The New EU Forest Strategy for 2030:

Pursuing the biodiversity and climate goals set out in the European Green Deal and the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

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Some basic data & facts on EU forests

- Forest and other wooded land cover approximately 43,5% of the EU land space. Significant differences exist among Member States (Examples: > or close to 60% FI, SE, SI; around 30% DE, FR, IT; around 10% IE, NL)
- More than 85% of EU forests are available for wood supply
- Primary and old-growth forest are around 3% (90% are in SE, FI, RO, BG)
- Ownership regime, on average, 60% private- 40% public (with significant differences among Member States)
- Increase of natural disturbances (fires, drougths, pest, storms) and Increase of harvest: resilience is a must
- Discussion on biomass availability in light of bioeconomy agenda

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Typical Boreal forest

Eucalyptus plantations

Landes (FR)

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(Natural) disturbances : DE (Harz)

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VAIA (IT) - 2018

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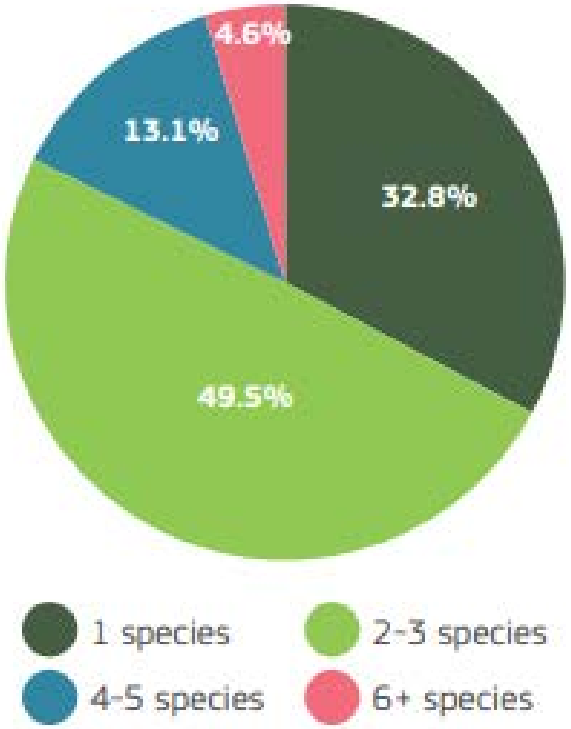
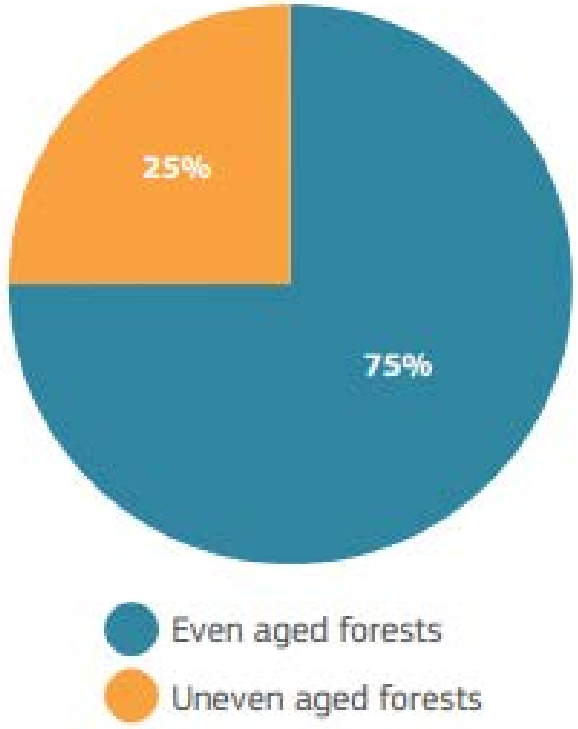
Wildfires & megafires

Figure 1: Forest area in Europe classified by number of tree species occurring in 2015

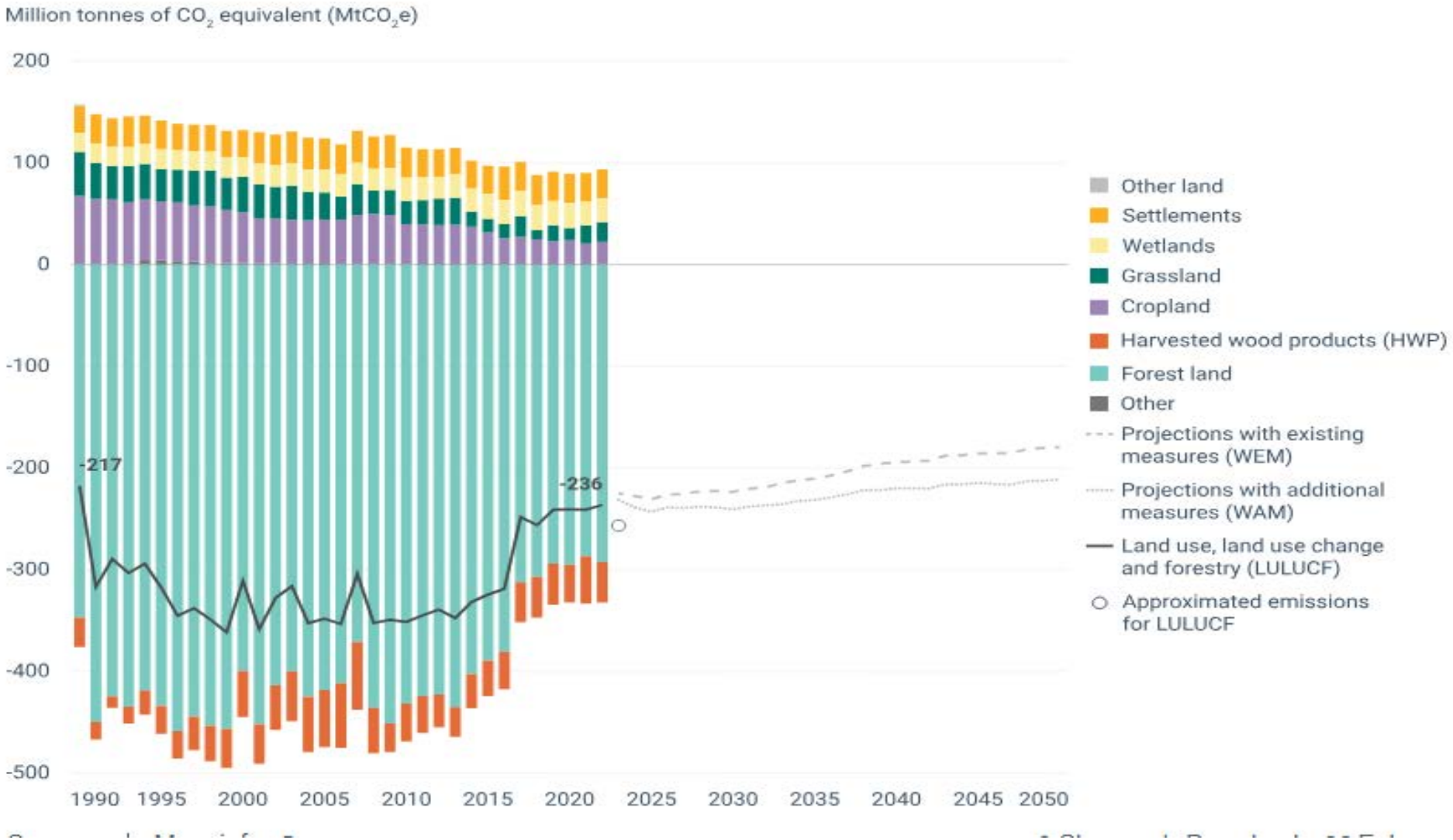
Figure 2: Forest age structure in the EU (2020)





Forest-related carbon sink is decreasing

Figure 1. EU emissions and removals of the LULUCF sector by main land use category



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Biodiversity and forests, the case of protected forest habitats

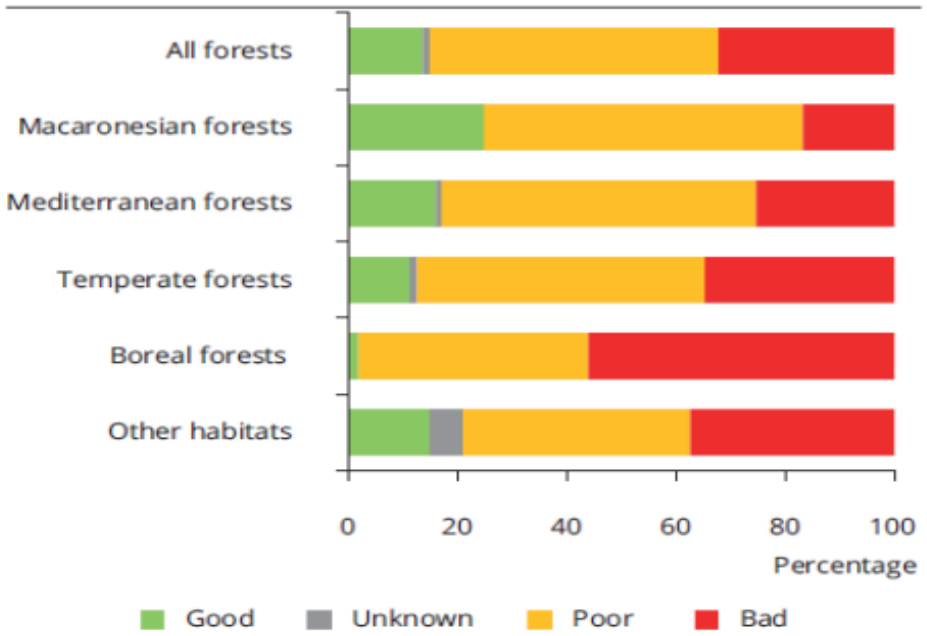

Figure 16 Conservation status of forests by region, State of Nature report

State of Nature Report 2020 over half of the assessments showed a poor conservation status (54 %) and 31% showed a bad conservation status, while only around 14 % of the assessments showed good conservation status (data are by number of assessment, not area of habitats).

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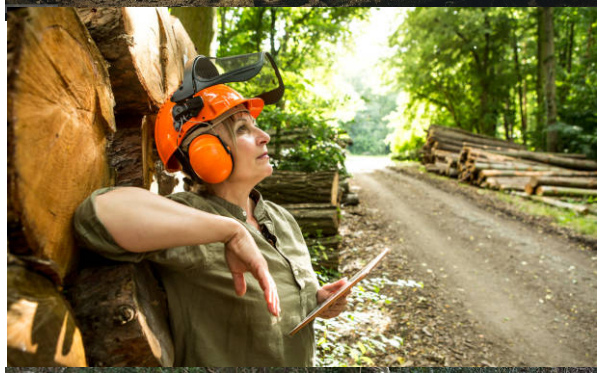
EU Forest Strategy for 2030:

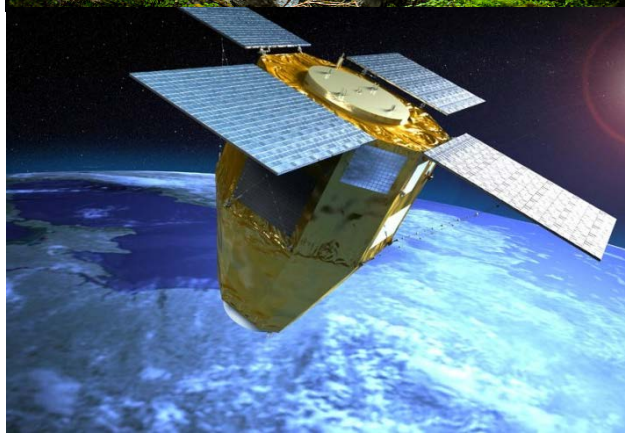
“Bigger, better and stronger forests for our future”

- Thriving rural areas & sustainable bio-economy
- Healthy and resilient forest ecosystems
- Adequate forest monitoring, reporting & data collection
- A strong research & innovation agenda
- Inclusive & coherent governance
- Effective implementation & enforcement

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



EU Forest – action for biodiversity and climate

There are significant opportunities for win-win measures, which simultaneously improve **forest productivity, timber production, biodiversity, carbon sink function, healthy soil properties and climate resilience.**

A **greater diversity** of forest ecosystems and species, and the use of well adapted genetic resources and ecosystem-based approaches to forest management **can enhance long- term adaptability and forests' capacity to recover and self-organise.**

certain management practices that support biodiversity and resilience, are essential […], such as the creation or maintenance at stand and landscape level of genetically and ***functionally diverse, mixed-species forests, especially with more broadleaves and deciduous trees*** *and with species with different biotic and abiotic sensitivities and recovery mechanisms following disturbances,* ***instead of monocultural plantations.***

Also, ***management practices*** *like uneven-aged and continuous-cover forestry, sufficient quantities of deadwood, regulation of wildlife densities and the establishment of protected habitat patches or set aside areas in production forests help ensure long-term environmental and socio-economic viability of forests.*

Conversely, some other practices should be approached with caution*, notably these which affect above ground biodiversity, and cause the loss of carbon in the roots and part of the carbon in the soil. **These silvicultural practices include clear-cutting, for which environmental and ecosystem concerns, including the needs of certain species, should be increasingly taken into account**. These practices should be used only in duly justified cases. What should also be avoided is removing stumps and roots, which should be left in the forest.

**These should be used only in duly justified cases, for example when proven necessary for environmental or ecosystem health reasons

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

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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

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Guidelines
on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting

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Guidelines
on Closer-to-Nature Forest Management

Brussels, 27 July 2023

Environment

European Commission

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Commission guidelines

for defining, mapping, monitoring and strictly protecting EU primary and old-growth forests

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.7.2023
SWD(2023) 285 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Guidance on the Development of Public and Private Payment Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services

Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting

Part 1:
Forest Ecosystems

Part 2:
Urban Areas

Part 3:
Agricultural Land

Part 4:
Financing

Four main cases/situations:

1. Reforestation after planned tree harvesting
2. Reforestation after natural disturbances (storms, droughts, pests, fires)
3. Restoration/enrichment planting in order to diversify forest stands
4. Afforestation (conversion of agricultural, industrial or urban land into forest or wooded land)

Before Afforestation and Reforestation Part 1

Choose the correct area

avoid wetlands (e.g. peatland) and areas with high climate mitigation potential, consider landscape ecology, land owners…

Evaluate the Biodiversity and soil

identify habitat and soil type/health

Choose the right species

local adaptation, CC resilience, native, mixing of species…

Adapt nurseries

promote production of native species and local ecotypes

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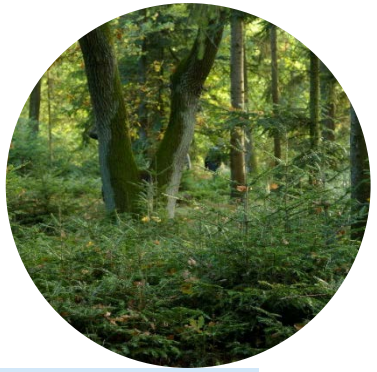
During Afforestation and Reforestation Part 1



Sustainably use and nurture soil, protect the water cycle

- High diversity of fungi is prerequisite for healthy forests
- Avoid subsoil displacement and the use of nitrogen fertilizers
- Manual planting when possible
- Avoid heavy machinery (especially in wet conditions)
- …

Protect habitats

- Maintain pioneer species in open forest and bare soil
- Keep deadwood (varying in size and stage)
- Maintain diversity of stands
- Promote existing regeneration and understory
- Avoid whole tree harvesting (Reforestation)
- …

After Afforestation and Reforestation

- **Monitoring** is essential
- Control competing vegetation mechanically
- Set measures to achieve a Biodiversity beneficial grazing pressure
- Protect existing or expected seedlings

Promoting Ecosystem Services in Urban Area

Part 2

Ecosystem services and urban agenda

Trees are key elements

Minimise disservices

Consider allergy-causing potential in relation to distribution of trees

Choose the right species to provide ecosystem services

Context specific

Involve citizens in urban areas

maintenance and monitoring

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Target different types of urban green spaces

Part 2

- Parks
- Residential and private gardens
- Informal green spaces
- Streets and squares – corridor function
- other areas – rooftops, parking lots, balconies…

Agroforestry systems and practices

Tree location	Agroforestry system	Agroforestry practice	
		Agricultural land	Forest land
Trees inside parcels	Silvopastoral agroforestry	1. Wood pasture	9. Forest grazing
	Silvoarable agroforestry	2. Tree alley cropping 3. Coppice alley cropping 4. Multi-layer tree-gardens	10. Multi-layer tree gardens
	Permanent crop agroforestry	5. Orchard intercropping 6. Orchard grazing	
	Agro-silvo-pasture	7. Alternating cropping and grazing	
Trees between parcels	Tree landscape features (addressed by CAP conditionality rules)	8. Tree landscape features: protected hedges, scattered individual trees, trees in line, small groups of trees	
Trees in settlements	Urban agroforestry	Home gardens, allotments, etc.	

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Financing guide for afforestation

3 billion additional trees by 2030 - Publications Office of the EU (europa.eu)

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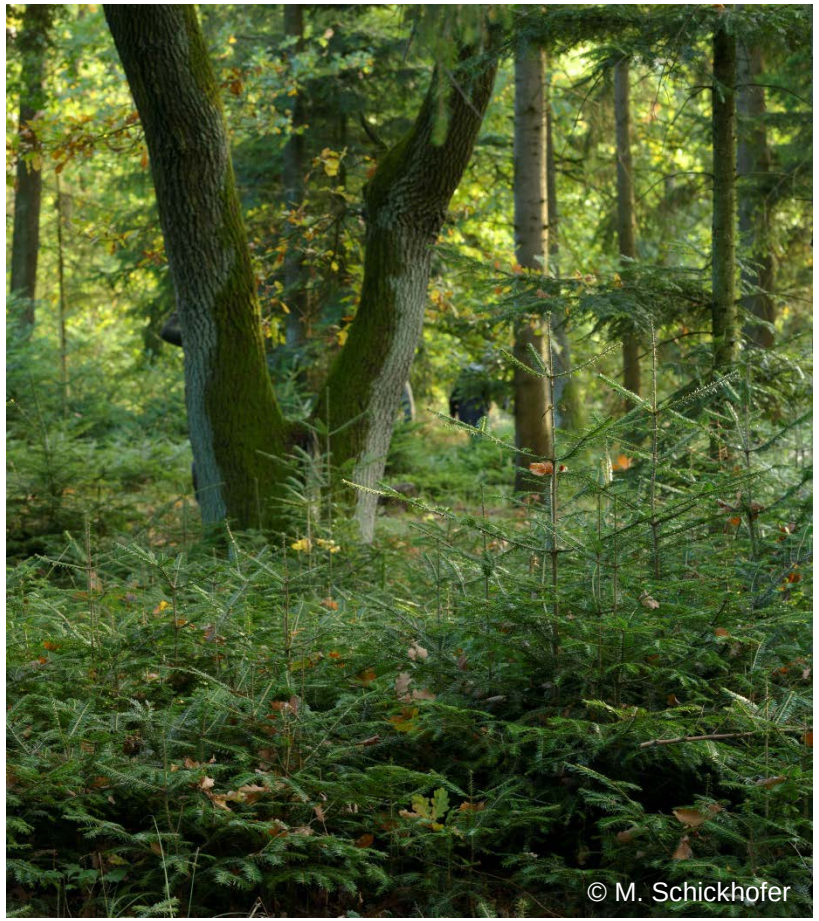
Guidelines on
Closer to Nature Forest Management



Rationale

Scope and Principles

Management Toolbox

Critical Enablers

CNF in different Regions

Good practice

General principles

- Learning from and permitting natural processes to develop
- Maintain the heterogeneity and complexity of forest structures and patterns
- Integrate forest functions at different spatial scales
- Use a variety of silvicultural systems based on natural disturbance patterns of the region
- Low-impact timber harvesting with equal attention to what is retained in the forest as to what is removed, thereby preserving habitats, forest soil and microclimate

Main objectives

Enhance structural complexity

Closer-to-nature forest management strives to create forests that are more:

- Heterogeneous and diverse in height, diameter, age and species
- Mixed with denser and sparser parts

…according to their natural mix of species and structures, forest type and phase of development

Promote natural forest dynamics

Closer-to-nature forest management relies as much as possible on natural dynamics to:

- Reduce investment costs (e.g. planting in the long-term)
- Promote structural complexity

…light interventions to orientate natural dynamics in line with objectives and the natural range and distribution of existing and potential species of the considered site

Closer to Nature Forest Management Toolbox

- Natural tree regeneration
- Respectful harvest conditions
- Minimize management interventions
- Forest Soil and Water

Optimizing Deadwood

Setting areas aside

Scale-specific approach

Managing ungulate species

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Guidelines for

Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary & Old-growth Forests

Defining
- Reliable & scientifically sound definitions
- Focus strict protection on forest type with high ecological value

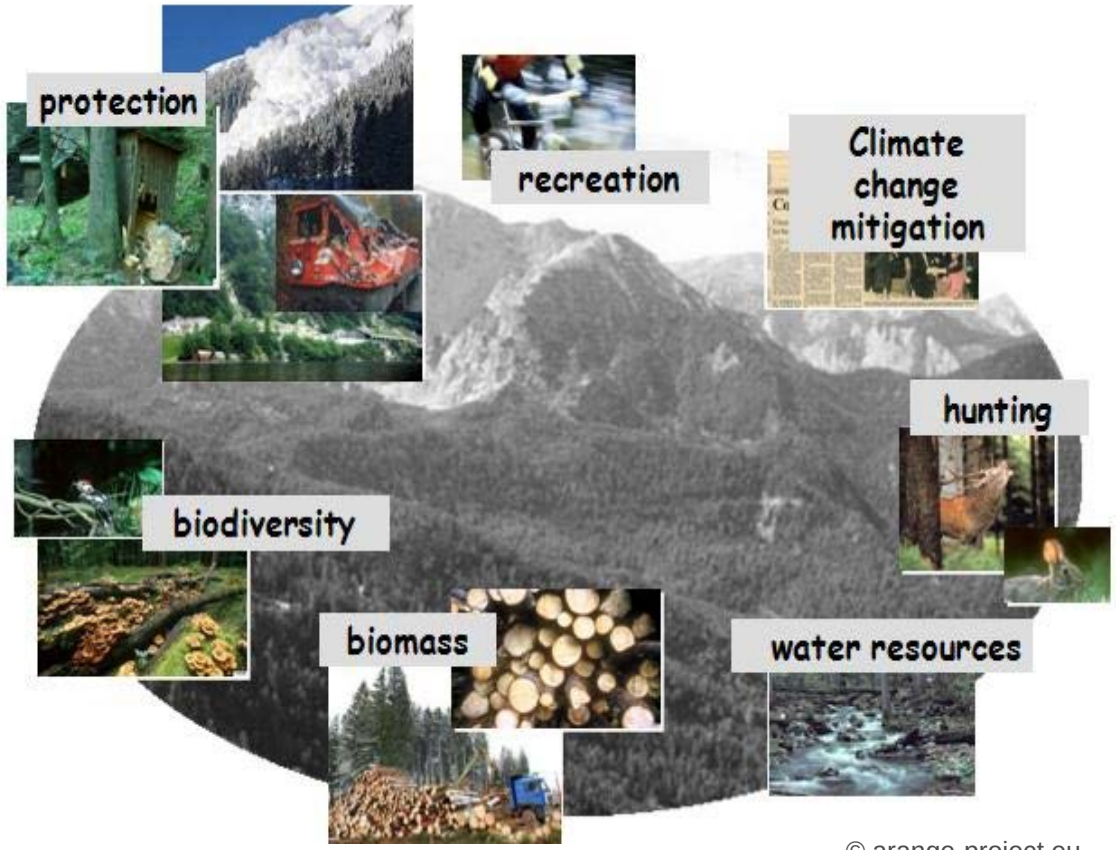
Mapping
- Based on set definitions, criteria & indicators
- Public and private forests
- Guarantee public availability and transparency

Monitoring
- Coordinate/ integrate with NFI, EUHD, FISE
- Indicators: native species, deadwood, old or large trees, stand origin, structural complexity, habitat trees and indicator species

Strict Protection
- Case-by-case assessment of permissible activities
- Management only to enhance or support natural processes
- Legal protection

Indicative timetable for implementation

Guidance on the development of Public and Private Schemes for Forest Ecosystem Services

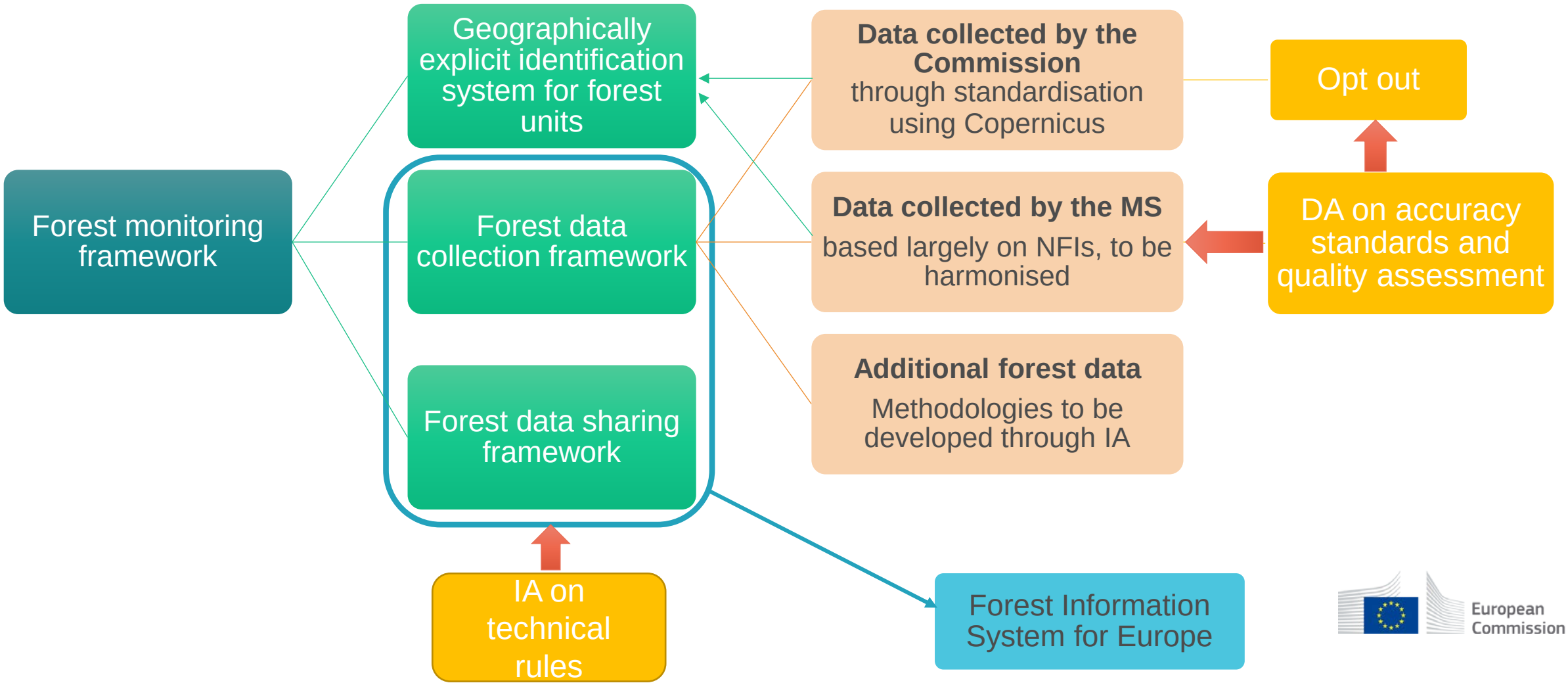


- Forest Ecosystem Services in a nutshell
- Valuation and assessment of ecosystem services
- EU Funding and Support
- Private schemes
- Development of PFES
- Good practice & Case studies


THREE
BILLION
ADDITIONAL
TREES
BY 2030
WE GROW
TOGETHER
#3BillionTrees

Monitoring framework set-up

(Articles 3-8)



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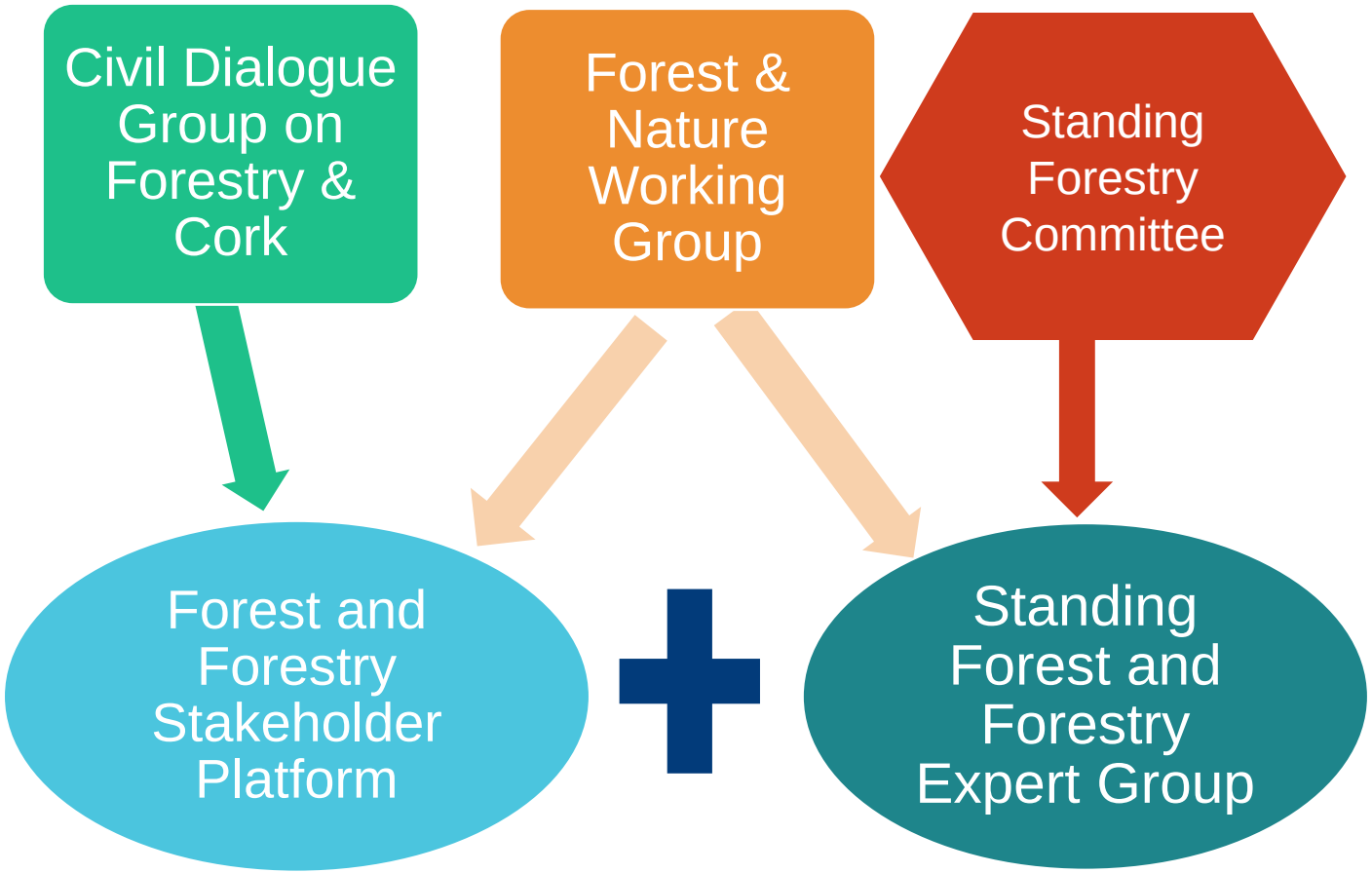
New EU forest governance system



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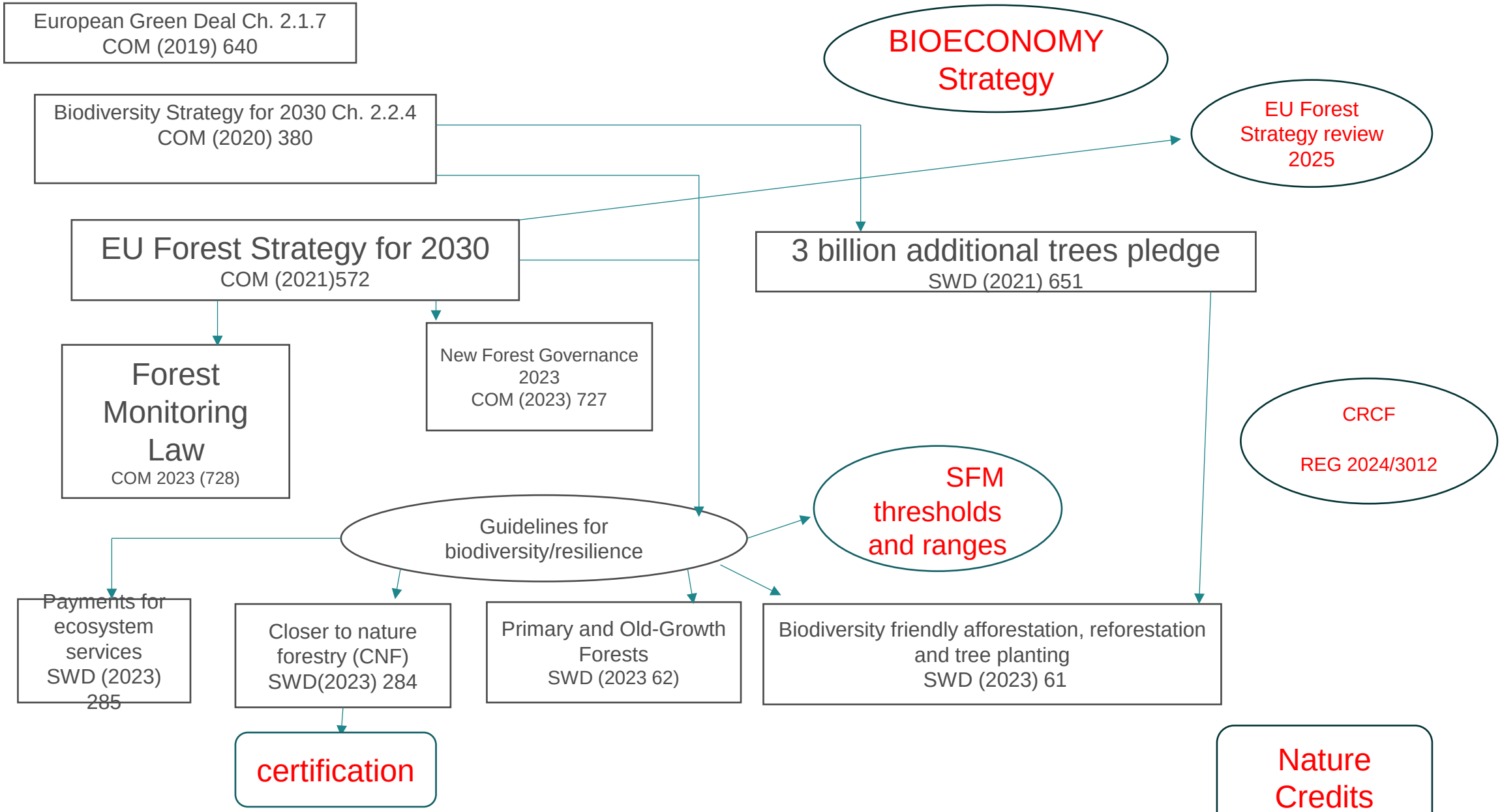
European Green Deal Ch. 2.1.7
COM (2019) 640
BIOECONOMY Strategy
Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Ch. 2.2.4
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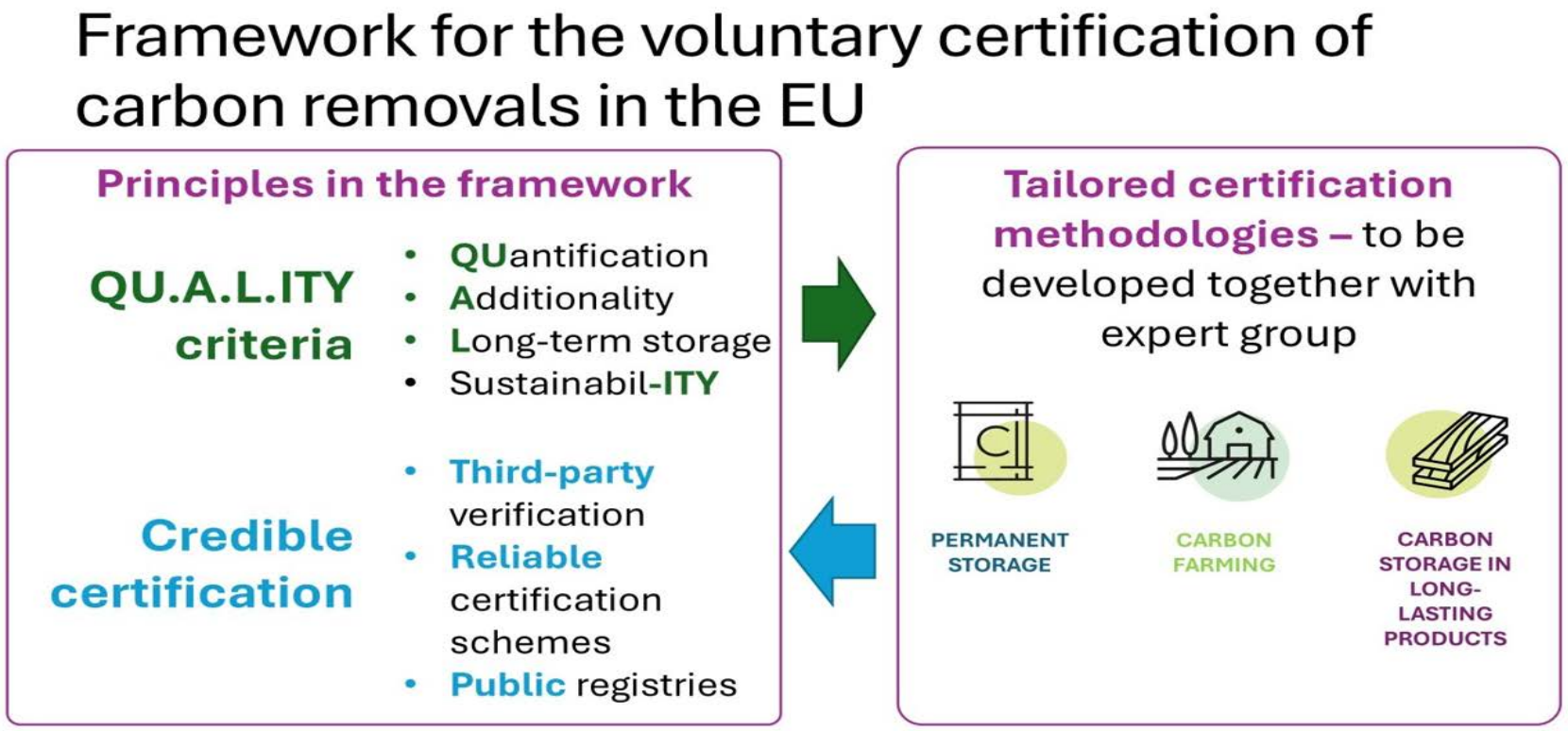
EU Forest Strategy review 2025
EU Forest Strategy for 2030
COM (2021)572
3 billion additional trees pledge
SWD (2021) 651
Forest Monitoring Law
COM 2023 (728)
New Forest Governance 2023
COM (2023) 727
CRCF
REG 2024/3012
SFM thresholds and ranges
Guidelines for biodiversity/resilience
Payments for ecosystem services
SWD (2023) 285
Closer to nature forestry (CNF)
SWD(2023) 284
Primary and Old-Growth Forests
SWD (2023 62)
Biodiversity friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting
SWD (2023) 61
certification
Nature Credits

CRCF Reg 2024/3012



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Timeline

2024	Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 establishing a Union certification framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products adopted and entered into force	
2025	Proposal of first delegated acts on certification methodologies	Permanent removals Carbon farming Carbon storage in long-lasting buildings
	Proposal of implementing act on verification and registries	
2026	Start of certification	EC recognition of certification schemes
		First issuance of certified units
2028	Start of EU registry	

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Thank you for your attention!

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