

FINAL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE
**Towards Forest Management in line with the
Protection and Conservation of Biodiversity**
16-18 February 2022



Private Land Conservation: instruments supporting the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and the EU Forestry Strategy

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- Expand the use of private land conservation methods and approaches in the EU
- Develop recommendations for new and more effective private land conservation tools including policies changes, administrative regulations, guidelines, funding, incentives, capacity needs,...
- Develop a Network of European Private landowners involved in nature conservation

Challenges for PLC tools

- **Flexibility and trust**
 - Long-term guarantee needed
 - Climate and natural habitat changes
 - Two-way knowledge exchange and trust
- **(Inter)national consistency**
 - Bureaucratic requirements

Opportunities for PLC tools

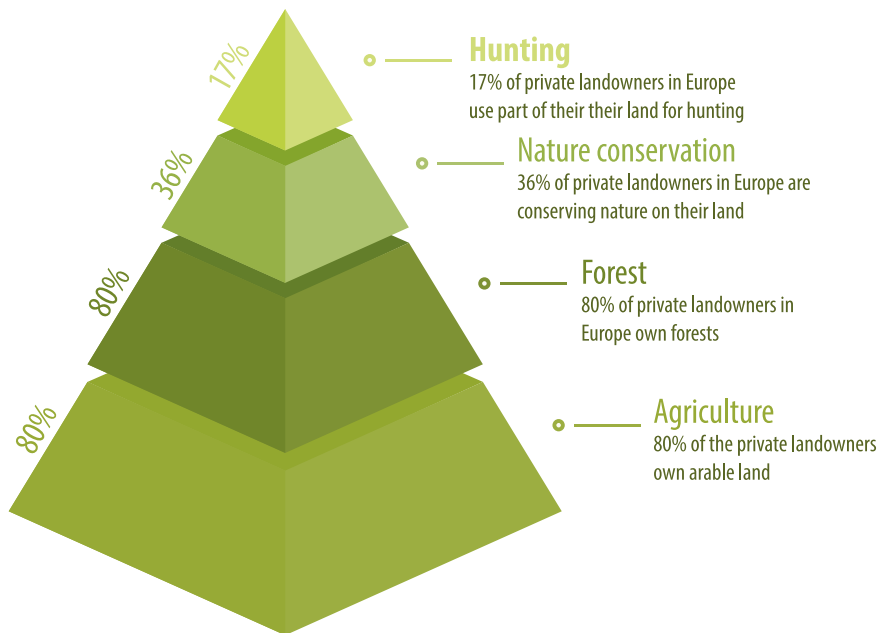
- **Local flexibility and trust**
 - Science based agreements
 - Define goals instead of methodology
 - Respect the variety of private landowners
 - Voluntary tools: landowner as a stakeholder
- **(Inter)national consistency**
 - International coordination and follow-up
 - Landscape scale
 - Awareness of efforts

PRIVATE LANDOWNERSHIP

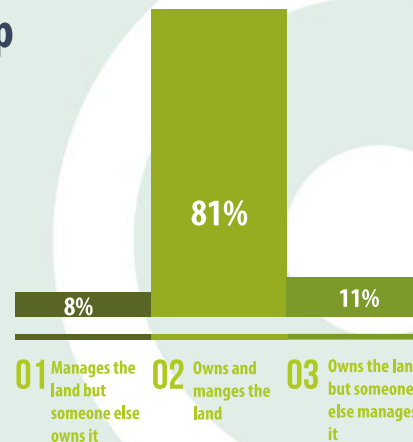
in Europe



Land use



Ownership



PEFC/FSC Forestry label

Forestry labels are quite common among forest owners. The label is directly linked to the product.

34%



Wildlife Estates Label

The Wildlife Estates Label is a management label well known among owners with an interest in nature conservation and/or hunting

11%



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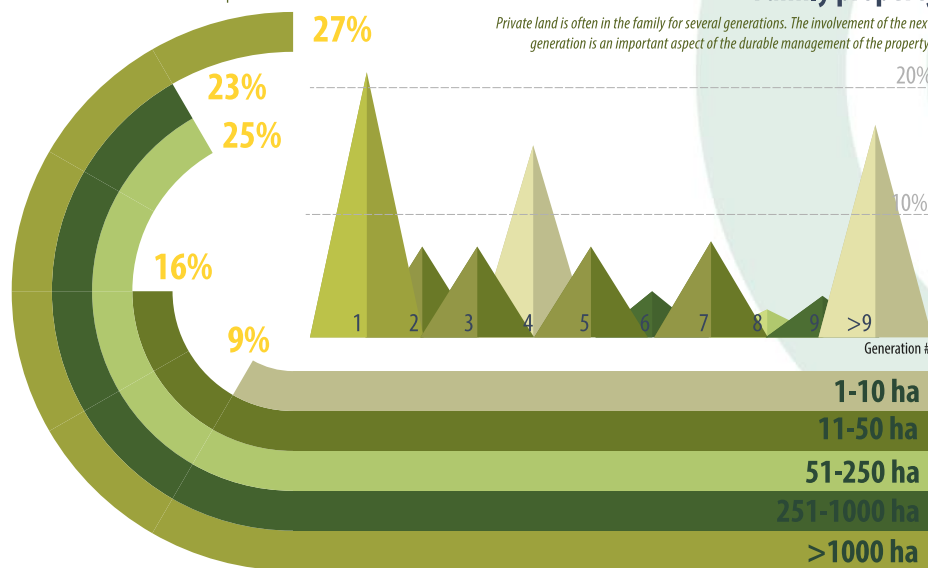
PRIVATE LANDOWNERSHIP

in Europe



Size of the land

Respondents often own/manage larger estates with a large majority owning more than 51 ha. Western Europe and the Mediterranean/South area has a significant larger number of respondents owning smaller plots under 50 ha. Here we see a clear influence of the Code Napoleon



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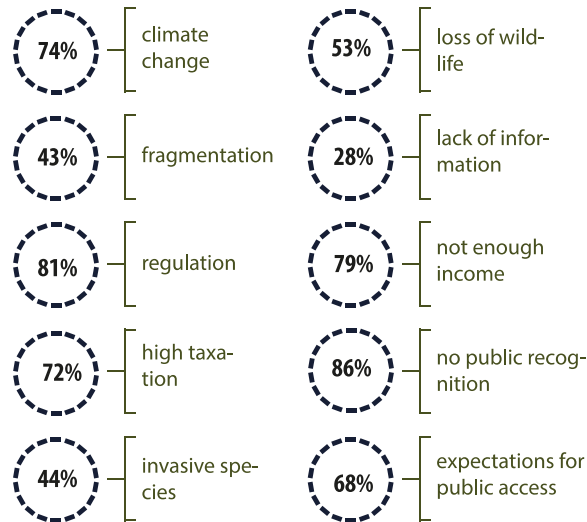
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Nature conservation: issues related to private landownership

The following issues are seen as very important to private landowners (percentage of total of respondents)



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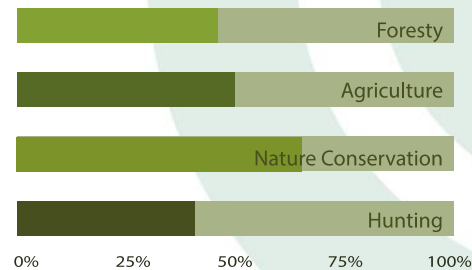
Female landowners

An increasing number of landowners and landmanagers are female. Their approaches to land management are often different from their male counterparts



Female landowners and land management

Female landowners show a much larger interest in nature conservation compared with their male counterparts. The opposite is the case for hunting.





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EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030

EU Forestry Strategy

- 30% of the EU land surface protected → not possible without the active involvement of private landowners
- Need for a sustainable and multifunctional forestry in the EU - balancing ecologic, social, and economic pillars

Tools

- **Conservation easements**

Agreement between a landowner and an organisation. The landowner (temporary) relinquishes certain rights over the land

- **Land Stewardship**

Different parties agree on a management plan and commit, on equal level, to the terms and conditions of the agreement.

- **Private reserves designation**

Land under private ownership that has been set aside for the protection of nature

- **Conservation contracts**

Voluntary contract (for a limited period of time) with an organization or governmental agency to ensure that the property is used or managed for conservation purposes.

Tools

- **Safe Harbor Agreement**
Landowners receive a formal 'no penalty' assurance from the government in exchange for fulfilling the specific conditions of a biodiversity value agreement
- **Strategic partnerships between companies and private landowners / Biodiversity mitigation and offset**
Conservation actions by private landowners to compensate for biodiversity losses elsewhere
- **Land Exchange for conservation**
Exchange of land that is ecologically valuable for one that is less ecologically valuable but may retain other values
- **Funding land acquisition for conservation purposes**

Compensation mechanisms

- **Direct payments from government**
based on result / based on implemented measures
cost compensation / economic loss compensation
- **Direct payment from NGO**
Grants
funds
- **Tax benefits**
income tax
property tax
inheritance tax
- **Label or certification for market access**

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

01

Private landowners have a strong preference for voluntary programmes. Due to the diversity of habitats, species, landscapes, cultural and economic use of private land and the diversity of landowners, private landowners and managers need to have a choice between different tools to implement private land conservation.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

02

The certification of products (FSC and PEFC are the most used labels for forestry products) and estate management (the Wildlife Estates Label is the most important wildlife management label among individual private landowners) are major incentives for private landowners in Europe to participate in private land conservation. Getting public recognition is extremely important for individual private landowners.

03

Private landowners have a strong preference for voluntary organisations. Due to the diversity of habitats, species, landscapes, cultural and economic use of private land and the diversity of landowners, private landowners and managers need to have a choice between different tools to implement private land conservation.

04

Tax benefits for income, property or land based on taxes related to the transfer of sale of land are welcome incentives to individual private landowners actively involved in nature conservation.

06

For private landowners public access is a major concern and is a major constraint to the transfer of land. There is a need to develop a specific set of tools to tackle this problem.

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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

03

Private landowners and managers prefer financial incentives for a service (annual payments) or on a product basis (carbon credits, payments for ecosystem services, ...).

02

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01

Private landowners have a strong preference for voluntary programmes for voluntary programmes. Due to the diversity of habitats, species, landowners, cultural and economic use of private land and the diversity of landowners, private landowners and managers need to have a choice between different tools to implement private land conservation.

04

Tax benefits for income, property or land based on tools related to the transfer or sale of land are welcome incentives to encourage private landowners actively involved in nature conservation.

06

For many private landowners public access remains a major concern and a reason not to participate in private land conservation programmes. There is a need to develop a specific set of tools to tackle this problem.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

02

The combination of products PES and PES-C are the most used labels for forestry products and where management of the forests is subject to the usual management standards. Additional products should be developed to encourage more sustainable forest management by subjecting participants to specific forest conservation, including public recognition and to being important for individual private landowners.

01

Private landowners have a strong preference for voluntary programmes. Due to the diversity of habitats, species, landscapes, cultural and economic use of forests and the diversity of landowners, private landowners are needed to have better...

03

Private landowners and managers prefer financial incentives for a service contract payment or on a product basis (carbon credits, payments for ecosystem services, ...)

05

Most landowners are prepared to reserve a part of their land as wildlife habitat or as natural area.

06

For many countries it remains a major challenge to promote programmes. These specific set of tools...

04

Tax benefits for income, property or land taxes or taxes related to the transfer or sale of land are welcome incentives to individual private landowners actively involved in nature conservation.

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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

05

Most landowners are prepared to conserve a part of their land as wildlife habitat or as natural area.

02

The contribution of private landowners to the management of the Natura 2000 network is not yet fully understood. More information is needed on the role of private landowners in the management of the network.

03

Private landowners have a strong preference for voluntary programmes. Due to the diversity of habitats, species, landowners, cultural and economic use of private land and the diversity of landowners, private landowners and managers need to have a choice between different tools to implement or facilitate conservation.

04

Tax benefits for income, property or land based on income related to the transfer or sale of land are welcome incentives to individual private landowners actively involved in nature conservation.

06

For many private landowners public access remains a major concern and a reason not to participate in conservation programmes. There is a need to develop a specific set of tools to tackle this problem.

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POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

02

The introduction of products PFC and PFC are the most used labels for forestry production and where management (the Wildlife Conservation Unit) is the most used tool for wildlife management. Some existing individual private landowners are more interested in private land conservation. Further to that, the introduction of a specific set of tools for public access is a priority objective for the individual private landowners.

01

Private landowners have a strong preference for secondary products. Due to the diversity of habitats, species, trends, uses, cultural and economic use of land and the landowner's wish.

03

Private landowners and managers prefer financial incentives for a service (annual payments) or on a product basis (carbon credits, payments for ecosystem services, ...)

05

Most landowners are prepared to reserve a part of their land as wildlife habitat or as natural area.

06

For many private landowners public access remains a major concern and a reason not to participate in private land conservation programmes. There is a need to develop a specific set of tools to tackle this problem.



Thank you

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