

Forests and biodiversity – Where do we stand?

Approaches of Lower Saxony state forest conservation concept

Total protection is only one option



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Approaches of Lower Saxony state forest conservation concept

**Restoration
projects**
for specific areas

- functions of ecosystems
- ~ 1 % area share

Protected areas
Legal obligation and
self responsibility

- Specialized management ~ 25 %
- unmanaged forest ~ 10 %

Integrated forest management
with 13 „**LÖWE**“ principles
**Long Term Ecological Forest
Development**

- Ecological basis for silvicultural decisions and practise
- Complete area

Long Term Ecological Forest Development



Preservation of old trees, protection of rare & threatened species

- old forests (> 160 y.) ~ 6 % strictly protected
- habitat trees ~ 3 % of area, with TreM, single or in groups
- Dead wood 28 m³/ha (> 10 cm) (→ before Bark Beetle)



Building a network of conservation areas such as

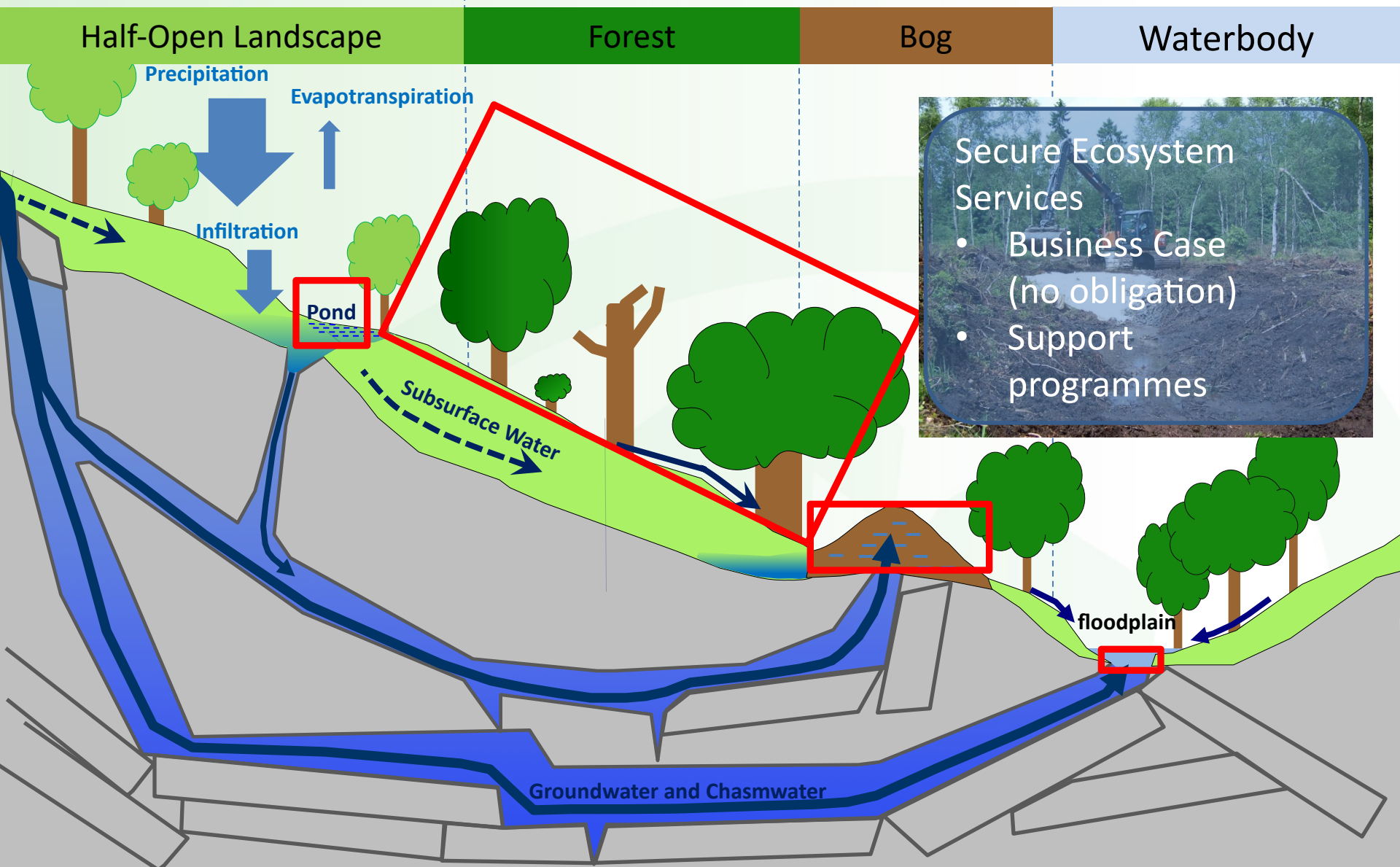
- Natural forests
- Cultural-historical management forests (e.g. woodpasture)
- Shade-intolerant management forests (e.g. oakforest, bogforest)



Structuring and managing the edges of forests

- ecological gradients as hotspots of biodiversity
- 6.200 km exterior and 15.000 km interior forest edges

Restoring functional Relationships of Landscapes



Secure Ecosystem Services

- Business Case (no obligation)
- Support programmes

