Urban Greening Plans
&
Biodiversity Indicators

Lessons learned from the first workshop

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Greening Plans
Preparation, Action Planning & Implementation and Monitoring

- ❖ Comparison between the new European guidelines and the existing plans
    - ✔ A lot of work has been done in different sectors (biodiversity action plan, updating the forest management plan etc.)
- ❖ Should greening plans be a combination of different plans or one big plan?
- ❖ Stakeholder engagement: new participants such as private companies should be included
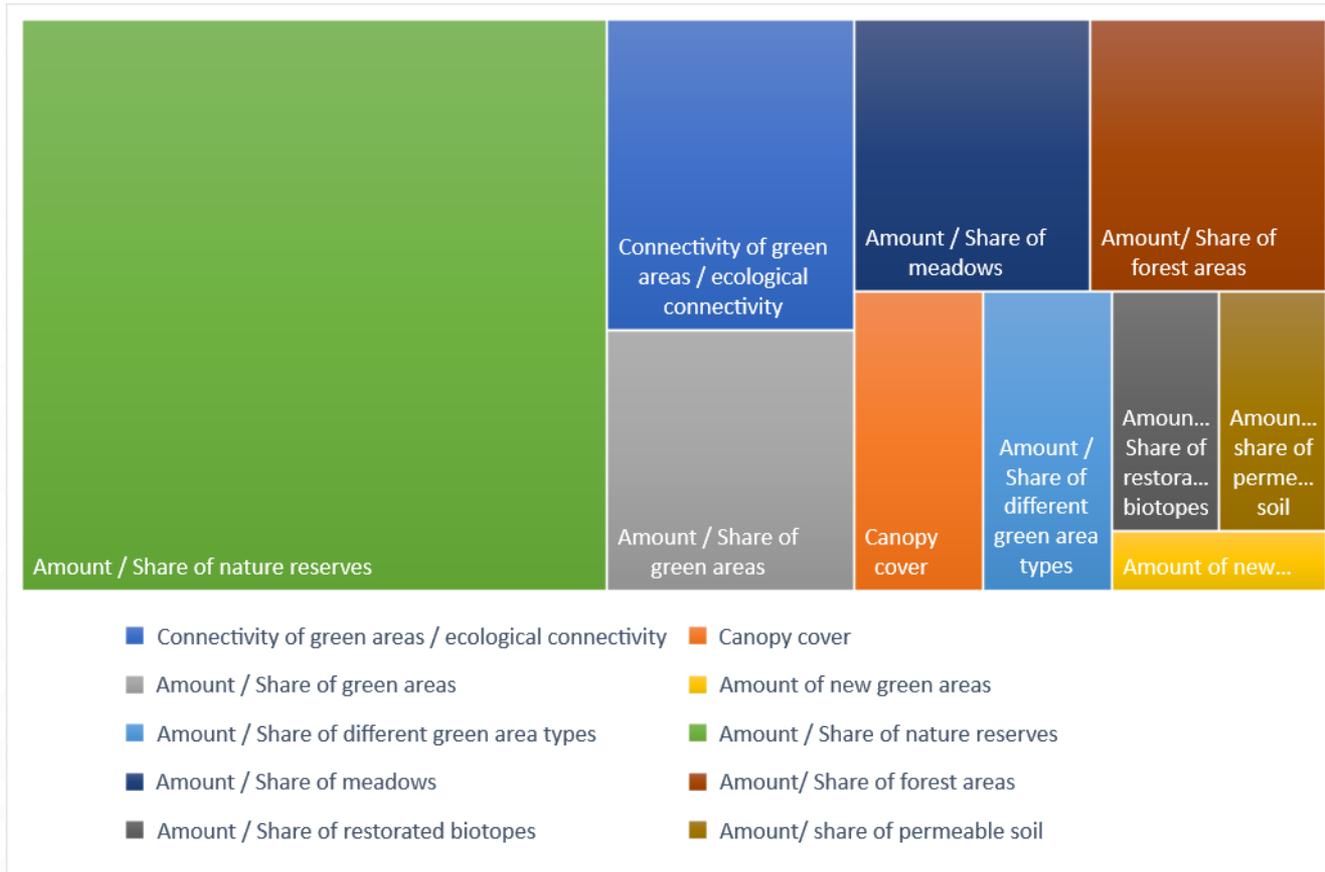
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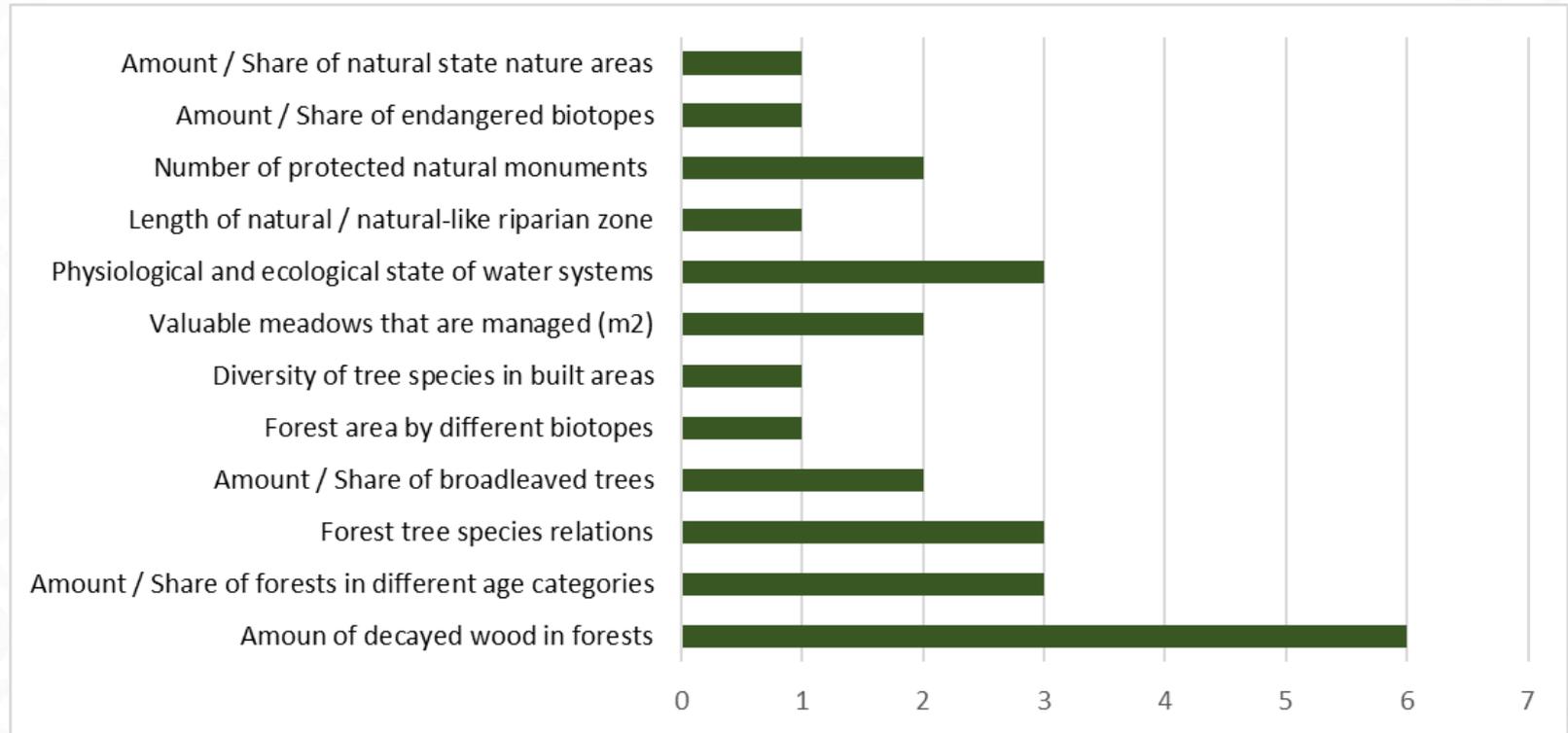
❖ Contradictory goals

  ✓ Climate goals & Greening goals vs densification & urban growth. There should be focus on prioritizing the most important areas

❖ Need for more guidance in municipalities, rules of interpretation needed

❖ A time and resource consuming process – can it be made into a smaller and more simplified process

❖ Importance of monitoring

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Quantity indicators for urban green areas identified by Finnish municipalities

Indicators for ecological quality

Indicator	Value
Amount / Share of natural state nature areas	1
Amount / Share of endangered biotopes	1
Number of protected natural monuments	2
Length of natural / natural-like riparian zone	1
Physiological and ecological state of water systems	3
Valuable meadows that are managed (m2)	2
Diversity of tree species in built areas	1
Forest area by different biotopes	1
Amount / Share of broadleaved trees	2
Forest tree species relations	3
Amount / Share of forests in different age categories	3
Amoun of decayed wood in forests	6

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Policy indicators for Biodiversity

■ Carbon sinks in city area and city-owned forests

■ Green factor tool is used in land-use planning

■ Accessibility (< 300 m) to recreational areas

■ Protection of EU directive species in zoning areas

■ Targets for mainteining urban green areas or other BD actions

■ Amount of city-arranged work parties to prevent invasive species and the number of participants

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Challenges of selecting and using indicators

- Use and measurement of indicators can also be a political issue. Consequently, unpleasant deterioration of green areas are not shown willingly during the city

- Simplicity of indicators in order to use and interpret moderately easily

- One can not yet think about urban greening in a smaller municipality in which the municipality centre is relatively green

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Challenges of selecting and using indicators

- Lack of know-how and resources. Prioritization is clustered to somewhere else
- The problem is how to find suitable indicators which we already know well
- The monitoring methods are still under development
- It is difficult to invent good indicators; The indicator should measure the right matter; information should be easily gathered; there should be reliable data available
- Those issues that are followed are not connected with the topic (for example amount of municipal forests)

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There is more to learn!

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