

Public consultation on a new EU forest strategy

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The Commission's December 2019 [Communication on the European Green Deal](#) set out an ambitious vision of the EU becoming a sustainable, climate-neutral economy by 2050. It also announced that, building on the EU's 2030 biodiversity strategy, the Commission would prepare a new EU forest strategy covering the whole forest cycle and promoting the many services that forests provide. The key objectives of the strategy would be effective afforestation and forest preservation and restoration in the EU, to help increase the absorption of CO₂, reduce the incidence and extent of forest fires and other risks, and promote the bioeconomy in ways that fully uphold ecological principles and are conducive to biodiversity.

The EU forest strategy will enable the forest sector to contribute to the new Commission priority of building a new growth model through the European Green Deal, including support for rural areas. Many EU policies are relevant to forests, so there is a need for a comprehensive strategy to ensure a consistent approach.

The strategy will also help the EU to meet its international commitments and will form the basis of a clearly established, consistent and holistic approach on forests, allowing stronger EU leadership internationally (in the context of the UN 2030 sustainability agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification). The 2019 [Communication on Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests](#) established a framework for the EU's global action; this must be properly and consistently reflected in the formulation of domestic policies.

Through this public consultation, we invite citizens and organisations to contribute to the preparation of the new EU forest strategy and share their views on potential objectives and actions.

The consultation seeks stakeholders' input on challenges and opportunities as regards our forests, in particular in relation to the climate, biodiversity, rural areas and socio-economic welfare, disaster risk management, EU support instruments, forest-based industry, the EU's global leadership and its target of planting 3 billion trees by 2030.

The consultation will focus on EU territory, thereby complementing [the results of the Eurobarometer survey](#) on the current role and benefits of the EU's forests and the activities set out in the Communication on Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests.

Other public consultations are taking place in parallel on 'land use, land-use change and forestry — review of EU rules' and the new EU soil strategy.

Guidance on the questionnaire

This consultation consists of some introductory questions as regards your profile, followed by a questionnaire in two parts. **Please note that you can choose to fill in only the first part and are not obliged to respond to all questions in the questionnaire.**

The first part of the questionnaire is aimed at gathering views and information from all citizens and organisations interested in the new forest strategy and European forests.

The second part also targets all citizens and organisations, but contains more detailed questions by area. This part is completely optional and you may choose not to answer it at all or only selected sections.

At the end of the questionnaire, you are invited to provide any additional comments, documents and position papers, expand on relevant issues not covered by the questions and give any general feedback you may have on the survey itself.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Irish
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian

- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
- Company/business organisation
- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

* First name

* Surname

* Email (this won't be published)

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

* Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)

- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

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*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan | <input type="radio"/> Djibouti | <input type="radio"/> Libya | <input type="radio"/> Saint Martin |
| <input type="radio"/> Åland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Dominica | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein | <input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon |
| <input type="radio"/> Albania | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| <input type="radio"/> Algeria | <input type="radio"/> Ecuador | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Samoa |
| <input type="radio"/> American Samoa | <input type="radio"/> Egypt | <input type="radio"/> Macau | <input type="radio"/> San Marino |
| <input type="radio"/> Andorra | <input type="radio"/> El Salvador | <input type="radio"/> Madagascar | <input type="radio"/> São Tomé and Príncipe |
| <input type="radio"/> Angola | <input type="radio"/> Equatorial Guinea | <input type="radio"/> Malawi | <input type="radio"/> Saudi Arabia |
| <input type="radio"/> Anguilla | <input type="radio"/> Eritrea | <input type="radio"/> Malaysia | <input type="radio"/> Senegal |
| <input type="radio"/> Antarctica | <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Maldives | <input type="radio"/> Serbia |
| <input type="radio"/> Antigua and Barbuda | <input type="radio"/> Eswatini | <input type="radio"/> Mali | <input type="radio"/> Seychelles |
| <input type="radio"/> Argentina | <input type="radio"/> Ethiopia | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Sierra Leone |
| <input type="radio"/> Armenia | <input type="radio"/> Falkland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="radio"/> Singapore |
| <input type="radio"/> Aruba | <input type="radio"/> Faroe Islands | <input type="radio"/> Martinique | <input type="radio"/> Sint Maarten |
| <input type="radio"/> Australia | <input type="radio"/> Fiji | <input type="radio"/> Mauritania | <input type="radio"/> Slovakia |
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Mauritius | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Azerbaijan | <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Mayotte | <input type="radio"/> Solomon Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Bahamas | <input type="radio"/> French Guiana | <input type="radio"/> Mexico | <input type="radio"/> Somalia |

- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bermuda
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bonaire Saint Eustatius and Saba
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Bouvet Island
- Brazil
- British Indian Ocean Territory
- British Virgin Islands
- Brunei
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- French Polynesia
- French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Greenland
- Grenada
- Guadeloupe
- Guam
- Guatemala
- Guernsey
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Heard Island and McDonald Islands
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar /Burma
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Caledonia
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Norfolk Island
- Northern Mariana Islands
- South Africa
- South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Svalbard and Jan Mayen
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syria
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- The Gambia
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau
- Tonga

- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Cape Verde
- Cayman Islands
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Christmas Island
- Clipperton
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Cook Islands
- Costa Rica
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Curaçao
- Cyprus
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Ireland
- Isle of Man
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jersey
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kosovo
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- North Korea
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Palestine
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Pitcairn Islands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Puerto Rico
- Qatar
- Réunion
- Romania
- Russia
- Rwanda
- Saint Barthélemy
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Turks and Caicos Islands
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States
- United States Minor Outlying Islands
- Uruguay
- US Virgin Islands
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Vatican City
- Venezuela
- Vietnam
- Wallis and Futuna
- Western Sahara
- Yemen

- Czechia
- Lebanon
- Saint Helena
Ascension and
Tristan da
Cunha
- Zambia
- Democratic
Republic of the
Congo
- Lesotho
- Saint Kitts and
Nevis
- Zimbabwe
- Denmark
- Liberia
- Saint Lucia

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* Please indicate the sector(s) in which you are active as an individual or an organisation:

between 1 and 3 choices

- agriculture and/or agricultural commodities
- biodiversity and/or environment
- climate change
- disaster risk management
- energy
- tree nursery
- forestry
- hunting
- forest-based industry
- other industry (e.g. construction)
- forest certification
- health
- tourism
- IT and digitalisation
- human and/or labour rights
- investment and finance
- media and communication
- urban/or other land planning and development

- other (please specify in the comments box below)

comments

* **Contribution publication privacy settings**

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

- I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

PART 1

Your views on potential objectives and actions of the new EU forest strategy

In its roadmap on the new EU forest strategy, the Commission set out a number of specific potential objectives and actions which the strategy could address. This section aims to obtain quantitative feedback on these objectives and actions, in order to determine public preferences and additional suggestions.

Please rate the relative importance of the following objectives and actions for the new EU forest strategy:

To nurture the forests that we have the new EU forest strategy should ...

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
* ...enhance forest protection and restoration to meet the EU biodiversity and climate objectives, and reduce the loss of forest coverage, while strictly protecting all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...preserve stocks and increase the EU carbon sinks in forests, their soils and harvested wood products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* ...enhance prevention of disaster risk events and of damages, and secure forest resilience to incidence and extent of fires and other natural hazards, and secure forest health with a view to changing climatic conditions and environmental degradation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...support restoration of damaged areas and degraded ecosystems, taking into account projected climate conditions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...ensure the sustainable management of all EU forests, maximising the provision of their multiple functions while enhancing their productive capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

To plan for the forests of the future, the new EU forest strategy should foster...

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
* ...afforestation and tree planting by setting out a roadmap for planting at least three billion additional trees in the EU by 2030, as announced in the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, in full respect of ecological principles, contributing to climate neutrality, the circular economy and biodiversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* ...adaptation of forests to climate change and strengthening their resilience to face future challenges, including through enhanced conservation and use of the genetic diversity of trees	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...new training, skills and jobs that reflects the multiple functions of forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...rural development, including local enterprises and value chains, tapping on forests' multiple functions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...innovative forest-based services and products with low environmental impact, replacing carbon-intensive counterparts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...a strong research and innovation agenda to improve our knowledge of forests and to optimise their composition, structure, management and use, including for the bioeconomy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

comments

In the case of construction products, it is essential that policies are based on material neutrality, fair competition and total CO2 emission reductions at building level. There is indeed a broad consensus among construction experts that the most efficient way to reduce CO2 emissions from the built environment is to focus on emissions at the level of a building. In this respect, the European Commission's Level(s) approach, which promotes lifecycle thinking for buildings from design to end-of-life, based on fair comparisons between assessments of material's performance, should be supported. Simply encouraging material substitution with wood, without any strong scientific proof, means further increasing the pressure on both biodiversity and carbon stocks and would do little for climate protection.

To manage existing and new forests, it will be important for the new EU forest strategy to...

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
* ...have a strong and inclusive governance framework engaging all relevant parties	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...foster a stronger coordination between national forest policies and the European Green Deal's objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* ...improve and harmonise the monitoring of forests to demonstrate the effective contribution of sustainably managed forests to the EU objectives, and of the supply and demand of forest services	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...secure financing, including for research, enhancing the use of EU and national budget, as well as private funds, ensuring a consistent approach among different funding instruments (Common Agricultural Policy, Horizon Europe, Cohesion Policy Funds, LIFE, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...foster innovative financial incentives, including payments for ecosystem services and result-based schemes ('carbon farming') for forest managers that provide public goods such as carbon sequestration or biodiversity benefits, including through protecting and restoring forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...improve communication and dialogues on forests and their roles, considering the rural/urban interface	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* ...ensure consistency with international commitments, reinforcing EU's international leadership (2030 sustainability agenda, Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, and Convention to Combat Desertification, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction 2015-2030)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

PART 2

Optional questions on various forest aspects (you may choose not to answer all of them)

THREATS AND CHALLENGES FOR EU FORESTS

Q1 Please rate the following threats and challenges for forests in Europe

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
current levels of natural disasters and extreme events (e.g. forest fires, droughts, storms)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
projected risks for forests due to climate change (e.g. natural disasters and extreme events, and slow onset effects such as shifts in bioclimatic zones, precipitation, soil erosion)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
pests and diseases affecting trees	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
vulnerability of monospecific plantations and stands	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
loss of biodiversity and of high conservation value forests, and ecosystem degradation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
invasive alien species (invasive alien species' means a species introduced outside its natural range that might survive and subsequently reproduce, whose introduction or spread has been found to threaten or adversely impact biodiversity and related ecosystem services)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
forest loss (i.e. deforestation) and forest fragmentation due to infrastructure development, urbanisation, etc.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
lack of, or poor, management planning failing to take account of all services that forests provide	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unsustainable forest management practices (e.g. large-scale clear cuts, harvesting damage, soil compaction, excessive use of pesticides/herbicides)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
illegal logging	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unbalanced local game populations, causing damage to forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

depopulation of rural areas and forest /land abandonment, leading to a lack of, or poor, forest management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
lack of skilled workforce and relative unattractiveness of working in the forest (e.g. hard work, low income/revenues, limited investments opportunities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
competing demands on forest resources and ecosystem services (e.g. increasing demands for wood and wood-based products, biodiversity protection, recreation, carbon sequestration, disaster risk reduction)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

FORESTS FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE IN RURAL AREAS

Many people depend on forests for their livelihoods, and many forest owners/managers, rural communities and farmers get part of their income from forests.

Q2 What should be done, in your opinion, to ensure that forests continue to provide rural communities with livelihoods and income?

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
expand the economic and social opportunities that forests offer to rural communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
provide financial incentives for forest adaptation to climate change, and for strengthening forest resilience and carbon sequestration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

provide financial incentives for forest biodiversity protection and forest restoration, e.g. payments for ecosystem services [e.g. water cleaning, floods and landslide protection, soil erosion control, cooling of cities]	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
support for post-disaster forest recovery	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote skilled jobs and better training for local populations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
enhance advisory services and support for exchanges of good practice /knowledge and for lifelong learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
reward the communities that implement sustainable forest management and publicise successful stories (e.g. through logos, prizes...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
support the local and sustainable sourcing of forest wood and non-wood raw materials (e.g. cork)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
expand opportunities for income creation through non-wood forest products and services [e.g. mushrooms, berries, games, cultural services focusing on leisure, health, recreation, education, spiritual well-being]	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
support innovative and local forest cooperatives, SMEs and industries (fostering access to markets and value chains with wood and non-wood added-value products and services)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
foster and promote cooperation and knowledge exchange among forest owners	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
support the digitalisation of forest management and use (including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
invest in infrastructure to support sustainable forest management, disaster prevention and management, and forest protection, and exploit the economic and social opportunities of forests for rural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

encourage dialogue between different stakeholders on forest issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

FORESTS FOR CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

While the EU's forests are very important for biodiversity conservation and mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration, climate change is also putting them under increasing pressure. They must be managed sustainably, improved in terms of both quality and quantity, and proactively adapted to projected climate change, in order to make an effective contribution to achieving the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives.

Q3 What specific actions and measures should the EU forest strategy promote to enhance forest biodiversity, adapt forests to climate change, and strengthen carbon sequestration?

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
increase the EU forest area through afforestation and reforestation taking into account ecological and climate change related aspects	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
help individual forest owners and managers to identify and manage their climate change related risks, including financial risks	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
restore damaged and degraded forests	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase the area of forests protected for biodiversity conservation and restoration	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
manage protected forests more effectively, so that they achieve their nature conservation objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase the proportion of diverse, uneven-aged and mixed-species forests	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
enhance the genetic diversity of forests and trees	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

give preference to native tree species and provenances and/or species that are better suited to future climatic conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
protect forest soils and prevent soil degradation, in particular on carbon-rich soils [e.g. limit machinery use in harvesting operations, establish different skidding tracks, maintain forest cover on erosion-prone soils and run-off pathways, leave harvesting residues on site, avoid whole- tree harvesting]	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
increase the use of biodiversity-friendly forestry practices [e.g. increased deadwood, habitat trees, reduce the use of pesticides and fertilisers]	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote long-term wood products and uses, replacing more carbon- intensive materials [e.g. construction, renovation, consumer products]	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
take measures to align wood demand and consumption with forests' sustainable production capacity	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
provide foresters and other stakeholders with better advice, information, tools and applications for forest protection, restoration and adaptation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve forest monitoring at local level to improve the tracking of carbon stocks and biodiversity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
boost research and innovation in best practices for enhancing carbon sequestration, adaptation and forest biodiversity	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

comments

Deforestation is a key contributor to human-caused climate change and Europe needs healthy forests in order to fight its effects. EU should focus equally or rather more on (old-growth) forest restoration than reforestation. Keeping forests growing with minimal human intervention is the best way of using them as a natural carbon sink to help achieve a carbon-neutral society by 2050.

EU/NATIONAL SUPPORT AND INSTRUMENTS

Q4 What should be done to facilitate access to, and improve the use of, EU and national funds for forest management and forest-related activities?

e.g. agriculture and rural development, research, LIFE, cohesion and regional development policy, Invest EU, Recovery and Resilience Facility, Union Civil Protection Mechanism Grants etc.

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
reduce administrative burden and relax the conditions for accessing funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote funding opportunities more proactively in order to raise awareness	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
help local and regional actors with their funding applications	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
national or regional authorities should prioritise forests in budget allocation and expenditure in rural development programmes, cohesion policy funding, Invest EU, etc.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
make sure that funding options match the needs of forests and the forest sector, and allow these to be addressed locally	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
raise the EU co-funding rates for forest projects and measures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
introduce more possibilities for Member States to use State aid for forestry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
develop new financial instruments for forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

FOREST-RELATED CHALLENGES FACING FOREST-BASED INDUSTRIES

Q5 What are the main forest-related challenges facing the forest-based industry sector in your country and/or the EU today?

	very challenging	challenging	slightly challenging	not challenging	I don't know
lack of skilled labour force	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
unclear forest policy objectives and regulatory framework	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
uncertain availability of wood resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
competition between bioenergy and other wood uses for biomass	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
lack of information on effective standards guaranteeing sustainable sourcing	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
lack of price premium for sustainable products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
matching of value chains' needs to available forest resources in the EU [e.g. small properties; irregular supplies; diversity of species, qualities and dimensions; diverse stands; proliferation of hardwoods in some countries]	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
lack of clear, comparable and comprehensive information on the state of EU forest resources and current trends	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

PROMOTION OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Q6 What could be done to promote the wider use of sustainable wood-based products and boost their recycling rates?

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	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
support consumer choices by providing better information on the environmental footprint of wood products compared to non-wood alternatives	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
improve the exchange of best practices and promote training on sustainable uses of wood products (e.g. for architects)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
support research on new and innovative wood-based products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve communication methods and demonstrate sustainable forest management in the provision of raw materials for wood-based products	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
quantify the economic value of the contribution of wood to carbon sequestration, e.g. through carbon removal certificates	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote the use of local and sustainable wood products in public contracts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote investment in improved designs of wood-based products that allow easier recycling and re-use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
incentivise the use of recycled material in wood-based products	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote sustainable wood products by changing the rules on accounting for their carbon storage capacity in national climate targets	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

comments

BIBM would like to express its concern on the intention of “promoting wood-based products”, as suggested in the European Commission consultation document.

When it comes to construction materials, BIBM considers it essential that policies are based on material neutrality and total CO2 emission reductions at building level. There is indeed a broad consensus among construction experts that the most efficient way to reduce CO2 emissions from the built environment is to focus on emissions at the level of a building. In this respect, the European Commission’s Level(s) approach, which promotes lifecycle thinking for buildings from design to end-of-life, based on fair comparisons between assessments of material’s performance, should be supported.

In addition, it is essential that any comparison between construction products is scientifically-based and takes into account full life cycle emissions through a proper Life Cycle Analysis (LCA). An LCA considers all parts of the life cycle of a building material, from extraction of raw materials to end-of-life processing. For each process step, the impact of the prescribed environmental impacts is determined.

In this respect, BIBM is concerned by the idea of twisting CO2 accounting rules through the introduction of “temporary carbon storage” – a concept which would not take into account the end-of-life emissions from wood product, and put the burden of climate change to future generations. Such concept would serve as a disincentive for circularity, create market distortions, and conflict with the European Commission’s work on Level(s), and EU Product Environmental Footprint methodology.

Each building design is unique, and while a building design may substitute wood, steel or concrete elements to some degree, all materials are typically prominent regardless of a declared material preference in a given structure. Policies should be developed that equally support and drive the decarbonization of life-cycle emissions for all building materials and avoid favouring and supporting one certain material or application without clear evidence that overall life-cycle emissions are effectively reduced.

CERTIFICATION AND LABELLING

There are several certification schemes and labelling schemes in the EU for the forest-based products. We would like to gauge how well-known they are and how useful they are in supporting consumer or business decisions.

[e.g. certification schemes FSC, PEFC and labelling schemes EU ecolabels and Eco-Management and Audit Scheme]

Q7 To what extent do you know of/use tools that certify the sustainability of forest products (forest certification, product labelling)?

at most 1 choice(s)

- I don't know of any labelling or certifying systems for forest-based products
- I do not trust the existing labelling and certification systems and I would like that the EU does something about it
- I always buy certified wood-based products with labels demonstrating they come from sustainable sources
- I buy labelled/certified products if there is not a significant price difference vis-à-vis non-certified products
- certification/labelling is sometimes an important criterion driving my decision to buy a product
- In my purchasing decisions, I am more likely to trust certified products from EU forests

comments

FOREST INFORMATION AND MONITORING AT EU LEVEL

In view of the multiple services that forests provide, the numerous sectors that rely on forests and the threats to forests that are exacerbated by climate change, the 2030 biodiversity strategy refers to 'the need for a better picture of the health of European forests'. In this regard, there are plans to develop the [Forest Information System for Europe \(FISE\)](#).

Q 8 What should be done to improve forest data, knowledge and monitoring of EU forests?

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
improve the Forest Information System for Europe (FISE) so that it becomes an EU forest monitoring system that integrates climate, biodiversity, resilience and risks, economic and social data	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
assess forests' climate risks and vulnerabilities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve and harmonise the monitoring of condition, pests and diseases, and other forest –related risks	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve the monitoring of forest biomass	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
improve the monitoring of forest biodiversity, including genetic diversity, and the availability of spatial analyses (e.g. maps of deadwood levels, maps of protected forest habitats)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
produce regular short analyses on key subjects (e.g. resilience of specific types of tree, results of key scientific articles, use of forest biomass resources)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
prepare more in-depth assessments of forest ecosystem services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
make better use of Copernicus data to monitor EU forests (e.g. by diversifying and making more regular forest products available)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
further work on the harmonisation of national forest inventories	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

facilitate the integration of remote-sensing data with forest inventories and other field assessments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
improve the governance of FISE and involve Member State experts and other stakeholders in future developments	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

ENSURING CONSISTENCY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND SHOWING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The future forest strategy will help the EU to meet its international commitments and will form the basis of a clearly established, consistent and holistic approach on forests, allowing stronger EU leadership internationally (in the context of the 2030 sustainability agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification). The 2019 Communication on Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests (2019) established a framework for the EU's global action; this must be properly and consistently reflected in the formulation of domestic policies.

Q 9 In order to ensure consistency with international commitments and to support the EU's international leadership, the new EU forest strategy should ...

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
in relevant fora, set out the EU's positions, approaches and values in favour of sustainable forest management worldwide	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote experience and lessons learnt at EU level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ensure consistency between the EU's domestic policies and trade agreements	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ensure consistency between EU development/international cooperation and the EU's neighbourhood policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
strengthen international cooperation to implement the UN 2017-2030 strategic plan for forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

other (please specify in the comments box below)



comments

PLANTING AT LEAST 3 BILLION ADDITIONAL TREES IN THE EU BY 2030

Trees are the source of multiple benefits – providing clean air, absorbing CO₂ from the atmosphere, providing habitats and supporting our economy, livelihoods and physical and mental well-being. The new forest strategy will include a roadmap for planting at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030.

Q 10 Where should the 3 billion+ additional trees be planted?

at most 4 choice(s)

- afforestation of productive agricultural land
- afforestation of degraded land
[e.g. areas subject to erosion and landslides; areas at risk of desertification; areas deforested and/or overused in the past; contaminated industrial or mining sites; other degraded land]
- tree planting in upper water catchments to delay and reduce downstream flooding
- tree planting on grasslands (except for high nature-value grasslands)
- tree planting in (peri-)urban areas
- tree planting for agroforestry, including orchards
- tree planting as landscape features to foster connectivity (hedges, rows of trees, copses, etc.)
- tree planting along infrastructure corridors (roads, waterways...)
- tree planting as part of forest restoration
- other (please specify in the comments box below)

comments

Q 11 What are the main challenges in planting additional trees in your country?

	very challenging	challenging	slightly challenging	not challenging	I don't know
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finding appropriate spaces in urban and peri-urban areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
finding appropriate spaces in rural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
capacity of tree nurseries to produce and provide the required materials	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
lack of skilled workforce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
lack of administrative and support /advisory services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
ensuring plant health and genetic diversity in nurseries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
forecasting future climate conditions and matching tree species/genotypes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
barriers to the transnational production and transfer of forest reproductive material (in particular for climate change adaptation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
financial resources for planting and maintenance in (peri-)urban areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
financial resources for planting and maintenance in rural areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
loss of farmland value after conversion to forest land (i.e. opportunity costs)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
local acceptance and/or administrative procedures	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ensuring that land remains planted with trees for a long period	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
unfavourable climatic conditions (e.g. water scarcity)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

Q 12 How could the EU encourage the wider use of forests for the health and well-being of all?

	very important	important	slightly important	not important	I don't know
encourage greater uptake of funds for activities promoting health and well-being (e.g. eco-tourism, improved access to urban and peri-urban forests, recreation, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
raise awareness of the health benefits of forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote more research on forests and associated health benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
encourage forest-related educational opportunities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
promote the exchange of best practices and other communication efforts on the multiple roles of forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
facilitate public access to all types of forests	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
other (please specify in the comments box below)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

comments

Q13 Increasingly, consumers can compensate for the CO2 emissions associated with their purchases (e.g. flights, concerts, etc.) by paying a supplement that will be used by a private undertaking to plant trees in the EU or elsewhere. Have you ever done this?

only one answer allowed

- Yes, I have often compensated some of my greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts with tree planting schemes
- Yes, I have occasionally compensated some of my GHG impacts with tree planting schemes
- No, but I'm considering it
- No, because I don't believe that the trees will be planted
-

No, because I don't believe that the trees will be monitored over a sufficiently long period

No, I haven't

comments

ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK

Should you wish to provide additional information (e.g. a position paper) or raise specific points not covered by the questionnaire, you can upload additional documents here.

Please note that any uploaded documents will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire, which is the main input to this consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background to help us understand your position.

additional information and comments

please upload your additional documents

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

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