



Joint Session of the ECE Timber Committee and the FAO European Forestry Commission

Antalya, Turkey – 10-14 October 2011

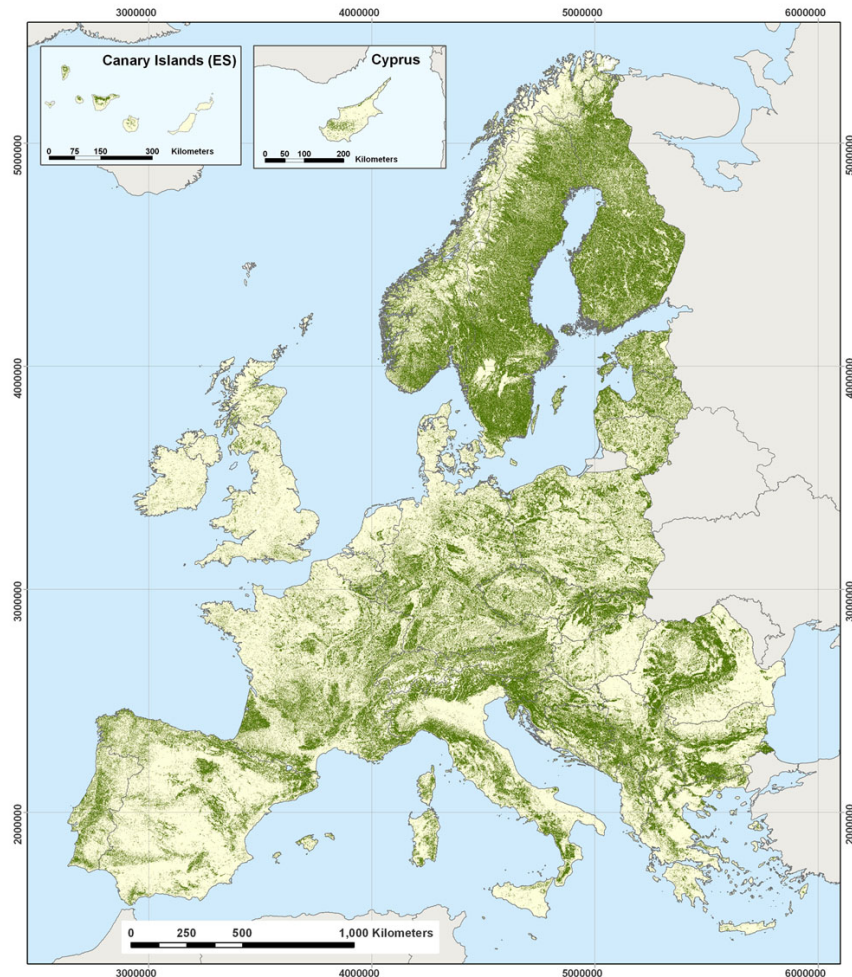


EU Forestry Strategy
in the light of requirements for a Green Economy
Steve Smith
European Commission



Forests in the European Union

- Forest and other wooded land: 178 million ha (42% of total land area) of which 117 million ha are available for wood supply
- Growing stock: 24 billion m³
- Felling: 60 % of the net annual increment harvested annually
- Ownership: 40% public and 60% private
- Certification: Around 50% of the forests are certified
- 3 million people employed, 380 billion euro turnover



Forest Policy in the European Union

ENVIRONMENTAL

RURAL
DEVELOPMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE



INTERNAL
MARKET

ENERGY

INDUSTRY
AND TRADE

RESEARCH &
DEVELOPMENT

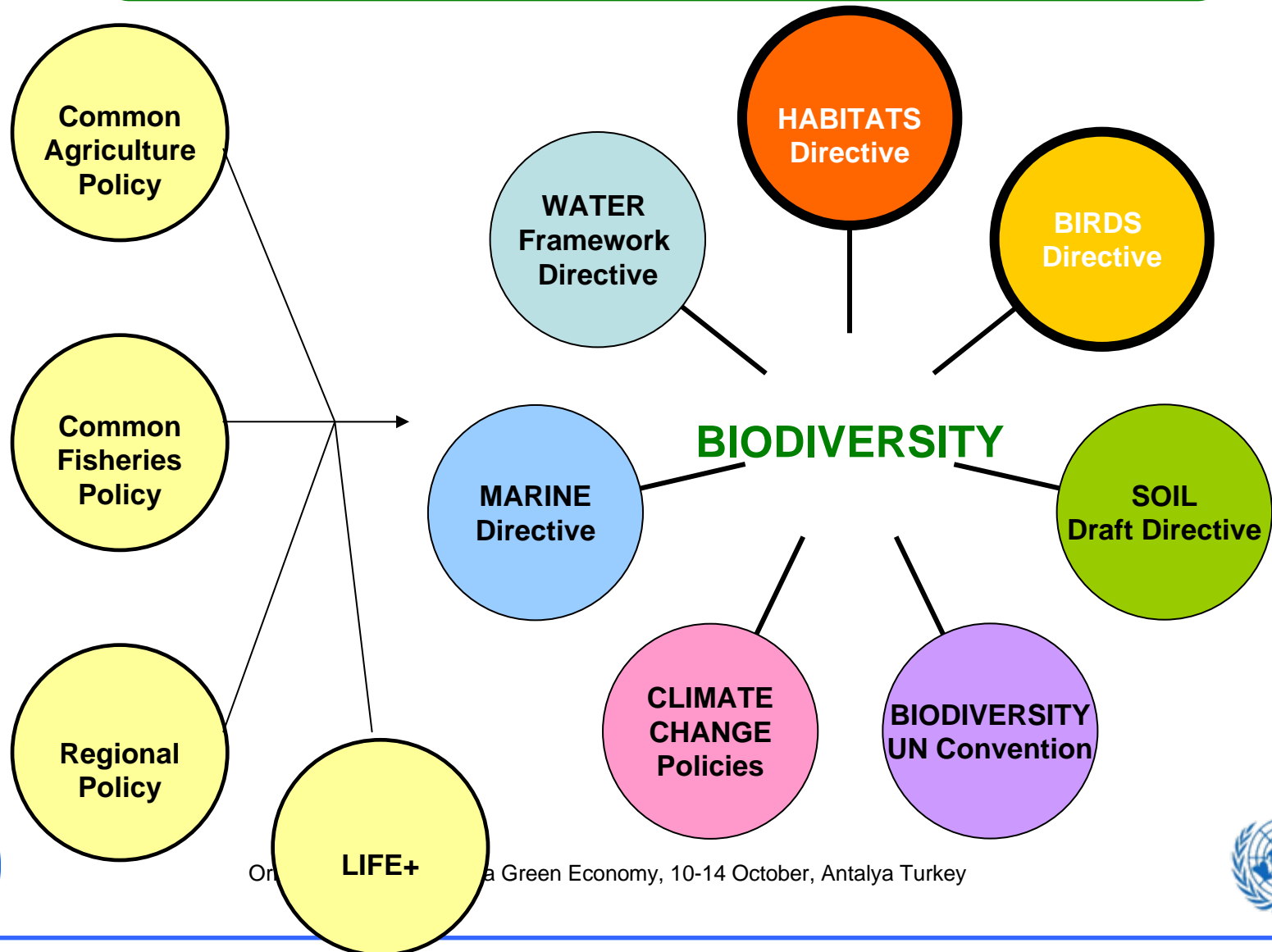


Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey



...

Biodiversity Strategy - Main Pieces of Legislation/Policies Contributing and Having an Impact



EU Forestry Strategy and Forest Action Plan

- Forestry is not an EU 'competence'
- So there is no Common Forestry Policy (cf Common Agricultural Policy, CAP)
- Nevertheless.....

- 1998: EU Forestry Strategy
- 2006: Forest Action Plan (2006-2011)
- 2011: Launch of the review of the EU Forestry Strategy

- Working Group set up by the Standing Forestry Committee to produce proposals for a new EU Forest Strategy - due third quarter 2012



Current EU Forestry Strategy: validity of its principles and values

- **YES, main principles still valid - unanimous**
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Multifunctional Role of Forests
- Subsidiarity
- **BUT.....**
- Some aspects outdated, and some emerging / growing issues
- Some failings – **particular co-ordination of forest-related policies**
- Also noted in particular a lack of harmonised forest information
- And a failure to promote / communicate the benefits of forestry adequately
- Plus, lack of coordination with National Forest Policies



Priorities for the new EU Forest Strategy

- **Green economy** (bioeconomy)
- **Forest health and protection** (pest, diseases, forest fires etc)
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Biodiversity conservation
- Bioenergy
- Ecosystem services
- Afforestation (especially in low forest cover nations)



Ongoing EU Policy Context

- - **EU 2020**
- - EU Biodiversity Strategy
- - EU targets on renewable energy sources
- - EU FLEGT Action Plan and EU Timber Regulation
- - Communication on “innovative and sustainable forest-based industries”
- - Green Paper on forest protection and information
- - International forest-related processes (UNFF, FLEGT, REDD+....)
-
- And in the pipeline.....

- - Review of the Common Agricultural Policy – **Rural Development Programme**
- - LULUCF
- - Resource efficiency
- - **Bioeconomy** (Green Economy)
- - Possible **Legally Binding Agreement on Forestry** (Forest Europe)



Expectations for the new EU Forest Strategy

- A Forest Strategy that can provide a **vision for forests and forestry** in the European Union
- A **strong co-ordinating framework that can balance forest-related policies** in a holistic manner
- Strengthen roles of SFC, AGFC and WPF as key forums for forest related issues
- Integrated EU financial instruments to help deliver the strategy
- Better links to international forest processes
- Specific proposals/actions in EU FS and link to implementation process.....



Specific Proposals for the New EU Forest Strategy Relating to the Green Economy

- EUFS to concentrate on areas which can 'add value' to MS forest policy development, such as.....
- Harmonised forest information and monitoring
- Implement EU forest communication strategy
- Supporting research into priority areas, and improving the links between research, users, public and policy makers
- Supporting the innovative and increased use of wood products
- Supporting the mobilisation of timber resources
- Establishing recognition / payment systems for ecosystem services....



SFC Working Group on EU Forest Strategy

To continue the discussion on the future EU Forestry Strategy and make **recommendations** on:

- **how** the Strategy can ensure coherence with other policies or instruments and add value at EU level,
- **what** a future EU Forestry Strategy should include and/or what kind of alternative might replace it,
- **which** mechanisms could be put in place to achieve an effective and efficient instrument to support and underpin the implementation of forest related policies on EU, national and regional levels and joint EU actions relevant to forestry.



Conclusions

- Forest policy in the EU is inherently complex
- EU forests are a key resource for achieving the EU 2020 targets and contributing to the Green Economy
- Sustaining the forest sector depends upon building collaborative partnerships among Commission, Member States and stakeholders
- New EU Forest Strategy is a unique opportunity to influence forest policy from a forest and forestry angle, giving stronger voice to the forest sector.



Thank you for your attention!



**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**

Steve Smith
Unit H4 “Bioenergy, **Forestry** and Climate change”
Directorate General Agriculture and Rural Development
European Commission

steve.smith@ec.europa.eu
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en.htm



Orman 2011: Forests in a Green Economy, 10-14 October, Antalya Turkey

