



# ***EU international agenda on forests***

## **DEVCO Week on Environment SESSION 4: Forests**

**Luca PEREZ  
Team Leader, International Forest Issues  
DG ENV F.3**



# International Forests: Basics

- Forests = 30% of surface area (4 billion ha)
- However tropical forests = only 6% (Amazon, Congo Basin, South East Asia)
- Forests are home to 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity
- Deforestation and forest degradation = 12% of global GHG
- 1.6 billion people depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation
- Over 2 billion people rely on fuel wood for energy
- Other forest ecosystem services: water, soil, disaster risk reduction, recreation and cultural/spiritual value, etc.

**6** CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



**1** NO  
POVERTY



**2** ZERO  
HUNGER



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



**7** AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY



**15** LIFE  
ON LAND



**8** DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



**12** RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



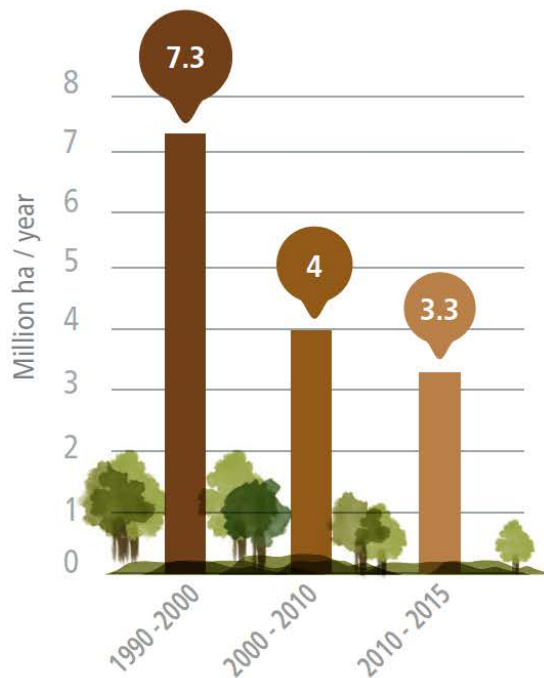
**13** CLIMATE  
ACTION



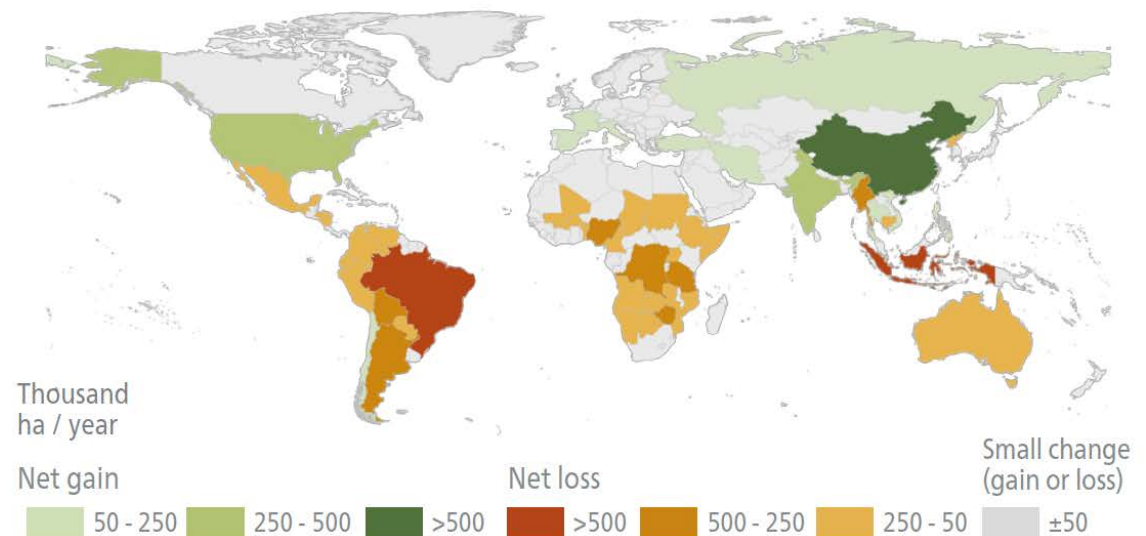
# International Forests: Basics

Progress at global level, but rate of deforestation remains alarmingly high, particularly in tropics (FRA 2015)

World's forest annual net loss



Forest area annual net change 1990 - 2015



↑ **Net forest increases**  
have been mostly in the  
temperate and boreal zones.

↓ **The largest forest loss**  
has occurred in the tropics,  
particularly in Africa and South America.

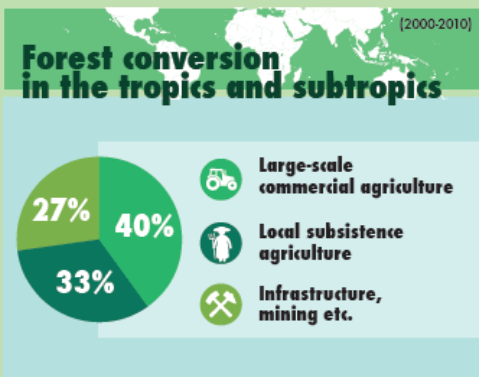
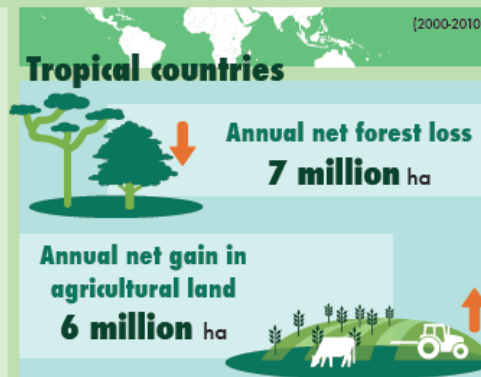
# International Forests: Basics

*FAO's State of the World Forests 2016*

## Agriculture remains the most significant driver of global deforestation

### THE GREATEST LOSS OF FORESTS AND GAIN IN AGRICULTURAL LAND

was in **tropical** and  
**low-income countries**.



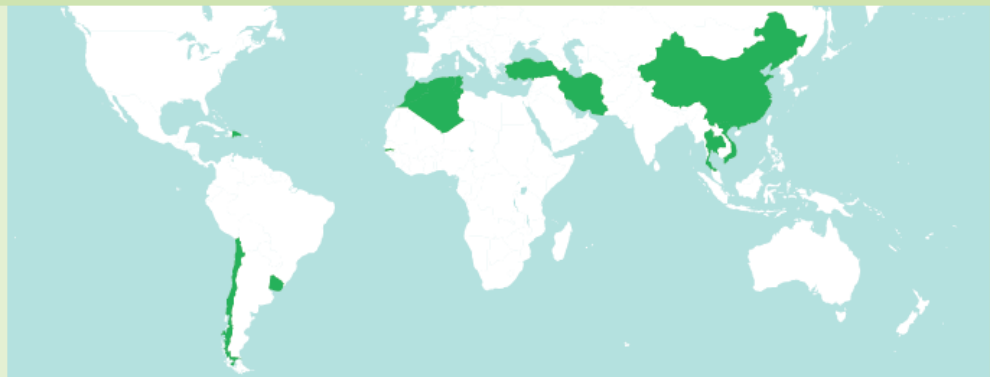
## Global demand for agricultural production will continue to rise



**Over 20 countries** succeeded in  
improving food security while maintaining  
or increasing forest cover since 1990

**12 of these countries** increased  
forest cover by over **10%**

- Algeria, Chile, China, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Iran, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uruguay, Viet Nam





# International Forest Policy: a fragmented landscape

- No global forest convention, but forests in CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, ITTA, Ramsar, WHC, FAO, etc.
- UN Forum on Forests (under the ECOSOC)
  - Holistic approach of forest issues, but policy forum -> limited impact on the ground
  - 2007 UNGA adopts the UN Forest Instrument (e.g. Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests)
  - 2017 first UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017 - 2030: 6 goals – 26 targets
    - New framework to drive efforts by countries and UN system; new mechanism "Voluntary National Contribution"
- Paris Agreement: REDD+ and Forests (Art 5), INDCs



# EU Agenda on forests

Halt deforestation and forest degradation and ultimately promote sustainable management of the world's forests

Improved forest governance and law enforcement as precondition

Range of policy instruments and initiatives to achieve these goals:

- fight illegal logging with the [Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade \(FLEGT\) Action Plan](#)
- to reduce deforestation and forest degradation notably in the framework of the [REDD+](#) process
- Promote forest protected areas and forest biodiversity conservation
- Combat wildlife trafficking and forest crime
- Support national and regional capacity building, agroforestry and sustainable forest management, and forest research

# REDD+: mechanism, framework, mitigation potential



# What is REDD+?

- REDD+ is a mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Objective: mitigating climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from deforestation;
- Negotiations aiming at a global mechanism started in 2005;
- Cancun 2010: seven sustainable development safeguards agreed
- Warsaw 2013: a framework of rules, incl. work programme for results-based finance, monitoring systems, measuring emission reductions
- Activities: deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable forest management, enhancement of forest carbon stocks (e.g. reforestation) in developing countries



# Global accounting for forest and land emissions and removals

- **Paris Agreement:** stronger emphasis on the role of sinks, "carbon neutrality" in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of century
- Implementation: national action plans (NDCs): 160 countries (95% of global emissions). Nearly **100 includes mitigation in the land and forestry sectors**
- Challenges: **great heterogeneity**, rules missing for comparability, transparency



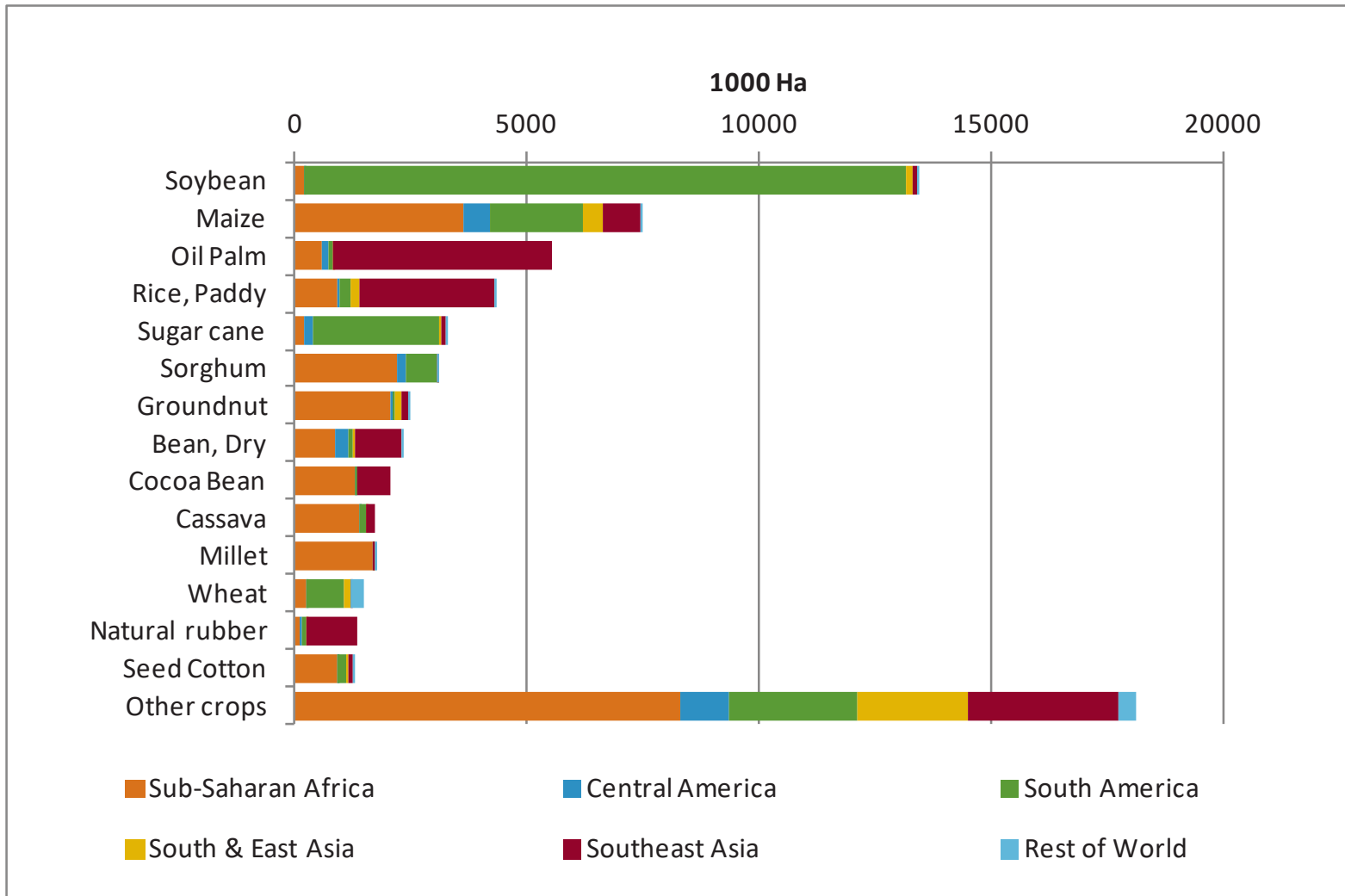
**Can the EU further step up its efforts to address deforestation?**

# How does EU consumption impact global deforestation?



- *Report published on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013*
- [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/impact\\_deforestation.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/impact_deforestation.htm)

## Deforestation and crops



## Deforestation and trade (1990-2008)

- ❖ **substantial part of the embodied deforestation remains in the country or (world) region of production: crops (two thirds), livestock (92%) and wood products (two thirds)**
- ❖ **EU27 imported 36% of all deforestation embodied in crop and livestock products traded internationally (equivalent to 9Mha of deforested land).**
- ❖ **The second ranked region was Eastern Asia (includes China and Japan), with 4.5 Mha. North America imported 1.9 Mha.**

# How to step up EU action?



- ❖ **Feasibility study on a possible AP on Deforestation**, implemented by a consortium of consultancy firms
- ❖ Terms of Reference available at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/ToR%20-%20Feasibility%20Study%20Deforestation%20final\\_dec15.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/ToR%20-%20Feasibility%20Study%20Deforestation%20final_dec15.pdf)
- ❖ Three deliverables, available June 2017:
  - ✓ 1) a **mapping** of existing EU policy, legislation and initiative that can address, directly or indirectly, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation within and outside EU borders.
  - ✓ 2) to identify and assess the **policy options** that can address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation at global scale.
  - ✓ 3) Stakeholders online **survey**

# Situation Analysis: Production, Trade and EU imports

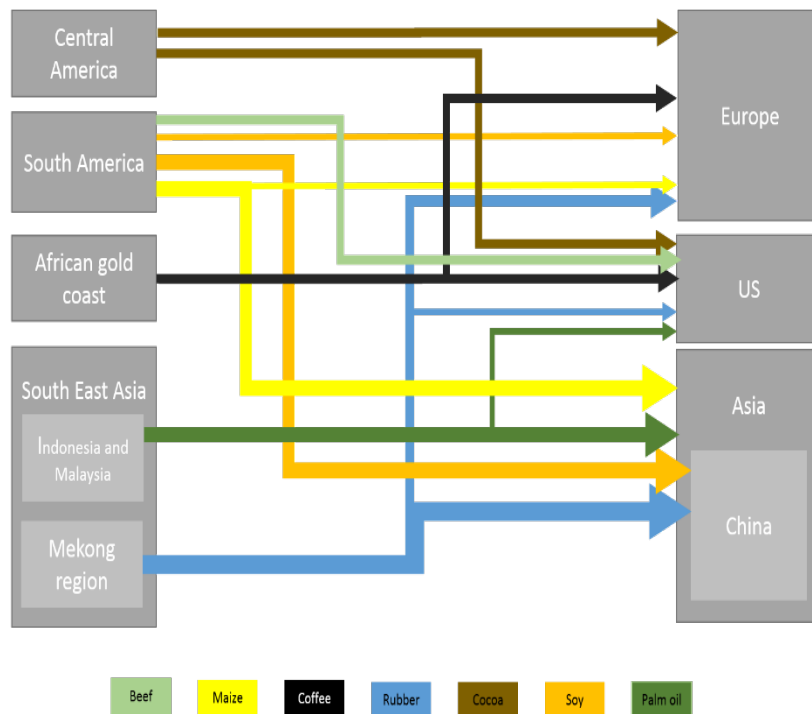
## 12 commodities assessed

Annual Crops	Perennial Crops	Forest based	Livestock	Extractive industries
<b>Maize,</b> <b>Sugar</b> (cane), Grain crops, <b>Soy,</b> <b>Rice,</b> Alfalfa, Cassava, Sugar beet, Hay	<b>Coffee,</b> Coconut, Pineapple, Mango, <b>Cocoa,</b> <b>Palm oil,</b> <b>Rubber,</b> Tea, <b>Cotton</b>	<b>Timber,</b> <b>Wood pellets,</b> Cellulose, Pulp, Paper, Processed wood (e.g. MDF)	<b>Beef,</b> <b>Leather,</b> Milk/dairy products, and all free ranging animal husbandry	Gold, Silver, Diamonds Zinc, Potassium, Rare earth minerals, Oil, Coal

Full list (above) and reference studies (right)

Study	Year	Palm oil	Soy	Pulp & Paper	Timber	Beef	Leather	Biofuels	Cotton	Maize	Sugar	Rice	Food Crops for feed	Wood Panels	Fossil fuels	Minerals	Gold
GCP	2013	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										
VITO	2013	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				
Henders et al	2015	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											
IIED	2016	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									
Brack et al.	2016	✓	✓			✓	✓										
Rautner et al.	2013				✓			✓					✓		✓	✓	
Lammerant J. et al.	2014		✓			✓			✓								✓
Union of Concerned Scientists	2012			✓	✓									✓			

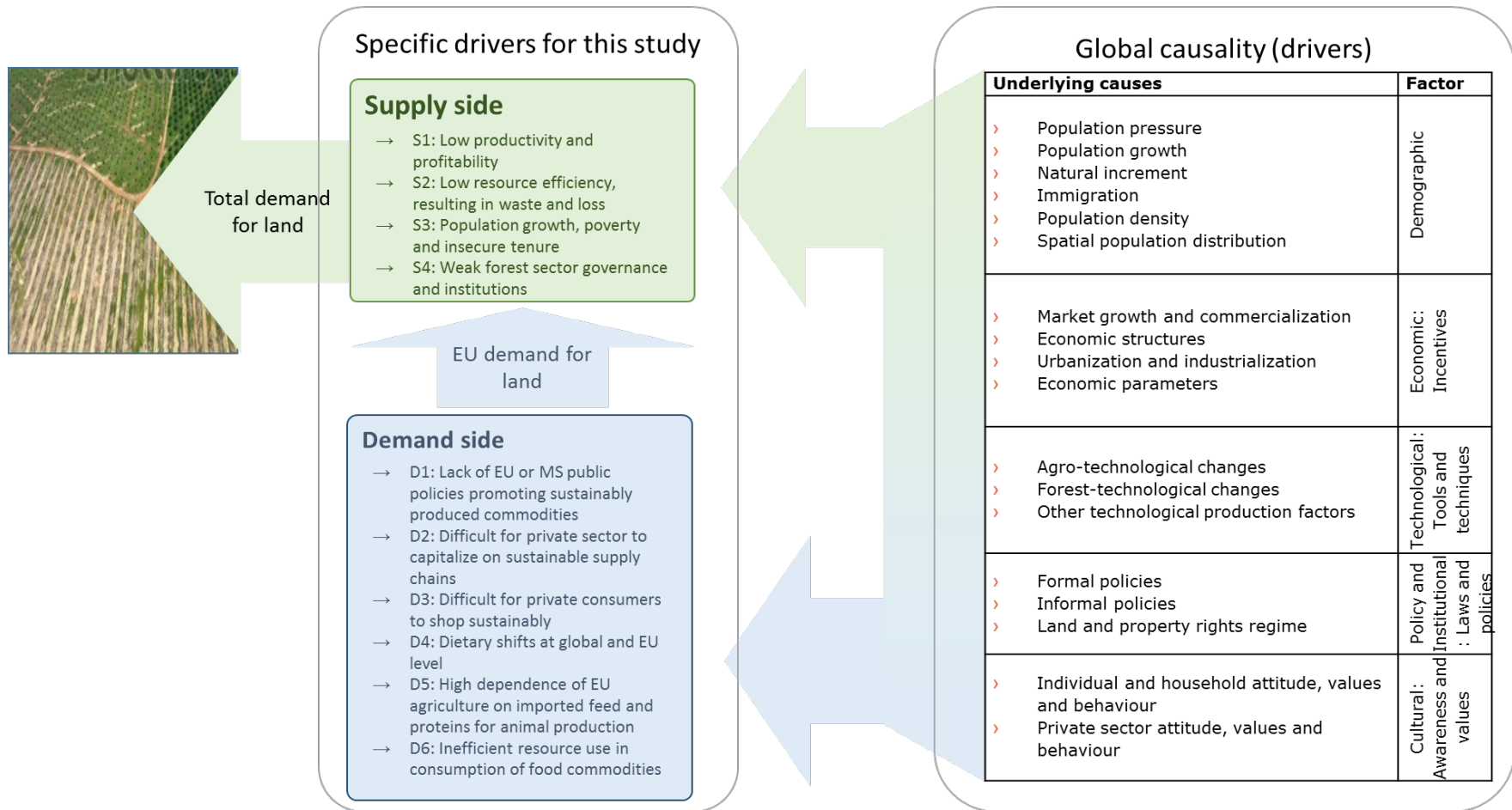
# Situation Analysis: Production, Trade and EU imports



Size of arrow only indicative. Large = main. Small = not main importer

Commodity	Main exporters	Main importers	EU role in demand
Soy	US, Brazil, but with Paraguay and Argentina as important minor producers	China,	EU as main for soy oil cake.
Palm Oil	Malaysia, Indonesia	Asia, EU	EU significant second
Beef/Meat/Leather	Brazil, US, Australia	EU, SE-Asia, US	Main importer, but large differences between MS
Cocoa	Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and minor role for Cameroon and Indonesia	EU, US, Malaysia	Main importer, but large differences between MS
Maize	US, Ukraine, Argentine, Brazil, France and India as a small but only Asian exporter.	EU, Asia (Japan), Mexico	Main importer, but large differences between MS
Coffee	Brazil, Vietnam, Columbia but also in aggregate the many smaller Central American producers (Honduras, Costa Rica, Mexico etc.)	EU, US	Main importer, but large differences between MS
Rubber (Natural)	Lao, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Nigeria	China, EU, US	Second to China
Timber (Non-coniferous sawlogs)	Malaysia, Russia, and the US are among the biggest exporters, but also Uruguay, Gabon, Myanmar, and Papua New Guinea	China, India, EU	Third after China and India
Pulpwood	EU, Vietnam, Australia, the US, Chile, and Russia.	EU, Japan, China	Largest importer, but much trade is intra-EU
Wood pellets	European countries, Russia, the US and Canada	EU, South Korea	Largest importer
Biodiesel	Analysis of product and trade dynamics differ as the focus is on feedstock rather than end-product. Largest producer of biodiesel globally.	N/A	N/A
Bioethanol	Analysis of product and trade dynamics differ as the focus is on feedstock rather than end-product. US, Brazil and EU are the largest producers.	N/A	N/A

# Some initial thinking





# Screening and feasibility analysis of options

## Main challenges/key questions

- › Complicated landscape, multiple supply chains, multiple geographies and action required at multiple levels
- › Different possible objectives/conceptual frameworks:
  - › Reducing impact of EU consumption only vs tackling the problem globally
  - › Tackling illegal deforestation vs Sustainable agricultural commodities vs Zero Deforestation
  - › Horizontal approach vs Commodity by Commodity tools
- › Identification of realistic, politically viable options which can contribute to address the problem effectively



THANK YOU



# Reserve slides



# UN strategic plan for forests

- Global Forest Goal 1** Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation and contribute to the global effort of addressing climate change.
- Global Forest Goal 2** Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.
- Global Forest Goal 3** Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.
- Global Forest Goal 4** Mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management and strengthen scientific and technical cooperation and partnerships.
- Global Forest Goal 5** Promote governance frameworks to implement sustainable forest management, including through the UN Forest Instrument, and enhance the contribution of forests to the 2030 Agenda.
- Global Forest Goal 6** Enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, as well as across sectors and relevant stakeholders.



# EU Agenda on forests

Not a single agenda reflects the multiple values of forests

- ❖ Communication on addressing Deforestation (2008)
- ❖ EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020 (2011)
- ❖ 7th EU Environment Action Programme (2013)
- ❖ EU Forest Strategy (2013)
- ❖ 2030 Climate and Energy Framework (2014)
- ❖ EU Wildlife Action Plan (2015)
- ❖ "Trade for all" strategy - Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy (2015)