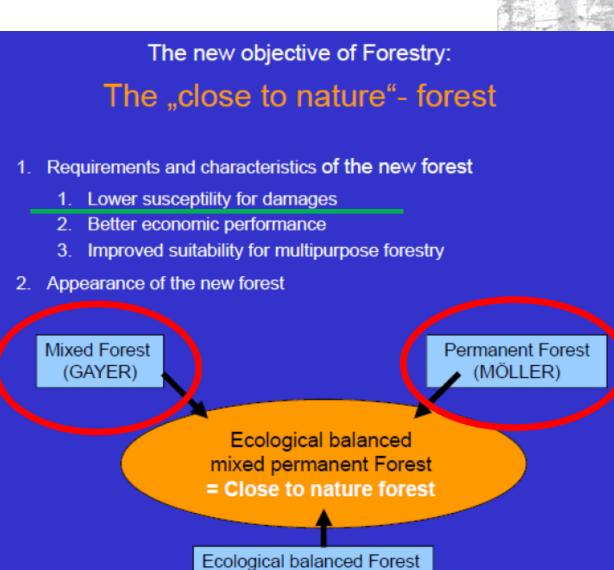


Continuous Cover Forestry (CCF)

- Is it a solution?
- How does adoption of CCF prevent or mitigate described scenarios (i.e. large-scale disturbances of managed forests)?
- Through which entities does it deal with forest threats and outbreaks?

CONVERSION of tree species composition TO MAKE FORETS STANDS STABLE



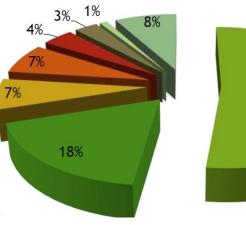


(THOMASIUS)

Tree species composition – Necessity for CONVERSION

Current tree species composition of the Czech forests







Current

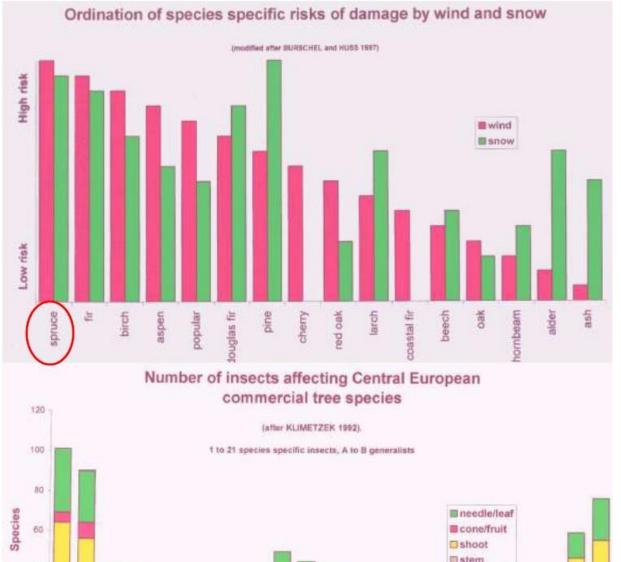
vs. recommended (mid-term target)

vs. natural

Natural and current composition of tree species, % of forest land area

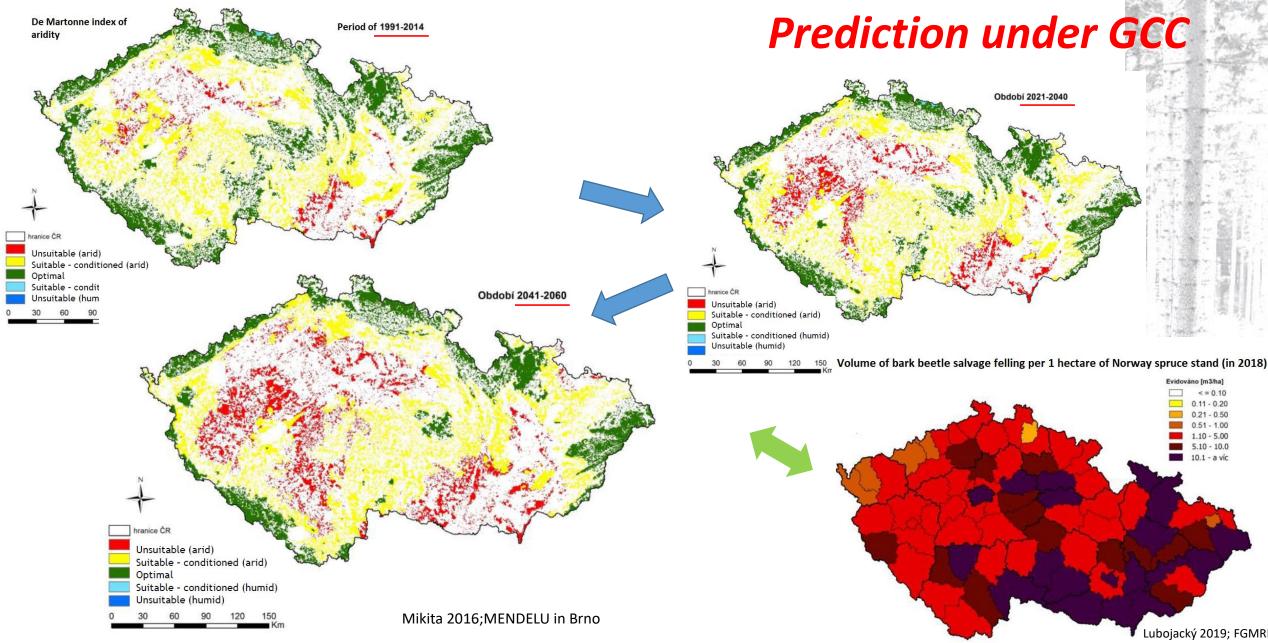
| Skladba lesů Composition | smrk spruce | jedle fir | borovice pine | modřín larch | ostatní jehličnaté other conifers. | Sa jehličnaté total conifers | dub oak | buk beech | habr hornbeam |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| přirozená natural | 11,2 | 19,8 | 3,4 | 0,0 | 0,3 | 34,7 | 19,4 | 40,2 | 1,6 |
| současná current | 51,4 | 1,0 | 16,7 | 3,9 | 0,3 | 73,2 | 7,0 | 7,7 | 1,3 |
| doporučená recommended | 36,5 | 4,4 | 16,8 | 4,5 | 2,2 | 64,4 | 9,0 | 18,0 | 0.9 |
| | jasan ash | javor maple | jilm elm | bříza birch | lípa linden | olše alder | ostatní listnaté other broadleaves | Sa listnaté broadleaves total | holina unstocked area |
| přirozená natural | 0,6 | 0,7 | 0,3 | 0,8 | 0,8 | 0,6 | 0,3 | 65,3 | 0,0 |
| současná current | 1,4 | 1,3 | 0,0 | 2,7 | 1,1 | 1,6 | 1,6 | 25,6 | 1,2 |
| doporučená recommended | 0,7 | 1,5 | 0,3 | 0,8 | 3,2 | 0,6 | 0,6 | 35,6 | 0,0 |

Pramen: ÚHÚL Source: FMI



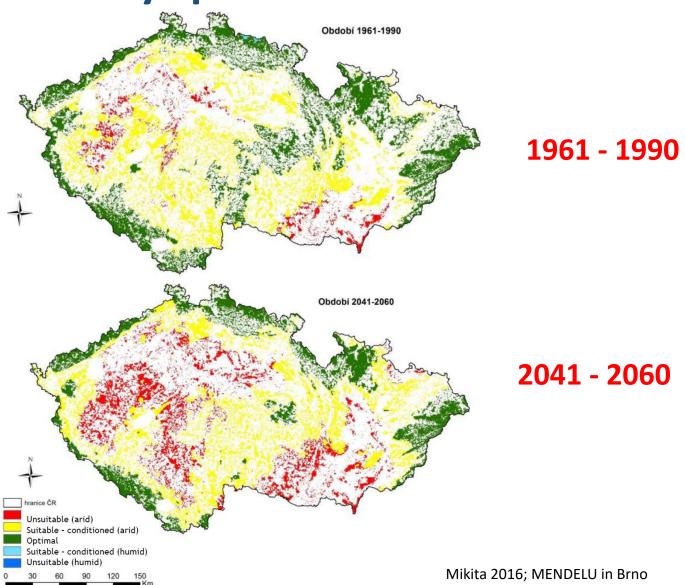
Tree species composition Vulnerability of tree species to both biotic and abiotic agents

Tree species composition:

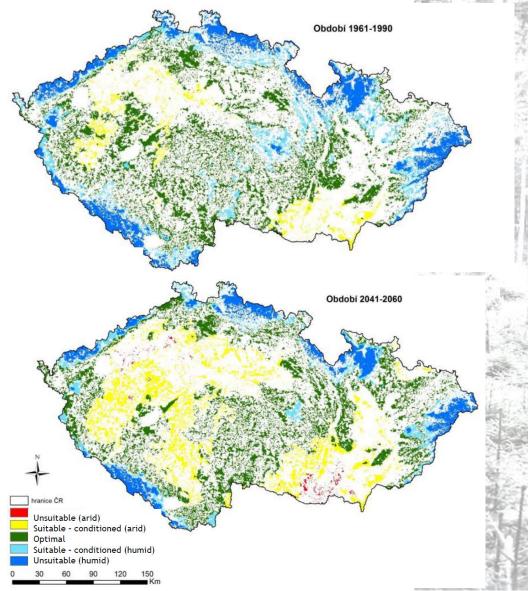


Norway spruce

Tree species composition Norway spruce

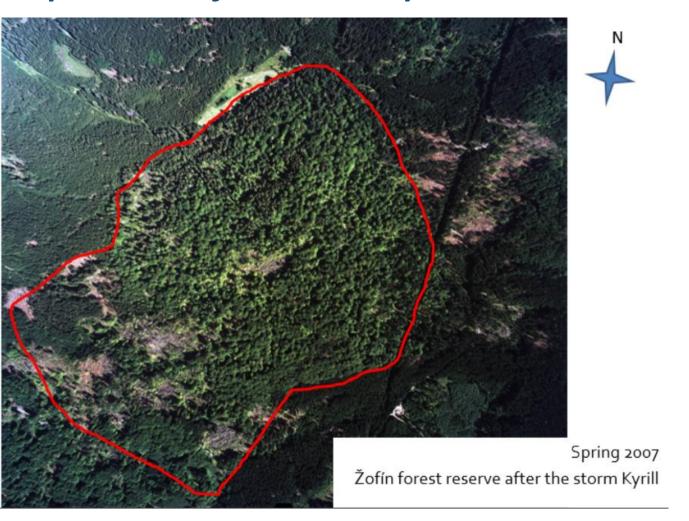


Prediction under GCCSessile Oak



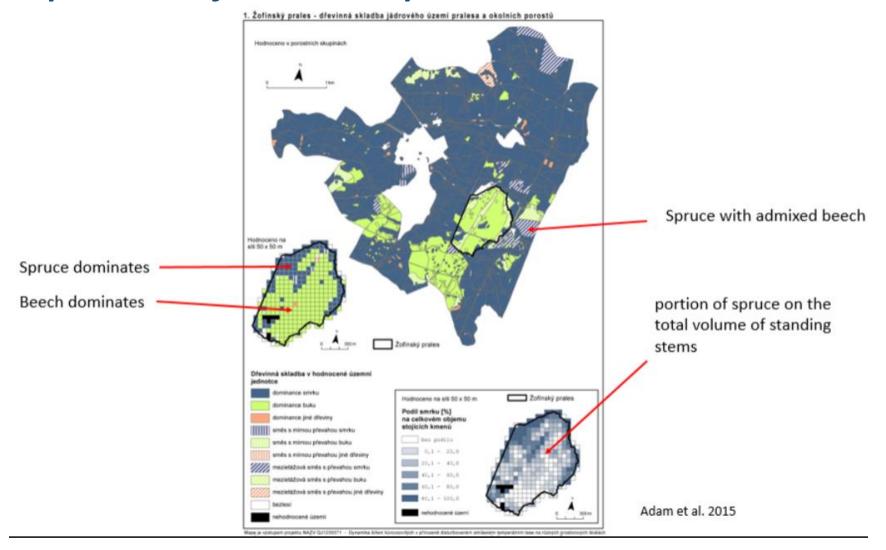
Tree species composition

Importance of mixture to prevent bark beetle outbreaks

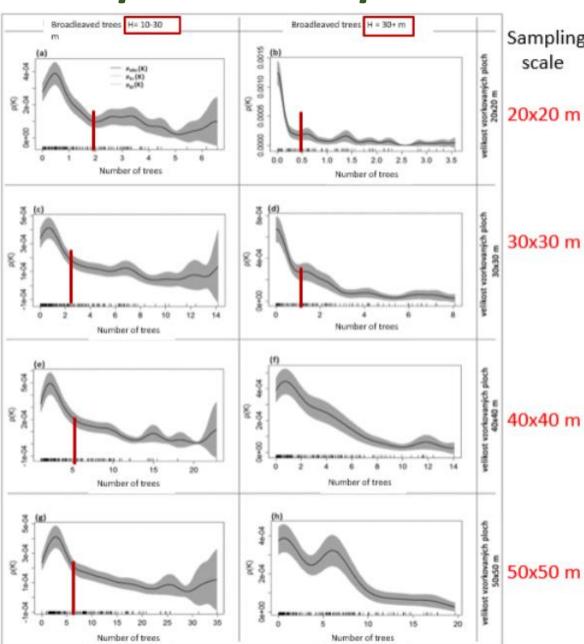


Tree species composition

Importance of mixture to prevent bark beetle outbreaks



Tree species composition: Importance of mixture to prevent bark beetle outbreaks



Sampling scale

20x20 m

30x30 m

1) DEPENDENCY OF SPRUCES INFESTED BY BARK-BEETLES TO THE NUMBER OF DECIDUOUS TREES

All scales of sampling to 1ha:

- 32-36 deciduous trees
- with well-developed crown and the height =10-30 m
- spatially randomly distributed (no clustered)

can significantly reduce the density of infested spruces

importance of mixture

Only the partial effect of deciduous trees higher than 30 m.

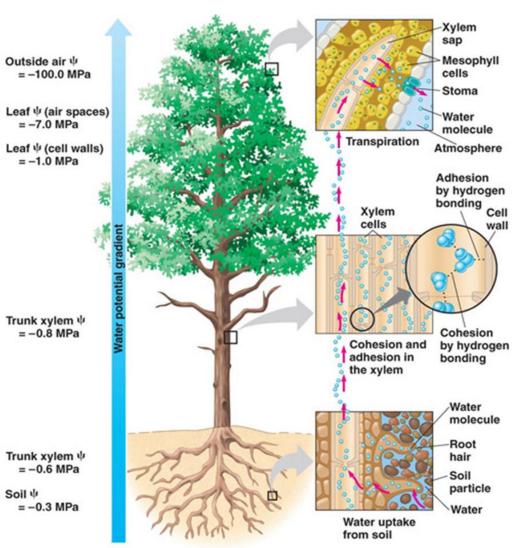
Silviculture outputs:

- key point the presence of shade-tolerant deciduous trees
- systematical support of intermediate broadleaved trees
- single mixture of broadleaved and coniferous trees

importance of structure

Vrška et al. 2015

Water in the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum



Water balance of trees

Water movement from leaves to the atmosphere

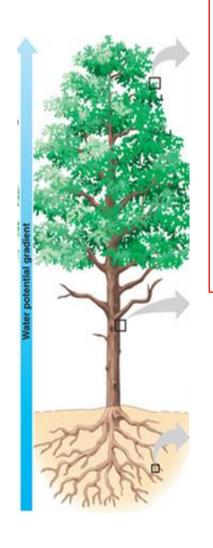
Water transport through the xylem

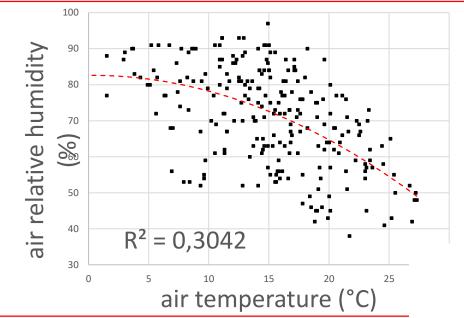
Water absorption by roots

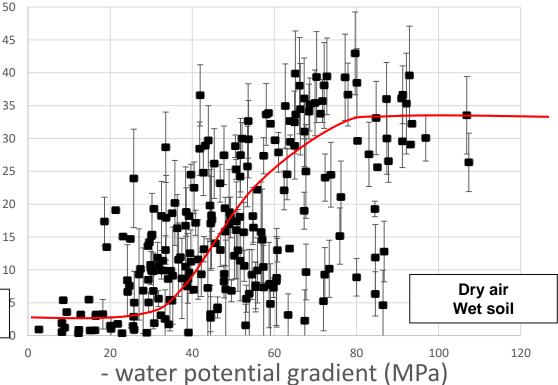
sap flow (kg.day-1

Wet air

Dry/wet soil







General mechanism and driving forces of water regime in trees, when an extreme position of the regime is a drought stress

Mechanisms and driving forces operating on water transport (a) within the tree and (b) between the tree and its environment = water potential gradient

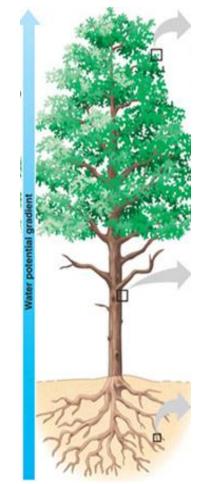
The main factors are

- (a) air temperature and relative humidity,
- (b) wind speed,
- (c) soil moisture



Within the same conditions there are huge differences between tree species and even between different growth stages of the same tree species

| | Transpiration | Soil WP | Air WP |
|----------------|---------------|---------|--------|
| Pine, mature | low | dry | dry |
| Spruce, mature | high | dry | dry |
| Spruce, young | low | dry | dry |



- ... tree adaptation to the environment ...
- 1. Transpiration is very sensitive to environmental conditions.
- 2. Soil moisture key importance (Point of Reduced Availability Soil Water Potential = 0.5 MPa).
- 3. If SWP **bellow 0.5** MPa, than actual transpiration is very limited

clear cuts = decrease of air humidity:

as different they are as high stress acts

4. Air humidity determines the potential transpiration while

soil moisture regulates the actual transpiration

- **5. N. spruce** is highly predisposed for **drought sensitivity** (compared to e.g. Scotts pine) it is due to different requirements of species for the soil water content (+ ontogenetic development).
- 6. To increase the resistence of N. spruce to drought = to reduce its transpiration = growing in mixtures

Proposal of adaptation treatment to mitigate the impact of drought stress in conifers ...

- 1. Prevailing wind direction and speed, relative air humidity and soil moisture:
 - the most important microclimatic conditions
- necessity to avoid clear cuts!
- 1. The circulation of dry air increases the transpiration more than the air temperature.
- 2. <u>To mitigate long-term drought stress:</u>

to support trees with treatments (silviculture interventions) leading to increasing humidity in the crown layer

- The crucial need of 'microclimate care':
 - a) forest structure = key parameter for the forest stand microclimate (to avoid clear fells)
 - **b)** heterogenity of canopy surface = air flow (speed) reduction and/or the reduction of evapotranspiration
 - c) tree dimensions' and tree species modification = different vulnerability for drought stress both for different tree species and different sizes (ontogenetic stages)

Horáček et al. 2018; CzechGlobe

The importance of tree species mixture - Hydraulic lift

results from analyses of 22 dry periods

| Young N. spruce | . spruce stand | Young E. beech stand | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Standard deviation | coemicient | Average (%) | Standard deviation | Variation coefficient (%) | |
| 3,1 | 3,1 24 | 17,1 | 4,6 | 27 | |
| 3,1 | 3,1 17 | 15,8 | 3,6 | 23 | |
| 1,3 | 1,3 6 | 16,3 | 2,1 | 13 | |
| | 1 | 1,3 6 | 1,3 6 16,3 | 1,3 6 16,3 2,1 | |

Modelling process:

30% admixture of European beech into the **Norway spruce stand** increased volume soil moisture (VSM) of the upper soil layer (0–10 cm) in dry periods above the range of **Decrease Availability of soil water for plants** (4–11% of VSM):

i.e. mitigation of drought stress for N. spruce through admixture of E. beech



The new objective of Forestry: The "close to nature"- forest

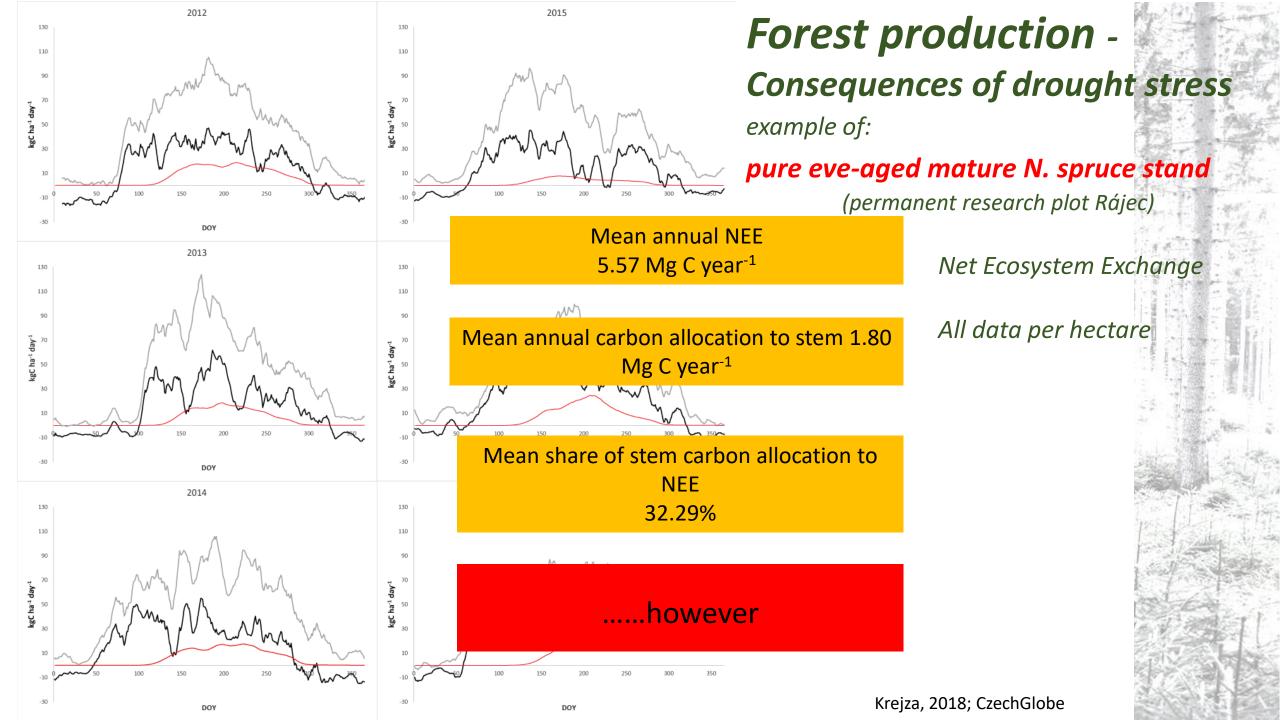
- 1. Requirements and characteristics of the new forest
- Lower susceptility for damages
 - 2. Better economic performance
 - 3. Improved suitability for multipurpose forestry
- 2. Appearance of the new forest

Mixed Forest (GAYER) Permanent Forest

(MÖLLER)

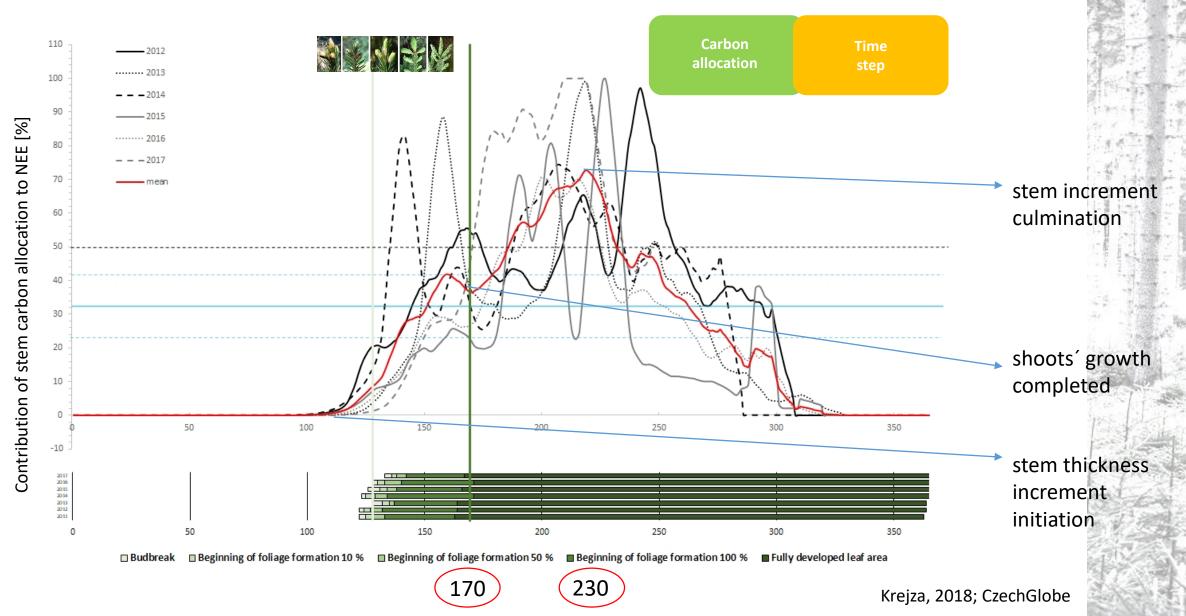
Ecological balanced mixed permanent Forest = Close to nature forest

Ecological balanced Forest (THOMASIUS)

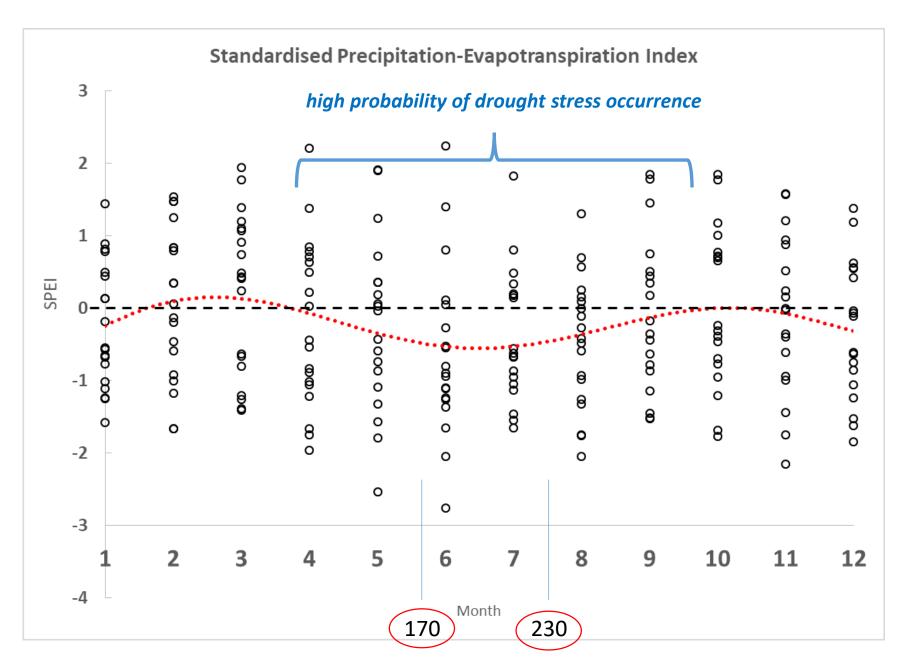


Forest production - Consequences of drought stress

Permanent research plot Rájec



Forest production - Consequences of drought stress

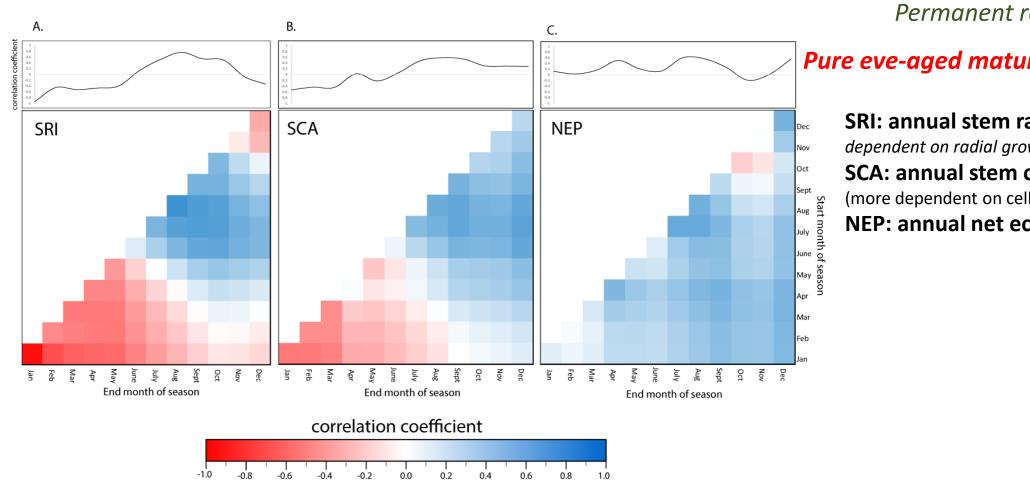


Permanent research plot Rájec

Pure eve-aged mature

N. spruce stand

Forest production - Consequences of drought stress



Permanent research plot Rájec

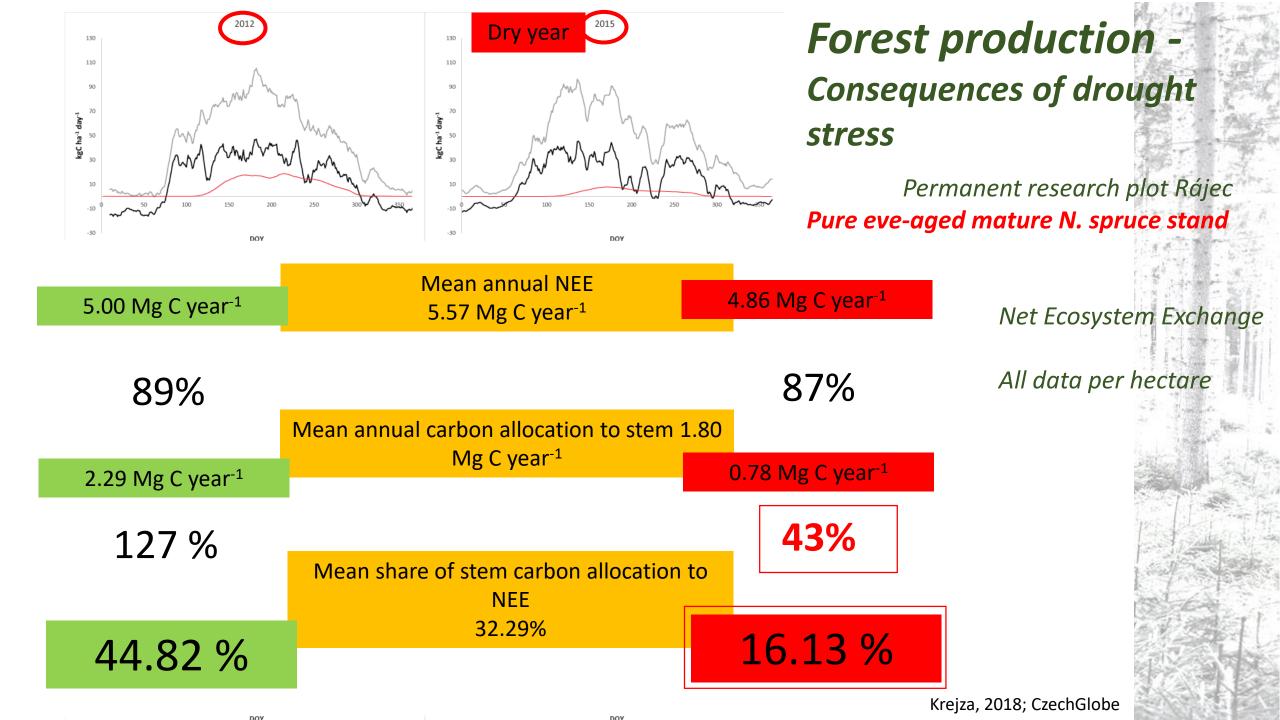
Pure eve-aged mature N. spruce stand

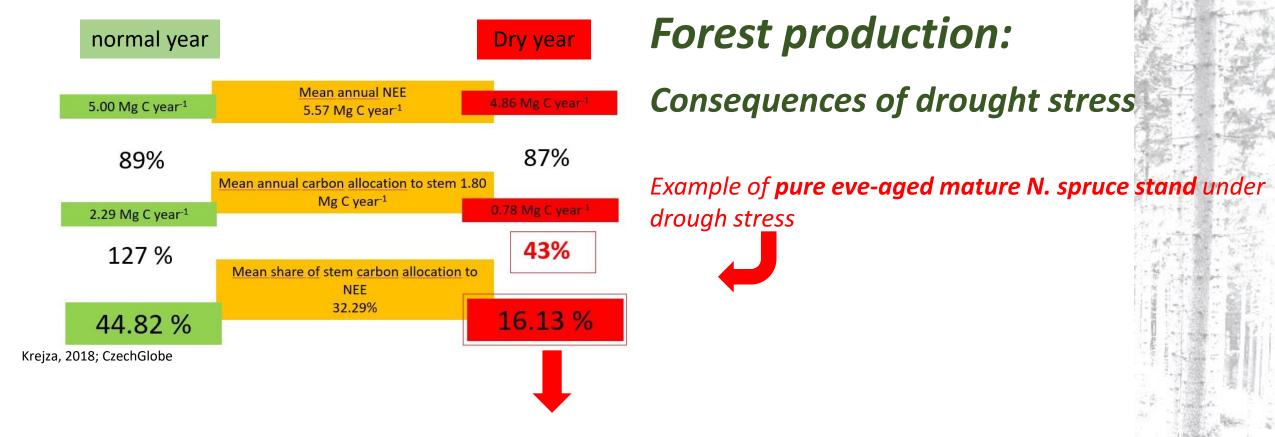
SRI: annual stem radial increment (more dependent on radial growth of cells)

SCA: annual stem carbon allocation (more dependent on cells' walls thickening)

NEP: annual net ecosystem production

Correlation coefficient of linear regression between the (SPEI) Standardized Precipitation and Evaporation Index (from monthly (1st diagonal) to annual scale (the last value in right bottom)) and (A.) annual stem radial increment (SRI), (B.) annual stem carbon allocation (SCA) and (C.) annual net ecosystem production (NEP).





DROUGHT STRESS:

NOT ONLY AN ISSUE OF VITALITY AND SURVIVAL, BUT ALSO AN ISSUE OF THE FOREST PRODUCTION AND OF AN ABILITY TO FULLFIL ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (LIKE CARBON STORAGE IN FORESTS).

Forest tree species composition, forest structure and all particular silvicultural measures (interventions) have to lead to minimize drought stress also for reasons of higher forest production and better fulfilling of ecosystem services.

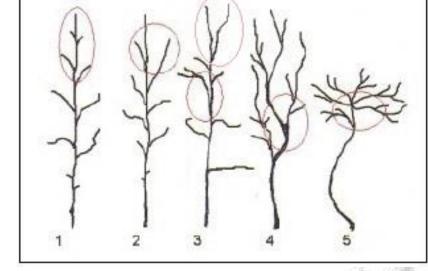
A. Positive effect of overstorey on growth, stability and quality development of understorey

\sum 6121 individuals at the age of 5 - 20 years

- height
- DBH
- quality
- HDR ratio
- RHG
- RRG
- hemispherical photos

in total: 37 research plots

plus other issues



| \times | | yars after planting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| | | 20 | 19 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| ID of research plot | C | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 33 | | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| | | - | 34 | 34 | 34 | | 36 | 36 | 36 | | | | | 25 | 25 | 25 | |
| | SCI | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | | 34 | 34 | 34 | | | | 8 0 | 16 | 16 | 16 | |
| | | | 35 | 35 | 35 | | 37 | 37 | 37 | | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 23 | 23 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 4 4 | | 18 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| | 1 1/1 | | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 21 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 | - | 19 | 19 | 19 | |
| | | | 0 1 | | | | | 13 | 13 | 13 | | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | |
| | G | | 1 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | | | ř., ř | 22 | 22 | 22 | | | |
| | | | | | | | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | 32 | | | 15 | 15 | 15 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 24 | 24 | 24 | 24 | | |
| | SW-C | 7x | 7x | 7x | 7x | | | | | | 422 | 4zz | 4xz | | | 2x | 2x |
| | | | 6x | 6x | 6x | | | 322 | 3xz | 3xz | | | 26x | 26x | 26x | 26x | |
| | | | | | 8x | 8x | 8x | | | 27x | 27x | 27x | 27x | | | | |
| | | | Ú. | | 9x | 9x | 9x | 9x | | | 28x | 28x | 28x | 28x | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | | 11x | 11x | 11x | | 122 | 122 | 1xz | | | | |
| | | | | | | 12x | 12x | 12x | 12x | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 10x | 10x | 10x | 10x | | | | | | | | |

A. Positive effect of overstorey on growth, stability and quality development of understorey

CCF

Observed and compared regeneration fellings:

•shelter-wood cut

•gap cut (0.05 - 0.12 ha)

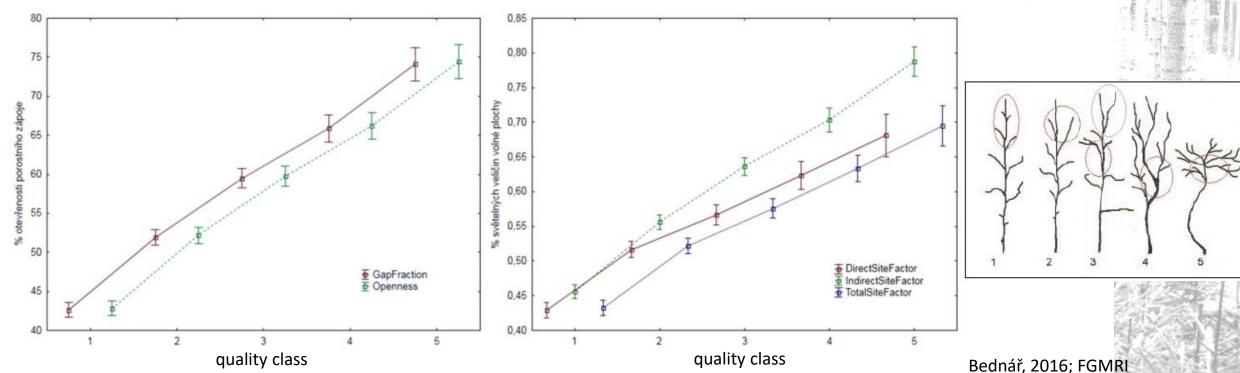
•small clering (0.25 – 0.33 ha)

•large clearing (0.5 ha +)

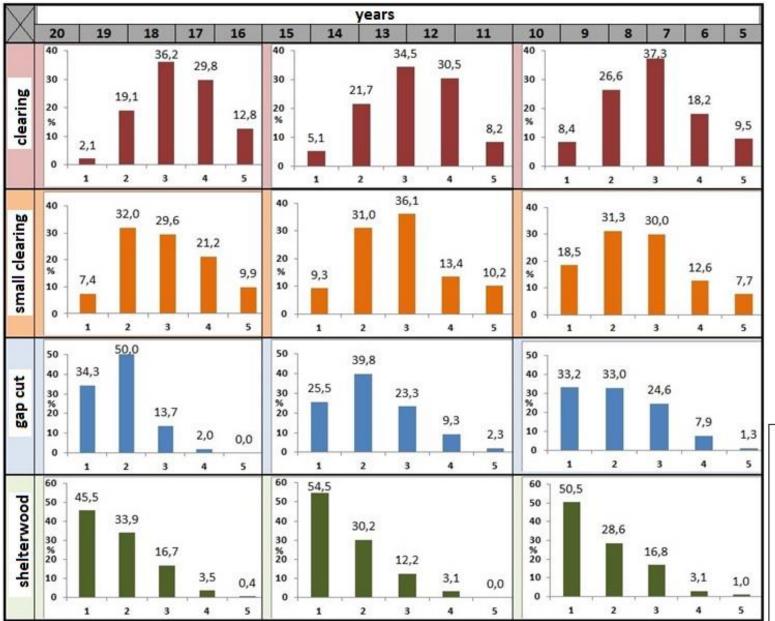




• SIGNIFICAN INFLUENCE OF LIGHT CONDITIONS ON MORPHOLOGICAL QUALITY OF E. BEECH (DECIDUOUS T.S.)

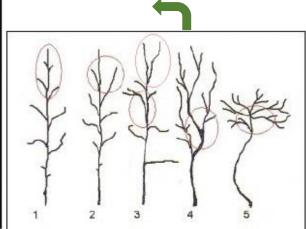


A. Positive effect of overstorey on growth, stability and quality development of understorey



Share (%) of particular quality classes within different regeneration fellings and within different periods after planting

- All stands were established by the same density of samplings:
 thousand/hectare (spacing 1 m x 1 m)
- Quality class 1 and 2 give preconditions of future high quality development



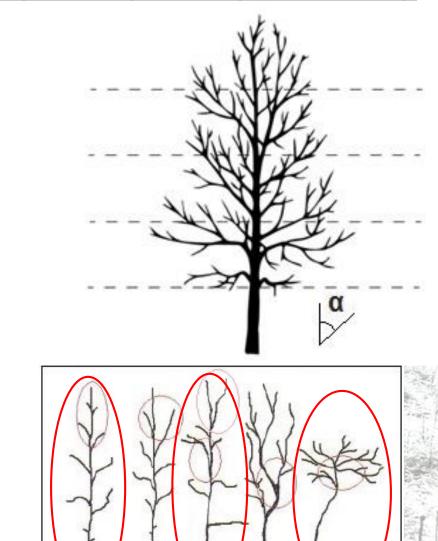
Bednář, 2016; FGMRI

A. Positive effect of overstorey on growth, stability and quality development of understorey

Destructions

- 96 juveniles harvested
- at the age of **10** and **15** years

- Selection: 1/3 + 1/3 + 1/3 8 - top q. 8 - average q. 8 - low q.



A. Positive effect of overstorey on growth, stability and quality development of understorey

No signifficant differences about Branch-Stem-Ratio

Signifficant differences within branch zenith angle

| | Branch zenith angle [°] μ±σ | signifikance | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---|--|
| gap cut | 68,2 ± 12,5 | | А | |
| shelterwood | 59,1 ± 9,6 | | В | |
| small clearing | 46,1 ± 15,7 | | С | |
| clearing | 45,2 ± 14,5 | - | С | |

| | Branch zenith angle [°] μ±σ | signifikance |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| shelterwood | 65,2 ± 10,1 | А |
| gap cut | 62,9 ± 11,7 | А |
| small clearing | 54,9 ± 9,8 | В |
| clearing | 41,4 ± 15,3 | В |

i.e.within both clearings there is higher probability of quality decrease (even when particular individual is currently exhibiting sufficient quality)

B. Positive effect of overstorey on growth, stability and quality development of understorey

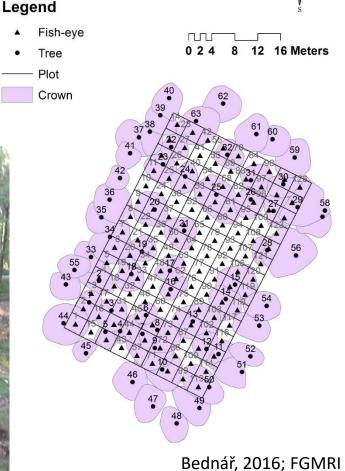
Photomorphological plasticity of N. spruce natural regeneration and its growth

- 3 reseach plots
- 166 sub-plots; 1263 juveniles measured (height range: 10 431 cm)
- measured: 7 morphological parametres + density









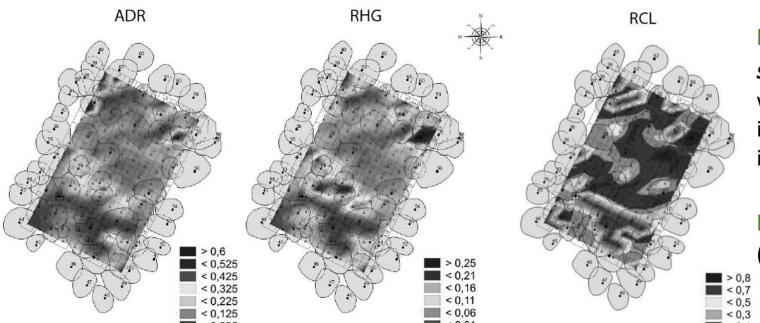
B. Positive effect of overstorey on growth, stability and quality development of understorey

Photomorphological plasticity of Norway spruce natural regeneration and its growth dynamic

There were proved **huge predispositions for photomorphological plasticity** (the levels of height growth; lateral crowth and live crown length - **RHG, ADR, RCL**)



can be effectivelly used for forest structure initiation and encouragement



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT OF HDR - under

shelter HDR is lower (height growth suppresed while D is not correlating with light conditions when in open area height growth is intensive while D increment does not correlate with light)

NO NEGATIVE EFFECT OF SHELTER ON DENSITY

(density does not correlate with light conditions)

C. Positive effect of shelter-wood cut on forest production and stability of mature N. spruce overstorey

DENDROCHRONOLOGICAL ANALYSES

- 3 vertical levels
- different cardinal points (N x S x W x E)

In total 480 core dendrochronological samples from 80 trees

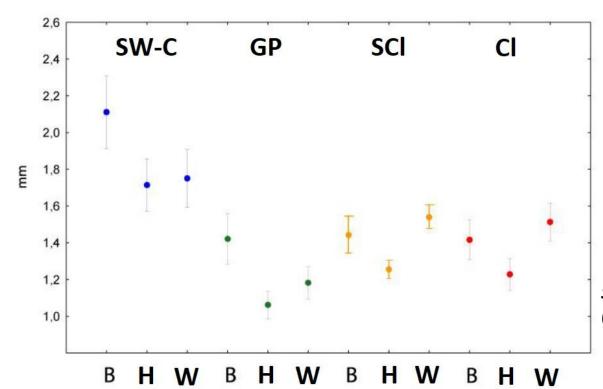




C. Positive effect of shelter-wood cut on forest production and <u>stability</u> of mature N. spruce overstorey

Within shelter-wood cut and around gap cut: allocation of increment onto basal part of stem (making convergent shape of stem)

Around small clearing and clearing: increment into higher parts of stem - first live whorl (making cylindric shape of stem)



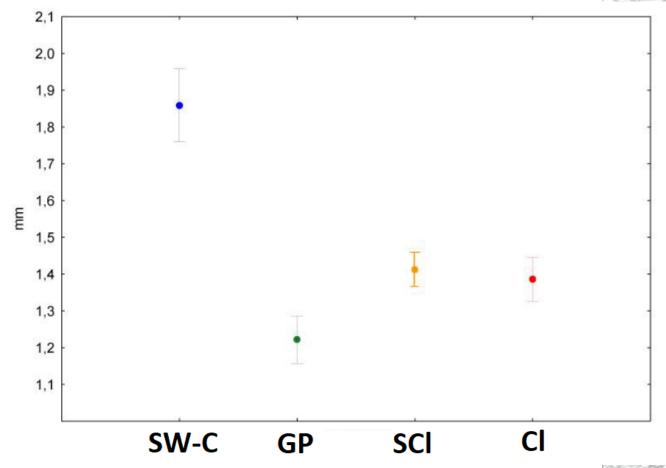


Changes within position of centre of gravity = changes of mechanical stability/lability

SW-C: shelter-wood cut; **GP:** gap cut; **SCI:** small clearing; **CI:** clearing; **B:** base (DBH); **H:** half of stem; **W:** first live whorl (live crown base)

C. Positive effect of shelter-wood cut on <u>forest production</u> and stability of mature N. spruce overstorey

- The highest increment (tree ring width) was significantly proved wihin shelterwood cut
- In adition, when increment of value would be considerent, an advantage of shelter-wood cut would be even bigger (due to allocation into basal part of a stem)
- Within shelter-wood cut and around gap cut the stability was improved also due to allocation on the side of the stem according to prevailing direction of wind (non-presendted data)



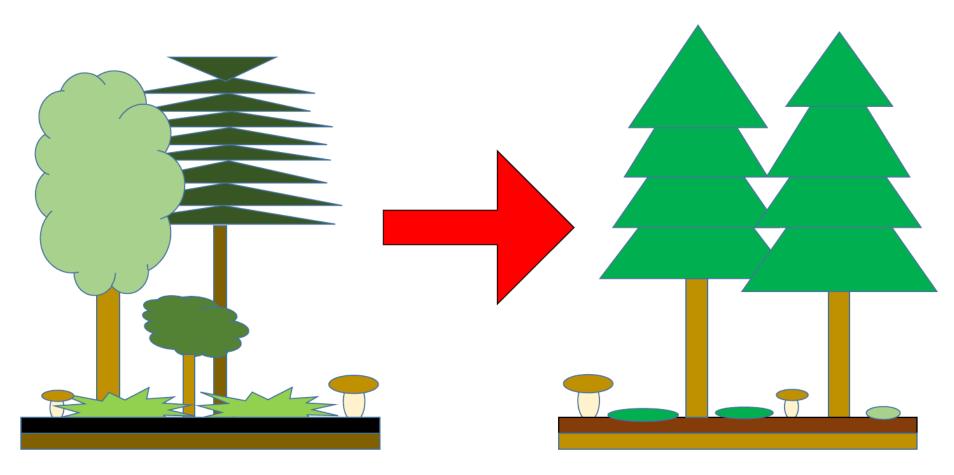
SW-C: shelter-wood cut; GP: gap cut; SCI: small clearing; CI: clearing





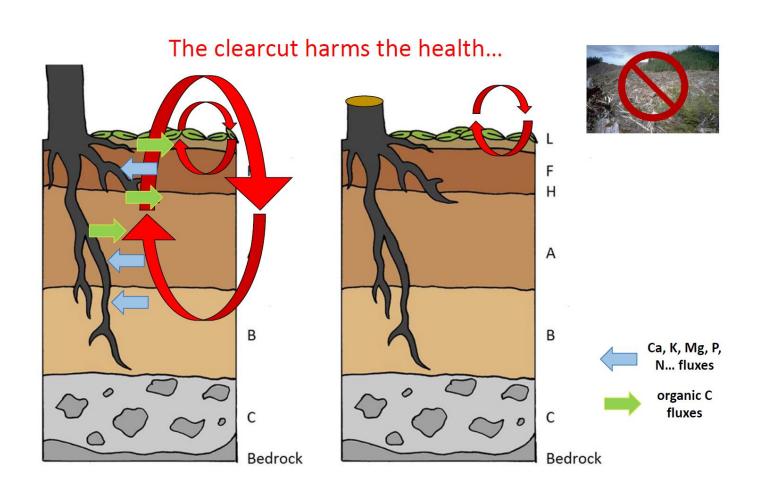
Changes in soil chemistry and humus accumulation,

Slow <u>acidification</u> of stands on sites previously occupied by mixed forests

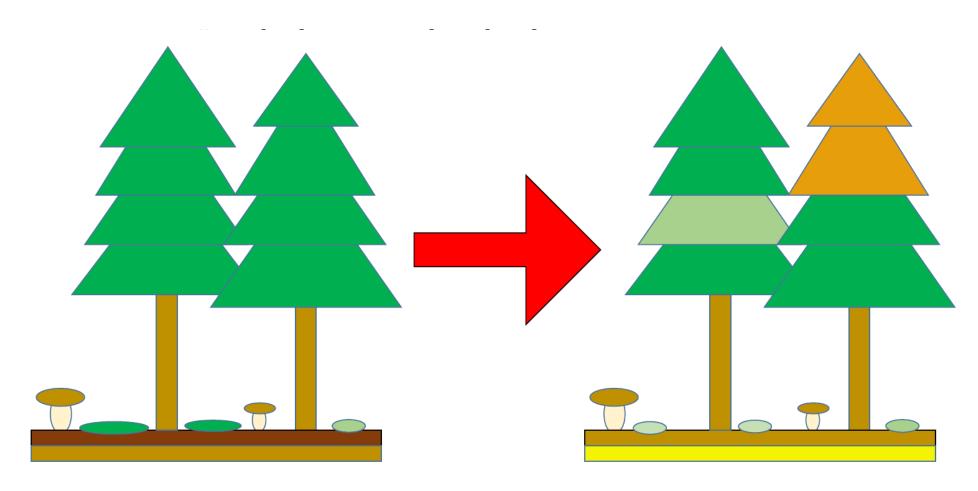


Basic ions are migrating deeper into soil or out from the ecosystem; mycorrhiza is replaced by

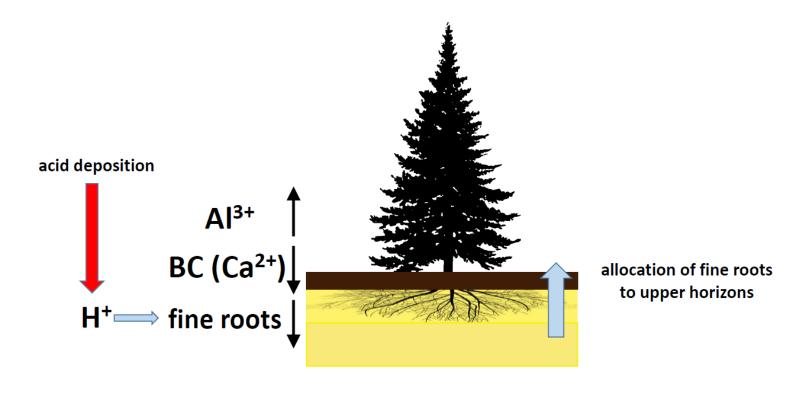
saprophytic species; loss of litterfall after clearcuts



Deep chronic changes in soils: the <u>loss of base ions</u>, mobilization/releasing (from complexes) of free <u>Al3+ damaging fine roots</u> (acts toxically), <u>suppression of microbial activity</u> =**soil is increasingly poorer in terms of nutrients**

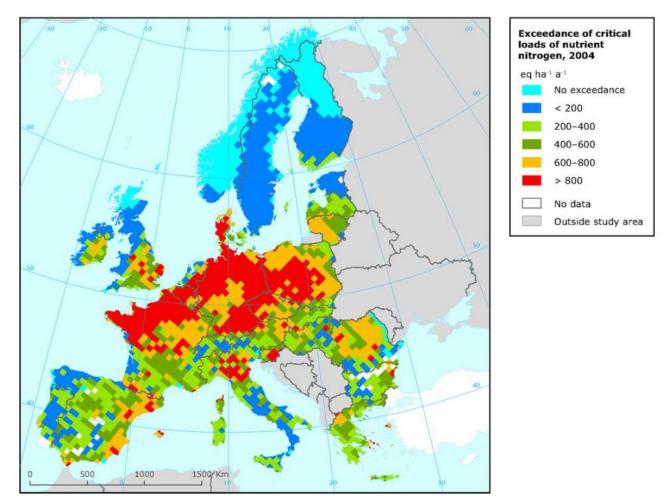


Sensitivity to drougth stress is incresing (accumulation of fine roots in upper soil horizonts)



In aditions, there will be further problems, mainly N deposition.

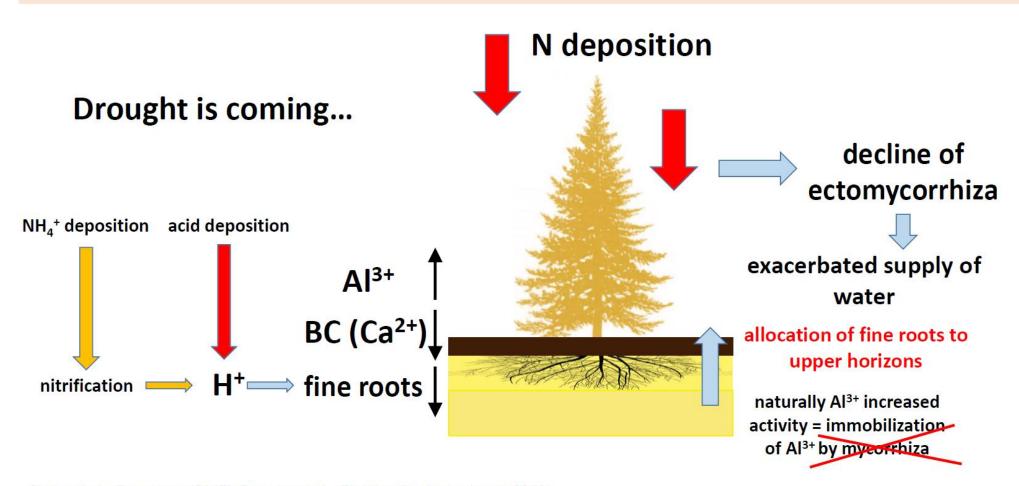
Exceedance of critical loads...



Rotter 2018; Silva Taroucy - VUKOZ

European Environment Agency

Synergisms between deterioration of soil and climate change



Carter et al., Ecosphere (2017); Brunner et al., Frontiers in plant science (2013)

Mixed tree species composition can help also here

Mycorrhiza differs in its sensitivity to nitrogen deposition

arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AM) + rapid litter decomposition



maple, elm, ash, cherry-tree, rowan low sensitivity to N deposition

both of AM and EM + mediate litter decomposition



linden, poplar

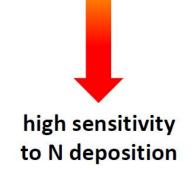
beech, oak, hornbeam, birch

fir, spruce

pine

ectomycorrhizal fungi (EM) + slow litter decomposition

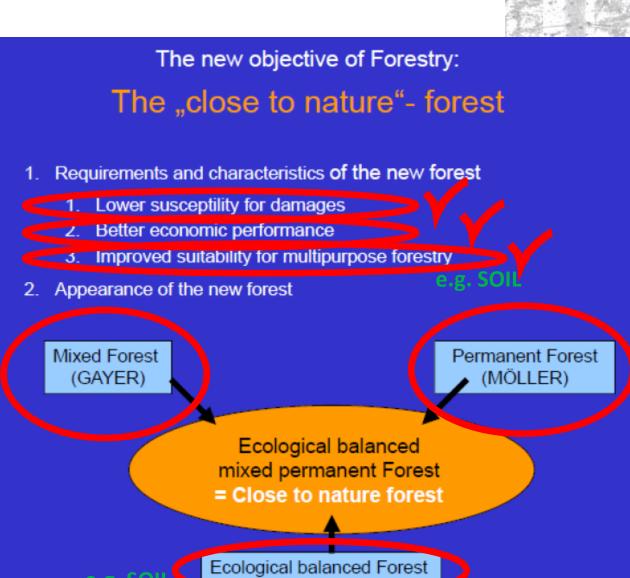




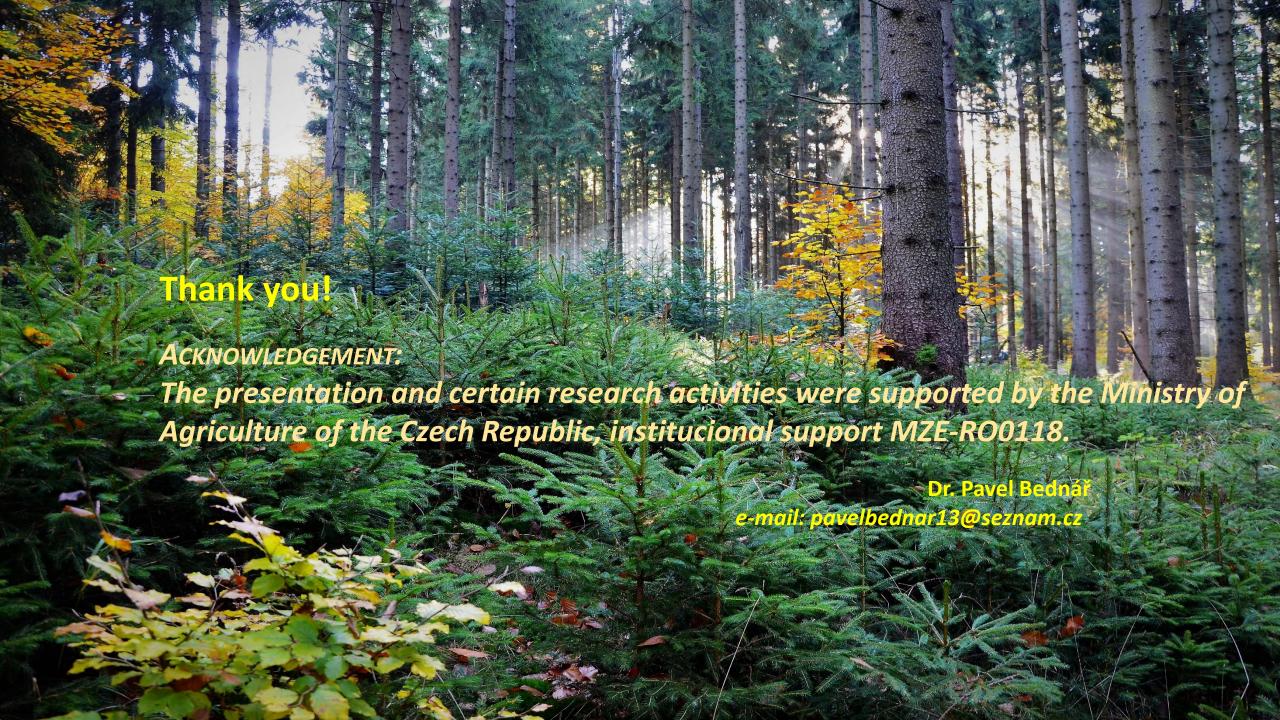
To care about the health of soil... key pre-condition for forest existence under GCC

- <u>To avoid clear-cuts</u> to avoid <u>losses of mycorrhizal network</u> and subsequent <u>loss of nutrients</u>
- <u>To avoid pure coniferous forest stands</u> causing gradual soil <u>acidification</u> and subsequent <u>losses of basic ions</u>
- To use <u>broadleaves</u> especially those with <u>deep rooting systems</u> and appropriate character of litter (e.g. linden, maple etc.)
- To take into account the <u>vulnerability of trees to current nitrogen deposition</u> in Europe: what is useful is an <u>admixture of tree species with arbuscular mycorrhizy</u> to mitigate the effect of N deposition
- To leave the branches etc. after cutting on the site for decomposition





(THOMASIUS)



Czech forestry - Basic description:

Current Czech forestry:

- Forest cover 34% (2,7 million ha)
- Continual increment of the forest cover for last decades
- Within 2016 1500 ha increment of forest area
- Total harvest in 2016: 17,6 million m3 (in 2017: 19 million m3; in 2018: 25,7 million m3)
- 9% increment of harvest in 2016 (2016 third highest total harvest in history, but total harvest both in 2017 and 2018 exeeded 2016)

Czech forestry - Basic description:

- **79**% of the harvest represented **Norway spruce** in 2016 (vs. Scots pine 8 % and European beech 4 %)
- Wood industry narrowly aimed at mainly conifers wood processing
- State is the biggest forest owner:
 - nearly 60 % of the Czech forests
 - the main State Forest Enterprise = LČR 48%; VLS 5% military areas; Natinal Parks 5%