

Naturalness and conservation status of forest habitats in the National Park Hohe Tauern Salzburg (Austria)

WLM Office for Vegetation Ecology and Environmental Planning, Innsbruck - in cooperation with University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Institute for Silviculture, Vienna



Awarding authority: Nationalpark Hohe Tauern Salzburg

WITH SUPPORT OF THE AUSTRIAN FEDERATION, THE COUNTY OF SALZBURG AND

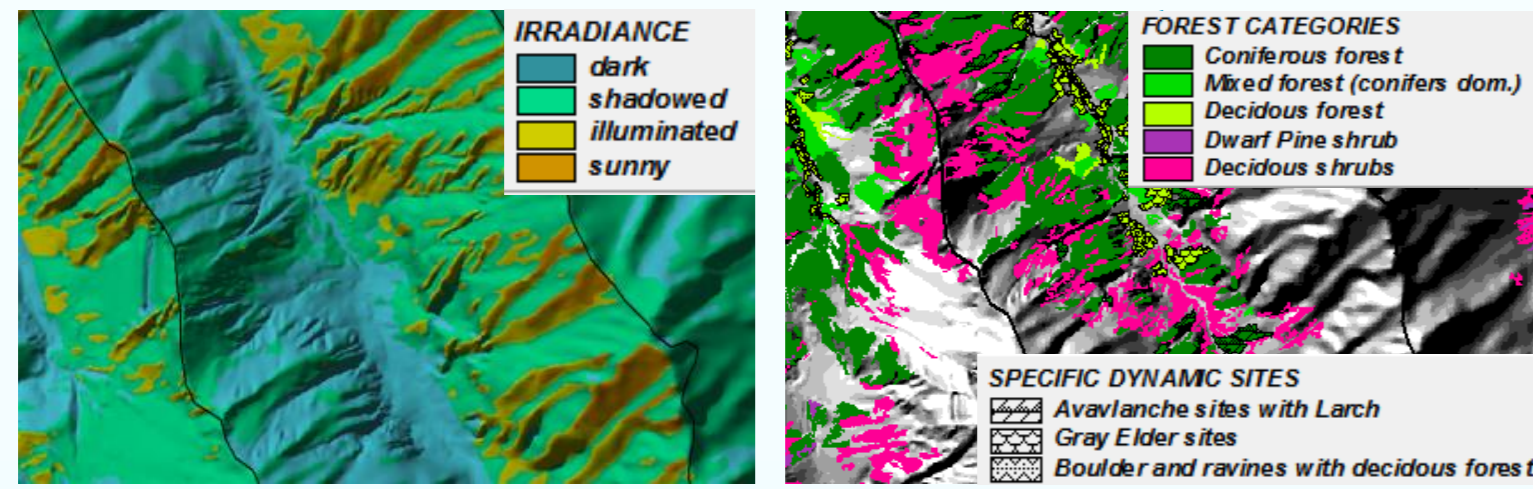
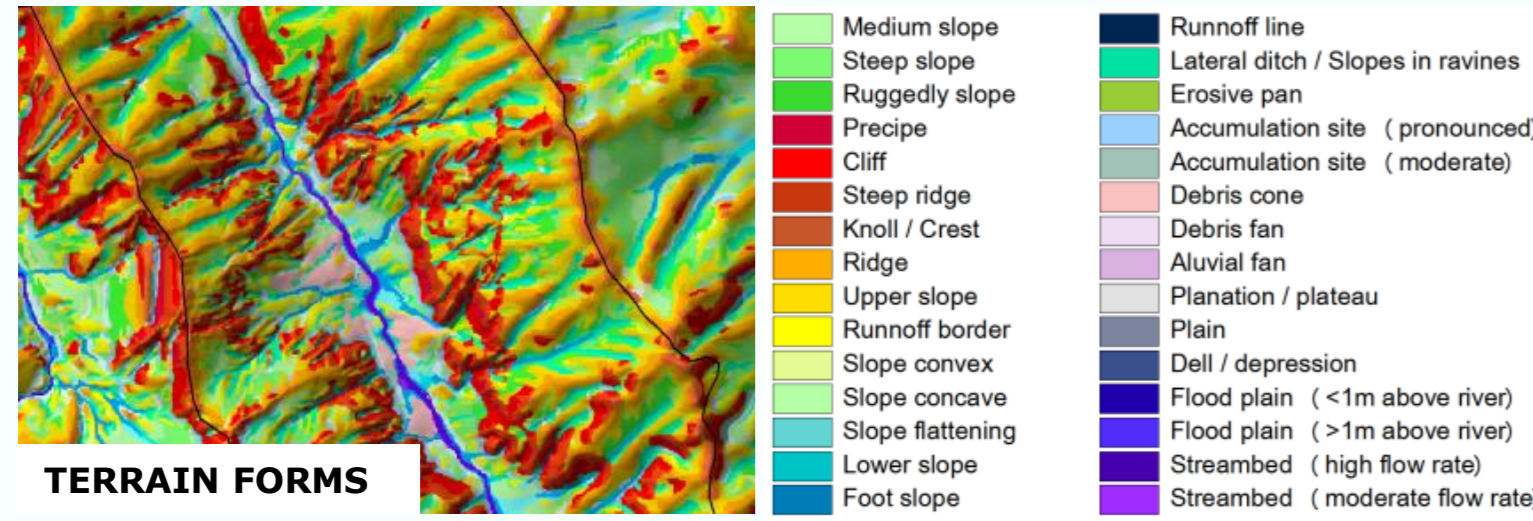
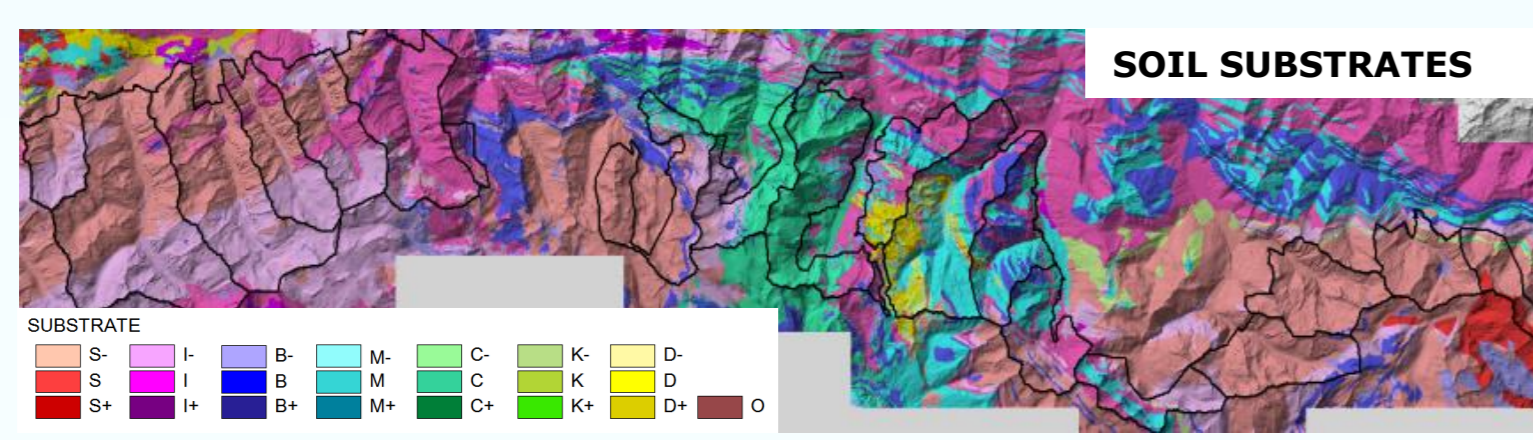
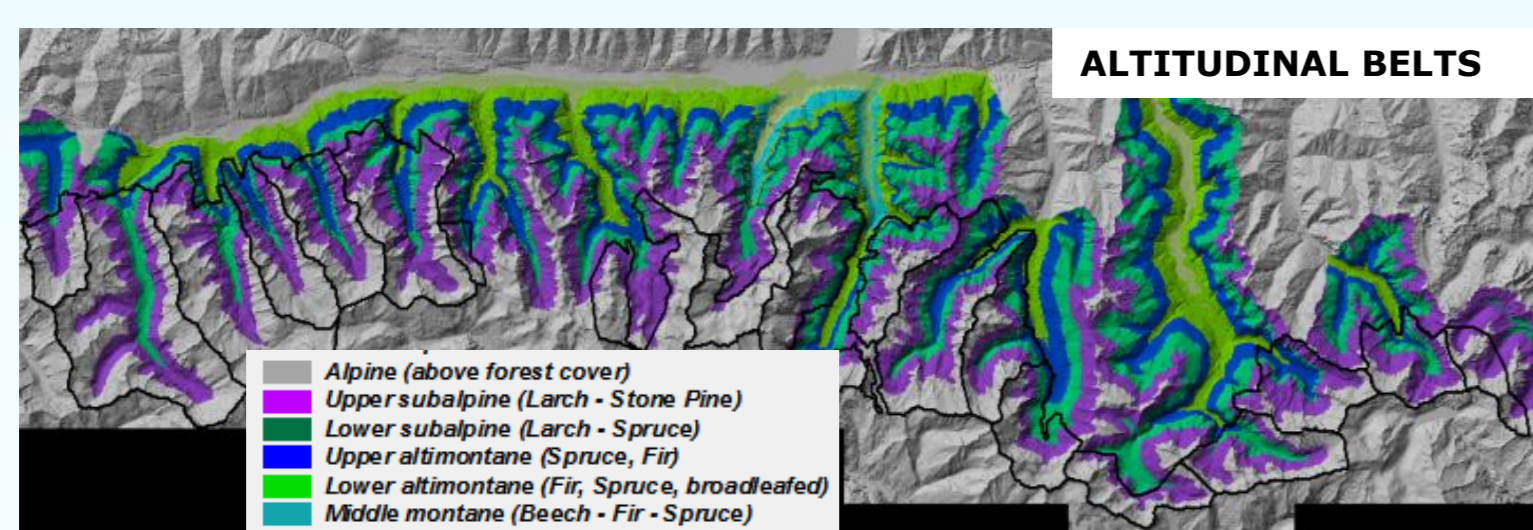
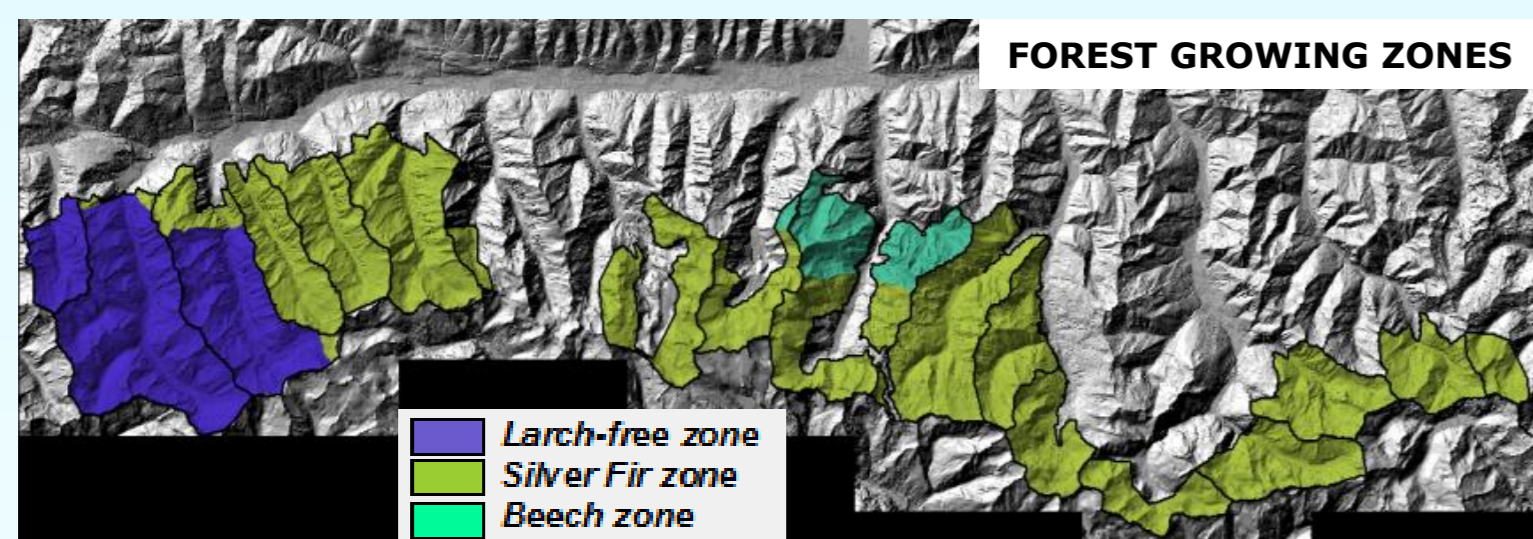


Forest habitat mapping

Modelling *potential natural forest types* on GIS-based strata applying an empirical site model

Deriving *actual forest habitat types* based on a FCIR interpretation overlaid by the potential forest types

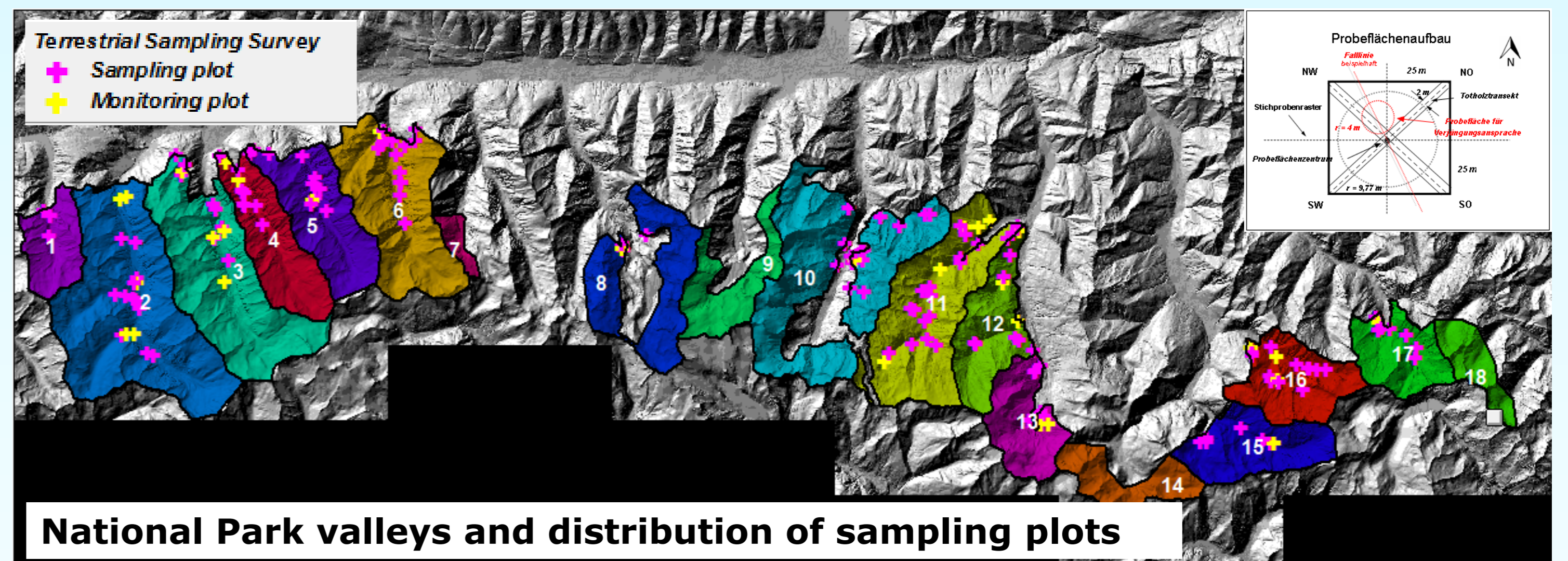
Layers of the stratification model



Terrestrial survey

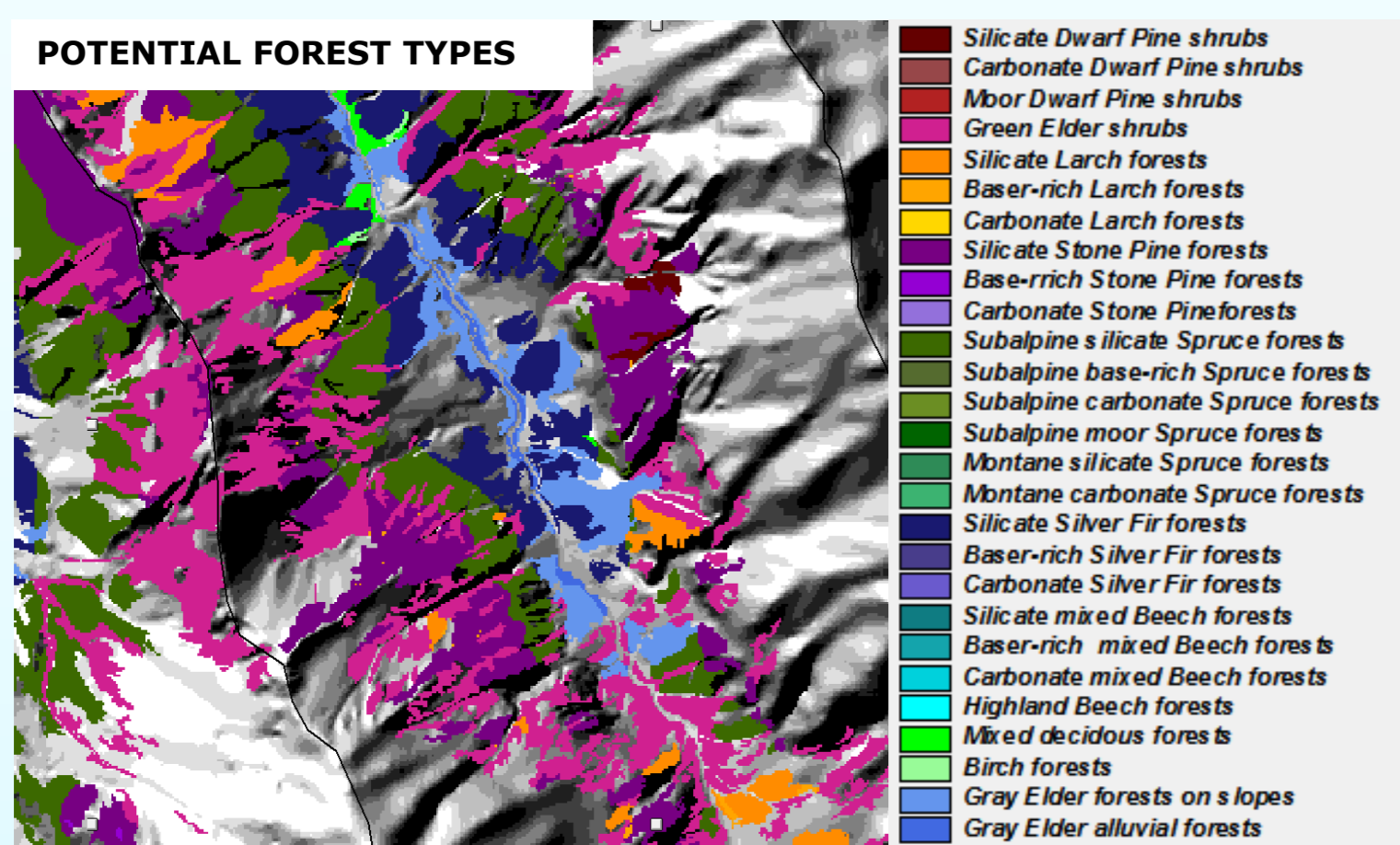
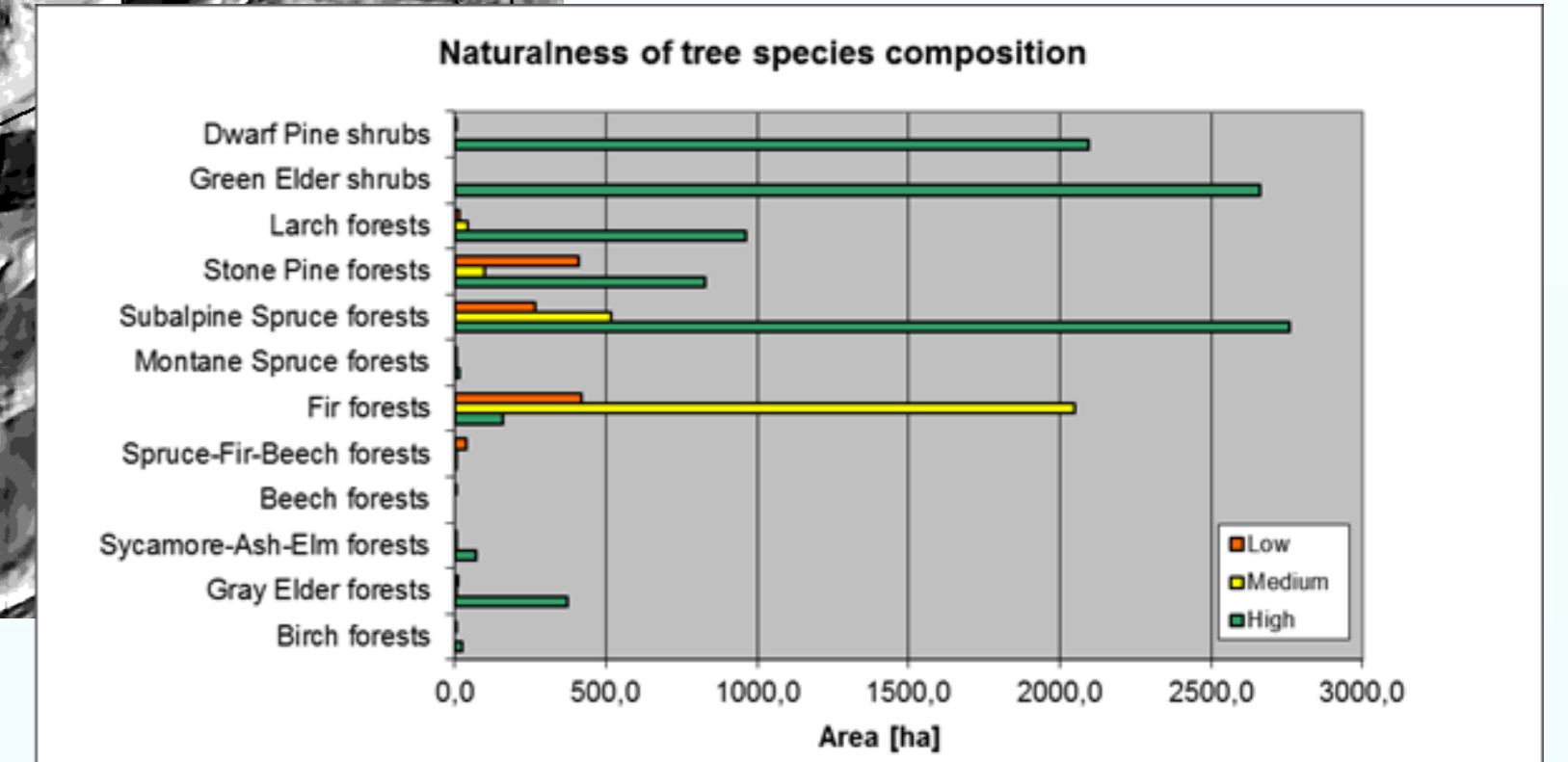
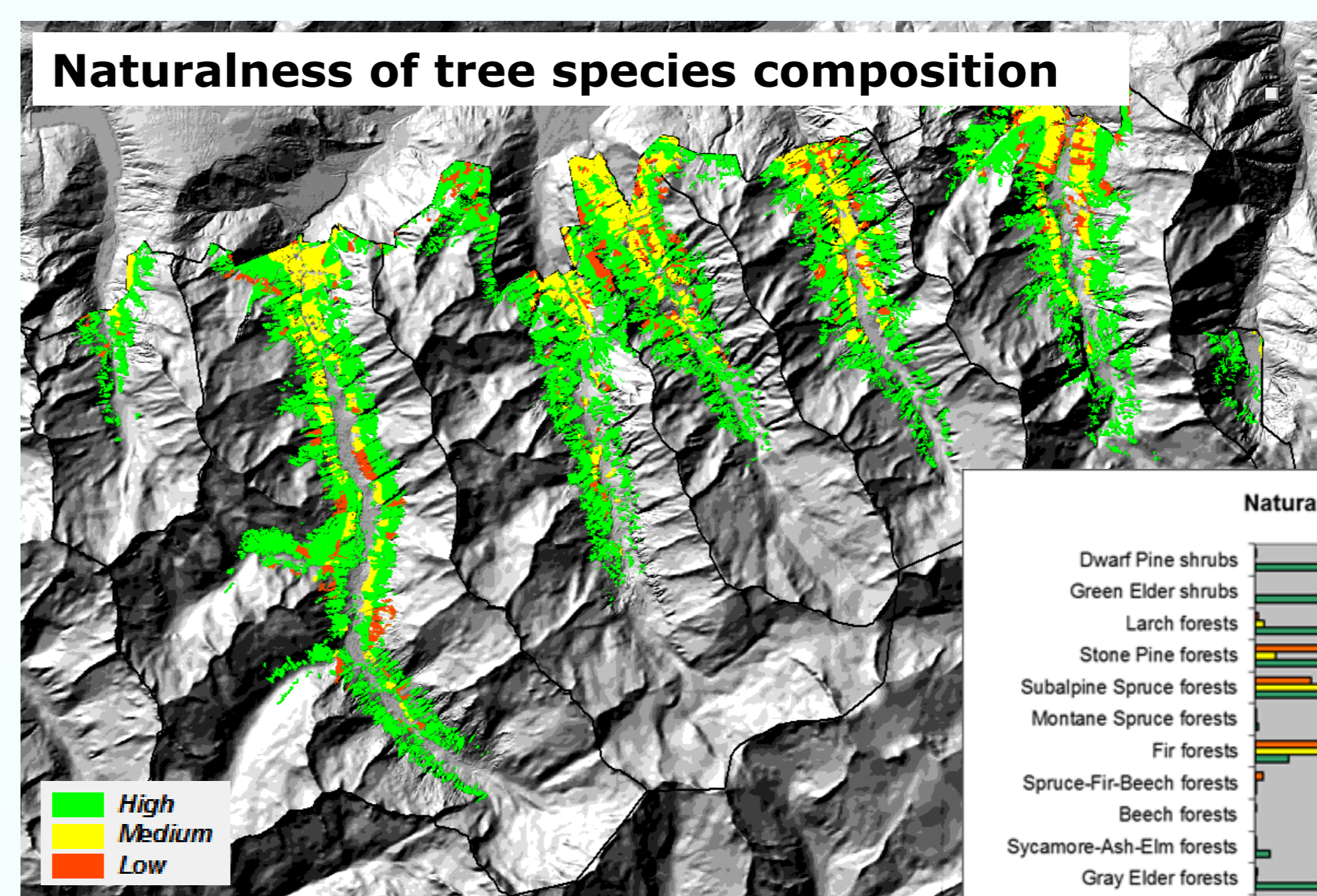
The *conservation status* was assessed by a terrestrial sampling survey on 160 plots around the park area considering site conditions, vegetation, stand information, influences by forestry, game or pasturing.

This is the reporting objective for the Natura 2000 network of the European Union



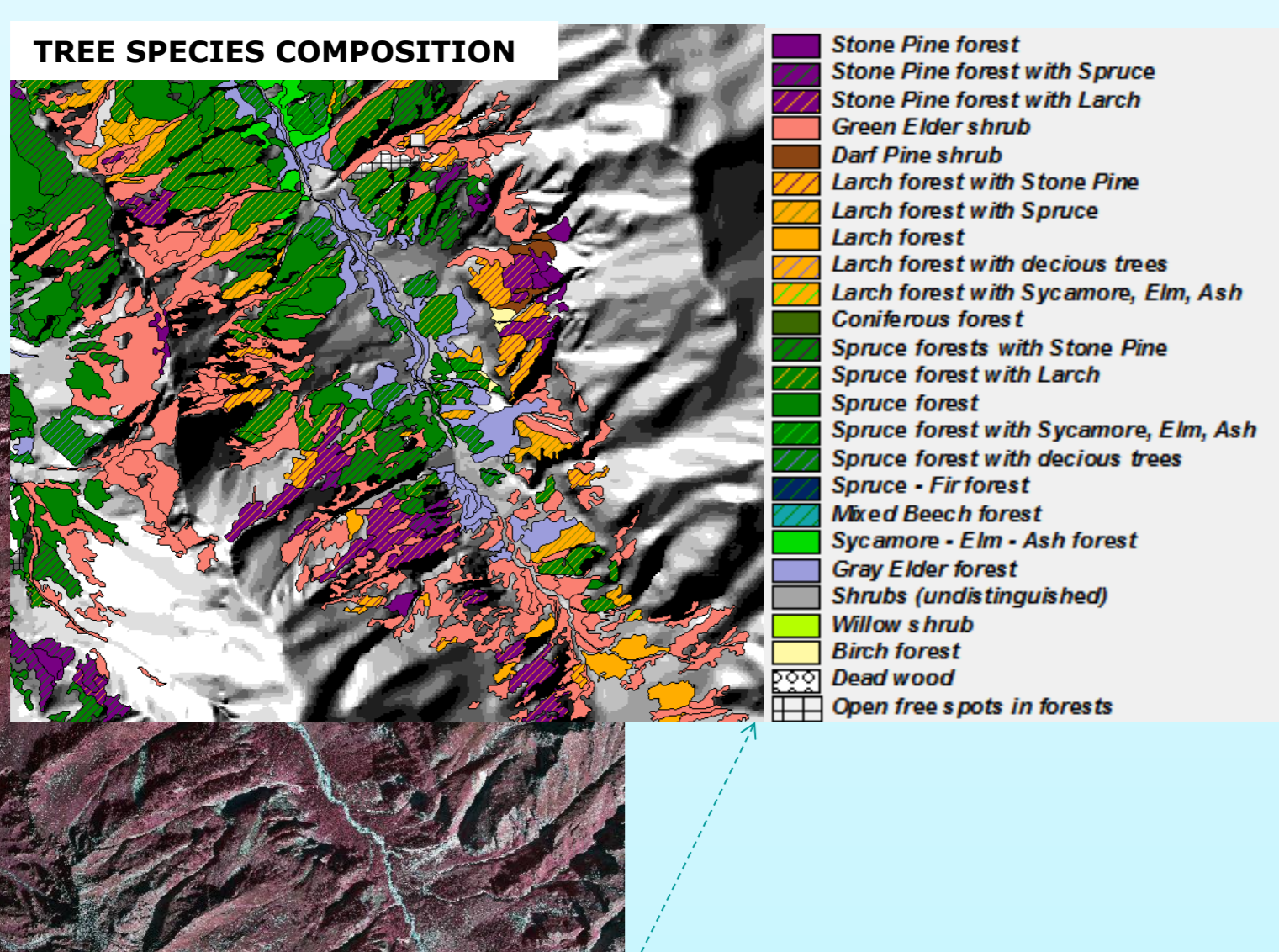
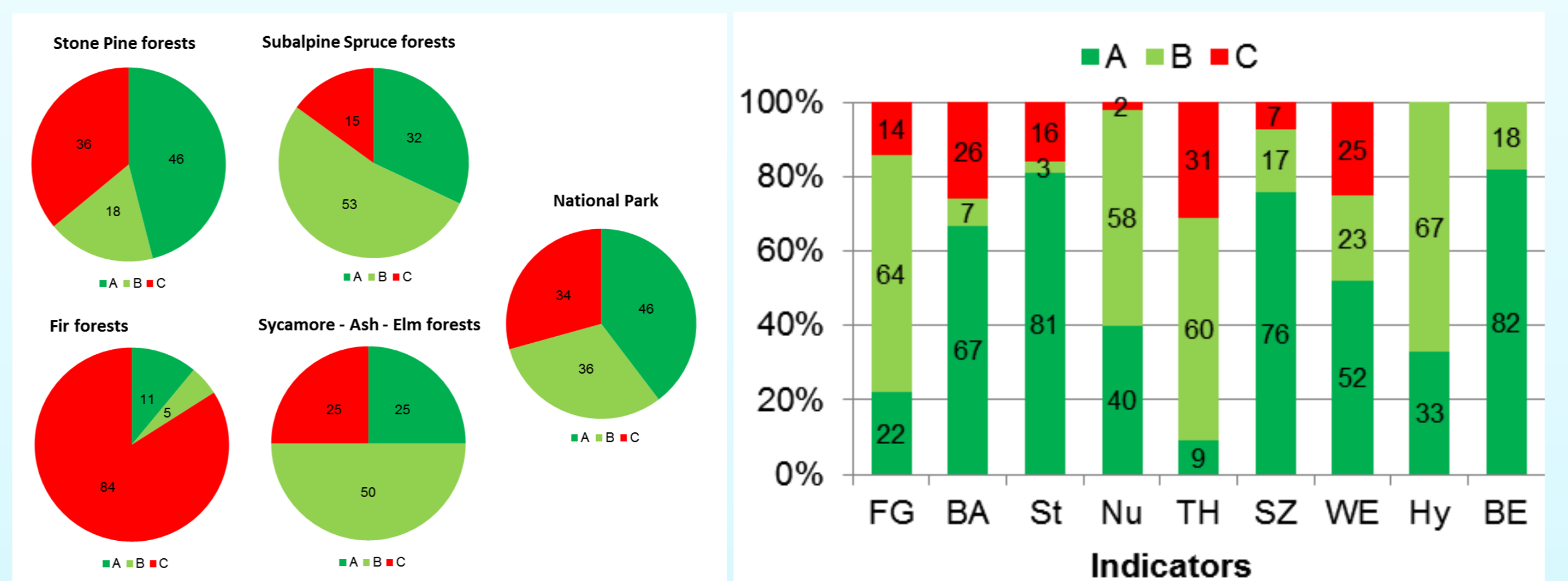
Assessment of the naturalness of forest habitats

The *naturalness* of the tree species composition was assessed by applying thresholds for the potential natural tree species in the respective forest habitat types.



Potential forest types
Ecological units comprising specific forest site conditions (temperature, water and nutrient supply) and characteristic vegetation (plant community)

Assessment of the conservation status in the grades A, B or C concerning the respective indicators area (FG), tree species composition (BA), structure (St), forestry use (Nu), dead wood (TH), disturbance (SZ), game (WE) and hydrological impacts (Hy)



Actual forest habitat types
Landcover units with a specific tree species combination on a specific site derived from a FCIR interpretation

Recommendations for National Park and forest management

- Nature reservation (existing)
- Establish nature reservation
- Conserve bog woodland
- Protect Sycamore - Ash - Elm forests
- Develop Sycamore - Ash - Elm forests
- Develop Beech forests
- Fir-appropriate forestry
- Expand Fir relics
- Re-introduce Fir actively
- Improve Gray Elder stands
- Expand subalpine Spruce stands
- Expand Stone Pine stands
- Sustainable use of subalpine woodland
- Allow natural development