

FOREM Meeting - INRAE Grenoble

WaFfleS, a tree-level and distance-independent model to study multifunctionality and drought resilience of Belgian forests.

10.05.2023

Violette Van Keymeulen

Phd thesis director : Gauthier Ligot



# Background informations

Spatial scale targeted

Stand

Model name

Gymnos  
Heterofofor

Application

Sylvicultural recommandations

Region

Simreg

Regional policy

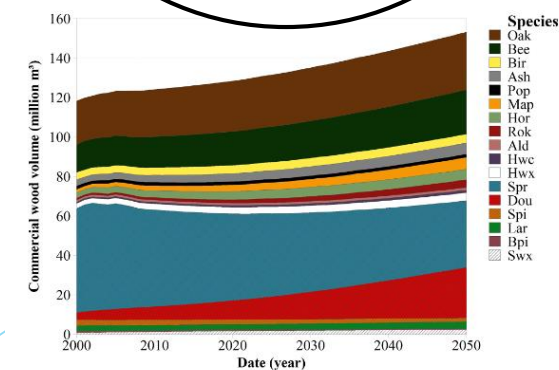
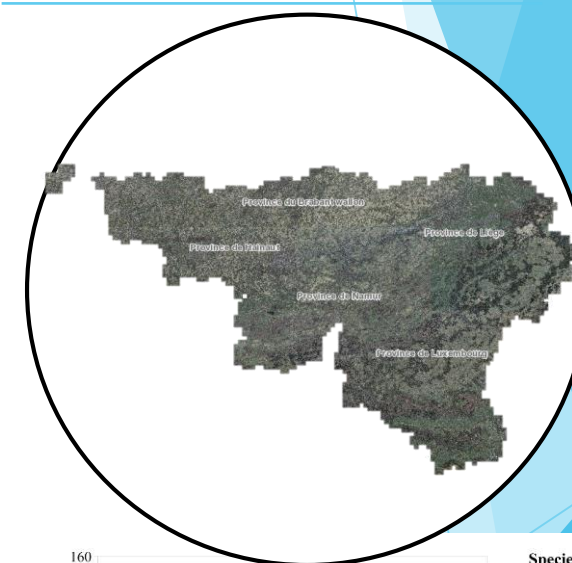
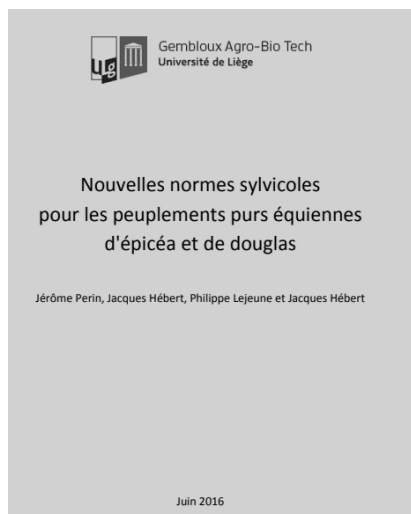


Fig. 3. Simulated development between 2000 and 2050 of the total growing solid wood stock (in millions  $m^3$ ) by species group.

# Background informations

Spatial scale targeted

Stand

Multi-stand (forest)

Region

Model name

Gymnos

?

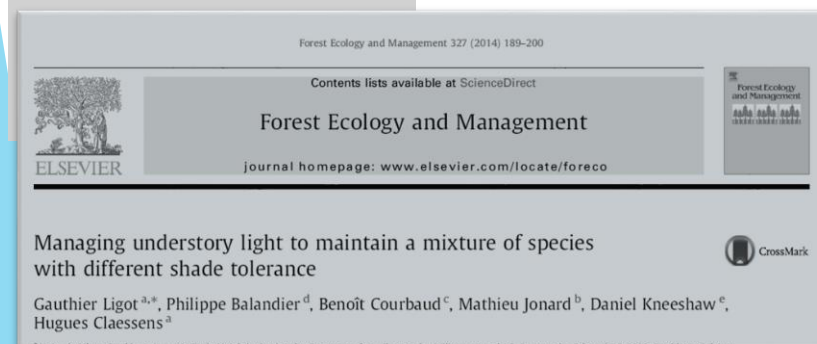
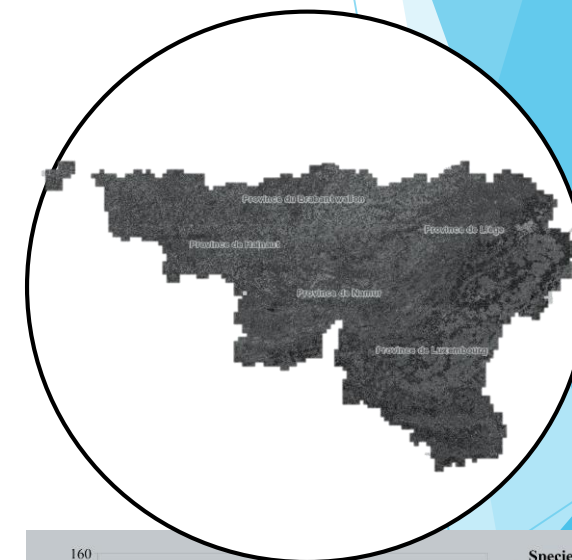
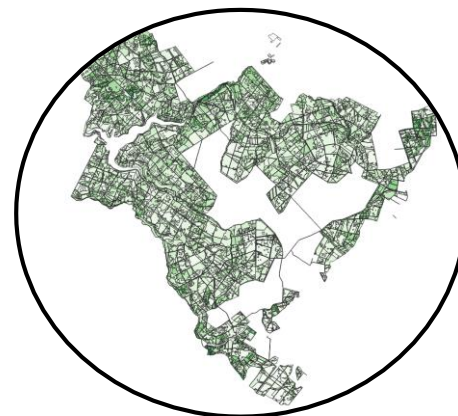
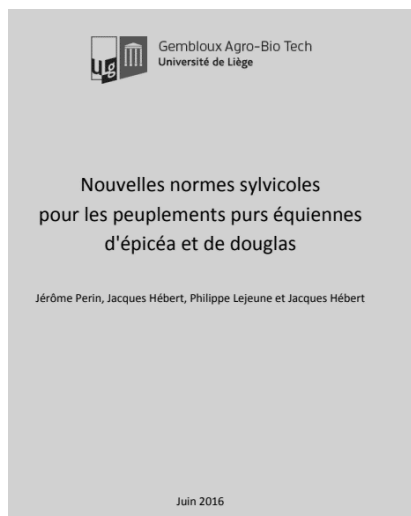
Simreg

Application

Sylvicultural recommendations

forest management plan

Regional policy



Evolution of timber stocks

Expected incomes

Multifunctionality management

Climate change impact

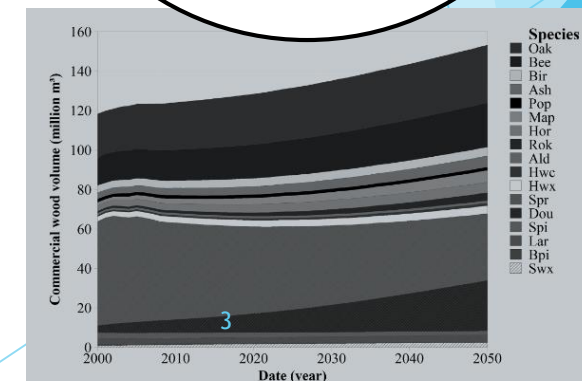
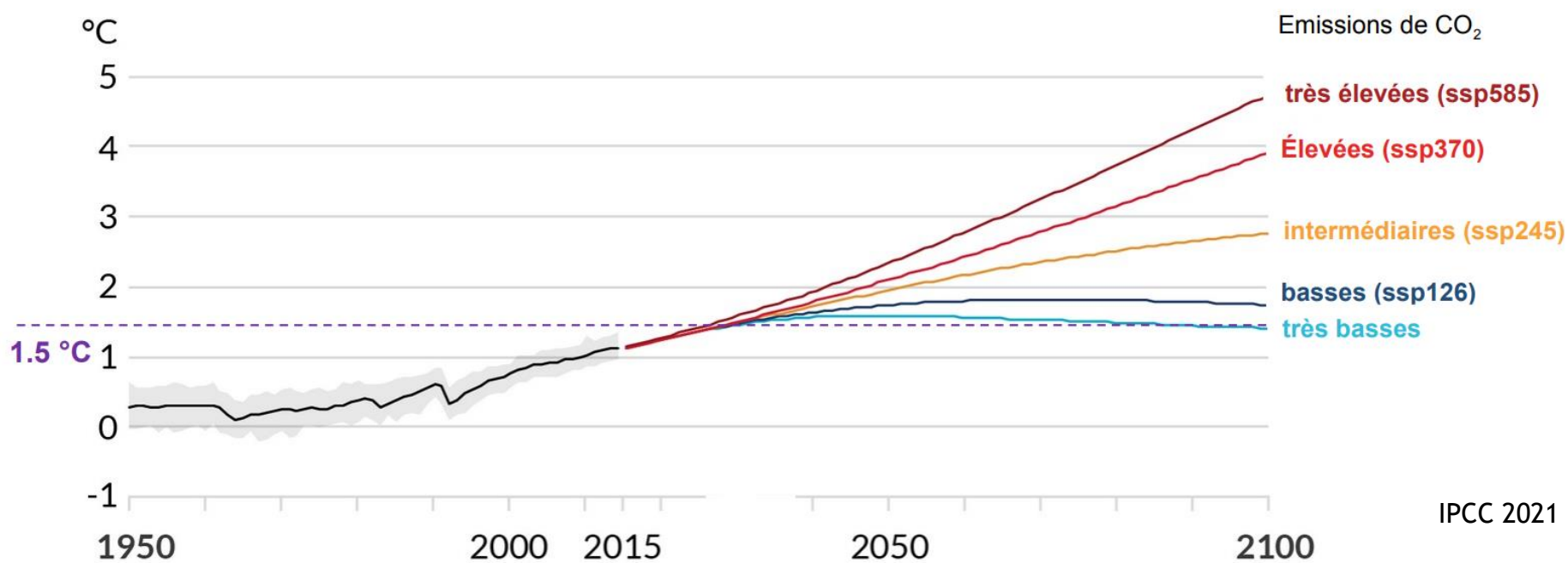
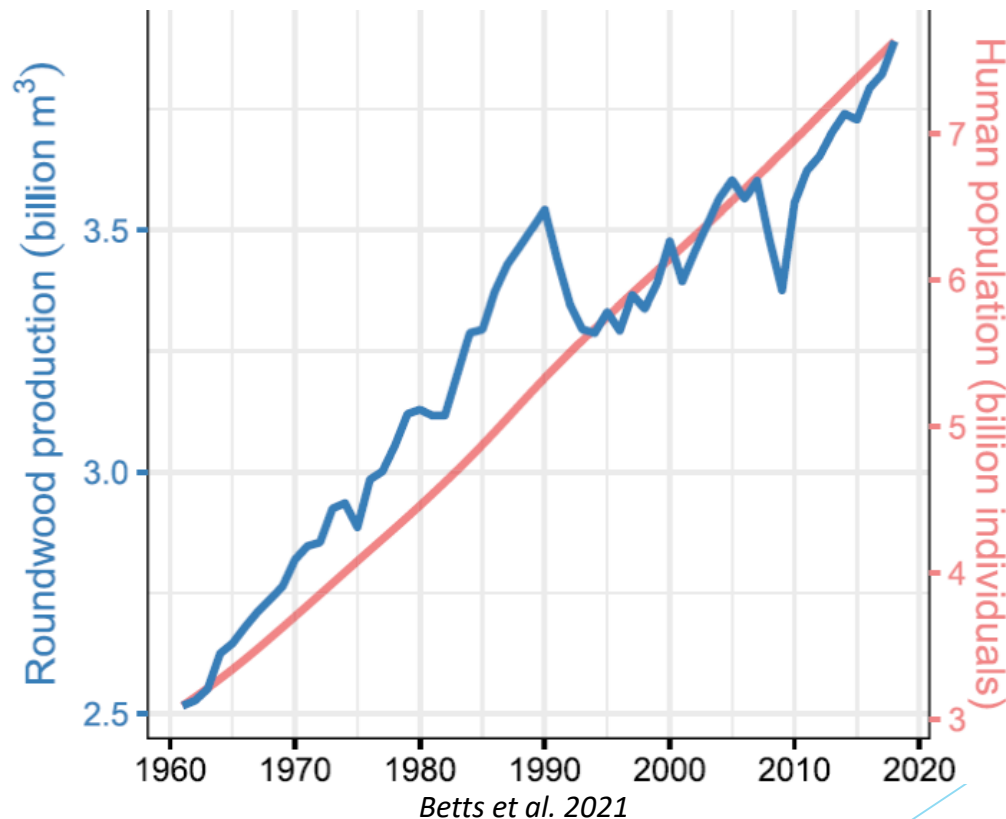


Fig. 3. Simulated development between 2000 and 2050 of the total growing solid wood stock (in millions m<sup>3</sup>) by species group.

- Climate change will affect ecosystem services supply and we are facing uncertainty about frequency and severity of risks that are coming (IPCC 2021)



- Climate change will affect ecosystem services supply and we face uncertainty about frequency and severity of risks that are coming (IPCC 2021).
- forests resilience has globally decrease, also because of the homogenization of forests led by forest management and timber harvesting (Muller et al. 2022).
- The demand for other ecosystem services is also increasing.



Sustainability Science (2022) 17:2013–2029  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-022-01111-4>



## ORIGINAL ARTICLE



# Scanning the solutions for the sustainable supply of forest ecosystem services in Europe

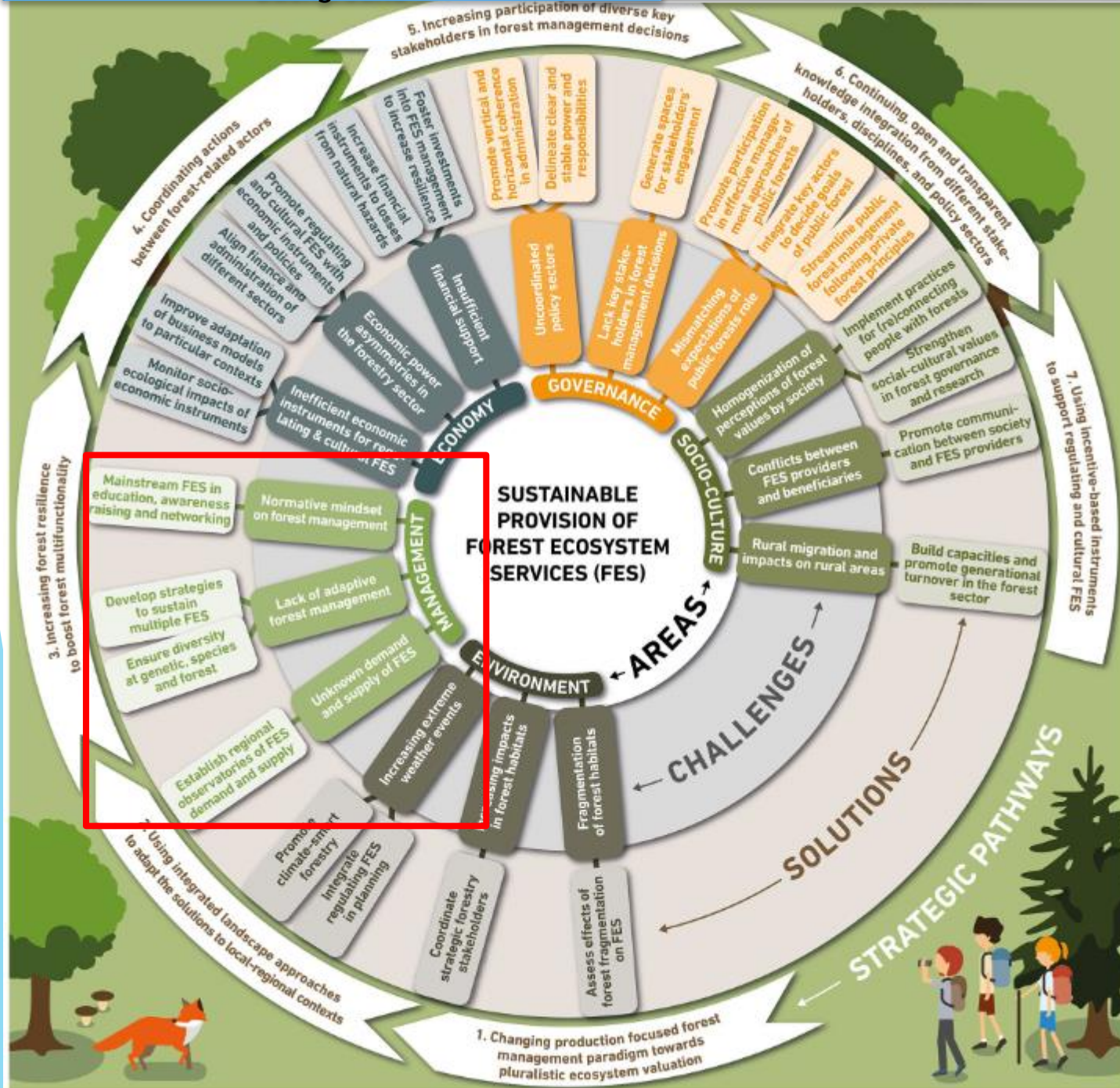
M. Hernández-Morcillo<sup>1</sup> · M. Torralba<sup>2,3</sup> · T. Baiges<sup>4</sup> · A. Bernasconi<sup>5</sup> · G. Bottaro<sup>6</sup> · S. Brogaard<sup>7</sup> · F. Bussola<sup>8</sup> · E. Díaz-Varela<sup>9</sup> · D. Geneletti<sup>10</sup> · C. M. Grossmann<sup>11</sup> · J. Kister<sup>12</sup> · M. Klingler<sup>13</sup> · L. Loft<sup>14</sup> · M. Lovric<sup>15</sup> · C. Mann<sup>1</sup> · N. Pipart<sup>16</sup> · J. V. Roces-Díaz<sup>17</sup> · S. Sorge<sup>1</sup> · M. Tiebel<sup>18</sup> · L. Tyrväinen<sup>19</sup> · E. Varela<sup>20</sup> · G. Winkel<sup>21</sup> · T. Plieninger<sup>2,3</sup>

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## Abstract

Forests are key components of European multifunctional landscapes and supply numerous forest ecosystem services (FES) fundamental to human well-being. The sustainable provision of FES has the potential to provide responses to major societal challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, or rural development. To identify suitable strategies for the future sustenance of FES, we performed a solution scanning exercise with a group of transdisciplinary forest and FES experts from different European regions. We identified and prioritized fifteen major challenges hindering the balanced provision of multiple FES and identified a series of potential solutions to tackle each of them. The most prominent challenges referred to the increased frequency and impacts of extreme weather events and the normative mindset regarding forest management. The respective solutions pointed to the promotion of forest resilience via climate-smart forestry and mainstreaming FES-oriented





- We need solutions to increase forest resilience
- We need solutions to deal with tradesoff between ecosystem services and ensure forest multifunctionality

# 1. A strategy to ensure forest resilience : increase forest complexity at multiple scales



Tree



Stand



Multi-stands (forest)



Landscapes



## 1. A strategy to ensure forest resilience : increase forest complexity at multiple scales



Tree



Stand

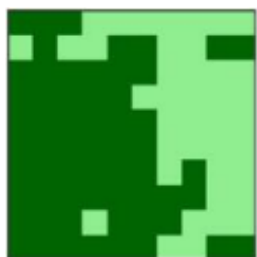


Multi-stands (forest)

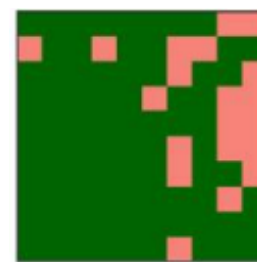


Landscapes

## 2. A strategy to reduce trades-off between ES : Consider multifunctionality at forest scale



Land sharing



Land sparing



Intensive

Extensive

Reserve



Diluted disturbances  
Extensive management + reserves

Concentrated disturbances  
Intensive management + reserves

# Research plan

## A new simulator

Adapted to belgian forests, forest scale and considering drought

## A research question

About management solutions to increase forest resilience and multifunctionality

## A literature review

About the link between forest heterogeneity at different scales and the resilience of forest ecosystem services



## Step 1 : model generalities



# WaFfleS



### Walsi and WaFfleS (Wallonia Forest Simulator) :

- A tree-individual and distance-independent model
- Designed for mixed, pure, even-aged and uneven-aged stand
- Drought sensitive
- Calibrated for 22 Belgian species

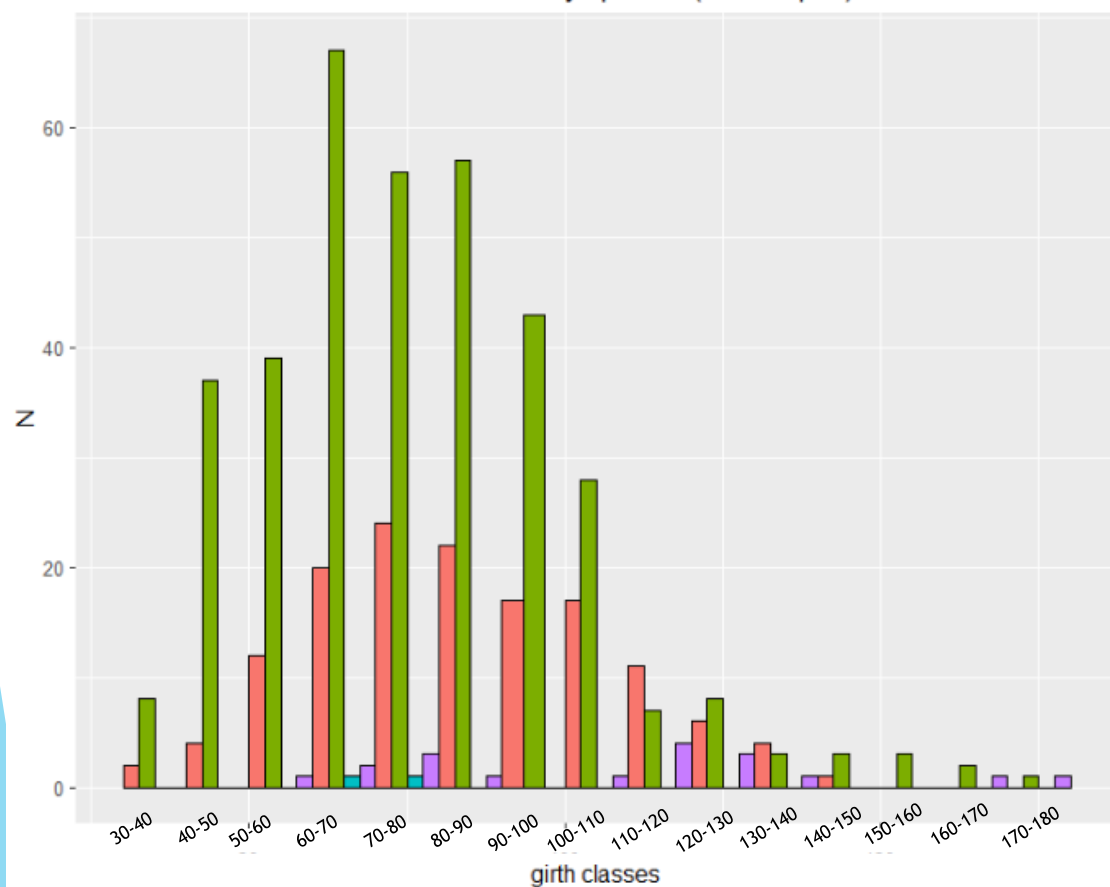
Quercus sp.	Picea abies	Carpinus betulus
Fagus sylvatica	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Alnus sp.
Betula sp.	Pinus sylvestris	Quercus rubra
Fraxinus excelsior	Sorbus aucuparia	Prunus avium
Populus x (hybridé)	Robinia pseudoacacia	Castanea sativa
Acer pseudoplatanus	Prunus serotina	Picea sitchensis
Larix sp	Pinus nigra	Other hardwood
Other softwood		

## Step 2 : input files

Input files required :

- An inventory file

Girth distribution by species (IRRES plot)



```

C:\Users\vankey.v\Documents\1_DOCTORAT\4_Modélisation\input_data\input_Walsi\inventory_figure2.inv - Notepad++
Fichier  Édition  Recherche  Affichage  Encodage  Langage  Paramètres  Outils  Macro  Exécution  Modules d'extension  Documents  ?
inventory_figure2.inv
1 # This is an inventory file for Walsi
2
3 # key records
4 standName = tenneville
5 inventoryDate = 2022
6 standArea_ha = 1
7 altitude = 500
8 classWidth = 10
9 naturalRegion = 4
10 soilWaterHoldingCapacity_mm = 60
11
12 polygon = MULTIPOLYGON (((0 0,100 0,100 100,0 100)))
13
14 #sp girth N
15 CH 205 1
16 DO 35 2
17 DO 45 4
18 DO 55 12
19 DO 65 20
20 DO 75 24
21 DO 85 22
22 DO 95 17
23 DO 105 17
24 DO 115 11
25 DO 125 6
26 DO 135 4
27 DO 145 1
28 EP 35 8
29 EP 45 37
30 EP 55 39
31 EP 65 67
32 EP 75 56
33 EP 85 57
34 EP 95 43

```





## Step 2 : input files

Input files required :

- An inventory file
- A species file

## Species specific parameters

22 Species

```

C:\eclipse\capsis\data\walsi\Walsi.species - Notepad++
Fichier  Edition  Recherche  Affichage  Encodage  Langage  Paramètres  Outils  Macro  Exécution  Modules d'extension  Documents ?
Walsi.species
# Walsi species file
# Color: r;g;b
# r, g and b in [0,255]
#spId  SimregName  latinName  Pa  Pb  Aa  Ab  ma  mb  v1  v2  v3  v4  c1  c2  mortality_c130_treshold  survival_p_intercept  su
1  CH  Quercus sp.  0.1133068  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.1205395  1.847583  0.1587624  0.019546  -0.0029588  0.00011074  -3
2  HE  Fagus sylvatica  0.1344019  0.0007591  0.2100735  0.9444711  1.847583  0.1587624  0.01734  -0.003008  0.00011589  1.
3  BO, BP  Betula sp.  0.1117949  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.1298576  1.847583  0.1587624  0.0071727  -0.0022222  0.00010536
4  FR  Fraxinus excelsior  0.1419879  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.0638701  1.847583  0.1587624  -0.040364  0.00017945  7.6857
5  PE  Populus x  0.4086613  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.2267451  1.847583  0.1587624  0.0071727  -0.0022222  0.00010536  -1
6  ES  Acer pseudoplatanus  0.1185535  0.0007591  0.2100735  0.9493634  1.847583  0.1587624  -0.019508  0.00015072  5.7816
7  CA  Carpinus betulus  0.0954062  0.0007591  0.2100735  0.9491152  1.847583  0.1587624  0.01734  -0.003008  0.00011589
8  AL  Alnus sp.  0.2471932  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.1244754  1.847583  0.1587624  0.0071727  -0.0022222  0.00010536  -1
9  CR  Quercus rubra  0.1369393  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.1618045  1.847583  0.1587624  0.011189  -0.0023212  0.00010179
10  MR  Prunus avium  0.1057602  0.0007591  0.2100735  0.9911594  1.847583  0.1587624  0.048959  -0.002599  8.242001E-
11  CT  Castanea sativa  0.2471932  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.1244754  1.847583  0.1587624  0.01734  -0.003008  0.00011589  1.
12  SO  Sorbus aucuparia  0.1628127  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.0975823  1.847583  0.1587624  -0.019508  0.00015072  5.7816
13  RO  Robinia pseudoacacia  0.1628127  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.0975823  1.847583  0.1587624  0.019546  -0.0029588  0.
14  CS  Prunus serotina  0.1057602  0.0007591  0.2100735  0.9911594  1.847583  0.1587624  0.01734  -0.003008  0.00011589  1.
15  FD  Other hardwood  0.1628127  0.0007591  0.2100735  1.0975823  1.847583  0.1587624  0.01734  -0.003008  0.00011589  1.
16  EP  Picea abies  0.215601  0.0001898  0.3454868  1.0840982  -0.1987378  0.0666572  0.032253  -0.0040132  0.00013221  -1
17  DO  Pseudotsuga menziesii  0.3537123  0.0001898  0.3454868  1.0943286  -0.1987378  0.0666572  0.083862  -0.0064217  0.
18  PS  Pinus sylvestris  0.1270302  0.0001898  0.3454868  1.1328443  -0.1987378  0.0666572  -0.0052616  -0.001393  8.8771
19  MZ  Larix sp.  0.2297266  0.0001898  0.3454868  1.1295676  -0.1987378  0.0666572  0.019784  -0.0031514  0.00012589  -5
20  PI  Pinus nigra  0.1349973  0.0001898  0.3454868  1.0601591  -0.1987378  0.0666572  -0.0052616  -0.001393  8.8771E-05  1.
21  EK  Picea sitchensis  0.2572426  0.0001898  0.3454868  1.0258777  -0.1987378  0.0666572  0.032253  -0.0040132  0.0001
22  RD  Other softwood  0.2572426  0.0001898  0.3454868  1.0258777  -0.1987378  0.0666572  0.032253  -0.0040132  0.00013221
29
30

```



## Step 2 : input files

Input files required :

- An inventory file
- A species file
- A climate file :
  - Data projection from SSP scenarios
  - Generated by M.A.R



```

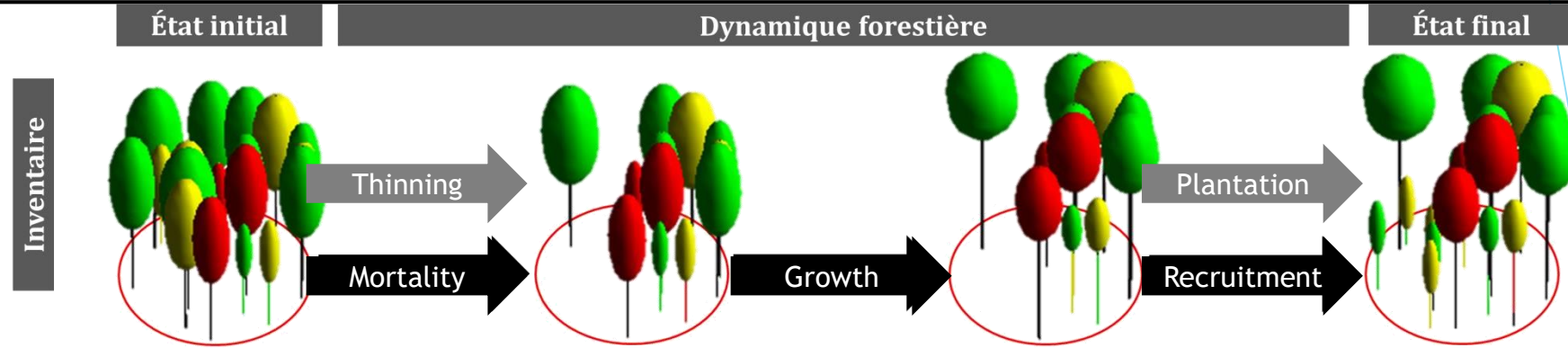
"C:\eclipse\copsis4\data\walsi\Temporary_Walsi_climate_data.txt - Notepad++
Fichier  Edition  Recherche  Affichage  Encodage  Langage  Paramètres  Outils  Macro  Exécution  Modules d'extension  Documents  ?
inventory_figure2.inv  Walsi species  Temporary_Walsi_climate_data.txt
1 #Data origin : MIROC6-ssp2-4.5, Tenneville (BE) Région
2
3 #"Year" "Month" "Mean_Temperature" "sum_Precipitation" "sum_Pet"
4 2020 1 0.08 112.5 0.32
5 2020 2 -2.53 56.76 1.97
6 2020 3 2.65 68.22 7.5
7 2020 4 4.35 77.16 21.66
8 2020 5 8.85 97.64 38.98
9 2020 6 15.93 98.8 78.66
10 2020 7 20.36 67.02 86.2
11 2020 8 19.21 146.12 51.26
12 2020 9 13.59 135.61 32.24
13 2020 10 9.08 44.27 23.17
14 2020 11 3.48 78.09 1.12
15 2020 12 3.7 162.04 1.39
16 2021 1 0.48 113.13 0.84
17 2021 2 2.66 66.73 2.14
18 2021 3 2.67 48.04 6.06
19 2021 4 5.06 32.71 36.62
20 2021 5 12.82 15.41 97.64
21 2021 6 18.19 55.74 66.63
22 2021 7 17.98 123.34 55.05
23 2021 8 19.27 218.69 46.61
24 2021 9 15.89 116.94 37.79
25 2021 10 12.45 90.59 10.46
26 2021 11 4.67 84.11 6.26
27 2021 12 3.67 229.91 1
28 2022 1 -0.31 50.36 0.24
29 2022 2 3.11 153.86 1.51
30 2022 3 3.62 43.6 10.17
31 2022 4 6.32 9.45 52.66
32 2022 5 10.46 95.93 49.58
33 2022 6 11.21 88.36 43.63

```

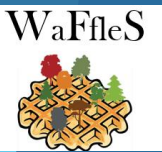




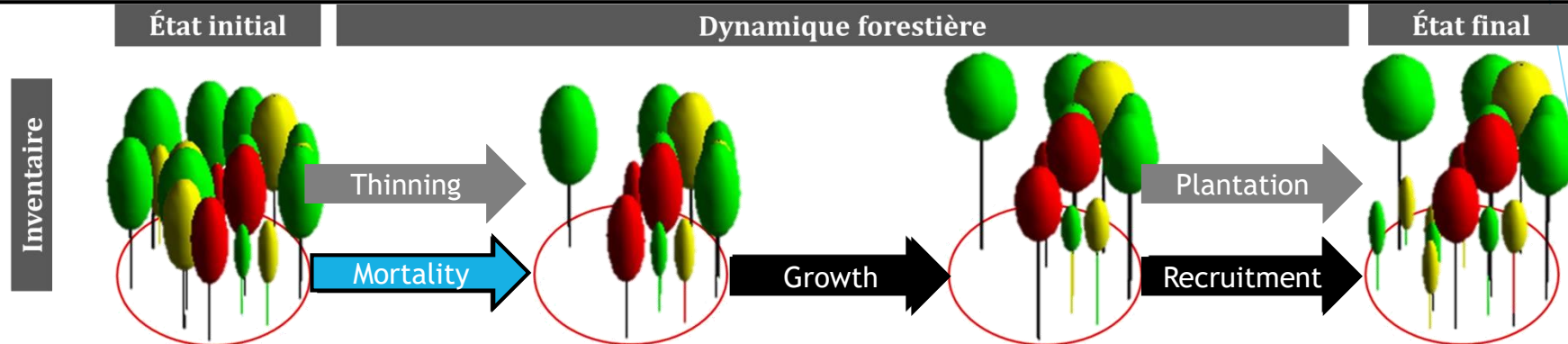
## Step 3 : Forest dynamic processes



*Schéma inspiré de Perin et al. 2018*



## Step 3 : Forest dynamic processes

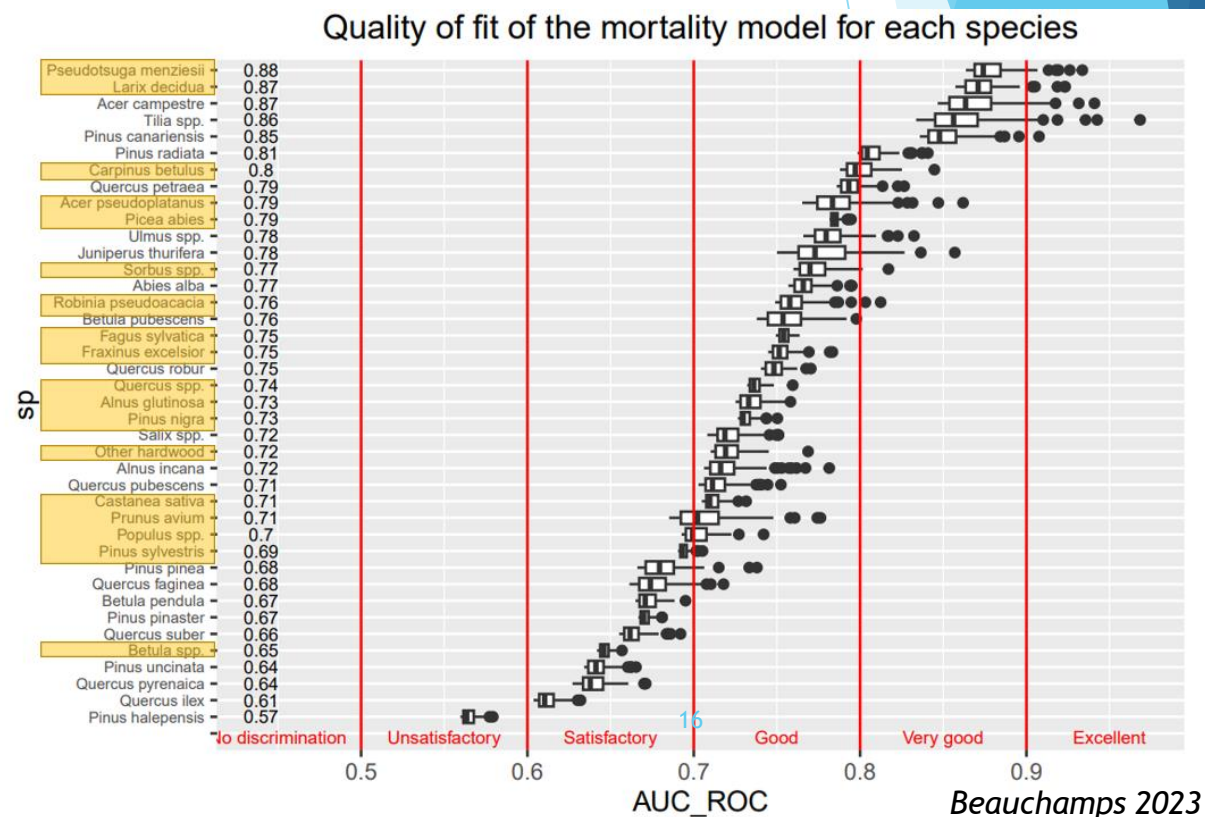


## Mortality sub-model

- Also used in Samsara2
- From European NFI data

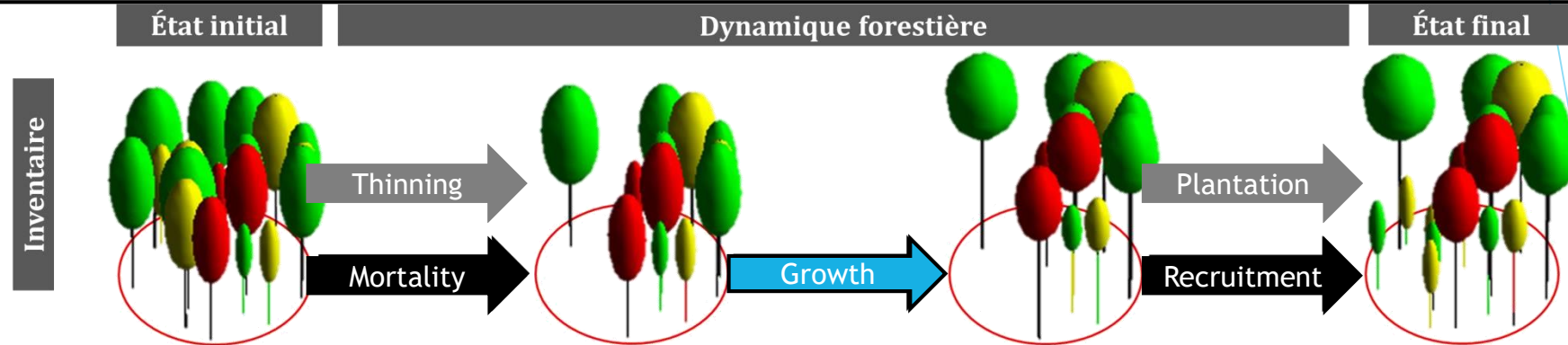
```
Predict_Survival <- function(dbh_mmm, batot_m2, sgdd, aet2pet, dyears, params)
```

## Deadwood decay sub-model





## Step 3 : Forest dynamic processes



## Growth sub-model

- From SIMREG model
- From Belgian NFI data

$$dG_i = 0.5 * P * \left( C_i - m * A + \sqrt{(m * A + C_i)^2 - 4 * A * C_i} \right)$$

Where:

$$A = Aa * Cdom^{Ab}$$

$$P = Pa * \exp(1 - Pb * Alt)$$

$$m = 1 + \exp(ma - mb * Gha)$$

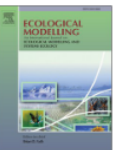
Ecological Modelling 440 (2021) 109382



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Ecological Modelling

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolmodel](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolmodel)



SIMREG, a tree-level distance-independent model to simulate forest dynamics and management from national forest inventory (NFI) data

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<sup>a</sup> Forest Resources Management (GRF), Forest is Life, TERRA, Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (GxABT), ULiège, 2 Passage des Déportés, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium

<sup>b</sup> Applied Statistics, Computer Science and Mathematics (SIMa), Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech (GxABT), University of Liege (ULG), 2 Passage des Déportés, 5030 Gembloux, Belgium

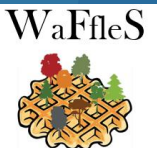
## ARTICLE INFO

## Keywords:

Forest modelling  
Individual tree models  
Large scale simulation  
Mixed forests  
Forest growth and yield  
Selective thinning  
Tree recruitment

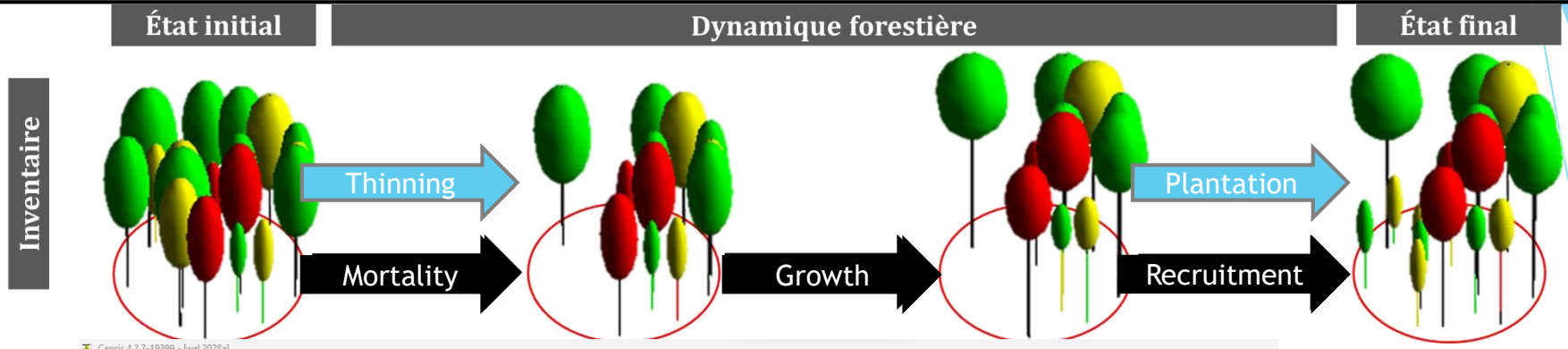
## ABSTRACT

SIMREG is a non-deterministic tree-level distance independent forest model that can simulate forest growth, yield and management on a regional scale while representing the wide diversity of composition, structure and management found in forest stands. It is composed of several sub-models to represent the main forest dynamics (growth, recruitment, removal, clearcut and reforestation) and to account for species composition, stand density, tree size and social status, forest ownership type and some sites characteristics. We used the data collected by the permanent forest inventory of Wallonia (IPRFW) between 1994 and 2015 to calibrate SIMREG and forecast the development of Wallonia's 479 500 ha of productive forest (465 million simulated trees) until 2050. According to our simulation, the harvesting rate of Norway spruce (the main production species) is currently unsustainable and it is gradually being replaced by other species such as Douglas-fir, larch and various hardwoods. It appears that in terms of total softwood volume production, the higher production level of Douglas-fir and larch should eventually compensate for the decline in spruce. In contrast, the harvest rate in hardwood stands is around 75% of the annual yield, resulting in a steady increase in the total hardwood stock of about 600 000 m<sup>3</sup> per year. Our methodology is easily replicable and the data required for sub-model calibration are consistent with those measured by most permanent NFIs. so our forest simulation model could be adapted to other regions and

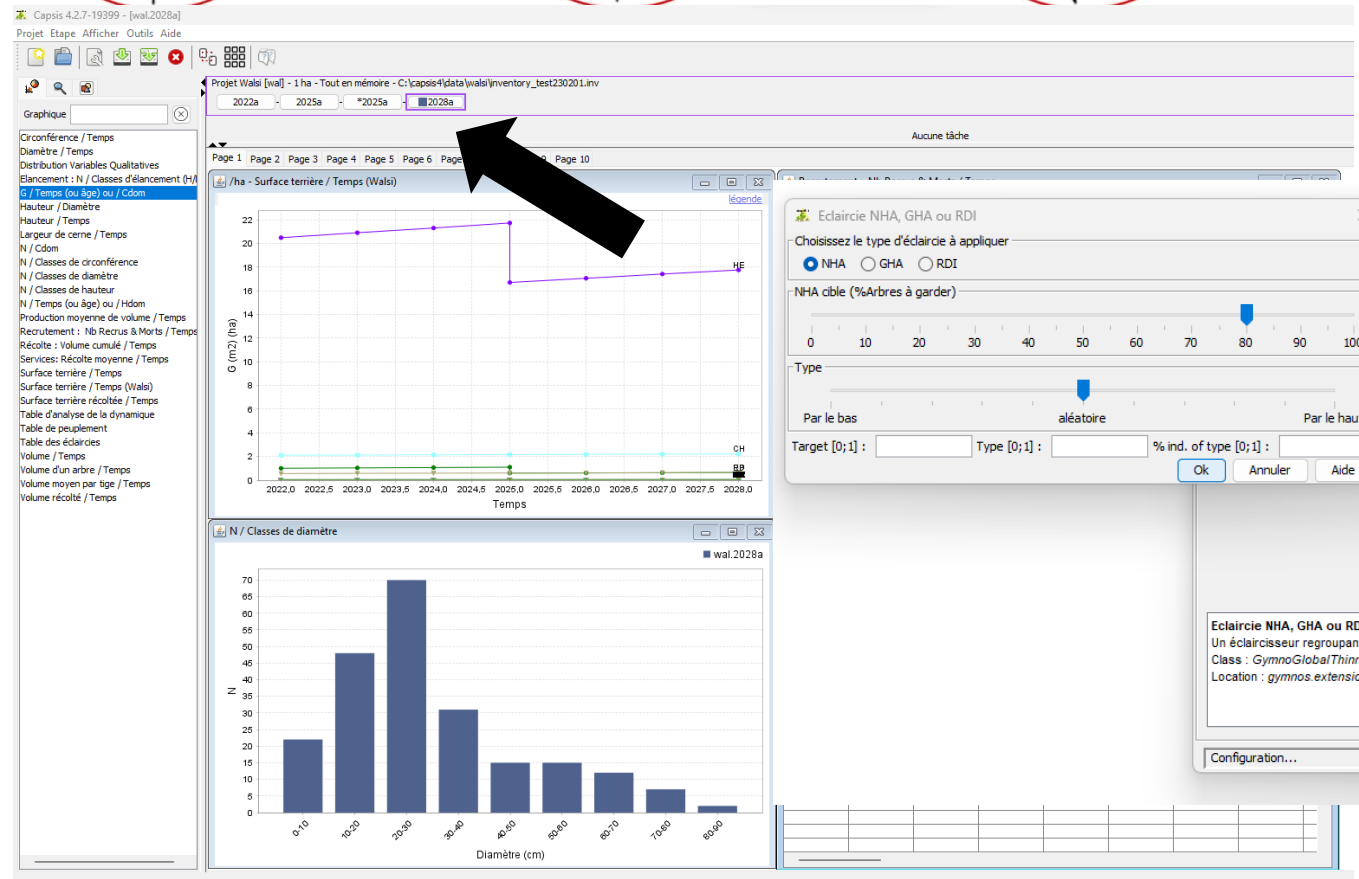




# Step 4 : Interveners for management at stand scale



Inventaire



**Eclaircie NHA, GHA ou RDI**

Choisissez le type d'éclaircie à appliquer

NHA  GHA  RDI

NHA cible (%Arbres à garder)

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Type

Par le bas  aléatoire  Par le haut

Target [0;1] :  Type [0;1] :  % ind. of type [0;1] :

Ok Annuler Aide

Arbres vivants  Not AL (Espèce)

lectionné, la liste d'interventions est réduite aux interventions groupes et l'intervention sélectionnée s'applique seulement aux Les individus à l'extérieur du groupe ne sont pas impactés.

Intervention

Eclaircie sélective

- Eclaircie NHA, GHA ou RDI
- Eclaircie NHA-Type
- Eclaircie NHA-Type simplifiée
- Eclaircie NHA/GHA
- Eclaircie individuelle
- Eclaircie selon une cible : pourcentage de coupe, surface terrière, indice de densité relative ou densité
- Liste d'arbres à couper

Eclaircie NHA, GHA ou RDI : ODT  
Un éclaircisseur regroupant les éclaircisseurs NHA, GHA et RDI  
Class : *GymnoGlobalThinner (1.0)*, Type : *Intervener*  
Location : *gymnos.extension.intervener*

Configuration... Ok Annuler Aide



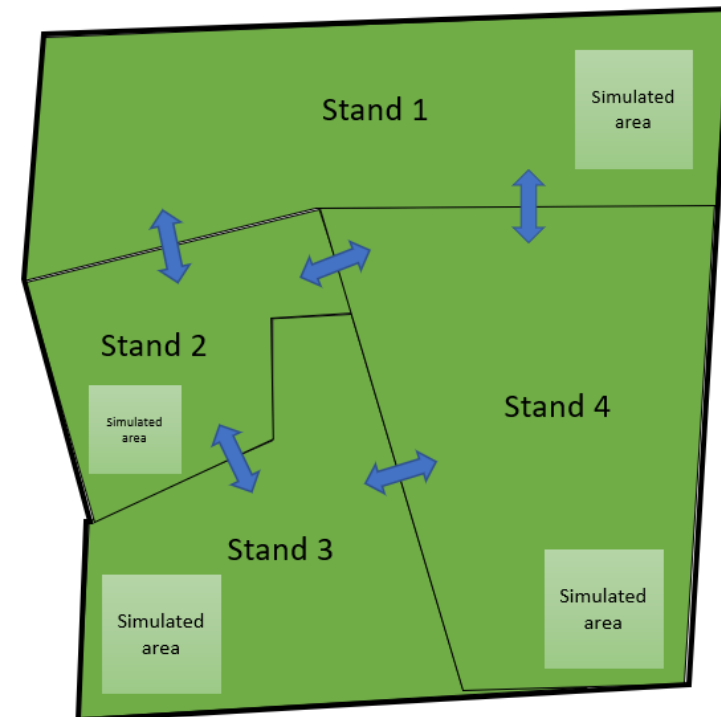
## WaFfleS and Walsi : two different model

# WaFfleS

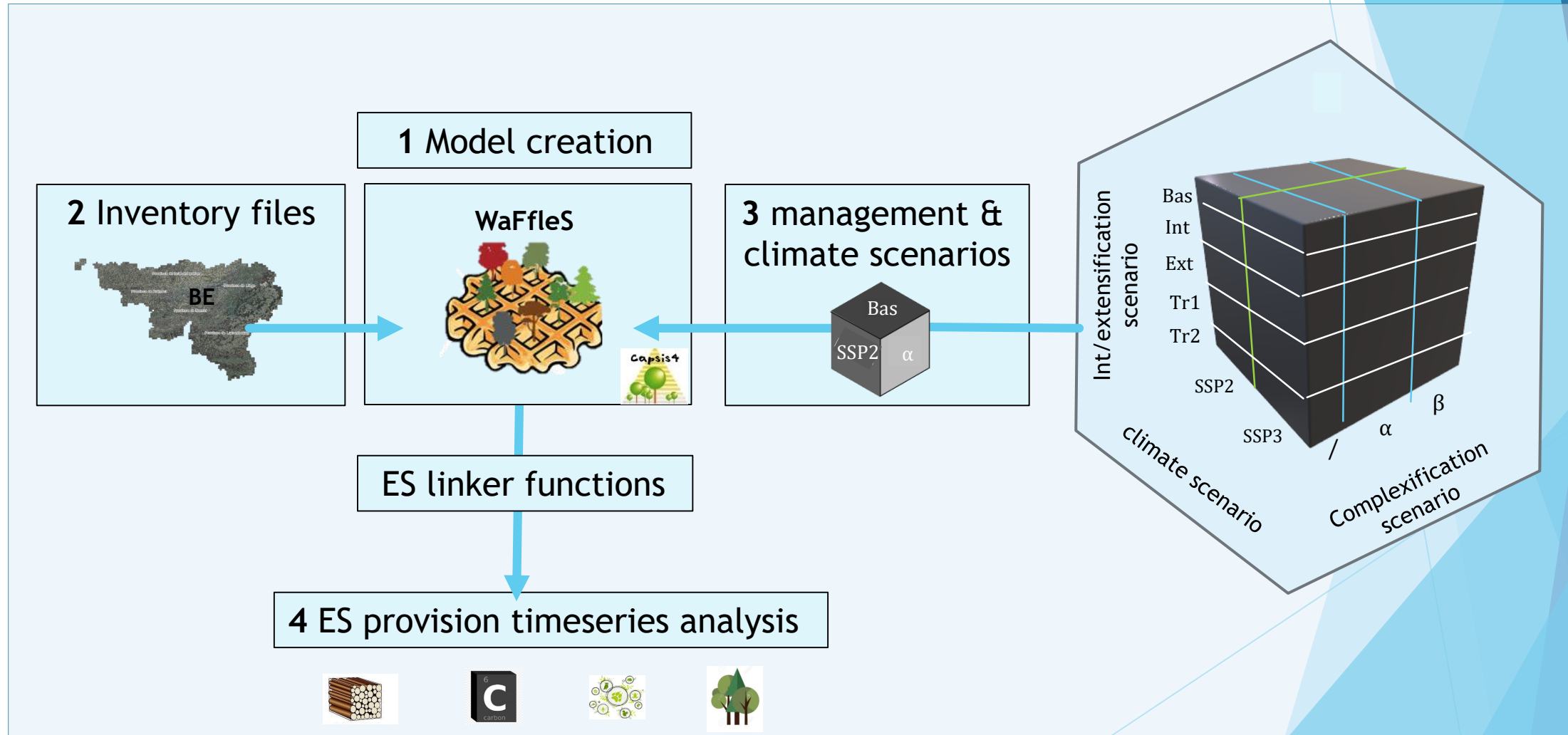


### ➤ In WaFfleS :

- Stands are spatialized
- Stands interacts (recruitment process)
- A simulated area is used
- We need to find solution for large scale management



Managing the forest at multiple scales as a way to enhance forest resilience to drought and multifunctionality : Are intensification, extensification and complexification strategies relevant ?



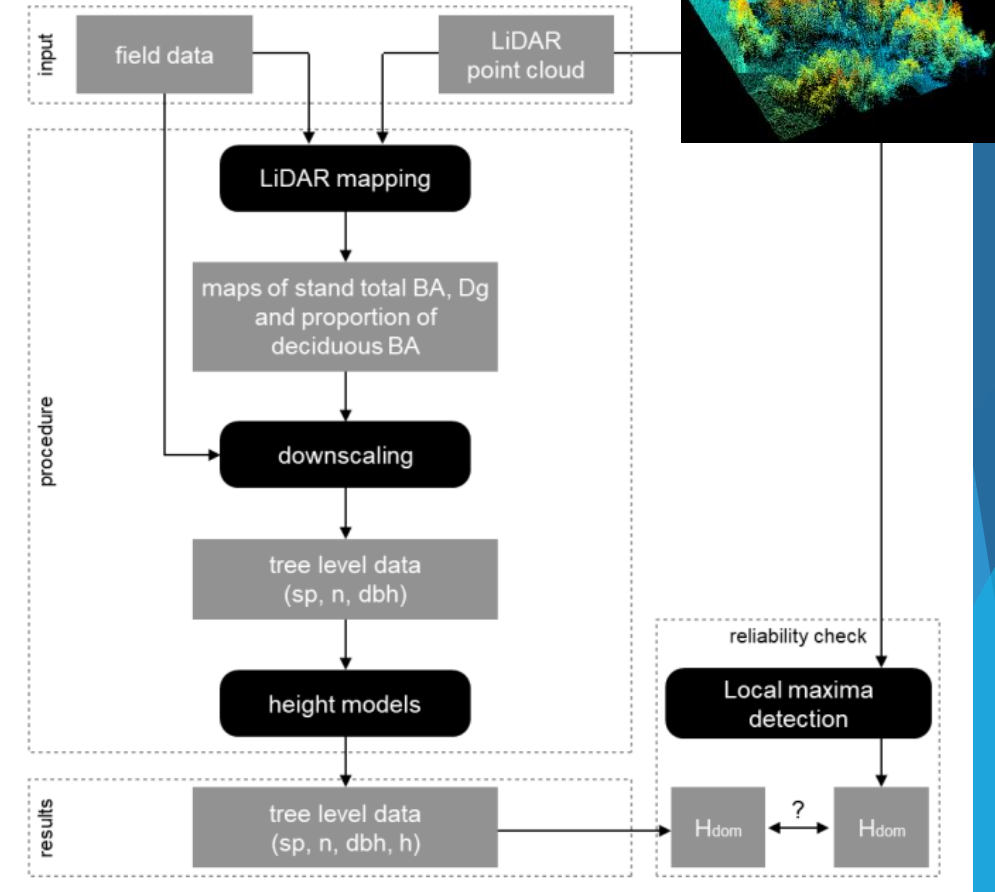
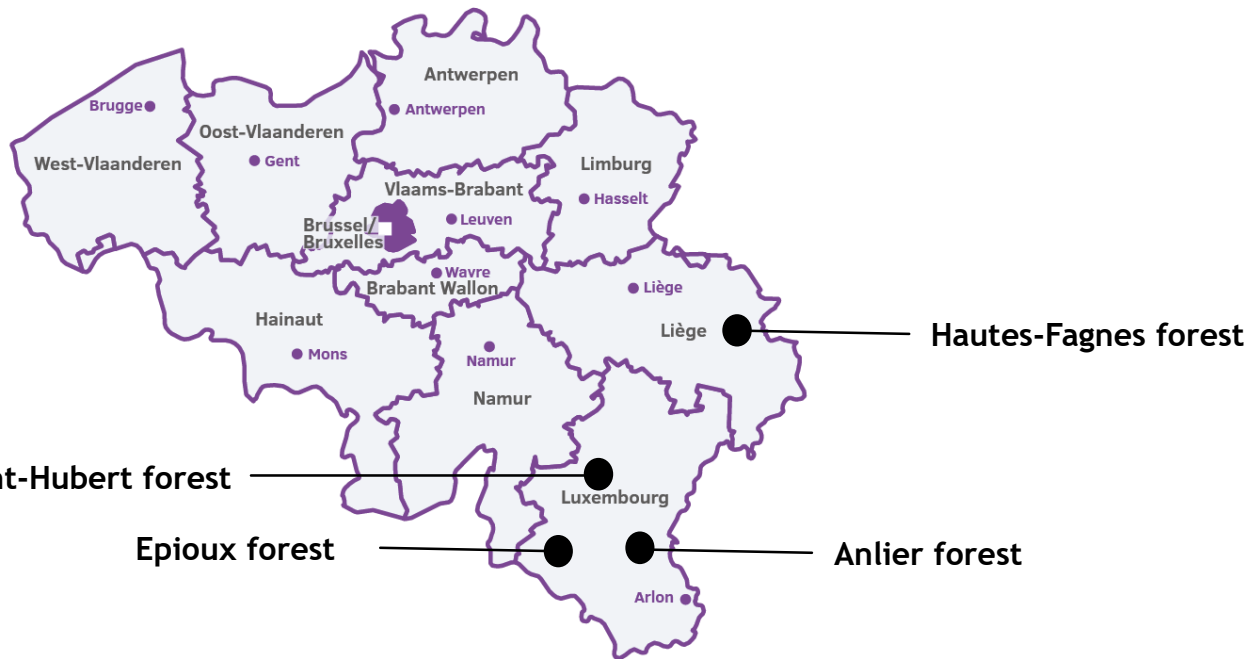
## 2 Inventory files



The methodology to gather data at large scale still need to be define.

- Full inventory
- Samples methodology
- Airborne laser scanning (ALS)

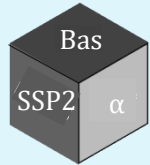
### Public forests only



Processing chain to reconstitute tree characteristics for large areas (Vallet et al. 2023)



3 management & climate scenarios



We will investigate intensification / extensification and complexification strategies at stand and forest scales



**Intensification**

Reduce minimum cutting diameter  
Increase thinning intensity

**Extensification**

Increase minimum cutting diameter  
Decrease thinning intensity

**Complexification**

Increase alpha diversity

Increase proportion of managed area

Decrease the proportion of managed area

Increase beta diversity

- We will test 5 mixed intensification /extensification scenarios

Scenario type	Stand scale	Forest scale
Baseline	S-Baseline	F-Baseline
Intensification	SI	FI
Extensification	SE	FE
Trade-off 1	SE	FI
Trade-off 2	SI	FE

Legend  
S : “stand”  
F : “forest”  
  
I : “intensification”  
E : “extensification”

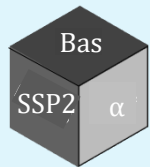


- We will test 5 mixed intensification /extensification scenarios x 3 complexification scenarios

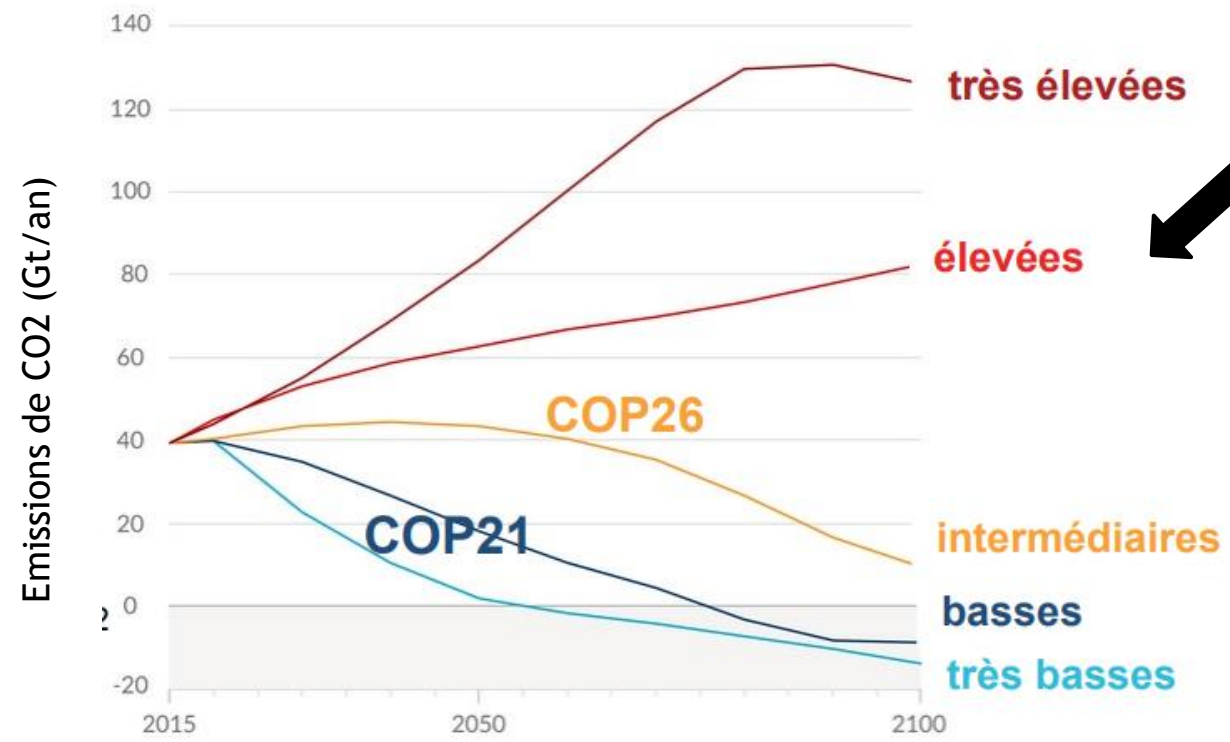
Scenario type	Stand scale	Forest scale	Enhance Complexity		
			1	2	3
Baseline	S-Baseline	F-Baseline	No	$\alpha$	$\beta$
Intensification	SI	FI	No	$\alpha$	$\beta$
Extensification	SE	FE	No	$\alpha$	$\beta$
Trade-off 1	SE	FI	No	$\alpha$	$\beta$
Trade-off 2	SI	FE	No	$\alpha$	$\beta$



### 3 management & climate scenarios



- Two climate scenario will be explore
- Focus on drought issue



IPCC 2021

## 4 ES linker functions



## IN/OUTput WaFfleS :

- Espèce
- Classes de circonférence
- Nombre de tiges

Calcul volume

Calcul surface  
terrière

Calcul hauteur

Taux de  
conversion  
carboneVolume récolté [ $\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]Volume récolté par essence [ $\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]Volume récolté par essence et par classe de  
circonférence [ $\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]Augmentation de la surface terrière [ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]Augmentation de la surface terrière par essence  
[ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]Augmentation de la surface terrière par essence et par  
classe de circonférence [ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]Stock de carbone sur pied : biomasse aérienne et  
souterraine [T/ha]

Stock de carbone exporté [T/ha] -&gt; C.A.T

Volume de bois mort [ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}$ ]

Diversité de bois morts

Nombre de très gros bois vivants [n/Ha]

Indices de diversité spécifique :

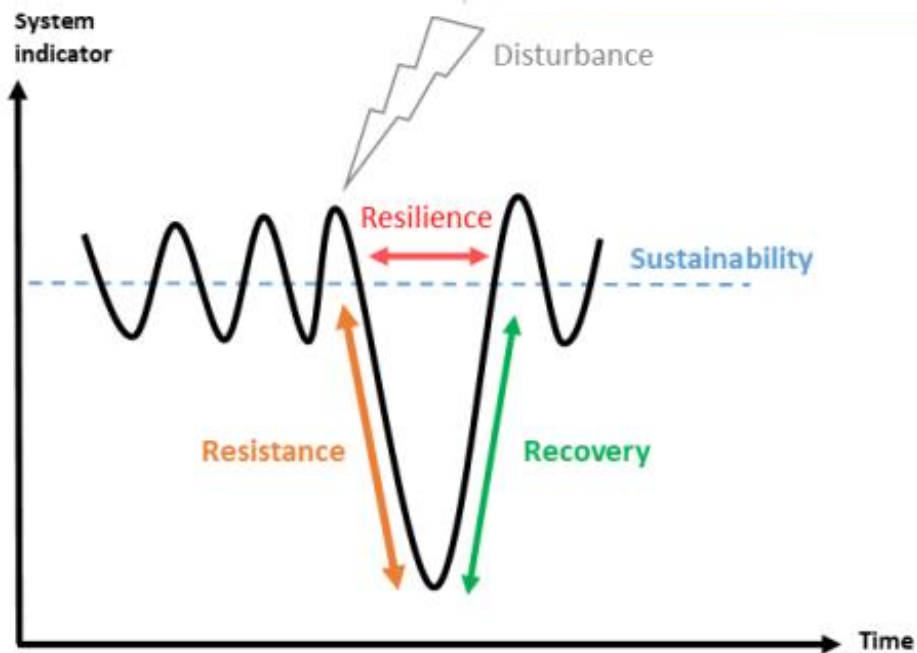
- Richesse en espèce
- Indice de Shannon
- Indice de dominance de Simpson

Diversité structurelle :

- Indice de Shannon
- Indice de Gini

Indice de diversité du paysage

## 4 ES linker functions



Niimmo et al. 2017



Volume récolté [ $\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]

Volume récolté par essence [ $\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]

Volume récolté par essence et par classe de circonférence [ $\text{m}^3/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]

Augmentation de la surface terrière [ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]

Augmentation de la surface terrière par essence [ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]

Augmentation de la surface terrière par essence et par classe de circonférence [ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}/\text{an}$ ]

Stock de carbone sur pied : biomasse aérienne et souterraine [ $\text{T}/\text{ha}$ ]

Stock de carbone exporté [ $\text{T}/\text{ha}$ ] -> C.A.T

Volume de bois mort [ $\text{m}^2/\text{ha}$ ]

Diversité de bois morts

Nombre de très gros bois vivants [ $\text{n}/\text{Ha}$ ]

Indices de diversité spécifique :

- Richesse en espèce
- Indice de Shannon
- Indice de dominance de Simpson

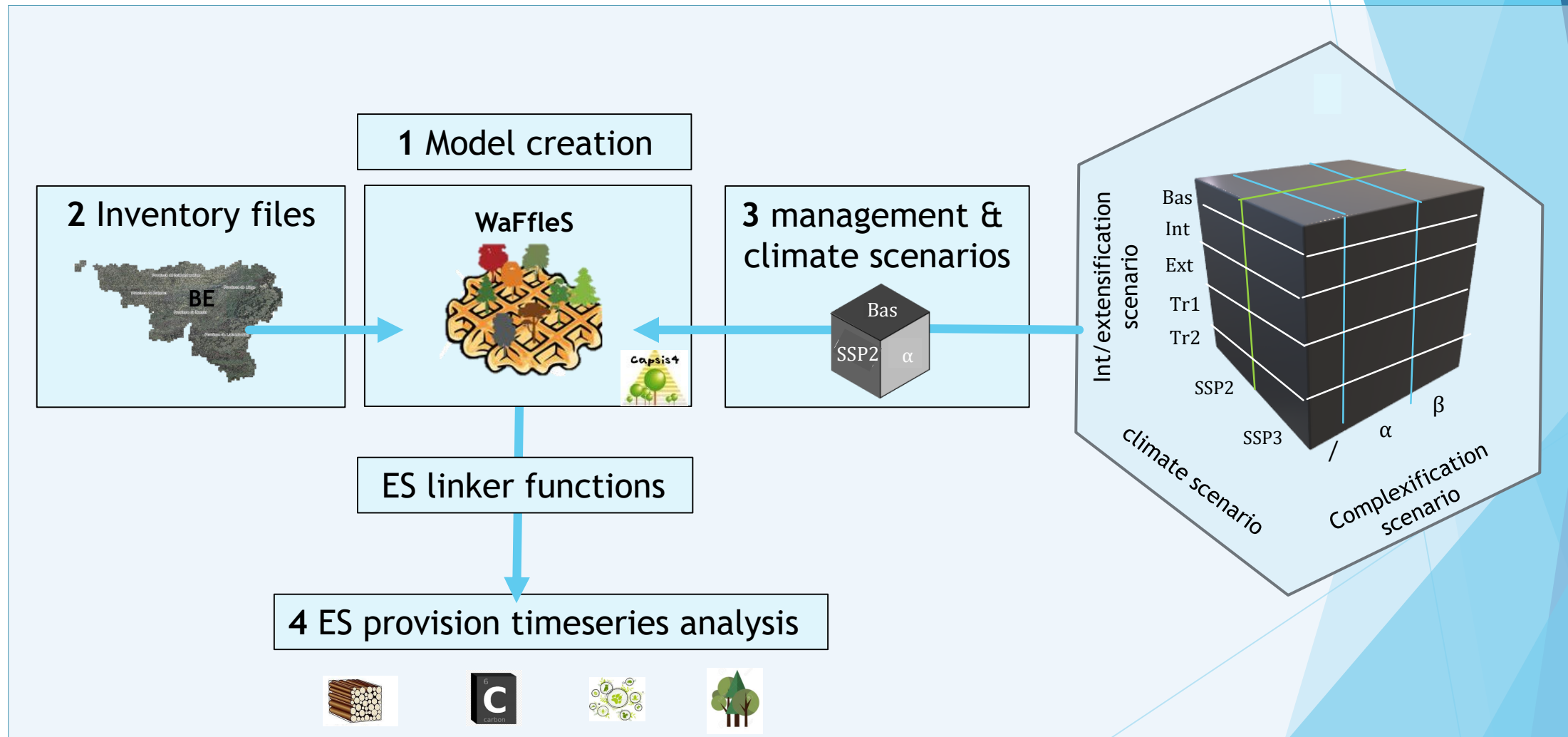
Diversité structurale :

- Indice de Shannon
- Indice de Gini


Indice de diversité du paysage



Managing the forest at multiple scales as a way to enhance forest resilience to drought and multifunctionality : Are intensification, extensification and complexification strategies relevant ?





A dense forest landscape featuring a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees. The evergreens are dark green, while the deciduous trees show some autumnal colors like yellow and orange. The background is slightly hazy, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

Thank you for your attention

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