

RMK CARBON REPORT 2022

Calculations	2
Carbon stock	3
Carbon sequestration	4
Carbon emissions	5
Carbon Report in summary	8
Calculation example	9
Sources used for the preparation of the Carbon Report	11

Introduction

The Climate Change Department of the Estonian State Forest Management Centre (RMK) has compiled this Carbon Report, which provides an overview of the quantities of carbon sequestered and emitted by RMK in 2022. The **fluxes of three greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄ and N₂O)** have been taken into account and expressed as CO₂ equivalent values based on the global warming potential¹ of these gases. Global warming potential is a value that indicates the amount of energy that a single greenhouse gas absorbs in the atmosphere relative to carbon dioxide (CO₂).

In compiling the Carbon Report, greenhouse gas fluxes from RMK-managed lands and emissions from RMK's activities were considered. In addition, the carbon stock of all forest and land under the administration of RMK was calculated, i.e. the amount of carbon stored in soil and woody biomass.

Given that climate change is associated with increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂)

in the atmosphere, the Carbon Report helps to assess RMK's carbon footprint and make decisions on how to reduce it.

When reading the following pages, it is important to keep in mind that **while trees accumulate carbon dioxide (CO₂), biomass and soil store carbon (C)**. In terms of molecular mass, one tonne of carbon is equivalent to nearly 3.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

In the calculations made for the purpose of this Carbon Report, carbon sequestration values are presented with a plus sign, while the quantities of carbon emitted to the atmosphere, i.e., carbon emissions, are presented with a minus sign. All inbound and outbound carbon fluxes were assessed for the purpose of determining the carbon balance. The quantities of carbon removed from forests as a result of regeneration cutting and taken into active use are also included in the carbon balance.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/greenhouse-gas-data/greenhouse-gas-data-unfccc/global-warming-potentials>



Calculations

As a result of state forests inventory, the reserves and increment of forests have been estimated. In addition, descriptions of wood volumes on non-forest land were compiled based on remote sensing.

Carbon stock and sequestration are calculated on the basis of forest inventory data. In order to determine the carbon stock, the quantities of carbon stored in woody biomass (separately for each tree species) and carbon stock in the soil are calculated. Carbon sequestration is calculated on the basis of the current annual increment estimated separately for each tree species growing in a particular sub-compartment. To this is added other plant production: branches, roots, leaves, needles, and underbrush and ground vegetation. Soil respiration, or emission from the soil, has been calculated for both mineral and peat soils on the basis of the results previously estimated in scientific studies.

Carbon sequestration has been estimated using the NEP^[1] (net ecosystem production) method, which assesses whether an ecosystem acts as a sink or source of carbon. Based on that method, the total plant production that sequesters carbon through photosynthesis was calculated, and quantities emitted from the soil through soil respiration were deducted from it. The difference between plant production and soil respiration indicates whether an ecosystem is a carbon sequestering or a carbon emitting ecosystem.

In order to calculate the carbon stock stored in wood and the carbon sequestration through forest increment, the stem volume must be converted to **stem mass**. Carbon calculations are always made on a dry mass basis, and wood density [2, 3] at absolutely dry (oven-dry) mass must be used to convert volume units to mass units. Different tree species have different wood densities. In the calculation of the carbon stock and sequestration in RMK-managed forest land, all tree species growing there were taken into account. Since forest management has a significant impact on the carbon stock of forest land, the quantity of carbon removed from forests through regeneration cutting was also taken into account in determining the balance.

In addition to stem mass, biomass also includes branches, roots, leaves and needles. Based on previous research and biomass models developed for Estonia, the proportions of different biomass components and the proportions of the production of the different biomass fractions were calculated. Generally speaking, **80% of all woody biomass is located above ground and 20% is located underground.**

Depending on the tree species, stems account for 80–90% of the total above-ground biomass. The proportion of carbon varies in the different parts of the tree. For example, carbon tends to account for 48–52% in the crown and stem. In the calculations of the carbon balance, it was assumed that **50% of the dry mass of wood is carbon.**

The stocks of soil carbon in forest land and other land categories have been estimated on the basis of soil maps and the quantities of carbon in different soils as reported in published research [31–36]. For other land categories, the volume of wood was estimated by way of remote sensing and, on this basis, carbon stocks in the wood were calculated.

The calculations and inputs for carbon stocks and balances for forests and other land categories have been reviewed by Prof. Veiko Uri (Academician, Estonian University of Life Sciences). The inputs for the calculation of the carbon balance have been taken from published research [1, 3–29]. For the carbon balance, the staff of the Estonian Environmental Research Centre and the Environment Agency were consulted during calculations for the previous carbon report, as they prepare the Estonian GHG inventory reports for the LULUCF² sector for the European Union [30].

For the estimation of emissions arising from RMK's activities, the source data were taken from RMK's accounting and property reports. The carbon footprint of RMK's activities is calculated using the same specific emissions as in the organisation footprint model developed by the Ministry of the Environment [37]. The list of sources is given at the end of the report. A calculation example based on one forest sub-compartment is also given at the end of the report.

² LULUCF stands for land-use, land-use change and forestry.

Carbon stock

The carbon stock shows how much carbon is stored in a given place at a given point in time. When calculating the carbon stock, the carbon contained in the soil and the carbon stored in the above-ground (stem, crown) and below-ground parts (roots) of trees are taken into account.

The tables below show the distribution of carbon in wood and soil on both forest land and non-forest land. The carbon stocks in protected and managed forests are indicated separately.

Distribution of RMK's forest land:

- protected forests – 0.43 million ha
- managed forests – 0.62 million ha
- total forest land – 1.05 million ha

In 2021, the carbon stock of lands placed under the administration of RMK amounted to 262.3 million tonnes.

- 2/3 of the carbon was stored in soil and 1/3 in trees.
- Forest land stores 226.5 million tonnes of carbon (86% of the stock).
- Non-forest land stores 35.8 million tonnes of carbon (14% of the stock).

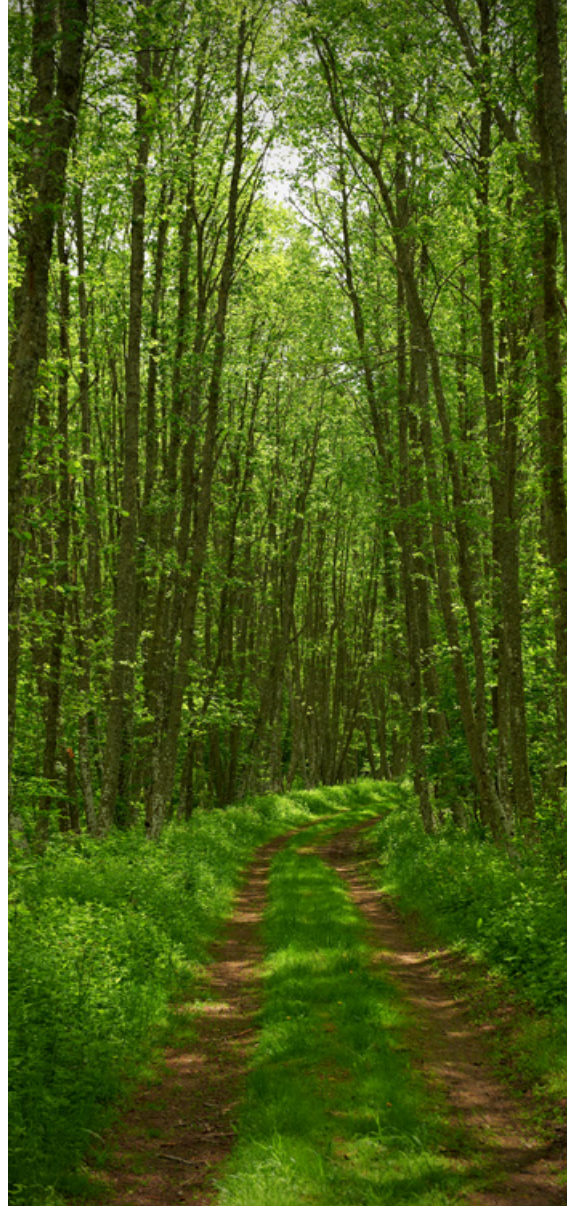


Table 1. Distribution of carbon in RMK's forest land (1.05 million ha)

	In wood			In soil	Total in wood and soil
	Protected forests	Managed forests	Total forests		
Wood reserves (million m ³)	95.8	102.5	198.3	–	198.3
Carbon stock (million t)	34.5	37.3	71.8	154.7	226.5
Carbon stock per hectare (t/ha)	79.8	60.0	68.1	146.7	214.8

Table 2. Distribution of carbon in RMK's non-forest land (0.36 million ha)

	In wood	In soil	Total
Carbon stock (million t)	3.6	32.1	35.7
Carbon stock per hectare (t/ha)	10	88.5	98.5

Carbon sequestration

In 2022, RMK's forests, forest land and non-forest land sequestered 5.75 million tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere.

Growing forest sequestered the largest share of CO₂ (5.57 million tonnes), while other land sequestered 0.18 million tonnes of CO₂ during the year.

- Through regeneration cutting, -2.72 million tonnes of CO₂ were removed from forests as timber.
- The quantity of carbon sequestered in RMK's forests, forest land and non-forest land, adjusted for regeneration cutting, was 3.03 million tonnes of CO₂.
- On average, the forests administered by RMK sequestered about 5.3 tonnes of CO₂ per hectare per year.

Table 3. shows carbon sequestration in the first and second layers of the stand and in the underbrush, net of emissions from the soil and the quantity of carbon taken into use through regeneration cutting.

Carbon accounting is based on timber harvested through regeneration cutting, as it has the largest impact on carbon accounting. Tending involves logging the wood that has already fallen out of the stand naturally or would fall out in the near future due to competition in the stand. However, fallen trees are no longer carbon sinks, but instead

emit carbon as their organic matter decomposes. Tending enhances the positive climate impact of forest management, as the remaining trees will grow faster and will also produce higher-quality wood that can be used in long-life products. This, in turn, also allows us to combat climate change through the substitution effect – we use less non-renewable materials.

In 2022, RMK took 3.08 million m³ of timber out of forests through regeneration cutting. The oven-dry densities of the various tree species taken out through regeneration cutting were used to calculate the proportion of carbon in the timber, and the proportion of carbon was assumed to be 50%. The result was multiplied by 3.7 to convert carbon to carbon dioxide. Through regeneration cutting, -2.72 million tonnes of CO₂ were removed from forests.

For the other land categories, total sequestration was obtained by adding up the carbon sequestration values for different categories of land. Wetland communities are the main sink, locking carbon in peat. The remote sensing method can be used to estimate the volume of wood in other categories of land, but not the increment. Therefore, carbon sequestration in other categories of land is probably underestimated, as the carbon sequestered in woody biomass is missing.

Table 3. Carbon sequestration on RMK's forest land and other categories of land

2022	Protected	Managed	Total
Area of forest land (ha)	432,062	622,360	1,054,421
CO ₂ sequestration: layer I, stems, branches and roots (t)	3,839,149	6,220,520	10,059,669
CO ₂ sequestration: layer II (t)	170,169	302,766	472,935
CO ₂ sequestration: underbrush/ground vegetation (t)	3,996,629	5,756,390	9,753,019
CO ₂ emissions from soil (t)	5,764,355	8,951,792	-14,716,147
CO₂e sequestration on forest land	2,241,592	3,327,884	5,569,476
CO₂ sequestration, tonne per hectare (t/ha/year)	5.19	5.35	5.28
Area of other categories of land (ha)			362,874
CO ₂ sequestration in other categories of land (t)			175,913
Volume of regeneration cutting in 2021 (m ³)			3,077,349
Carbon removed through regeneration cutting (CO ₂ t)			-2,720,161
Area of land under the administration of RMK (ha)			1,054,421
CO ₂ sequestration on land under the administration of RMK (t)			3,025,228

Carbon emissions

Total emissions from RMK's activities in 2022 were –59,871 tonnes of CO₂. This is about 1% of the amount of carbon sequestered on land under the administration of RMK during the year.

The main source of carbon emissions from RMK's activities is forestry operations, where CO₂ emissions mainly result from the use of motor fuels.

Carbon emissions for the most important types of operations are detailed below.

Carbon emissions from RMK's activities	CO ₂ t
Forestry operations	–46,939
Forest improvement	–7530
Forest planting	–756
Nature conservation-related operations	–691
Staff trips	–1892
Offices	–573
Nurseries	–511
Other real estate	–897
Pömla Fish Farm	–82
Total	–59,871

FORESTRY OPERATIONS

Forestry operations emitted –46,939 tonnes of CO₂ in 2022. The table below shows how this figure was determined.

Table 4. CO₂ emissions from different types of forestry operations

Type of work (unit)	Quantity	Fuel consumption per unit	Fuel consumption, l	CO ₂ emission, t
Clear cutting, shelterwood cutting, deforestation: cutting operations and transportation (m ³)	2,923,188	1.2 l/m ³	7,015,600	–18,151
Thinning, salvage cutting, design cutting: cutting operations and transportation (m ³)	589,974	2 l/m ³	2,359,800	–6158
Energy timber harvesting (m ³)	265,431	2.1 l/m ³	481,200	–1455
Energy timber chipping (m ³)	276,972	1.39 l/m ³	557,400	–1069
Roundwood transportation (m ³)	3,482,330	48 l/100 km		
Average load volume (m ³)	33.2			
Average distance of roundwood transportation (km)	69			
Roundwood loads (number)	104,889		6,947,800	–18,131
Wood chip transportation (m ³)	291,415	38 l/100 km		
Average load volume (m ³)	32.4			
Average distance of wood chip transportation (km)	55.15			
Wood chip loads (number)	8994		377,000	–984
Brush cleaning (ha)	37,951	10 l/ha	379,500	–990
Total				–46,939

FOREST IMPROVEMENT

The carbon footprint of forest improvement operations in 2022 amounted to –7,530 tonnes of CO₂, estimated on the basis of the quantity of fuel consumed for the operations. The largest contribution came from the construction of roads and the reconstruction of ditches.

Table 5. CO₂ emissions from forest improvement operations

Type of work (unit)	Area	Fuel consumption (l)	CO ₂ emissions (t)
Reconstruction of ditches (ha)	16,438	640,738	–1672
Maintenance of ditches (ha)	27,395	318,741	–832
Construction of roads (km)	267	1285330.755	–3354
Maintenance of roads (km)	40,427	640,751	–1672
Total		2,885,560	–7530

FOREST PLANTING OPERATIONS

In 2022, the carbon footprint of operations that precede forest planting amounted to –756 tonnes of CO₂, estimated on the basis of the quantity of fuel consumed for the operations.

Table 6. CO₂ emissions from forest planting operations

Type of work (unit)	Area	Fuel consumption (l)	CO ₂ emissions (t)
Preparation of land: plough (ha)	8496	152,928	–399
Preparation of land: stub flipper (ha)	1188	83,160	–217
Planting machine (ha)	507	50,700	–132
Mineralisation of firebreaks (km)	69	1242	–3
Making water furrows (ha)	18	1800	–5
Total		289,830	–756

NATURE CONSERVATION-RELATED OPERATIONS

The carbon footprint of conservation operations in 2022 was –691 tonnes of CO₂. This was estimated on the basis of the fuel consumed in conservation-related operations. The largest CO₂ emissions were generated by ditch closure operations, as well as logging and transportation during nature conservation-related operations.

Table 7. CO₂ emissions from nature conservation-related operations

Type of work (unit)	Area	Fuel consumption (l)	CO ₂ emissions (t)
Chopping (ha)	267	29,370	–77
Shredding (ha)	171	25,650	–67
Sowing of peat moss (ha)	17.7	3540	–9
Closing ditches (km)	92	59,708	–156
Construction of dams (number)	2071	82,840	–216
Nature conservation-related logging and transportation (m ³)	25,036	60,086	–157
Brush cutting (ha)	249	2490	–6
Other operations (ha)	30	1230	–3
Total			–691

STAFF TRIPS

The carbon footprint of RMK's staff transport amounted to –1,892 tonnes of CO₂ in 2022. During the year, a total of 7.8 mln km were driven by company and private cars. For company cars, the actual fuel consumption was used to estimate CO₂ emissions, while the average fuel consumption for private cars was assumed to be 7 litres per 100 kilometres.

Table 8. CO₂ emissions from the transport of RMK's staff

Work-related trips	km covered	Fuel consumption (l)	CO ₂ emissions (t)
Company cars	6,083,456	600,319	–1566
Private cars	1,783,583	124,851	–326
Total	7,867,039	725,170	–1892

RMK'S REAL ESTATE

The total carbon footprint of the use of all RMK's real estate amounted to –2,063 tonnes of CO₂ in 2022. The carbon footprint of RMK's offices was –573 tonnes of CO₂ in 2021. On average, this translates into an annual footprint of –1.55 tonnes of CO₂ per office employee. RMK's visitor centres as well as auxiliary buildings are included in other real estate. All types of energy used and factors that generate carbon emissions were taken into account in the calculation of the footprint.

Table 9. CO₂ emissions from the use of RMK's real estate

	CO ₂ emissions (t/y)
RMK's offices	–573
RMK's nurseries	–511
Põlula Fish Farm	–82
Other real estate	–897
Total	–2063

The footprints of RMK's offices can be compared in Table 10.

Table 10. CO₂ footprint of RMK's offices

Office	CO ₂ emissions (t/y)	
	Per office	Per person
Ahtme office	–11.38	–1.03
Antsla office	–17.27	–3.45
Avinurme office	–2.13	–0.36
Erastvere office	–15.64	–1.96
Iisaku office	–10.29	–0.94

Kihelkonna office	–14.74	–1.34
Kärdla office	–25.70	–1.71
Käru office	–13.36	–1.91
Laiksaare office	–26.04	–2.60
Laiuse office	–6.09	–0.68
Loobu office	–16.82	–1.12
Märjamaa office	–3.02	–0.50
Paikuse office	–31.36	–2.85
Piirsalu office	–17.46	–1.59
Pikknurme office	–19.17	–3.83
Rapla office	–16.25	–1.25
Rava office	–9.70	–0.75
Ristipalo office	–52.51	–2.50
Sagadi office	–0.23	–0.02
Sonda office	–6.44	–0.64
Surju office	–17.33	–1.24
Taali office	–38.76	–3.88
Tallinn office	–61.26	–0.96
Tartu office	–46.16	–0.94
Triigi office	–10.46	–1.16
Ussimäe office	–23.47	–1.81
Valga office	–15.68	–1.43
Varbla office	–19.24	–2.75
Võru office	–9.71	–0.61
Õisu office	–14.96	–0.83
Total	–573	–1.55

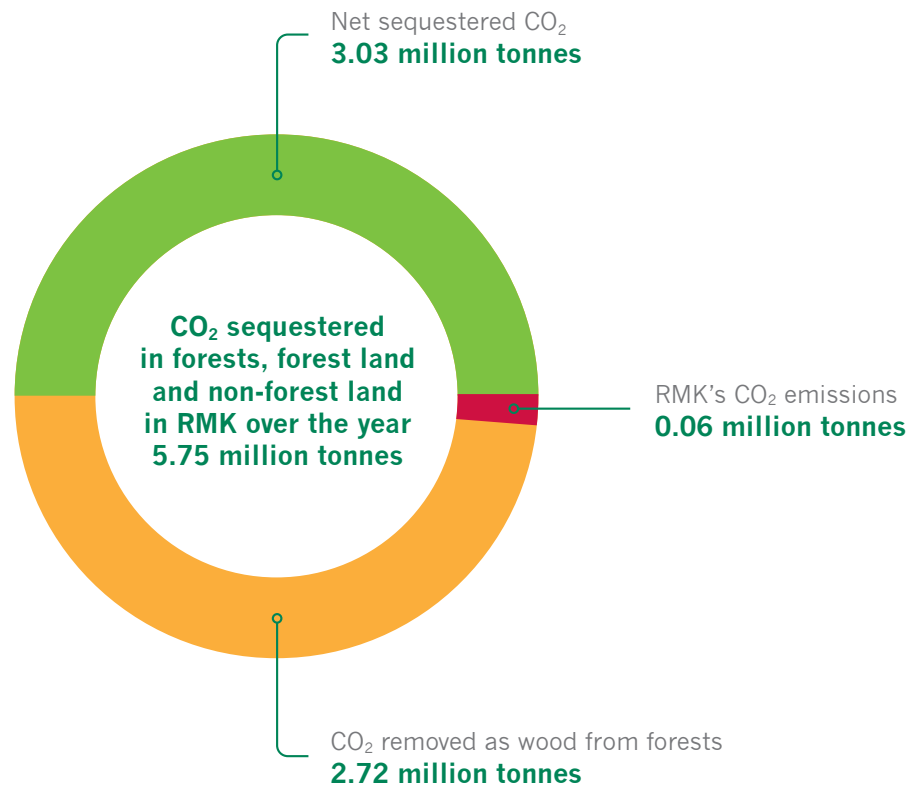


Carbon Report in summary

If we subtract from the carbon sequestered in RMK's forests and other types of land (5.75 million tonnes of CO₂) the carbon removed from forests through regeneration cutting (-2.72 million tonnes of CO₂) and the carbon emissions related to RMK's operations (-0.06 million tonnes of CO₂), the result is a positive carbon footprint, with 2.97 million tonnes of CO₂ sequestered in RMK's forests and other types of land in 2022.

Compared to the previous carbon report (2021), we have both reduced the footprint of our operations and increased the average carbon sequestration of our forests. Compared to a year earlier, RMK's footprint is 8% smaller. The main contributors to emissions are the motor fuels used

in the operations. As the volume of some types of operations decreased, so did the use of motor fuels. There are also other activities that have a footprint. For example, RMK has an accurate overview of resource use in offices and other real estate. Thanks to the switch to a renewable energy package, CO₂ emissions from office buildings were reduced as much as three-fold during the year. Smart choices will help us mitigate and adapt to climate change. As a renewable resource, wood makes it possible to reduce the use of fossil materials. By renewing forests quickly and to a high standard, maintaining forests in a timely manner and keeping them viable and healthy, RMK makes a significant contribution to mitigating climate change.



Calculation example

Please find a calculation example that illustrates how the figures were determined for the Carbon Report below. A middle-aged pine stand in Pärnu County, growing in a blueberry

site type, has been chosen for this purpose. It is a fertile forest with spruce growing in the first layer in addition to pine. The available data for this forest are as follows.

Compartment No. VD254, sub-compartment 3					Reserve in the sub-compartment (m ³)			Annual increment in the sub-compartment (m ³)	
Site type	Area (ha)	h100 (m) (predicted height at 100 years)	Composition	Age (y)	Pine	Spruce	Down wood	Pine	Spruce
Blueberry	2.13	29.4	85MA15KU (85% pine, 15% spruce)	58	492.59	86.93	10.65	14.23	2.51

CARBON STOCK

In order to find the carbon (C) stock stored in this forest sub-compartment, it is first necessary to **switch from cubic metres to mass units**. Oven-dry wood density is 470 kg/m³ for pine and 420 kg/m³ for spruce. Therefore, we multiply the cubic metres by the oven-dry wood density and convert the result to tonnes. Thus, we obtain a stem mass of 231.5 t for pine and 36.5 t for spruce.

Calculation of stem mass

Pine: 492.59 m³ = 492.59 x 470 = 231,517 kg = 231.5 t

Spruce: 86.93 m³ = 86.93 x 420 = 36,510 kg = 36.5 t

Since, in addition to stem mass, other above-ground biomass and below-ground biomass are also important, we use the biomass ratios between the different fractions derived from scientific studies to determine them. For pine and spruce, stem mass represents 90.2% and 80%, respectively, of the total **above-ground biomass**. Above-ground biomass is therefore 256.7 t for pine and 45.6 t for spruce.

Calculation of above-ground biomass

Pine: 231.5 x 100 / 90.2 = 256.7 t

Spruce: 36.5 x 100 / 80 = 45.6 t

Below-ground biomass accounts for 20% of the total biomass for pine and 21% for spruce. **Below-ground biomass** is therefore 64.2 t for pine and 12.1 t for spruce.

Calculation of below-ground biomass

Pine: 256.7 x 20 / 80 = 64.2 t

Spruce: 45.6 x 21 / 79 = 12.1 t

Adding up the above-ground and below-ground biomass figures, we obtain the **total biomass** of 320.9 t for pine and 57.7 t for spruce.

Calculation of total biomass

Pine: 256.7 + 64.2 = 320.9 t

Spruce: 45.6 + 12.1 = 57.7 t

Down wood was estimated at 10.65 m³ in this stand. To calculate the **biomass of down wood**, we use a density of 300 kg/ m³. This gives a biomass of 3.2 t for the down wood.

Calculation of the biomass of down wood

10.65 x 300 = 3,195 kg = 3.2 t

Carbon accounts for 50% of the dry mass of wood. Thus, to determine the quantity of carbon in the wood of the sub-compartment under consideration, the above-ground and below-ground biomass of pines and spruces and the biomass of down wood must be added up and then divided by two. **The total carbon stock in the wood of this sub-compartment** amounts to 190.9 t.

Calculation of carbon in wood

(320.9 + 57.7 + 3.2) / 2 = 190.9 t

A large part of the carbon is locked up in the soil. For soils in blueberry sites, studies have estimated a carbon stock of 125.2 t/ha. In order to determine the **total soil carbon stock in the sub-compartment**, we multiply this estimate by the area of the sub-compartment (2.13 ha). The multiplication result is a soil carbon stock of 266.7 t.

Calculation of carbon in soil

2.13 x 125.2 = 266.7 t

The total carbon stock in the sub-compartment is determined by adding up the carbon in wood and soil. The result is 457.6 t.

Calculation of the total carbon stock in the sub-compartment

190.9 t + 266.7 t = 457.6 t

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

In order to assess whether a particular forest ecosystem is a carbon sink or emitter, it is necessary to estimate all inbound and outbound carbon fluxes.

Let us start with the increment. In the description of the sub-compartment, the stem increment is given as 14.23 m³ per year for pine and 2.51 m³ per year for spruce. These figures must first be converted to biomass in a similar way to the calculations of the forest reserve. The **annual increment of biomass** is 6.7 t for the stem mass of pine and 1.1 t for the stem mass of spruce.

Calculation of the annual increment of biomass in stems

Pine: $14.23 \times 470 = 6688 \text{ kg} = 6.7 \text{ t}$

Spruce: $2.51 \times 420 = 1054 \text{ kg} = 1.1 \text{ t}$

In the case of pine and spruce, a significant proportion of the biomass is also made up of needles, branches and roots. Forest ecosystem carbon studies conducted in Estonia indicate that only 37.7% of the total biomass bound in pine and 34.9% in spruce is produced in stems, the remainder being deposited in roots, branches and needles. In order to find the **total biomass added during the year**, these parts must also be included, resulting in 17.8 t for pine and 3.1 t for spruce.

Calculation of the annual increment of biomass in the sub-compartment

Pine: $6.7 \times 100 / 37.7 = 17.8 \text{ t}$

Spruce: $1.1 \times 100 / 34.9 = 3.1 \text{ t}$

Again, as the proportion of carbon is 50%, the figures obtained must be divided by two to determine **how much carbon is added in the forest biomass during a year**.

Calculation of the mass of carbon sequestered in the sub-compartment during a year

Pine: $17.8 / 2 = 8.9 \text{ t}$

Spruce: $3.1 / 2 = 1.55 \text{ t}$

It should be remembered that the forest biomass stores carbon but sequesters carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, with 1 t of C equalling 3.7 t of CO₂. In this sub-compartment, **trees sequester 38.7 t of CO₂** from the atmosphere during a year.

Calculation of CO₂ sequestered by trees from the atmosphere

$(8.9 + 1.55) \times 3.7 = 38.7 \text{ t}$

To assess whether a given forest stand is a carbon sink or emitter, the **amount of CO₂ sequestered in the underbrush and ground vegetation** also needs to be taken into account. Scientists have estimated that, in similar forests, above-ground and below-ground parts of underbrush and ground vegetation sequester a total of 9.25 tonnes of CO₂ per hectare. In this sub-compartment, therefore, underbrush and ground vegetation sequester 19.7 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere per year.

Calculation of CO₂ sequestered by underbrush and ground vegetation from the atmosphere

$2.13 \times 9.25 = 19.7 \text{ t}$

It is also important to determine the **emissions from the decomposition of organic matter in the soil**. Studies have estimated these to be 14.06 tonnes of CO₂ per hectare per year for the type of soil in question. This forest therefore emitted 30 tonnes of CO₂ per year through soil respiration.

Calculation of CO₂ emissions from soil due to organic matter decomposition

$2.13 \times 14.06 = 30.0 \text{ t}$

Adding the CO₂ sequestered by the trees and the CO₂ sequestered by underbrush and ground vegetation, and subtracting the CO₂ emitted through soil respiration shows that **this stand sequesters 28.4 tonnes of CO₂ per year**. Growing such a forest **sequesters 13.3 tonnes of CO₂ per hectare per year**.

Carbon sequestration in this sub-compartment (CO₂)

$38.7 + 19.7 - 30.0 = 28.4 \text{ t}$

Carbon sequestration per hectare in this sub-compartment (CO₂)

$28.4 / 2.13 = 13.3 \text{ t}$

P.S. In international climate reporting, carbon sequestration is usually indicated with a minus sign. In other words, it shows how much less carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases there are in the atmosphere because of forest growth. In our calculations, we expressed carbon sequestration with a positive sign, because carbon sequestration is nothing but positive!

Sources used for the preparation of the Carbon Report

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3. Aosaar, J., Varik, M., Lõhmus, K., Ostonen, I., Becker, H., Uri, V. 2013. Long-term study of above- and below-ground biomass production in relation to nitrogen and carbon accumulation dynamics in a grey alder (*Alnus incana* (L.) Moench) plantation on former agricultural land. *European Journal of Forest Research*, 132 (5–6): 737-749. DOI: 10.1007/s10342-013-0706-1.
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