



# **Stepping up EU action to protect and restore the world's forests**

Hugo Maria Schally  
DG Environment  
European Commission

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# Deforestation and forest degradation

- From 1990 to 2020, some 420 million hectares of forest have been lost, an area bigger than India (FAO)
- Approximately 80% of deforestation is caused by unsustainable agricultural practices.
- Deforestation and other land use change accounts for 12% of greenhouse gas emissions between 2000 and 2009 (IPCC)



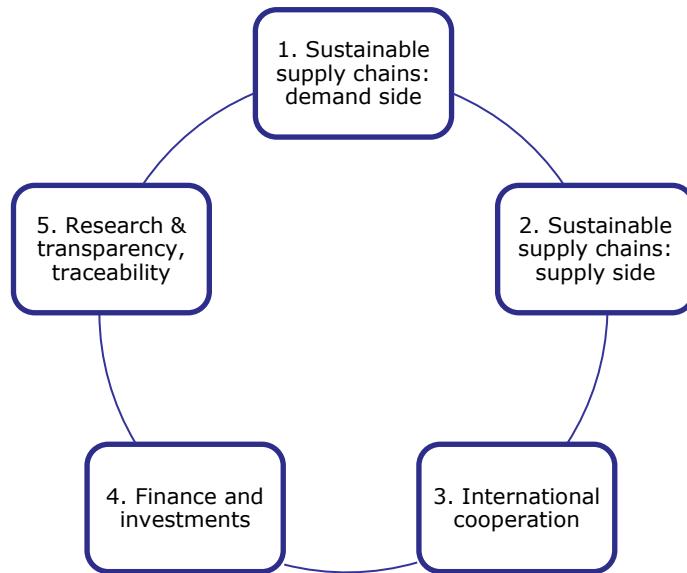
## Role of the EU

- The EU is a major importer of commodities associated with deforestation and forest degradation
- Between 1990 and 2008, the EU consumed one third of the globally traded agricultural products associated with deforestation
- This makes the EU responsible for 10% of worldwide deforestation associated with the production of goods or services



# Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests

1. Reduce the EU consumption footprint on land and encourage the consumption of products from deforestation-free supply chains in the EU
2. Work in partnership with producing countries to reduce pressures on forests and to 'deforest-proof' EU development cooperation
3. Strengthen international cooperation to halt deforestation and forest degradation and encourage sustainable forests restoration
4. Redirect finance in support of more sustainable land-use practices
5. Support availability of, quality of and access to information on forests and commodity supply chains. Support research and innovation





# Political Confirmation

- **European Green Deal:** "The Commission will take measures, both regulatory and otherwise, to promote imported products and value chains that do not involve deforestation and forest degradation."
- **EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030:** "The Commission will also present in 2021 a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market."
- **Farm to Fork Strategy:** "The Commission will present in 2021 a legislative proposal and other measures to avoid or minimise the placing of products associated with deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market."



# Implementation

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- A photograph showing a dense canopy of green leaves against a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The perspective is looking up from the ground.
- Impact Assessment for demand-side measures
  - Fitness Check of EUTR and FLEGT Regulation
  - Study on certification schemes launched
  - Multi-stakeholder platform has been launched. First meeting on October 2
  - EU Observatory to provide better information under development



## Measures to be studied in the impact assessment

- Consumer information and awareness raising campaigns
- Voluntary commitments from business and industry
- Third party verified certification and verification systems
- Voluntary and/or mandatory labelling
- Corporate disclosure and non-financial reporting tools
- Due diligence system
- Agreements with third countries
- Approaches inspired by the EU rules against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)
- Benchmarking, country assessments or black lists
- Deforestation-free requirement or standard as a condition for market access



## Timeline (tentative)

September	Open Public Consultation online (FC & IA)
Autumn	Targetted Stakeholder Consultations
October 2	First Session of the Deforestation Platform
2021 (1Q)	Final results of the Impact Assessment and FC
2021 (1Q)	Final results of Study on Certification
2021 (1Q)	Legislative proposal



# Thank you

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12137-Minimising-the-risk-of-deforestation-and-forest-degradation-associated-with-products-placed-on-the-EU-market>