

## Forests & Rural Development Strategies

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## Forestry & Rural Development

- Varying levels of forested land and recognition of forestry in the scope of rural development measures
- Forestry often seen in the past as an entirely separate or second order land use
- More integrated and balanced approach being adopted e.g. in new EU Policy on Rural Development
- Integration becoming a more important theme in rural development and in agriculture, e.g. emphasis on multifunctionality
- Drivers of integration include environmental priorities, employment, privatisation of state forests, debates over grazing and land abandonment, new focus on energy and biofuels



## Woodlands and Forestry: Importance in EU Member States

### Ownership of EU25 Forests

- 40% public ownership
  - 92% in Estonia, 84% in Czech Republic, 66% in Ireland
  - 43% in UK
- 60% private ownership
  - 92% in Portugal, 82% in Austria, 17% in Poland
  - 57% in UK



## Woodlands and Forestry: Importance in EU Member States

### Ownership of EU25 Forests (cont)

- Approx 12m private forest owners in EU15
- Approx 3m private forest owners in 10 new Member States
  - Average size:
    - Public forested areas: >1000ha
    - Private forested areas: 13ha

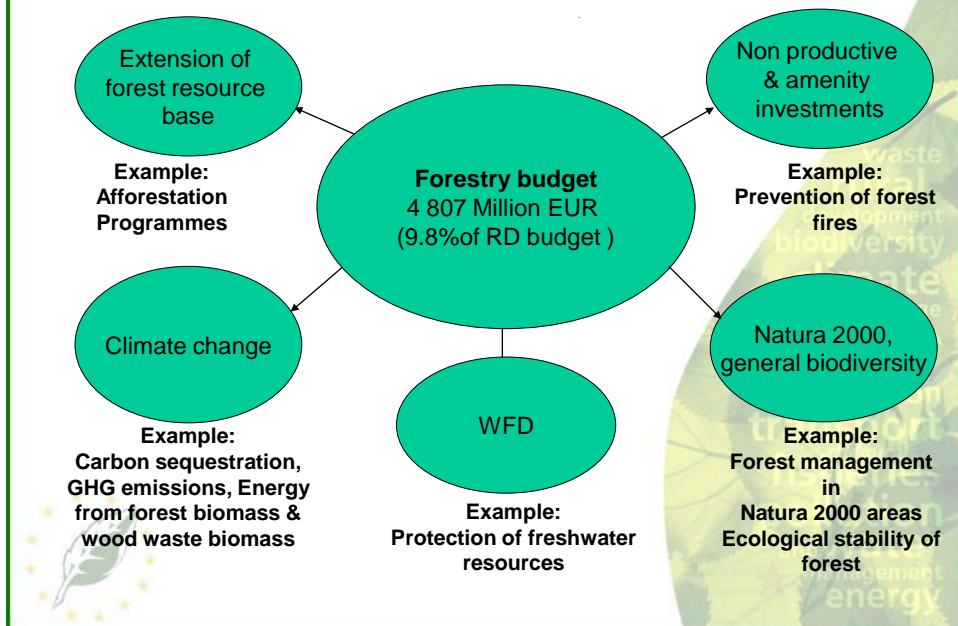


## EU Involvement in Forestry

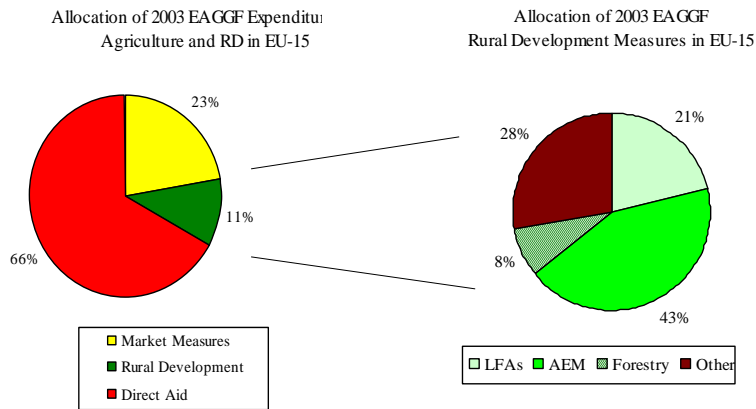
- Effectively an outgrowth of agricultural and cohesion policy: no independent legal foundation.
- **International Level**
  - EU participates in Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)
- **Overall Planning and Strategy**
  - EU Forestry Strategy (being revised)
- **Funding of Forestry**
  - Via Structural Funds
  - Via RDR/EAFRD
- **Trade Policy**
  - Includes tropical forest issues
  - e.g. Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT)



## Forestry in the Agenda 2000 perspective



## Main components of the pre-reform CAP in the Pillar I & II expenditure



### Current Forestry measures

- Afforestation has been the main forestry related measure in: Ireland, the UK, Denmark, Italy, Portugal
- More emphasis on 'other forestry measures' in e.g: Luxembourg, Austria, Sweden, France
- Italy and Spain - the largest afforestation expenditure in their RDPs 2000-2006, with significant support planned for other forestry measures.
- Germany - significant forestry component, with more resources dedicated to 'other forestry measures' than to afforestation.

## Breakdown by measures (1992-1999) :

### Forestry Regulation (EEC) N° 2080/92

Type of measure	No. of beneficiaries	Wooded area (ha)	Cost eligible for co-financing (Mio€)	Average cost per ha (€/ha)
Afforestation	142628	1041589	1626.0	1561.0
Premium Maintenance	82526	794116	359.0	452.0
Premium for loss of income	101011	864578	1776.0	2055.0
Improving existing woodlands	40450		162.0	

## The Toolbox for Axis II

Two blocks of measures targeting sustainable use of:

**Agricultural land:**

Less Favoured Areas; Natura 2000; Water Framework Directive; Agri-Environment; animal welfare; non- productive investments

**Forestry Land:**

Afforestation; agro-forestry; Natura 2000; forest environment; restoring forestry potential / prevention; non-productive investments

## **EAFRD Axis II measures:**

**Measures targeting the sustainable use of agricultural land through:**

- i) natural handicap payments to farmers in mountain areas;**
- (ii) payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas;**
- (iii) Natura 2000 payments and payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC;**
- (iv) agri-environment payments (compulsory);**
- (v) animal welfare payments;**
- (vi) support for “non-productive” investments;**



## **EAFRD Axis II measures cont:**

**Measures targeting the sustainable use of forestry land through:**

- (i) first afforestation of agricultural land;**
- (ii) first establishment of agroforestry systems on agricultural land;**
- (iii) first afforestation of non agricultural land;**
- (iv) Natura 2000 payments in wooded areas;**
- (v) forest-environment payments;**
- (vi) restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions;**
- (vii) support for “non-productive” investments.**





## Axis II measures can be used to:

- Reduce problems such as soil erosion
- Improve air quality
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help to combat climate change
- Improve water quality of e.g. of lakes and rivers and help to reduce risk of flooding
- Help maintain and enhance important habitats and species
- Manage and maintain valuable landscapes and cultural features
- Facilitate access to, and recreation opportunities in, the countryside
- Contribute to social and economic objectives as well as environmental ones e.g. by sustaining or creating employment, preventing land abandonment etc.



## Environmental benefits of forestry:

- Appropriate forestry suited to site conditions is important for biodiversity and climate change mitigation;
- It can also help to control erosion, assist water management in catchments, enrich the landscape, offer recreational opportunities and provide a source of income;
- Less than 1% of EU forests are pristine habitat with >66% semi-natural;
- Some 127 million ha (12%) of EU forests are protected and 29% of Natura 2000 designations are categorised as forest habitats;
- Poor forest management can lead to a wide range of environmental problems e.g. erosion, biodiversity loss

