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| **2.1.**  **Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests** |

1. Please confirm that aid will not be granted for:

**(**a) working capital;

(b) purchase of payment entitlements,

(c) purchase of land for an amount exceeding 10 % of the total eligible expenditure for the operation concerned, except for land purchase for environmental conservation and carbon-rich soil preservation, which may be eligible to a higher rate than 10 %;

(d)interest rate on debt, except in relation to grants given in the form of an interest rate subsidy or guarantee fee subsidy.

1. Please indicate whether the aid concerns:

**Aid for afforestation and creation of woodland.   
(Section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines)**

1. Please indicate whether the eligible costs concern:

(a) the establishment of forest and woodland on

agricultural or

non-agricultural land

(b) an annual premium per hectare to cover the costs of agricultural income foregone and maintenance, including early and late cleanings, for a maximum period determined by the Member State.

Please provide more information as to amounts of aid, the calculation methods and the maximum period for granting aid in the form of an annual premium per hectare:

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1. Please confirm that no aid will be granted for the planting of trees for short rotation coppicing, Christmas trees or fast growing trees for energy production and for investments in afforestation which are not consistent with climate and environmental objectives nor with sustainable forest management principles, as developed in the Pan-European Guidelines for Afforestation and Reforestation[[1]](#footnote-1):

yes  no

1. Please confirm that the species planted are adapted to the environmental and climatic conditions of the area and comply with minimum environmental requirements.

yes  no

1. Please confirm, and demonstrate with additional description and information, that the aid complies with the following minimum environmental requirements:

(a) the selection of species to be planted, of areas and of methods to be used must avoid the inappropriate afforestation of sensitive habitats such as peat lands and wetlands and negative effects on areas of high ecological value including areas under high natural value farming. On sites designated as Natura 2000 pursuant to Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC only afforestation consistent with the management objectives of the sites concerned and agreed with the Member State's authority in charge of implementing Natura 2000 must be allowed;

(b) the selection of species, varieties, ecotypes and provenances of trees must take account of the need for resilience to climate change and to natural disasters and the pedologic and hydrologic condition of the area concerned, as well as of the potential invasive character of the species under local conditions as defined by Member States. The beneficiary must be required to protect and care for the forest at least during the period for which the premium for agricultural income foregone and maintenance is paid. This must include tending, thinning or grazing, as appropriate, in the interest of the future development of the forest and regulating competition with herbaceous vegetation and avoiding the building up of fire prone undergrowth material. As regards fast-growing species, the Member State must define the minimum and maximum time before felling. The minimum time must not be less than eight years and the maximum must not exceed 20 years;

(c) in cases where, due to difficult soil, environmental or climatic conditions, including environmental degradation, the planting of perennial woody species cannot be expected to lead to the establishment of forest cover as defined in accordance with the applicable national legislation, the Member State concerned may allow the beneficiary to establish other woody vegetation cover such as shrubs or bushes suited to the local conditions. The beneficiary must ensure the same level of care and protection as applicable to forests;

(d) in the case of afforestation operations leading to the creation of forests of a size exceeding a certain threshold, to be defined by Member States, the operation must consist of either of the following:

(i) the planting of ecologically adapted species and/or species resilient to climate change in the bio-geographical area concerned, which have been found, through an assessment of impacts, not to threaten biodiversity and ecosystem services, or to have a negative impact on human health; or

(ii) a mix of tree species which includes either at least 10% of broadleaved trees by area, or a minimum of three tree species or varieties, with the least abundant making up at least 10% of the area.

1. Please confirm that aid will be limited to 100 % of the eligible costs.

yes  no

**Aid for the establishment, regeneration or renovation of agroforestry systems.  
(Section 2.1.2. of the Guidelines)**

1. Please confirm that aid may be granted for establishing agro-forestry systems as defined in point (33)(10) of the Guidelines.

yes  no

Please describe the aid measure:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Please indicate whether the eligible costs concern the following:

(a) the establishment, regeneration or renovation of an agroforestry system.

(b) an annual premium per hectare for maintenance.

1. Please define the duration of the maximum period an annual premium per hectare for maintenance:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Please confirm that aid will be limited to 100 % of the eligible costs.

yes  no

1. Please indicate the minimum and maximum number of trees per hectare to be planted, and demonstrate that it takes into account the local pedo-climatic conditions and environmental conditions, forestry species and the need to ensure sustainable agricultural use of the land.

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**Aid for the prevention and restoration of damage to forests.**

(**Section 2.1.3**. **of the Guidelines**)

1. Please indicate whether the eligible costs concern:

(a) the establishment of protective infrastructure (in the case of firebreaks aid may also cover maintenance costs);

Please confirm that no aid will be granted for agriculture related activities in areas covered by agri-environment-climate commitments referred to in Part II, Section 1.1.4. of the Guidelines.

yes  no

(b) local, small scale prevention activities against fire or other natural hazards, including the costs of the use of grazing animals and transport of the animals;

(c) establishing and improving forest fire, pest, invasive alien species and diseases monitoring facilities and communication equipment;

(d) restoring forestry potential damaged by fires, natural disasters, adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster, other adverse climatic events, plant pests, invasive alien species, catastrophic events and climate change related events.

Please confirm that where damage by adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster or plant pests or invasive alien species, can be linked to climate change, beneficiaries will endeavour to include in the restoration adaptation measures to climate change, in order to minimise damage and losses produced by similar events in the future.

yes  no

(e) the costs of investments related to maintaining the health of forests.

1. Please confirm that where aid is granted in favour of restoring forestry potential damaged by fires, natural disasters, adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster, other adverse climatic events, plant pests, invasive alien species, catastrophic events and climate change related events, the aid will be subject to a formal recognition by the competent authority of the Member State that at least one of the events referred to in question 1 (d) of this point and to the submission by the beneficiaries of proof of appropriate risk management tools to address the potential occurrence of the damaging event in the future where appropriate.

yes  no

1. In the case of aid for the prevention of damage to a forest from plant pests or invasive alien species, please provide the scientific evidence and the acknowledgement by a scientific public organisation of the risk of the occurrence of the plant pest or invasive alien species. Where relevant, please provide the list of harmful organisms which may become the plant pest.

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. Please confirm that the eligible operations, related to damage from forest fire or biotic agents are consistent with the forest protection plan established by the Member State and especially with the prevention and restoration actions provided in the forest protection plan.

yes  no

1. Please confirm that only forest areas belonging to the forest protection plan established by the Member State are eligible for aid for prevention of fire.

yes  no

1. Please confirm that no aid will be granted for the loss of income resulting from fires, natural disasters, an adverse climatic event which can be assimilated to a natural disaster, other adverse climatic events, plant pests, invasive alien species, catastrophic events and climate change related events.

yes  no

1. Please confirm that aid will be limited to 100% of the eligible costs.

yes  no

1. Please confirm that measures will be taken to prevent the overcompensation, in particular to ensure that aid granted for the eligible costs referred to in point (515)(d) of the Guidelines and any other payments received by the beneficiary, including payments under other national or Union measures or insurance policies for the same eligible costs are limited to 100% and describe what measures will be taken to prevent such overcompensation.

yes  no

**Aid for investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems.**

**(Section 2.1.4. of the Guidelines)**

1. Please indicate whether the eligible costs concern the following:

investments aiming at fulfilling the environmental commitments with the view to providing ecosystem services;

investments aiming at enhancing the public amenity value of forests and woodland in the area concerned;

investments ailing at improving the climate change mitigation and adaptation potential of ecosystems.

If there is any economic benefit in the long term, please describe it:

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

1. Is the aid limited to 100% of the eligible costs?

yes  no

**Aid for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilising and marketing of forest products.**

**(Section 2.1.5. of the Guidelines)**

1. Please indicate the eligible costs:

(a) investments enhancing forestry potential;

(i) investments for soil and resource friendly harvesting machinery and practices;

(ii) other investments.

(b) investments relating to processing, mobilising and marketing adding value to forest products.

1. Please describe the measure in more details:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… ……………

1. If investments are related to the improvement of the economic value of forests, please provide justification in relation to the expected improvements to forests on one or more holdings and please specify whether investments for soil-friendly and resource-friendly harvesting machinery and practices are included:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… ……………

1. In case investments are related to the use of wood as a raw material or energy source, are those investments limited to all working operations prior to industrial processing?

yes  no

1. Please indicate the maximum aid intensity:

(a) up to 65% of the amount of the eligible costs;

(b) up to 80% of the amount of the eligible costs in in the outermost regions or smaller Aegean islands;

(c) up to 80% of the amount of the eligible costs for investments linked to one or more of the specific environmental- and climate-related objectives referred to in Article 73(4), point (a)(i), of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

**Aid for investments in infrastructure related to the development, modernisation or adaptation of forestry.**

**(Section 2.1.6. of the Guidelines)**

1. Please indicate the eligible costs:

(a) investment(s) in:

(i) tangible assets and/or

(ii) intangible assets.

1. Please indicate which of the following the investments concern:

(a) investments in infrastructure related to the following:

(i) the development of forests;

(ii) the modernisation of forests;

(iii) the adaptation of forests.

1. Please indicate which of the following the investments in infrastructure include:

(i) access to forest land;

(ii) land consolidation and improvement;

(iii) digitalisation of forestry;

(iv) establishment of temporary storage facilities;

(vi) the supply of sustainable energy, energy efficiency and supply and saving of water;

(vii) use of livestock instead of machinery.

1. Please describe the measure in more details:

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………… ……………

1. Please indicate the maximum aid intensity:

65% of the eligible costs

100% of the eligible costs in the case of non-productive investments aimed exclusively at improving the environmental value of forests and investments for forest roads, which are open to the public free of charge and which serve the multifunctional aspects of forest;

80 % of the eligible costs in the case of investments in the outermost regions or the smaller Aegean islands;

80 % of the eligible costs in the case of investments linked to one or more of the specific environmental- and climate-related objectives referred to in Article 73(4), point (a)(i), of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115.

1. In the case of investments in access to forest land are supported, please indicate the average density of forest paths/roads in the area concerned before and after the investment (in metre/hectare) …………………….

**Aid for investments in favour of the conservation of cultural and natural heritage located in forests.**

**(Section 2.1.7. of the Guidelines)**

1. Please confirm that aid will be granted for cultural and natural heritage in the form of natural landscapes and buildings which is formally recognised as cultural or natural heritage by the competent authority of the Member State.

yes  no

1. Please indicate the eligible costs:

investments in tangible assets;

capitalised work.

1. Is the aid for investments in tangible assets limited to 100% of the eligible costs?

yes  no

1. Is aid for capitalised limited to EUR 10 000 per year?

yes  no

**Aid for financial contributions to mutual funds in forestry.**

**(Section 2.1.8. of the Guidelines)**

1. Please confirm that aid will be granted undertakings active in forestry:

yes  no

1. Has the mutual fund been accredited by the competent authority in accordance with national law?

yes  no

1. Does the mutual fund have a transparent policy towards payments into and withdrawals from the fund?

yes  no

1. Does the mutual fund have clear rules attributing responsibilities for any debts incurred?

yes  no

Please note that in accordance with point (542) of the Guidelines, questions 5.7.2, 5.7.3. and 5.7.4. of this Information Sheet must be answered affirmatively in order for the Commission to be in a position to approve of the aid.

1. Have rules for the constitution and management of the mutual fund been defined, in particular for the granting of compensation payments, as well as for the administration and monitoring of compliance with those rules?

yes  no

1. Does the mutual fund arrangements provide for penalties in the case of negligence on the part of the undertaking?

yes  no

Please note that in accordance with point (543) of the Guidelines, questions X and X of this Information Sheet must be answered affirmatively in order for the Commission to be in a position to approve of the aid.

1. Please specify which damages will be covered by the mutual fund for which the financial contribution will be partly financed under the notified aid measure:

Damage caused by forest fire;

Damage caused by natural disasters;

Damage caused by adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to a natural disaster or other adverse climatic events;

Damage caused by plant pests or invasive alien species;

Damage caused by catastrophic events and climate change related events as referred to in point (514) of the Guidelines;

Damage in forests caused by protected animals, as referred to in Section 2.8.5. of the Guidelines

Damages caused by environmental incidents.

1. Please confirm that for financial contributions to mutual funds to pay compensation for the damages caused by environmental incidents, the occurrence of the environmental incident will be formally recognised as such by the competent authority of the Member State.

yes  no

If the answer is yes, has the Member State established in advance criteria on the basis of which the formal recognition referred to is deemed to be granted?

yes  no

1. Please indicate the eligible costs:

The financial contributions to mutual funds to pay compensation to farmers for the damages referred to in question 5.7.5. of this Information sheet, which relate to the amounts paid by the mutual fund as financial compensation to undertakings active in forestry.

Please note that there are no other eligible costs.

1. Please confirm that the maximum aid intensity will not exceed 70% of the eligible costs:

yes  no

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Please indicate any other information considered relevant to the assessment of the measure concerned under this Section of the Guidelines.

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1. Adopted by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe on 12-13 November 2008 (https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Pan-EuropeanAfforestationReforestationGuidelines.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)