Forest governance in transition caught between global agendas and local needs.

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Professor, Chairholder, UNESCO chair on biosphere reserves as labs for inclusive societal transformation





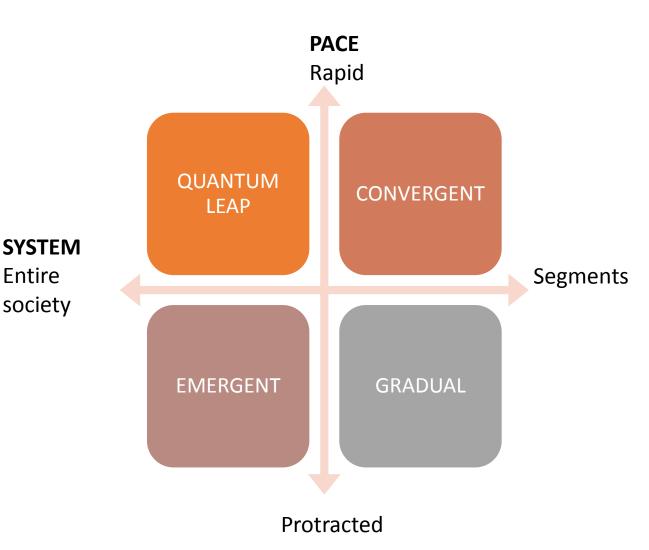


Governing societal transformation?

Entire

society

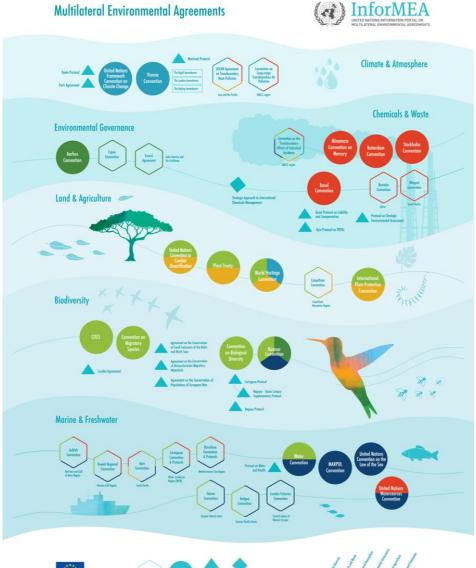
- Extensive change processes, can be abrupt, but often last for decades.
- Based on an identified need for change.
- Requires leadership, innovation, commitment, determination.
- And higher risk-taking, investment in legitimacy, new economic and social (power) structures.



A call for transformation

> 40 Multilateral **Environmental Agreements** (MEAs)









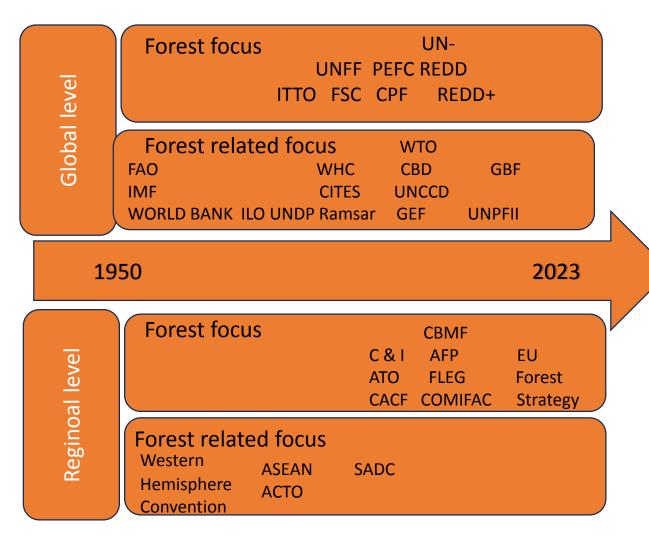






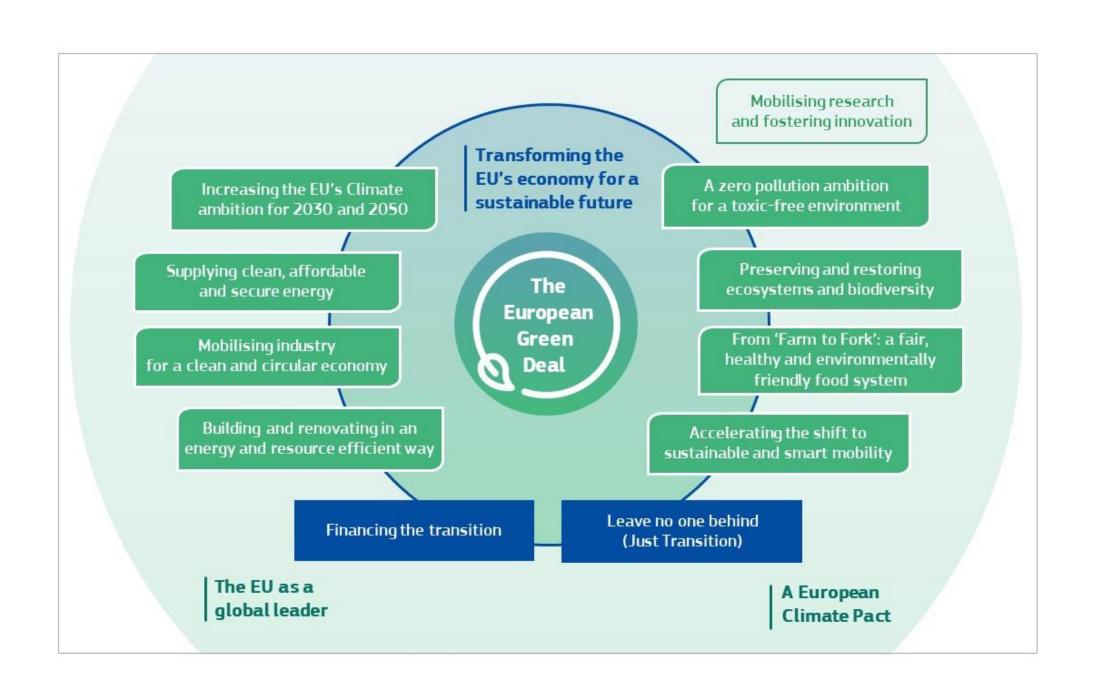


Global and regional forest related policies

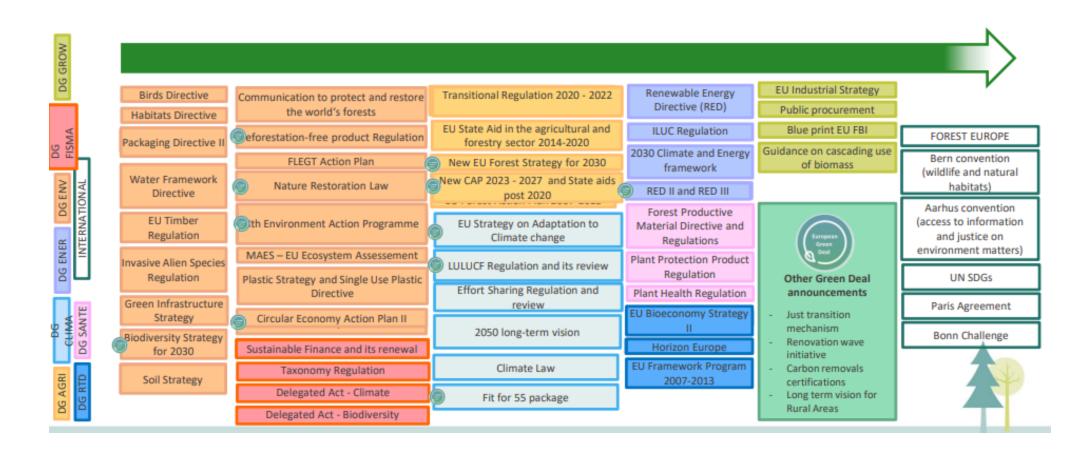


Fragmented global and regional governance with direct and indirect impact on forest and forest products

Focus on different ecosystem services/NCP



EU forest-related policies 1979-2023









Challenges to bridge between global agendas and local needs

AMBIVALENT GOALS

UNCERTAINTY ABOUT CAUSE-EFFECT RELATIONSHIPS

DISPERSED POWER OF CONTROL



POLITICAL MYOPIA



DETERMINATION OF SHORT-TERM STEPS FOR LONG-TERM CHANGE



RISK OF LOCK IN EFFECTS

1. Ambivalent goals

 Difficulties in identifying common problem and proposing relevant solutions



Different perspectives on transitions in the forest sector

ANTHROPOCENTRISM



ECOCENTRISM



SUSTAINABLE REINDEER HUSBANDRY



(Sara 2001; Eira 2012).

1. Ambivalent goals

- Difficulties in identifying common problem and proposing relevant solutions
- Continuous and iterative deliberation to engage the wider public
- Problem structuring methods to govern change



2. Uncertainty about cause-effect relationships

- Lack of knowledge, unpredictable systems
- Flexible institutions to allow for adaptation, risktaking and institutional innovation.
- Living labs & light houses to show, articulate and materialize transition





3. Dispersed power of control

• Sectorization, fragmentation

- Joint decision-making, network management (policy integration and mainstreaming)
- Innovative policy instruments, policy mixes

Three key steps of mainstreaming biodiversity

Raising awareness

Defining policy objectives

Designing instruments and policy mixes.

Sandström et al. 2023

4. Political myopia

 Political decision-making fails to consider long term consequences of policy decisions

 A non-negotiable commitment to transition/transformation – an inclusive, just and circular future.



5. Determination of short-term steps for long-term change

- Lack of connection between short term action and long-term change
- Dual strategies of fore sight and back casting to create a social learning process and shared beliefs



6. Risk of lock in effects

- Non-optimal solutions in the long-term perspective
- Portfolio management, not putting all the eggs in one basket



To be able to bridge between global agendas and local needs all the challenges has to be adressed!



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Thank you for your attention

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