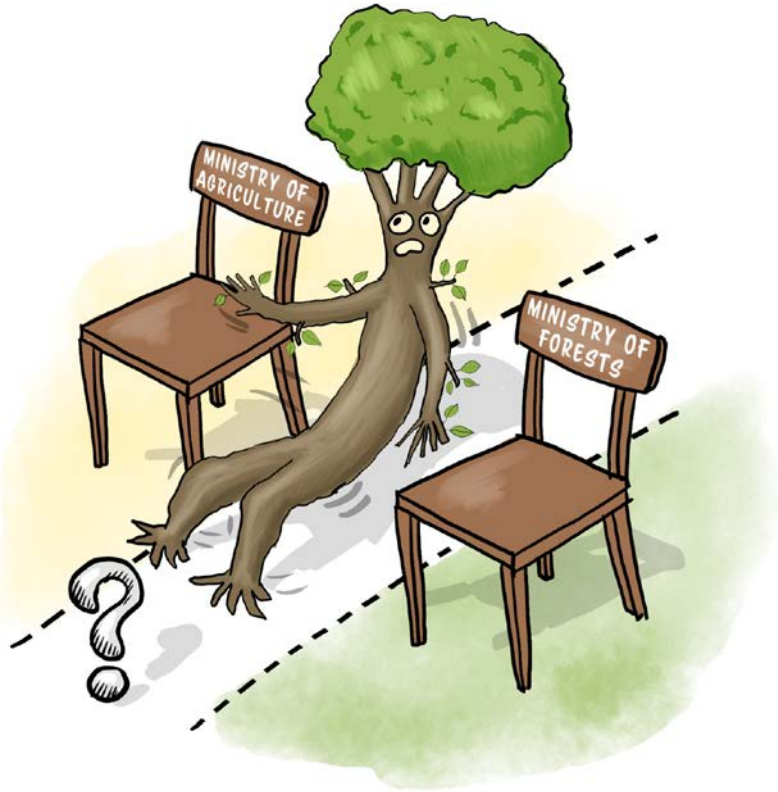
From No Man's Forests to Silvopastoral Systems

Why, No man's forests?

- Located on former agricultural land (e.g., grassland)
- The forestry and agriculture sectors are governed by two separate ministries
- From the agriculture perspective, these forests are considered a failure of agriculture.
- Not officially recognized by the Ministry of Forests
- Lack of cadaster, clear ownership and clear institutional responsibility



Consequences

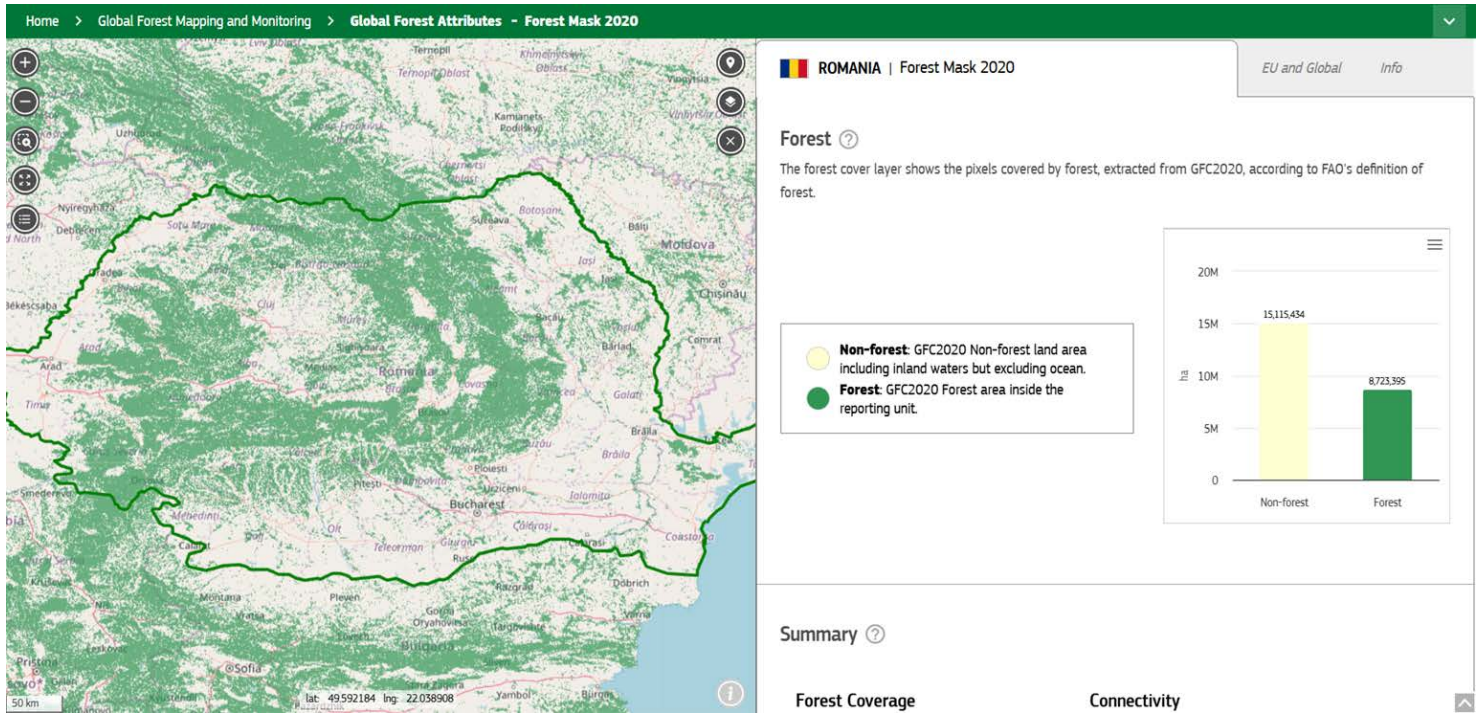
- There are no management norms for these forests.
- Their deforestation is allowed and even encouraged
- Payments are still made for “grassland maintenance“(in reality it is just deforestation)

Current situation

- Wooded pastures, where the stands may be old and may be habitats of community interest;
- Riparian forests, located along watercourses, often included in buffer strips;
- Complexes of rarefied and subalpine scrub, formed by the abandonment of high-altitude pastures;
- Forests in ecological transition, naturally regenerated as a result of the lack of agricultural activities.

6,616 mil. ha – acc. INS1; National Forest Found
7,037 mil. ha- acc. National Forest Inventory2;
8,723 mil. ha – acc. EU Forest Observatory3.

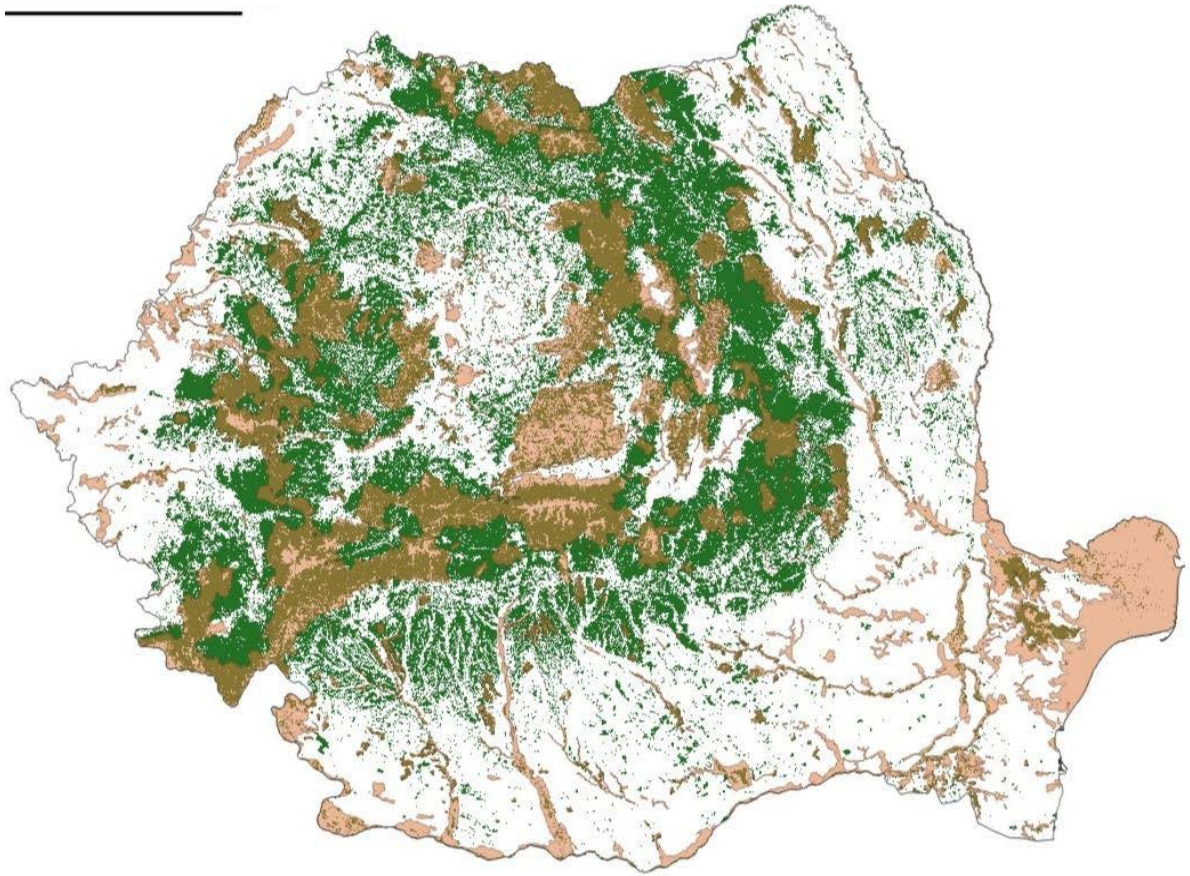
469 K ha și 2,107 mil



Current situation

National Forest Found

No man`s forests



Protected arias

Legislative context

Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation

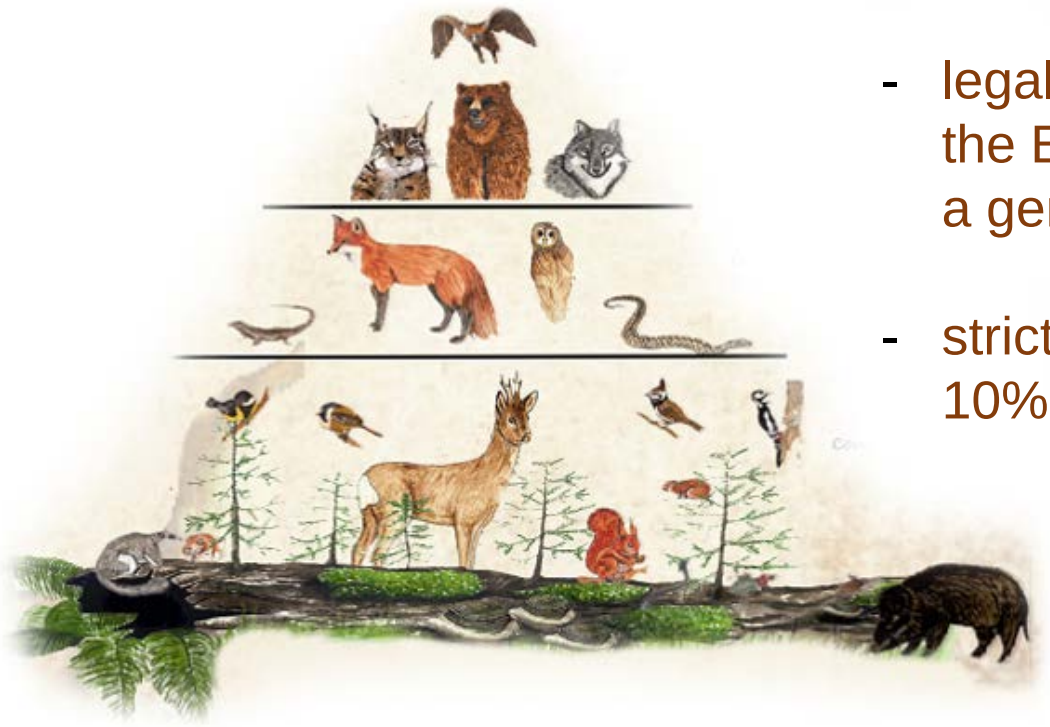
It establishes mandatory requirements for the placing on the Union market and the export from the Union of relevant products that contain or have been made using cattle.

Relevant commodities and relevant products shall not be placed or made available on the market or exported, unless all the following conditions are fulfilled:

(a) they are deforestation-free;
(b) they have been produced in accordance with the relevant legislation of the country of production; and
(c) they are covered by a due diligence statement.

Legislative context

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030



It provides, among other things, that Member States are obliged to:

- legally protect at least 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's maritime area and integrate ecological corridors into a genuine trans-European nature network;

- strictly protect one third of the areas mentioned above, namely 10% of the EU's land area and 10% of the EU's maritime area;

Legislative context

REGULATION (EU) 2024/1991 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869

Member States must record an increasing trend at national level for at least six of the following seven indicators for forest ecosystems)

(a) standing deadwood;
(b) lying deadwood;
(c) share of forests with uneven-aged structure;
(d) forest connectivity;
(e) stock of organic carbon;
(f) share of forests dominated by native tree species;
(g) tree species diversity.

Silvo-pastoral (agroforestry) mosaic landscapes Habitat mix of grasslands, scrublands, forests

https://wwf.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Propunere-Peisaje-Mozaicate.pdf

- ✓ **Habitats and species** of community interest/**priority**
- ✓ Extended transition zone/ecotone that harbors **high specific biodiversity**
- ✓ **High adaptability**, with high evolutionary capacity
- ✓ Natural landscapes with **high favorability** for mammals or birds
- ✓ Maintain/improve **ecological connectivity** of isolated forest bodies
- ✓ Ensure ecological connectivity at regional level
- ✓ **Biodiversity pacemakers** for neighboring areas
- ✓ Essential for preserving the **cultural identity** of local communities

Silvo-pastoral (agroforestry) mosaic

10 % strict protected arias

No deforestation and forest degradation

(a) standing deadwood;
(b) lying deadwood;
(c) share of forests with uneven-aged structure;
(d) forest connectivity;
(e) stock of organic carbon;
(f) share of forests dominated by native tree species;
(g) tree species diversity.

Increasing economic parameters for pastoralist:

- Mitigation of drought impacts (via shading, snow-water retention, forest evapotranspiration);
- Keep the shade for the animals

Maintain the traditional practice

Improvement practices

Aquatic ecosystems represented by watercourses and adjacent wetlands, together with associated protective buffer zones (riparian forests)

https://wwf.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Propunere-Ecosisteme-Acvatice.pdf

- ✓ **Minor riverbeds of watercourses + adjacent wetlands + protection buffer zones**
- ✓ **Habitats of community interest/priority* (91E0*, etc.)**
- ✓ **Protected species, not only aquatic, but also terrestrial - dependent on these refuge areas;**
- ✓ **Ensures ecological connectivity (longitudinal of watercourses, network of protected areas)**
- ✓ **Ensures the protection and functionality of aquatic habitats of watercourses**
- ✓ **Reduction of flood risk**
- ✓ **Biological purification and retention of pollutants affecting water quality**

Aquatic ecosystems represented by watercourses and adjacent wetlands, together with associated protective buffer zones (riparian forests)

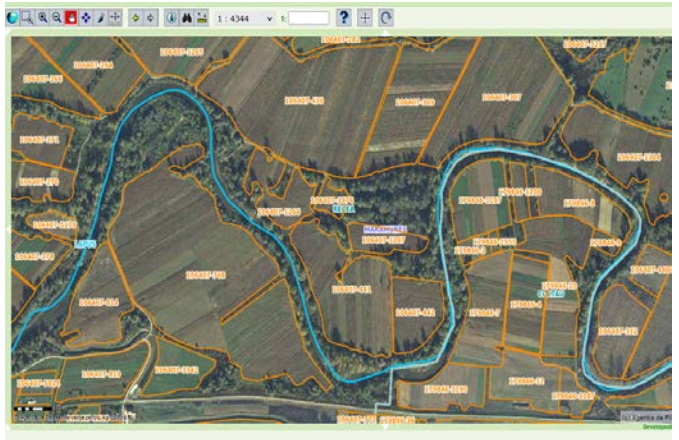
https://wwf.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Propunere-Ecosisteme-Acvatice.pdf

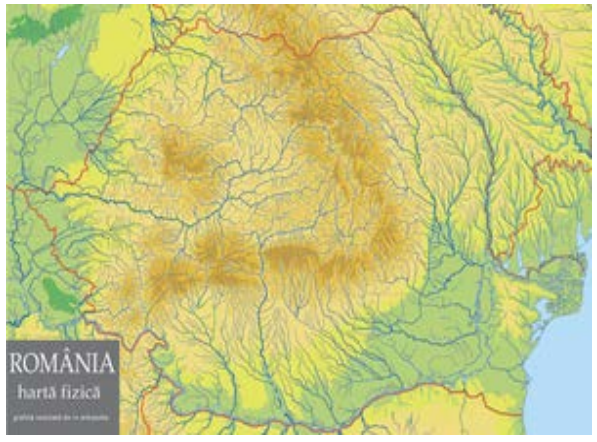
Water Law 107/1996 (Annex 2)Spatial criteria for buffer zones for the protection of minor riverbeds; regulates the regime of trees and shrubs on land located in major riverbeds; 78,905 km of watercourses, 295.6 thousand ha of land area with water.

Nitrates Directive (GD 964/2000 - Order 333/2021)Spatial criteria for establishing buffer zones for protection against nitrate pollution

Water Cadastre (PNRR Investment)Methodology for delimiting minor riverbeds of watercourses (Order 2115/2021)

PNS- PAC GAEC 8Aims for a minimum percentage (4-7%) of the agricultural area to be dedicated to non-productive areas or elements - better coherence and integration of conservation efforts





Complexes of rarefied and subalpine scrub

- ✓ **Habitats and species** of community interest/**priority**
- ✓ **high specific biodiversity**
- ✓ Maintain/improve **ecological connectivity** of isolated forest bodies
- ✓ Ensure ecological connectivity at regional level
- ✓ **Biodiversity pacemakers** for neighboring areas

Mosaic landscape

together possible™