

Possible monitoring needs for the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 and EU forest-related policy instruments

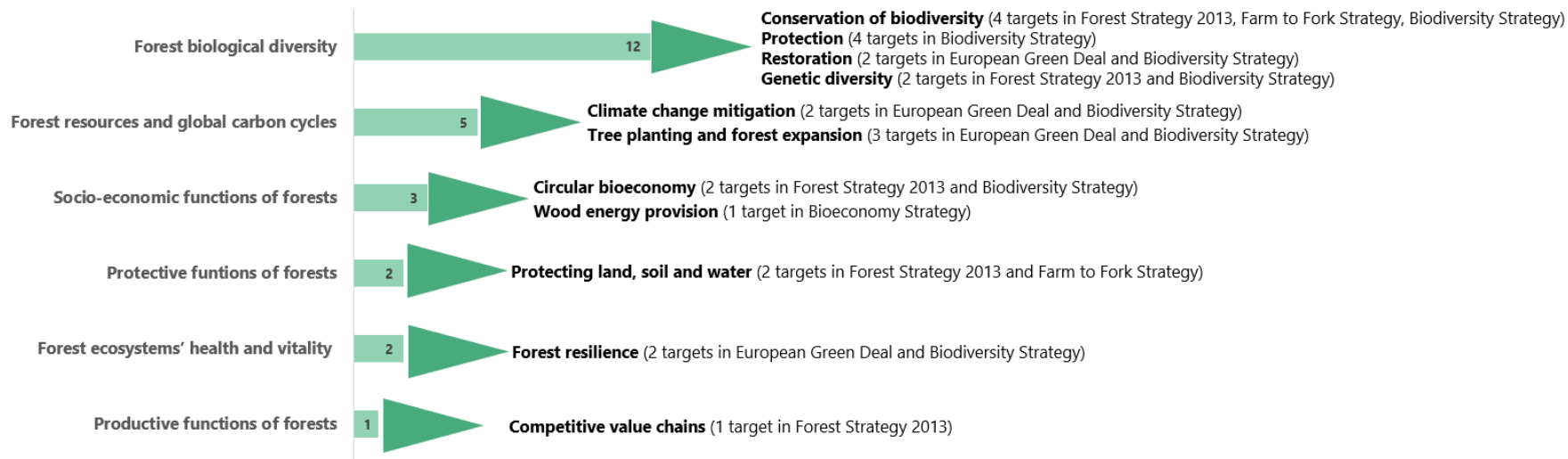
Presentation based on results of: (1) Lier, M.; Köhl, M.; Korhonen, K.; Linser, S.; Prins, K. (2021). Forest relevant targets in EU policy instruments - can progress be measured by the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management?, Forest Policy and Economics, Volume 128, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102481>. AND (2) Lier, M.; Köhl, M.; Korhonen, K.T.; Linser, S.; Prins, K.; Talarczyk, A. (2022). The New EU Forest Strategy for 2030: A New Understanding of Sustainable Forest Management? Forests 2022, 13, 245. <https://doi.org/10.3390/f13020245>

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(1) Results of Forest relevant targets in EU forest related policy instruments – can progress be measured by the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management? (Lier et. al 2021)

EU policy instruments	Target type	Targets summarised
Forest Strategy 2013	qualitative targets (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – manage all EU forests according to sustainable forest management principles and contribute to promoting sustainable forest management and reducing deforestation at global level – contribute to balancing forest functions, meeting demands, and delivering vital ecosystem services – ensure forestry and the whole forest-based value chain are competitive and viable contributors to the bio-based economy. – maintain and enhance forest cover to ensure soil protection, water quality and quantity regulation – achieve a significant and measurable improvement in the conservation status of forest species and habitats. – strengthen forest genetics conservation and diversity
Bioeconomy Strategy	quantitative targets (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – renewable energy source... expected to ... contribute to meet the EU renewable energy targets of 20% in 2020 and of at least 32% in 2030 – achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030 and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems by 2020
European Green Deal	qualitative targets (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – improve EU forested area, both in quality and quantity – ensure sustainable re- and afforestation... (ensure) the restoration of degraded forests... and... increase absorption of CO2 while improving the resilience of forests and promoting the circular bioeconomy
Farm to Fork Strategy	qualitative targets (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – reverse the loss of biodiversity – protecting land, soil, water, air, plant and animal health and welfare – preserve and restore the resources (land, freshwater and sea-based resources) on which the food system depends
Biodiversity Strategy	quantitative targets (6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – strictly protect one third (representing 10% of EU land and 10% of EU sea) of legally protected areas – legally protect a minimum of 30% of land (and sea) – strictly protect all remaining EU primary and old-growth forests – ensure no deterioration in conservation trends and status of all protected habitats and species by 2030 – all managed public forests and more private forests under management plans – plant three billion new trees in the EU
	qualitative targets (5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – increase the quantity, <u>quality</u> and resilience of its forests, notably against fires, droughts, pests, diseases and other threats likely to increase with climate change – strictly protect significant areas of carbon-rich ecosystems (e.g. peatlands) – integrate ecological corridors as part of a true Trans-European Nature Network to prevent genetic isolation – continue and further develop biodiversity-friendly practices such as closer-to-nature-forestry – strengthen forest genetics conservation and diversity within species and within populations
Sustainable Investment Regulation	<i>no forest relevant quantitative or qualitative targets identified</i>	
Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change	<i>no forest relevant quantitative or qualitative targets identified</i>	

24 identified targets focus on following topics



Modified after Lier, M., Köhl, M., Korhonen, K. T., Linser, S., Prins, K. 2021. Forest relevant targets in EU policy instruments - can progress be measured by the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management? Forest policy and economics 128: 13 p.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102481>

What pan-European indicators suit to monitor the progress of a target?

Quantitative targets, e.g.

- legally protect a minimum of 30% of the EU's land area and 30% of the EU's sea area (Biodiversity Strategy)

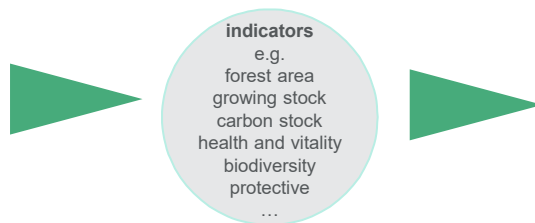


Applicable as such

- can provide information on share of protected forest area in total forest area

Qualitative targets, e.g.

- improve EU forested area, both in quality and quantity (Green Deal)



Major adjustments needed

- need for objective and measurable definition
- thresholds/targets needed
- clarification which aspects to improve

Lier et al. 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102481>

Conclusion:
22 pan-European indicators
potentially suitable to provide
information on progress
towards the identified EU
forest relevant targets

Table: Adjustments to pan-European Indicators to provide information on progress towards forest relevant targets. Legend: +++ = applicable as such, ++ = minor adjustments needed, + = major adjustments needed. Table modified after Lier et al. 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102481>

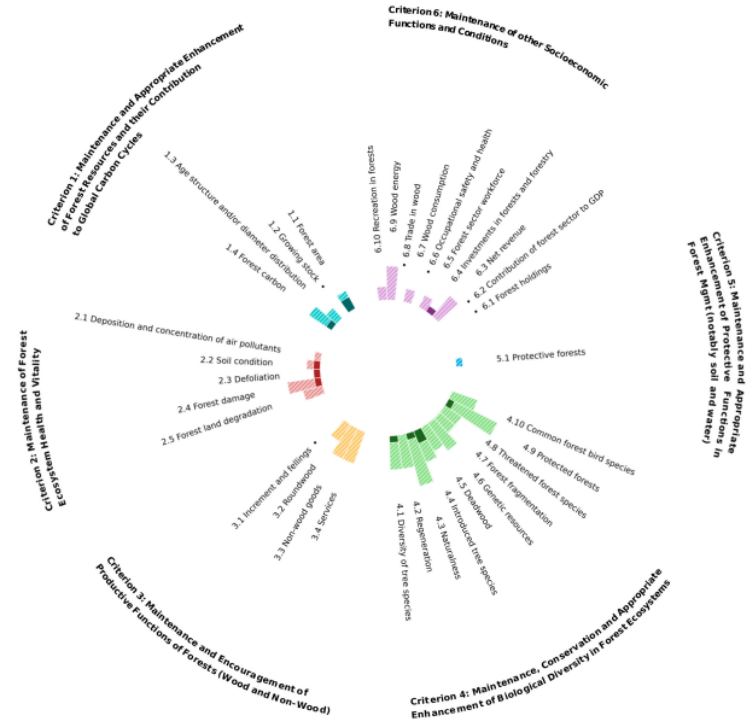
Pan-European Criteria (shorted)	Pan-European Indicators	Forest Strategy	Bioeconomy Strategy	European Green Deal	Farm to Fork Strategy	Biodiversity Strategy
C1: forest resources and their contribution to global carbon cycles	1.1 Forest area	+++		+	Minor	+++/+
	1.2 Growing stock			+		+
	1.3 Age structure and/ or diameter distribution			+		+
	1.4 Forest carbon			+		+
C2: health and vitality	2.1 Deposition and concentration of air pollutants			+		+
	2.2 Soil condition			+	+++	+
	2.3 Defoliation			+	+++	+
	2.4 Forest damage			+	+++	+
	2.5 Forest land degradation		+	+	++	+
C3: productive functions of forests	3.1 Increment and fellings			+		+
C4: biological diversity in forest ecosystems	4.1 Diversity of tree species	+++			+++	+
	4.2 Regeneration	+++		+	+++	+
	4.3 Naturalness	+++			+++	+
	4.4 Introduced tree species	+++			+++	+
	4.5 Deadwood	+++			+++	+
	4.6 Genetic resources	+++			+++	+++/+
	4.7 Forest fragmentation	+++			+++	+
	4.8 Threatened forest species	+++			+++	+
	4.9 Protected forest	+++			+++	+++/+
	4.10 Common forest birds	+++			+++	+
C5: protective function in forest management	5.1 Protective forests	+++			+++/ ++	
C6: socio-economic functions and conditions	6.9 Wood energy			+++		

Lier et al. 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102481>

(2) Results of The New EU Forest Strategy for 2030: A New Understanding of Sustainable Forest Management? (Lier et. al 2022)

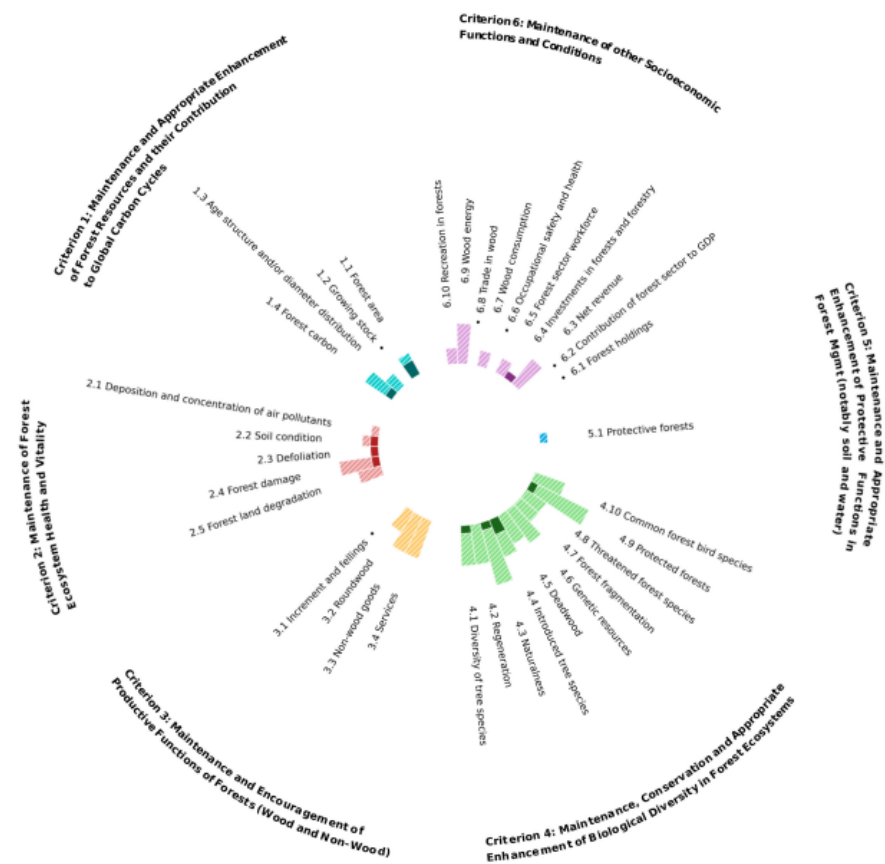
The New EU Forest Strategy 2030 – objectives and commitments

- Strategy strongly determined by developments and legally binding EU policy instruments for other sectors, notably biodiversity, climate change, renewable energy, bioeconomy, and rural development
- of 63 objectives and commitments identified, 44 are justified, directly or indirectly, as a contribution to climate change mitigation or adaptation (e.g. carbon sequestration and storage in forest and harvested wood products, substitution of fossil-intensive materials), including resilience to extreme events
- 12 objectives and commitments address uses of wood, especially long-lived wood products, mostly seen in the Strategy as a contribution to climate change mitigation, but also as a source of green jobs and revenues



Number of objectives and commitments identified in the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 for which each pan-European quantitative indicator could be useful

- Solid bars represent indicators that were identified as fully appropriate to monitor progress.
- Hatched bars represent the cases in which indicators were identified as partially appropriate to monitor the progress of objectives and commitments (“Partial”).
- Indicators for which no links to objectives and commitments were identified are marked by “•”



EU forest related policy instruments – which forest relevant variables to assess, monitor and report?

- **EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030:** e.g. planting at least 3 billion additional trees in the EU by 2030
- **EU Forest Strategy 2030:** variables related to SFM? Based on Forest Europe C and I?
- **EU Taxonomy,** e.g. forest biodiversity, ...
- **EU legislation on halting deforestation and degradation:** e.g. variables related to degradation, ...
- **EU legal proposal on nature restoration,** forest ecosystems: variables for standing and lying deadwood, uneven aged forests, forest connectivity, abundance of common forest birds and stock of organic carbon
- **EU legislative proposal on EU Forest Monitoring and Strategic Planning (Q2/2023)**

Further reading

Lier, M.; Köhl, M.; Korhonen, K.; Linser, S.; Prins, K. (2021). Forest relevant targets in EU policy instruments - can progress be measured by the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management?, *Forest Policy and Economics*, Volume 128, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2021.102481>.

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