



European Forest Strategy for 2030: *Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management*

03/04/2024

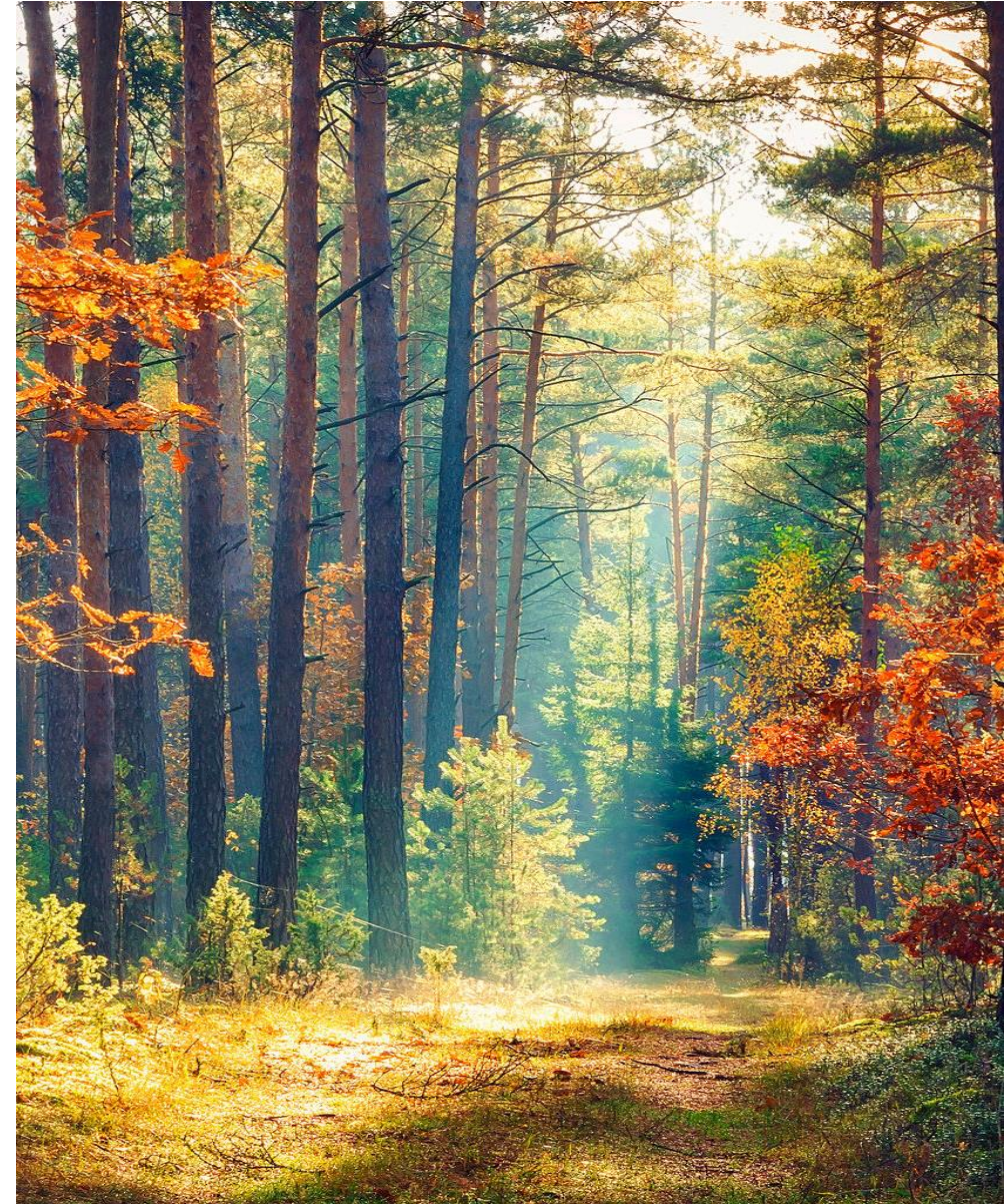
Stefanie Schmidt

European Commission
ENV D.1 Land Use & Management

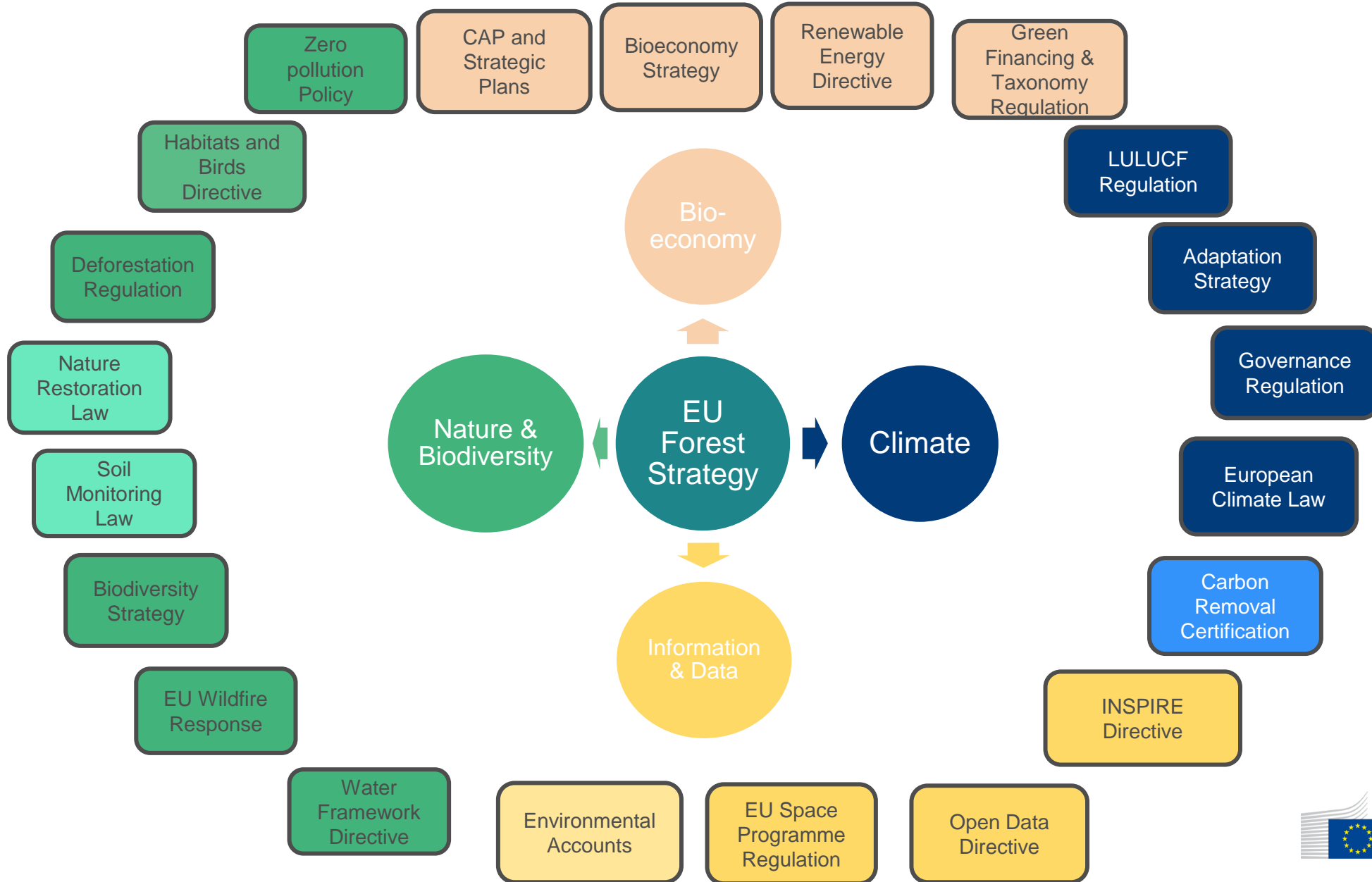
Rationale for the EU Forest Strategy for 2030

- Forest and other wooded land cover approximately 43,5% of the EU land space
- On average, 60% private - 40% public
- > 85% of EU forests available for wood supply
- Primary and old-growth forest ~3%
- Key functions (biodiversity/carbon sink declining)
- Increase of natural disturbances
- Increase and diversifying demand for forest ecosystems services

=> Resilience is a must !



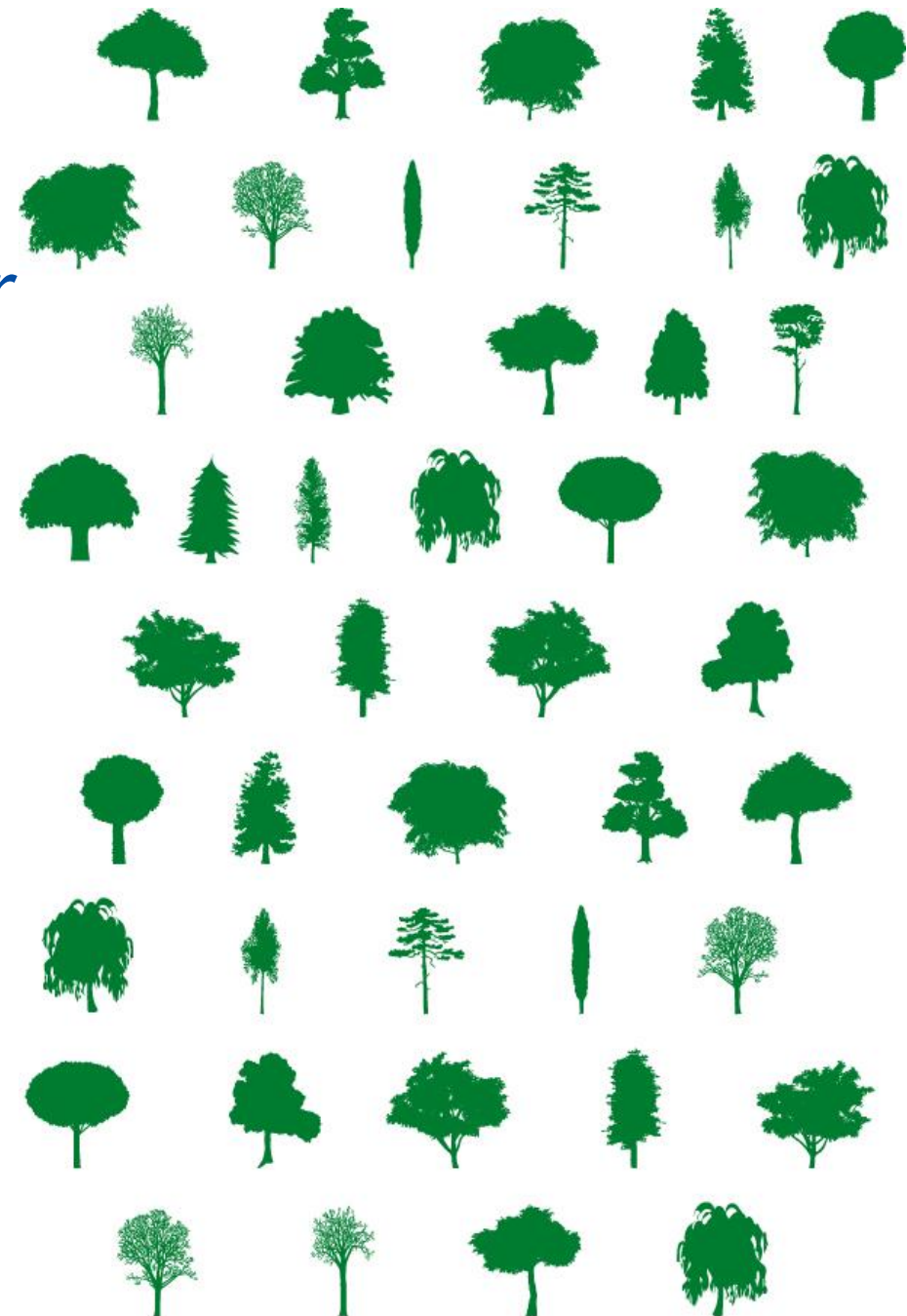
Forests in the EU: the policy context



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



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

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

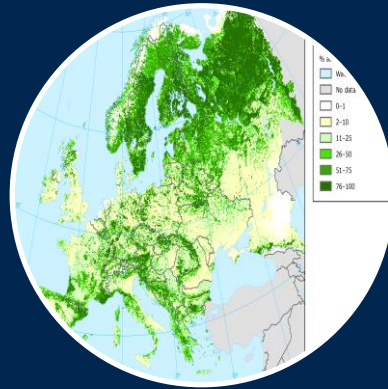


Financial incentives for forest owners and managers for improving the quality and quantity of EU forests

Strategic forest monitoring, reporting and data collection



Use of remote-sensing data and ground-based monitoring



Strengthening The Forest Information System for Europe (FISE)



Legislative proposal on Forest Monitoring

Enabling elements



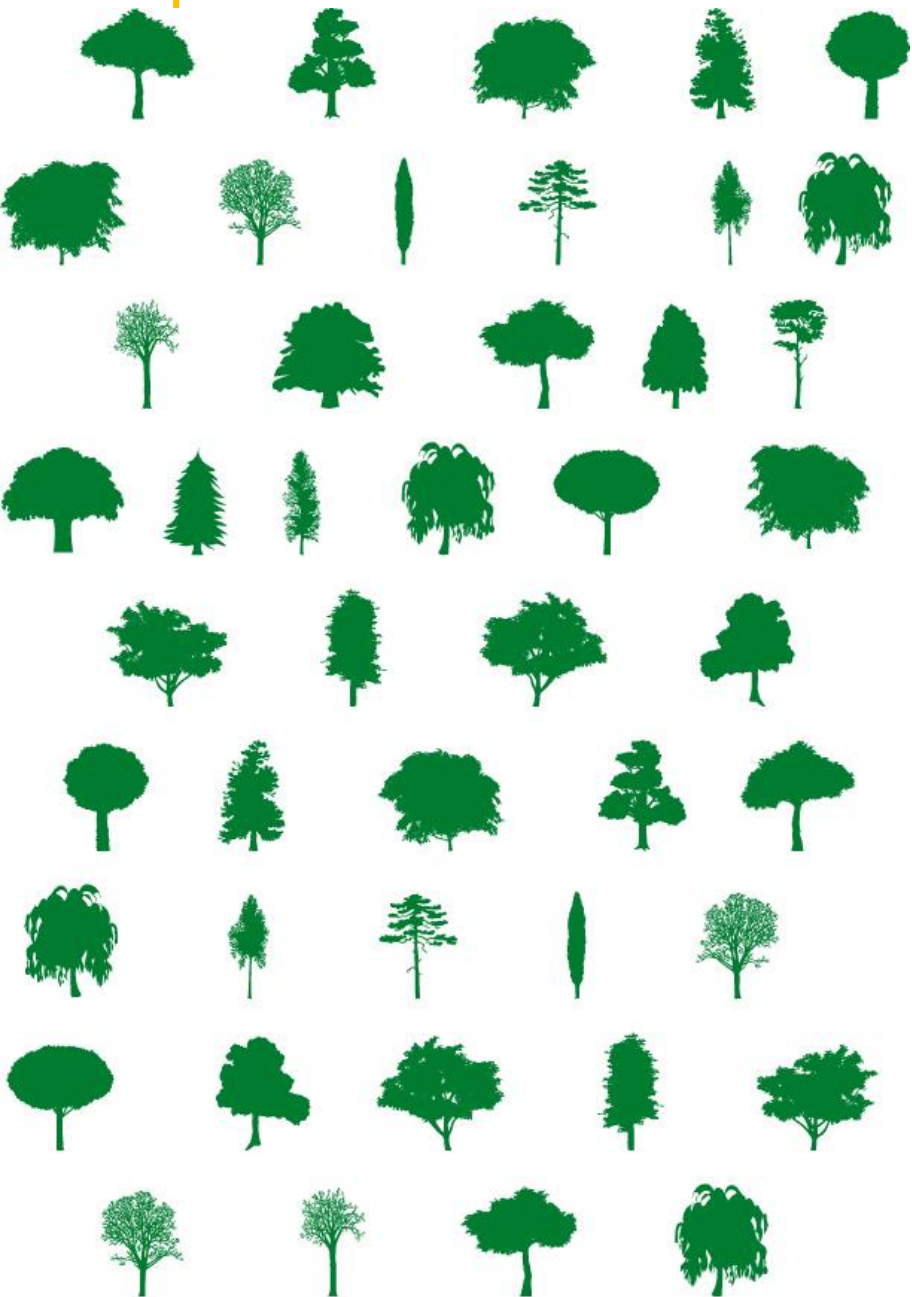
A strong
research and
innovation
agenda



Inclusive and
coherent EU
forest
governance



Stepping up
implementation
and enforcement

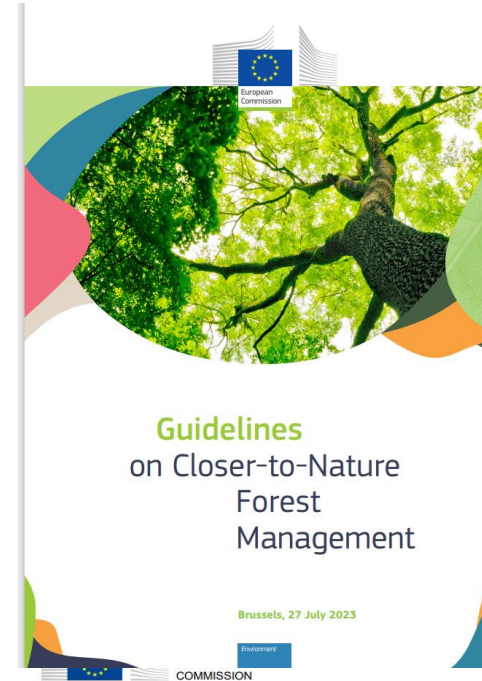


**3000
million
TREES**



Healthy and resilient forest ecosystems: *recent and upcoming deliverables*

1. **Set of guidelines to enhance sustainable forest management**
2. **Guidance on Payment for Ecosystem Schemes**
3. **Proposal for EU framework for carbon removal certification**
4. **Proposal for monitoring framework for resilient European forests**
5. ***Voluntary certification for Closer to Nature forest management***
6. ***Voluntary additional SFM indicators, thresholds or ranges***



Guidelines on Closer-to-Nature Forest Management

Brussels, 27 July 2023

Environment

COMMISSION

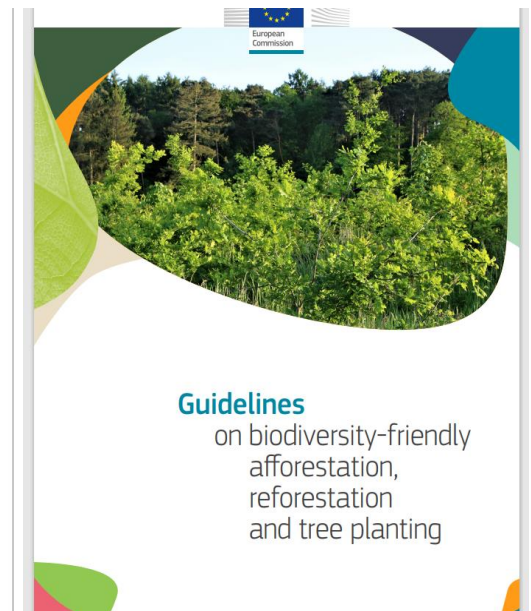
Brussels, 27.7.2023
SWD(2023) 285 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

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



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



Guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting

Guidelines on Closer to Nature Forest Management

- **promote biodiversity-friendly and adaptive forest management** for forest multifunctionality and climate change resilience without neglecting socio-economic benefits.
- **assist competent authorities and key stakeholders** across different scales, discussing challenges and opportunities in practice.
- developed for forests that have a **commercial use for timber and non-timber forest products** not explicitly designated as protected areas



Framing CNF: 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

**Building on: Larsen, J.B.et al. 2022. Closer-to Nature Forest Management. From Science to Policy 12. EFI*

CNF: 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 with:

...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

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

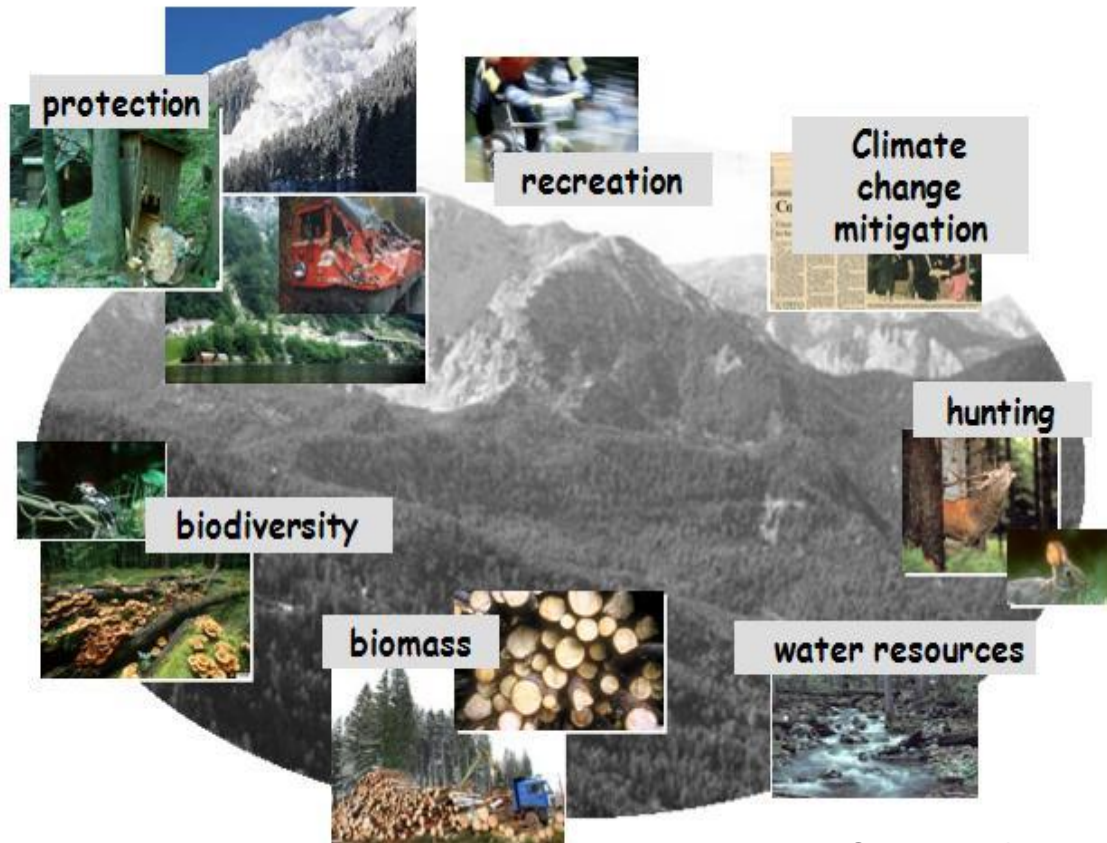
Closer to Nature Forest Management Toolbox

- Natural tree regeneration
- Respectful harvest conditions
- Minimize management interventions
- Forest soil and water
- Optimizing deadwood
- Setting areas aside
- Scale-specific approach
- Managing ungulate species

Enabling the Transition

- **Training and Skills** Planning the Transition
- **Economic Viability** Adaptive Management and Resilience
- **Mapping and Monitoring** Taking account of Forest Fires

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

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

Guidelines for Biodiversity friendly afforestation and reforestation



PART 1 – Forest ecosystems

Recommended actions **BEFORE-DURING-AFTER** afforestation and reforestation

Beyond Planting: Natural Regeneration



PART 3 – Tree planting in agricultural land

Benefits and Examples of Agroforestry

Key elements of Agroforestry



PART 2 – Tree planting in urban ecosystems

Tree planting in urban ecology

Promoting Ecosystem services

Target different types of green spaces

Monitoring and adaptive management

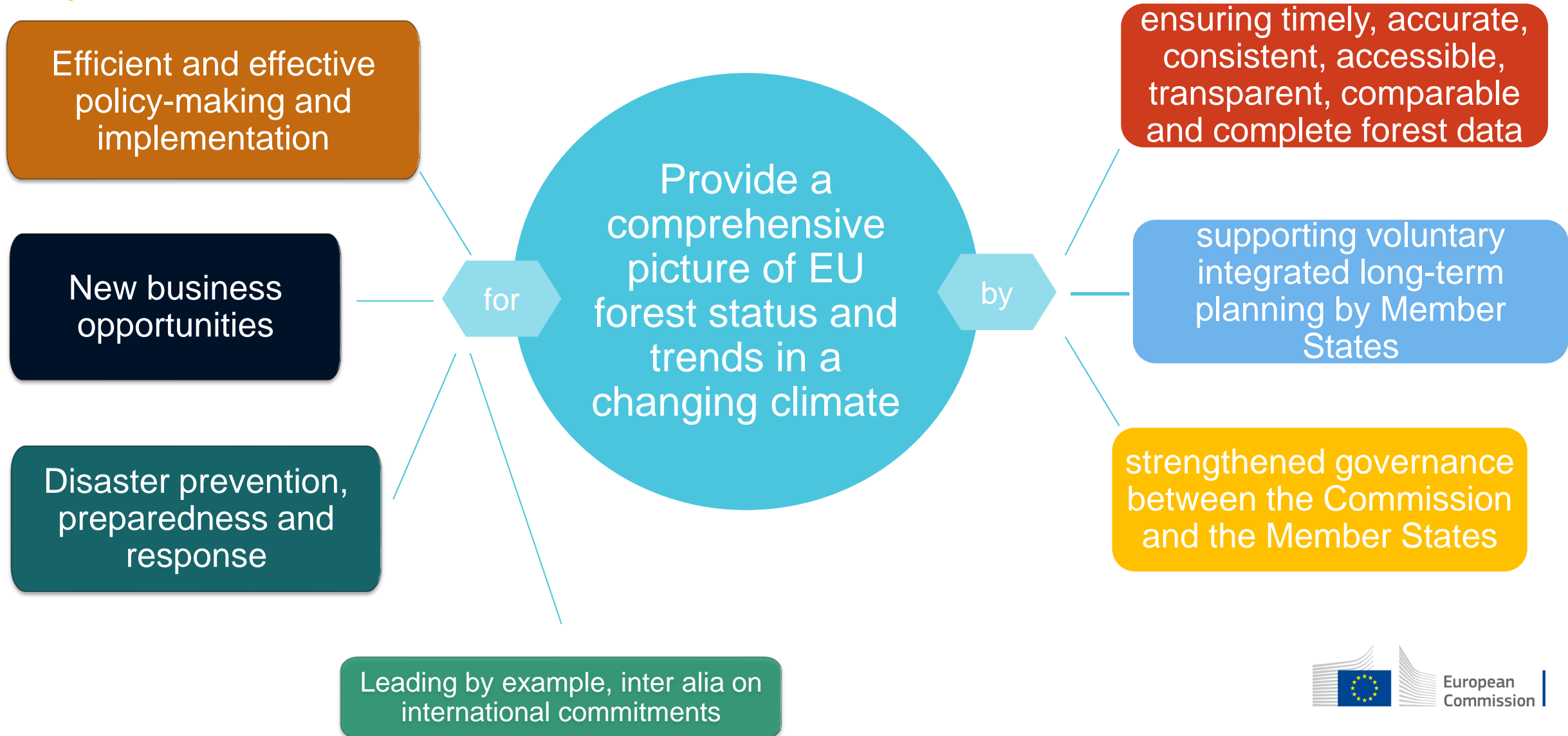


PART 4 – Financing Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting

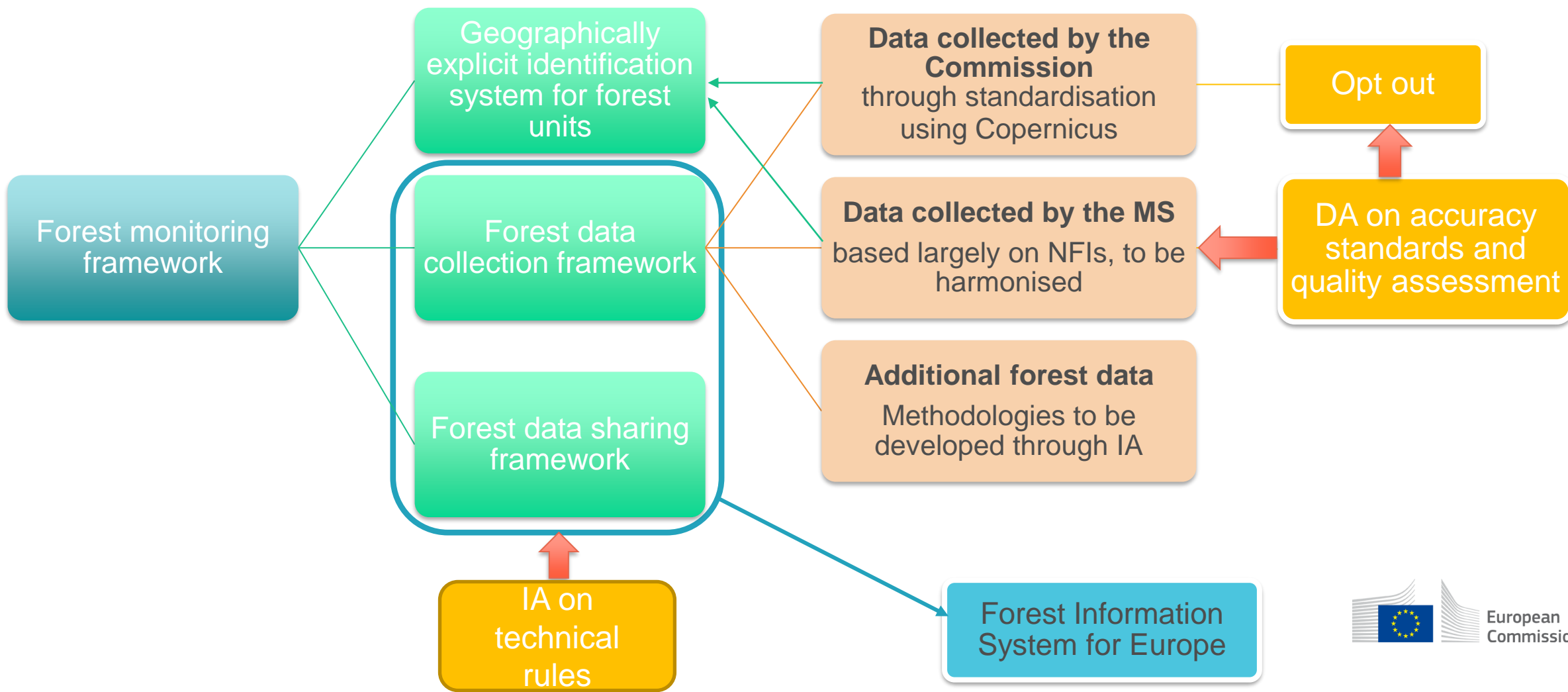
CAP, Cohesion policy, LIFE, Horizon Europe

Technical support instruments

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
- Defoliation
- Forest fires
- Wildfire risk assessment
- Tree cover disturbances

Forest data subject to harmonisation

- Forest available and 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

Voluntary Certification for Closer to Nature Forest Management

- Based on CNF guidelines
- Facilitate most biodiversity friendly management practices benefit from EU quality label
- Link existing and emerging certification schemes (labels, credit schemes, bonds,.....)

Voluntary additional SFM indicators, thresholds or ranges

- Built on Forest Europe SFM criteria
- Focus on forest ecosystem conditions (health, biodiversity and climate)
- Facilitate comparability across EU Member States
- Demonstrate how SFM contributes to EU objectives (climate, biodiversity, circular economy)





Thank you for your attention