European forests: Hotspots of biodiversity

Luc Bas, IUCN European Regional Office

Brussels, September 2020
Forest ecosystems in poor condition

22% of Europe’s forest habitats in favourable conditions (EEA)

< 1% of total forest area is primary Forest (Sabatini 2018)

Syrian juniper Juniperus drupaceae – Endangered

© Magda Bou Dagher / www.lebanon-flora.org
Europe’s old-growth forests are rare, small, fragmented and critical for biodiversity

The EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030 committed to strictly protect 10% of protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old growth forests.
Management of multi-functional forests

Sustainable forest management must protect biodiversity through:

- Connectivity
- Functional diversity
- Structural diversity
Forest Landscape Restoration

- Restoration of degraded land at landscape scale connects forest patches and provides benefits for people.

- IUCN’s Bonn Challenge aims to bring 350 million ha of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2030.