

# Case: “Ore Skogsrike”



Hi. I'm Joakim Andrén, climate activist and work as activities developer at Nature and Youth Sweden. This is a current case of an environmental conflict in Sweden between civil society and a forest company.

## Background

Protection of natural forests world-wide can play a significant part in curbing climate change. Not only does the trees in themselves hold carbon, but they act as guardians for the carbon stored in the soil, which can easily be released into the atmosphere if the woods are clear-cut. On top of that, of our planetary boundaries, biodiversity is the most exceeded.

At the present moment, the price of timber is very high, driving forestry companies to override previous environmental considerations, at high ecological costs.

Ore Skogsrike (Ore forest realm) is a forest in Dalarna that is noted by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency as an extraordinarily valuable forest. This is because its vast area of connected forest with high biodiversity, and is home to many red-listed (vulnerable) species of animals and plants.

Sveaskog is the Swedish state-owned forestry company, that owns the forest and has named it it's “Eco-park”.

## What's happening now

Sveaskog announced its intent to deforest Ore Skogsrike in late 2017.

A small group of activists scouted the area and found in December that the cutting had begun. A coalition of environmental groups put up a tent in the forest and has been taking shifts over-seeing the forest during the cutting season.

The coalition demands the area to be protected because of a) its climate benefits, b) its value for biodiversity and ecological resilience, and c) its beauty and value as a unique forest. They also argue that the climate benefits of forestry products are exaggerated, and highlight the wasteful use of wood in society.

The organizations has previously used civil disobedience to stop the logging of forests, and to raise support in favor of saving Swedish forests.

The certification for responsible forestry, FSC, is known to not react when certified companies oversteps, and is increasingly considered to be watered-down. Sveaskog is FSC-certified.

The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation has made a claim to the county administrative board for the creation of a natural reserve in the area.

Meanwhile, forestry lobbying group Svenska Skogen is running a massive campaign about the environmental and climate benefits of forest products, downplaying the climate rewards of old forests.

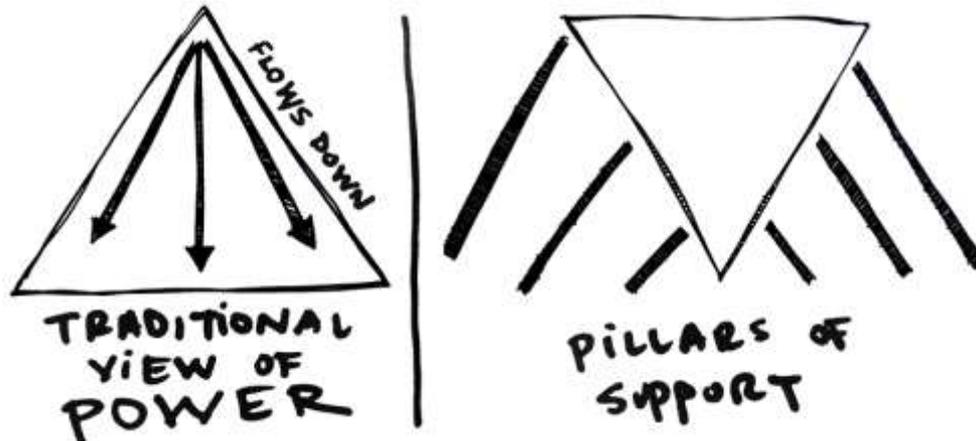
### **Pillars of Support**

Before I leave you to your task, I will give you this framework to analyse the situation.

Often, power is viewed as a pyramid where the most powerful sits on the top, exercising power over the ones underneath, who in turn rules the ones underneath them - forming a clear hierarchy from ruler and ruled, subject and object.

But to answer why social movements succeed in changing society, we have to view power differently. The dominant power is not a stable pyramid but a top-down triangle that's held in place by supporting pillars. Without them, the triangle would fall, power would shift, and the situation would change. This shows that any situation is dependent on very specific circumstances and the active or passive cooperation of many.

For example, a company is dependent on its funds, relationships to investors and partners, smooth day-to-day operation, a social legitimacy to operate, laws governing its business, loyal customers and staff, etc.



### **Your task - To save a forest**

Let's say that you are the environmental movement. What do you do to ensure that Ore Skogsrike is not logged?

What are the pillars of support for Sveaskog's logging of Ore Skogsrike?

What can be done to remove those pillars of support, and what would happen if they were?

For optional inspiration, see the chart of 198 Non-violent Methods of Persuasion, Non-cooperation and Intervention.

Search for more information elsewhere, if necessary.