

Governance of forest nature conservation *in a changing climate*



FVA 2005

Project objectives

We study the impact of climate change and the discourse centering around it on forest nature conservation policy in Germany.

Background

In Germany, the field of forest conservation policy is characterized by:

- Plurality of actors with different interests and ideas of forest management
- 2 coalitions: Forestry vs. Nature Conservation
- many recent forest political and forest nature conservation debates dominated by climate change
- Analytical separation of discourses concerning biodiversity, governance and climate change

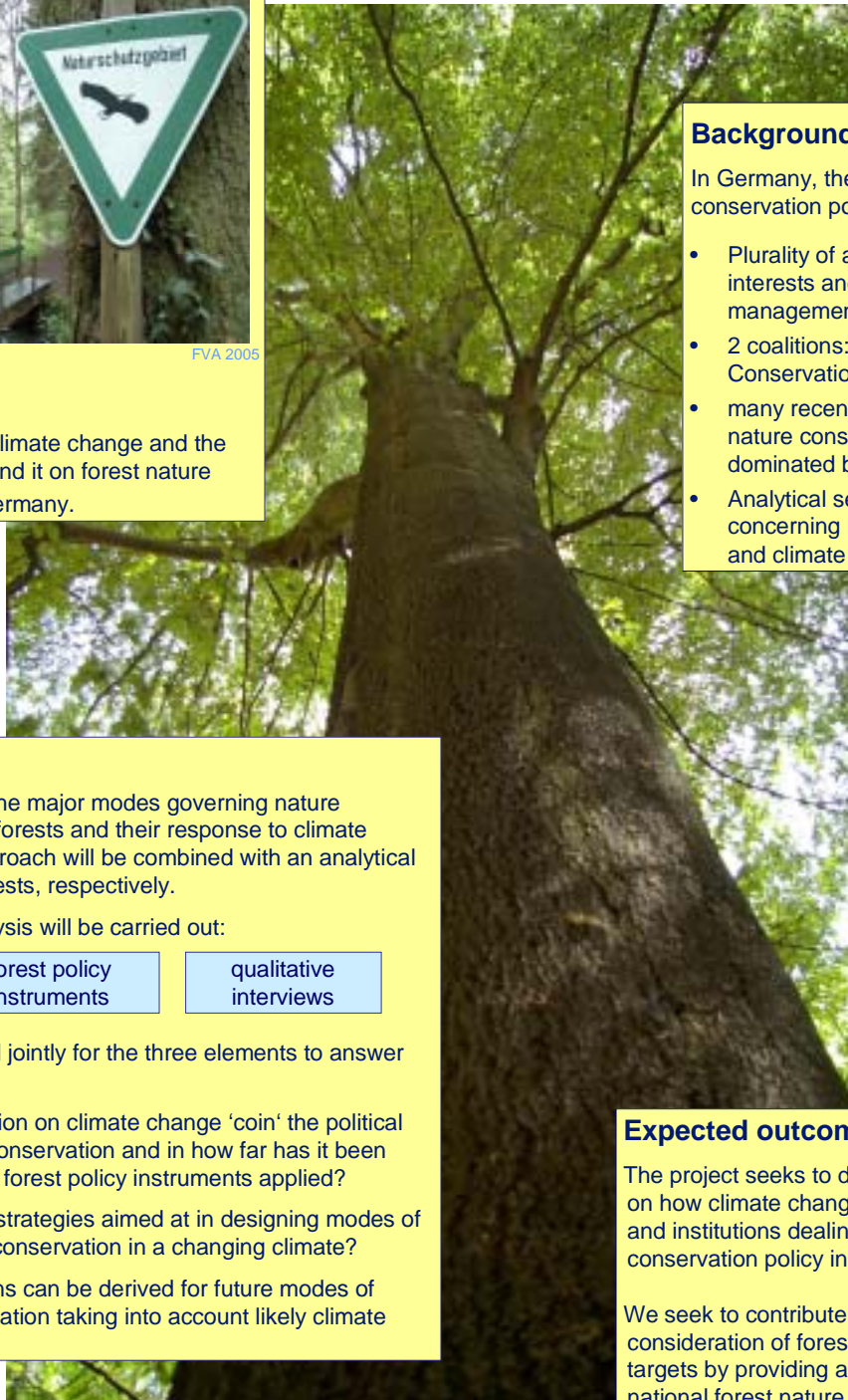


Fig. 1
Old beech tree (*F. sylvatica*), Müritz National Park [Ulrich Stobbe, 2008]

Approach

To identify and capture the major modes governing nature conservation aspects in forests and their response to climate change, a discourse approach will be combined with an analytical focus on ideas and interests, respectively.

A three-pillar policy analysis will be carried out:

text documents

forest policy instruments

qualitative interviews

Results will be evaluated jointly for the three elements to answer the questions

1. How does the discussion on climate change 'coin' the political debate in forest nature conservation and in how far has it been reflected in the choice of forest policy instruments applied?
2. What are the political strategies aimed at in designing modes of governing forest nature conservation in a changing climate?
3. What recommendations can be derived for future modes of governing forest conservation taking into account likely climate change scenarios?

Expected outcomes and significance

The project seeks to deepen our understanding on how climate change influences discourses and institutions dealing with forest nature conservation policy in Germany.

We seek to contribute to a future-oriented consideration of forest nature conservation targets by providing a basis for the German national forest nature conservation policy to reorient towards future challenges induced by climate change.

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