



## Navigating the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR):

Testing and Dataset Creation for Compliance



Original thinking... applied

# Speakers

## Navigating the EUDR – Testing & Dataset Creation for Compliance



**Joe Humphreys**  
Business Development Manager  
Fera Science Limited



**Helen Grundy**  
Science Lead – Food Authenticity  
Fera Science Limited



**Katharina Heinrich**  
Senior Scientist  
Fera Science Limited



**Victor Deklerck**  
Director of Science  
World Forest ID

# Understanding the Regulation

## REGULATION (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation free products

**Purpose:** Designed to prevent deforestation, environmental harm, and human rights violations linked to key commodities.

**Scope:** Applies to companies sourcing, trading, or using high-risk commodities in their supply chains.

### Key Requirements:

- Businesses must conduct due diligence to ensure products are not linked to deforestation or illegal land use.
- Mandatory reporting and documentation of supply chain practices.
- Non-compliant goods may be restricted from sale or import into regulated markets.

### Jurisdictions & Enforcement:

- Enforced by government agencies with penalties for non-compliance.
- Regulations align with global sustainability goals (e.g., EU Deforestation Regulation, UK Environment Act).

## Implications for the Food & Drink Industry

**Sourcing Challenges:** Companies must verify commodity origins and assess supplier compliance.

**Operational & Financial Impact:** Additional costs for monitoring, reporting, and supplier verification.

**Reputational & Legal Risks:** Non-compliance can lead to fines, import restrictions, and loss of consumer trust.

# Importance of Transparency

## Why Supply Chain Visibility Matters

### Regulatory Compliance:

- Ensures businesses meet legal due diligence requirements.
- Helps avoid fines, trade restrictions, and reputational damage.

### Risk Mitigation:

- Identifies potential issues like illegal deforestation, unethical labour practices, or fraud.
- Reduces exposure to supply disruptions and financial penalties.

### Consumer & Stakeholder Expectations:

- Growing demand for ethically sourced products.
- Investors and retailers prioritizing sustainability commitments.

## Traceability Solutions & Best Practices

### Technology-Driven Tracking:

- **Blockchain & Digital Ledgers:** Provide immutable records of product origins.
- **Satellite Monitoring & AI Analysis:** Detects deforestation risks in real time.
- **QR Codes & RFID Tags:** Enables real-time tracking of shipments.

### Supplier Audits & Certification Programs:

- **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)** – Sustainable palm oil certification.
- **Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** – Responsible timber sourcing.
- **Rainforest Alliance & Fairtrade** – Ethical cocoa, coffee, and other commodities.
- **GRSB (Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef)** – Responsible cattle production.

# Importance of Transparency

## Challenges & Opportunities

### Challenges

- Complexity of global supply chains with multiple intermediaries.
- High costs for small and mid-sized businesses to implement tracking systems.
- Data reliability and supplier cooperation issues.

### Opportunities

- Competitive advantage through transparent and sustainable sourcing.
- Strengthening brand trust and consumer loyalty.
- Access to green financing and sustainability-linked investment opportunities



Original thinking... applied

# Methods for geographical origin testing

Helen Grundy

Science Lead in Food Authenticity



# Global Supply Chain


**Heavy reliance on trust for food and feed integrity**

**Product certification, remote sensing, auditing**

**Due diligence testing, enforcement testing**

**Protect reputation from fraud, unethical practices and penalties**





**DUE  
DILIGENCE**

The image features a central circular hub with the text "DUE DILIGENCE" in white, bold, sans-serif font. This hub is surrounded by six smaller circular nodes, each containing a white icon: three interlocking gears (top-left), a human head profile with three gears inside (top-right), a megaphone (left), a rocket ship (bottom-left), a bar chart with an upward-pointing arrow (right), and a gear (bottom-right). The entire interface is set against a dark blue background with glowing blue lines and dots, suggesting a digital or technological environment. A hand is visible in the bottom right corner, with the index finger pointing towards the central text.



# 1. Stable Isotope Ratio Analysis (SIRA)

- Longstanding, recognised method
- The isotope signals from the bio-elements (H, C, N, O, S) present in local feed, soil and water transfer to the plant and animal tissue.
- Relies heavily on databases and modelling, reference materials.
- Up-to-date db needed to account for seasonal variation, climate change etc.



# Stable Isotopes

Stable isotopes of Hydrogen:  $^1\text{H}$  and  $^2\text{H}$ .  
Stable isotopes of Oxygen:  $^{16}\text{O}$ ,  $^{17}\text{O}$  and  $^{18}\text{O}$ .

Occur naturally in waters and biological materials.

$^1\text{H}$ ,  $^2\text{H}$ ,  $^{16}\text{O}$ , and  $^{18}\text{O}$  are abundant and can be measured by SIRA mass spectrometry.



# Isotopic tracers in geographical origin and diet reconstruction studies

Isotope ratio	Fractionation mechanism	Informs on
$^2\text{H}/^1\text{H}$	Evaporation, precipitation	Geography (hydrology)
$^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$	Evaporation, precipitation	Geography (hydrology)
$^{13}\text{C}/^{12}\text{C}$	C3 and C4 plants	Diet / plant PS type
$^{15}\text{N}/^{14}\text{N}$	Trophic level, marine and terrestrial plants, fertiliser	Plant geography, animal diet
$^{34}\text{S}/^{32}\text{S}$	Bacterial sedimentary sulphides/organic matter	Geography (marine environment sea spray to soil)
$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	Beta decay of $^{87}\text{Rb}$	Geology of a location

# SIRA

Underpinned by robust databases

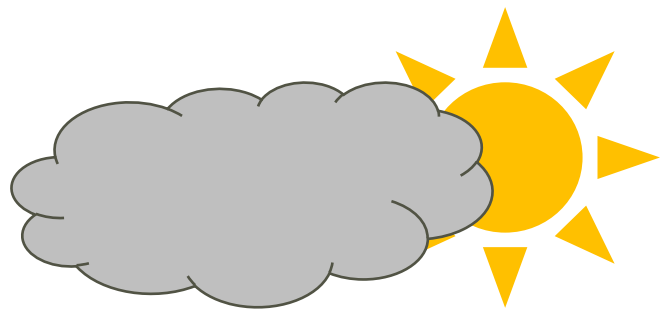
Improved classification with other analytical techniques e.g. trace elements, fatty acids, NMR



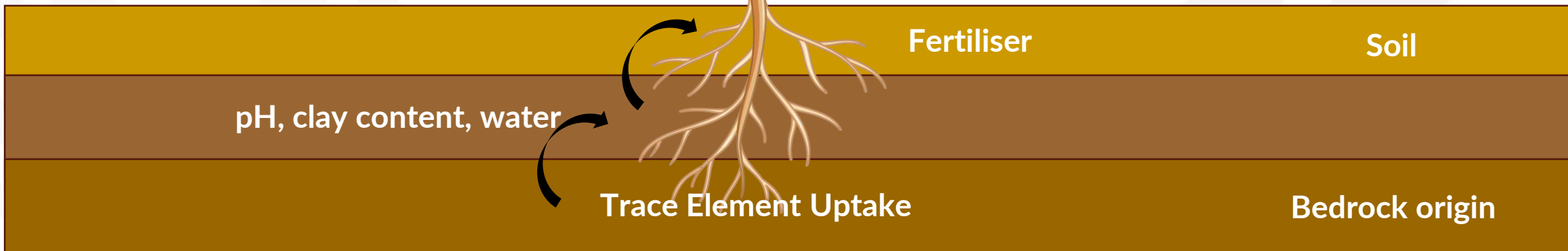
## 2. Trace Element Analysis

- e.g. Li, Cu, Mg, Na, Se, Fe, Co, Cr, K, Be.....
- Reflects uptake of elements from the environment.
- Not stand-alone indiscriminate tool for global origin.
- Accuracy increases when combined with SIRA data.

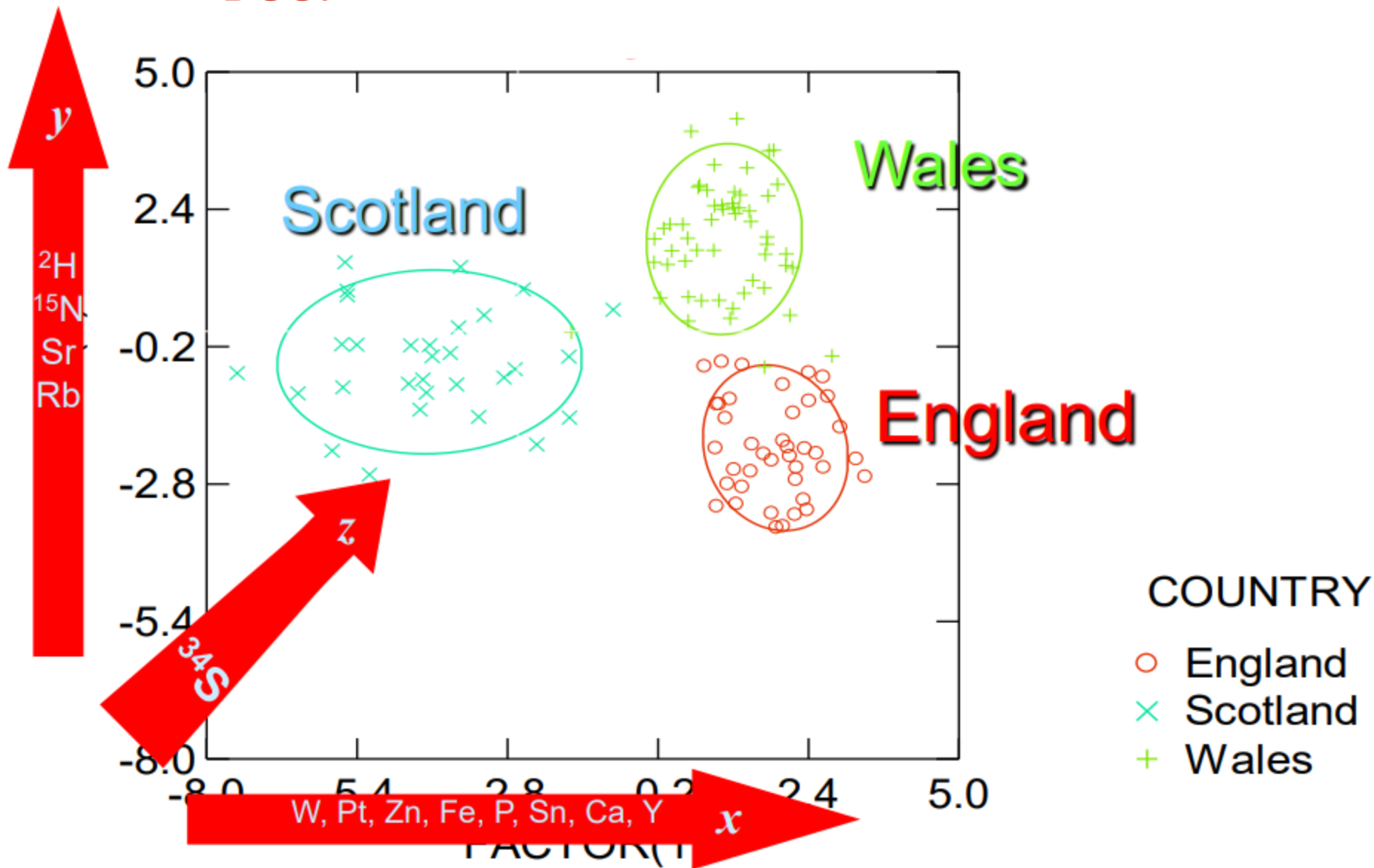




Rain water

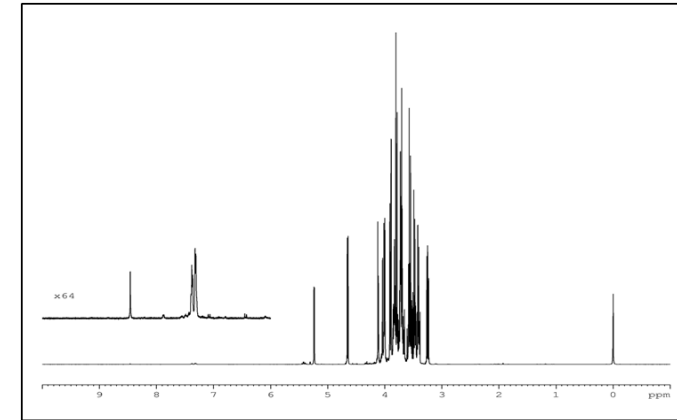


# Beef



# 3. Metabolomics and profiling

- Non-targeted – can be hundreds of biomarkers.
- Reflect climate, geology, feedstuff, fertilisers, etc.
- e.g. sugars, organic acids, fatty acids, polyphenols, etc.
- Data fusion from multiple analytical sources.
- Access to metadata valuable – additives, clarifying agents.
- Can determine if steel, wood chips used during vinification.





## 4. Niche applications - Genomics

- e.g. Plant cultivar - genomics
- Added value in combined approaches
- e.g. Panxian ham - genomics + metabolomics
- e.g. Portuguese wine - genomics +  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$



# Most promising technologies per commodity



## CEREALS

Stable Isotope Ratio (SIRA) Trace Element (TE) analysis



## COCOA

Spectroscopy techniques, combining NIR, Sensory Techniques, AI



## COFFEE

SIRA and TE analysis



## WINE

SIRA and SNIF-NMR ( $^2\text{H}$  NMR)



## RICE

SIRA (particularly C, H and O) + TE analysis



## HONEY

Microscopy, metabolomic profiling + SIRA, (H, O AND C) + TE analysis



## MEAT

SIRA (H, O AND C) + TE + fatty acid profiling + radio frequency id tags



## EDIBLE OILS

SIRA technology + NMR and profiling of phenolic compounds + fatty acids. Infrared spectroscopy shows potential

# Research

Research projects

July 30, 2024 BST

## Review of Capability of Methods for the Verification of Country of Origin for Food and Feed

Helen H. Grundy, Hez J. Hird, Rosario Romero, Katharina Heinrich, Mark Harrison, Adrian J. Charlton, Emma L. Bradley

Regulating the changing food system

Methods

Emerging challenges and opportunities

Food authenticity

Food crime

Food not of animal origin

Products of animal origin



CCBY-4.0 • <https://doi.org/10.46756/sci.fsa.p1e720>



Scan to read



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Food  
Standards  
Agency

# Due Diligence

Paper chain

Remote  
imaging

Digitalisation

Blockchain

Testing

## Sustainable, deforestation-free agriculture



# Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products



Coffee



Cattle



Soybean



Palm Oil



Cacao



Rubber



Timber

## What do we know?

- Under the Regulation, any operator or trader who places these commodities, or their derivatives, on the EU market, or exports from it, must be able to prove that the products do not originate from recently deforested land or have contributed to forest degradation.
- 30 December 2025 for large and medium companies
- 30 June 2026 for micro and small enterprises.

**PROTECT YOUR REPUTATION WITH DUE DILIGENCE**

# Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products



**Coffee**



**Cattle**



**Soybean**



**Palm Oil**



**Cacao**



**Rubber**



**Timber**





Original thinking... applied

# The Role of Scientific Testing in Compliance

**Katharina Heinrich**

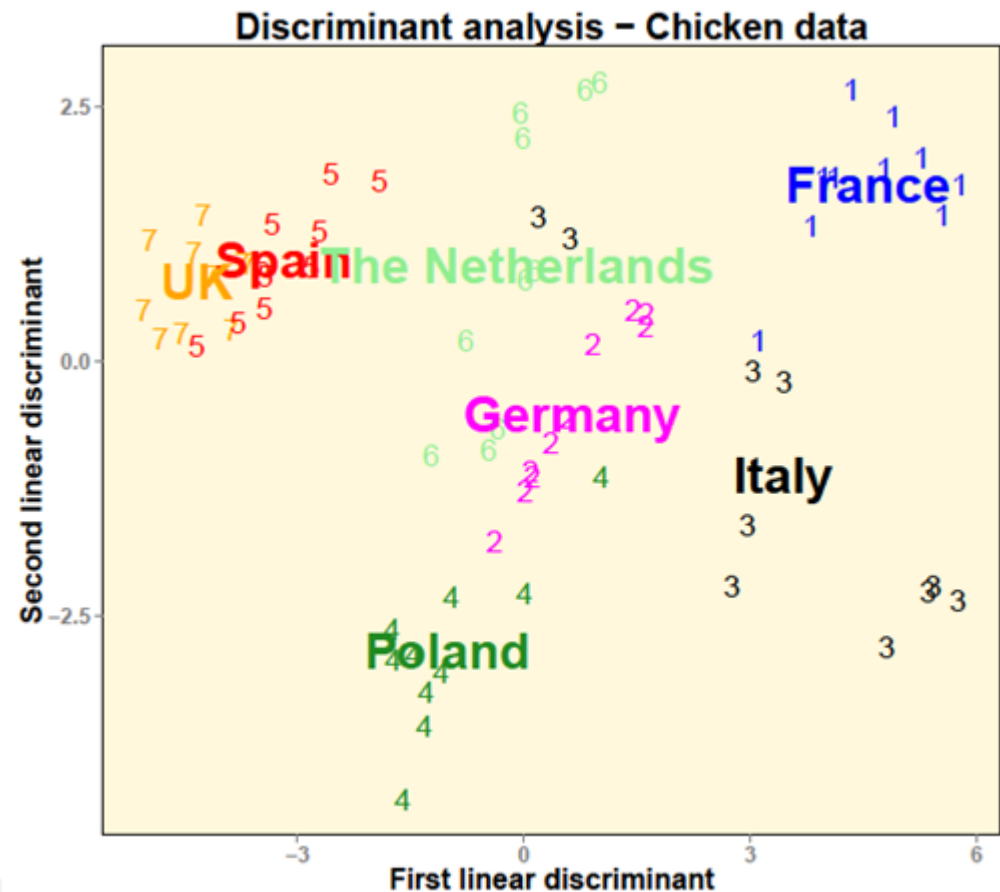
Senior Scientist in Geographical Origin Testing





# Scientific Data and Testing as tools for safeguarding operations

- What is scientific data?
- Scientific data vs paper trail?
- Potential testing scenarios
- Examples of SIRA past and present



# What is scientific data?

## Data which can be measured using a device

- Derived following standard operating procedures for high quality data
- Working to a quality assurance standards, e.g. ISO9001 or ISO17025
- Can be turned into statistical models for interpretation of results

## Data which should be able to be repeated using equivalent terminology elsewhere

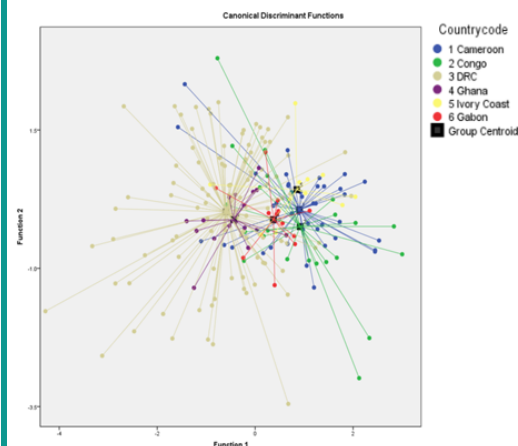
## Data provides/supports evidence for compliance of regulations

# Scientific data and/or paper trail?

- Best of both worlds for high level of due diligence
- Direct and indirect interpretation of scientific data = backing paper trail/tracing, which can be tampered with or source labels be lost
- **Testing as verification of origin + deterrent of non-compliance**

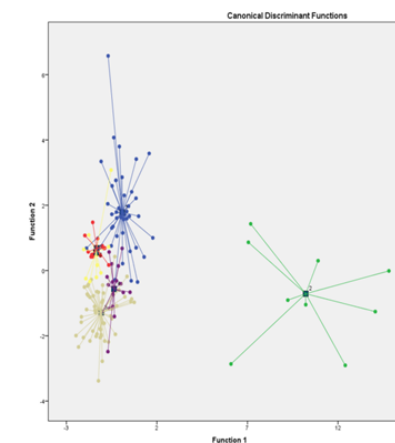
## Stable isotope model

60% classification rate



## Combined stable isotope and trace element model

82% classification rate



# Potential testing scenarios - 1

Always paper trail

Always geo location and remote sensing

Collecting reference samples

Archiving sample aliquots

# Potential testing scenarios -2

## TESTING

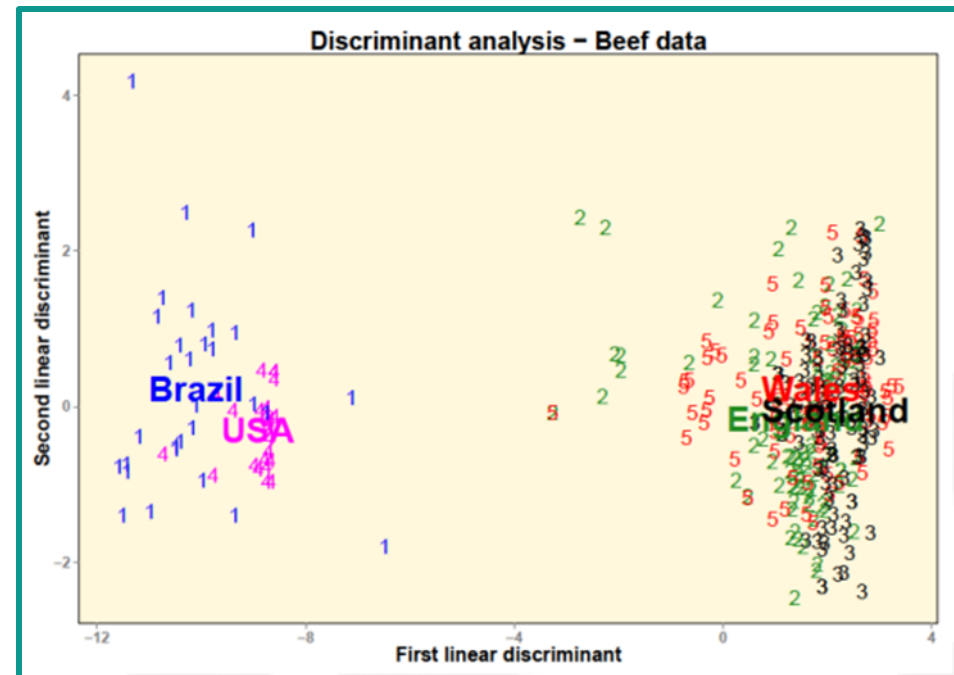
- Location/supply chain
  - Origin of product
  - During transit
  - Final destination

## FREQUENCY

- Intensely at the beginning: every, every other, weekly shipment/consignment
  - Less frequently, but regular intervals: monthly > quarterly > yearly

# Examples of the past at Fera, which used SIRA

- Authenticity (geographical origin or substitution of components)
  - EU wine database (NRL for wine) until BREXIT
  - Honey – cane sugar or corn syrup addition
  - Beef (grassfed)



# Examples of the present at Fera, which use SIRA and TE

Authenticity of EUDR commodities in conjunction with customers:



TIMBER/COTTON



COCOA



PALM



RUBBER



MEAT



SOYA

# Examples of the present at Fera, which use SIRA and TE

Authenticity of EUDR commodities in conjunction with customers:





# Examples of the present at Fera, which use SIRA and TE

Authenticity of EUDR commodities in conjunction with customers:



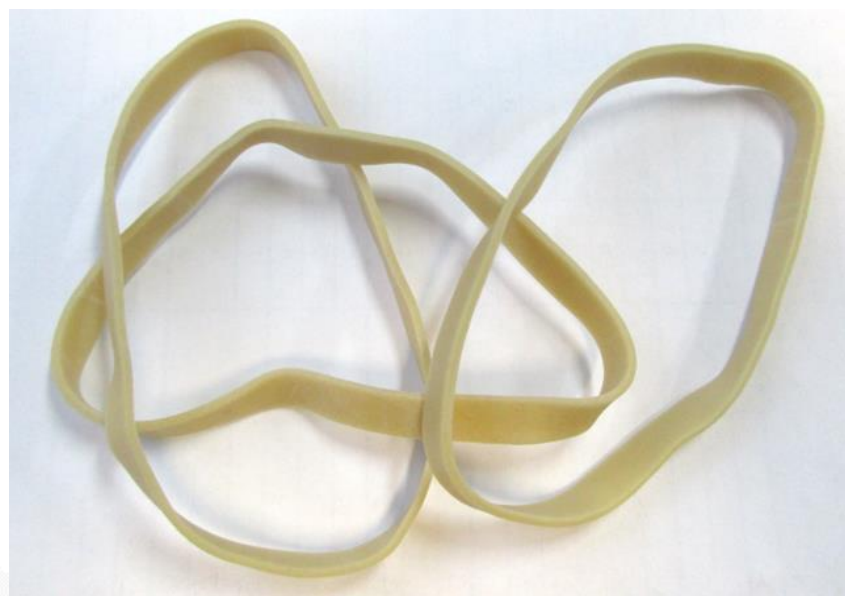
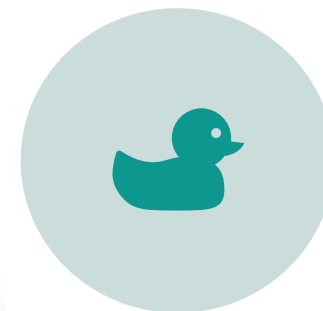
# Examples of the present at Fera, which use SIRA and TE

Authenticity of EUDR commodities in conjunction with customers:



# Examples of the present at Fera, which use SIRA and TE

Authenticity of EUDR commodities in conjunction with customers:



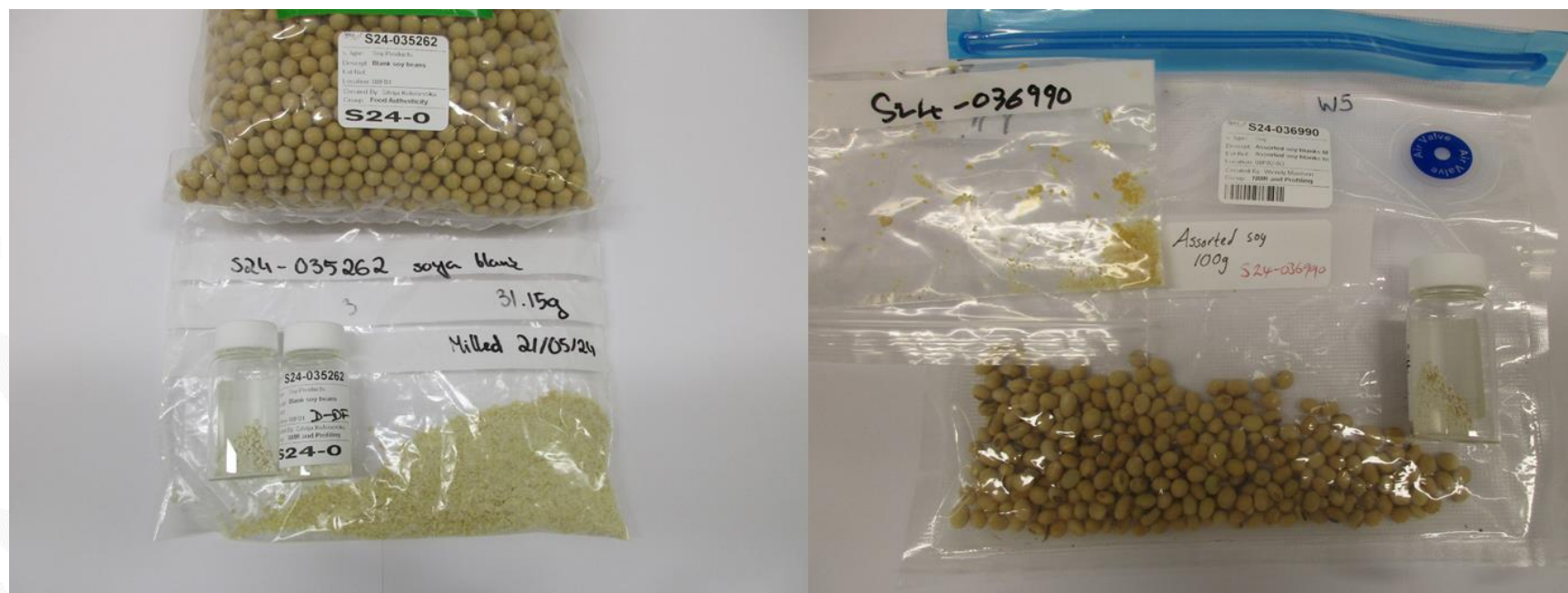
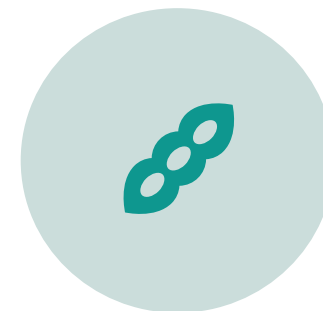
# Examples of the present at Fera, which use SIRA and TE

Authenticity of EUDR commodities in conjunction with customers:



# Examples of the present at Fera, which use SIRA and TE

Authenticity of EUDR commodities in conjunction with customers:



# Enforcement

Local authorities (LAs) are responsible for enforcing food law in the vast majority of food businesses, including those in the retail and catering sector.

The FSA produces the statutory Food Law Code of Practice (FLCoP) and associated Practice Guidance establishing a set of expectations for the activities LAs are responsible for under food law and how these are to be delivered. This is supported by a range of training, advice and guidance to help food officers discharge their functions.

The FLCoP encourages LAs to adopt a risk-based approach to targeting premises and carrying out interventions, and to ensure any enforcement action is reasonable, proportionate, risk-based and consistent with good practice.

Where non-compliance is identified, decisions on appropriate enforcement action remain at the discretion of the LA, and LAs are expected to take a proportionate and risk-based approach when dealing with contraventions in line with the FLCoP. Cases may be escalated in line with individual LA enforcement policies and procedures.

It is ultimately the responsibility of individual businesses to ensure their compliance with the law. Businesses with specific queries may wish to seek the advice of their local enforcement agency, which in England and Wales will usually be the trading standards or environmental health department of the local authority or port health authority. In Northern Ireland it will be the environmental health department of the local district council.



Original thinking... applied

Helen Grundy

Katharina Heinrich

Joe Humphreys

[joe.Humphreys@fera.co.uk](mailto:joe.Humphreys@fera.co.uk)

Fera Science Ltd.

+44 (0) 1904 462692

# Global Reference Collection for Stable Isotope and Trace Element Origin Modelling

Dr Victor Deklerck - Director of Science



**COLLECTION & ANALYSIS**



**DATA MODELING**



**COMPARISON**



---

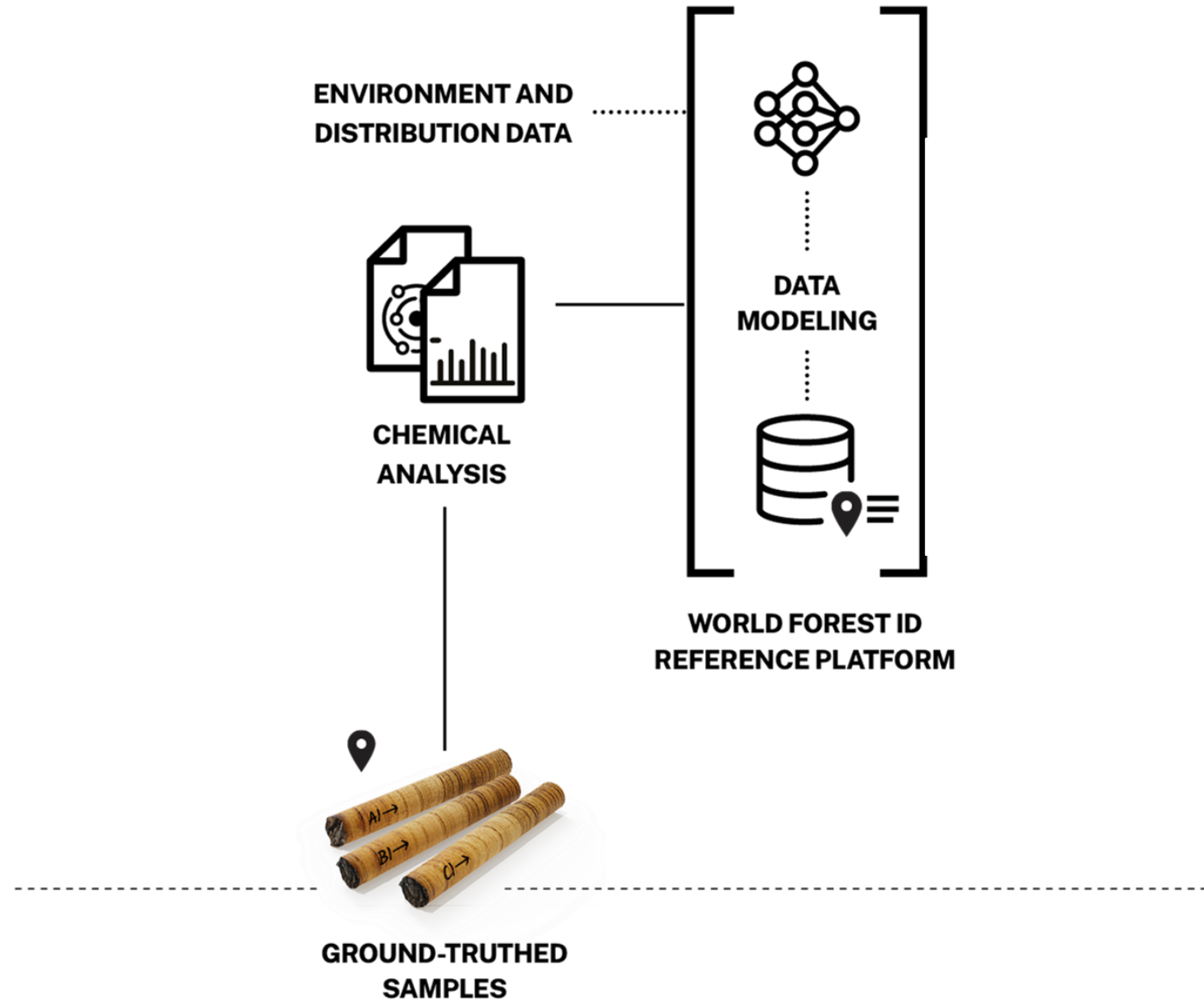
Our  
mission

---

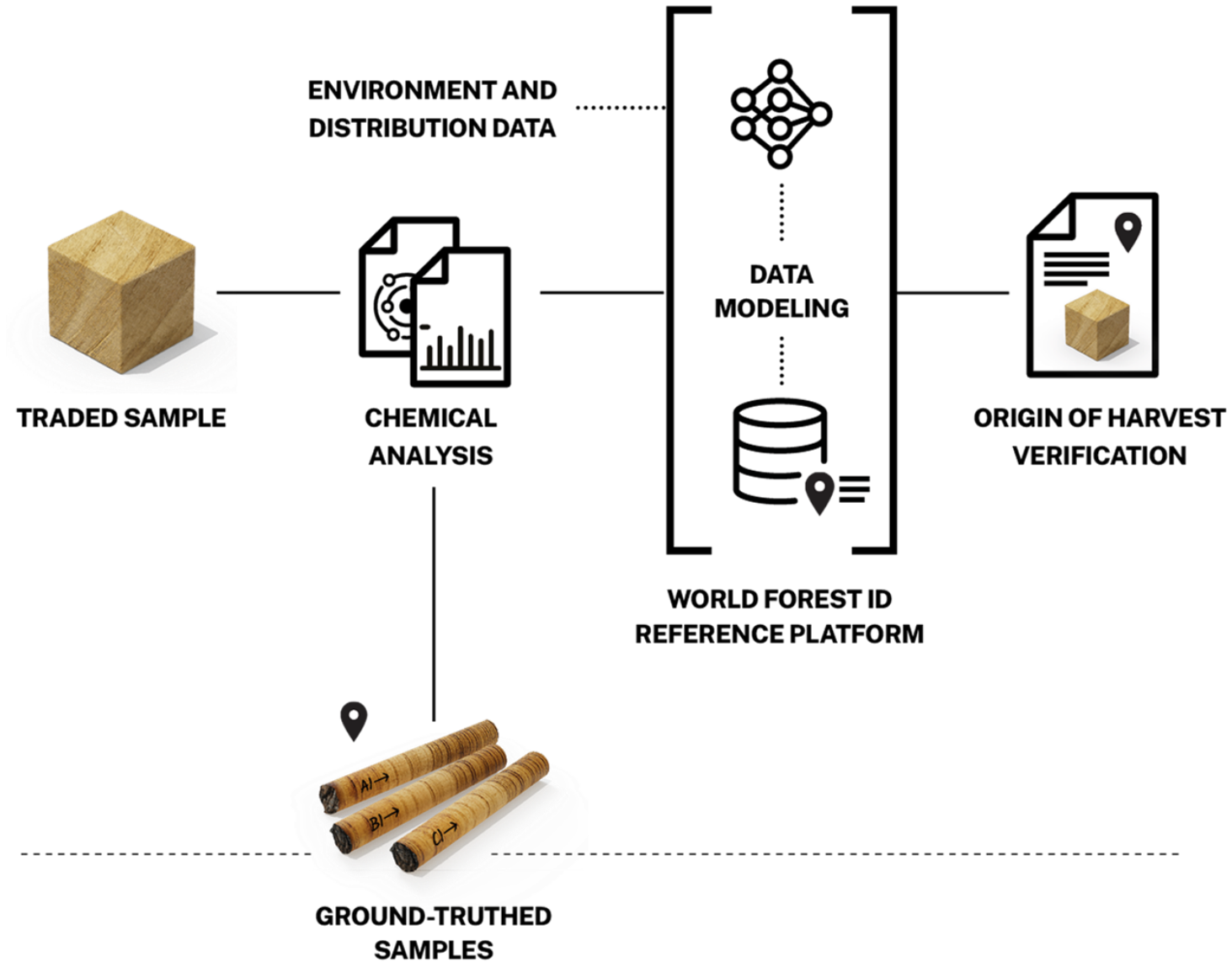
World Forest ID is an independent US-based non-profit with a growing global set of scientific partners.

***Leveraging geo-located plant chemistry, environmental data and state of the art modelling to enable traceable and accountable global supply chains.***

# The World Forest ID Pathway



# The World Forest ID Pathway



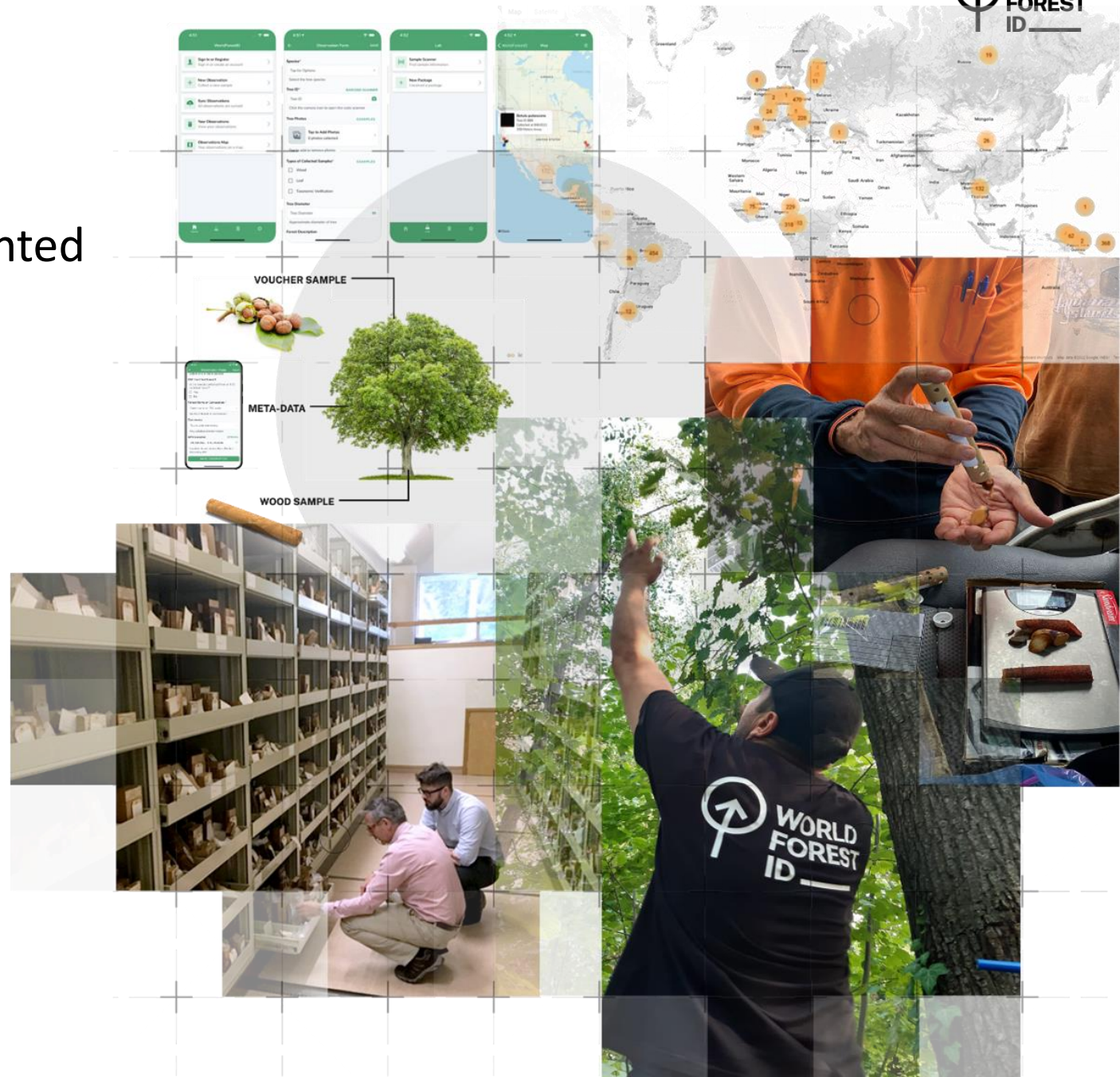
---

# The (growing) World Forest ID Consortium



Collected in the field with fully documented chain of custody

All collectors are trained to follow strict protocols. Our sample collection app ensures that the geolocation and transport of samples is documented at all stages of the process.



---

## Collection

World Forest ID timber samples are collected to ensure we obtain the bark, cambium, sapwood, and heartwood



# Sampling - Timber



No. of Observations: 10,091

No. of Genera: 166

## Sampling - FRC



No. of Observations: 2073



# Eastern European Timber Supply Chains Project

**AMBITION:** To create reference material, pilot data modeling, and layering of techniques to increase the accuracy of tools to determine geolocation of harvest.

## TREES SAMPLED

As of Jan 2023

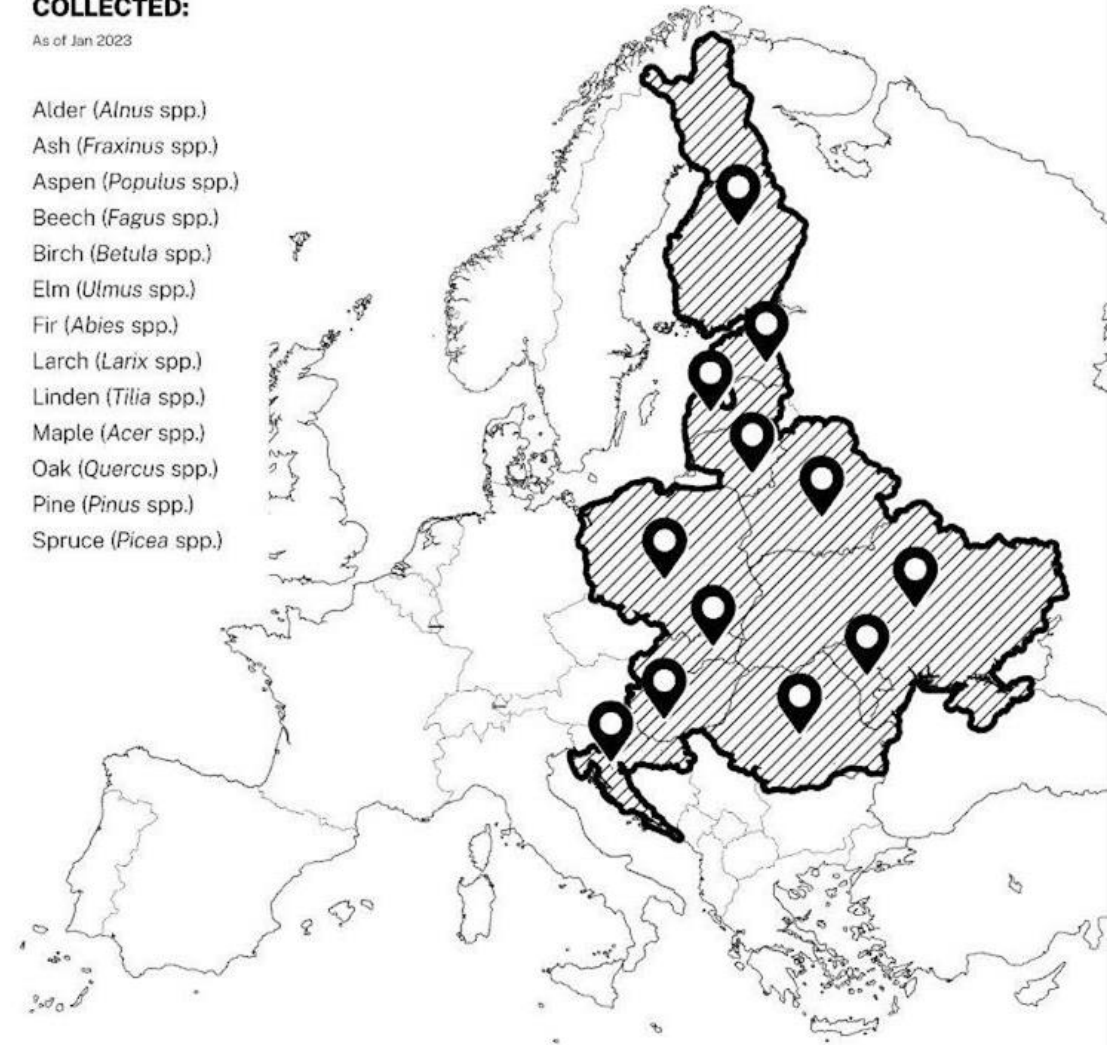
Belarus	542
Croatia	296
Estonia	345
Finland	124
Hungary	336
Latvia	268
Lithuania	313
Moldova	99
Poland	590
Romania	622
Slovakia	489
Ukraine	450

**TOTAL 4,474**

## SPECIES COLLECTED:

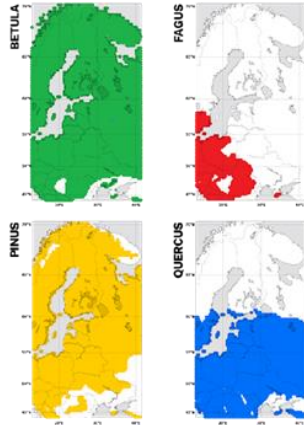
As of Jan 2023

Alder ( <i>Alnus</i> spp.)
Ash ( <i>Fraxinus</i> spp.)
Aspen ( <i>Populus</i> spp.)
Beech ( <i>Fagus</i> spp.)
Birch ( <i>Betula</i> spp.)
Elm ( <i>Ulmus</i> spp.)
Fir ( <i>Abies</i> spp.)
Larch ( <i>Larix</i> spp.)
Linden ( <i>Tilia</i> spp.)
Maple ( <i>Acer</i> spp.)
Oak ( <i>Quercus</i> spp.)
Pine ( <i>Pinus</i> spp.)
Spruce ( <i>Picea</i> spp.)

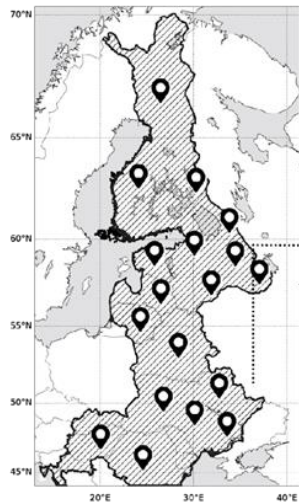


# 'Origin' Modeling

## GENUS DISTRIBUTION

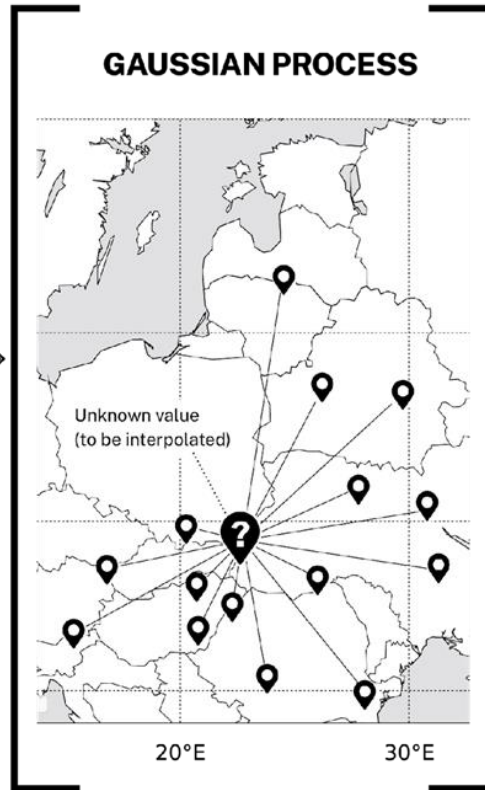


## REFERENCE DATA

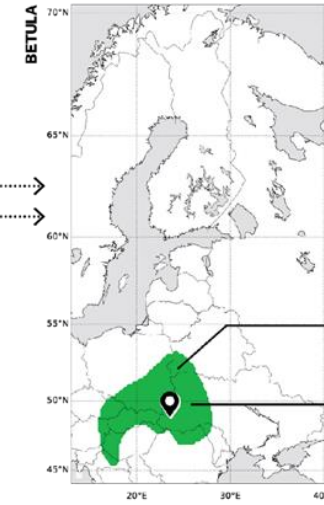


**WOOD SAMPLE**  
Stable Isotope Ratios &  
Trace Element Ratios

## GAUSSIAN PROCESS



## DETERMINATION



## VERIFICATION



**TRADED SAMPLE**  
Claimed origin Finland

**PREDICTED REGION**  
(95% confidence)

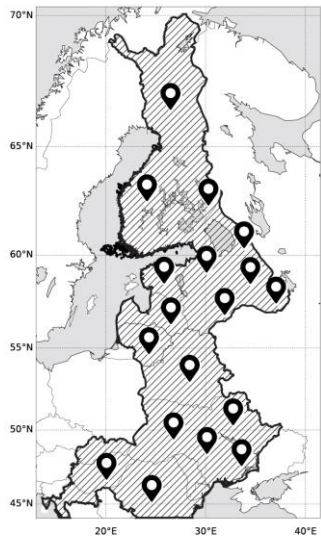
**TRUE LOCATION**



---

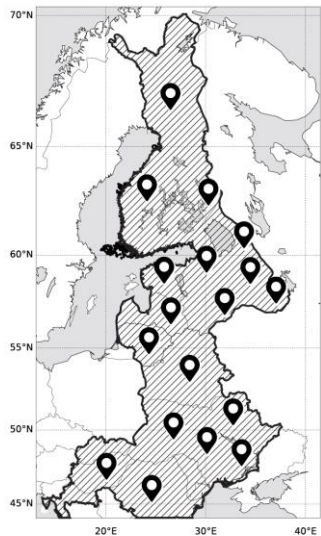
# Sampling

## REFERENCE DATA



# Sampling

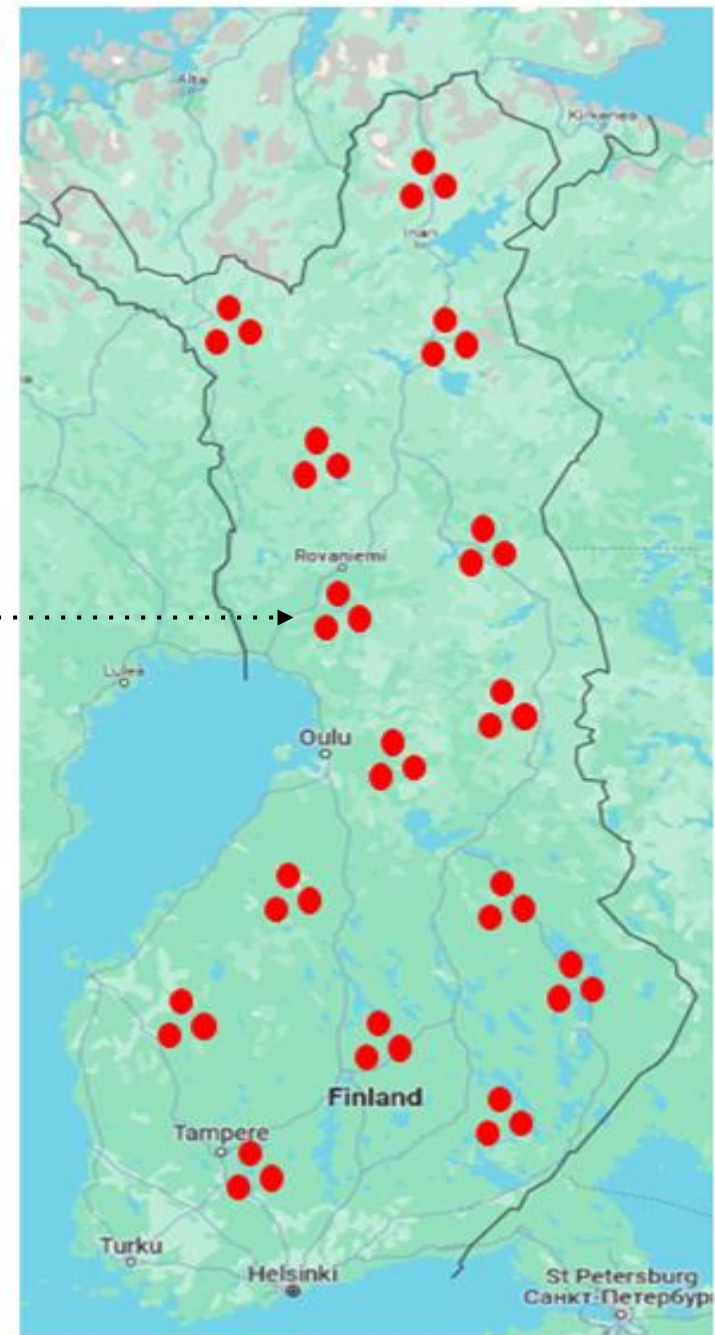
## REFERENCE DATA



## SPATIAL SAMPLING

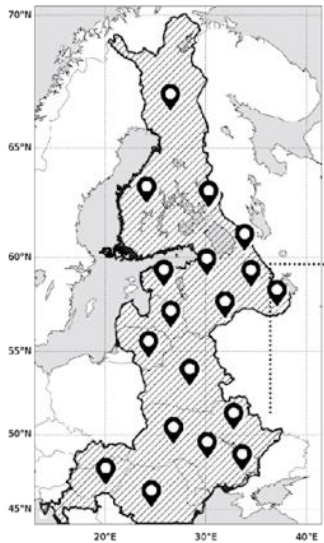
3 trees in a circle of 50 km

Next cluster 100 to 250 km away



# Measurements

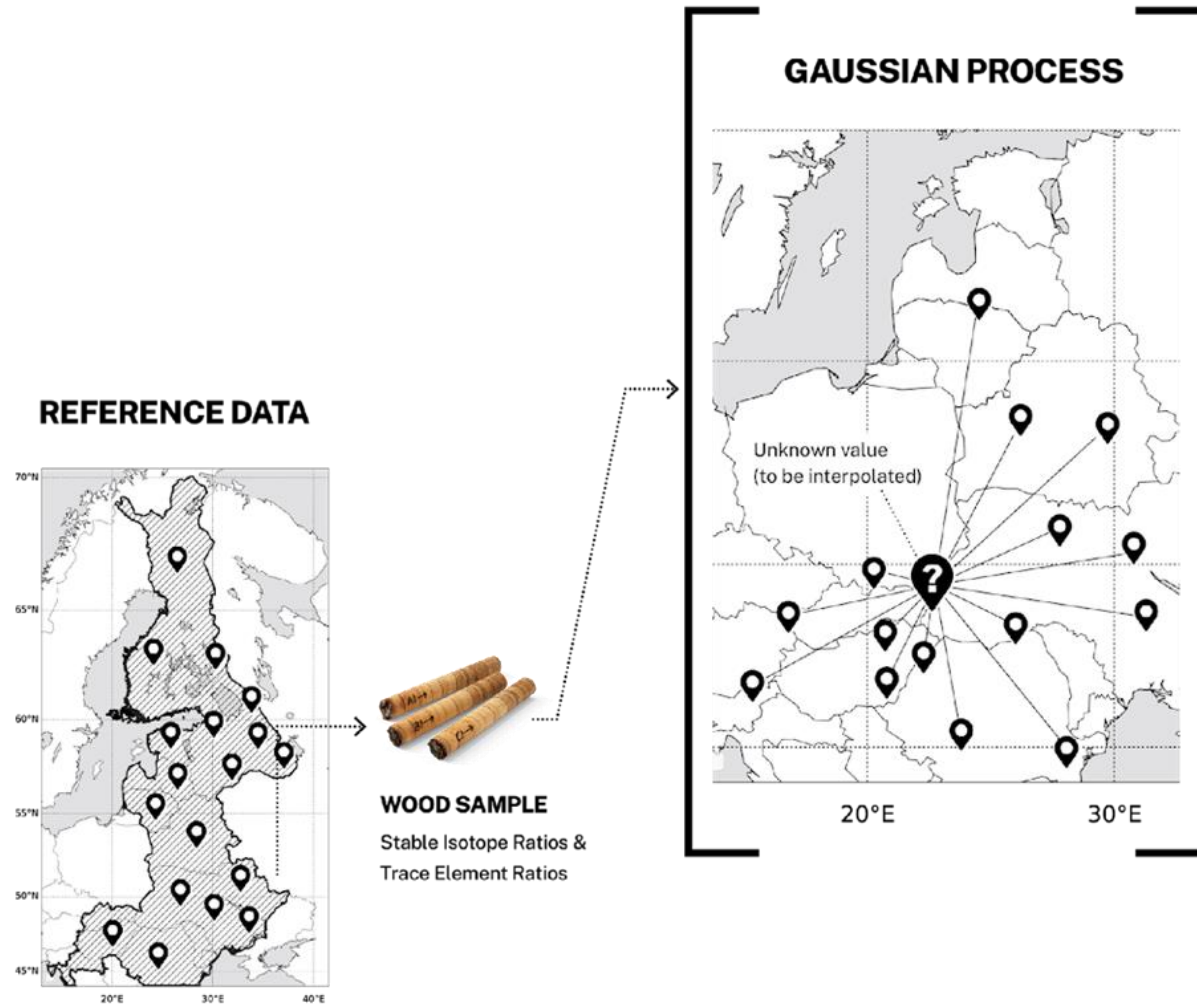
## REFERENCE DATA



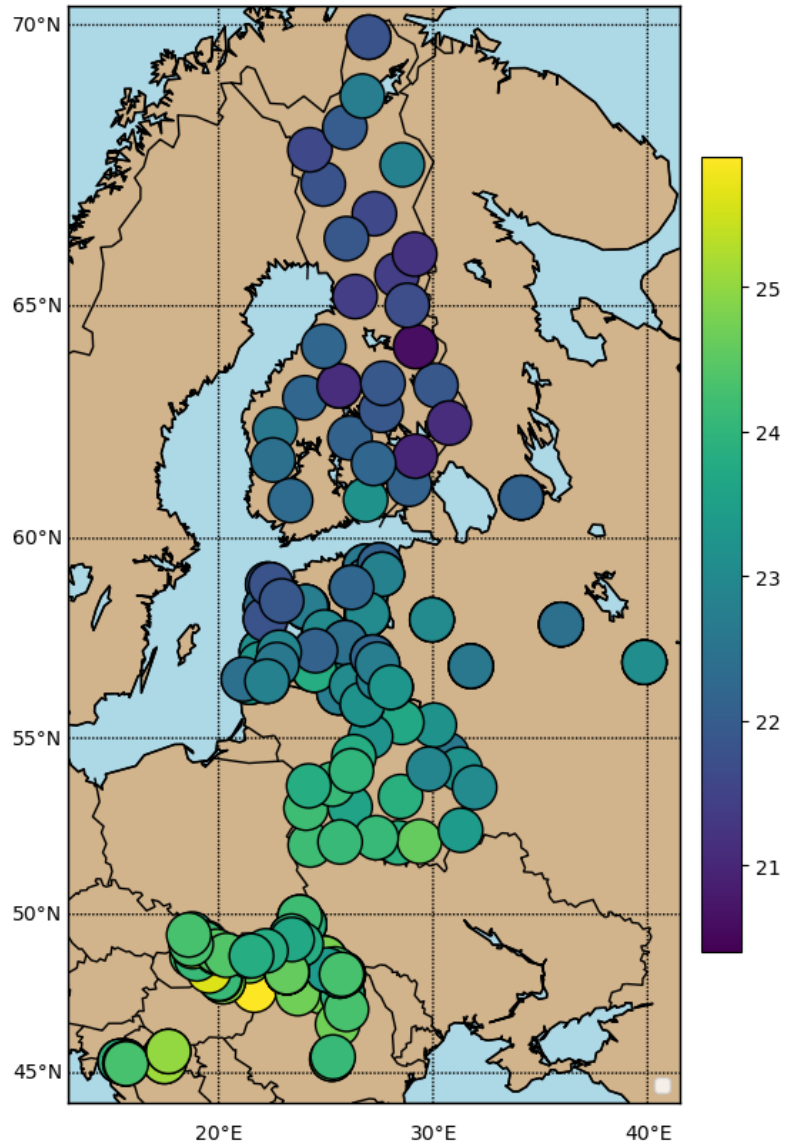
**WOOD SAMPLE**  
Stable Isotope Ratios &  
Trace Element Ratios



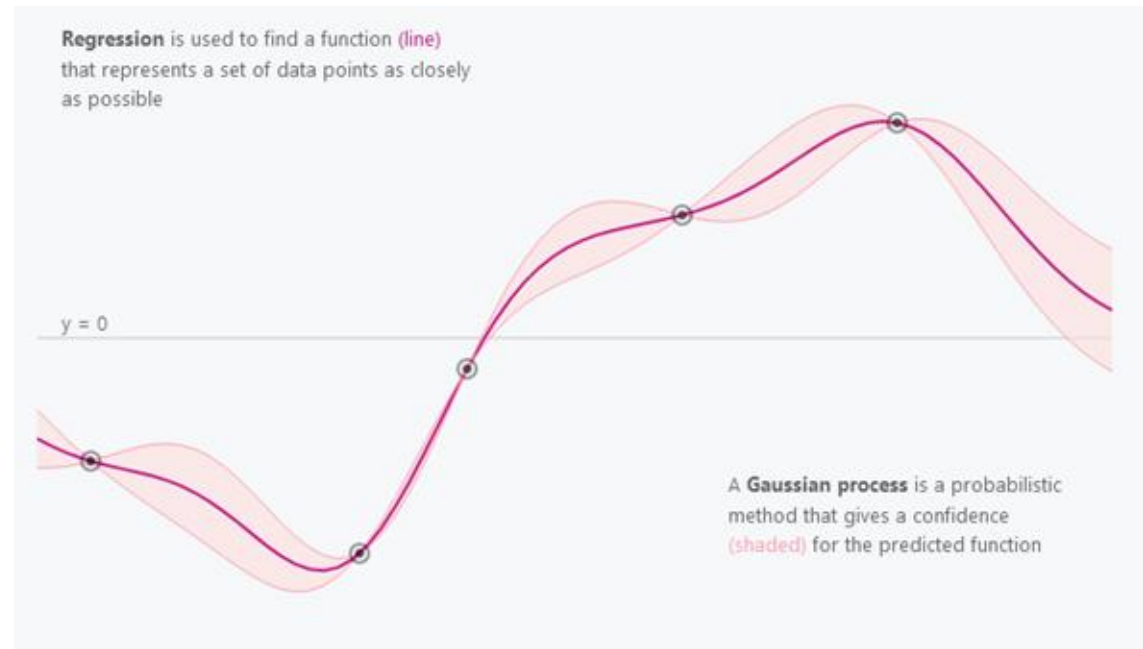
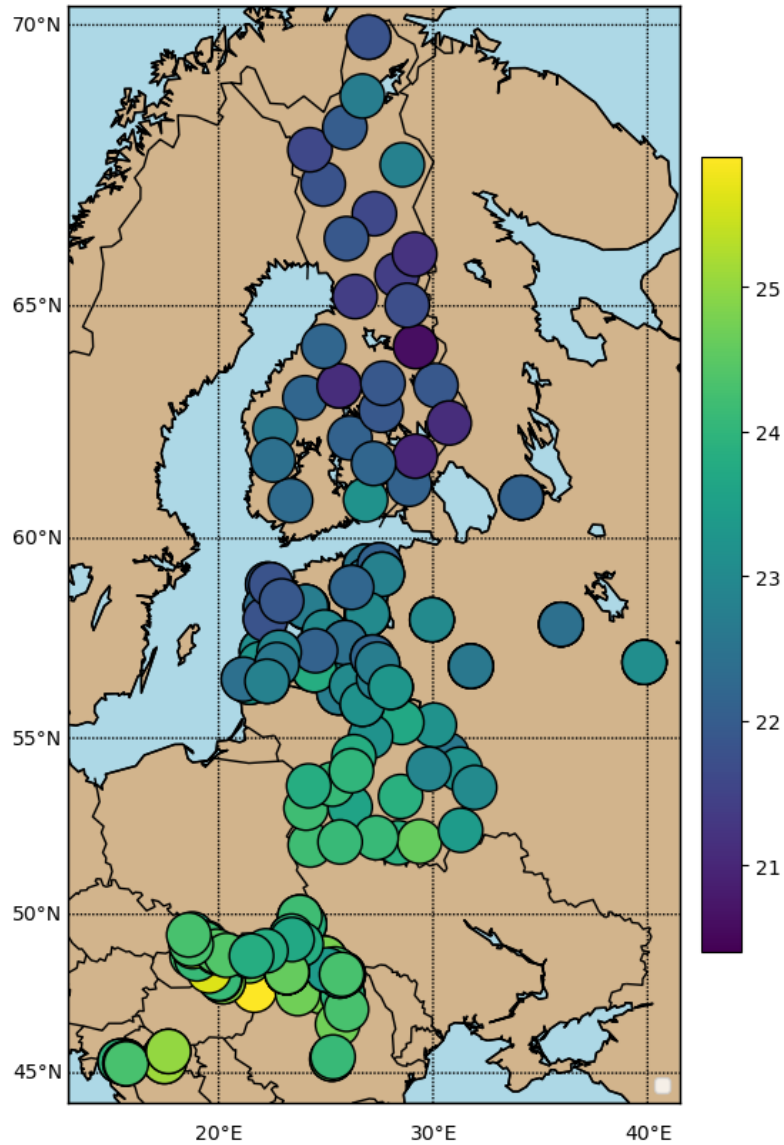
# Modeling



# Gaussian Process



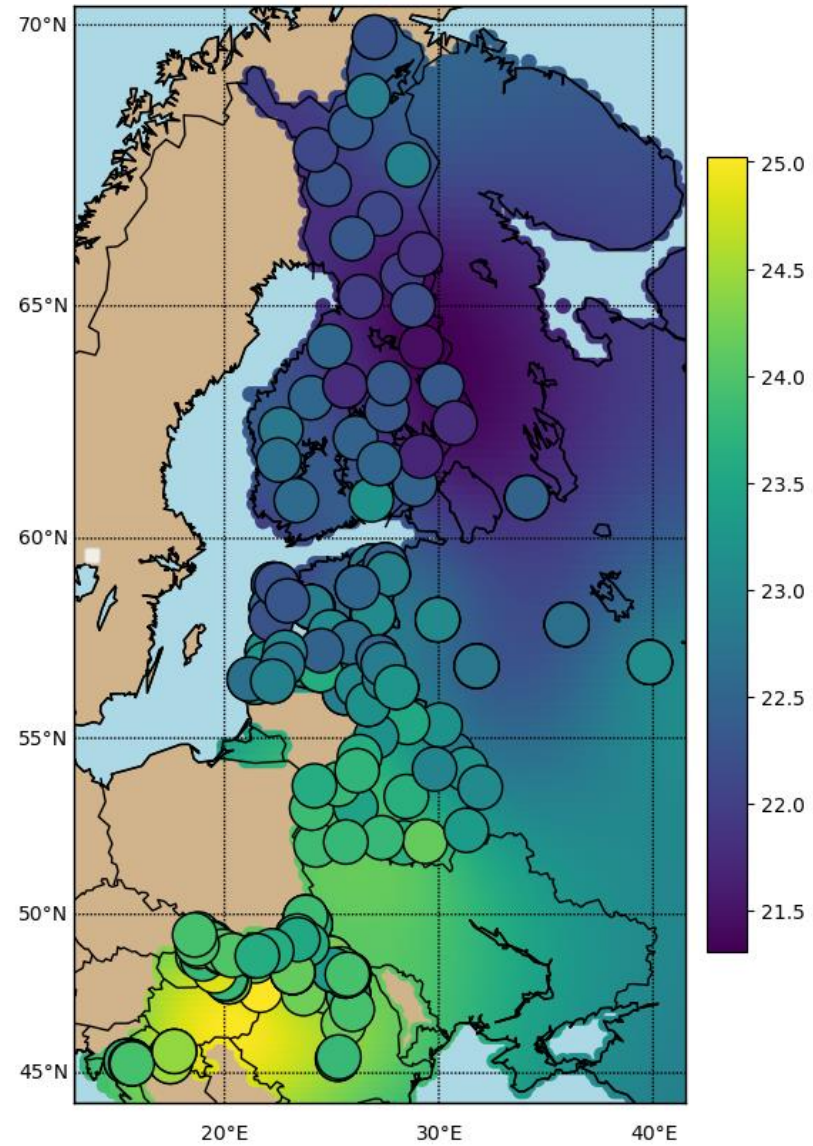
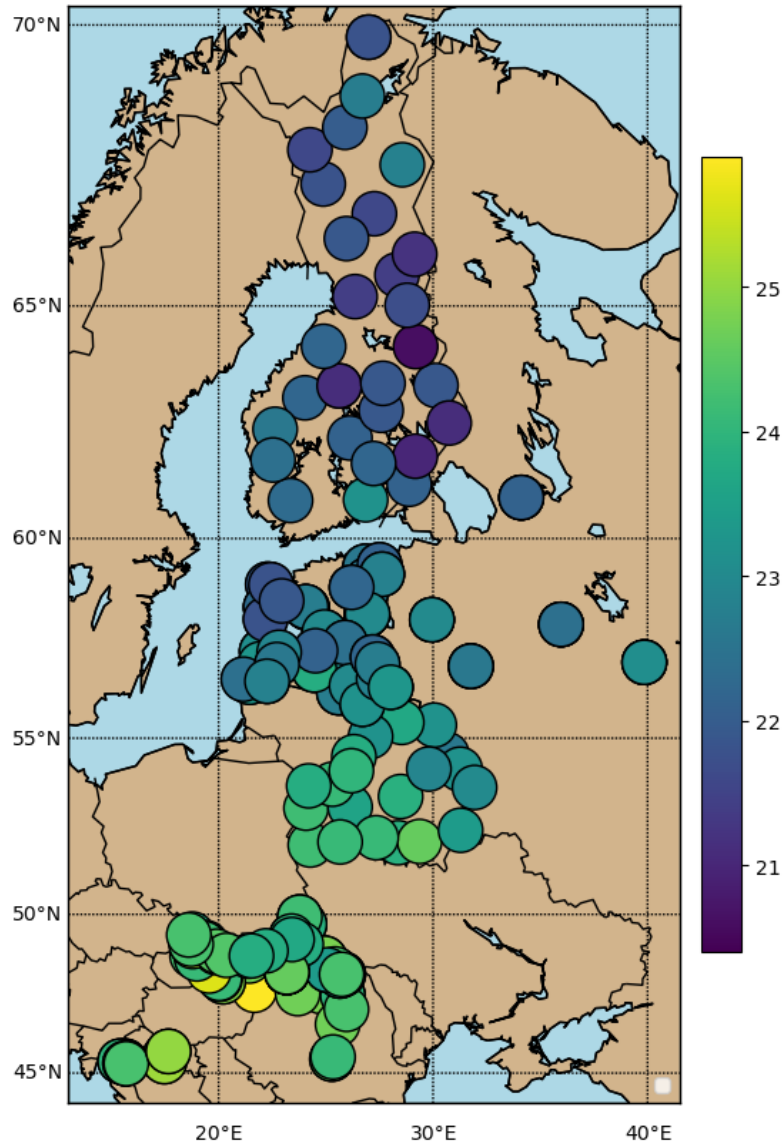
# Gaussian Process



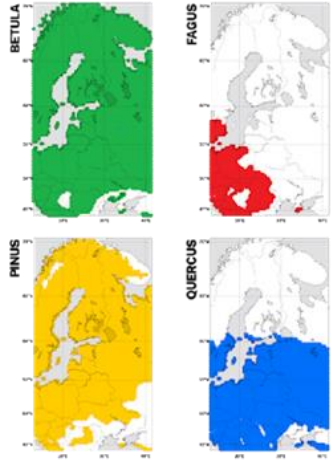
Distill.pub



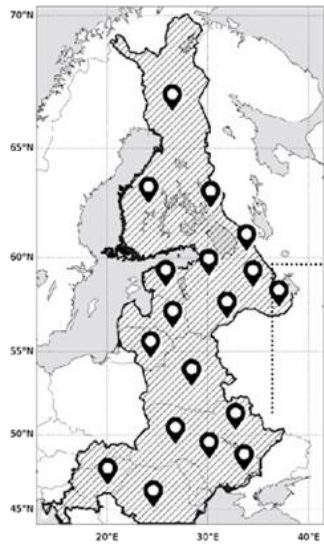
# Gaussian Process



## GENUS DISTRIBUTION

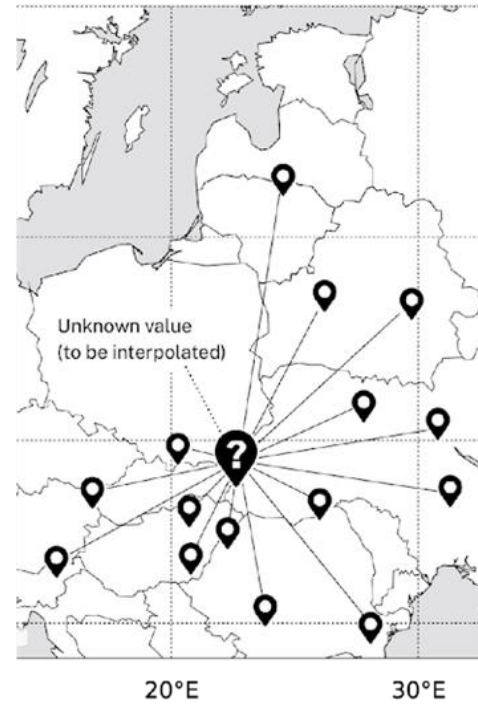


## REFERENCE DATA

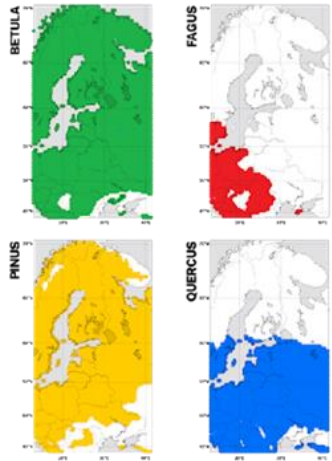


**WOOD SAMPLE**  
Stable Isotope Ratios &  
Trace Element Ratios

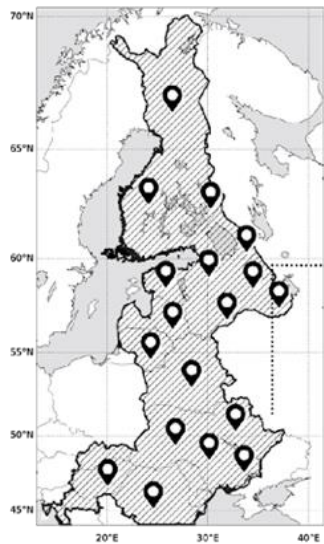
## GAUSSIAN PROCESS



## GENUS DISTRIBUTION

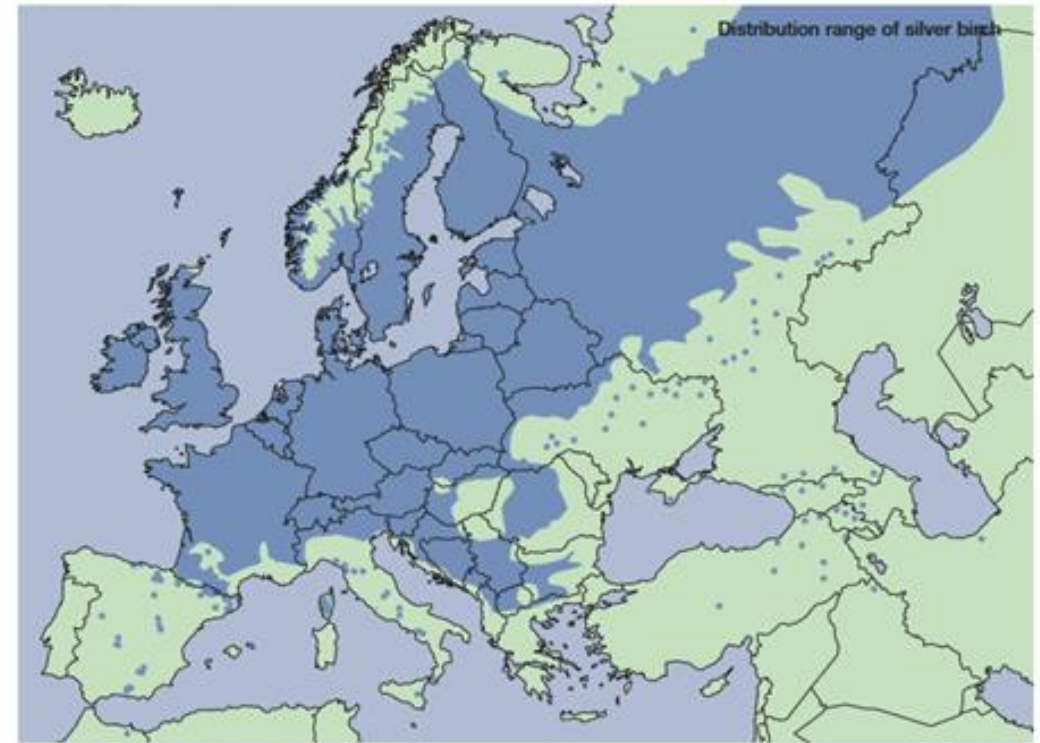
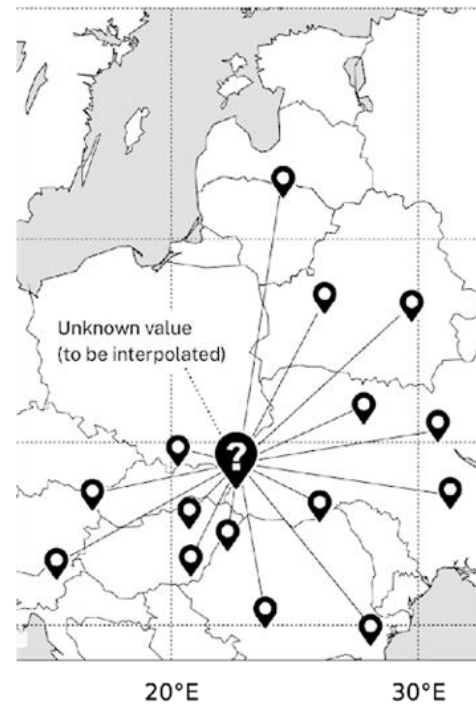


## REFERENCE DATA

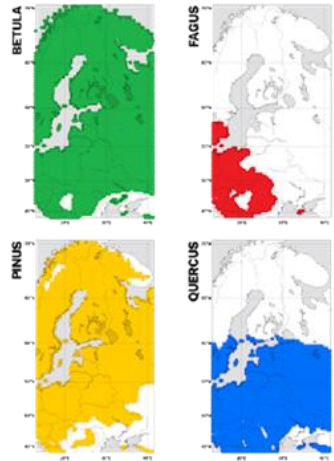


**WOOD SAMPLE**  
Stable Isotope Ratios &  
Trace Element Ratios

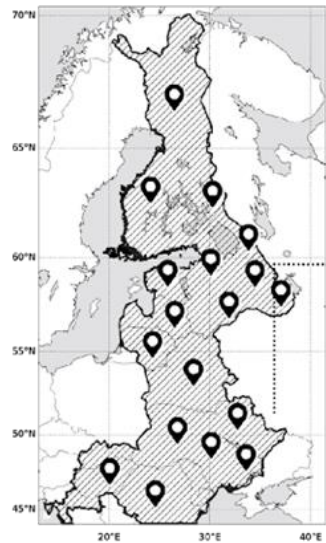
## GAUSSIAN PROCESS



## GENUS DISTRIBUTION

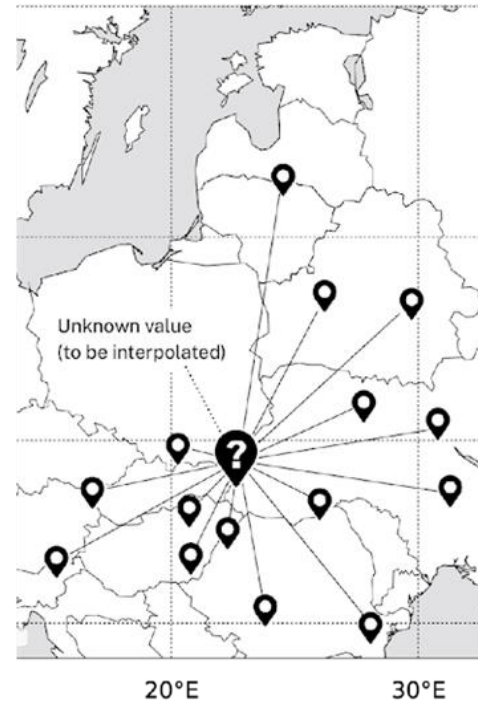


## REFERENCE DATA

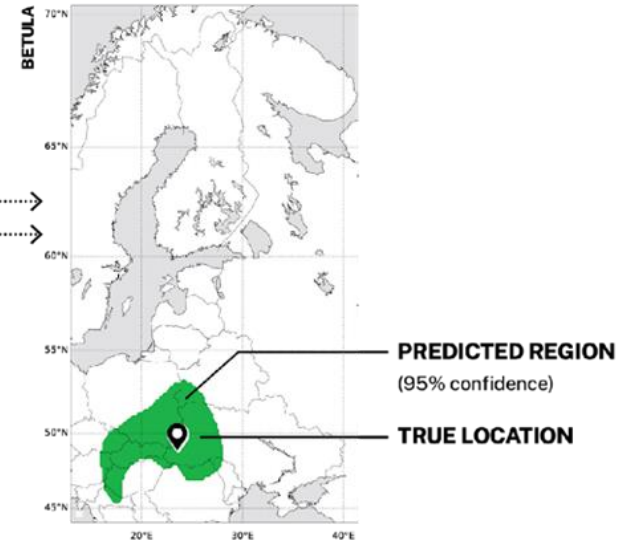


**WOOD SAMPLE**  
Stable Isotope Ratios &  
Trace Element Ratios

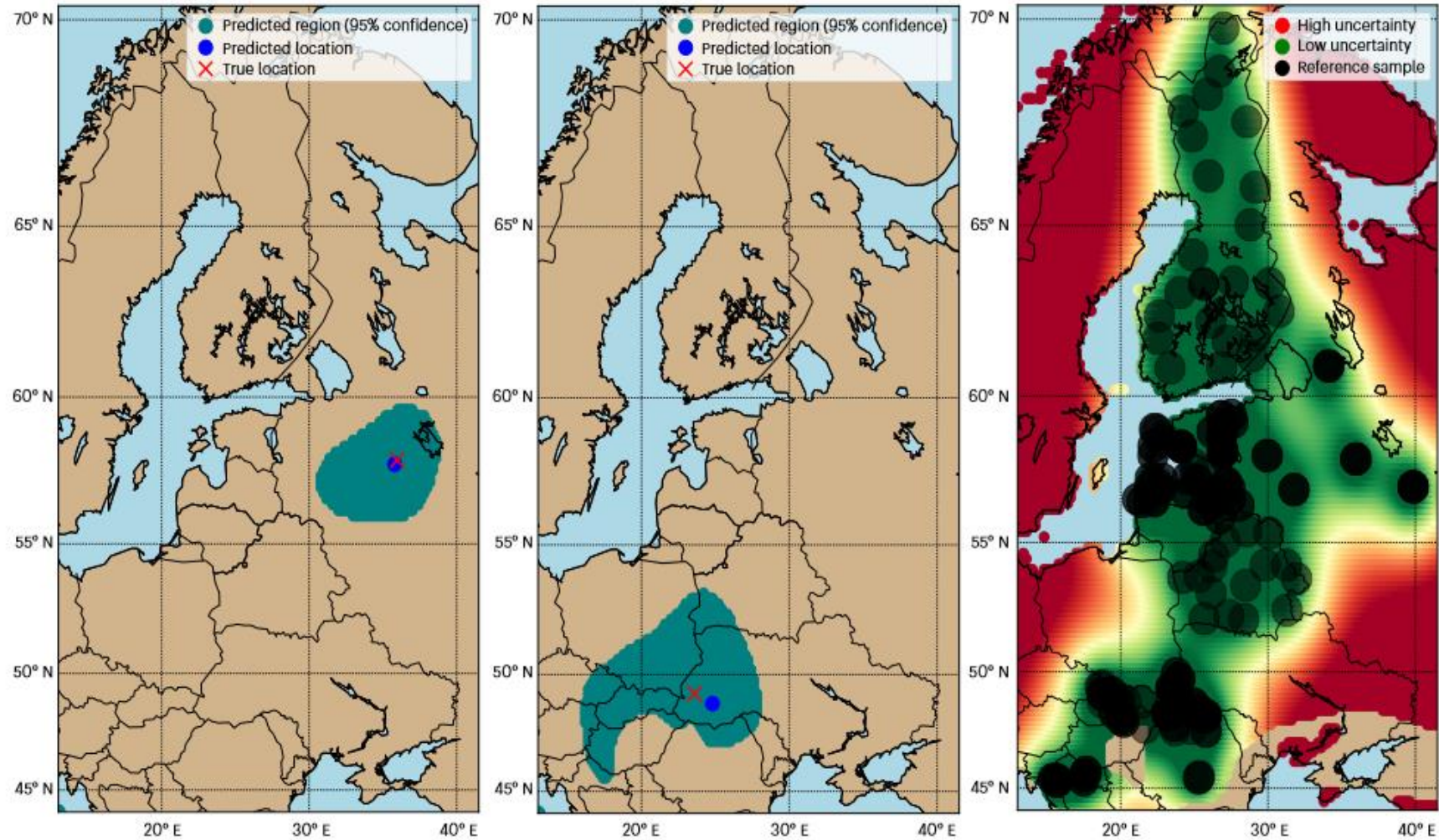
## GAUSSIAN PROCESS



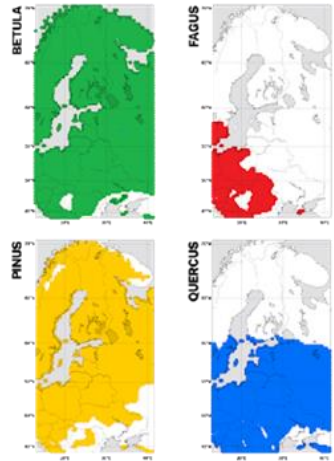
## DETERMINATION



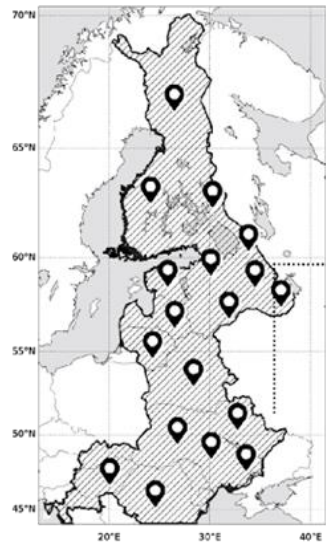
# Determination Birch (*Betula*)



## GENUS DISTRIBUTION

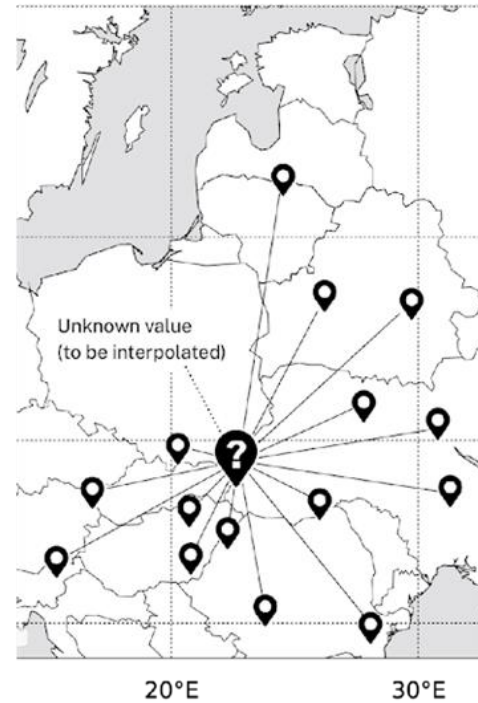


## REFERENCE DATA

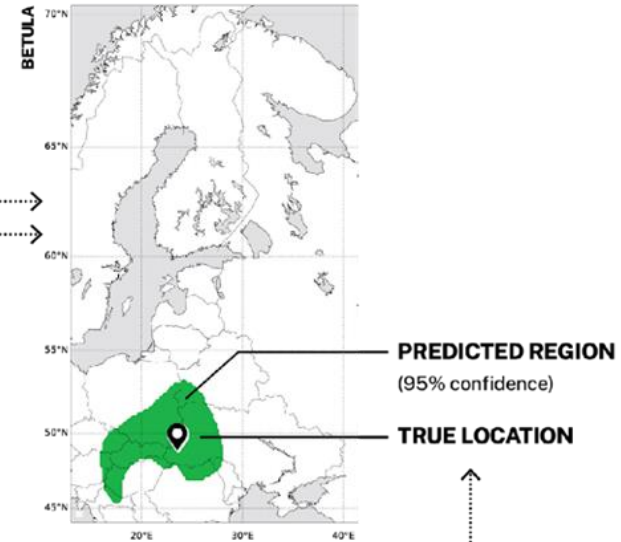


**WOOD SAMPLE**  
Stable Isotope Ratios &  
Trace Element Ratios

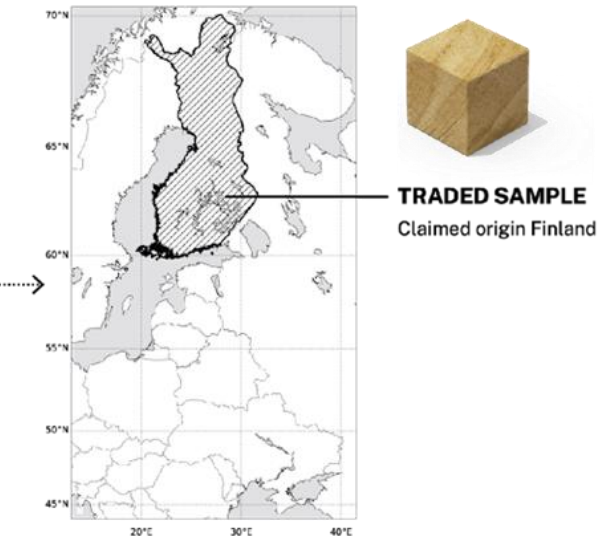
## GAUSSIAN PROCESS



## DETERMINATION



## VERIFICATION

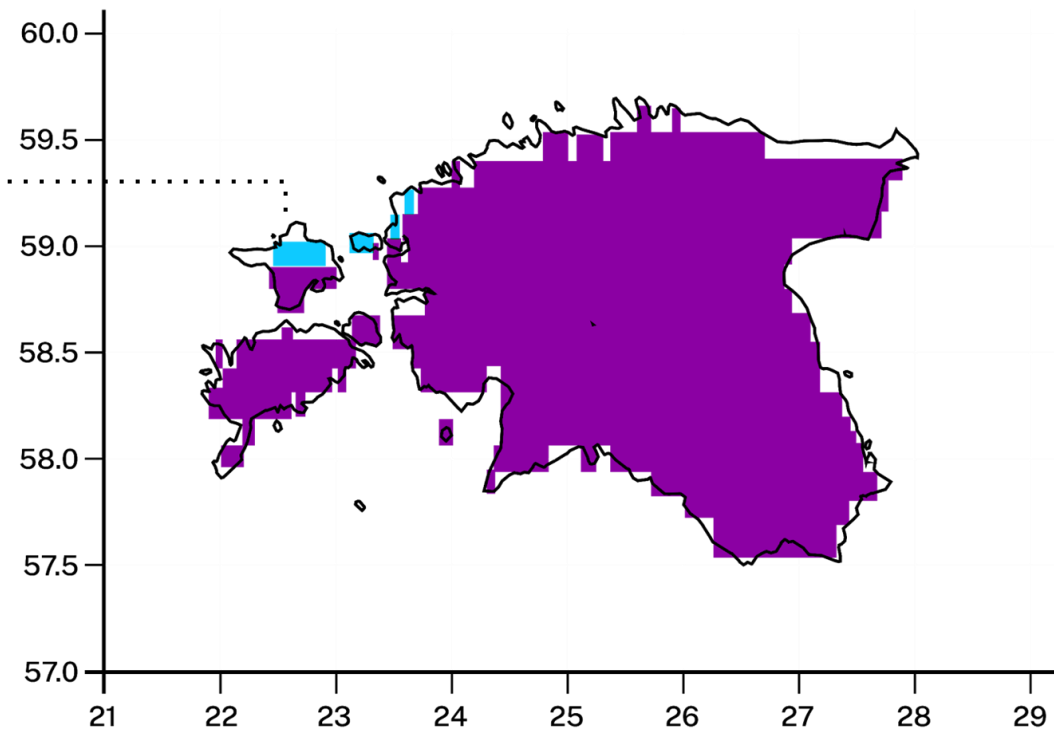


# Verification Birch (*Betula*)

Claim - South Estonia, *Betula pendula*,  
solid timber. 4 Stable Isotope Ratio (SIR) values  
given.

*Blue areas are the only areas we cannot reject  
as potential origin.*

Our model indicates the claim of  
South Estonia is not plausible.



Transparent, peer reviewed  
science for **impact**




## A framework for tracing timber following the Ukraine invasion

Received: 30 October 2023

Accepted: 6 February 2024

Published online: 11 March 2024

 Check for updates

Thomas Mortier<sup>1,2,12</sup>, Jakub Truszkowski<sup>3,4,12</sup>, Marigold Norman<sup>1</sup>, Markus Boner<sup>5</sup>, Bogdan Buliga<sup>6,7</sup>, Caspar Chater<sup>8,9</sup>, Henry Jennings<sup>8</sup>, Jade Saunders<sup>1</sup>, Rosie Sibley<sup>8</sup>, Alexandre Antonelli<sup>10,11,12</sup>, Willem Waegeman<sup>2</sup> & Victor Dekker<sup>1,8,11</sup> 


Scientific testing including stable isotope ratio analysis (SIRA) and trace element analysis (TEA) is critical for establishing plant origin, tackling deforestation and enforcing economic sanctions. Yet methods combining SIRA and TEA into robust models for origin verification and determination are lacking. Here we report a (1) large Eastern European timber reference database (*Betula*, *Fagus*, *Pinus*, *Quercus*) tailored to sanctioned products following the Ukraine invasion; (2) statistical test to verify samples against a claimed origin; (3) probabilistic model of SIRA, TEA and genus distribution data, using Gaussian processes, to determine timber harvest location. Our verification method rejects 40–60% of simulated false claims, depending on the spatial scale of the claim, and maintains a low probability of rejecting correct origin claims. Our determination method predicts harvest location within 180 to 230 km of true location. Our results showcase the power of combining data types with probabilistic modelling to identify and scrutinize timber harvest location claims.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine sparked global responses designed to penalize Russia and thwart continuing aggression. The UK and the European Union announced economic sanctions packages, including a ban on the direct imports of wood products from Russia and Belarus<sup>1</sup>. The USA increased tariffs on wood imports from both countries (<https://hts.usitc.gov>). These interventions, combined with bans by the Forest Stewardship Council and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification<sup>2</sup>, transformed timber products harvested in Russia and Belarus into 'conflict timber' in western markets<sup>3</sup>.

Companies operating in the UK, European Union and USA have long relied on timber imports from Russia and Belarus, particularly birch (*Betula* spp.), for construction<sup>4</sup>. By weight, 12% of all European Union 2021 wood product imports under Chapter 44 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule were imported from Russia and Belarus

(<https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/comext/newxtweb/>). While there is emerging evidence of companies seeking replacement markets, demand for birch, beech (*Fagus* spp.), pine (*Pinus* spp.) and oak (*Quercus* spp.) products remains high<sup>5</sup>. As a result, there has been a rise in trade through secondary markets, suggesting efforts to disguise origin (location of harvest) to evade sanctions or tariffs<sup>6</sup>.

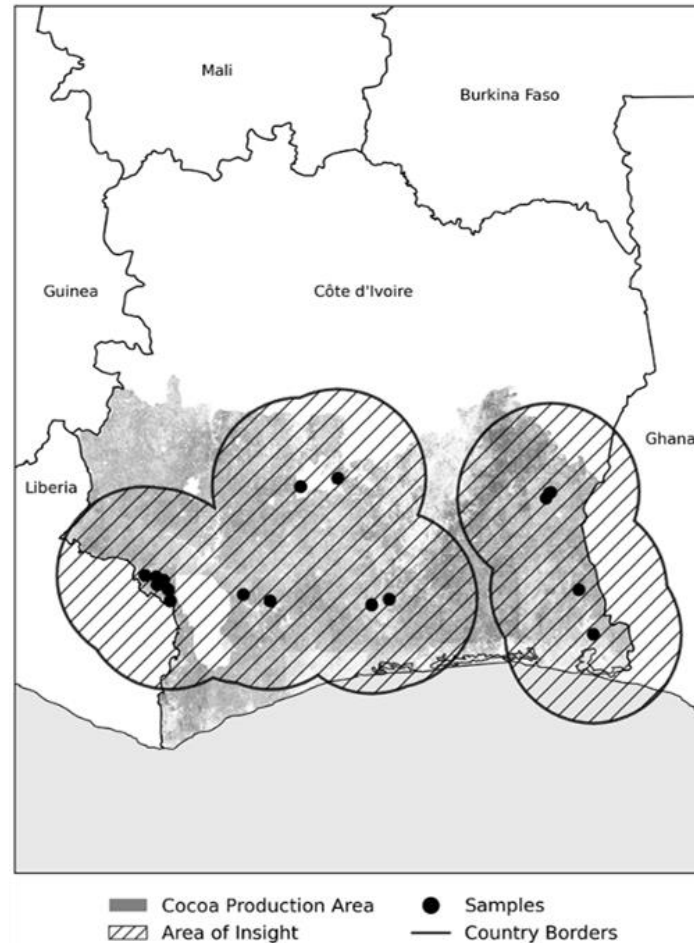
Origin misdeclaration undermines the policy intent of sanctions/tariffs but also violates existing environmental laws, including the European Union Timber Regulation and UK Timber Regulation<sup>7,8</sup>. Enforcement officials implementing both timber import regulations and sanctions need scientific tools to interrogate location of harvest claims (national, sub-national or even concession level). Checking timber harvest location claims can be done in two ways: (1) verification, an assessment based on reasonable doubt over the claimed origin (for

<sup>1</sup>World Forest ID, Washington, DC, USA. <sup>2</sup>Department Data Analysis and Mathematical Modelling, Ghent University, Ghent, Belgium. <sup>3</sup>Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden. <sup>4</sup>Gothenburg Global Biodiversity Centre, Gothenburg, Sweden. <sup>5</sup>Agroislab GmbH, Juelich, Germany. <sup>6</sup>Preferred by Nature, Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. <sup>7</sup>University Stefan cel Mare Suceava, Suceava, Romania. <sup>8</sup>Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, UK. <sup>9</sup>Plants, Photosynthesis, and Soil, School of Biosciences, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK. <sup>10</sup>Department of Biology, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. <sup>11</sup>Meise Botanic Garden, Meise, Belgium. <sup>12</sup>These authors contributed equally: Thomas Mortier, Jakub Truszkowski.  e-mail: [victor.dekker@worldforestid.org](mailto:victor.dekker@worldforestid.org)



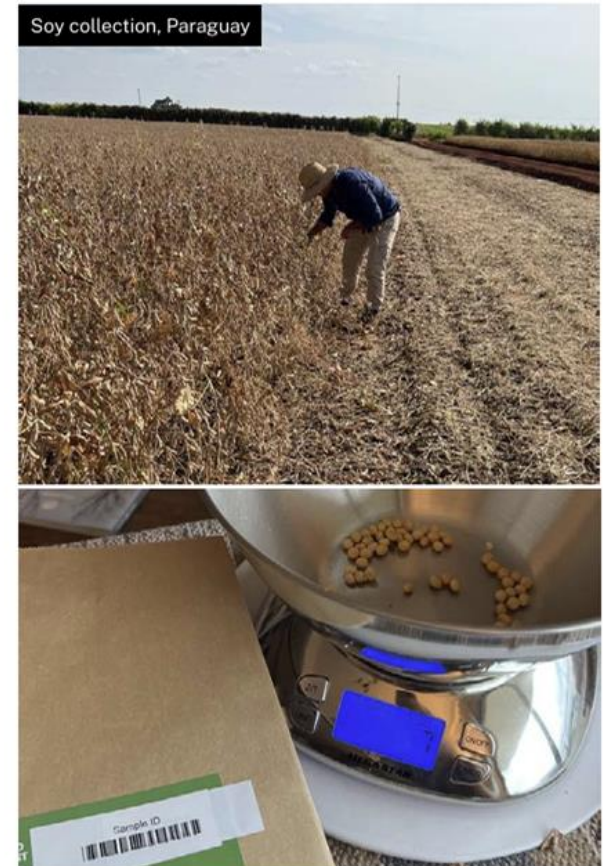
# Global Cocoa Production

We have sample coverage across countries producing 66% of cocoa globally, including Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Nigeria and Ecuador. In Côte d'Ivoire our area of insight represents 80.1% of the cocoa production. Combined, our total cocoa sample set spans over 188 million hectares of cocoa-producing landscapes and smallholder farms.

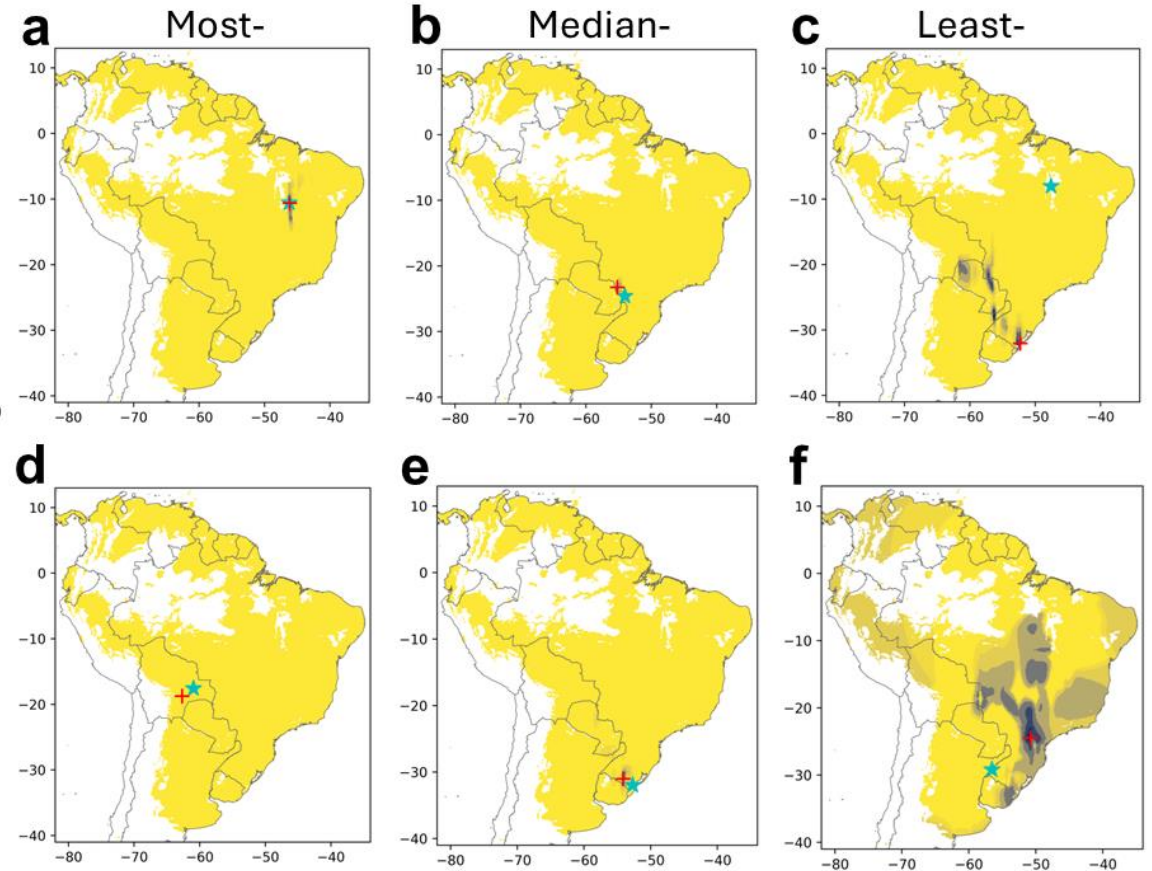
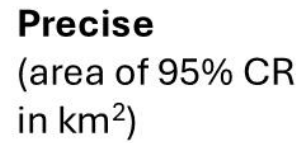
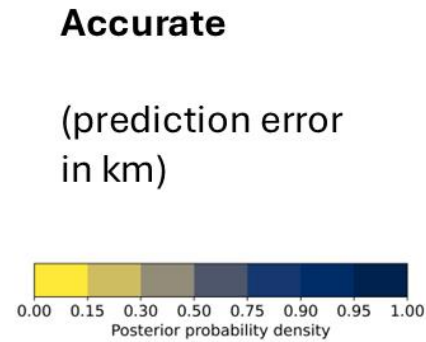


# Latin American Soy Supply Chains

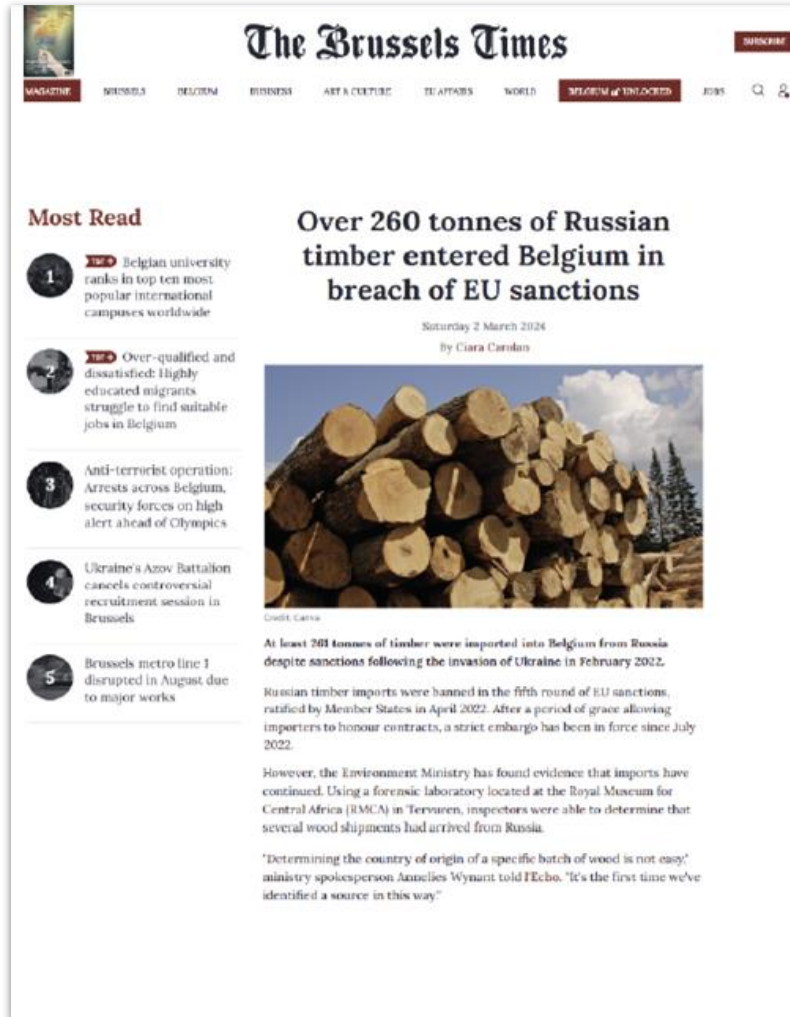
Our sample area of insight covers the growing range of soy across all major producers in Latin America, including 45.6% of Brazil's production area, 23.7% of Argentina's, 99.4% of Paraguay's, and 98.5% of Bolivia's. This spans over 201 million hectares, providing critical data to address deforestation risks in soy supply chains.



# Latin American Soy Supply Chains



# Cases



The Brussels Times


MAGAZINE BRUSSELS BELGIUM BUSINESS ART & CULTURE EU AFFAIRS WORLD

Most Read

- 1 **NEW** Belgian university ranks in top ten most popular international campuses worldwide
- 2 **NEW** Over-qualified and dissatisfied: Highly educated migrants struggle to find suitable jobs in Belgium
- 3 **NEW** Anti-terrorist operation: Arrests across Belgium, security forces on high alert ahead of Olympics
- 4 **NEW** Ukraine's Azov Battalion cancels controversial recruitment session in Brussels
- 5 **NEW** Brussels metro line 1 disrupted in August due to major works

## Over 260 tonnes of Russian timber entered Belgium in breach of EU sanctions

Saturday 2 March 2024  
By Clara Carolan



Credit: Canva

At least 260 tonnes of timber were imported into Belgium from Russia despite sanctions following the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Russian timber imports were banned in the fifth round of EU sanctions, ratified by Member States in April 2022. After a period of grace allowing importers to honour contracts, a strict embargo has been in force since July 2022.

However, the Environment Ministry has found evidence that imports have continued. Using a forensic laboratory located at the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA) in Tervuren, inspectors were able to determine that several wood shipments had arrived from Russia.

"Determining the country of origin of a specific batch of wood is not easy," ministry spokesperson Annelies Wynant told ECHO. "It's the first time we've identified a source in this way."



Valsts meža dienests

## Valsts meža dienests piemēro sodu par augsta riska bērza saplākšņa importu

Publicēts: 04.07.2024.



2024. gada maijā Valsts meža dienests piemērojis 10 000 eiro naudas sodu uzņēmumam, kurš veicis augsta riska bērza saplākšņa importu un plānojis importu no Turcijas. Uzņēmums saņēmis arī papildsodu – aizliegumu uz gadu izmantot tiesības laist tirgū bērza saplākšni. Sods piemērots par ES Kokmateriālu regulas prasībām neatbilstošām likumības pārbaudēm, pieļaujot risku, ka tirgū tiek laisti Krievijas izcelsmes kokmateriāli.

Valsts meža dienests atgādina, ka joprojām nav atļauts importēt kokmateriālus vai koka izstrādājumus, kuru ražošana izmantoti Krievijā vai Baltkrievijā iegūti izejmateriāli. Šādu produktu importēšana nozīmē pārkāpt ES Kokmateriālu regulas prasības, jo izejmateriāliem nav iespējams mazināt risku līdz "maznozīmīgam", lai tos drīkstētu laist Eiropas Savienības (ES) tirgū. Savukārt kokmateriāli un koka izstrādājumi, kuri ražoti Krievijā vai Baltkrievijā un uz kuriem attiecas ES noteiktās sankcijas, uzskatāmi par nelikumīgi iegūtiem.

Ja uzņēmums grasās importēt augsta riska produktu, kāds šobrīd ir, piemēram, bērza saplākšnis, tam jāizslēdz jebkura varbūtība, ka saplākšnis ražots vai kokmateriāli iegūti Krievijā vai Baltkrievijā. Tāpat, ja tiek importētas, piemēram, mēbeles no Ķīnas vai kādas citas trešās valsts, kuras ražotāji varētu izmantot Krievijas vai Baltkrievijas izcelsmes kokmateriālus, jāizslēdz iespējama, ka tās var saturēt šo valstu izejmateriālus.

Kā to paredz ES Kokmateriālu regulas prasības, risku mazināšanai ir jābūt efektīvai un piemērotai konkrētajiem riskiem. Tādu dokumentu kā, piemēram, izcelsmes sertifikātu un ciršanas atļauju uzrādīšanu Valsts meža dienests neuzskatīs par atbilstošu risku mazināšanas pasākumu, ja augsta riska produkts tiek importēts no augsta riska valsts. Šādi dokumenti neatspoguļo visu piegādes

## The Alliance for Wood ID Testing

The Alliance for Wood ID Testing is a coalition of companies and NGOs who share a commitment to making the international trade in wood products responsible and legal.



### The Alliance for Wood ID Testing: pioneering coalition of companies facilitated by WWF US and World Forest ID



CATEGORY

Process

DATE

Tuesday, 25 June 2024

WWF

The Alliance for Wood ID Testing is a pioneering coalition of companies hosted by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and World Forest ID, committed to ensuring that the international trade in wood products is both responsible and legal. By harnessing scientific research and technology, the group aims to combat illegal logging – a pervasive threat to biodiversity, climate stability, legitimate businesses, and local communities.

#### PILOT PROJECTS

To this end, we are launching two parallel wood ID testing pilot projects focused on high risk supply chains through 2024 and 2025: birch plywood and selected African species commonly used in veneer production, such as okoume and sapelin. These pilots will support the development and use of processes, practical techniques, and reference data available to companies seeking to verify the origin of the wood in their supply chains.

#### WORLD FOREST ID/ WWF'S ROLE

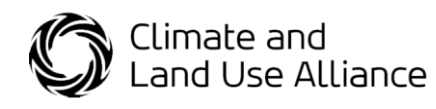
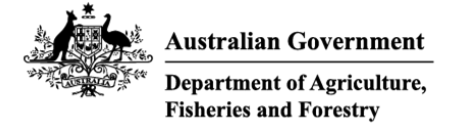
World Forest ID is at the forefront of this initiative, providing data, expertise and resources to ensure the success of the pilot projects. Our team's responsibilities will include:

- Leveraging trade data analysis to advise on high risk products and supply chains.
- Identifying the appropriate non proprietary protocols and methodologies to ensure that wood ID testing is accurate, reliable, and consistent across different laboratories.
- Identifying and partnering with qualified testing laboratories to carry out the necessary analyses.
- Defining and contracting the analysis for the group, and providing participating companies with detailed interpretation results, including anonymized and aggregated comparative performance results.

---

# World Forest ID Funders

---





The 'timber detectives'  
on the front lines of  
illegal wood trade

**The New York Times**

New Method That  
Pinpoints Wood's Origin  
May Curb Illegal Timber



P2 (00.05%)

Sweden (n=27)



**BBC**

Is your wood from a  
legal source? This test  
can tell

---

Thank you.  
Any questions?

*victor.deklerck@worldforestid.org*