



Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests

**European Commission
DG Environment**

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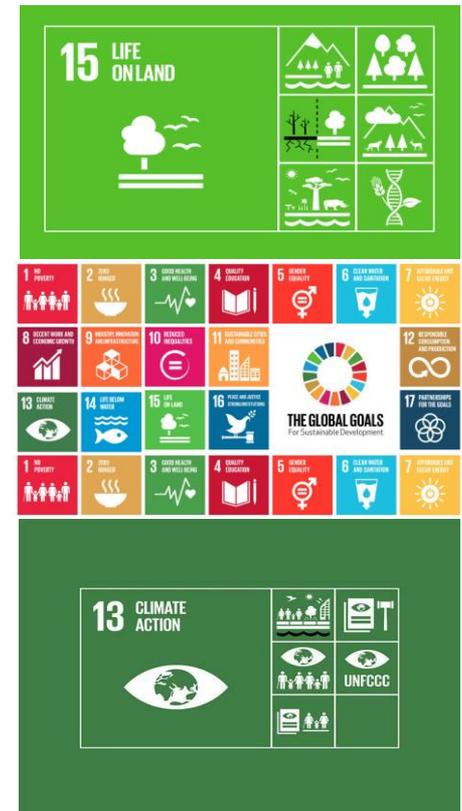
Deforestation and forest degradation

- Forests are in serious danger from deforestation and forest degradation; an equivalent of 800 football fields of forest lost every hour
- 12% of all greenhouse gas emissions comes from land-use and land-use change mostly due to deforestation
- Primary forests particularly at risk



Why does this matter?

- ❖ Forests are indispensable to address the sustainability challenges of our times (SDGs, Paris Agreements, Convention on Biological Diversity)
- ❖ Deforestation and forest degradation have major consequences on stability, security, climate, biodiversity, health and livelihoods



Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation



Direct drivers:

- **Agricultural expansion (80%)**
- Urban expansion
- Infrastructure development
- Mining

Indirect drivers:

- Weak policies, weak governance, lack of law enforcement
- Lack of integrated planning
- Unclear land tenure and land rights
- **Illegal activities**
- Lack of investments
- Unsustainable exploitation
- Natural events (fires, pests)

Role of the EU

- ❖ *The EU is a major importer of commodities associated with deforestation and forest degradation*
- ❖ *The EU is thus a key player and shares a global responsibility*



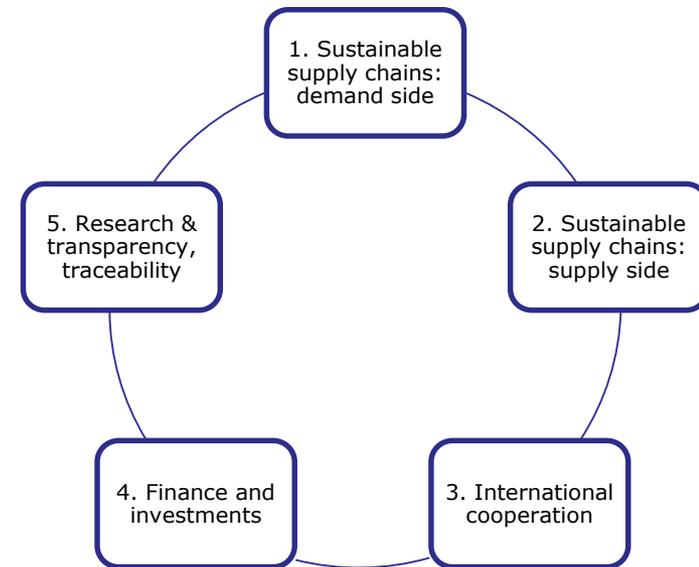
New Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests

- ❑ **Objective:** propose ways to step-up EU action to protect the world's forests, in particular primary forests, and regenerate forests in an sustainable and responsible way.
- ❑ Adoption: 23 July 2019
- ❑ 36 actions in 5 priority areas
- ❑ Recommendations for authorities, industry and civil society
- ❑ SWD on supporting evidence and consultation activities



5 Priorities for stronger action to protect and restore the world's forests

1. Reduce the EU consumption footprint on land and encourage the consumption of products from deforestation-free supply chains in the EU
2. Work in partnership with producing countries to reduce pressures on forests and to 'deforest-proof' EU development cooperation
3. Strengthen international cooperation to halt deforestation and forest degradation and encourage sustainable forests restoration
4. Redirect finance in support of more sustainable land-use practices
5. Support availability of, quality of and access to information on forests and commodity supply chains. Support research and innovation



Reducing the EU consumption footprint

Assess additional demand side regulatory and non-regulatory measures to minimise the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with commodity imports in the EU.

Establish platform for multi-stakeholder and Member State dialogue.



Support corporate social responsibility/responsible business conduct practices, voluntary commitments, standards and certification schemes.

Implement EU FLEGT Work Plan 2018-2022, in particular the EU Timber Regulation.

Working with producer countries

Ensure that deforestation is included in political dialogues at country level

Ensure that EU support for policies in partner countries does not contribute to deforestation and forest degradation



Help partner countries to implement sustainable forest-based value chains and promote sustainable bioeconomies

Scale-up support for improved land and forest governance and law enforcement (EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, FLEGT Work Plan 2018-2022, etc.).

International cooperation; Finance

Cooperate in key international fora, international commodity bodies, and bilateral dialogues with major consumer and producer countries

Trade agreements: Promote inclusion of provisions on the conservation and sustainable management of forests.



Consider deforestation in the implementation of the Action Plan for Sustainable Finance.

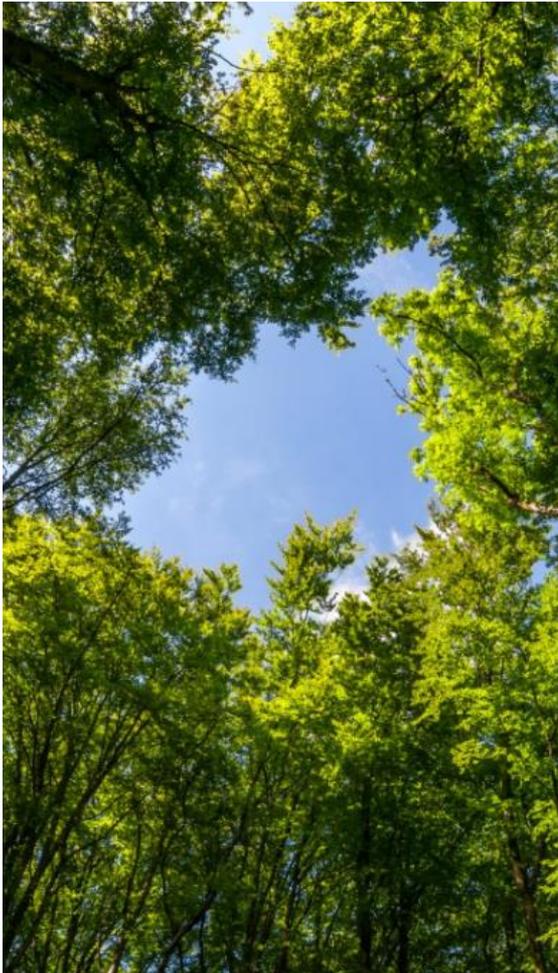
Support producer countries to mobilise public and private financing and ensure its effectiveness.

Research and Innovation

Establish an EU Observatory on deforestation, forest degradation, changes in the world's forest cover, and associated drivers to facilitate access to information on supply chains for public entities, consumers and businesses.



Continue to support the development of global and regional information systems to monitor the effects of forest fires.



Next Steps

- ❖ Conference on Forests, 4-5 February 2020
- ❖ Establishing the Platform for multi-stakeholder and Member State dialogue.
- ❖ Assess additional demand side regulatory and non-regulatory measures.
- ❖ Establish the EU Observatory.



Thank you