

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT: WHAT DOES THE EU BRING?

INSIGHT FROM THE EVALUATION STUDY OF THE FOREST MEASURES UNDER RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

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E F I

THE EU AND FORESTS

FOREST AND THE EU

- ❖ Not a competence of the EU, but tight link with other areas of competences
- ❖ Role of the EU in bringing coherence, coordination
- ❖ Key role of forests to achieve international commitments



1998: FIRST EU FORESTRY STRATEGY *“shared responsibility, co-ordination”*



2006: FOREST ACTION PLAN *“multifunctionality, international commitments, different policy area”*



2013: EU FOREST STRATEGY *“Tackle the challenges facing forests and sector, growing demands and threats to forests, increasing number of forest-related policies”*

- Sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests;
- Resource efficiency, contribution to rural development
- Global forest responsibility



FINANCING TOOL : RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (2ND PILLAR OF THE CAP)

“Member States should make use of rural development funds to improve competitiveness, promote the diversification of economic activity and quality-of-life, and deliver specific environmental public goods, to contribute to promoting the social functions of sustainable forest management.” (Forest strategy, 2013)

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OPERATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE “FOREST MEASURES”

INVESTMENTS IN FORESTRY

8.1 Afforestation

8.2 Agroforestry

8.3 Prevention

8.4 Restoration

8.5 Non-productive investments

8.6 Productive investment

FOREST-ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE SERVICES AND FOREST CONSERVATION

15.1. Payment for forest-environmental and climate commitments

15.2. Support for the conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources

NATURA 2000 IN FOREST AREAS

12.2 Natura 2000 and Water Framework Directive payments

HORIZONTAL MEASURES

1. Knowledge transfer

2. Advisory services

4. Investments in physical assets

7. Basic services

9. Producer groups

10. Agri-environmental and climate measures

16. Co-operation

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THE RD FOREST MEASURES: FACTS AND FIGURES

* Voluntary implementation for the Member States / Regions:

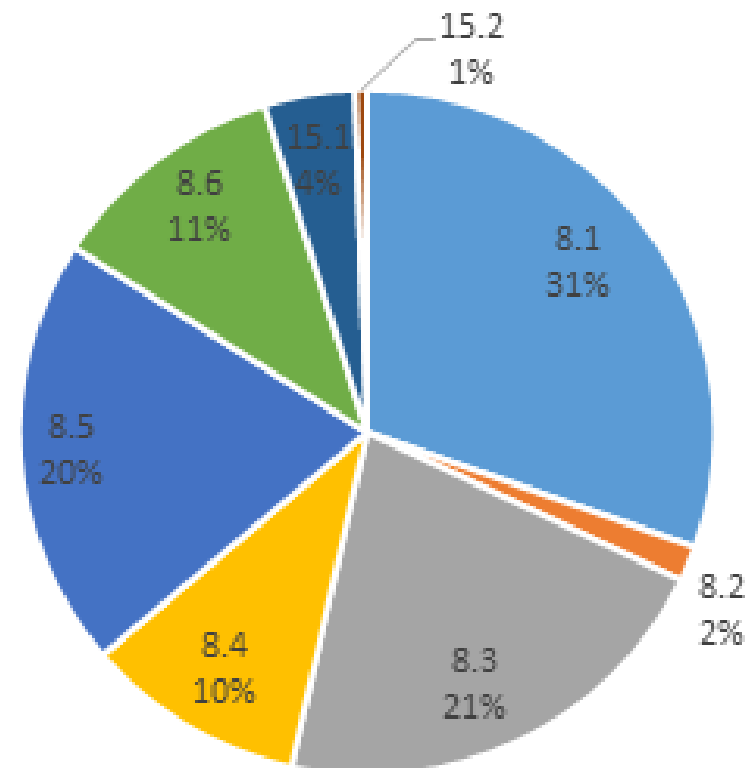
- * Within a limited budget: potential competition with agriculture and rural development (tourism, iT, economic activities, etc.)
- * Contribution of the MS:
- * Significantly varying budgets! More than 5% of the budget in 44 RDPs // Less than 2 % in 40 RDPs

* For the beneficiaries too:

- * Own choice to carry out the operations
- * Funded up to 80%

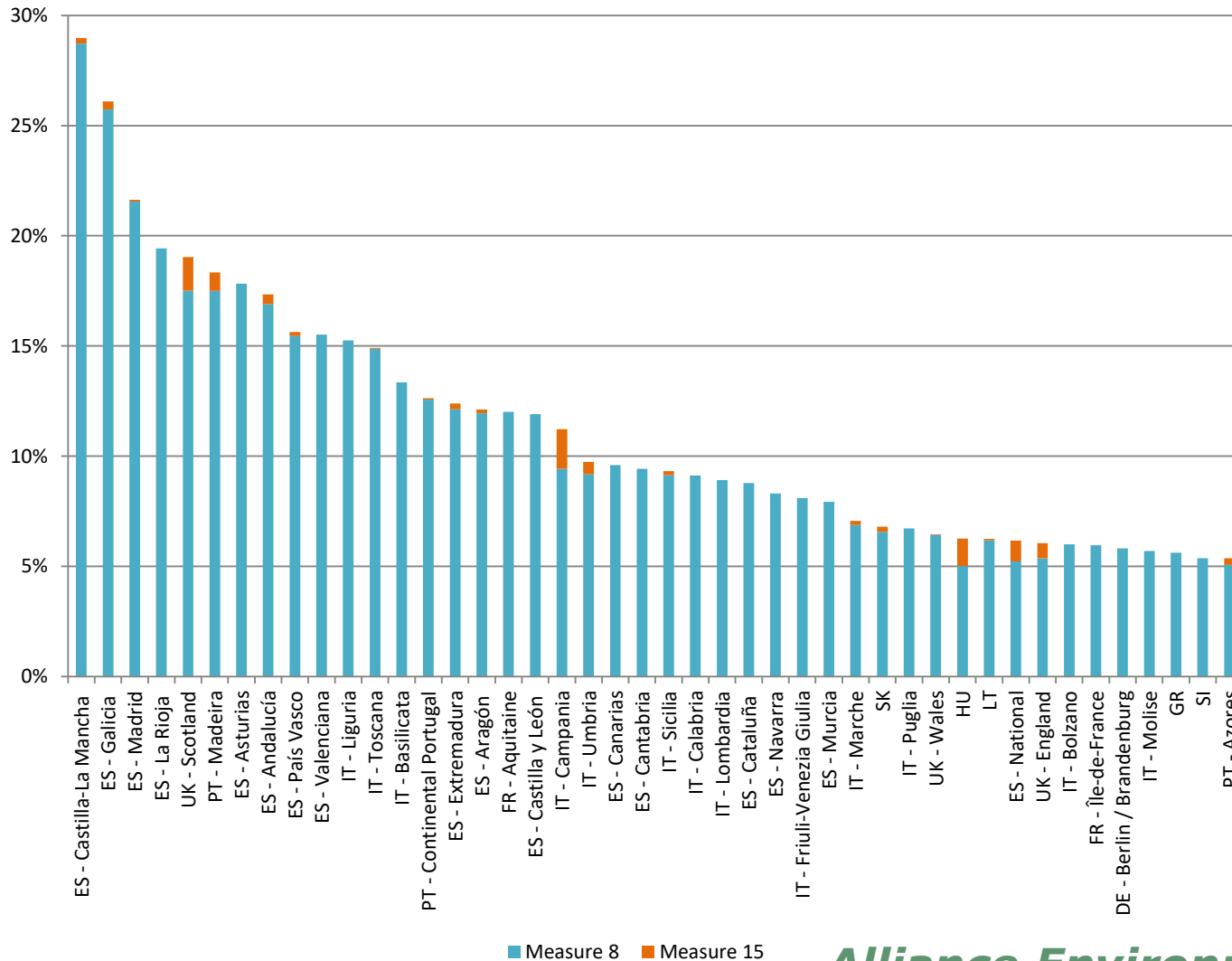
* At the EU level: 7 050 M€ = 5% of the RDP budget (M8 & 15)

Share of the budget of M8 & 15, by sub-measure



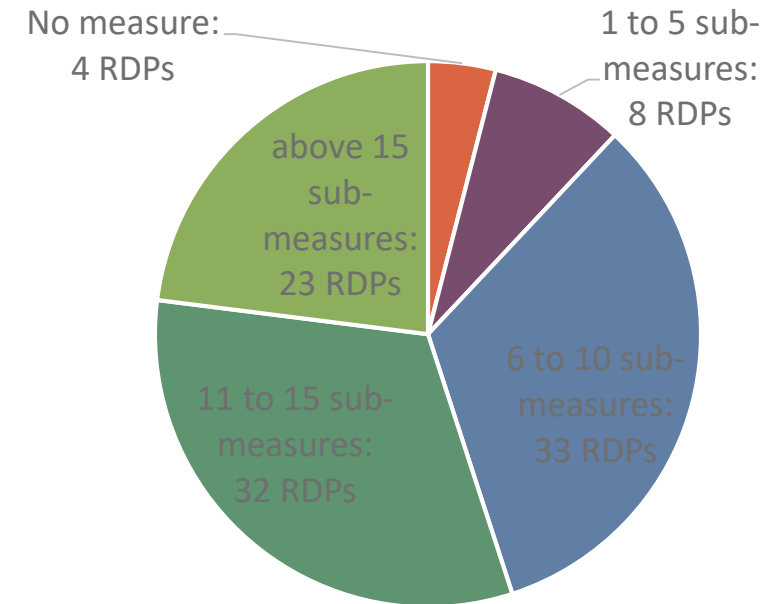
Source: SFC database, January 2017

THE RD FOREST MEASURES: FACTS AND FIGURES



■ Measure 8 ■ Measure 15

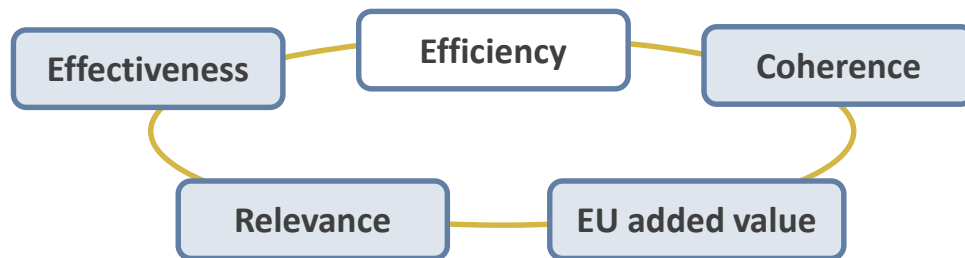
Distribution of the RDPs by number of sub-measures addressing forest



Source: Review of the 100 RDPs concerned by the evaluation study

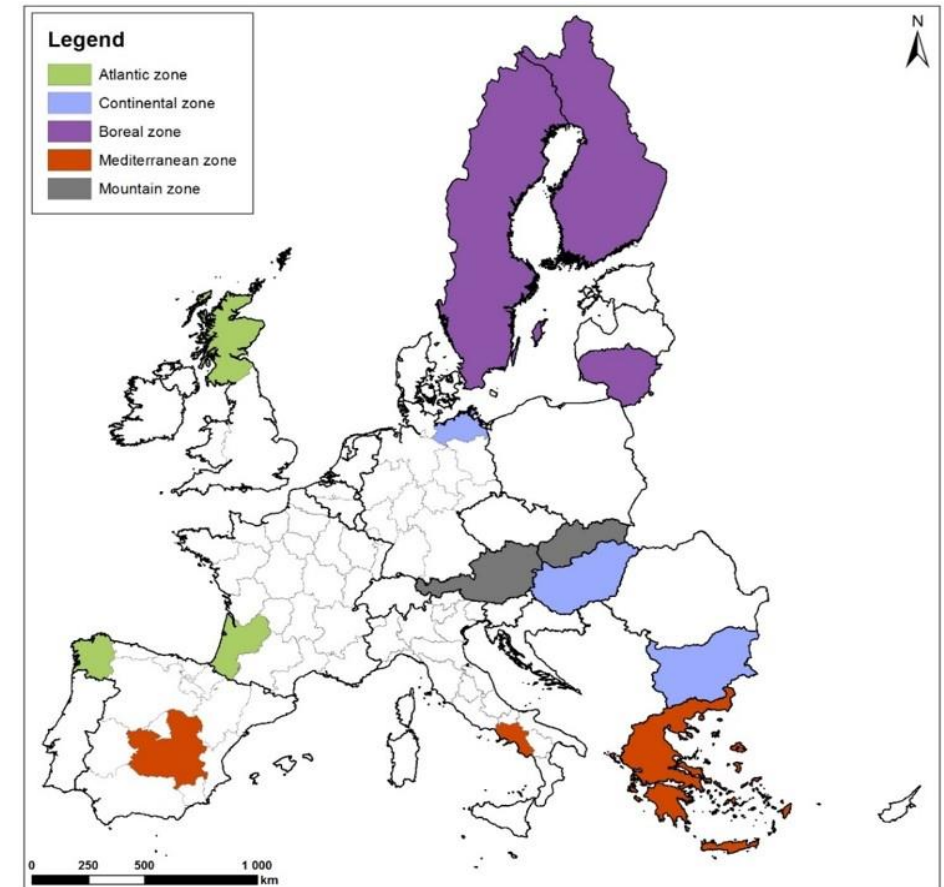
FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

* EVALUATION STUDY



* DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

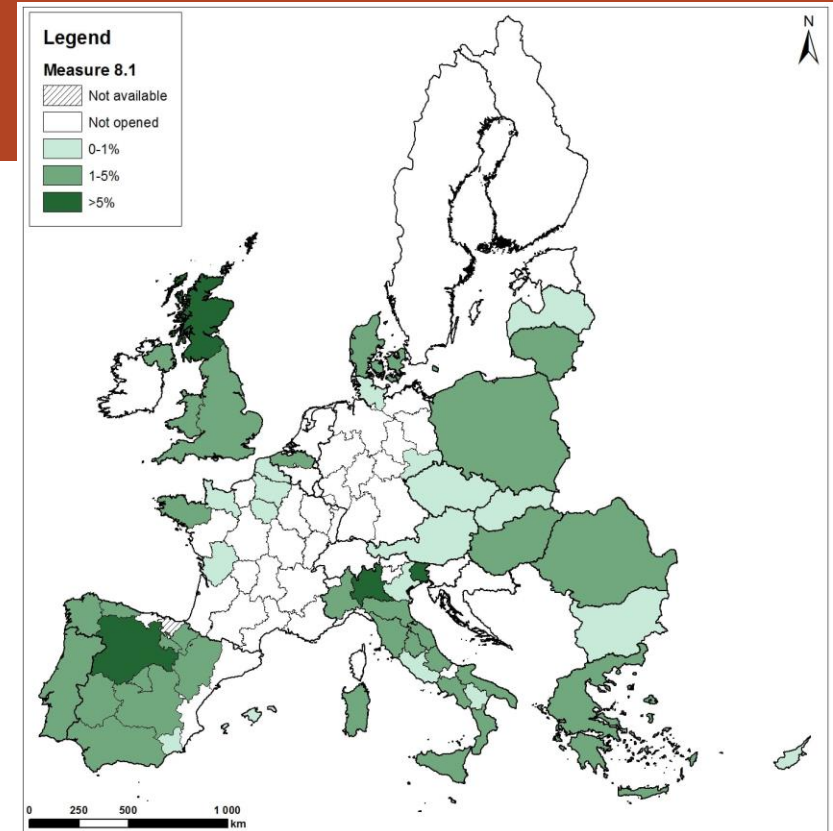
- * **14 Case Studies**, about 200 interviews in 13 Member States
- * **Implementation data** : 10 years (outputs 2007-2013, targets 2014-2020), with limitations
- * **Statistical data** : FADN, forestry databases and LULUCF reports, etc.
- * **Literature reviews** : potential effects of FM on the environment, CC adaptation and mitigation, and territorial development
- * **Survey** of all RDPs' Managing Authorities



CASE STUDIES MEMBER STATES AND REGION

EFFECTS OF SUPPORT TO AFFORESTATION

- * **Main measure:** planned in ½ RDPs for 2014-20, representing 31% of planned public expenditure on the FM
- * Areas afforested with RD support were:
 - * mostly **broadleaves**, ¼ coniferous, ¼ mixed, 2% fast growing species
 - * mostly on **marginal agricultural areas**
 - * afforestation of farmland around 1 ha on average, but 10% are >20ha (patrimonial purpose)
 - * Mostly in ES, UK, PL, HU and LT
- * A key measure on land use change: **concerned 1/3 of the forest area increase** during 2007-13 and same or higher outputs expected for the 2014-20 period
- * **Low incentive for farmers:** mainly compensating agricultural income foregone and additional costs of maintenance
- * Expected long term effects on production
- * Positive effect on climate and the environment, but highly dependant on the choice of sites & species and on the management & longevity of the new woodlands

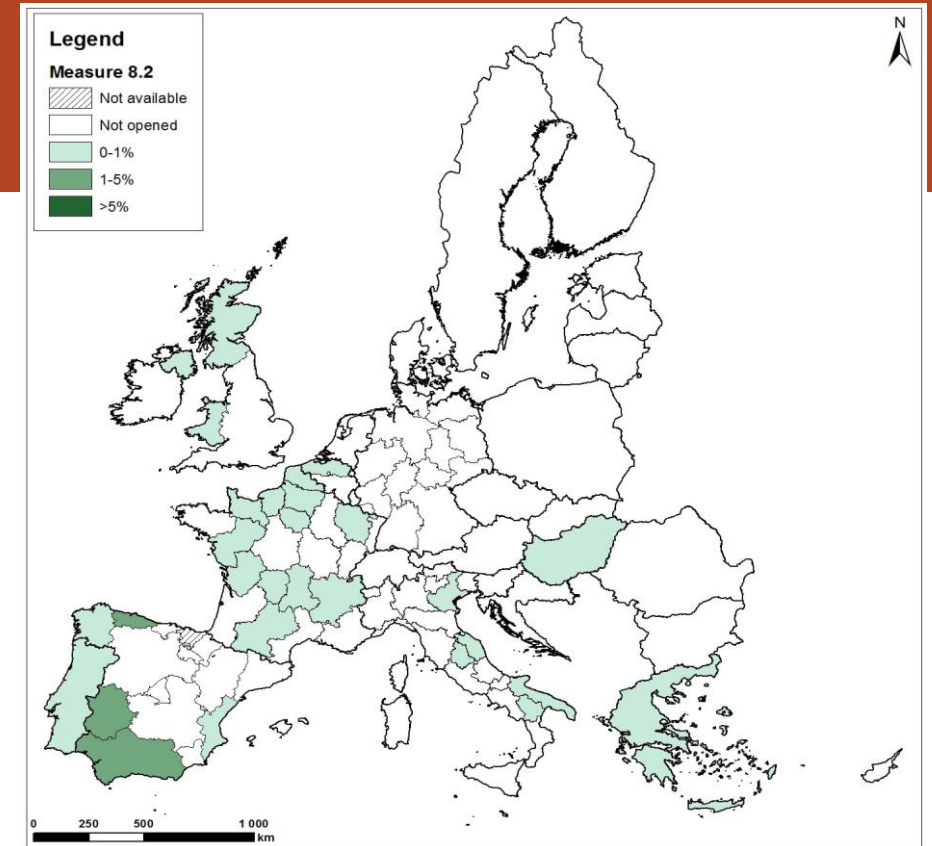


	Area afforested 2007-2013 (ha)	Area to be afforested 2014-2020 (ha)	Total increment in forest area 2007-2013 (ha)	2007-2013 outputs/ total increment	Expected additional volume of wood (M8.1) (m ³ /an)
EU-28	287 490	565 277	924 270	31.1 %	> 2,3 Mm ³

Source: SFC database

EFFECTS OF SUPPORT TO AGROFORESTRY

- * M8.2 programmed **on a limited scale**: <1/4 of 2014-20 RDPs, 2% of planned public expenditure on the FM
- * **Little effect on land use or creation of additional Ecological Focus Areas**, due to the limited area
- * **Criticised for not supporting** the restoration or maintenance of **existing agroforestry systems** (e.g. dehesas, montados, etc.)
- * Appears to be an **important tool for the fostering of new management practices**, providing economic opportunities in marginal areas and delivering significant ecosystems services
- * Expected to have a **growing importance**, i.e. in the adaptation of farming systems to climate change.



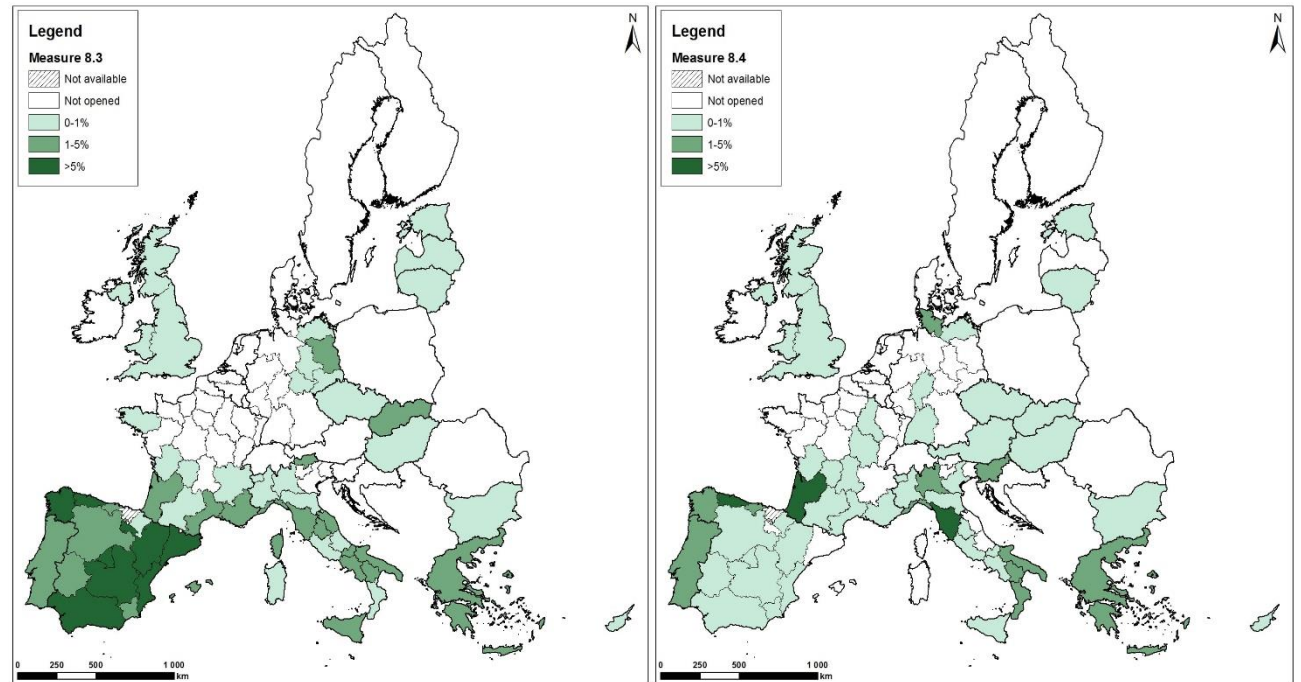
	Area of agroforestry established with M222 support (output 2007-2013) (ha)	Area of agroforestry to be established with M8.2 support (target 2014-2020) (ha)	Total EU agroforestry area (2012)	Target 14-20 / Total EU agroforestry area
EU 28	2 900	71 906	15 421 000 (excl. HR)	0.47%

Source: SFC database

EFFECTS OF SUPPORT TO THE PREVENTION AND RESTORATION OF DAMAGES TO FORESTS

- ✳ 2/3 of the RDPs, 31% of the planned public expenditure on FM
- ✳ Enabled **large scale implementation** of surveillance systems and restoration campaigns (557 000 ha restored in 2007-13).
- ✳ Ensured **continuity of forest ecosystem services, and the maintenance of the production capacity**, with effects on the competitiveness of the sector
- ✳ Fostered the **use of specific species** (e.g. in UK-Scot.), **improved seedlings** (i.e. FR-Aq.) with an effect on the **production** and on the potential of **C sequestration**.

SHARE OF BUDGET ALLOCATED TO M8.3 AND 8.4 IN THE 2014-20 RDPs



Source: SFC databases, targets 2014-2020 (extracted in January 2017)

EFFECTS OF THE SUPPORT TO INVESTMENTS IN FORESTRY

- * **Key measure for the sector:** direct effect on the competitiveness of forest companies, through the **support to buy machinery** (harvesting and silviculture)
- * **Important in terms of rural development:** support to SMEs in rural and disadvantaged areas, contributing to maintaining willingness of forest companies to invest
- * **Direct effect on harvesting capacities**, and expected long term effect on the quality of wood (through thinning, pruning, etc.)
- * Contributed to **introduce new silvicultural practices** (e.g with less impact on soils), even if M8.6 is more oriented to production than to conservation
- * **But only 11 % of the FM budget:** low compared to the economic role of the sector

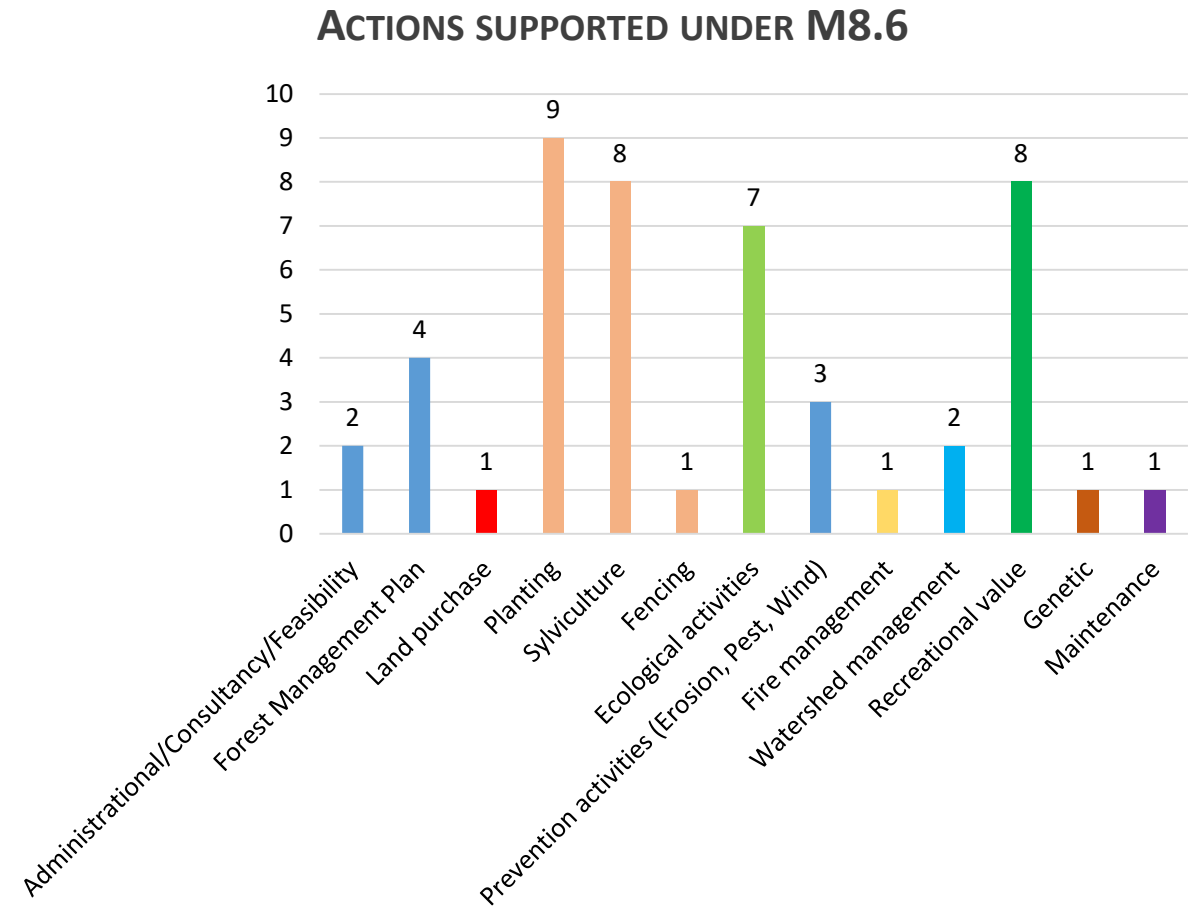
TYPES OF INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED IN THE 14 CASE STUDY RDPs

Type of action implemented	Number of occurrences under M8.6	Main benefits in competitiveness for the forestry sector
Business plan	1	Reduction of costs & increase in market opportunities.
Wood supply	1	Investment in logistics and wood mobilisation.
Sylvicultural machinery	10	Direct support to investment, reduced costs. Adding value to forest products.
Primary processing machinery	10	
Secondary processing machinery	1	
Commercialisation	4	
Non-timber machinery	1	
Monitoring systems	1	Reduced costs & improved of market opportunities.

Source: Alliance Environnement, based on Rural Development Programmes

EFFECTS OF THE SUPPORT TO “NON-PRODUCTIVE” INVESTMENTS AND OF THE PAYMENTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

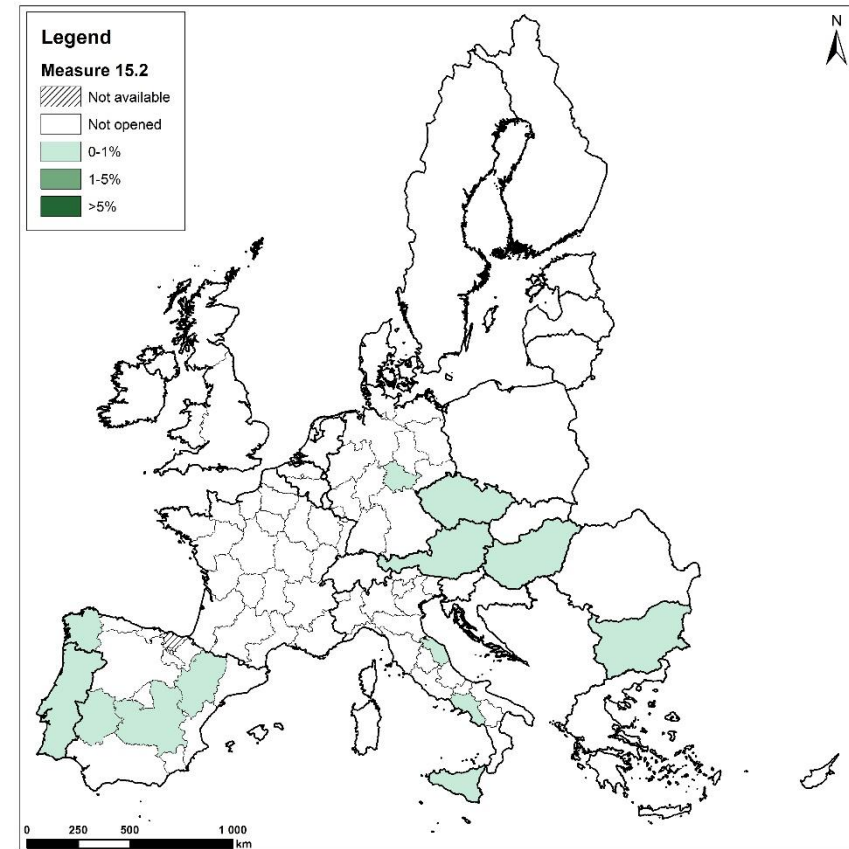
- ✳ **Non productive investments:** recreational activities, plantings, maintenance, etc.
- ✳ **Payment for environmental services:** for commitments to quit some activities (etc. harvesting, hunting)
- ✳ **Lack of synergy with M12.2,** due to “competition” for the same budgets at local level (e.g. DE-MV)
- ✳ **Needs more funding, awareness raising and technical support (M1 and M2) to improve implementation**
- ✳ **Limited budgets, compared to the needs** (e.g. to restore Natura 2000 habitats on 40% of EU forest land)



EFFECTS OF THE SUPPORT TO CONSERVATION OF GENETIC RESSOURCES

- * **Little implementation so far:**
 - * new measure introduced for 2014
 - * priority given to “old” measures, even if M15.2 could have match already existing needs
- * **Growing needs** related to genetics resources, in relation to forest adaptation to climate change and improved productivity
- * **The importance of M15.2 should increase in the following years**

SHARE OF THE RDP BUDGETS ON M15.2
(CONSERVATION OF GENETIC RESSOURCES)



Source: SFC databases, targets 2014-2020

SUMMARY: A COHERENT SET SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

- * Covering the 3 pillars of sustainability
- * Improved cost-benefits ratio with:
 - * Potential of projects to bring multiple benefits: importance of the definition of selection criteria toward “multifunctional” operations
 - * Cooperation in the sector, consistency of the support over time
- * Main limit:
 - * increasing complexity of the implementation for MS and beneficiaries, i.p. small holders
 - * Premiums are generally not incentive enough to motivate significant changes in land use and management practices (M8.1, 8.2, 15.1)
- * Importance of the other RD measures: i.e. technical advisory and knowledge transfer (M1&2)

SUMMARY OF THE BENEFITS OF THE FM

Benefits	Main FMs involved
Land protection	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 15.1
Water regulation	8.1, 8.2, 8.5, 15.1
Improvement of the countryside	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 15.1
Environmental protection	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 15.1, 15.2
Species conservation	8.5, 15.1, 15.2
Improvement of the quality of air and climate	8.1, 8.4, 8.6, 15.1, 15.2
Increased production of wood, cork or other products	8.1, 8.2, 8.4, 8.6
Increased tourism-recreational activities	8.5, 15.1
Improvement in the local economy	8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 15.1

ADDED VALUE IN THE EU INTERVENTION

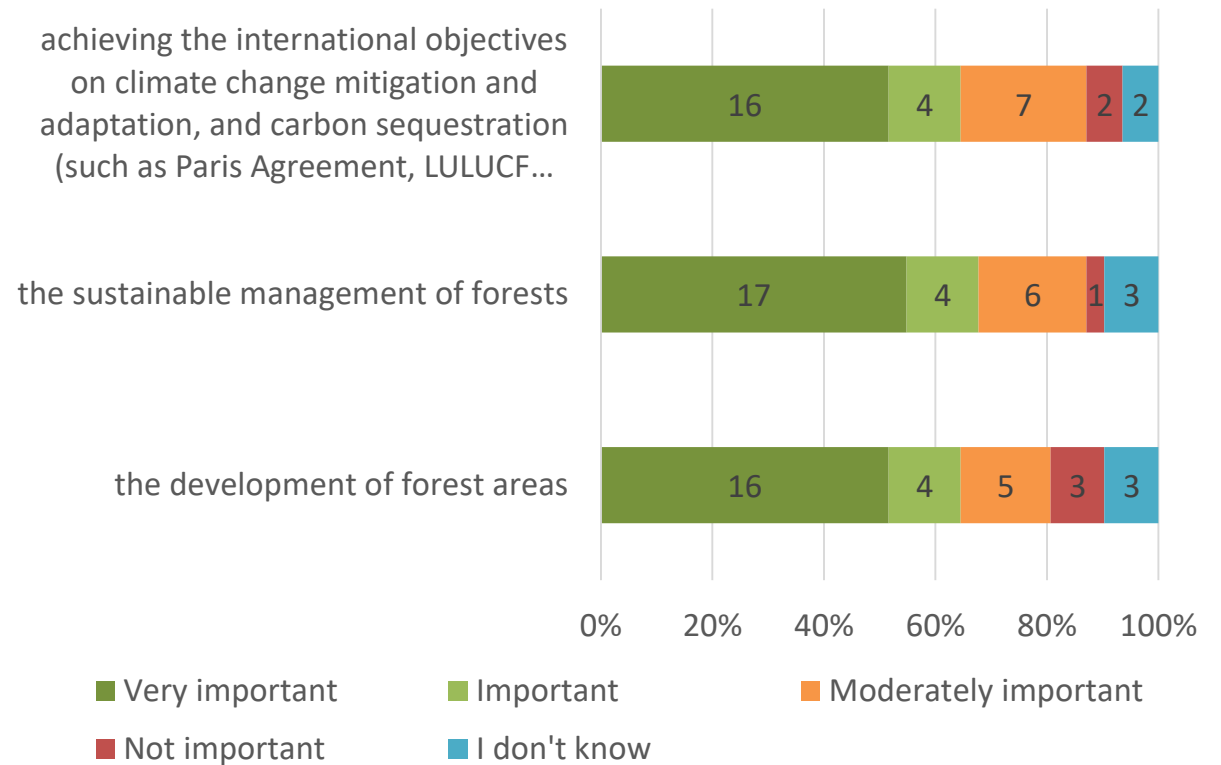
* What did the EU intervention brought?

- * Additional fundings!
- * Multifunctional analysis of projects
- * Strategic thinking, monitoring

* More could be done to

- * Avoid competition within other sectors
- * Improve networking and exchange of best practices, across and within Member States.

Do the EU support bring added value for:



RELEVANCE TO THE FUTURE NEEDS OF FORESTS AND THE SECTOR?

- * **Production:** getting higher → expected effects
- * **Climate:** EU's most significant terrestrial carbon sink, slightly decreasing sink will decrease over coming decades (due to higher demand, changing age classes)
- * **Biodiversity:** possible increase in area of protected forest in the EU over next decades to meet restoration/management needs
- * **“New” roles for forests:** bioeconomy (e.g. biochemicals, biomaterials, biotextiles), promotion of timber as construction material, etc.

- present RD measures match the needs
- ... and are large enough to match future needs

STILL...

- Increasing needs = increasing budgets?
- Management at EU level will have consequences elsewhere on earth.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICY MAKERS

1. **To maintain the support**
2. **To design RDP support for forests on a timescale adapted to forest cycles**, limiting changes in their design and implementation procedure
3. **To ensure the budget allocated to forest priorities in the RDPs is coherent** with EU commitments **and balanced** between sectors and measures
4. **To increase of the uptake of measures**, increasing the incentive on M8.1, 8.2 and 15.1 and controlling that the RDPs targets will be achieved by 2023.
5. **To improve/maintain the contribution of FM and related measures to EU biodiversity targets**, e.g. prioritising between production, climate, social and biodiversity objectives
6. **To improve the resilience of forest to climate change, and their contribution to the EU's long-term climate commitments**, ensuring in particular long-term management of the supported plots
7. **To increase the EU Added value**, i.e. improving networking and exchange of best practices
8. **To improve the global impacts** : think globally

**Thank you for your
attention**

