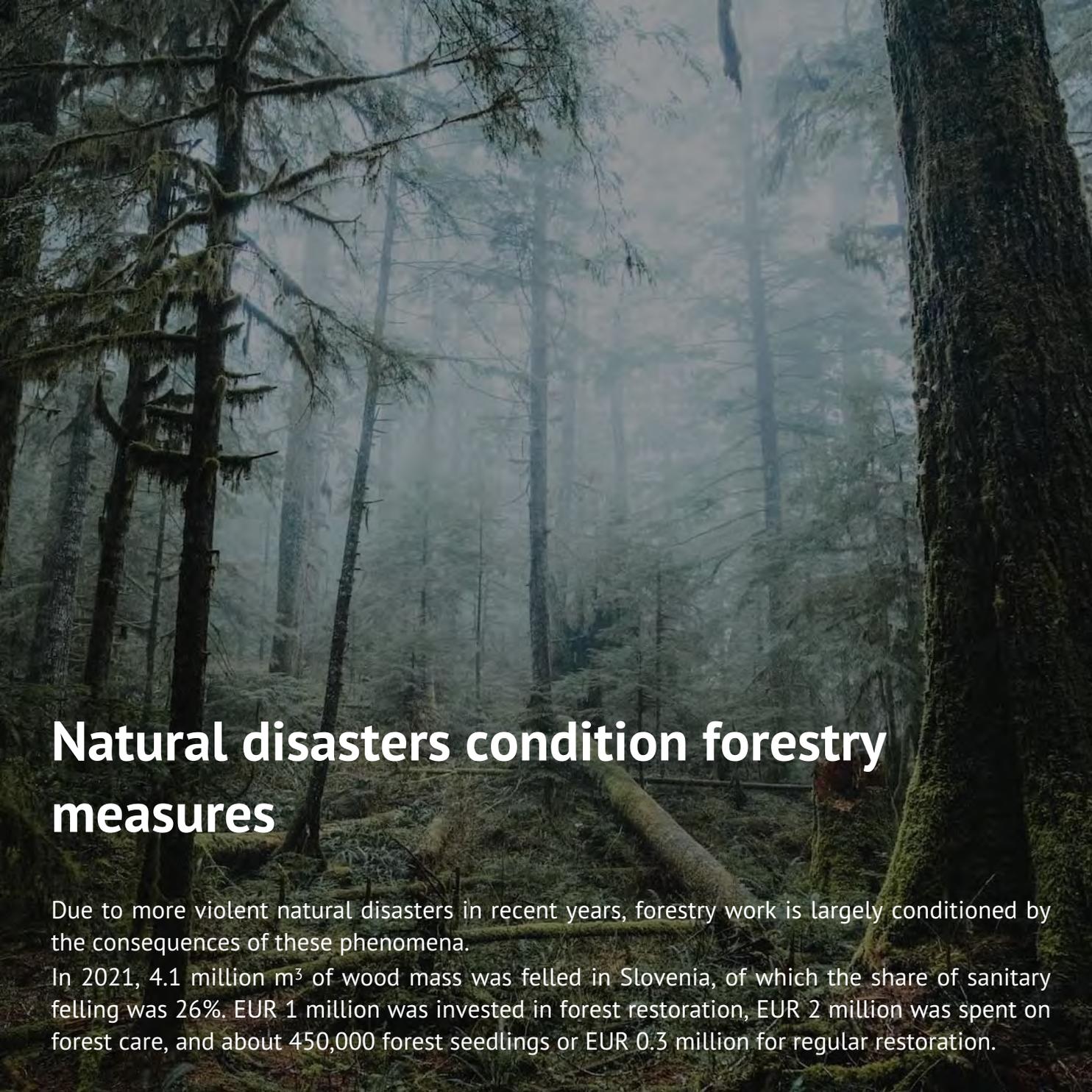




REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
STATISTICAL OFFICE

International Day of Forests 2023

The title theme of this year's International Day of Forests under the auspices of FAO is Forests and Health and it points to the interdependence of the state of our forests and human health, and therefore the importance of sustainable care of forests in mitigating climate change.

A misty forest scene with tall, thin trees and a fallen log in the foreground. The atmosphere is hazy and greenish-blue, suggesting a damp, forest environment. The trees are mostly conifers, and the ground is covered in moss and fallen branches.

Natural disasters condition forestry measures

Due to more violent natural disasters in recent years, forestry work is largely conditioned by the consequences of these phenomena.

In 2021, 4.1 million m³ of wood mass was felled in Slovenia, of which the share of sanitary felling was 26%. EUR 1 million was invested in forest restoration, EUR 2 million was spent on forest care, and about 450,000 forest seedlings or EUR 0.3 million for regular restoration.

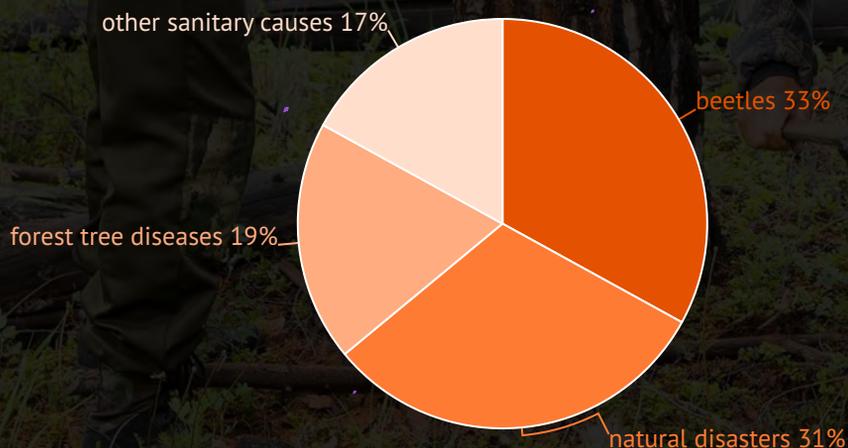
Structure of sanitary felling

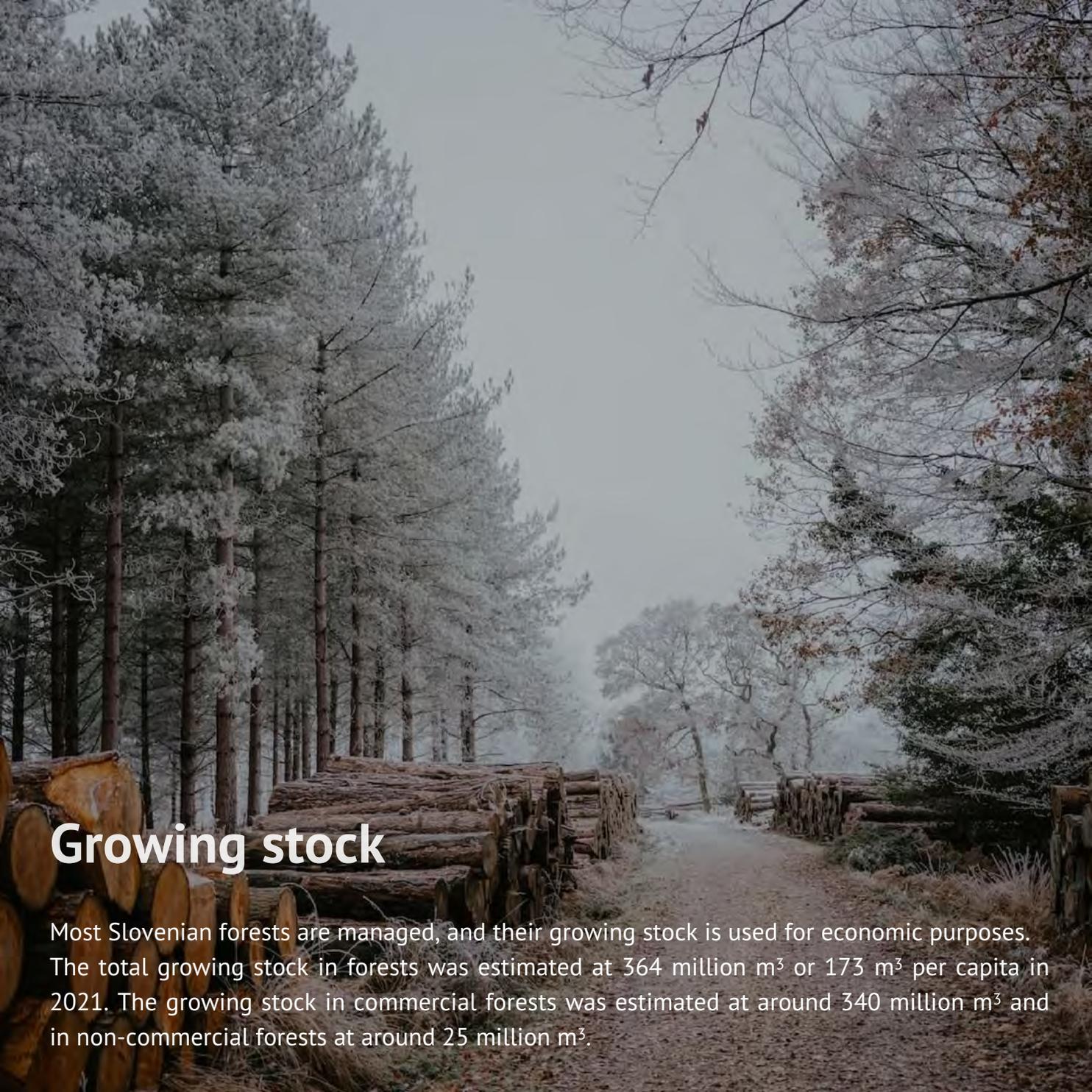
The changed environmental conditions cause an increase in forest tree diseases, which is also reflected in the structure of sanitary felling, one of the indicators of forest health.

The share of sanitary felling due to forest tree diseases was 19% in 2021, or 8 percentage points higher than a year earlier.

The largest share of sanitary felling (33%) was carried out due to the multiplication of bark beetles and the smallest share (17%) due to other sanitary causes.

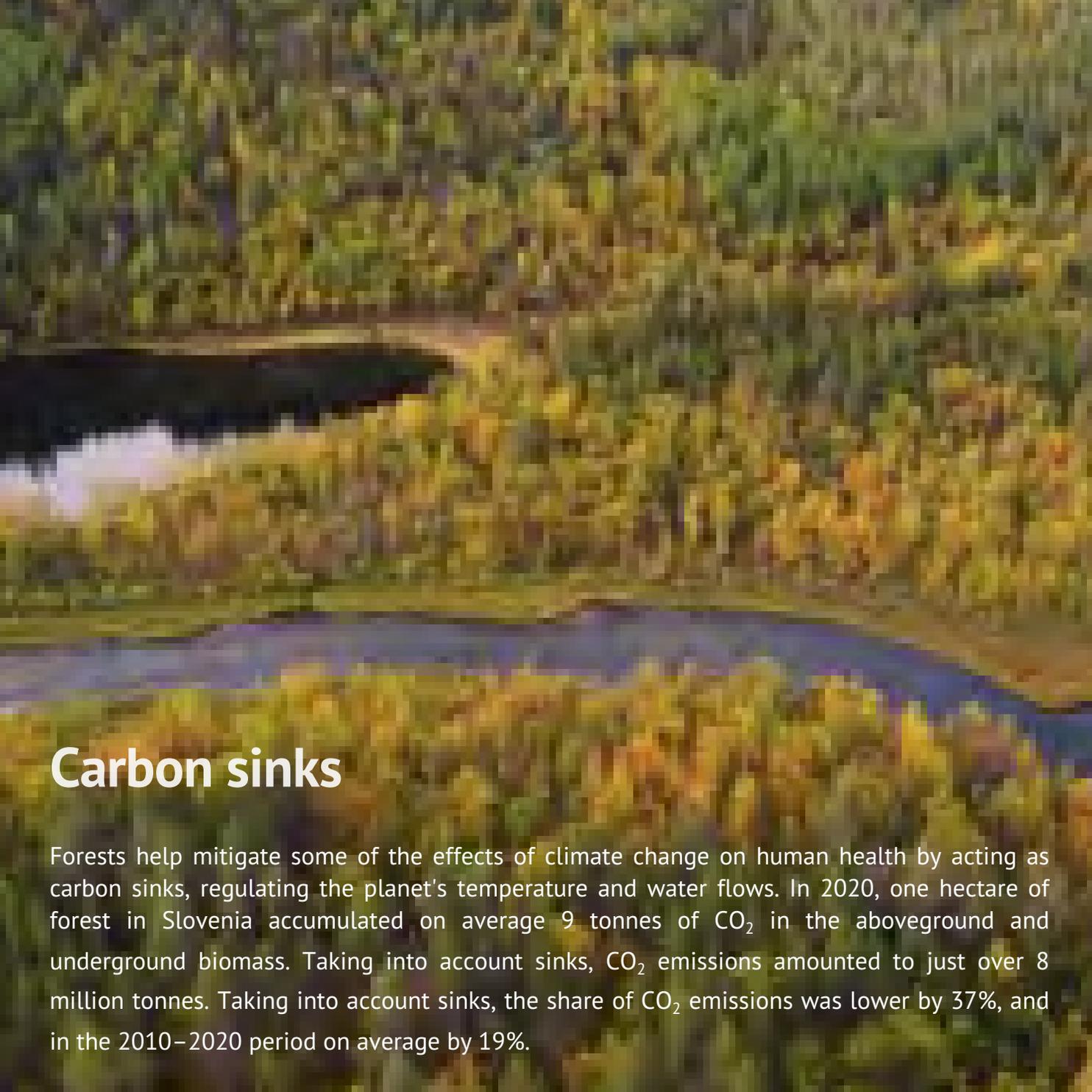
Structure of sanitary felling, Slovenia, 2021





Growing stock

Most Slovenian forests are managed, and their growing stock is used for economic purposes. The total growing stock in forests was estimated at 364 million m³ or 173 m³ per capita in 2021. The growing stock in commercial forests was estimated at around 340 million m³ and in non-commercial forests at around 25 million m³.

A scenic view of a forest with a stream and a pond, illustrating carbon sinks. The image shows a lush green forest with a stream flowing through it, and a pond in the foreground. The trees are dense and vibrant green, suggesting a healthy ecosystem. The water in the stream is clear and reflects the surrounding greenery. The pond in the foreground is calm and reflects the sky and the surrounding forest. The overall scene is peaceful and natural, highlighting the role of forests as carbon sinks.

Carbon sinks

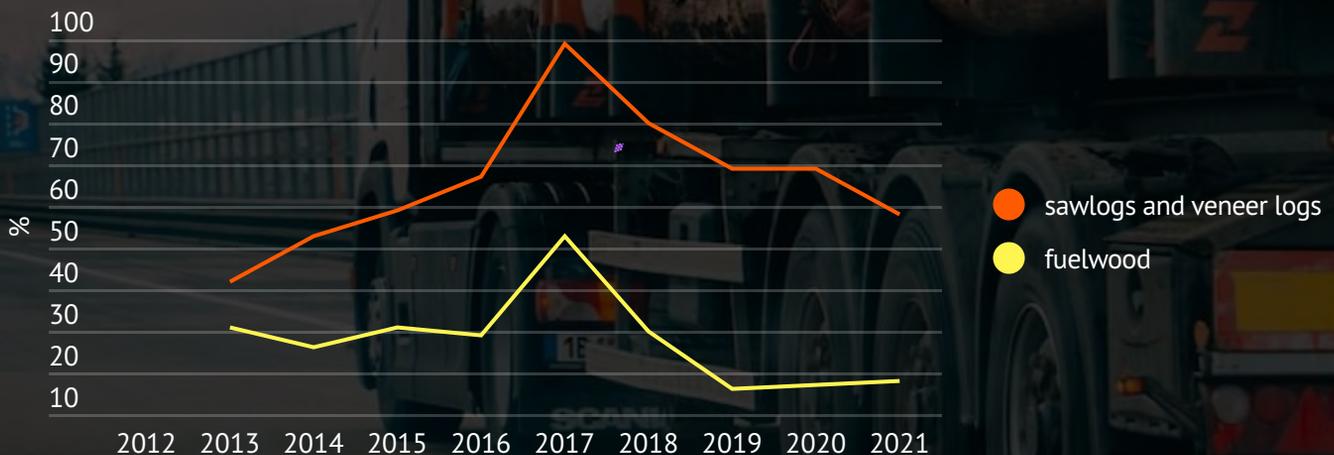
Forests help mitigate some of the effects of climate change on human health by acting as carbon sinks, regulating the planet's temperature and water flows. In 2020, one hectare of forest in Slovenia accumulated on average 9 tonnes of CO₂ in the aboveground and underground biomass. Taking into account sinks, CO₂ emissions amounted to just over 8 million tonnes. Taking into account sinks, the share of CO₂ emissions was lower by 37%, and in the 2010–2020 period on average by 19%.

Potential for sustainable use of wood

The 15th global sustainable development goal promotes "the protection, restoration and promotion of the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and the sustainable management of forests". The share of exports of wood assortments in domestic forestry production shows the loss of production potential for sustainable use of wood.

In 2021, 35% of produced wood assortments were exported from Slovenia. 65% of raw wood remained in Slovenia for further use, which is 4 percentage points more than the year before. 58% (about 1.1 million m³) of the produced logs and veneer logs and 18% (about 200,000 m³) of fuelwood were exported.

Share of exports in domestic forestry production, Slovenia



Sustainable energy use of wood

In meeting the 15th global sustainable development goal, the way wood is used for energy purposes is of great importance, and the use of wood in households contributes significantly to this. Slovenian households consumed 1.1 million tonnes of wood fuel (in the form of fuelwood, wood chips, wood pellets, wood briquettes and wood residues) in 2021; 90% of this amount was fuelwood. 89% of the energy from wood fuels was intended for space heating, 9% for sanitary water heating, and 1% for cooking.

Energy consumption of wood fuels by purpose, Slovenia, 2021

