Policy developments in the land sector

GHG-KIT Project

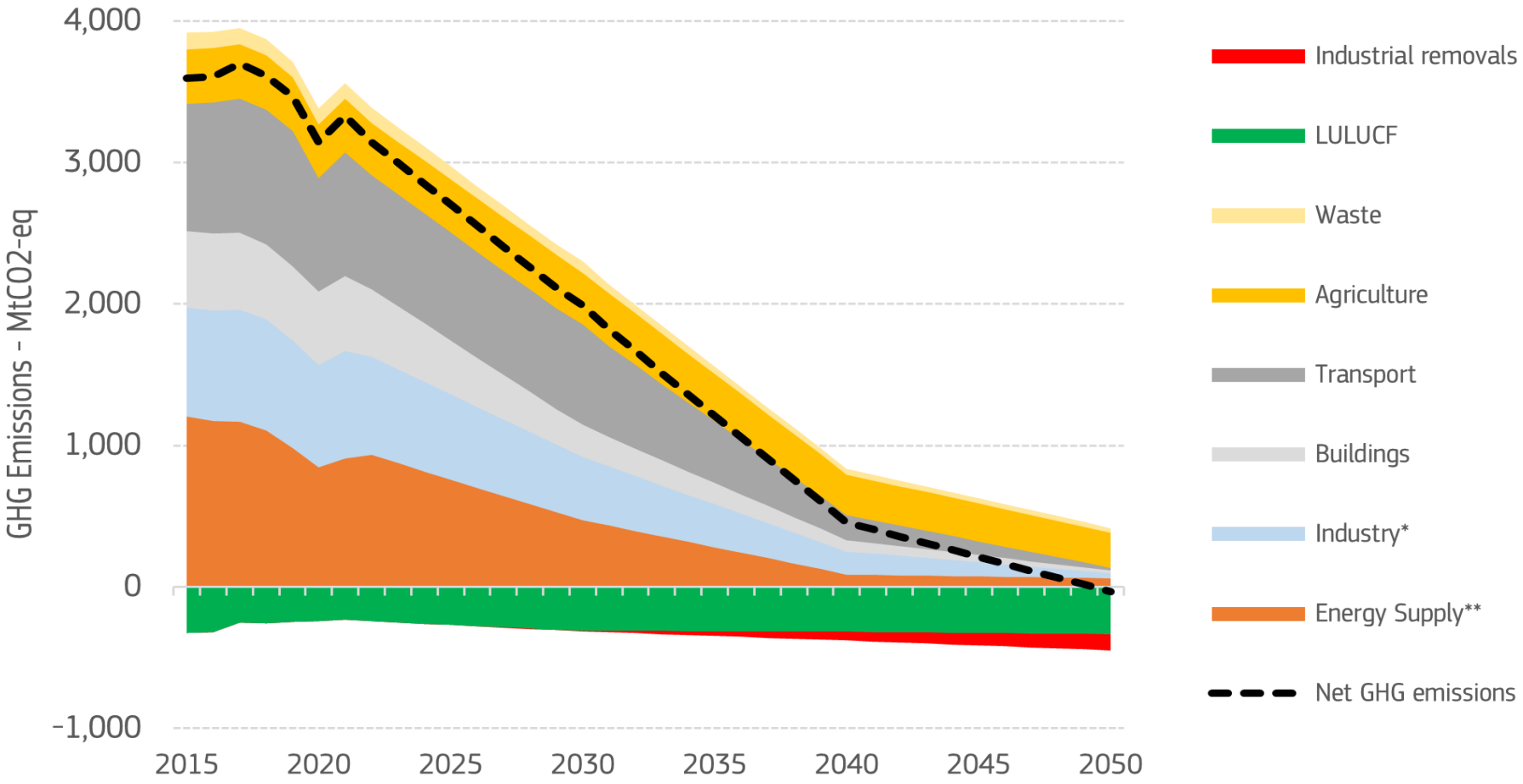
27 February 2025

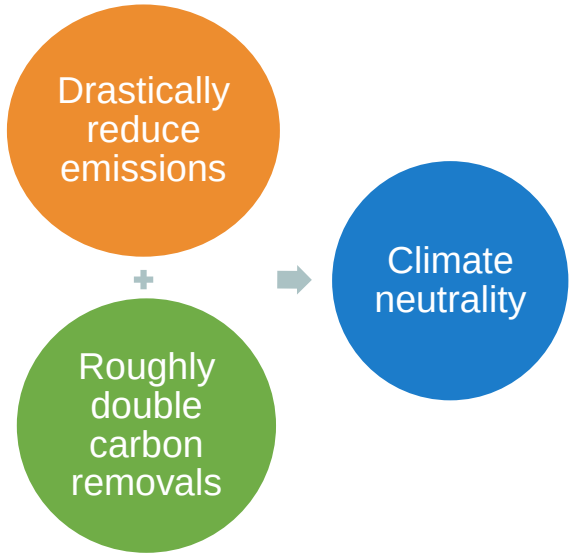
Jurij Krajcic

DG CLIMA Unit C3: Land economy and carbon removals

Towards climate neutrality

Historical and projected sectoral greenhouse gas emissions in the period 2015-2050





*Excluding non-BECCS industrial removals
**Including bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS)

Overview

- Revised LULUCF Regulation
- Carbon Removal Certification Regulation
- Monitoring Framework for Resilient Forests

Overview

- Revised LULUCF Regulation

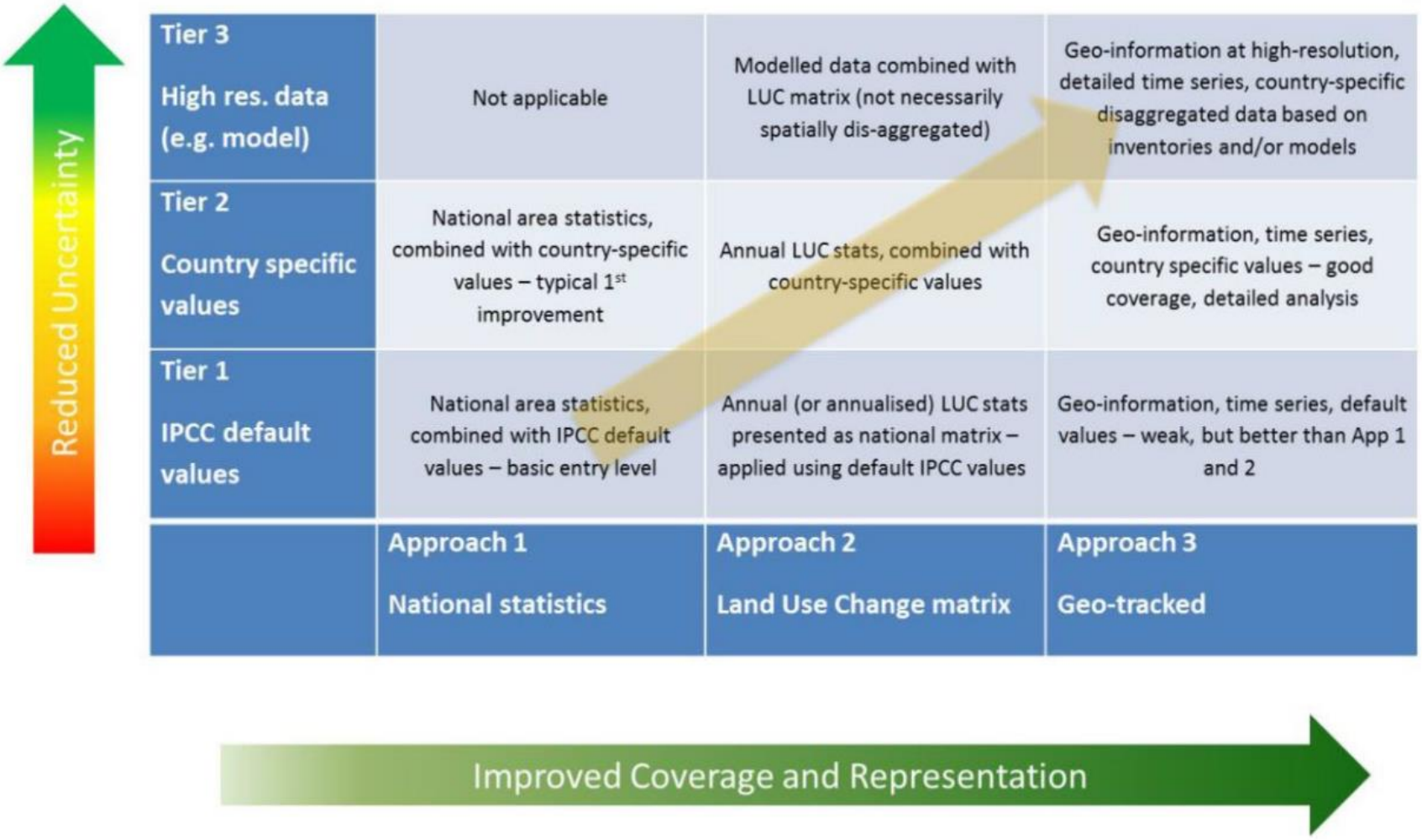
Key take-aways of the LULUCF revision: Regulation (EU) 2023/839*

Higher ambition	• **Explicit MS targets - for first time** • **Full territorial scope from 2026**
Better monitoring	• **Move to Tier-2** (2028) **and Tier-3** (2030) **level** • **Geographically explicit basis (use of Earth Observation and models)**
Improved governance	• **NECPs & Projections of emissions and removals** • **Recommendations by Commission**
EEA in the lead for implementation	• **Copernicus tools**

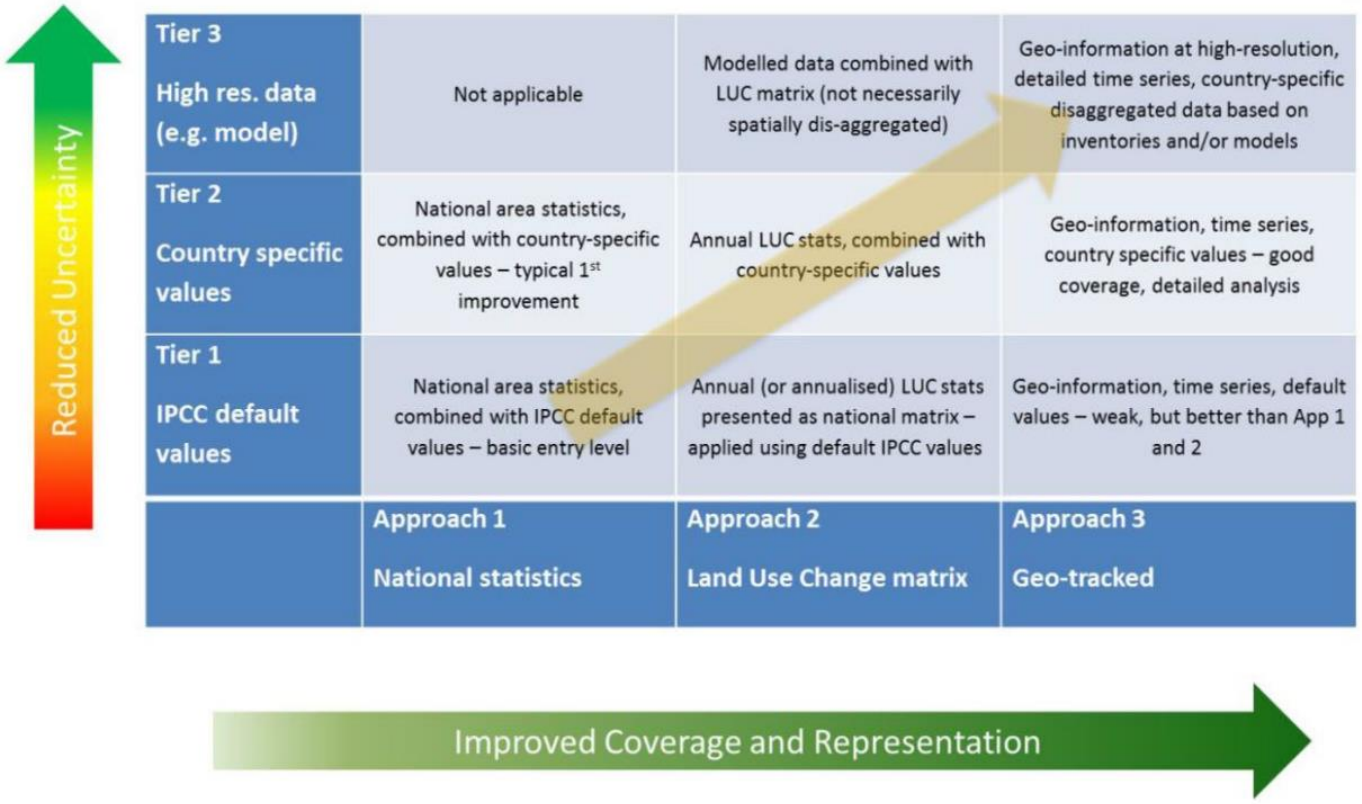
* http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/839/oj or consolidated version here: https://europa.eu/!98HPxX

Improved LULUCF Monitoring

- Improved Monit
  Envisaged
- *For monitoring and reporting in the LULU sector, Member State use **geographically explicit land-use conversion data** in accordance with the IPCC Guidelines for national GHG invent*



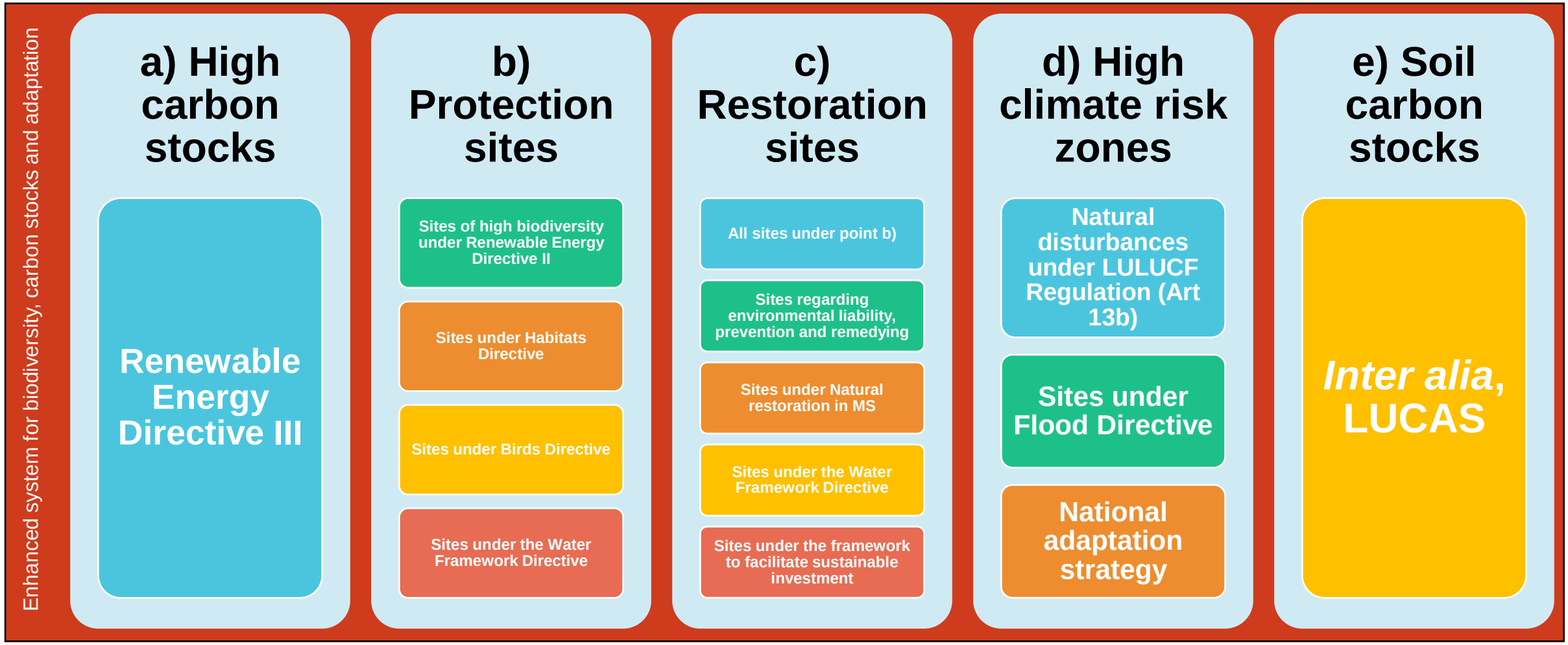
Improved LULUCF Monitoring



Tier 3

- Geographically-explicit information,
- Management-dependent,
- Important role of advanced technologies – satellites etc.,
- Use of models,
- High detail & timeliness,
- Can be semi-automatised
- In line with international obligations

Enhanced LULUCF monitoring system



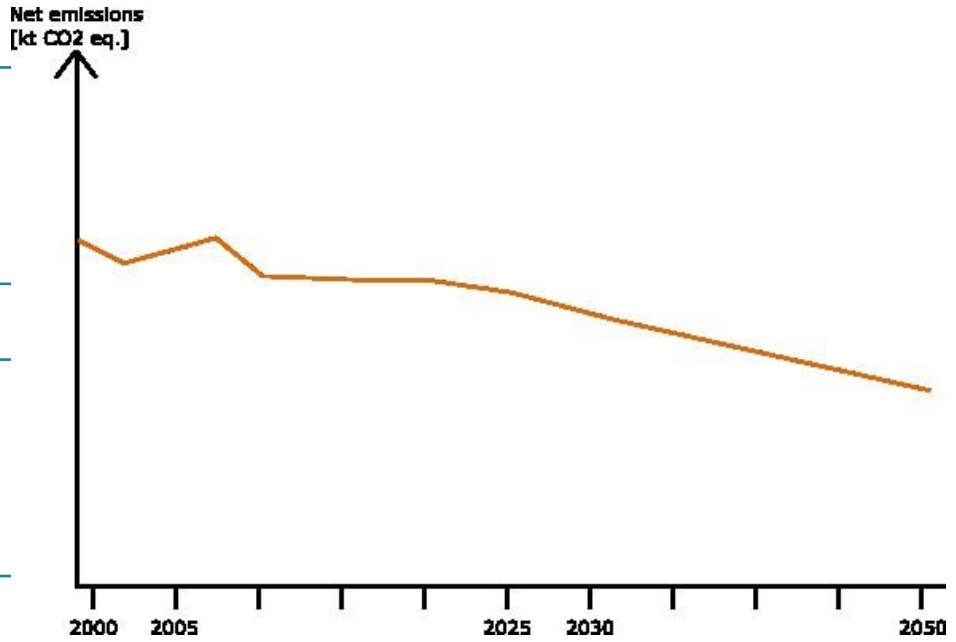
National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP)

- Key Member State policy planning instrument, bringing together many fields, **including the land sector**

- Member States devise policies for their land sector
- Taking into account other sectors

- ‘Quantification of Policies’
- Objective: reach 2030 targets

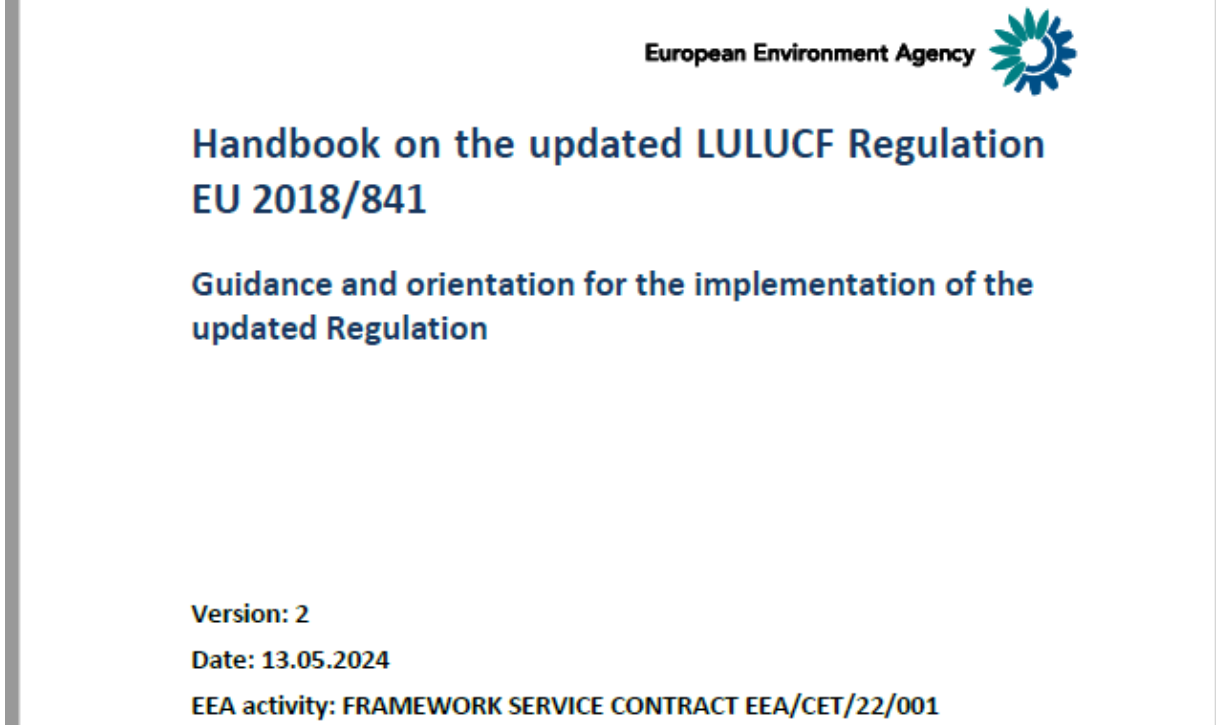
- If insufficient, additional measures



LULUCF Handbook

- **Updated *Version 2* published on 15 May 2024**

- **Explains all elements** of the LULUCF Regulation
- Provides **practical tips, examples and case studies** to increase the quality of GHG inventory data
- **Disseminates knowledge and experience** on how GHG monitoring can be improved
- Addressed to **everyone involved in land use policy making**


European Environment Agency

Handbook on the updated LULUCF Regulation EU 2018/841

Guidance and orientation for the implementation of the updated Regulation

Version: 2

Date: 13.05.2024

EEA activity: FRAMEWORK SERVICE CONTRACT EEA/CET/22/001

LINK

Overview

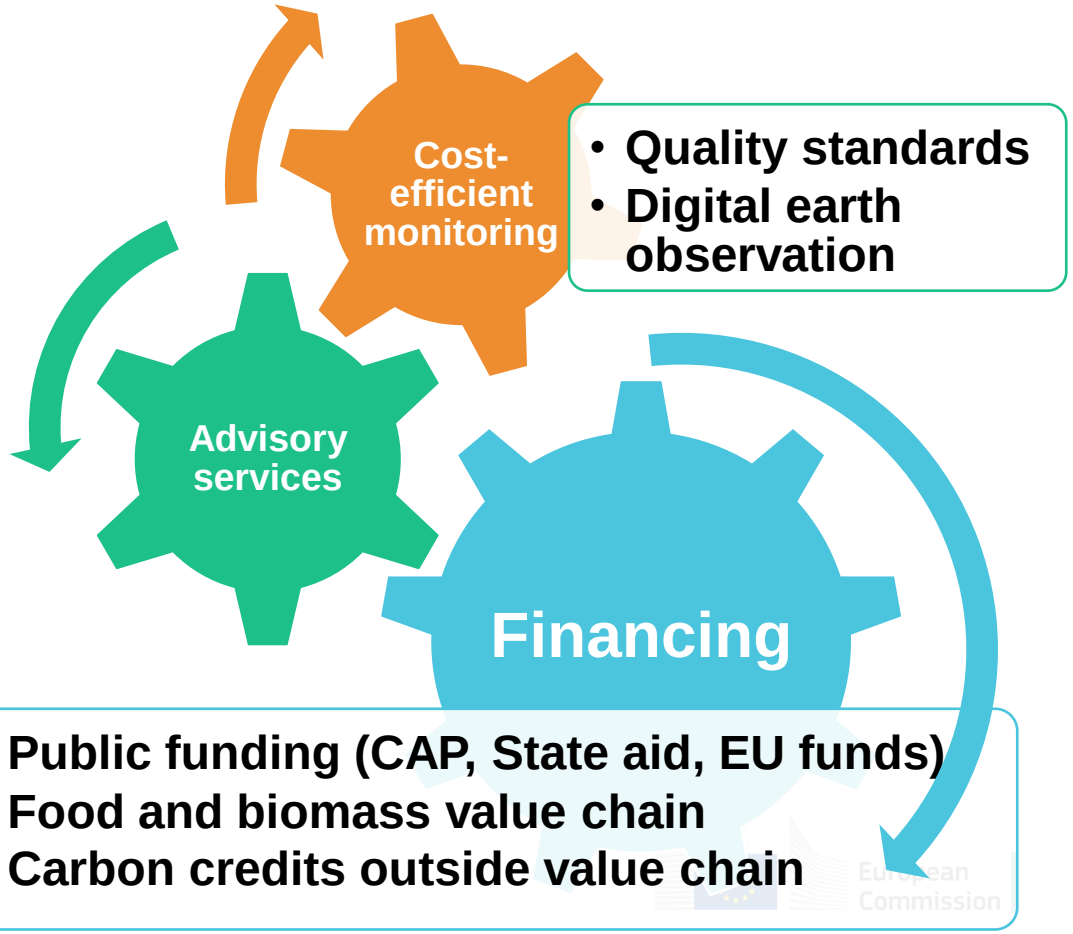
Carbon Removal Certification Regulation

Starting up carbon farming

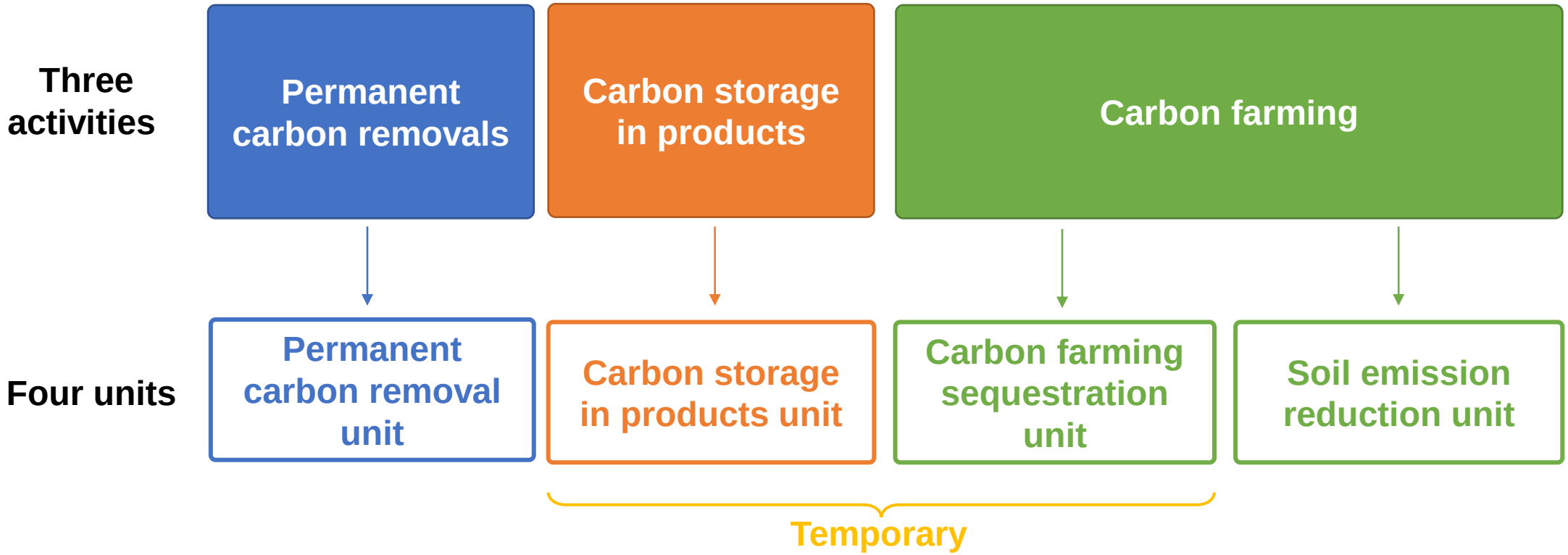
Benefits

- Increased carbon removals
- Additional income for land managers
- More biodiversity and nature
- Increased climate resilience of farm and forest land

Challenges



Carbon Removal Certification - Architecture



Carbon farming (agriculture soils and forests)

Use of **conservation tillage, catch crops, cover crops** and increasing **landscape features**

Restoration, rewetting of **peatlands and wetlands**

Forest Management and Reforestation according to ecological principles

Agroforestry and other forms of mixed farming

Precision farming and more efficient use of fertilizers

Blue carbon: coastal wetlands

Challenges

MRV

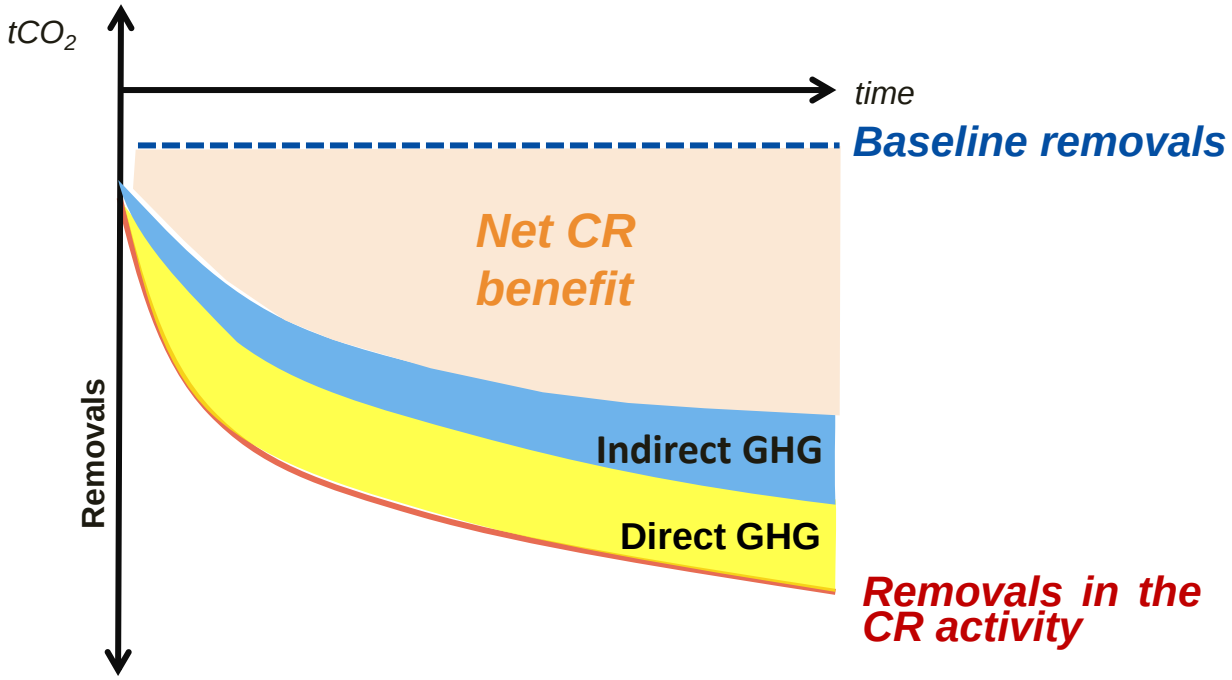
Lack of advisory services

Access to finance

Quantification

Net CR benefit = CR baseline – CR activity – GHG associated > 0

Illustrative example

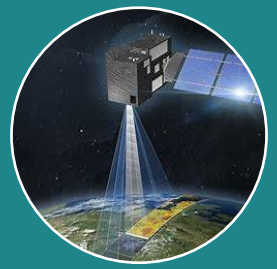


Key feature

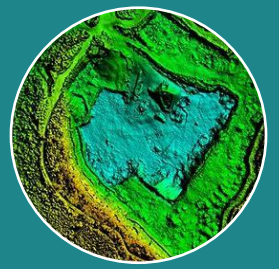
- ✓ **Standardised baselines** (highly representative)
  - reflect the performance of similar operators in comparable regulatory, economic, and environmental circumstances
  - reward for early movers
  - lower administrative burden for operators
- ✓ **Fall back:** activity specific baselines

Quantification

On-Ground Measurements



Remote Sensing



Modelling

-> Soil Monitoring Law

-> Forest Monitoring Law

-> LULUCF Regulation

EU certification methodologies

The Commission will develop **EU certification methodologies** to operationalize the EU quality criteria for each type of activity, with the assistance of an **Expert Group on carbon removals**

Quantification

- Scope, duration, monitoring periods
- Baseline calculation and update
- Total carbon removals / emission reductions
- Associated GHG emissions

Additionality

- Additionality tests in case of activity-specific baseline

Long-term

- Monitoring rules
- Liability mechanisms

Sustainability

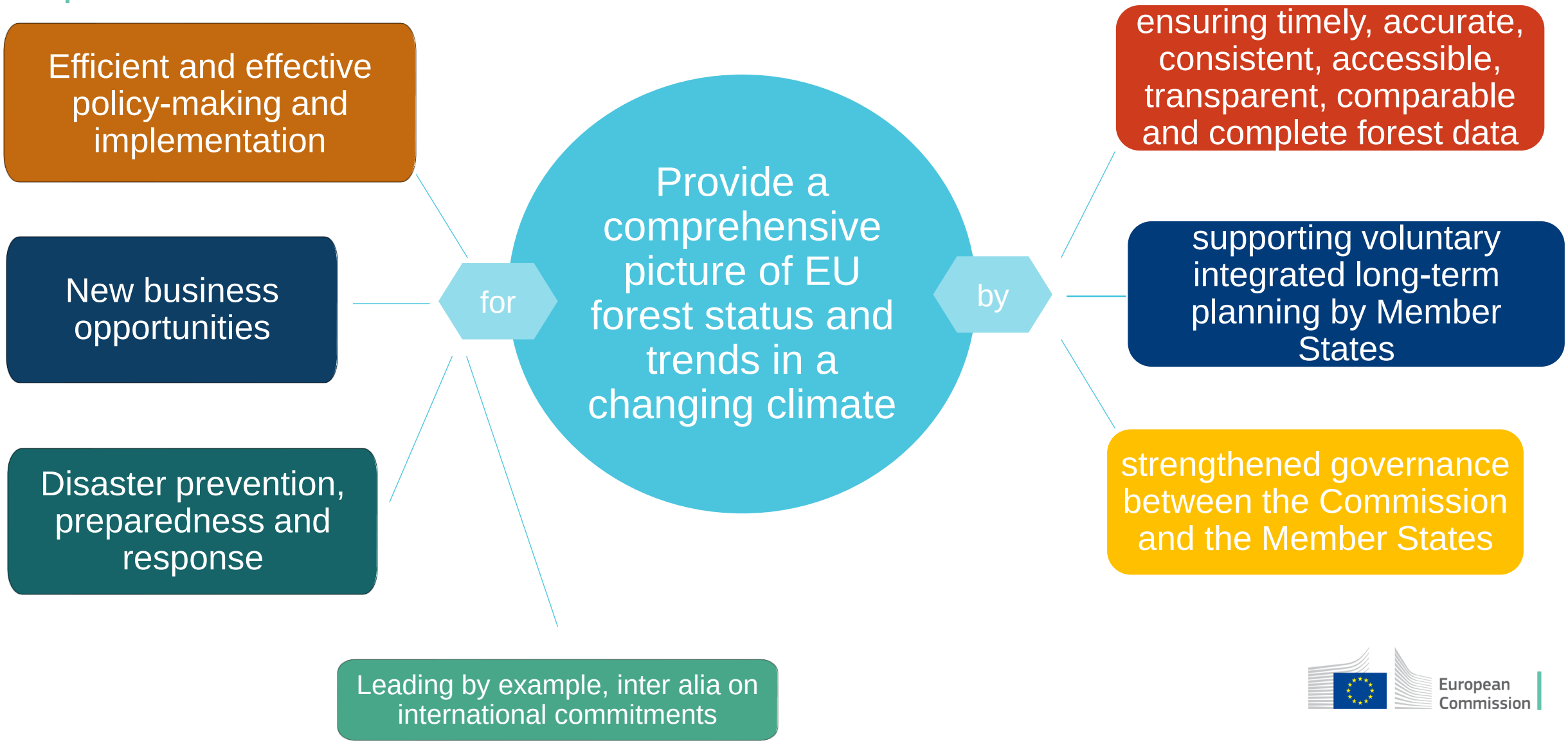
- Minimum sustainability requirements
- Monitoring and reporting of co-benefits

European Commission

Overview

Monitoring Framework for Resilient Forests

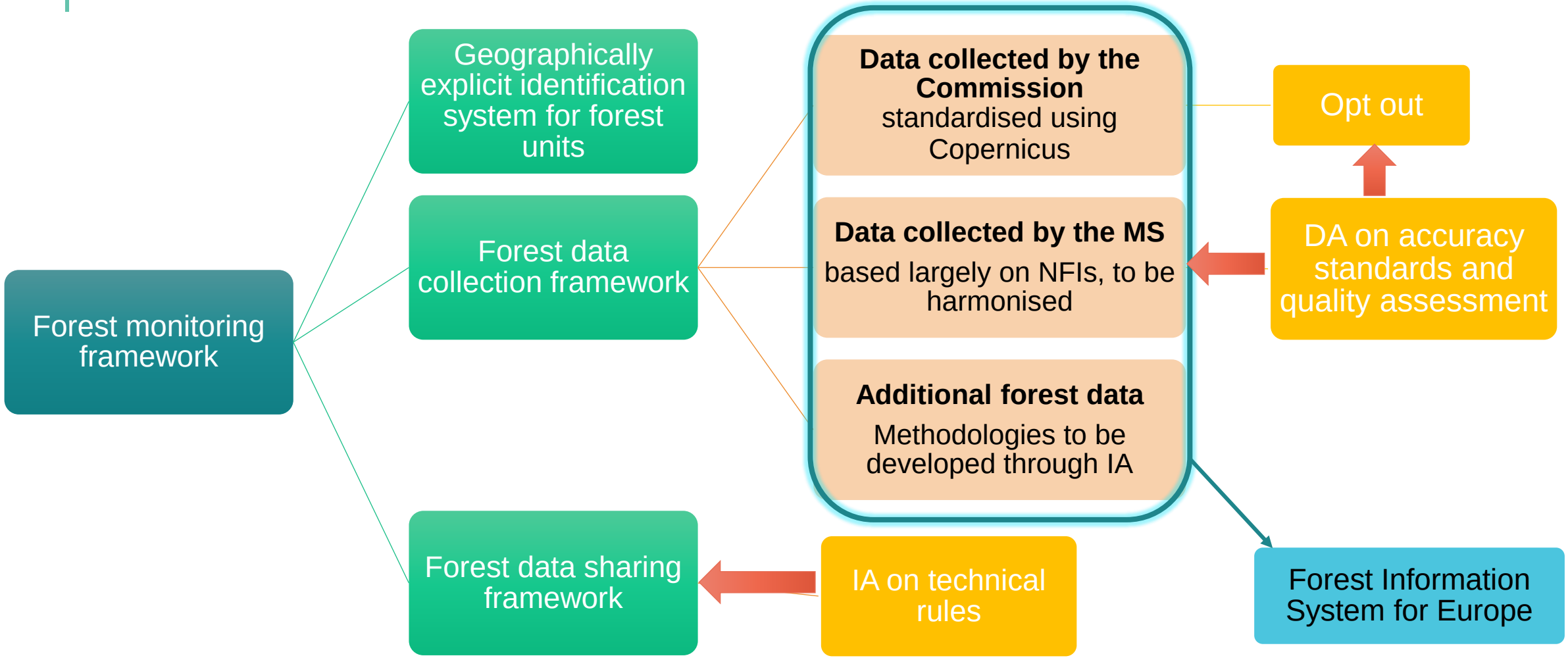
Forest Monitoring Law proposal



European Commission

Monitoring framework set-up

(Articles 3-8)



European Commission

Scope of the forest data collection framework

(Articles 5 and 8 & Annexes I, II & III)

Forest data subject to standardisation

- Forest area
- Tree cover density
- Forest type
- Forest connectivity
- Defoliation
- Forest fires
- Wildfire risk assessment
- Tree cover disturbances

Forest data subject to harmonisation

- Forest available and not available for wood supply
- Growing stock volume
- Net annual increment
- Stand structure
- Tree species composition
- European Forest Type
- Removals
- Deadwood
- Protected forest areas
- Location N2K forest habitats
- Common forest birds Abundance
- Primary and old-growth forest
- Wood production & trade
- Forest biomass for bioenergy

Forest data to be collected through a step-wise approach to be developed by Commission in cooperation with Member States

- Forest disturbance other than fires
- Aboveground biomass
- Forest structure
- Value of non-wood forest products
- Forest habitats outside N2K sites
- Forest naturalness classes
- Invasive species presence
- Diversity of non-tree vegetation
- Threatened species
- Other wooded land

Thank you!

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European Commission