



27. Mail 2026

Dear Professor Seidl

Thank you for your reply and for clarifying the precise scope of the Grünig *et al.* paper. We appreciate that a multi-year project involving 43 experts must maintain a strict, incremental focus.

However, we must look at the real-world impact of how this science is being communicated. Given that your own previous research explicitly states that 82% of canopy openings in Europe are man-made—leaving the forest highly vulnerable to natural stressors—we consider it an urgent public necessity to point out that the primary solution lies in preserving the forest canopy. While isolating variables is a sound constraint in a computational model, omitting this known management context in public spaces creates a dangerous narrative vacuum.

This danger is already playing out. On SRF, Marc Grünig was cited stating: “*The extent to which forest disturbances in Europe’s forests increase depends crucially on how quickly greenhouse gas emissions fall.*” While true in isolation, presenting this to the general public without context creates a fatal narrative. It allows governments and timber lobbies to claim that “burning wood saves the climate,” using it to justify intensified logging.

In Switzerland specifically, where this interview was conducted, forests are already being managed to death under the pretext of making them “climate-resilient.”

As leading scientists funded by public institutions, we believe you and your team have a fundamental duty to ensure that your research is not weaponised by the timber lobby. Currently, the framing that “climate alone” is destroying the forest is being used to justify destructive logging practices under the guise of climate resilience.

Science does not exist in a vacuum. If a study’s narrow scope inadvertently provides a political shield for practices that further degrade our forests, scientists have a responsibility to speak out and provide the missing context.

We welcome your offer to point us toward relevant studies that bridge this gap. We urge you to use your platform to actively highlight these connections in your future public statements, ensuring the public receives the comprehensive truth necessary to protect our forests.

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Sincerely,

Claudia Zenhäusern
Communication officer