



Sustainability assurance

Challenges and opportunities for small holders

EU private forest ownership

- 60% of EU Forests are private (110 M ha)
- 16 M forest owners
- Average size of a private forest holding in the EU = 13 hectares
- Around 2/3 of private forest owners have holdings of less than 3 hectares



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Sustainable Forest Management



Growing expectations from forests



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Forest health / resilience at risk

- Natural disasters, pests and diseases affecting EU forests are more and more common
- Among others, forest risks include:



Pests (e.g. bark beetles)



Forest fires



Storms and windthrows



Drought

Sustainability proof increasingly required



Sustainability proof increasingly required

RED II
EU
sustainability
criteria for
wood used for
energy
purposed

Taxonomy
new draft
sustainability
criteria for SFM

- Coherence needed: role of the EU forest strategy

Sustainability proof increasingly required

- Build on the internationally agreed definition of SFM
- Rely on well-developed forest governance systems including monitoring and enforcement systems in place at national level
- Forest certification schemes: one of several means of proof

Certification: forest owners expectations

Governance and
Organisation

Comply with the
internationally
recognised standard-
setting



Allow forest owners' true
participation and offer just
role in decision-making

Recognise the concept of
family forest owners and
their knowledge

Certification: forest owners expectations

Sustainability

Acknowledge existing efforts made to define, enforce and implement SFM

Ensure balanced treatment of the different elements of SFM

Give due consideration to climate change and SDGs



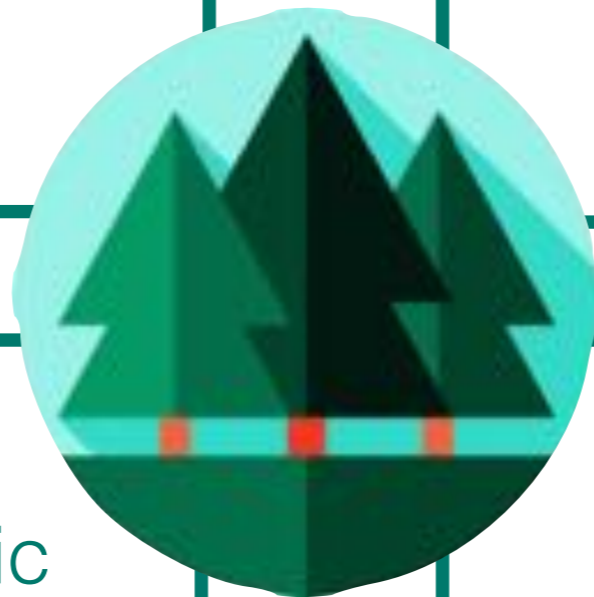
Certification: forest owners expectations

Business growth

Ensure freedom of
trade and market
access

Ensure the economic
viability of responsible
forestry

Protect the operational
security of land owners



Certification: forest owners expectations

- Balanced approach from business to forest certification
- Policy that respects the choice of forest owners and does include all reliable forest certification systems

Conclusions

- Forest sustainability: high on the political agenda
- SFM is not obvious for all policy makers
- Forest certification schemes: one possible tool to support and accompany forest owners to prove SFM
- Forest ownership structure must be considered in any decision related to SFM proof