

Assisted migration: an update on the EU policy context

MigForest - Increasing forest resilience in North-West Europe through assisted migration: risks and opportunities

14 April 2026

The EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – A cross-cutting plan of actions with a whole-of-government approach

The **EU Forest Strategy (EUFS)** - Building on the concept of Sustainable Forest Management - provides the framework for forests to deliver on their multiple roles.

Its objectives are to ensure:

- 1) Thriving rural areas and sustainable bio-economy backed by
- 2) Healthy forests and resilient and multifunctional forest ecosystems.

It's facilitated by:

- 3) Strategic forest monitoring, reporting and data collection;
- 4) A strong research and innovation agenda;
- 5) Inclusive and coherent governance;
- 6) Effective implementation and enforcement.

- Accompanied by a voluntary pledge to [“plant 3 billion additional trees by 2030”](#)



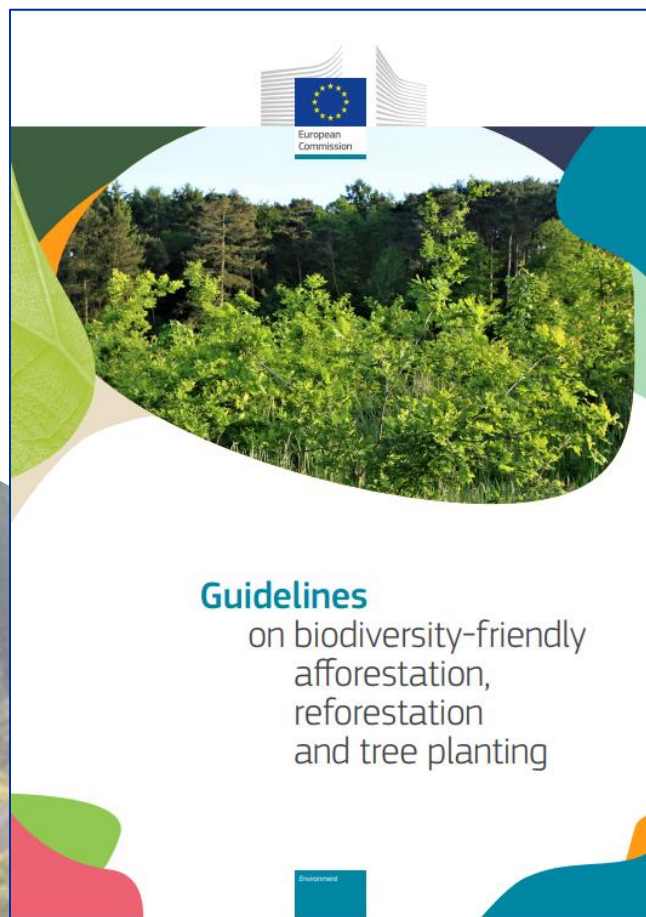
“Adapting forests to climate change and restoring forests following climate damages will also require large quantities of appropriate forest reproductive material. This implies efforts to secure and sustainably use – based on ecological principles – the genetic resources on which a more climate-proof forestry depends; to increase the production and availability of such material; to provide better information on its suitability for future climatic conditions; to support research into the principles and application methods of assisted forest species migration (...).”

European Commission, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions, "EU Forest Strategy for 2030," COM(2021) 572 final, September 16, 2021, p.2



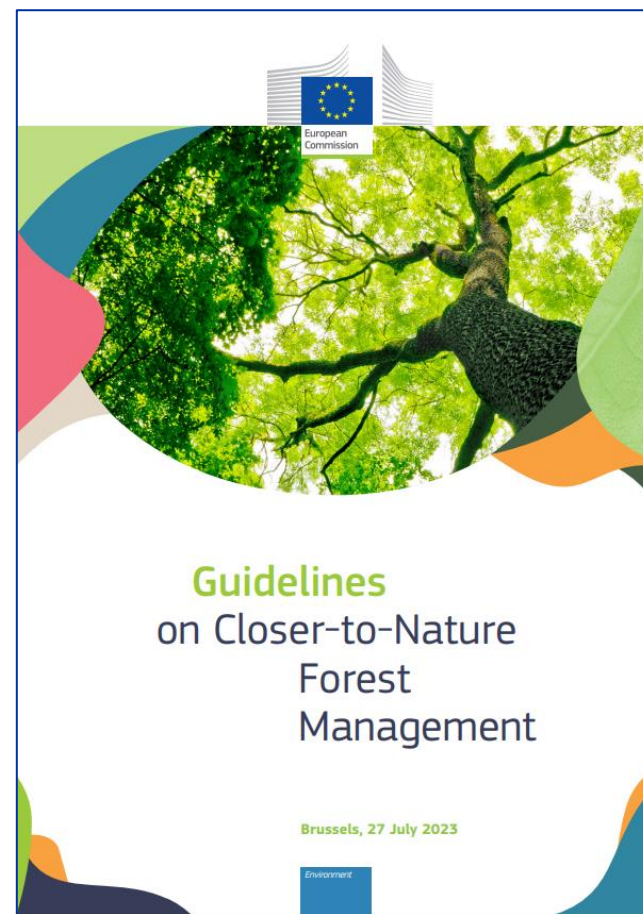
EU guidelines on biodiversity-friendly afforestation, reforestation and tree planting

Aim to promote tree planting that enhance biodiversity, climate resilience and socio-economic benefits



EU guidelines on closer-to-nature forest management

Promotion of biodiversity-friendly and adaptive forest management as part of a common framework for closer-to-nature forest under the umbrella of Sustainable Forest Management



Assisted migration in Natura 2000 sites

Publication on 26 March 2026 of [a guidance on adapting Natura 2000 sites to climate change.](#)

Main messages:

- Possibility of changing from one forest habitat to another using assisted migration
- When species are unable to move to new areas of suitable climate, a possible response is assisted migration
- However, the need for species translocation need to be carefully considered, due to the well know risks.
- It is recommended that the need for translocations/assisted migration is assessed and planned strategically initially at Natura 2000 network, or at least regional level.



Forest reproductive material

Council Directive 1999/105/EC on the marketing of forest reproductive material



Political agreement reached in December 2025

Proposal for a Regulation on the production and marketing of forest reproductive material



Already existing

- Obligation of MS to include basic material approved on their territory in the national register
- Publication of an EU-wide list through [FOREMATIS](#) to ensure full traceability
- Provision of information about the origin of the basic material

What will be new ?

- Possibility for Member States to authorise professional operators to approve basic material for the production of FRM for the purpose of conservation of forest genetic resources under official supervision of the competent authorities.
- Stronger focus on assessing sustainability features, and ensure the basic material contributes to forest resilience (better adaptation to local climate conditions).

'basic material' = seed source, stand, seed orchard, parents of a family, clone or clonal mixture as defined in the Proposal for the Regulation





Horizon Europe projects

- Home: FORGENIUS: Improving access to forest genetic resources information and services for end-users
- OptFORESTS Home: Horizon Europe project funded by the EU to enhance diversity and resilience of future European forests from November 2022 to October 2027.
- SafeNet: Safeguarding biodiversity and carbon-rich forest networks in Europe
- FORbest: Safeguarding carbon and biodiversity across European forest ecosystems through multi-actor innovation

Projects can be found under the following portal: [EU Funded projects | EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



Thank you



Directorate-General for Environment

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Slide 02-03-04-05-07 : pictures, source: European Commission



Lunch break: back at 13:30

