

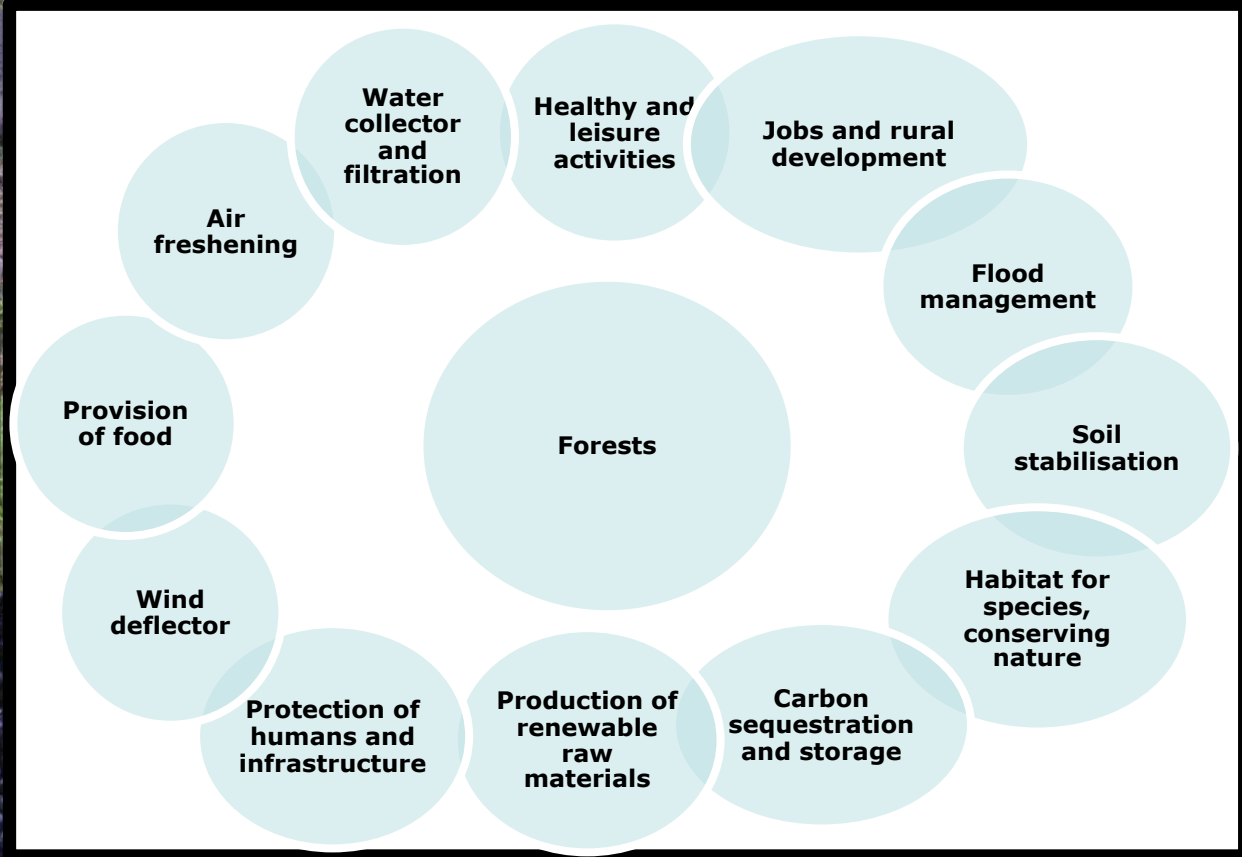
EU Forest Strategy – supporting sustainable and multifunctional forestry



Unit D.4 Environment, climate change, forestry and bio-economy
DG Agriculture and Rural Development

Dan Burgar Kuželički

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Is a Strategy for forests and the forest sector supporting multifunctional forests

- While there is no Common Forest Policy in the EU Treaty, forests are a vital part of several community policies
- EU Forests Strategy ensures holistic view of forests and all related policies
- The guiding principles of the strategy are
 - (i) **sustainable forest management** and the multifunctional role of forests,
 - (ii) **resource efficiency**, optimising the contribution of forests and the forest sector to rural development, growth and job creation and
 - (iii) **global forest responsibility**, promoting sustainable production and consumption of forest products.
- Provides for a definition of Sustainable forest management



- Sets a **2020 objective** to ensure and demonstrate that:
 - All forests in the EU are managed according to sustainable forest management (SFM) principles
 - The EU contribution to promoting SFM and reducing deforestation globally is strengthened .
- The Strategy engages the Commission, Member States and relevant stakeholders to work together towards a common vision and a coherent planning and implementation of forest-related policies.
- EU Forest Strategy Multiannual Implementation Plan
- The Commission and Member States, within their respective competences, will ensure the strategy's implementation and follow-up
- Report on Mid-term Review published in December 2018



Some key messages

- Majority of MAP actions implemented as planned (i.e. about 90% completed or ongoing); 10% pending, some delays.
- CAP, the main source of EU funding for the forest sector. CAP forestry measures support many Strategy objectives in 24 MS (90% RDPs).
- Fostering competitiveness of the sector, bio-energy and green economy.
- Climate change and importance of Sustainable forest management for climate mitigation and adaptation



Some key messages

- International developments, e.g. Paris Agreement, discussions on a Legally Binding Agreement on forests in Europe, Deforestation, etc.
- Coordination and cooperation, through Standing Forestry Committee, Civil Dialogue Group on Forestry and Cork, Expert Group on Forest-based Industries, EU civil protection mechanism - on forest fires prevention,
- EU funds aligned in coherence and synergy to support objectives and priorities of the Strategy (CAP, ESIF, LIFE, Research, Development cooperation)
- The report shows the Strategy is fit for informing new policy developments, referring to many of them: *CAP reform, 2030 Climate and Energy Framework (LULUCF, adaptation, RED), EU Civil protection mechanism, EU Bioeconomy Strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan, Action Plan Deforestation...*



Some needs

- Interaction of forests and trees with urban and peri-urban areas and communities.
- Additional experience and exchanges of good practices in Rural Development, mitigation and adaptation actions and their synergies.
- Deploy innovation and scale-up the role of forest-based biomass, whilst protecting the environment and ensuring circularity – role of revised EU Bioeconomy Strategy.
- Enhance the role of FMPs in achieving biodiversity targets and support the provision of ecosystem services.
- A strengthened framework to disseminate R&I project results and reinforce capitalisation of innovation along value chains to support competitiveness.
- Further work on forest harmonized information (FISE)



Conclusions

- Significant progress towards 2020 objectives
- Substantial progress implementing the activities addressing priority areas and strategic orientations.
- A valid tool to serve multiple purposes that sometimes can be perceived as contradictory.
- Growing demands and pressures might require more efforts and commitment for coordination, cooperation, expert involvement, including across sectors and between the Commission, Member States and other stakeholders.
- Better communicating needed, for ensuring strong societal support for sustainable forest management.



Thank you for your attention

For further information:
dan.burgar-kuzelicki@ec.europa.eu

<http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest>