Planting the Future – Productive Woodlands for the 21st Century

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Content

- Introduction
- Definitions and a bit of history
- What are the drivers for new woodlands?
- What are the main concerns?
- What mistakes have been made?
- How can we do it better ?
- Certification – green badge or green wash?

Why me?

Key points

- Land sharing vs land sparing
- Sustainability – a journey, not a destination
- Think global, act local – UK needs to take responsibility for its forest product footprint
- If you don't like conifers – stop buying conifer products
- Where to find more information?

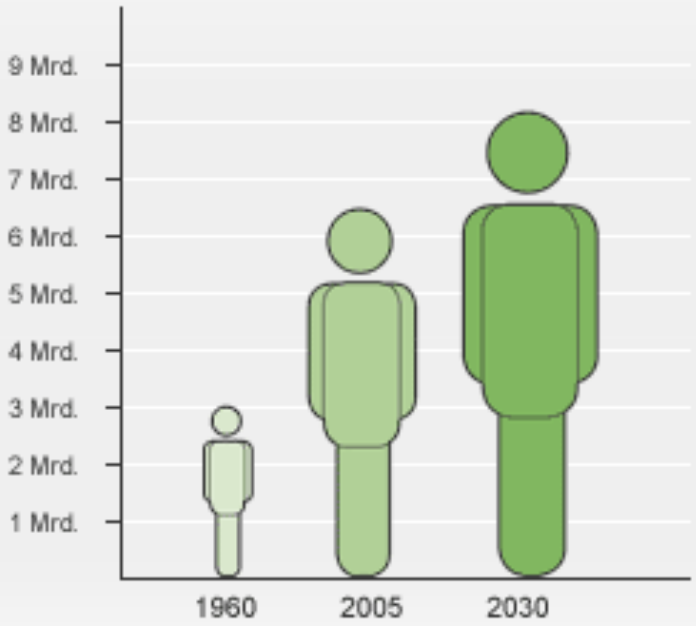
Ecological Footprint

Living Planet Report 2010

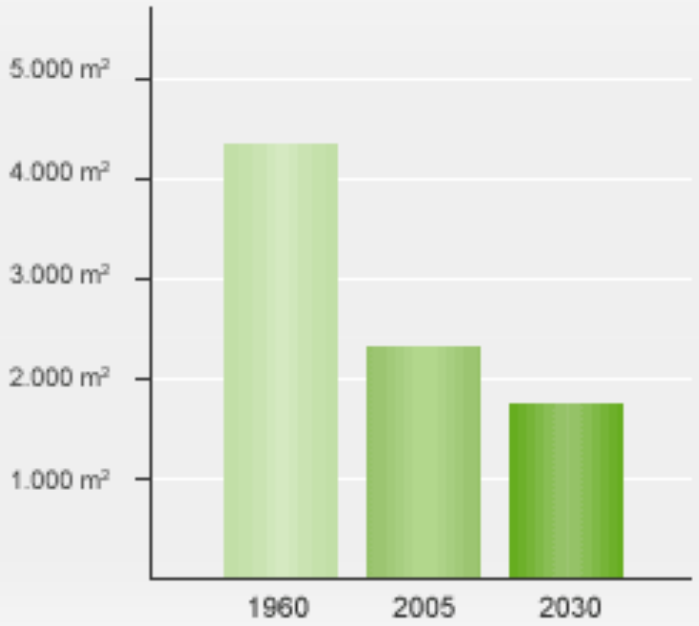
Global Ecological Footprint

Source: Global Footprint Network

World population growth



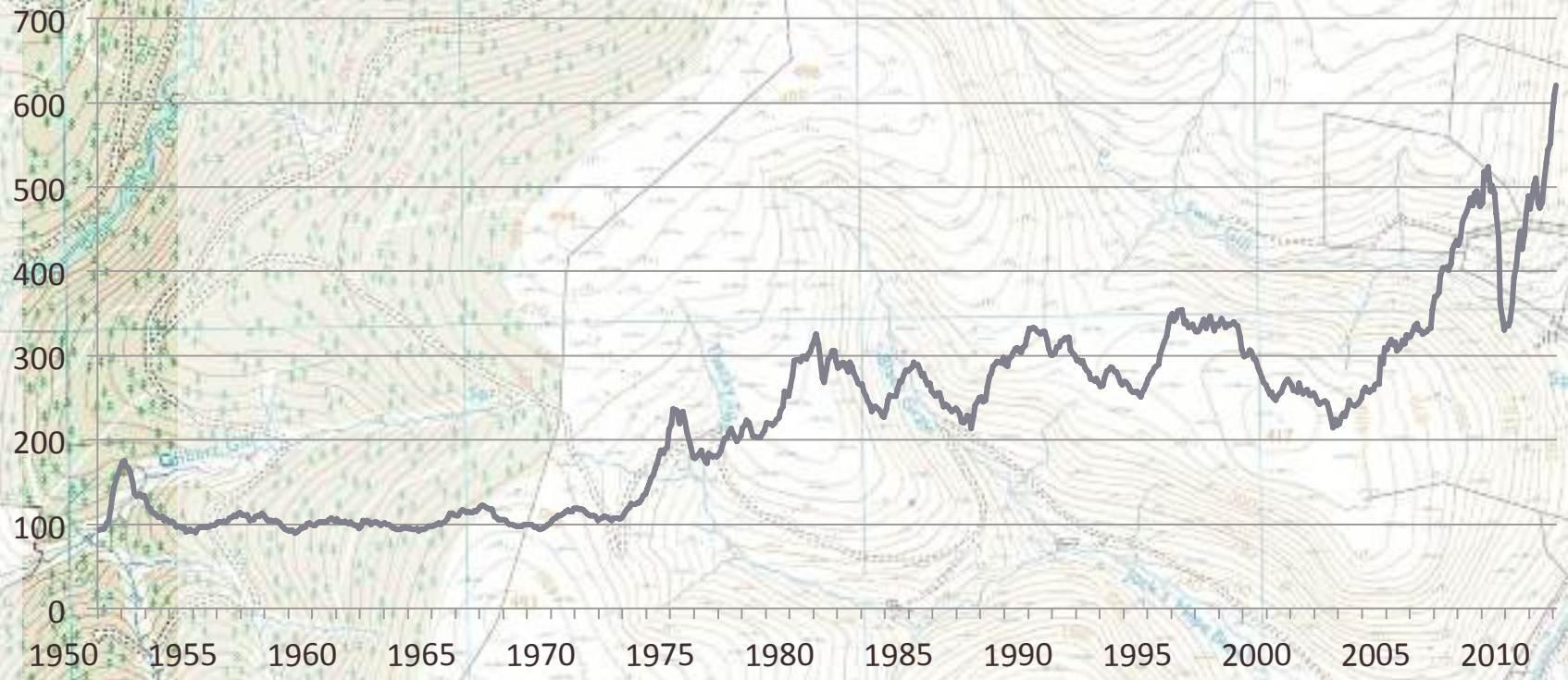
Arable land per capita



Source: FAO

CRB BLS Raw Industrials index

Increase in raw material costs will continue



CRB BLS Raw Industrials: Hides, tallow, copper scrap, lead scrap, steel scrap, zinc, tin, burlap, cotton, print cloth, wool tops, rosin, and rubber.

So which construction material is……?

Low CO2

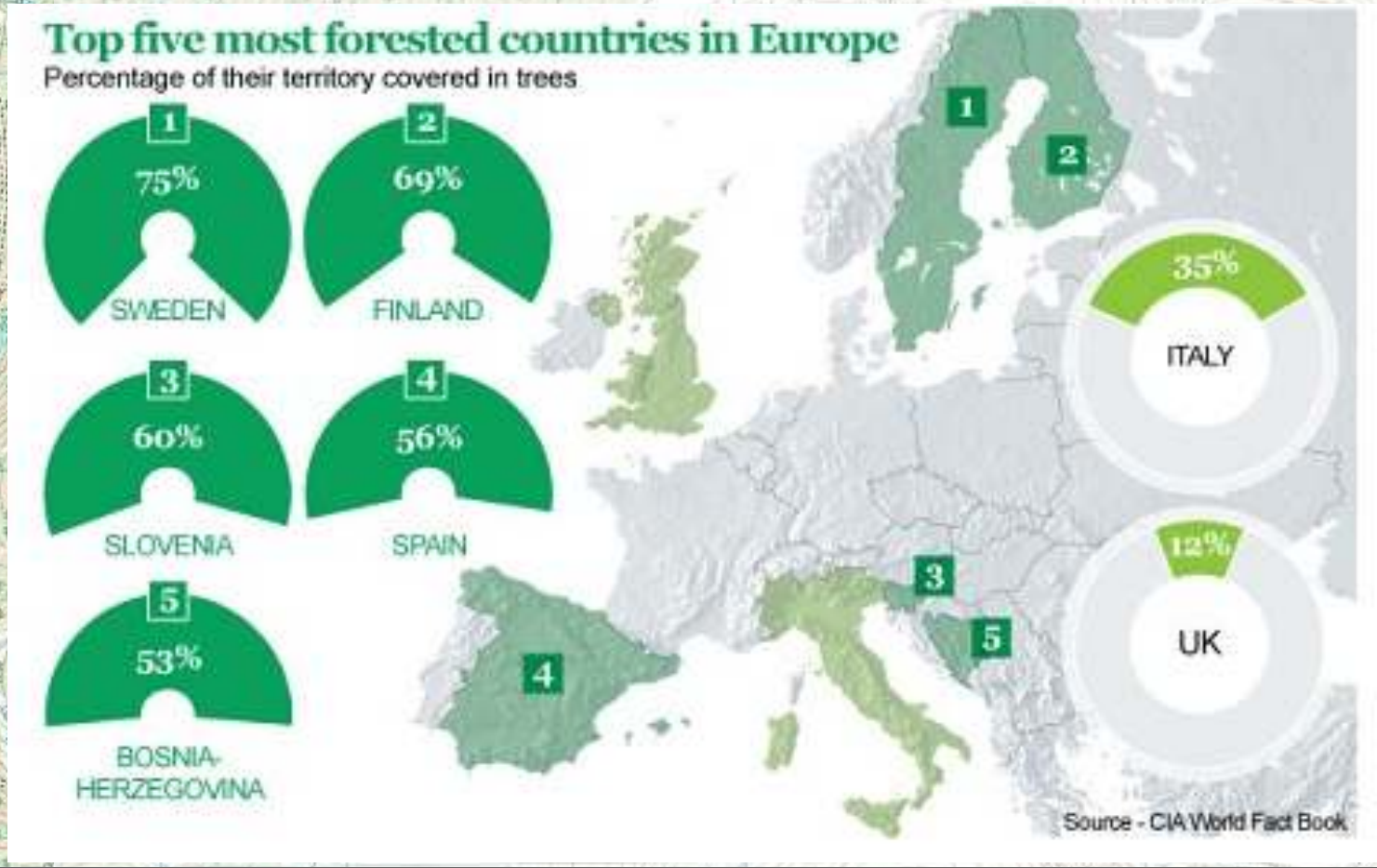
Renewable

Reusable

Recyclable

Biodegradable

Only China imports more forest products than the UK.



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Where do we find all this timber?

»UK ? Overseas ?

»Natural Forests? Plantations ?

Finland 80 year rotation
6 m^3 / hectare / year

UK 35 year rotation
14 m^3/ ha / year

Uruguay 9 year rotation
28 m^3 / hectare / year

Definitions – forests vs plantations

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New Generation Plantations

Ecosystem Integrity

- National and international legislation
- Forest management certification
- Forest carbon certification
- Environmental impact assessment
- Best management practices

Stakeholder Involvement

- National and international legislation
- Forest management certification
- Social impact assessment
- Best management practices

High Conservation Values

- National and international legislation
- Forest management certification
- Environmental impact assessment
- HCV Resource Network toolkits
- Best management practices

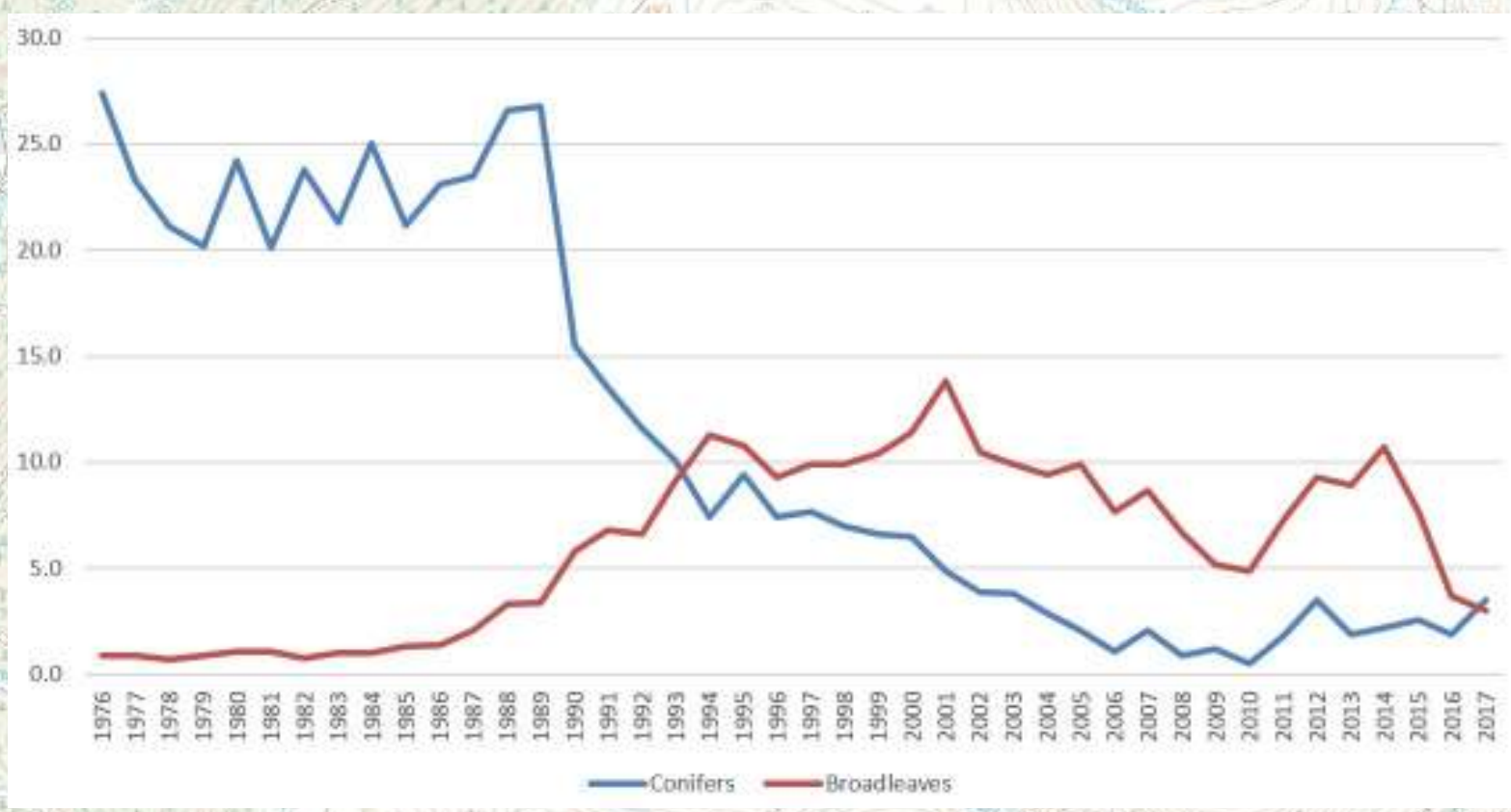
Economic Development

- International labour standards
- Labour and trade certification
- Economic impact assessment
- Forest management certification

Sustainable Plantations

- Resource Efficient:
- FSC Certified
- Community Involved

Productive v amenity woodland



Can we do this sustainably? Forest and Plantation Certification

- International forest management standards
- Documented and agreed principles and criteria for sustainability.
- Independently audited and verified.
- FSC supported by Greenpeace and WWF.

Certification

- Positives
  - Well recognized standard & logo
  - Endorsed by NGOs
  - Market access
  - Makes buying the right timber simple ..
- Negatives
  - A bit clunky
  - Process not outcomes
  - Slow to change
  - One size doesn't fit all
  - Reputation is easily damaged

Plantations can be part of the solution

"In the right place and managed sustainably, tree plantations can reduce the pressure to bring natural forest areas into production. Improvements in landscape planning and planting techniques could boost productivity even more."

Source:

WWF Living Forests Report, chapter 4, Forests and Wood Products

Thank you for listening !

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