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Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

integral Future-oriented integrated management of European forest landscapes

Visioning of future forested landscapes in Sweden

– satisfying local and national needs for participation through action research?

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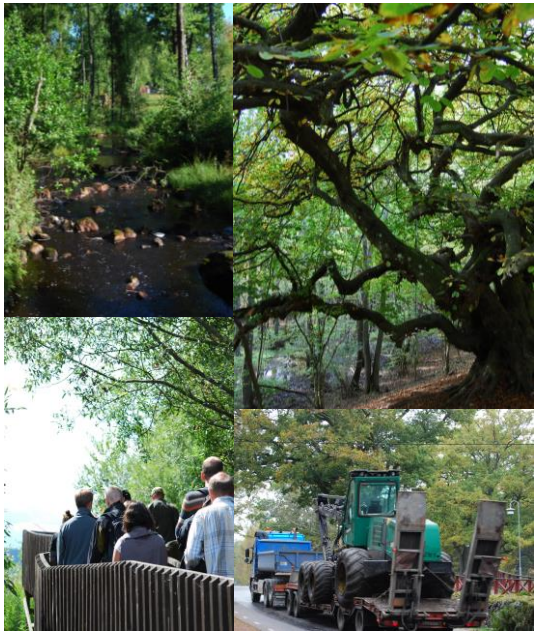
1st International Forest Policy Meeting 2016 in Göttingen
Parallel session Friday 18th of March

The need for solutions



GATT/WTO

UNFF

ITTO

CBD

EUTR

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FLEGT

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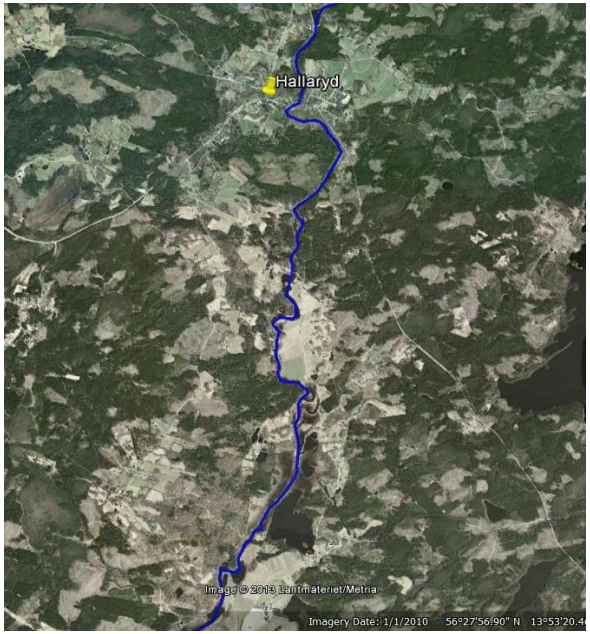


- Traditional forest planning and management are not coping with the challenges of today
- Multi-level governance and the call for broad participation are great challenges for traditional structures

Study aim

- Engage local stakeholders in a participatory discussion about the future of the forested landscape and create common visions.

- Bring local visions to national policy-makers for discussion about alternative policy measures for implementation of the visions.

Challenges & limitations

1. Motivation of local stakeholders
   - Encourage free discussion – undistorted communication
   - Cannot be too technical (ecosystem services)

2. Reach the national, policy-making level & discuss alternative policy measures

3. Limited resources
   - Maximum 1 day workshop or half-day focus groups
   - No direct mixture of local and national participants

Case studies

- Southern & Northern Sweden
- Local workshop and focus groups, Aug-Sept 2014
- National workshop in Stockholm, 6th of Nov 2014

Process design

Institutional level
(national policy-makers)

Deliberation

National workshop

- Governmental agencies
- Ministries
- Environmental organisations
- Forest & land-owner organisations
- Forest industry

Desired visions for future forested landscapes

Vilhelmina focus groups

Helgeå workshop

- Forest & land-owners
- Environmental organisations
- Forest industry
- Governmental agencies
- Public

Deliberation

Local level
(local stakeholders)

Critical Utopian Action Research

(Friedman 2001, Drewes Nielsen 2006, Hansen 2014)

1. **Critic phase** – what is not functioning in the present situation?

2. **Utopian phase** – what is the desirable situation?

3. **Implementation phase** – how can we make this happen?

1. Brainstorming

2. Prioritisation

3. Themes

Group work & presentations

Results

Workshops

Helgeå

- 1 day workshop
- 13 participants
- Forest owners, forest agency, school, company, student, NGOs, enthusiasts

Local vision for the landscape

Vilhelmina

- 4 focus groups à 3 hours
- 14 participants in total
- Forest owners, forest agency, school, youth, NGOs, forest and tourism entrepreneurs

Local vision for the landscape

National

- 1 day workshop
- 15 participants
- Ministries, agencies, companies, NGOs, forest and land owner associations

Local workshops

Visioning of forested landscape

What is the desired future of the forested landscape by local stakeholders?

Visions by local stakeholders

“Thriving countryside”

- Communication, dialogue & collaboration
- Landscape perspective
- Considerate forestry
- Self sufficiency
- Local refinement
- Product development
- Knowledge & education
- Children & youth

Helgeå

- Forest owner focus
- Research
- Certification

Vilhelmina

- Societal focus
- Sámi rights & reindeer-herding
- Infrastructure & energy
- Well-educated population

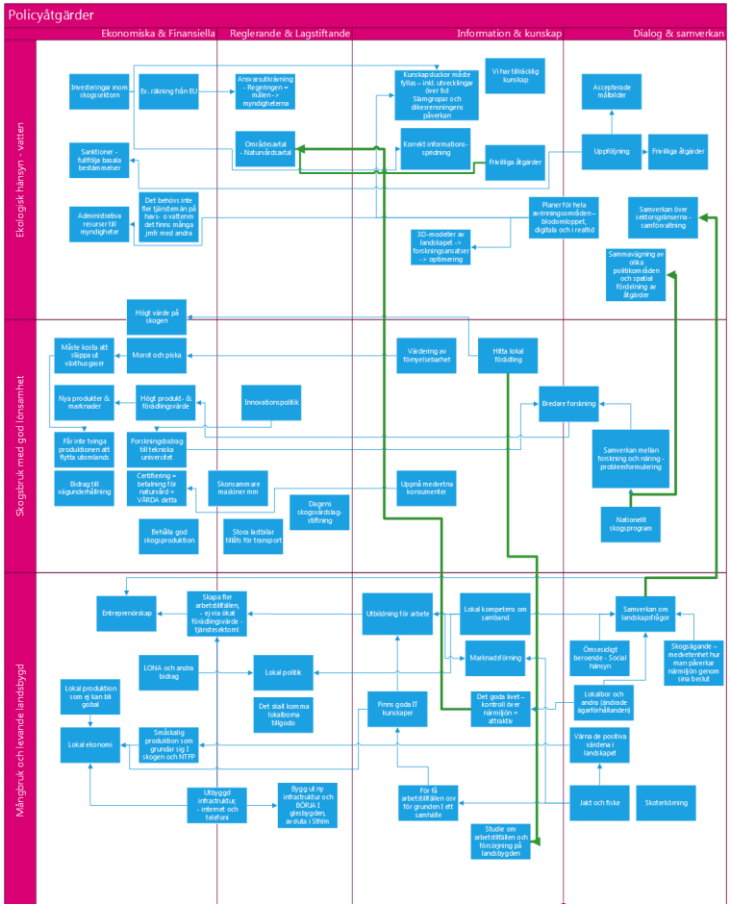
National workshop

Policy measures and actions

How can the visions be achieved by means of policy?

Policy suggestions by national stakeholders

- Need for collaboration on national as well as on local level
- Accessibility of data is key
- Knowledge & know-how
- National Forest Program



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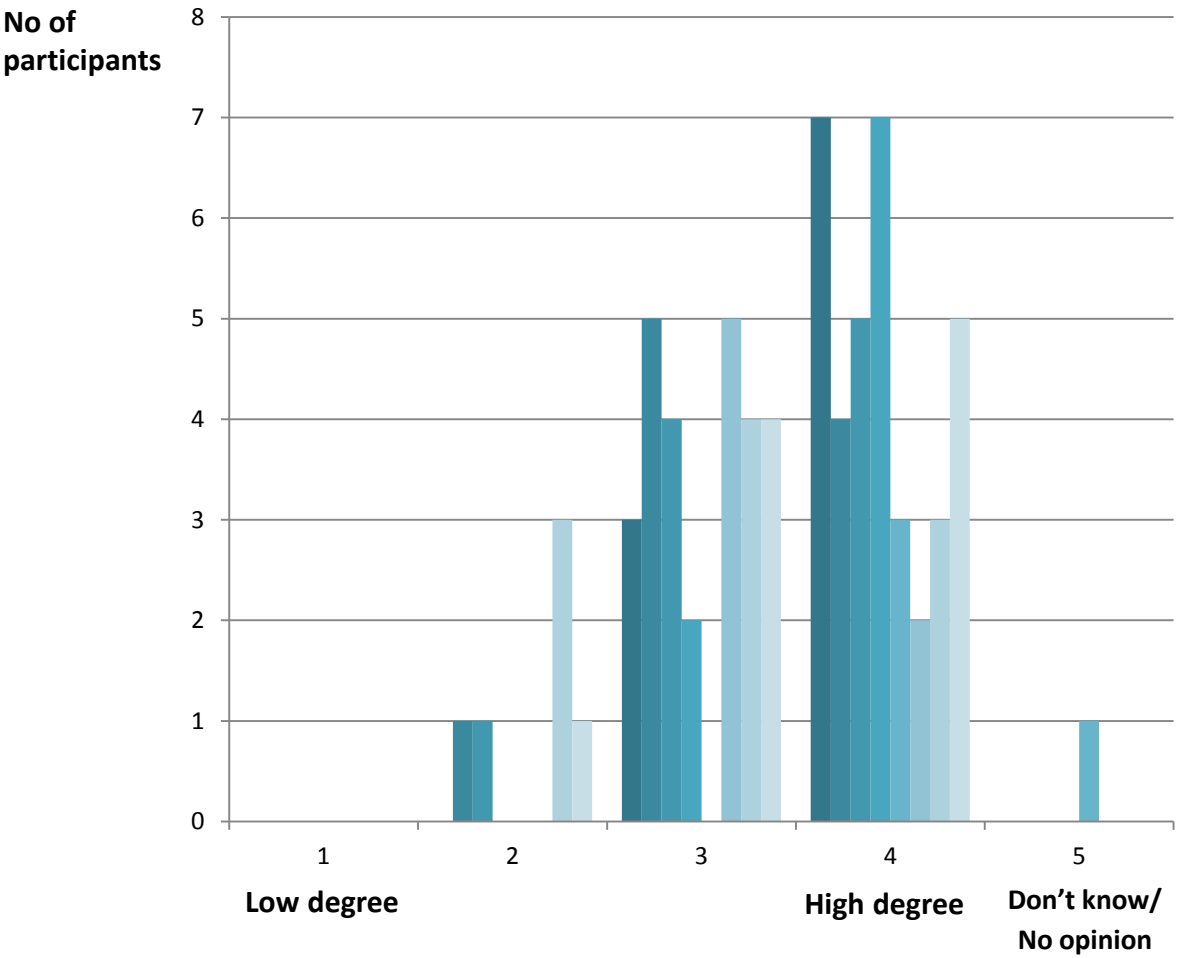
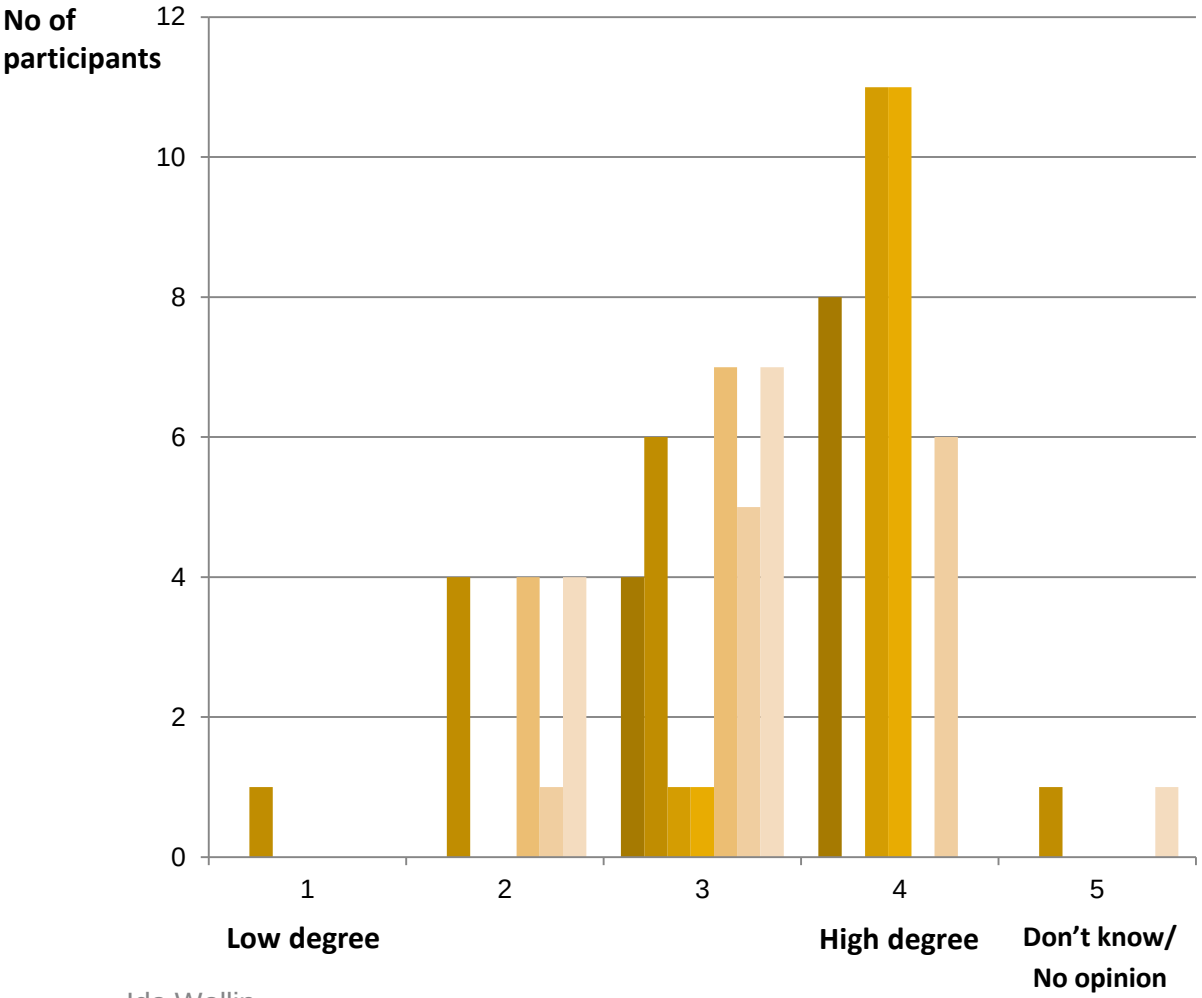
Evaluation

Evaluation - Helgeå



- Did the group work function well in your group?
- Do you think the pre-information given to you prior the workshop was enough?
- Do you think the formulation of the future vision corresponds to your opinions and values?
- Have the discussions felt meaningful?
- Do you think that this kind of open discussion contributes to strengthening the trust between stakeholders?
- Do you think that the participants present in the workshop represented the most important stakeholders in the landscape?
- Do you think that this kind of open discussion can improve the quality of decision support when it comes to land-use or forest planning?
- Do you believe that this workshop has been a good opportunity for learning and knowledge exchange?

Evaluation - Vilhelmina



- Do you think the pre-information given to you prior the workshop was enough?
- Do you think the formulation of the future vision corresponds to your opinions and values?
- Do you feel that you have been able to participate in the discussions as you wished?
- Have the discussions felt meaningful?
- Do you think that this kind of open discussion contributes to strengthening the trust between stakeholders?
- Do you think that this kind of open discussion can improve the quality of decision support when it comes to land-use or forest planning?
- Do you believe that this workshop has been a good opportunity for learning and knowledge exchange?

Positive quotes from evaluation - National

*"**Interesting** to prioritise between several different important issues in comparison with others, with **other perspectives than my own**."*

*"It is **incredibly important** from the practitioners' perspective that these kinds of discussions are made together with research! **Research is very important and the marriage with practice is crucial** so that the politicians get a basis for wise decisions that are somewhat based on reality."*

*" […] we succeeded rather well in **not taking on our usual roles** where we would defend our organisations' interests, or guard our positions."*

*"To work together creates **understanding and closeness** if it doesn't only result in debate which it didn't."*

Negative quotes from evaluation - National

"With my own insights about general limitations and frameworks ***it didn't feel meaningful*** *to choose among goals that had been* ***formulated without knowledge*** *about the same. I perceive it* ***only as a giving legitimacy*** *to those goals that lack the possibility to be realized."*

*"****Local dreams, formulated without guidance, feels risky*** *as basis for that kind of decisions they intend to improve!"*

"Good to gather broad expertise, but the ***connection to the local (the people) or society was weak****."*

"Generally ***too little knowledge*** *about forestry practice in the group."*

"Interesting but the results was maybe ***not that spectacular****."*

Evaluation criteria

Forester (1985)	**Comprehensibility**	**Sincerity**	**Legitimacy**	**Truth**	**Institutiona-lisation**

Menzel et al., (2012)	- Clear mandate and goals
	- Structured group interaction
	- Facilitation of constructive individual/group behaviour
		- Relationships and social capital building:
		  - between researchers and participants
		  - between participants
		- Independence and neutrality of process
		- Transparency (of interests)
		- Opportunity to influence process design
		- Challenging status quo and fostering creative thinking
			- Accessibility of process
			- Representation
			- Fairness
			- Opportunity to influence outcome
			- Acceptance of outcome
			- Search for common values
				- Quality and selection of information
				- Transparency (of information)
					- Keeping decision-makers informed
					- 2nd and 3rd order effects (institutional change)
					- Relationships and social capital building – between levels

Evaluation results I

	Helgeå workshop	Vilhelmina focus groups	National workshop
Comprehensibility			
- Clear mandate and goals	+	+	-
- Structured group interaction	+	+	-
- Facilitation of constructive individual/group behaviour	+	+	+/-
Sincerity			
- Relationships and social capital building – between researchers and participants	+	+	+/-
- Relationships and social capital building – between participants	+	+	+
- Independence and neutrality of process	+	+	+
- Transparency (of interests)	+/-	+	+
- Opportunity to influence process design	-	-	-
- Challenging status quo and fostering creative thinking	+	+	+/-

(Forester 1985; Menzel et al., 2012)

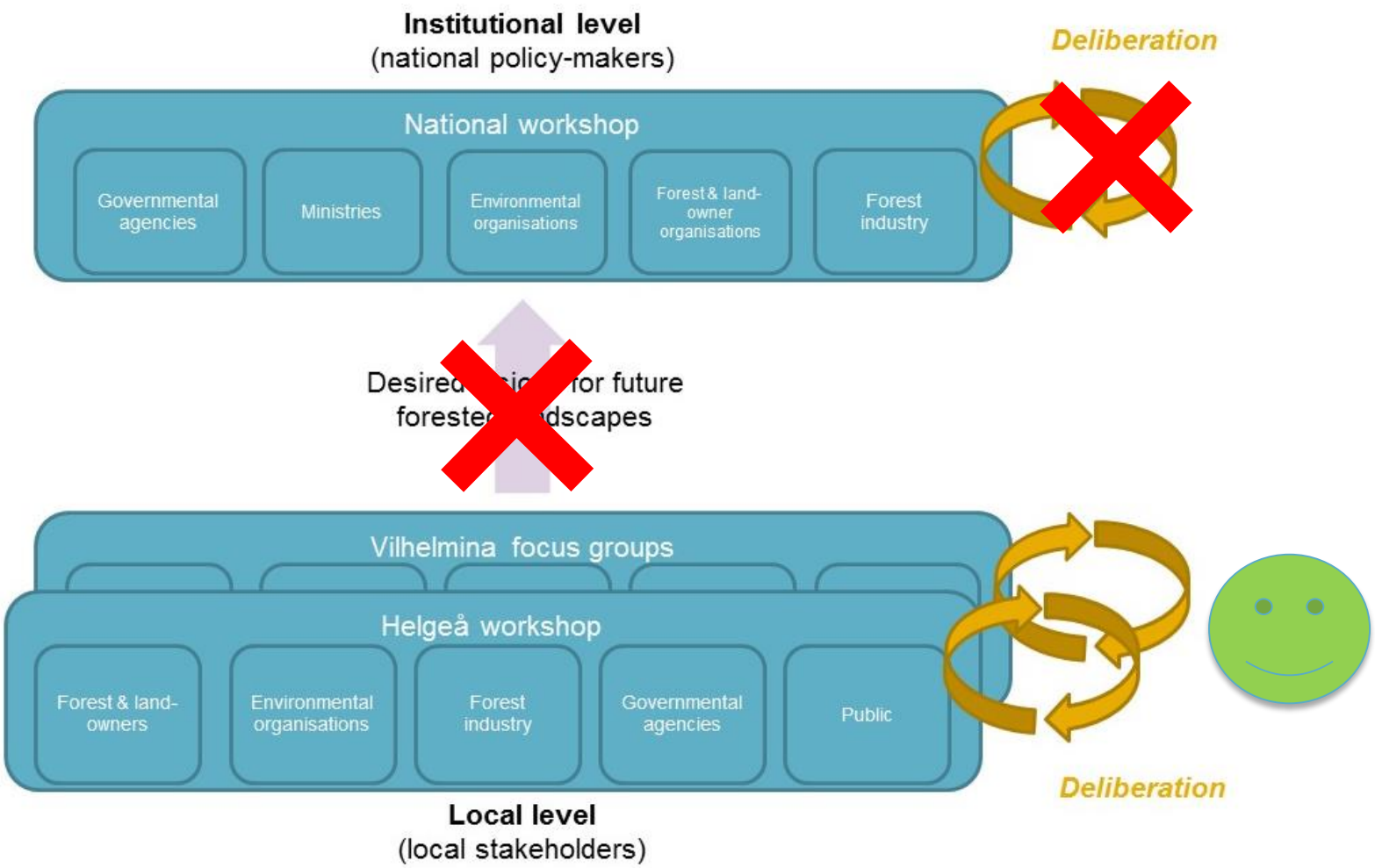
Evaluation results II

	Helgeå workshop	Vilhelmina focus groups	National workshop
Legitimacy			
- Representation	+/-	+/-	+/-
- Fairness	+	+	+
- Opportunity to influence outcome	+	+	+
- Acceptance of outcome	+	+	-
- Search for common values	+	+	+/-
- Accessibility of process	+	+	+
Truth			
- Quality and selection of information	+	+	+/-
- Transparency (of information)	+	+	+/-
Institutionalisation		**Over-all process**	
- Keeping decision-makers informed		+	
- 2nd and 3rd order effects (institutional change)		-	
- Relationships and social capital building – between levels		-	

(Forester 1985; Menzel et al., 2012)

Conclusions

Mission accomplished?

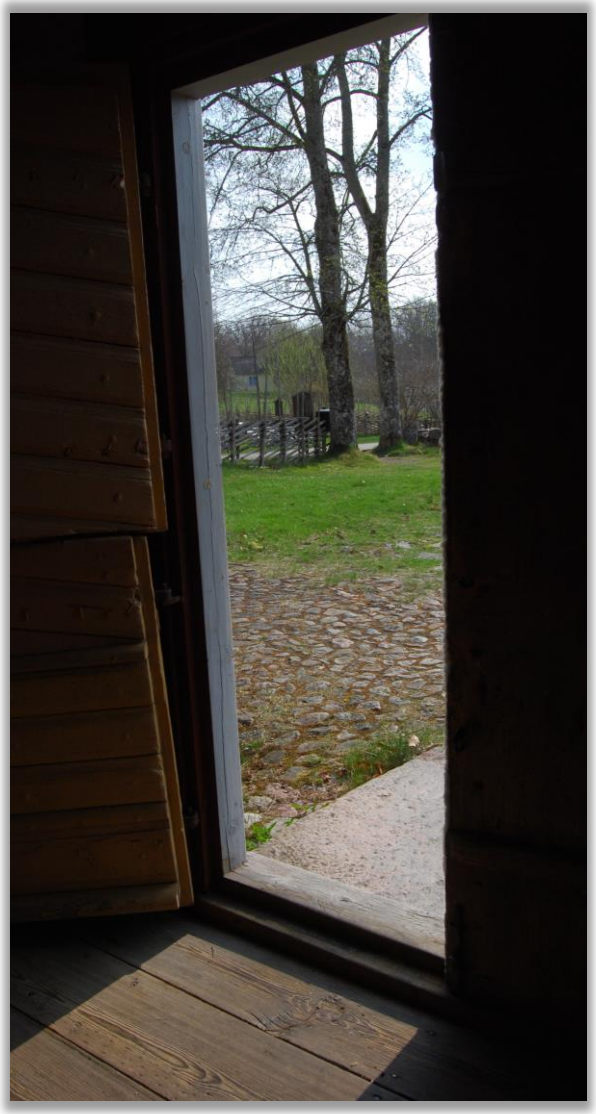


Conclusions

- Local arenas are needed and demanded for discussing common landscape issues.
- Visioning of future forested landscapes is a functional exercise.
- Great potential in the use of the CUAR methodology.
- Bringing policy-making processes closer to the local actors and to the landscape level is a challenge…

Future research

- How to better connect local & national levels? more face-to-face interaction needed – but how?
- Should make use of existing long-term processes or initiate the establishment of such processes.
- Long-term effect of our intervention?
- Role of researchers/scientists?



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External picture:

1. https://specialsamlingar.wordpress.com/2015/02/25/besok-pa-kungl-skogs-och-lantbruksakademiens-bibliotek/

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integral
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Thank you!

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