



Presented at the FIG Working Week 2023,  
28 May - 1 June 2023 in Orlando, Florida, USA

# FIG WORKING WEEK 2023

28 May - 1 June 2023 Orlando Florida USA

Protecting  
Our World,  
Conquering  
New Frontiers

## Key Biotopes

### Registration and Disputes in the Swedish Forest

Mr. Daniel JANONIUS LOWGREN, Sweden



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**Geographical data on natural values in the Swedish Forest has led to land use conflicts and legal disputes recently**

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- 68 000 Key Biotopes in a public database
- Important habitats for threatened species



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- Some landowners have objected to this exercise
- The registration can hamper the possibility to lodge and/or obtain sustainability certifications, such as FSC or PEFC.
- Some landowners have taken legal measures against the Forest Agency



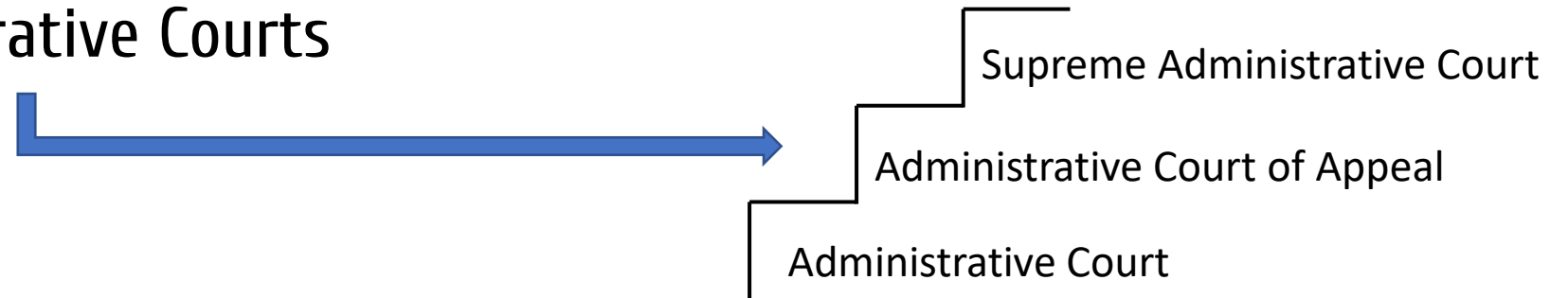


## Legal disputes regarding data on Key Biotopes

- Six court cases are examined in the paper

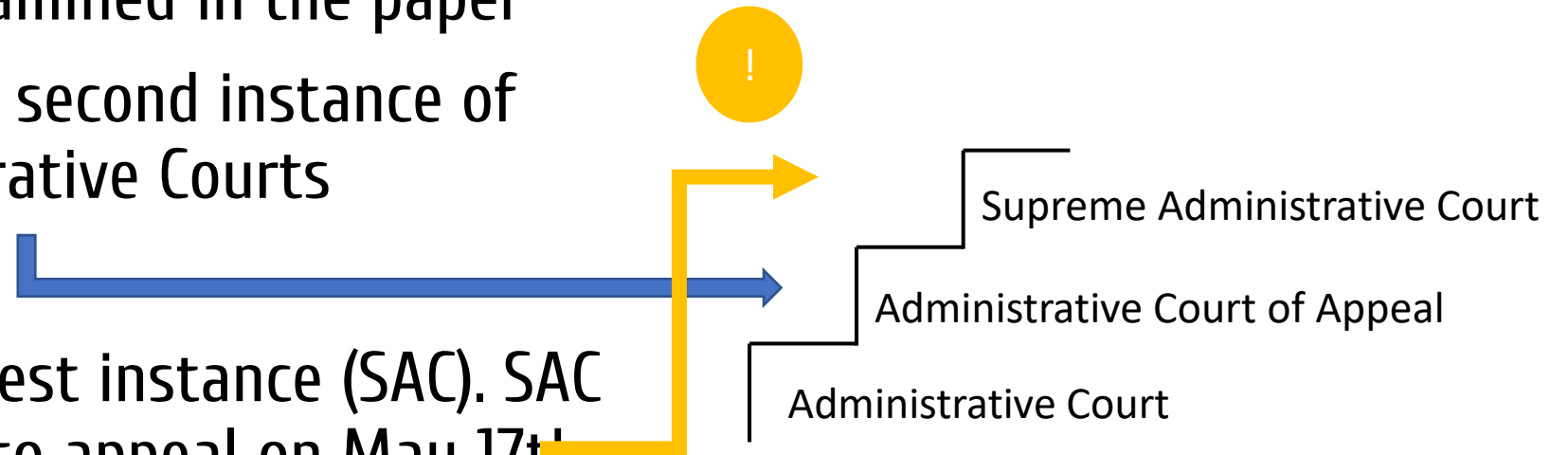
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## Legal disputes regarding data on Key Biotopes

- Six court cases are examined in the paper
- These are all from the second instance of the Swedish Administrative Courts
- One is still in the highest instance (SAC). SAC decided to give leave to appeal on May 17th 2023 (two weeks ago!)



## Findings

- Applicable law is not consistent
- Registering a Key Biotope is (probably) an authoritative – and appealable – decision
- It is unclear if there is sufficient legal support for these measures.

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- Registering a Key Biotope is (probably) an authoritative – and appealable – decision
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## Consequences

- The Forest Agency has suspended the work of registering natural values in the form of Key Biotopes (as of December 2021)
- It is unclear what will happen to the public database of approx. 68 000 Key Biotopes

## Further comments

- One court case is still not yet valid – what impact could it have?
- How should natural values and bio-diversity be safeguarded henceforth?
- What form of data is politically acceptable?



Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons



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**Thank you for listening**

## **Key Biotores, Registration and Disputes in the Swedish Forest (11939)**

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