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## Modelling the effects of management intensification on multiple forest services: a Swedish case study

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1 Title: MODELLING THE EFFECTS OF MANAGEMENT INTENSIFICATION ON  
2 MULTIPLE FOREST SERVICES: A SWEDISH CASE STUDY

3

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17 ABSTRACT

18 The study presents a method to evaluate the response of forest ecosystems to increased biomass  
19 extraction based on the integrated ecosystem model ForSAFE. It evaluates the effects of residue  
20 removal, intensification of thinnings and a shorter rotation period on a forest site in Southern  
21 Sweden. The evaluation includes multiple ecosystem indicators for productivity, carbon storage,  
22 wood production, water use and water quality. Such integrated assessments can contribute to  
23 identify negative or positive impacts affecting ecosystem services provided by forests. Results  
24 show that increased biomass extraction reduces the carbon stored in the forests, but at the same  
25 time reduces the loss of nitrogen and carbon through leaching. Within one rotation, residue  
26 removal affects the carbon stock in the soil, but it does not affect forest productivity and therefore  
27 tree carbon stock. Contrarily, the intensification of thinnings and shorter rotation periods reduce  
28 carbon stored in trees. In all cases, the amount of wood available for products increases, but the  
29 additional harvest from increased thinnings and earlier clear cutting does not compensate for the  
30 loss of carbon in trees. A positive consequence of removing the decomposing material from the  
31 site is the reduced amount of nutrients lost with runoff. Both leached nitrogen and dissolved  
32 organic carbon decrease with intensification. In addition, a positive effect of increased thinnings  
33 and a shorter rotation period is a reduced evapotranspiration, i.e. reduced water use. The effect on  
34 acidification differed depending on the time frame considered and the applied management  
35 scenario, due to different dominating processes regulating acidity. To avoid acidification,  
36 management intensification should include measures to prevent loss of base cations in the soil.  
37 Overall, under the studied conditions, the risk for negative effects seems to be smaller for residue  
38 extraction than for management changes including additional tree harvest.

39

40 Keywords: integrated assessment, dynamic model, forest management, ecosystem service, long-  
41 term measurement

## 42 1. INTRODUCTION

43 Societies face today the challenge to minimize negative environmental impacts produced by  
44 human activities. To respond to this need, environmental policies that aim to prevent or reduce  
45 such negative effects are promoted from the regional to the international level. These policy  
46 measures are usually the result of a process that includes interactions between, monitoring,  
47 research, assessment and policy-making (Millenium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005).

48 Forest management is one of the activities that can produce significant positive or negative  
49 effects on environmental resources. For this reason, forestry is expected to contribute to achieve  
50 multiple environmental objectives set by policies by providing services such as timber  
51 production, biodiversity conservation, carbon storage, supply of bioenergy and water resource  
52 protection (COM, 2005; Rayner et al., 2010). However, each management strategy has often  
53 impacts on the provision of several services which can conflict with each other (Wang and Fu,  
54 2013). Trade-offs have been identified, for example, between wood production and biodiversity  
55 or carbon storage and bioenergy (Parrotta et al., 2012; Vanhala et al., 2013).

56 Due to the conflicts or synergies between different services, there is an increasing need to  
57 evaluate the effects of forestry activities in an integrated perspective and therefore support  
58 management strategies that could help countries to comply with multiple environmental  
59 objectives. Research studies that perform quantitative assessments of the impact of forestry on  
60 multiple forest services are just emerging and are still quite limited (Başkent et al., 2011;  
61 Duncker et al., 2012; Gamfeldt et al., 2013; Schwenk et al., 2012).

62 This study presents a method to evaluate the response of abiotic properties of forest ecosystems  
63 to environmental changes, based on an integrated ecosystem model. We focused on the effects of  
64 management intensification on indicators of site productivity, carbon storage, wood production,  
65 water use and water quality at forest site level. The response of these indicators to management

66 changes can provide information for the identification of trade-offs between different forest  
67 ecosystem services and therefore increase knowledge on optimal management strategies. The  
68 method has been applied to a forest site, which is part of a long-term monitoring network in  
69 Swedish forests. After validating the model results against measured data, we simulated  
70 ecosystem responses under different management scenarios in an integrated manner.

## 71 2. DATA and METHODS

### 72 2.1. The biogeochemical model ForSAFE

73 ForSAFE is a mechanistic model of the dynamics of forest ecosystems. The model is a  
74 mechanical aggregation of interacting but mutually independent processes that constitute the  
75 building blocks of the model. Each independent process - chemical, physical or physiological- is  
76 based on empirical evidence (Belyazid et al., 2006; Wallman et al., 2005). It was designed for  
77 the purpose of simulating the dynamic responses of forest ecosystems to environmental changes.  
78 ForSAFE combines the engines of four established models: the tree growth model PnET (Aber  
79 and Federer, 1992), the soil chemistry model SAFE (Alveteg, 1998), the decomposition model  
80 Decomp (Wallman et al., 2006; Walse et al., 1998), and the hydrology model PULSE (Lindström  
81 and Gardelin, 1992). Merging these components brings together the three basic material and  
82 energy cycles in a single integrated model: the biological cycle representing the processes  
83 involved in tree growth; the biochemical cycle including uptake, litter decomposition and soil  
84 nutrient dynamics; and the geochemical cycle including atmospheric deposition and weathering  
85 processes (Figure 1).

86

87 [Figure 1]

88

### 89 2.2. Datasets

90 In this study, the model ForSAFE was used to simulate the effects of management changes on a  
91 forest site in Southern Sweden, Västra Torup (13.51E, 56.14N). The site is located on a flat area  
92 with annual average temperature of about 8°C and average annual precipitation of about 900 mm.  
93 The site is a spruce dominated managed forest on a brown podzolic soil with a mean net annual  
94 increment of about 6 m<sup>3</sup> ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup> over the rotation period. The site is part of the Swedish

95 Throughfall Monitoring Network (SWETHRO) (Pihl Karlsson et al., 2011). In the SWETHRO  
96 sites, several parameters are measured, including throughfall deposition and soil water chemistry  
97 inside forest stands and measurements of air concentrations of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides  
98 and ammonia and bulk deposition in nearby open areas. The first sites were initiated in the end of  
99 the 1980's.

100 Västra Torup is also part of the ICP FOREST LEVEL II monitoring programme (International  
101 Co-operative Program on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests,  
102 <http://www.icp-forests.org>). Historical data are available on tree biomass (1996-2010 on a 5 year  
103 interval), soil chemistry (from 1995 on a yearly basis) and other parameters such as foliage  
104 chemistry and defoliation (1995-2010).

105 Complementary data on soil chemistry and tree biomass were collected in 2010. Soil samples  
106 from five distinguished soil horizons were analysed for soil C, N, pH and exchangeable cations,  
107 soil texture and total element contents. The total element contents were used as inputs to the  
108 program A2M to estimate the normative mineralogical composition of the different layers (Posch  
109 and Kurz, 2007). The soil data used as inputs to the model are reported in the Appendix (Table  
110 A.1).

111 The atmospheric deposition scenario used for the simulations is the Current Legislation (CLE)  
112 scenario and the Gothenburg protocol of the UN Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air  
113 Pollution provided by the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) on a 50x50  
114 km grid. The EMEP scenario includes data series for sulphur (SO<sub>4</sub>), nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) and ammonia  
115 (NH<sub>4</sub>) deposition from 1900 to 2100. The original EMEP data set was downscaled according to  
116 measurements collected at the site in 1988-2009 (<http://krondroppsnatet.ivl.se/>). The downscaling  
117 is based on the ratio between the average measured deposition and the average modelled  
118 deposition over the same period. Deposition of calcium (Ca), magnesium (Mg), potassium (K),



119 chlorine (Cl) and sodium (Na) was assumed constant over the simulation period (1900-2100) and  
120 is equal to the average measured deposition for each element. Modelled deposition data were  
121 replaced with measured deposition data when available.

122 The climate scenario in the period 1900-2100 is based on data from the Global Climate Model  
123 ECHAM and follows the SRESA2 emission story line of the IPCC. The model data have been  
124 calibrated over the historical climate. Historical data are derived from the SMHI weather station  
125 data using-spatial interpolation and from the NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis project for solar radiation  
126 (1961-2008) (David Ryner, 2010 , personal communication).

127

### 128 2.3. Model initialization, calibration and validation

129 The amount of organically bound carbon and nutrients in the soil affects the forest stand's status.  
130 The mineralisation of organically bound nutrients can be the most important source satisfying  
131 tree uptake requirements, while the decomposition of carbon directly dictates microbial activity  
132 and soil acidity. To make sure the current size of the organic pools of carbon and nutrients in the  
133 soil are correct, the initial state of the site has to be calibrated. The initial conditions are set  
134 through an iterative process that involves the calibration of simulated values of soil organic  
135 carbon against a measured value at present. A fundamental part of the information needed to  
136 initialize the model is the past land management that strongly influence the accumulation of  
137 nutrients in the soil. Information on the past management in Västra Torup was obtained from  
138 forest management plans and interviews to the forest manager.

139

140 The calibration of the model included the adjustment of some parameters regulating part of the  
141 vegetation processes. Some of the default tree species parameters used in the photosynthetic  
142 module of ForSAFE, Pn-ET, appeared to be inappropriate for Swedish conditions. These values

143 determined a significant underestimation of biomass growth and stock. Therefore, some of the  
144 parameters regulating biomass production were adjusted to better represent site conditions (see  
145 Appendix, A.2). The calibration phase included the collection of additional information to  
146 regulate the uptake and storage of base cations (Bc) in spruce from literature and available  
147 databases. In ForSAFE, the uptake is driven by a minimum nutrient content in foliage and an  
148 average content in wood and fine roots. If there is no nutrient limitation, the nutrients allocated to  
149 foliage are set higher than the minimum nutrient demand, a phenomenon known as luxury uptake  
150 (Tamm, 1975). We used data of nutrient concentrations in spruce foliage from the ICP network to  
151 calculate minimum and maximum nutrient contents. The variability of concentration observed in  
152 the data supports the theory that tree uptake is larger than the minimum required for tissue  
153 formation when there is no nutrient limitation. For example, calcium concentration in spruce  
154 foliage can be 5 times the minimum concentration. These values were used to calculate the range  
155 of variation over the minimum nutrient requirement and therefore regulate luxury uptake in  
156 ForSAFE (Table 1).

157

158 [Table 1]

159

160 The model results were validated against the measured values from the Västra Torup site.  
161 Measured data on tree diameter were used to calculate tree biomass (Marklund, 1988). Biomass  
162 data and measurements of soil water chemistry collected in 1996-2011 (pH, NO<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>4</sub>, Cl, Na,  
163 Bc, total Al) were compared to model results.

164

165 2.4. Integrated assessment of indicators in response to management changes

166 The ecosystem response to different management scenarios has been evaluated by analysing a  
167 group of ecosystem indicators: net primary production (NPP,  $\text{g m}^{-2}$  of carbon), carbon stock in  
168 woody biomass (Tree C,  $\text{g m}^{-2}$  of carbon), soil organic carbon (SOC,  $\text{g m}^{-2}$  of carbon), amount of  
169 harvested wood available for wood products and bioenergy (HV,  $\text{g m}^{-2}$  of dry matter, d.m.),  
170 actual evapotranspiration (AET,  $\text{l m}^{-2}$ ), acid neutralizing capacity (ANC,  $\mu\text{eq l}^{-1}$ ), nitrogen  
171 leaching (Nleach,  $\text{g m}^{-2}$  of nitrogen) and dissolved organic carbon (DOC,  $\text{g m}^{-2}$  of DOC). These  
172 indicators provide a quantification of ecosystem processes that regulate the provision of some  
173 ecosystem services to human societies (Table 2). Therefore, the analysis of the response of these  
174 indicators can help understanding how ecosystem service provision from forests could be  
175 affected under intensified management.

176 Several indicators were calculated as cumulative values to highlight the difference over time  
177 between different management scenarios.

178

179 [Table 2]

180

181 Scenarios representing the current (BAS) and three intensified management practices  
182 (INT1,INT2 and INT3) have been included in the analysis. The BAS scenario is based on  
183 historical data from Västra Torup and the INT scenarios are based on three hypothetical strategies  
184 to increase extraction of biomass from forest sites: residue extraction (INT1), increased number  
185 of thinnings (INT2) and a shorter rotation period (INT3). The management is equal for all  
186 scenarios until 2010. The forest was clear cut in 2010 at the age of about 70 years and was  
187 thinned two times before that. The site was marginally affected by the storm Gudrun in 2005.  
188 Starting from 2010, the amount of wood extracted in the INT scenarios was increased (Table 3).  
189 The INT1 has been simulated to isolate the effect of residue removal from the site. Residue

190 removal is included also in scenarios INT2 and INT3. It is also assumed that 60% of the foliage is  
191 removed with the branches in all INT scenarios (Swedish Forest Agency, 2008). This assumption  
192 is based on current technical constraints that do not enable residues extraction without foliage.

193

194 [Table 3]

195

196 As a first step, we simulated each indicator under each management scenario and evaluated the  
197 difference between INT and BAS scenarios over time.

198 As a second step, the response of all indicators was evaluated simultaneously to produce an  
199 integrated assessment of the effects of management changes. For this purpose, the values  
200 attributed to each indicator have been normalized in order to avoid different units and scales. The  
201 following expression has been used to normalize model results:

202

$$203 \quad \Delta I = \frac{I_{INT}(t) - I_{BAS}(t)}{|I_{BAS}(t)|} \times 100$$

204

205 Where  $\Delta I$  is the normalized change of a certain indicator  $I$  (e.g. NPP) in percentage and  $I_{INT}$  and  
206  $I_{BAS}$  are the values of the indicator under the intensified and baseline management scenarios,  
207 respectively, at a certain point in time,  $t$ .

208 The conclusions on the effect of management changes are influenced by the time-frame that is  
209 chosen to assess  $\Delta I$ . In this study, we chose to consider the values of  $I_{INT}$  and  $I_{BAS}$  at two different  
210 points in time:

211 A. 35 years after the first clear cut (in 2045)

212 B. At the end of the rotation period (in 2079 in BAS, INT1 and INT2 and 2069 in INT3)

213

214 Option A focuses on the effects of management changes after a clear cut and on a shorter time  
215 frame that can be relevant for policy making. Option B describes a longer time-frame response of  
216 the ecosystem, when all the management activities in a rotation period are considered.

217 In the case of ANC, we chose to consider the average  $\Delta I$  over a time interval ( $t2-t1$ ) rather than  
218 the value at a single point in time to avoid biases linked to the high inter-annual variability of this  
219 indicator:

220

$$\overline{\Delta I} = \frac{\sum_{i=t1}^{t2} \Delta I_i}{(t2-t1)}$$

222 All the other indicators are cumulative values and therefore they incorporate any inter-annual  
223 variability, if present. However, ANC as an indicator of acidification has a meaning only when  
224 expressed in terms of concentrations and a cumulative value of a concentration is not applicable.  
225 For ANC, the normalized difference between two scenarios is assessed as the average over 10  
226 years (2035-2044 in option A and 2070-2079 or 2060-2069 in option B).

227 After estimating  $\Delta I$  for all the indicators, the changes are interpreted as a system improvement or  
228 worsening. For some indicators (NPP, C stock, ANC and HV), there is an ecosystem  
229 improvement when the indicator increases, while for others (AET, Nleach and DOC) there is a  
230 positive effect when the indicator decreases. In order to simplify the interpretation of results, the  
231 response of this second group of indicators is changed of sign ( $-\Delta I$ ). After this correction, a  
232 positive  $\Delta I$  corresponds to an ecosystem improvement for all indicators.

233 Finally, the overall effect of the management change is depicted with the help of spider charts  
234 (Figure 2). Spider charts are a graphic tool that has been used to assess the performance of

235 multifunctional systems (Hermann et al., 2013; Paracchini et al., 2011). In this paper, each  
236 indicator is represented by a radius in the spider chart. The effect of the management  
237 intensification (INT) is represented as a relative change to the baseline (BAS) in percentage and it  
238 is equal to  $\Delta I$ .

239 [Figure 2]

240 3. RESULTS

241 3.1. Model validation

242 The model validation shows a good agreement between modelled results and measurements  
243 (Figure 3). We observed some discrepancies mainly on the modelling of SO<sub>4</sub> and Na in the soil  
244 solution.

245 According to the model, SO<sub>4</sub> in the soil solution steadily decrease after the decrease of sulphur  
246 deposition in the 1980s'. However, measured data show that sulphate in the soil solution  
247 decreases less rapidly than expected. As a consequence, modelled sulphate in the soil solution  
248 (SO<sub>4</sub>) is underestimated compared to the measurements. We attribute the discrepancy between  
249 measured and modelled data to the fact that sulphate adsorption, which slows down the release of  
250 SO<sub>4</sub> in the soil solution (Eriksson et al.1992, Martinson et al. 2003), was not included in the  
251 model runs.

252 On the opposite, the model overestimates the amount of sodium in the soil solution. We attribute  
253 this discrepancy to the Na deposition data used as an input to the model, which are based on  
254 observations during a limited period of time (1998-2009). These data could be not fully  
255 representative for previous periods of time and therefore cause uncertainties in the estimation.  
256 However, the presence of both SO<sub>4</sub> and Na in the soil solution in Southern Sweden is strongly  
257 dependent on atmospheric deposition and tree growth has very limited effect on their  
258 mobilization. Therefore, it is likely that forest management changes will not strongly affect the  
259 amount of SO<sub>4</sub> and Na in the soil solution. For this reason, we believe that the discrepancy  
260 between modelled and measured SO<sub>4</sub> and Na should not affect the conclusions in this paper on  
261 the effect of management intensification.

262 [Figure 3]

263 3.2. Model scenarios

264 The analysis of the intensified management scenarios shows that management intensification  
265 mostly affects forest carbon stock, wood production and nitrogen and carbon leaching.

266 Intensified management limited to the extraction of harvest residues (INT1) does not affect  
267 biomass production, the carbon stored in trees and the amount of water used by trees when  
268 compared to the baseline (BAS) (Figure 4). However, it produces very soon a permanent  
269 decrease of soil organic carbon (SOC). In addition, residue removal increases the acidity of the  
270 soil solution in the first half of the rotation period, i.e. the ANC is lower than in the BAS  
271 scenario. However, an opposite effect on acidification is simulated in the long term. Over the  
272 entire rotation period, the extraction of residues has some positive effects, such as increased  
273 wood production and a reduced export of nitrogen and DOC after cutting due to the lower  
274 amount of decomposing material in the forest.

275 [Figure 4]

276  
277 Compared to residue extraction, the intensification of thinning regime (scenario INT2) produces a  
278 further negative effect on the carbon stored in the forest (Figure 5). In addition to the decrease of  
279 SOC, there is a permanent decrease of carbon stock in trees and a slight decrease of productivity  
280 of the stand, NPP, over the rotation period. Positive effects are still the increase of wood  
281 production and the reduced nitrogen and DOC export. In addition there is a slight decrease of  
282 water consumption through evapotranspiration, caused by the reduction of tree biomass and  
283 consequent reduced water uptake.

284 [Figure 5]

285



286 The adoption of a shorter rotation period (INT3) emphasises most of the effects produced by  
287 additional thinnings: lower forest carbon stock and primary productivity counterbalanced by  
288 lower evapotranspiration and nitrogen and DOC export (Figure 6). However, an earlier final  
289 felling prevents the recovery of ANC observed in scenarios INT1 and INT2 compared to BAS  
290 before the clear-cut and therefore the soil solution results more acidified.

291 [Figure 6]

292

293

294 3.3. Integrated assessment

295 The integrated assessment of all the indicators confirms that negative effects on the ecosystem  
296 are expected to be less when intensification entails only forest residue extraction.

297 Within 35 years after the change of management, residue removals substantially increase the  
298 amount of wood that can be extracted while nitrogen and DOC leaching is reduced and tree  
299 biomass and productivity is preserved. The only simulated negative changes are a decrease of  
300 SOC and a slight increase of acidification (Figure 7).

301 An additional negative effect produced by the intensified thinnings and the shorter rotation  
302 period is a significant loss of tree carbon stock. This is caused by the inclusion of one additional  
303 thinning in both scenarios over the first 35 years. In terms of carbon balance, the amount of  
304 additional harvest extracted in INT2 and INT3 does not compensate for the additional loss of  
305 carbon in the forest.

306 [Figure 7]

307

308 The different effects in different scenarios become more evident when the integrated assessment  
309 is done for the entire rotation period (Figure 8).

310 Compared to the shorter time-frame analysis, the export of nutrients is further reduced, especially  
311 in terms of nitrogen leaching. This positive effect is greater in more intensive management  
312 scenarios.

313 As in the shorter time-frame, all intensified managements result in a loss of soil organic carbon.

314 In addition, intensified thinnings and the shorter rotation negatively affect the carbon stored in  
315 trees. This further decrease of forest carbon stock is not compensated by an equally significant  
316 increase of harvest. In the case of a shorter rotation period, the total increase of harvest is even  
317 less than the increase produced by residue extraction.

318 The effect on acidification differs among scenarios. The soil solution is less acidified in the case  
319 of residue extraction and additional thinnings, while the shorter rotation period slightly increases  
320 acidification.

321 The shorter rotation period results also in a decreased evapotranspiration, i.e. a lower water  
322 consumption, but also in a reduced primary productivity.

323 For transparency, the absolute values of the indicators, the absolute and normalized changes  
324 between scenarios are reported in the Appendix (A.3).

325

326 [Figure 8]

327

#### 328 4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

329 In the initialization and calibration phase, we found that past land management has a very strong  
330 influence on model results. In several European countries forest area is recovering after the large-  
331 scale deforestation that occurred in pre-industrial and industrial times (Forest Europe et al., 2012;  
332 Gold, 2003; Kaplan et al., 2009). Many forest sites in Southern Sweden, such as Västra Torup,  
333 were previously pasture or cropland. The consideration of past land-use in the model simulations  
334 substantially changed the results, mainly due to the higher amount of soil organic carbon and  
335 nutrients accumulated under forests. In addition, results were also influenced by the type of  
336 management implemented in the 1900s. It is often challenging to retrieve accurate historical  
337 information and therefore it is important to have long-term measurements to validate model  
338 results against. The combination of measurements and models can increase our understanding of  
339 ecosystem processes and responses and at the same time improve our predictive power on future  
340 impacts due to environmental changes.

341 Another factor that influences the response of ForSAFE is atmospheric deposition and some  
342 uncertainty in the model outputs is connected to the deposition data used as inputs. In this study,  
343 we tried to improve the reliability of deposition input data by correcting them against  
344 measurements. This correction strongly improved the agreement of ForSAFE simulations with  
345 measurements of soil water chemistry in the validation phase. The uncertainty is higher for base  
346 cations (Bc), Cl and Na deposition which we believe causes the overestimation of sodium in the  
347 soil solution. In this paper, we adopted for these elements a constant deposition based on  
348 averaged values at present time, due to the lack of modelled deposition series. However, series of  
349 measurements show that Bc deposition, for instance, is following a declining trend and it might  
350 have been higher in the past (Hedin et al., 1994). Therefore, the robustness of simulations at the

351 forest ecosystem level is partially dependent on the reliability of data produced by atmospheric  
352 deposition modelling. Similar observations can be applied also to climate input data.

353 Previous studies showed that the environmental effects of additional biomass extraction vary  
354 according to the feedstock, time scale and investigated environmental indicator (Lamers et al.,  
355 2013).

356 According to our results, management intensification has always a negative effect on the soil  
357 organic stock which is mainly affected at the final clear-cut. Previous studies show that residue  
358 removal can reduce soil organic matter and the probability for this effect to occur is lower after  
359 thinnings than clear-cutting (Wall, 2008). The magnitude of the SOC change varies among  
360 studies, but it is generally estimated around 5-15% less compared to stem-only harvesting  
361 (Kaarakka et al.2014, Johnson et al 2001, Wall, 2012), which is in agreement with our  
362 assessment of a 7% decrease.

363 The tree carbon stock is not always affected by management intensification. On one hand, a  
364 significant long term decrease of growing stock and thereby of biomass carbon stock occur when  
365 more trees are cut with intensified thinnings or a shorter rotation period. On the other hand,  
366 residue extraction does not affect the growing stock and the biomass carbon in our study.

367 However, in time frames longer than a rotation period, the depletion of organic matter in the soil  
368 could result in a loss of fertility and eventually affect tree growth. Moreover, nutrient limitations  
369 that affect tree growth could emerge within shorter time-frames in nutrient poor sites. Another  
370 possible negative impact of residue extraction is the reduced amount of deadwood in the forest.

371 Deadwood is considered a key indicator of biodiversity (Lassauce et al., 2011; Rondeux and  
372 Sanchez, 2010) and a permanent increase of biomass extraction could result in loss of  
373 biodiversity in forests (Verkerk et al., 2011).

374 All intensification scenarios increase the amount of harvest and therefore they can potentially  
375 increase the carbon stock in wood products. However, this increase of carbon in harvest wood  
376 products should be compared to the loss of carbon stock in the forest, in soils and trees. Our  
377 results show that, while wood products from residue extraction more than compensate for soil  
378 carbon losses, the increase of carbon in wood products from more frequent cuttings can be offset  
379 by a significant loss of carbon in trees. These results can change if the effect of natural  
380 disturbances is taken into account. More intensive management scenarios can prevent volume  
381 losses produced by natural damage (Jönsson et al., 2014) and therefore maintain or even increase  
382 the carbon stock in living trees.

383 Our results also suggest that residue extraction could be a better long-term strategy in terms of  
384 harvest, because the intensification of thinnings and shorter rotation periods can reduce growing  
385 stock and primary productivity and therefore can result in lower wood production in the long run.

386  
387 The effect on acidification differed depending on the time frame considered. In the first half of  
388 the forest rotation, harvesting of residues led to reduced ANC due to the loss of base cations  
389 removed with residues. In the end of the rotation period, however, ANC was higher in the INT  
390 scenarios than in the BAS scenario. This can be explained by the lower amounts of N in the soils  
391 after intensified management, causing less nitrification and, since nitrification is an acidifying  
392 process, less acidification. The lower nitrification in the INT scenarios is shown in the results by  
393 the lower N leaching. The results are in agreement with the nitrogen saturation concept which  
394 postulates that under continued elevated N input, such as deposition, the system cannot retain it  
395 all and leaching occurs (Aber et al., 1989). The Västra Torup site lies in the highest deposition  
396 area in Sweden (Pihl Karlsson et al., 2011) where several of the monitored forest sites are  
397 continuously leaching nitrate, not only after final felling (Akselsson et al., 2010). Therefore, the

398 high nitrogen inputs in Västra Torup could result in the future in extensive nitrogen leaching  
399 under the current management. The results on ANC also highlight that when the soils are capable  
400 of retaining nitrogen, i.e. nitrogen is not leached, the acidification process is dominated by base  
401 cation depletion due to biomass removal from the site. However, when soils are nitrogen  
402 saturated, nitrification is the dominating acidification process. Therefore, to prevent acidification,  
403 management intensification should include measures that prevent a loss of base cations, such as  
404 fertilisation with ashes.

405 The method applied in this study proved to be a valid tool for integrated assessment in forest  
406 ecosystems. However, only when this or a similar approach will be applied to different conditions  
407 it will be possible to draw general conclusions on management effects. Larger scale studies are  
408 needed to be able to draw conclusions that are relevant for management plans and policy  
409 (Gamfeldt et al., 2013). Some of the factors that could change the outcomes of this study are low  
410 fertility, water scarcity and risk for natural disturbances. In sites affected by lower fertility,  
411 residue extraction could be enough to reduce nutrient availability and limit tree growth (Palosuo  
412 et al., 2008). In area in which water is scarce, reduced rotation periods could have a significant  
413 positive effect on water availability because of reduced evapotranspiration. Finally, in areas with  
414 high risk for natural disturbances, such as fire and wind throws, lowering the growing stock with  
415 more frequent cuttings might be a solution to reduce damage (Jönsson et al. 2014).

416 As shown in the results, the time-frame chosen for the analysis affects the conclusions drawn. For  
417 this reason, it is recommended to consider different time options to avoid time-scale induced  
418 biases. Such an overview will also allow decision makers to select appropriate results, according  
419 to the goals that society wants to achieve.

420 The translation of model results into recommendations for policy makers requires a further step  
421 to determine if a change of an indicator is relevant or not. With 'relevant' we mean an effect that

422 produces negative or positive impacts for the ecosystem and human societies. In this study, we  
423 investigated the effects of management changes on the ecosystem. The translation into positive or  
424 negative impacts and in policy recommendations would require a comparison of model results  
425 with critical values that determine when ecosystem functioning and service provision is affected.  
426 We conclude that forest ecosystem modelling coupled with long-term measurements is a  
427 powerful tool to move towards integrated environmental assessments. Such assessments are  
428 needed to understand the effect of environmental changes on services provided by forest  
429 ecosystems. Based on this knowledge, societies could support activities that minimize negative  
430 impacts and help complying with multiple environmental objectives.



431 APPENDIX A

432 A.1 Soil input data

433

434 [Table A.1]

435

436 A.2 Model parameterization

437 The model initialization was limited to a period of 50 years to avoid an excessive accumulation  
438 of organic matter in the soil. We made this choice to represent the historical conditions at the site  
439 which was a pasture until the 1940s' and not a natural or managed forest.

440 Most of the tree species parameters were derived from earlier parameterization of the PnET  
441 model (Aber and Federer, 1992; Aber et al., 1997; 1995). Some of the parameters were adjusted  
442 to better represent biomass accumulation in Sweden (Table A.2). This choice was driven by an  
443 initial mismatch between measured and modelled tree biomass.

444

445 [Table A.2]

446

447 A.3 Indicator values

448

449 [Table A.3]

450

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458

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## TABLES

Table 1 – Range of nutrient concentrations in tree tissues used to regulate nutrient uptake in ForSAFE

Parameter	N	Mg	Ca	K	Source
Min concentration in leaves ( $\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	8.5	0.5	1.5	2.3	Calculated based on ICP network data
Fraction of luxury uptake	1.3	3.1	5	1.9	Calculated based on ICP network data
Average concentration in wood ( $\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	0.75	0.13	0.65	0.40	Rothpfeffer and Karlton (2007) Braun Sabine (2012), personal communication
Average concentration in roots ( $\text{g kg}^{-1}$ )	1.9	0.24	1.8	1.0	Braun Sabine (2012), personal communication



Table 2 – Ecosystem processes and services connected to the investigated indicators

Indicator	Acronym	Process	Service
Net primary production (cumulative)	NPP	Biomass growth	Primary production
Harvested biomass (cumulative)	HV	Extraction of biomass	Production of raw materials
Carbon stock in tree wood	Tree C	Storage of carbon	Climate regulation
Soil organic carbon	SOC	Storage of carbon and other nutrients	Climate regulation, maintenance of soil fertility
Acid neutralizing capacity	ANC	Acidification	Nutrient cycling, water quality control
Nitrogen leaching (cumulative)	Nleach	Nutrient loss, eutrophication	Nutrient cycling, water quality control
Dissolved organic carbon (cumulative)	DOC	Brownification	Nutrient cycling, water quality control
Actual Evapotranspiration (cumulative)	AET	Water use by plants	Water supply

Table 3 – Management scenarios. CC: clear-cut, TH: thinning. The fraction of biomass removed from the site can include stems (S), aboveground wood residues (AgR), foliage (FL). In brackets: for each treatment, the fraction of biomass cut; for removals, the fraction of biomass taken away from the site.

Year	BAS		INT1		INT2		INT3	
	Treatment	Removed	Treatment	Removed	Treatment	Removed	Treatment	Removed
1940	Plantation							
1965	TH (0.25)	S (0.5)						
1985	TH (0.25)	S (1)						
2005	Storm (0.05)	S (0.5)						
2010	CC (0.95)	S (1)	CC (0.95)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)	CC (0.95)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)	CC (0.95)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)
2030					TH (0.3)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)	TH (0.3)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)
2035	TH (0.25)	S (0.5)	TH (0.25)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)				
2045					TH (0.3)	S (1), AgR (1),	TH (0.3)	S (1), AgR (1),

						FL (0.6)		FL (0.6)
2055	TH (0.25)	S(1)	TH (0.25)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)				
2065					TH (0.3)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)		
2070							CC (0.95)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)
2080	CC (0.95)	S (1)	CC (0.95)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)	CC (0.95)	S (1), AgR (1), FL (0.6)		

Table A.1 – Soil input data from Västra Torup.

Parameter	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3	Layer 4	Layer 5
Thickness (cm)	5	6	20	20	4
Bulk density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> )	0.181	0.959	1.062	1.279	1.446
Particle density (g cm <sup>-3</sup> ) <sup>a</sup>	1.776	2.587	2.596	2.609	2.626
Total carbon (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	543	34	25	18	8
Total nitrogen (g kg <sup>-1</sup> )	20.9	2.0	1.7	1.3	0.6
Organic matter (g g <sup>-1</sup> of total soil)	0.87	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.02
Clay (g g <sup>-1</sup> of mineral soil)		0.05	0.55	0.03	0
Silt (g g <sup>-1</sup> of mineral soil)		0.27	0.31	0.21	0.17
Sand (g g <sup>-1</sup> of mineral soil)		0.68	0.64	0.76	0.83
Stoniness (cm <sup>3</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> )	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Exposed mineral surface area (10 <sup>6</sup> m <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>b</sup>	214161	1131959	1334007	1167398	909226
CO <sub>2</sub> partial pressure <sup>b</sup>	10	20	20	20	20
Aluminium solubility <sup>b</sup>	6.5	7.6	8.6	9.2	9.2
Cation exchange capacity, CEC (eq kg <sup>-1</sup> )	0.2115	0.0523	0.0360	0.0180	0.0189
Base saturation (CEC fraction)	0.43	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.05
<u>Mineralogy (g g<sup>-1</sup>)</u>					
<i>Apatite</i> Ca <sub>10</sub> (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>6</sub> (OH) <sub>2</sub>	0.43	0.14	0.21	0.28	0.33
<i>Chlorite1</i> Na <sub>2</sub> Ca <sub>3</sub> Mg <sub>107</sub> Fe <sub>124</sub> TiAl <sub>124</sub> Si <sub>138</sub> O <sub>540</sub> (OH) <sub>442</sub>	0.20	0.30	0.49	0.59	0.70
<i>Chlorite2</i> Mg <sub>103</sub> Fe <sub>58</sub> TiAl <sub>100</sub> Si <sub>87</sub> O <sub>365</sub> (OH) <sub>302</sub>	0.13	0.21	0.33	0.40	0.48

<i>Epidote</i> $\text{Ca}_{80}\text{Fe}_{30}\text{Al}_{96}\text{Si}_{124}\text{O}_{495}(\text{OH})_{44}$	0.01	1.88	2.07	2.16	2.32
<i>Hornblende</i> $\text{K}_{18}\text{Na}_{54}\text{Ca}_{166}\text{Mg}_{210}\text{Fe}_{180}\text{Ti}_{11}\text{Al}_{216}\text{Si}_{606}\text{O}_{2146}(\text{OH})_{188}$	0.02	0.36	0.58	0.70	0.82
<i>Illite1</i> $\text{K}_{0.6}\text{Al}_2(\text{Al}_{0.6}\text{Si}_{3.4}\text{O}_{10})(\text{OH})_2$	0.32	1.80	3.24	3.12	2.59
<i>K-Feldspar100</i> $\text{KAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$	1.15	15.38	12.88	13.93	15.65
<i>Muscovite</i> $\text{K}_{44}\text{Na}_2\text{Mg}_8\text{Fe}_{12}\text{Ti}_2\text{Al}_{96}\text{Si}_{120}\text{O}_{390}(\text{OH})_{94}$	0.73	3.44	6.19	5.95	4.89
<i>Albite</i> $\text{NaAlSi}_3\text{O}_8$	1.58	17.93	18.31	19.23	20.00
<i>Anorthite</i> $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$	0.01	2.10	2.31	2.42	2.60
<i>Vermiculite1</i> $\text{Ca}_{20}\text{Mg}_{103}\text{Fe}_{182}\text{Al}_{162}\text{Si}_{293}\text{O}_{832}(\text{OH})_{804}$	0.11	0.51	0.81	0.99	1.18
<i>Vermiculite2</i> $\text{Ca}_{10}\text{Mg}_{103}\text{Fe}_{22}\text{Al}_{68}\text{Si}_{123}\text{O}_{249}(\text{OH})_{490}$	0.12	0.20	0.32	0.39	0.46
<i>Quartz</i> $\text{SiO}_2$	4.58	47.77	43.69	43.58	43.85
<i>Water</i> $\text{H}_2\text{O}$	89.66	6.12	5.80	3.95	2.16
<i>Hematite</i> $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$	0.18	2.08	2.92	1.94	2.11
<i>Rutile</i>	0.05	0.67	0.68	0.55	0.65

TiO <sub>2</sub>					
<u>Hydrological parameters</u> (cm <sup>3</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> ) <sup>c</sup>					
Field saturation	0.90	0.63	0.59	0.51	0.45
Field capacity	0.31	0.46	0.40	0.27	0.18
Permanent wilting point	0.11	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.03

<sup>a</sup> Particle density estimated according to Reid (1973):  $D_p = 2.65 * (1 - 0.01 * \%OM)$

<sup>b</sup> Estimated according to Warfvinge and Sverdrup (1995)

<sup>c</sup> Estimated according to Balland et al. (2008)

Table A.2 – Modified tree species parameters in the tree model component of ForSAFE

Parameter	Definition (units)	Original value	Used value	Notes
FolReten	Foliage retention time (yr)	5	7	The used value reflects the longer retention time at higher latitudes. It was estimated according to the equation reported by Ågren et al., (2008) for spruce ( $1/\text{FolRet} = 0.489 - 0.0063 * \text{Latitude}$ )
FolRelGrowMax	Maximum relative growth rate for foliage ( $\% \text{ yr}^{-1}$ )	0.3	1	The parameter was introduced in the PnET model to regulate foliage growth few years after a disturbance event. We observed that during longer simulation periods the factor strongly limited the overall growth of the trees. By setting the parameter equal to 1, the maximum growth of foliage is only dependent on light and nutrient availability.
WoodTurnover	Fractional mortality of live wood ( $\text{yr}^{-1}$ )	0.025	0.01	Forest management reduces tree mortality. The value was calibrated to better represent conditions in managed forests

Table A.3 – Indicator values under the four management scenarios (BAS, INT1, INT2, INT3), the absolute difference (INT1-BAS, INT2-BAS, INT3-BAS) and the normalized difference ( $\Delta I_{INT1}$ ,  $\Delta I_{INT2}$ ,  $\Delta I_{INT3}$ ) between intensified scenarios and current management. Option A: values 35 years after the change of management (in 2045); option B: values at the end of the rotation period (in 2080 in BAS, INT1 and INT2 and 2070 in INT3).

Option	Indicator (unit)	BAS	INT1	INT1- BAS	$\Delta I_{INT1}$ (%)	INT2	INT2- BAS	$\Delta I_{INT2}$ (%)	INT3	INT3- BAS	$\Delta I_{INT3}$ (%)
A	Tree C ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ )	6812	6654	-158	-2.3	4684	-2128	-31.2	4684	-2128	-31.2
	Harv ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ of C.)	19572	22781	3209	16.4	24297	4726	24.1	24297	4726	24.1
	NPP ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ of C)	120927	120556	-371	-0.3	119983	-944	-0.8	119983	-944	-0.8
	SOC ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ of C)	5531	5118	-413	-7.5	5130	-401	-7.3	5130	-401	-7.3
	ANC ( $\mu\text{eq l}^{-1}$ )	92.2	85.8	-6.4	-7.1	84.0	-8.1	-9.1	84.0	-8.1	-9.1
	N leach ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ of N)	15.4	13.4	-1.9	12.7	13.4	-1.9	12.7	13.4	-1.9	12.7
	DOC ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ of DOC)	1681	1611	-69	4.1	1608	-73	4.3	1608	-73	4.3
	AET ( $\text{l m}^{-2}$ )	22760	22679	-81	0.4	22606	-154	0.7	22606	-154	0.7
B	Tree C ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ )	15859	15358	-501	-3.2	12407	-3452	-21.8	12487	-3372	-21.3
	Harv ( $\text{g m}^{-2}$ of C)	21132	24742	3610	17.1	26867	5735	27.1	24297	3165	15.0



	NPP (g m <sup>-2</sup> of C)	158720	157343	-1377	-0.9	154711	-4009	-2.5	144386	-14334	-9.0
	SOC (g m <sup>-2</sup> of C)	5964	5541	-423	-7.1	5542	-422	-7.1	5340	-624	-10.5
	ANC (μeq l <sup>-1</sup> )	103.4	105.5	2.1	2.5	107.2	3.8	4.5	94.8	-8.5	-4.6
	N leach (g m <sup>-2</sup> of N)	18.1	13.4	-4.6	25.6	14.2	-3.9	21.6	13.4	-4.6	25.7
	DOC (g m <sup>-2</sup> of DOC)	1901	1820	-80	4.2	1813	-88	4.6	1746	-155	8.1
	AET (l m <sup>-2</sup> )	30417	30183	-234	0.8	29807	-610	2.0	27505	-2912	9.6

## FIGURES

Figure 1 - The ForSAFE model. Climate input parameters (temperature and radiation) drive the potential vegetation growth. Nutrient and water availability constrain the potential growth to actual biomass growth and accumulation.

Figure 2 - Example of a spider chart. Each radius represents an indicator and the difference between two scenarios,  $\Delta I$  is the value reported for each indicator (grey line). When  $\Delta I > 0$  the management change produces a positive effect on that indicator (i.e. an ecosystem improvement), while a negative effect is assessed if  $\Delta I < 0$ . On the black line  $\Delta I = 0$ , i.e. there is no difference between the two scenarios.

Figure 3 - Comparison of modelled data to measured data in Västra Torup. For each element there are two types of graphs. In the first type, monthly modelled results (grey line) and the moving average on a yearly basis (black line) are compared to measured data (points) over the years. In the second type of graph, the annual means of modelled and measured data in 1996-2011 are plotted against each other. The dotted line and its slope reported in the equation ( $y = ax$ ) are an indication of the discrepancy between modelled and measured data.

Figure 4 – Effect of aboveground residue extraction on the forest ecosystem (baseline scenario, BAS: black line, residue extraction scenario, INT1: grey line). Cum: cumulative values.

Figure 5 – Effect of intensified thinning regime and residue extraction (baseline scenario, BAS: black line, intensified thinning scenario, INT2: grey line). Cum: cumulative values.

Figure 6 – Effect of intensified thinning regime and residue extraction (baseline scenario, BAS: black line, shorter rotation period, INT3: grey line). Cum: cumulative values

Figure 7 – The green lines represent the relative change of the indicators,  $\Delta I$  (%), in the INT scenarios compared to the BAS scenario after 35 years from the start of management changes (option A). Solid green line: INT1 (only residues); green dashed line: INT2 (residues and additional thinnings); dark green dot-dash line: INT3 (residues and shorter rotation).  $\Delta I > 0$  is a positive effect on the ecosystem,  $\Delta I < 0$  a negative effect.

Figure 8 – The grey lines represent the relative change of the indicators,  $\Delta I$  (%), in the INT scenarios compared to the BAS scenario at the end of the rotation period (option B). Solid green line: INT1 (only residues); green dashed line: INT2 (residues and additional thinnings); dark green dot-dash line: INT3 (residues and shorter rotation).

















