



Save the date!

International Conference FORESTS FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE, 4-5 February 2020, Brussels

Forests cover approximately 30% of the Earth's land area, host 80% of its biodiversity and support the livelihoods of around a quarter of the world's population. At the EU level, forests cover approximately 42% of the land area. In addition to providing economic and job opportunities to local communities, forests are irreplaceable biodiversity reservoirs and carbon sinks; they prevent soil erosion; they provide clean water through filtration; they clean the air; they play a central role in risk reduction measures vis-à-vis natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, erosion or landslides; and they support leisure and recreation, essential for human health.

The world's forests are in serious danger from deforestation and forest degradation, with a forest area of 1.3 million square kilometres lost between 1990 and 2016. Pressures on EU forest ecosystems due to climate change and unsustainable forest management are a reason for concern and are expected to increase in the future, due to increasing demand of timber coming from the bioenergy the bioeconomy sectors, in a context where illegal logging continues to be recorded in a number of EU MS.

Overall, protecting forests means protecting biodiversity and working for a climate neutral and climate resilient land.

In this context, DG Environment organises a large international Conference on **Forest for Biodiversity and Climate Change on 4th and 5th February 2020 in Brussels (Charlemagne building, European Commission)**.

More information about the Conference, including a detailed agenda will be available soon on the site https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/international-conference-forests-biodiversity-and-climate-change-2020-feb-04_en. In the meantime, we kindly ask you to save the date.

For information, please contact us at: ENV-FOREST-PROTECTION@ec.europa.eu

We look forward to welcoming you in Brussels!

