

The EU Green Deal: Biodiversity Strategy

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Climate Neutrality Challenge

“The EU can and must lead the way, by engaging in an in-depth transformation of its own economy and society to achieve climate neutrality” European Council, A new strategic agenda 2019-2024.

Main axes

- + Economic growth decoupled from resource use
- + Fair and inclusive transition
- + Protecting, preserving and enhancing the **natural heritage**
- + Protecting the **health and well-being** of citizens from environmental risks



Natural Heritage



+ Biodiversity Strategy

+ Forest Strategy

+ Farm to Fork Strategy





Biodiversity Strategy

A coherent network of protected areas

« the current network of legally protected areas, including those under strict protection, is **not sufficiently large** to safeguard biodiversity »
(§2.1)

« Global efforts are needed and the EU itself needs to do more and better for nature and build a truly coherent TransEuropean Nature Network »

+ 30% of the land

+ 30% of the sea should be protected in the EU

>> an extra 4% for land and 19% for sea areas as compared to today

Biodiversity Strategy

Strictly protected Areas

Only 3% of land and less than 1% of marine areas are strictly protected in the EU.

- + 10% of EU land

- + 10% of EU sea – should be strictly protected

- + Strictly protect at least a third of the EU's protected areas, including all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests.



Primary and old growth forests

All primary and old growth forest estimated cover is only around 3% of EU forested land.

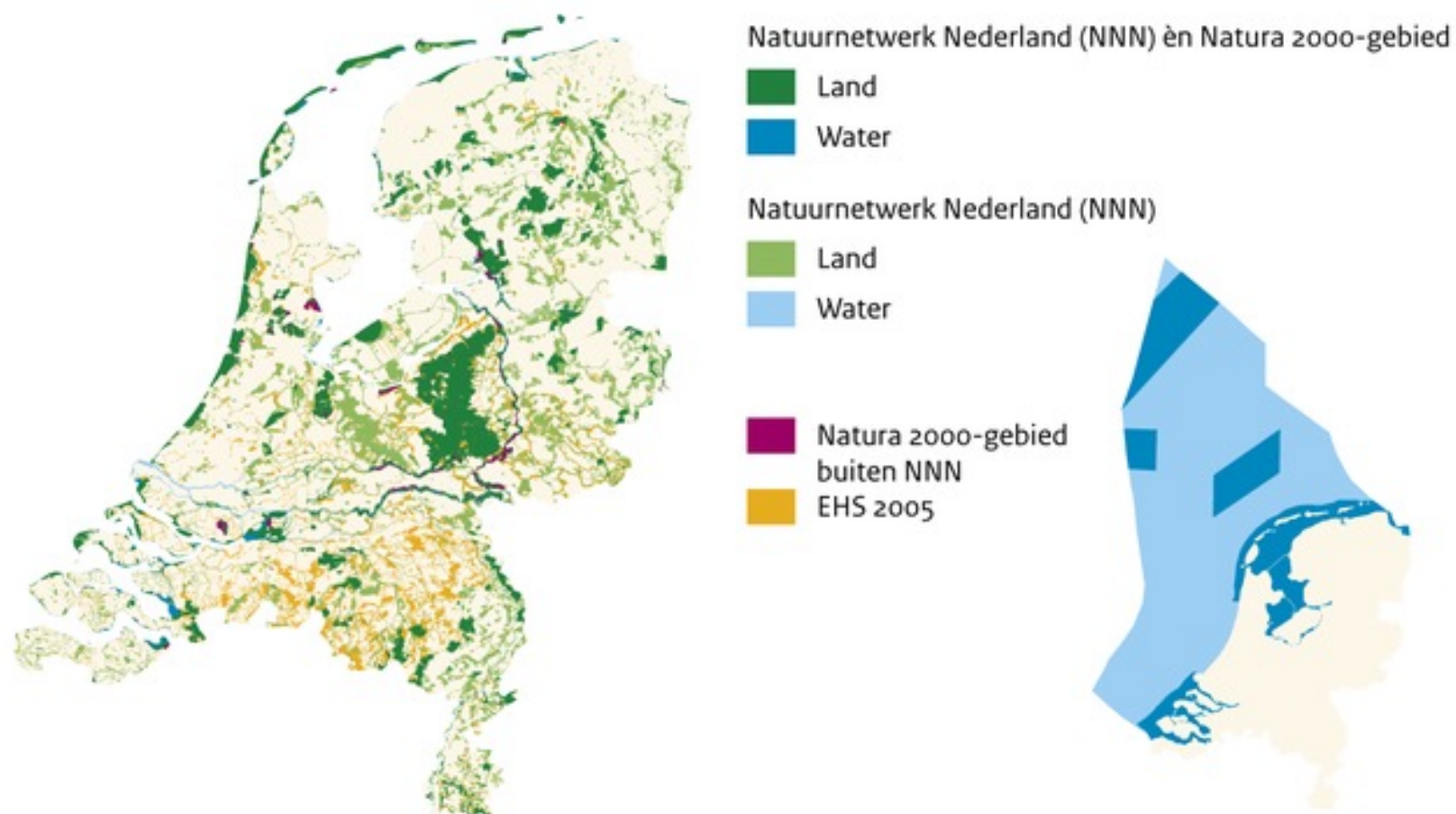
They are not only among the richest EU forest ecosystems, but they store significant carbon stocks and also remove carbon from the atmosphere, while being of paramount importance for biodiversity and the provision of critical ecosystem services.

All primary and old growth forest will have to be strictly protected.

Reinforced sustainable forest management for climate adaptation and forest resilience

- + Forest management practices that preserve and restore biodiversity lead to more resilient forests that can deliver on their socio-economic and environmental functions.
- + All forests should be increasingly managed so that they are sufficiently biodiverse, taking into account the differences in natural conditions, biogeographic regions and forest typology.

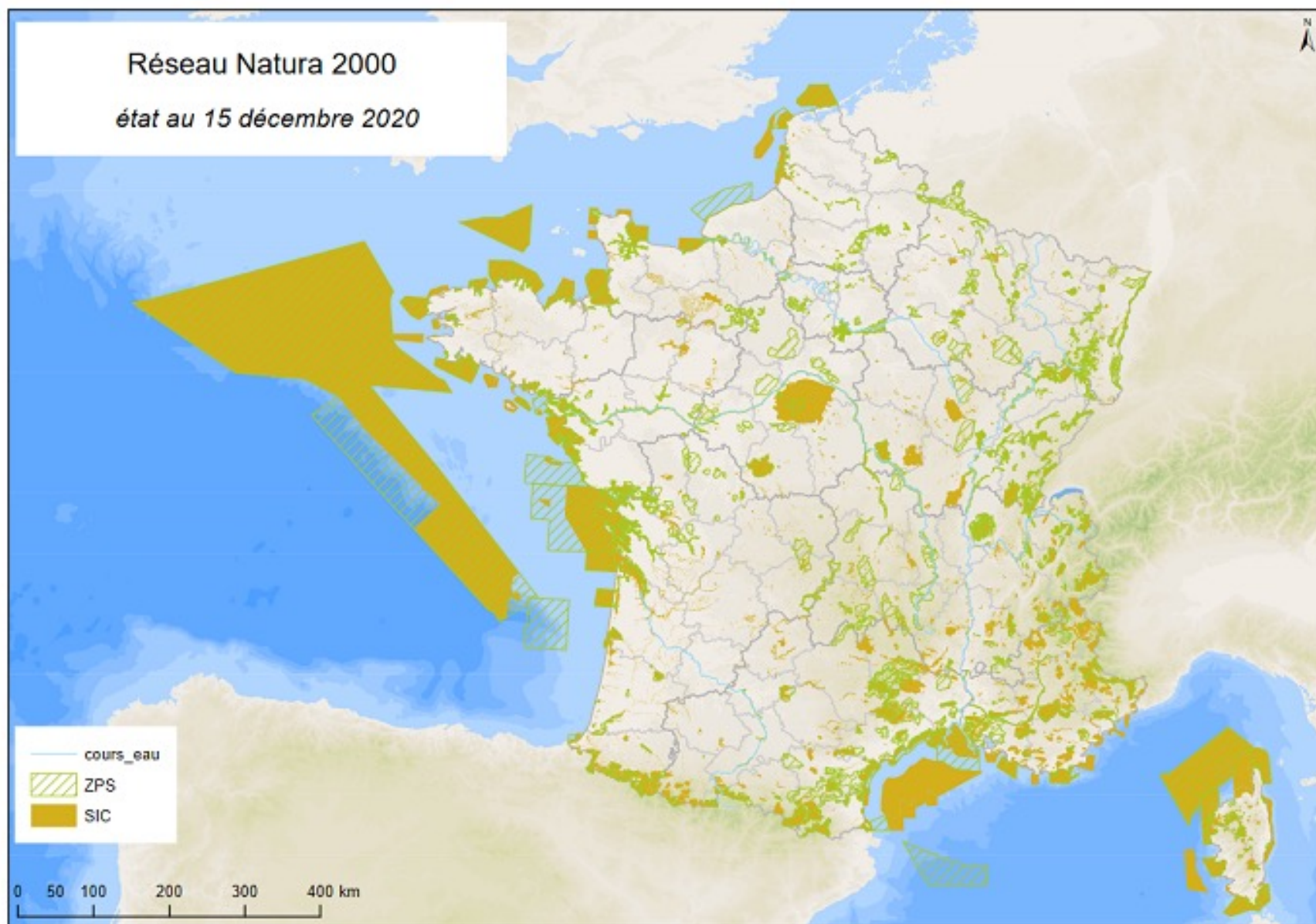
Natuurnetwerk Nederland en Natura 2000-gebieden, 2015

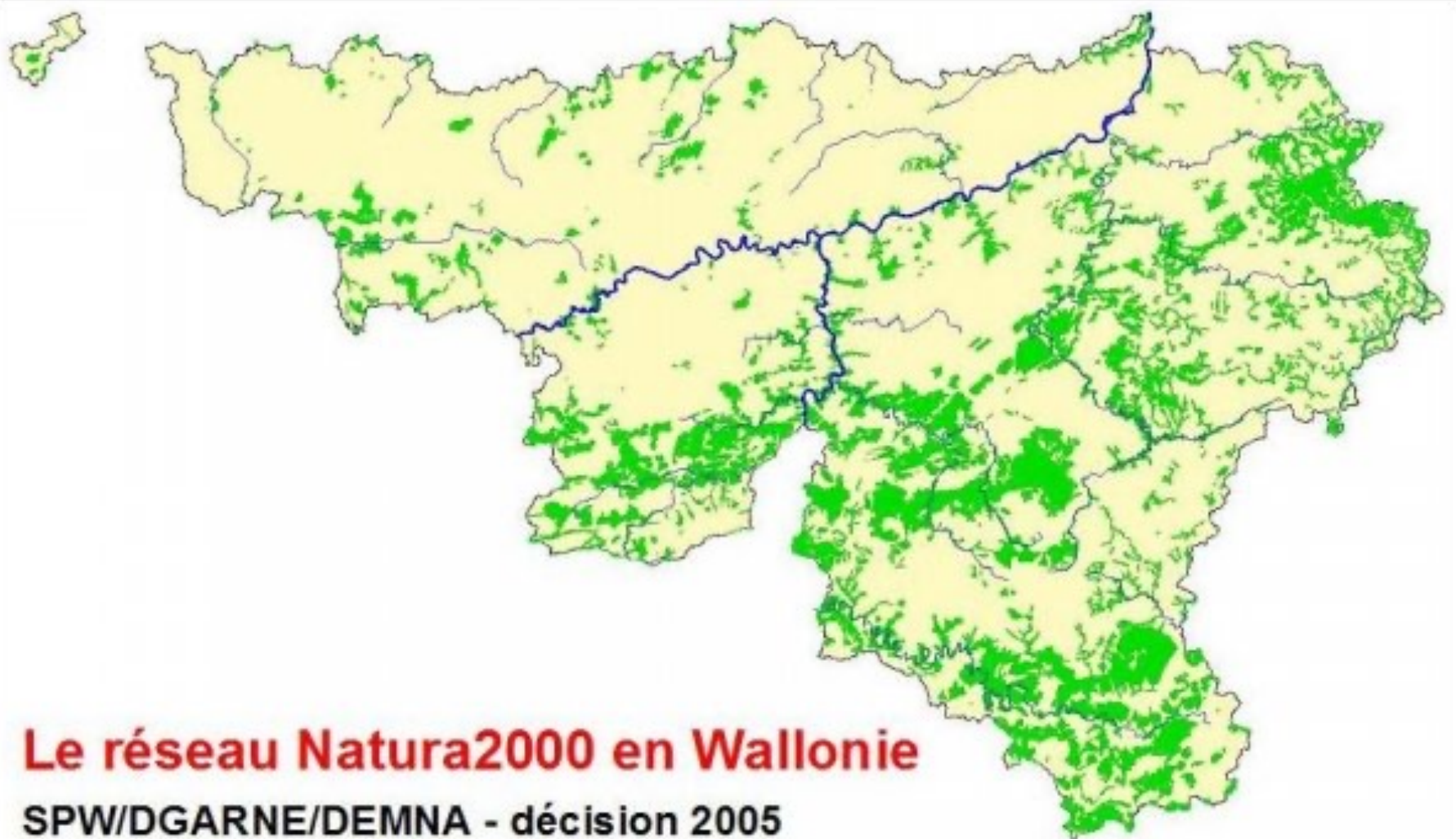


Bron: IPO 2015 (NNN); EZ (Natura 2000); I&M (rijkswateren);
Nota Ruimte – VROM en LNV (EHS2005);

WUR/aug16
www.clo.nl/nl42502

Réseau Natura 2000
état au 15 décembre 2020





An EU Nature Restoration Plan: restoring ecosystems across land and sea

>> Binding EU nature restoration targets in 2021 to restore degraded ecosystems, in particular those with the most potential to capture and store carbon and to prevent and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

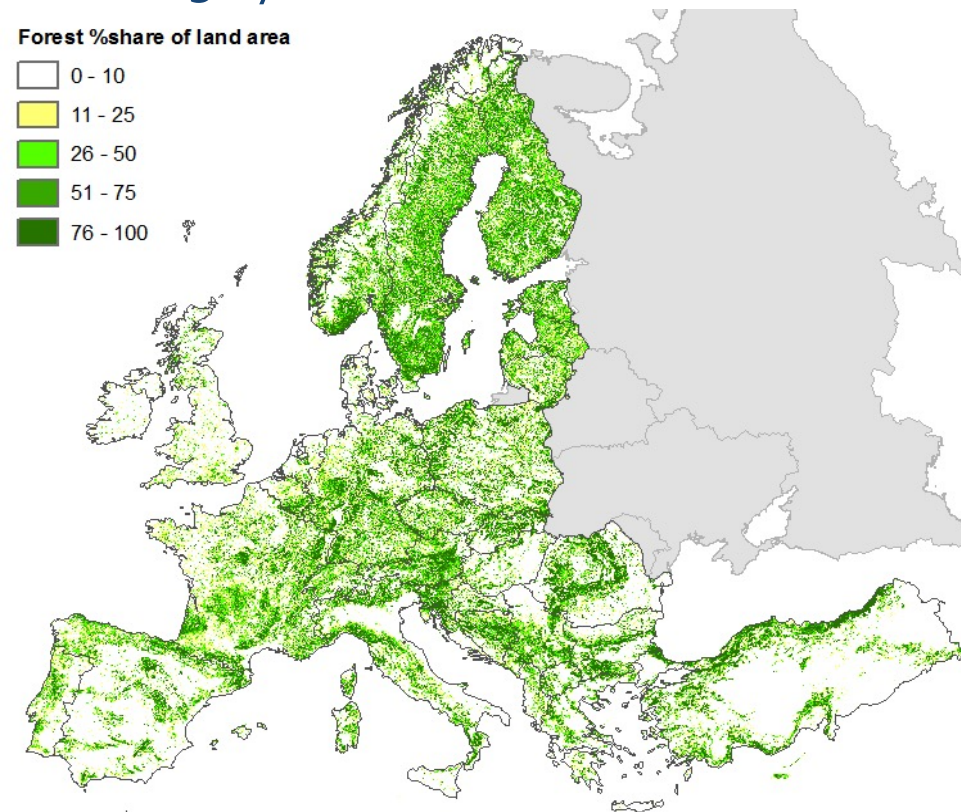
Biodiversity Strategy

- + 10% of agricultural area is under high-diversity landscape features.
- + 25% of agricultural land is under organic farming management,
- + use of chemical pesticides is reduced by 50% and the use of more hazardous pesticides is reduced by 50%.

Forests

Forests and other wooded land cover over 43.5 % of the EU's land space (180 million h.). Forest cover a similar area to agriculture, and this area has been growing in the last 30 years.

- + Primary resources
- + Ecosystemic services
- + Biodiversity
- + Health and wellbeing



European forests: Threats

European forests are under increasing strain

- + increased human activity and pressures
- + Climate change

« Climate change has also brought to light previously hidden vulnerabilities aggravating other destructive pressures such as pests, pollution and diseases, and it affects forest fire regimes ».

« Tree cover loss has accelerated in the last decade, because of extreme weather events and increase in harvesting for different economic purposes ».

Court of Auditors

- Special Report 21/2021: EU funding for biodiversity and climate change in EU forests: positive but limited results

Although forest cover has grown in the past 30 years, the condition of forests is deteriorating.

Recommendations to the Commission:

- + strengthen the fight against illegal logging
- + improve the focus of rural development forestry measures on biodiversity and climate change.

- + Funding for forested areas from the EU budget is much lower than for agriculture – representing less than 1 % of the CAP Budget – and is focussed on support for conservation measures and support for planting and restoring woodland.
- + 90 % of the EU forestry financing is channelled through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).

Conservation of European forests: Contribution to the mitigation of CC

GHG emissions and removals by forests will play a crucial role in reaching the net removal target for the Union of -310 million tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalents, as set out in the proposal for a revised Regulation on LULUCF.

LULUCF Regulation ensures that Member States report and account for changes in carbon stocks not only in forests but also in harvested wood products carbon pools, which will be reinforced under the revised regulation proposed as part of Fit-for-55 package.

The longer-lasting the product, the better it is for climate mitigation.

Forest Strategy

will contribute to achieving:

- + the EU's biodiversity objectives
- + GHG emission reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 and climate neutrality by 2050.



Objectives

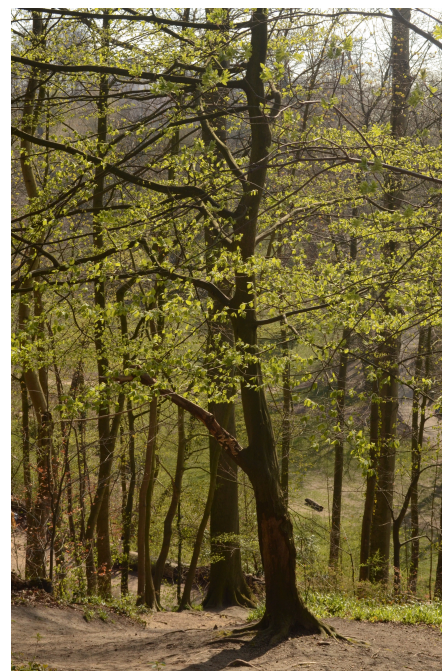
- + Ensure resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems role of forests
- + Adapt Europe's forests to the new conditions, weather extremes and high uncertainty brought about by climate change.
- + Support the socio-economic functions of forests
- + Boost forest-based bio-economy within sustainability boundaries.
- + Reverse biodiversity loss

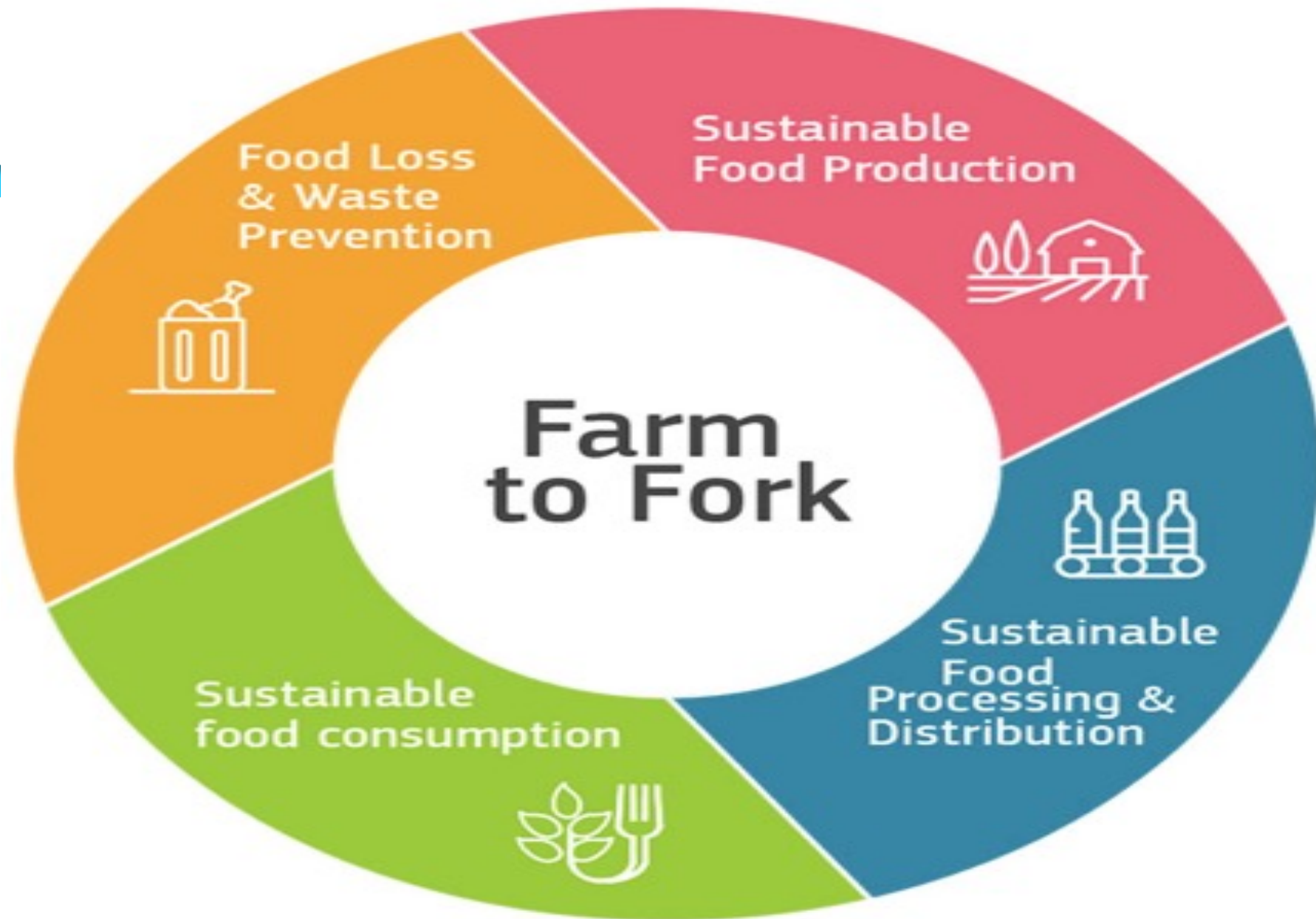
Objectives

- + Protecting EU's last remaining primary and old-growth forests
- + Re- and afforestation of biodiverse forests
- + Providing financial incentives for forest owners and managers for improving the quantity and quality of EU forests

Forest Strategy

- + Planting 3 billion additional trees by 2030
- + Binding instrument for ecological restoration





Farm to Fork (F2F) (2020) objectives

- + Agricultural has neutral or positive environmental impact help to mitigate climate change and adapt to its impacts
- + Reverse the loss of biodiversity
- + Ensure food security, nutrition and public health, making sure that everyone has access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, sustainable food preserve affordability of food while generating fairer economic returns, fostering competitiveness of the EU supply sector and promoting fair trade
- + Support global transition to sustainable food systems

F2F strategy: Actions F2F

- + Rewarding of the removal of CO₂ emissions reduction
- + reduction in the use of chemical pesticides by 2030 by 50%
- + 20% reduction in the use of fertilisers by 2030
- + 50% reduction of EU sales of antimicrobials in farming and aquaculture by 2030

- + EU code of conduct for responsible business and marketing practice
- + Review legislation relating to food packaging to support environmentally friendly materials
- + Fitness check legislation in relation to animal welfare
- + Strengthen powers of control and inspection to combat food fraud

Impact on food import into the EU

Art 11 General Food Law: *Food and feed imported into the Community for placing on the market within the Community shall comply with the relevant requirements of food law or conditions recognised by the Community to be at least equivalent thereto or, where a specific agreement exists between the Community and the exporting country, with requirements contained therein.*

F2F: aims to support global transition to sustainable food systems

- + International cooperation and trade policy Sustainability chapters in all EU bilateral trade agreements
- + Commitments in animal welfare, pesticides and antimicrobials
- + Fight against habitat destruction and illegal fishing

Ecological collapse



A new dawn?

