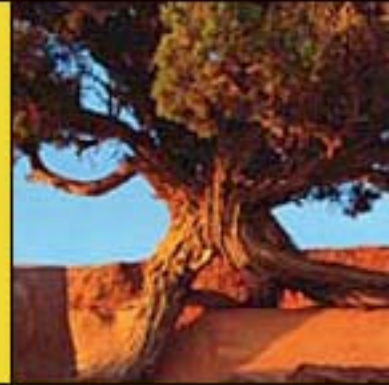


Forest Owners' Perceptions of Risk, Uncertainty and Climate Change



A Discussion

Lindsey Ellingson
Southern Swedish Forest
Research Centre





Presentation Outline

- **Examples of Forest Related Risks**
- **Case Study**
 - Area
 - Current Policy Framework
 - Climate Change Perceptions
 - Responses to Risks
 - Motivations
- **Questions/ Discussion**



Examples of Forest Related Risks

- Wind damage
- Root rot
- Snow breaks
- Bark and pinch beetle damage
- Frost damage
- Browsing
- Fire
- Thawing
- Timber prices
- Input costs
- Interest rates
- Property prices





Study Area

- **Sweden**
- **Forests are more than 60% land area**
- **11% of total value of products exported**

- **Gotland**
- **77% conifers ; 23% deciduous**
- **78% forests are owned privately**



Current Policy Framework

- **EU Level Policy**
 - No climate change policy
 - No forest policy

- **Sweden Policy**
 - No climate change policy
 - 1994 Forestry Act: equates importance of wood production and biodiversity



Questions

- **Are there sufficient policies in place to tackle climate change related risks and uncertainties?**
- **Should there be an EU, Regional, or National level policy or entity?**
 - **Climate Change?**
 - **Adaptation and/or Mitigation?**
 - **Forestry Focus?**



Climate Change Perceptions

- **22% of private production in Gotaland is controlled by forest owners who do not acknowledge climate change (*Blennow & Persson, 2009*)**
- **4 times the frequency than the general Swedish population (*Reiner et al. 2006*)**



Responses to Risk

- **87% of respondents were aware of actions to take in order to reduce risks**
- **Only 1/3 indicated that they had taken any action**
- **83% would not modify their tree species grown**

(Blennow 2008)



Questions

- Are there existing tools to assist forest owners in their decision making process?
- What are other means to transfer forest research and management information to forest owners?
- What are potential solutions to motivate adaptation to risk related activities?



Forest Owner Motivations

- **Less than 10% rely on the income from their forests (*Tornqvist 1995: Mattsson et al. 2003*)**
- **Social**
- **Cultural (forestry culture)**
- **Lifestyle**
- **Intergenerational**



Questions?

- **Should you consider these values in management and policy decisions?**
- **How and why?**
- **What is influencing forest owners' management decisions relating to climate change mitigation and adaptation under uncertainty and risk?**

Natural?

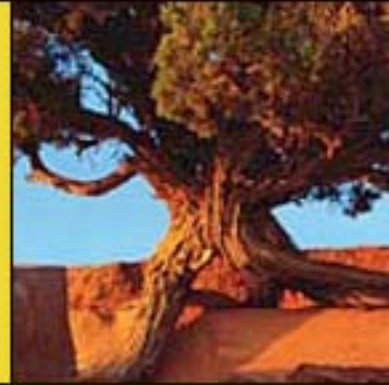
Political?

Financial?

Economic?

The Market? (indirectly)

Thank you!



Questions?

