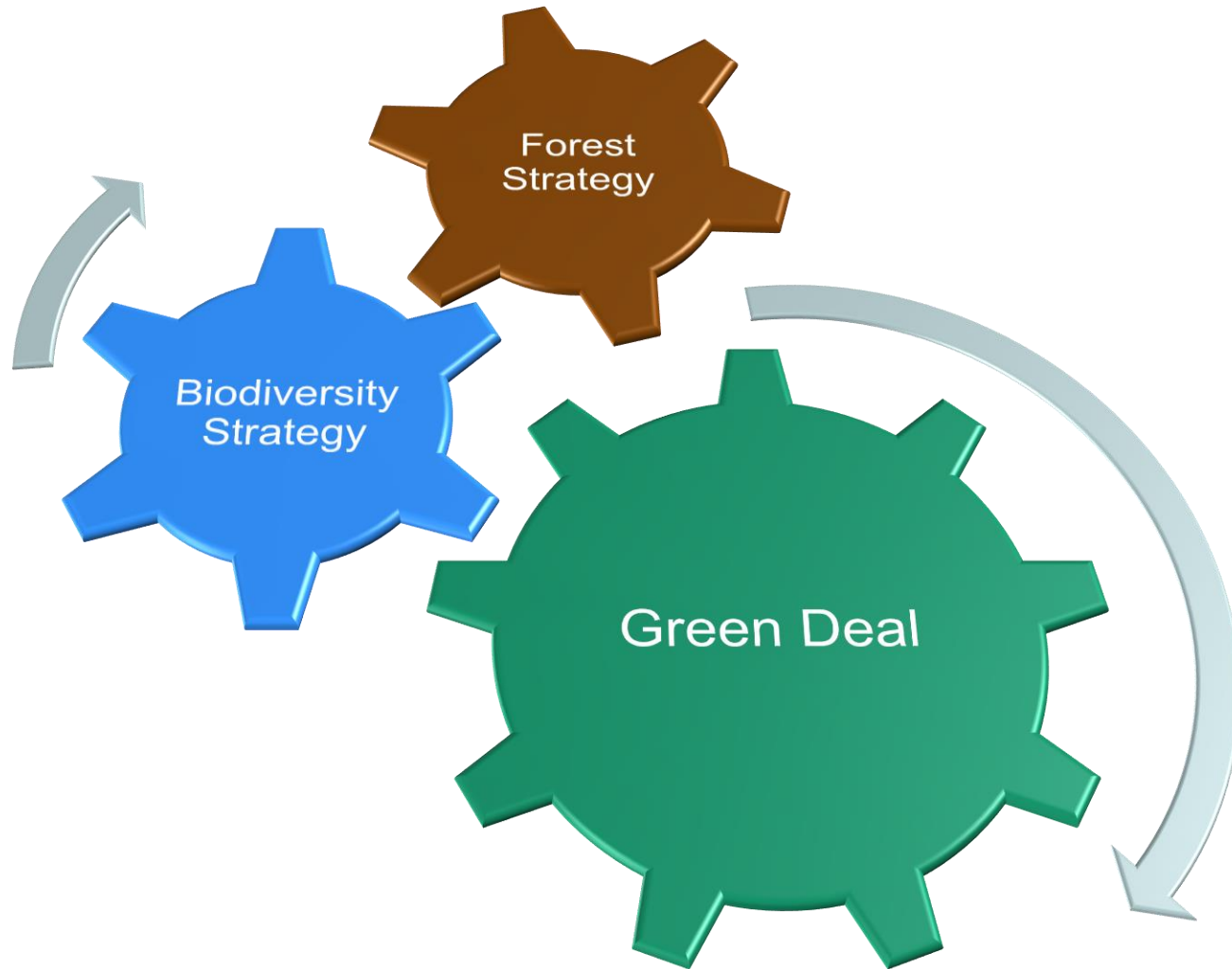




New EU Forest Strategy for 2030



VISION

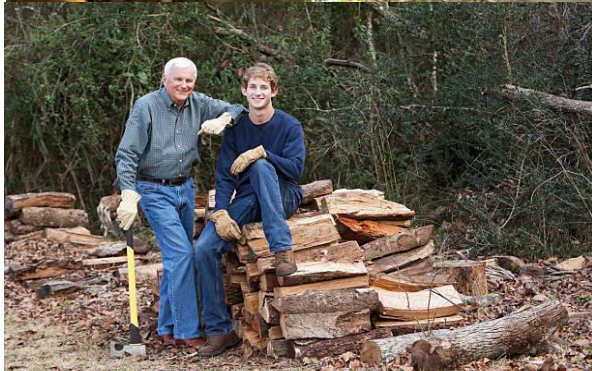


As a flagship initiative of the European Green Deal and building on the 2030 biodiversity strategy, the Commission adopted the new EU forest strategy for 2030, covering the whole forest cycle and promoting the many services that forests provide.

It sets out a vision and concrete actions to improve the quantity and quality of EU forests and strengthen their protection, restoration and resilience. It aims to adapt Europe's forests to the new conditions, weather extremes and high uncertainty brought about by climate change. This is a precondition for forests to continue delivering their socio-economic functions, and to ensure vibrant rural areas with thriving populations.

It builds on best available scientific evidence and will be implemented in respect of subsidiarity and better regulation principles.

At the core of the EUFS: the economic, social and environmental functions of forests



- the multi-functional role of forests
- the contribution of foresters and the entire forest-based value chain for achieving by 2050 a sustainable and climate-neutral economy
- ensuring that forest ecosystems are restored, resilient, and adequately protected.
- Adequate forest monitoring and strategic planning for the future



Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries



Promoting sustainable forest bioeconomy for long-lived wood products



Ensuring sustainable use of wood-based resources for bioenergy



Promoting non-wood forest-based bioeconomy, including ecotourism



Developing skills and empowering people for sustainable forest-based bioeconomy

Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries (1)

Promoting long-lived wood products

- ❖ Develop a 2050 roadmap for reducing whole life-cycle carbon emissions in buildings.
- ❖ Establish **a standard, robust and transparent methodology to quantify the climate benefits of wood construction products** and other building materials.
- ❖ Promote research and innovation on architecture, design and materials via demonstration projects through Horizon Europe, the LIFE program and the Innovation Fund.
- ❖ Consider long-lived wood products in full respect of biodiversity objectives in the upcoming carbon farming initiative and carbon removals certificates framework.

Wood-based resources for Bioenergy

- ❖ Closely monitor transposition of sustainability criteria (2018) and, where needed, take enforcement action.
- ❖ Adopt strengthened sustainability criteria in the Revision of RED .
- ❖ Continue to analyse the impact of the national support schemes on biomass supply and demand, biodiversity and carbon sinks, and possible market distortions, and assess the possibility for further limitations regarding support schemes to forest biomass, to ensure bioenergy remains sustainable.
- ❖ Review, complement and update the Taxonomy Climate Delegate Act for forestry and bioenergy, where necessary.

Supporting the socio-economic functions of forests for thriving rural areas and boosting forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries (2)

Promoting the non-Wood bioeconomy

- ❖ Promote coordinated and integrated regional, national and subnational programmes on the sustainable production of non-wood forest products.
- ❖ Promote the use of the Natura 2000 logo for non-wood forest-based products and services.
- ❖ Promote collaboration between the tourism sector, forest-owners and nature protection services, and standards and norms for eco-tourism activities and create a new alliance between the professionals of tourism and foresters, involving the World Tourism Organisation.

Developing Skills

- ❖ Encourage forest and forestry stakeholders to **establish a skills partnership under the Pact for Skills** and make use of the European Social Fund Plus.
- ❖ **Build a toolkit** to help Member States to establish life-long programs and advice to foresters and adapt education and training to the challenges and needs of today's forest needs and realities, and develop employment opportunities.
- ❖ Promote cooperation and connect pupils, students, teachers and stakeholders through the Education for Climate Coalition on the role of forests, including on the benefits of outdoor learning.

Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems



Protecting EU's last remaining primary and old-growth forests



Ensuring forest restoration and reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience



Re- and afforestation of biodiverse forests



Financial incentives for forest owners and managers for improving the quality and quantity of EU forests



Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems (1)

- ❖ Propose a legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration.
- ❖ Define, map and strictly protect all primary and old growth forests.
- ❖ Identify additional indicators as well as thresholds or ranges for sustainable forest management concerning forest ecosystem conditions, such as health, biodiversity and climate objectives.
- ❖ Develop guidelines on biodiversity friendly afforestation and reforestation.
- ❖ Develop a definition and adopt guidelines for closer-to-nature-forestry practices and voluntary closer-to-nature forest management certification scheme.

Protecting, restoring and enlarging EU's forests to combat climate change, reverse biodiversity loss and ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems (2)

- ❖ Provide guidance and promote knowledge exchanges on good practices on climate adaptation and resilience, using inter alia the Climate-ADAPT platform.
- ❖ Supplement the revision of the legislation on forest reproductive material by the end of 2022 with measures to promote material suitable for future climate.
- ❖ Monitor the situation of tree health in the EU, including the impact of invasive alien species, diseases and pests such as bark beetles, and encourage the necessary preventive actions for early detection and eradication.
- ❖ Implement the 3 billion trees pledge based on the overall principle of planting and growing the right tree in the right place and for the right purpose.

Financial incentives (1)

CAP / EU funds

- ❖ Increase the uptake of rural development funds available for forests.
- ❖ Promote forest-related interventions in the future CAP (2023-2027) in relation to the European Green Deal objectives, and in other EU financial instruments (e.g. Cohesion Policy, LIFE, Horizon Europe, Interreg).
- ❖ Promote the set-up of ecosystem services payment schemes.
- ❖ Provide, as part of the CAP, new means to share information on good practices on best design and implementation of forest-relevant interventions, fostering the exchange between experts in MS, providing demonstration tools and supporting local and regional networking.
- ❖ Pay attention to forest related measures proposed under the CAP Strategic Plans
- ❖ Promote a network of forest-dominant rural areas and municipalities in the context of the long-term vision for rural areas
- ❖ Carry out a study on behavioral science regarding the uptake of public funds by foresters

Financial incentives (2)

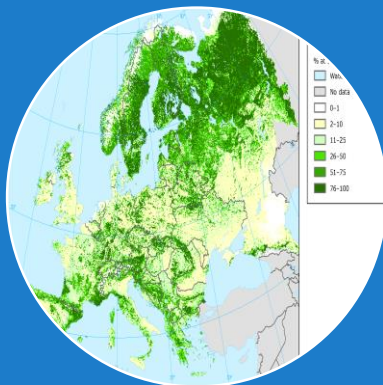
Ecosystem services

- ❖ Provide advice and technical guidance on the development of ecosystem service payment scheme.
- ❖ Complement action via LIFE preparatory action with stakeholders on how payments for ecosystem services can be incorporated in EU funding programmes.
- ❖ Promote forest-related remuneration schemes in an action plan for carbon farming and carbon removal certification.
- ❖ Identify and address possible hurdles posed by the EU legislation and State Aid Guidelines to grant adequate public support to services beneficial for the public interest, to facilitate the use of national funds for forestry measures and target them better for ecosystem services in the forthcoming revision of the State aid guidelines.

Strategic forest monitoring, reporting and data collection



Improved use of Copernicus products, other remote-sensing data and ground-based monitoring



Enhancement of the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE)



New legislative proposal on EU Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection and Strategic Plans for Forests

Forest monitoring & Reporting

- ❖ Put forward a **new legislative proposal on EU Forest Observation, Reporting and Data Collection** to ensure a coordinated EU forest monitoring, data collection and reporting system
- ❖ Prepare **Strategic Plans for Forests for forests and the forest based sector** by Member States competent authorities, in full respect of the subsidiarity principle and the Treaty
- ❖ **Strengthen the existing monitoring of climate effects and other natural or human-induced disturbances on forests**, as part of the **Forest Information System for Europe (FISE)** and on the basis of improved Copernicus products, other remote-sensing data and ground-based monitoring
- ❖ Prepare and publish **regular reports and lay summaries on the forests in the EU** with the support of a broader European forest science partnership.
- ❖ Perform a comparative assessment of Forest Management Plans and consider setting additional criteria to ensure that they meet the objectives of the strategy, in close cooperation with MS
- ❖ Develop a **European forest science partnership** through the Joint Research Centre, with a view to support the development of new indicators based on remote sensing and the latest research results.

ENABLING ELEMENTS



**A strong research
and innovation
agenda**



**Inclusive and
coherent EU forest
governance
framework**



**Stepping up
implementation
and enforcement of
existing EU acquis**

Research & Innovation

- ❖ Develop a “**Planning our Future Forests**” research and innovation agenda together with Member States and stakeholders by jointly identifying research gaps and future priorities for forestry and the forest-based sector.
- ❖ Support the evidence-based **design and implementation of forest restoration strategies** with engagement of the society and in different ecological and socio-economic settings, including through the planned research and innovation mission on soil health for forest soils.
- ❖ **Enhance EU cooperation** by proposing a Research and Innovation partnership on forestry, including flagships for testing and demonstrating solutions on selected key strategic domains. Work with Member States to strengthen the role of forestry in the European Innovation Partnership-AGRI.
- ❖ **Implement complementary actions in support of Disaster Risk Reduction policies** (including forest fires) through the Horizon Europe Civil Security for Society programme to enhance capacities in risk and resilience management and governance.
- ❖ Develop a **Citizens’ science Programme for forest biodiversity**, notably engaging citizens and civil society in monitoring forest biodiversity.

Governance

Dialogue with the Member States:

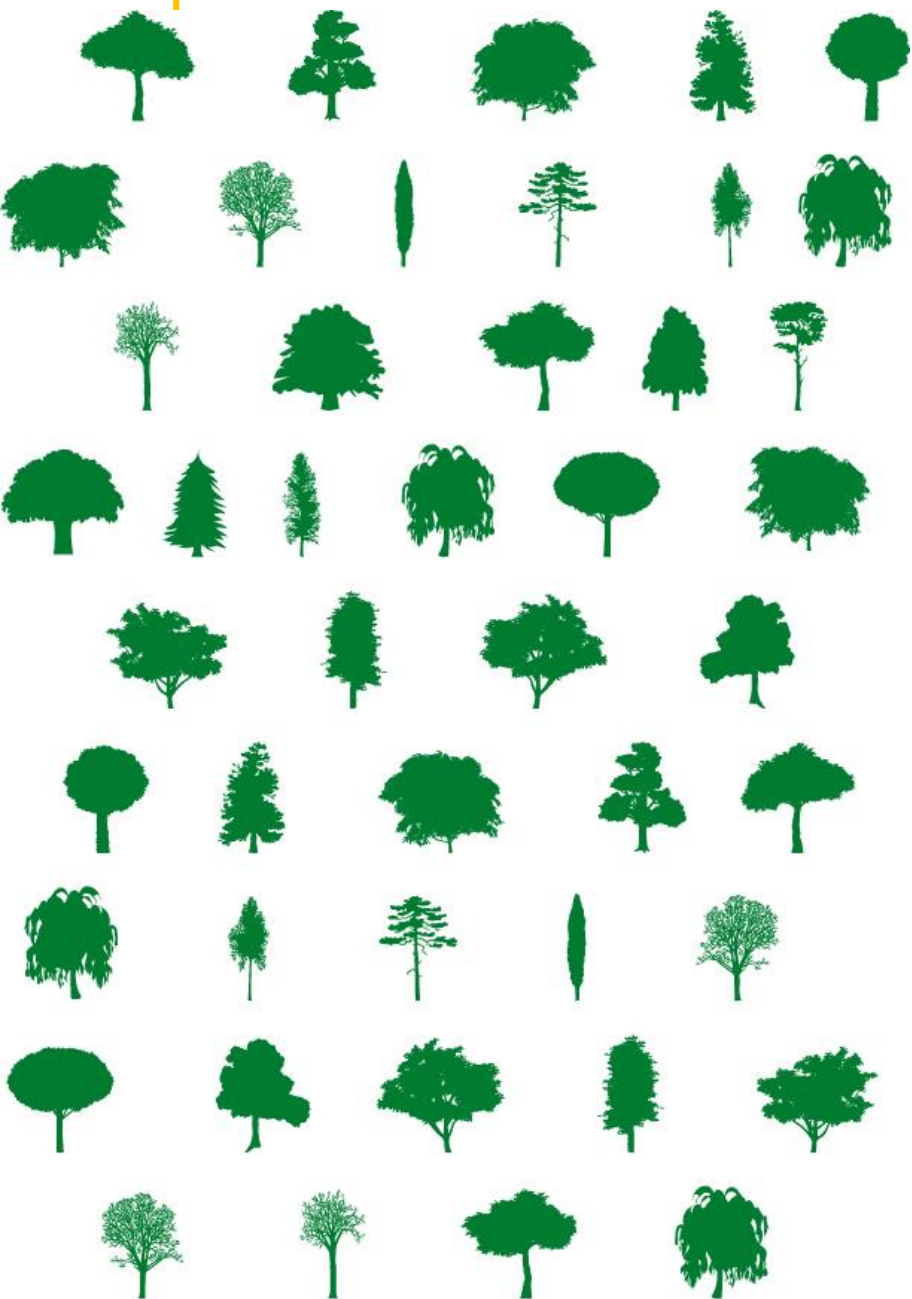
- ❖ Update governance that brings the Standing Forestry Committee and the Working Group on Forest and Nature (WGFN) into **a single expert group** with a mandate that reflects all environmental, social and economic objectives of the new EU Forest Strategy and multiple Member State representatives from different Ministries

Engagement with civil society, forest owners and managers, industry and academia:

- ❖ create **one group with revised mission statement**, broader membership and focusing on the new EU Forest Strategy, building on the experience of the Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork and the Working Group on Forest and Nature.
- ❖ Ensure **regular joint meetings** between the two new groups, at least twice a year, and commit to full transparency of the discussions.
- ❖ Establish better synergies with the EG on Forest-based Industries and Sector-related Issues

EU aquis

- ❖ Step up **implementation and enforcement of existing EU aquis** through:
 - ❖ intensified dialogue with MSs and European networks of environmental agencies, inspectors, police, prosecutors and judges;
 - ❖ updated guidance;
 - ❖ technical assistance instruments (TAIEX & Technical Support Instrument).



**3000
million
TREES**





Planting



Growing and nurturing

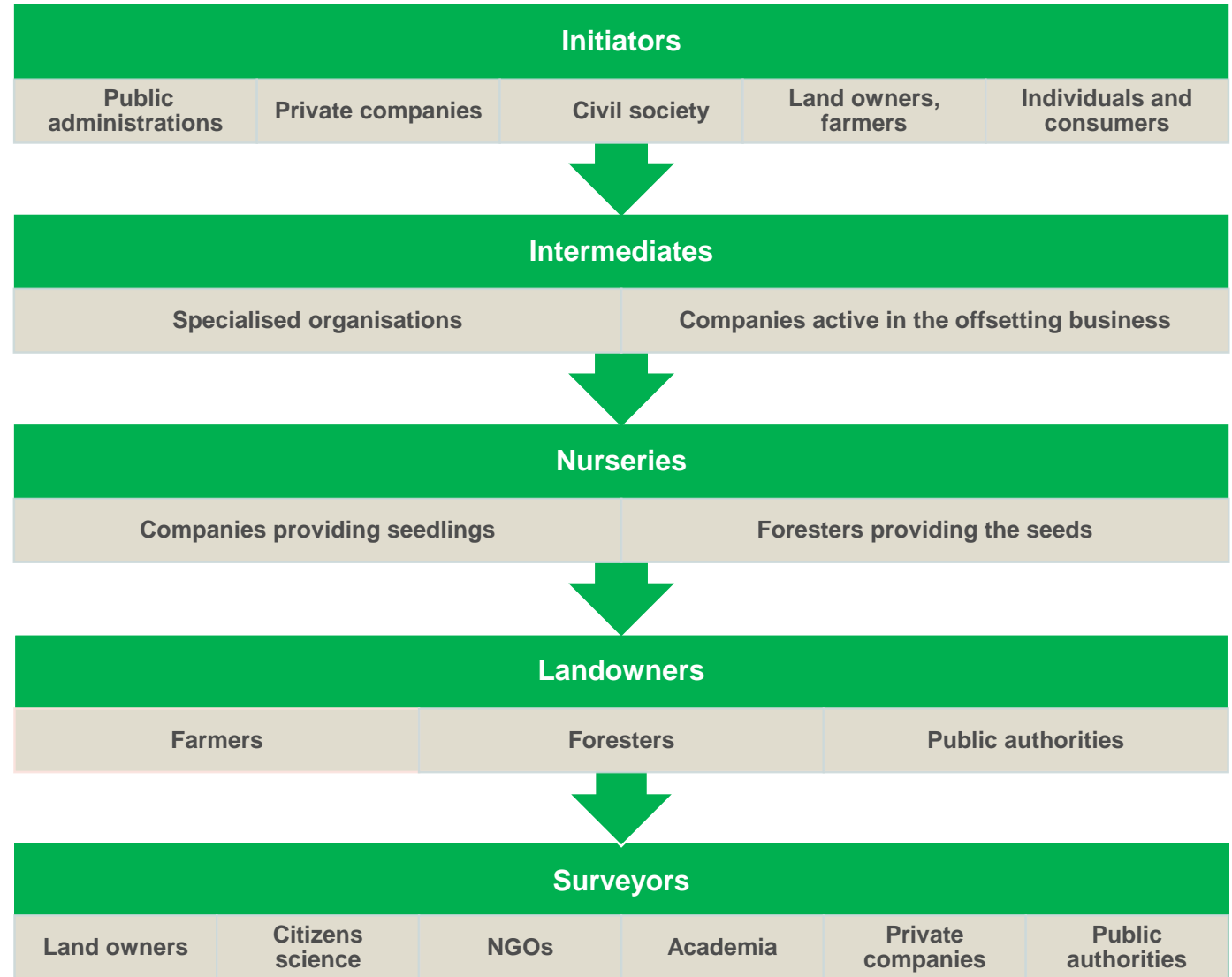


Monitoring

Where



by whom



ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

IN PRACTICE

ROADMAP



Provide a framework and funding, facilitate, motivate, monitor and count.

EC

Guidelines
On
afforestation

Communication

Political
support

Corporate
identity

Provide funding

EEA

Counting /
monitoring

