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Adaptation to climate change in forestry: perspectives on forest ownership in policy implementation

E. Carina H. Keskitalo¹, Anna Lawrence²
& Elias Andersson³

¹ Umeå University, Sweden

² University of Highlands and Islands, Scotland, UK

³ Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

FacesMap
Vienna, Austria

National adaptation policies and strategies

- Areal land use: one sector among many
- Treated on different levels depending on country (examples from EU-27)
 - Federal/national or regional
 - Part of national strategies, or development of forest-specific strategies
 - Often relatively general and in varying stage of development
 - Existing, planned, proposed/potential
 - Not broken down for different forestry stakeholders (public, large private, small private owners)
 - Local actions may be partly independent

(Keskitalo 2011)





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Purpose & aim

- Different groups of forest owners abilities to respond, manage and adapt to climate change
- The distribution of climate related risk in forestry
- How does the contextual factors contribute to produce specific types of adaptation and risk





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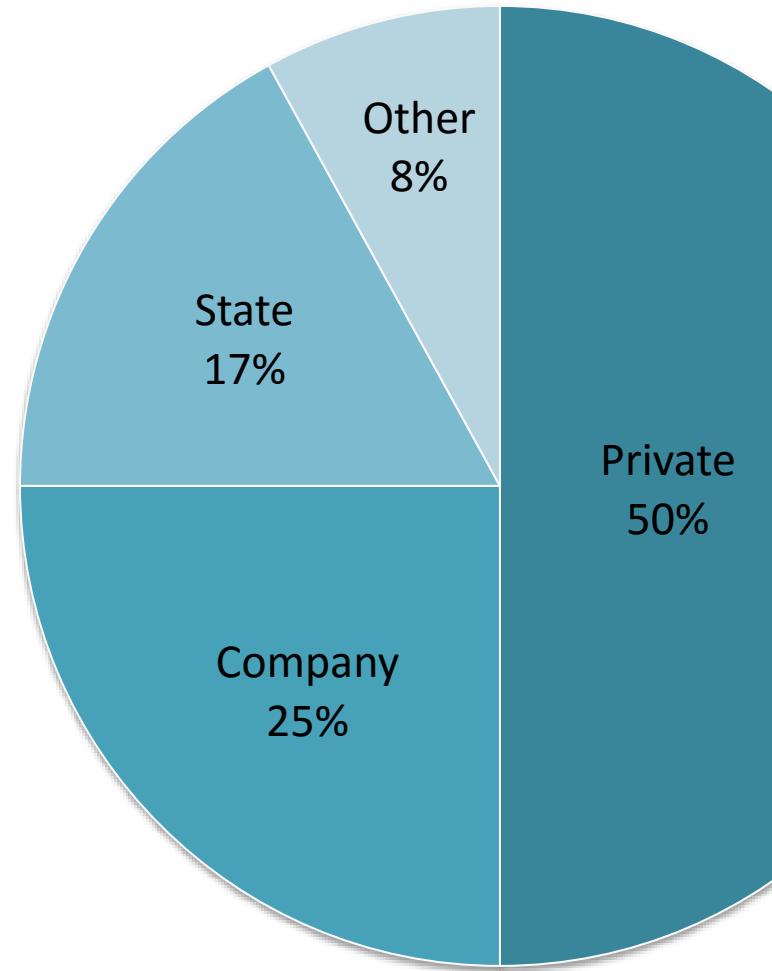
Contextual factors

The study is based on the assumptions of that contextual factors matters, influence and differentiate adaptations in forestry, for example:

- Structure of the industry
- The role of forestry on national, regional and local level
- Constellation of forest owners

Sweden

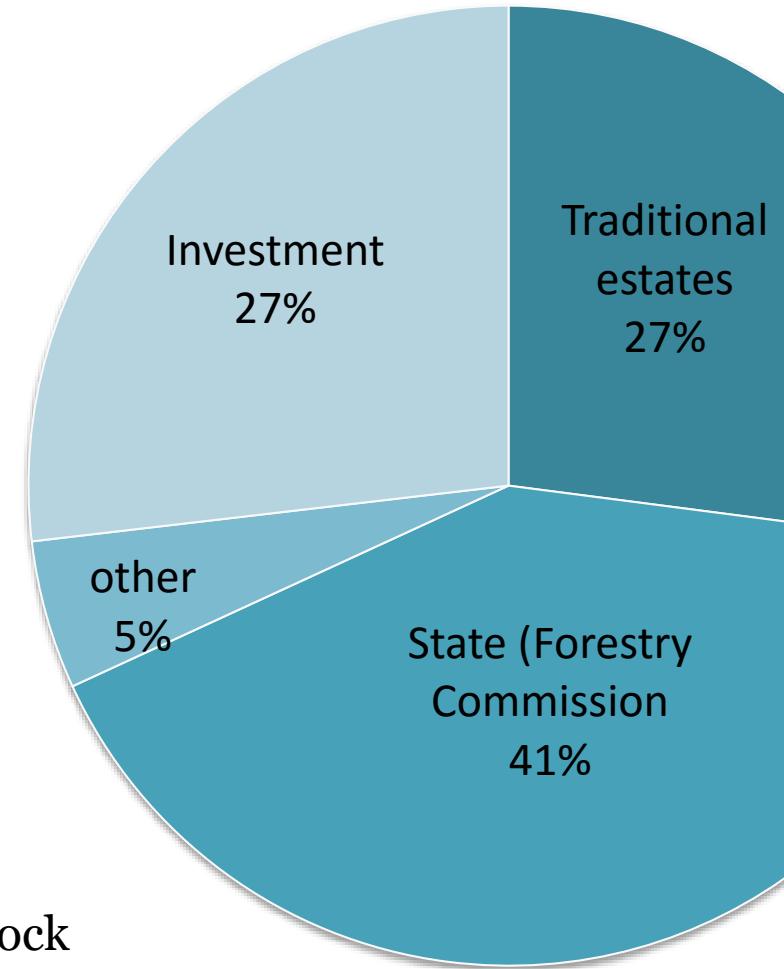
- 60% of total land area is productive forest land
- 42 % Norway spruce, 39 % Scots pine & 12 % birch
- Forestry and forest industry is important for the economy and employment
- Active forest management with clear-felling and restocking
- Forest governance relies on social norms and guidance



Forest ownership

Scotland

- 18% of total land area is forest land (incl. both productive, conservation status, and unmanaged forest)
- 43 % Sitka spruce, 13 % Scots pine & 11 % birch
- Forestry and forest industry is only moderately important for the rural economy but this is increasing
- 75% is planted conifer, of which 82% is non-native, and predominant silviculture system is clearfell and restock
- Forest governance relies on financial incentives and certification standards



Forest ownership

* Based on official statistics and Wightman 2012.



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Method & Material

Comparative study

- Literature of adaptation strategies, published statistical, policy and legal research
- “*focused comparison*” (Hague 2013) of Sweden and Scotland in a “*most similar system design*” (MSSD) (Przeworski & Teune 1970)
 - Design suited for contextual studies to, based on some inherently geographical and political similarities, explore the contextual features of the different countries.





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Findings

- Meaning of adaptation and climate change in forestry
- Public/wider interest in forestry
- The role of industry and the state (*governance system*)
- Concentration of land, knowledge and interests
- Differentiation & social vulnerability
- Big events (*attention driven*)





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Discussion

- Area in need of further attention and research
- Risk of increased differentiations in knowledge, adaptation capacities, risks and vulnerability
- Depoliticization of climate change and a shrinking state (technical issue)
- Masking power and inequalities





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Thank you for your attention!

