



Update on EU legislation and policies pertinent to Integrative Forest Management

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Political Guidelines

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature

“Green Deal continues to set the course”

- Continue protection of natural world
- Focus on incentives, equitable and efficient implementation, notably to reach Kunming Montreal Agreement
- Step up work on climate resilience and preparedness
 - European Climate Adaptation Plan
- Strengthen Europe’s water security
 - New European Water Resilience Strategy



Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

Mission Letter for Commissioner designate: Jessika Roswall

“Climate and Nature Protection is vital to prosperity and health”

- Propose an updated Bioeconomy Strategy
- Develop the New European Bauhaus further
- Co-lead on a Circular Economy Act
- Enhance efforts for single market on sustainable products
- Focus on implementation of existing legislation on environment and biodiversity
- Prioritise the design of incentives for nature positive actions and private investment (nature credits)



Existing legislation on environment and biodiversity: NRL

Member States to:

- establish restoration measures for habitats and species as necessary at least on 30% by 2030 // 60 % by 2040 // 90% by 2050 of the surface that needs to be restored
- prepare national restoration plans based on common template (in prep.)
- carry out preparatory monitoring and research to define measures and quantify and qualify area that needs to be restored
- identify synergies with climate change and disaster response, agriculture and forestry and identify existing practices that contribute to the objectives



Existing legislation on environment and biodiversity: NRL

For the restoration of forest ecosystems:

- Enhance biodiversity of forest ecosystems
- Increasing trend in the common forest bird index
- Increasing trend in six out of seven further indicators
 - Standing deadwood
 - Lying deadwood
 - Share of forests with uneven-aged structure
 - Forest connectivity
 - Stock of organic carbon
 - Share of forests dominated by native tree species
 - Tree species diversity



Existing legislation on environment and biodiversity: NRL

Exemplary measures for preparing national restoration plans:

- Increase ecological features in forests, such as habitat trees and deadwood
- Work towards a diversified forest structure, enable natural regeneration and succession of tree species
- Assist migration of provenances and species as needed due to climate change
- Enhance forest diversity by restoring mosaics of non-forest habitats
- Make use of 'close-to-nature' or 'continuous cover' forestry approaches; introduce native tree species
- Enhance the development of old-growth native forests and mature stands

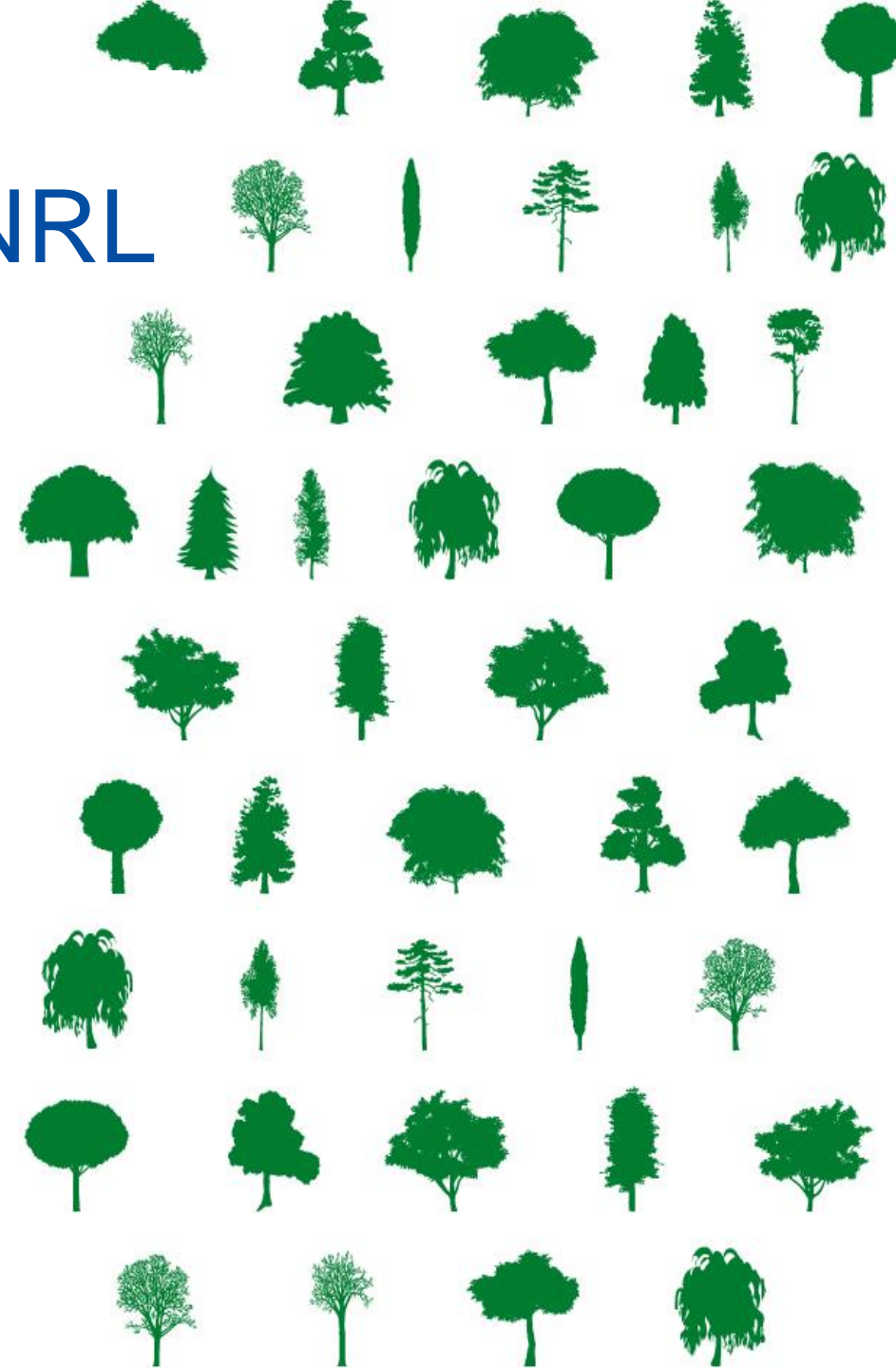


Existing legislation on environment and biodiversity: NRL

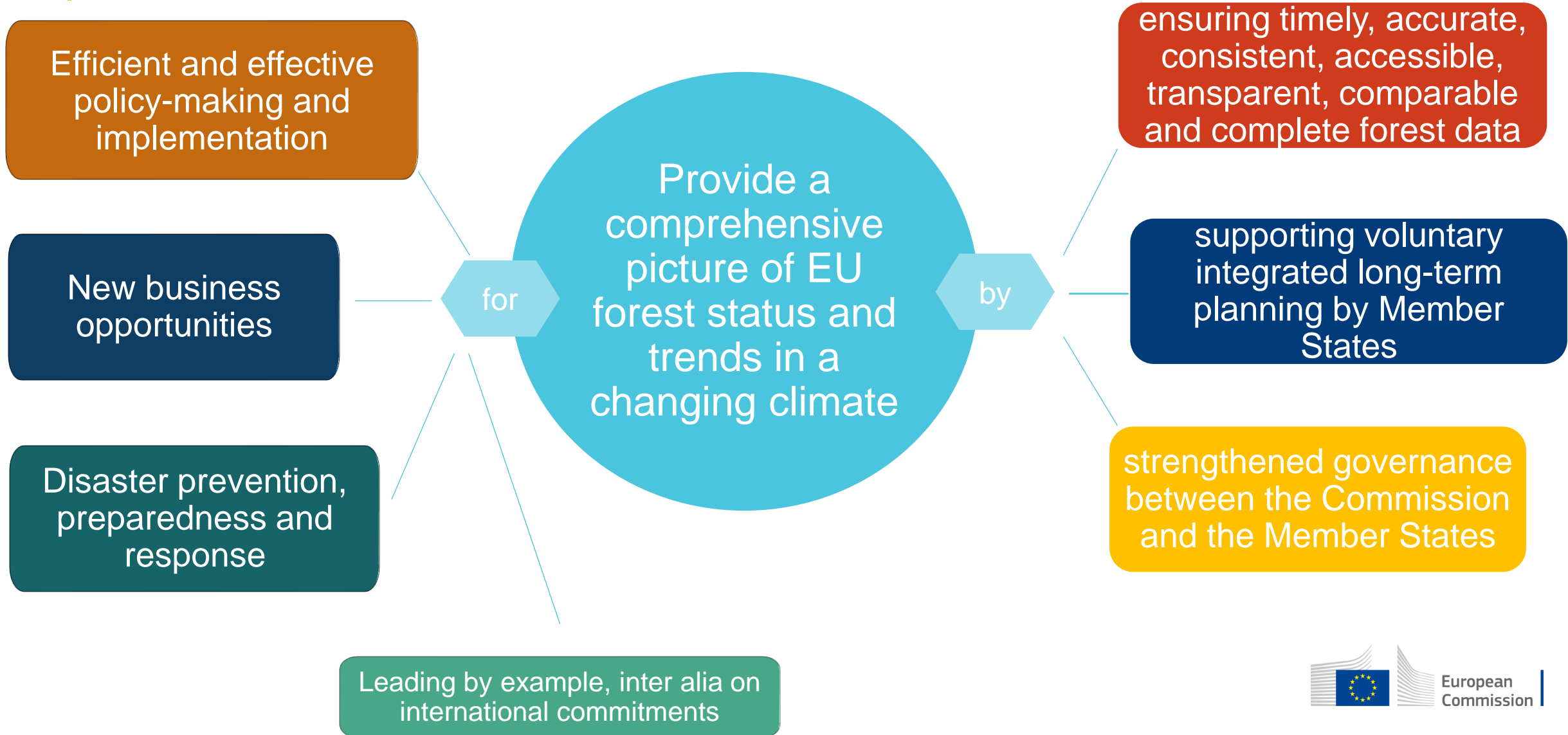
Planting three billion additional trees by 2030

Member State measures to:

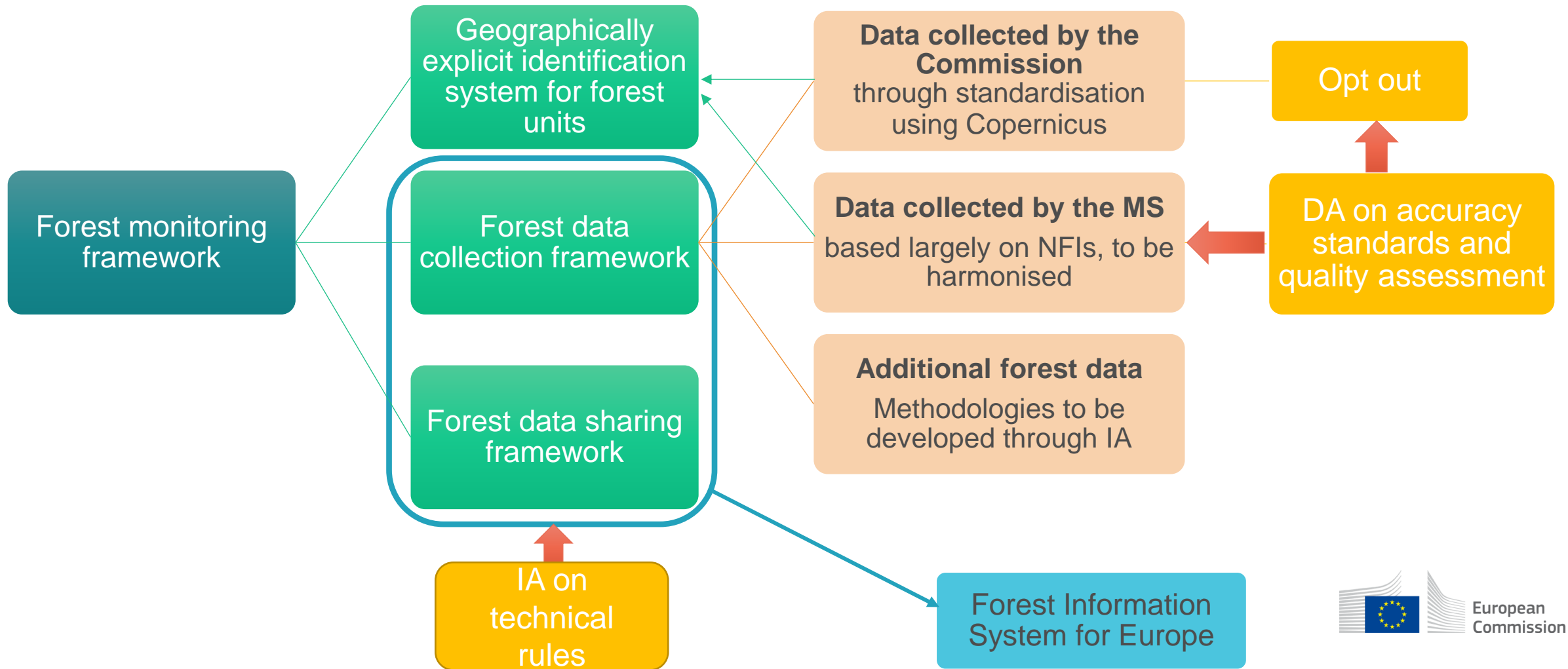
- contribute in full respect of ecological principles
 - promoting species and structure diversity
 - prioritizing native tree species
 - considering climate change adaptation
 - increasing ecological connectivity
- be based on sustainable afforestation, reforestation and tree planting
- increase of urban green space



Proposal for a monitoring framework for resilient European forests



Forest monitoring framework set-up



Scope of the forest data collection framework

Forest data subject to standardisation

- Forest area
- Tree cover density
- Forest type
- Forest connectivity

Forest data subject to harmonisation

- Forest available/ not available for wood supply
- Growing stock volume
- Net annual increment
- Stand structure
- Tree species composition
- European forest type
- Removals
- Deadwood
- Protected forest areas
- Location N2K forest habitats
- Common forest birds abundance
- Primary and old-growth forest
- Wood production & trade
- Forest biomass for bioenergy

Forest data to be collected through a step-wise approach to be developed by Commission in cooperation with Member States

- Forest disturbance other than fires
- Aboveground biomass
- Forest structure
- Value of non-wood forest products
- Forest habitats outside N2K sites
- Forest naturalness classes
- Invasive species presence
- Diversity of non-tree vegetation
- Threatened species
- Other wooded land



Incentives for nature positive actions and private investment

1. **Guidance on Payment for Ecosystem Schemes**
2. **EU framework for carbon removal/farming certification (CRCF)**
3. *COM initiative for voluntary certification for CNF management*
4. *COM initiative to strengthen SFM through complementary criteria and standards for forest health and biodiversity*
5. *Nature Credits*



Key elements of the CRCF Regulation

Two main pillars

QUALITY criteria for EU- based activities

- Quantification
- Additionality
- Long-term storage
- Sustainability

Certification rules

- Third party verification
- Certification schemes + bodies
- CRCF registry
- Possibility of existing schemes to seek recognition



EU certification methodologies

Operationalising the quality criteria for the different carbon removal activities



PERMANENT
CARBON
REMOVALS



CARBON
FARMING



CARBON
STORAGE IN
PRODUCTS



CRF: Sustainability (2)

Voluntary co-benefits

- An activity may generate other sustainability **co-benefits**
- Reporting rules will be defined in the **certification methodologies**
- Those rules should **incentivise as much as possible** the generation of co-benefits (e.g. premium)

Biodiversity co-benefits for carbon farming

- **Carbon farming needs to deliver biodiversity co-benefits**
- Possible use of positive lists to limit administrative burden



Voluntary certification for CNF management

Based on these guidelines developed with Member States, the Commission will, subject to an impact assessment and stakeholder engagement, also develop a “closer-to-nature” voluntary certification scheme, so that the most biodiversity friendly management practices could benefit from an EU quality label

- External reports in preparation on:
 - a) comparative analysis of existing schemes
 - b) options for certification scheme
- Preliminary exchanges with stakeholders
- Link existing and emerging certification schemes (labels, credit schemes, bonds,.....)



Voluntary additional SFM indicators, thresholds or ranges

The Commission will together with the Member States and in close cooperation with different forest stakeholders, identify additional indicators, thresholds or ranges for sustainable forest management, and assess how these could best be used, starting on a voluntary basis.'

- Built on Forest Europe SFM criteria
- Focus on forest ecosystem conditions (health, biodiversity and climate)
- Demonstrate how SFM contributes to EU objectives (climate, biodiversity, circular economy)
- Assessment of options based on gap analysis
- Preliminary exchanges with stakeholders



Biodiversity Certification and Credits

Commitments by President von der Leyen and the Commission to explore the subject

- *We also need private money to flow into projects that enhance biodiversity* ([UVDL, COP 28](#))
- *Nature conservation can only be successful through a bottom-up and incentive-based approach.* ([UVDL, EP Plenary](#))
- *Instruments like carbon removal certification or biodiversity credits can promote new business models and reward stakeholders for nature-based solutions.* ([Clean Transitions Dialogue Communication](#))

Preparatory work by DG ENV

- Studies on benchmarking existing schemes, on metrics and on close-to-nature forest certification (deliverables in autumn 2024)
- LIFE-PLP-2024 – call for project on wetlands
- Multiple contacts with possible external partners and financial institutions

Announcement of the launch of 2 pilots on wetland and forest

- Domestic dimension (ENV), international dimension (INTPA), link with climate (CLIMA)
- Context of next multi-annual financial framework – promote private investments complementary to public funds

Possible follow-up on EU biodiversity certification and credits

- Initiative to be decided based on results of pilots. Not necessarily legislative
- Possible link with the 2026 review of the carbon removal and carbon farming certification (CRCF) Regulation
- Pending the new College and following Better Regulation rules





Thank you for your attention

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