



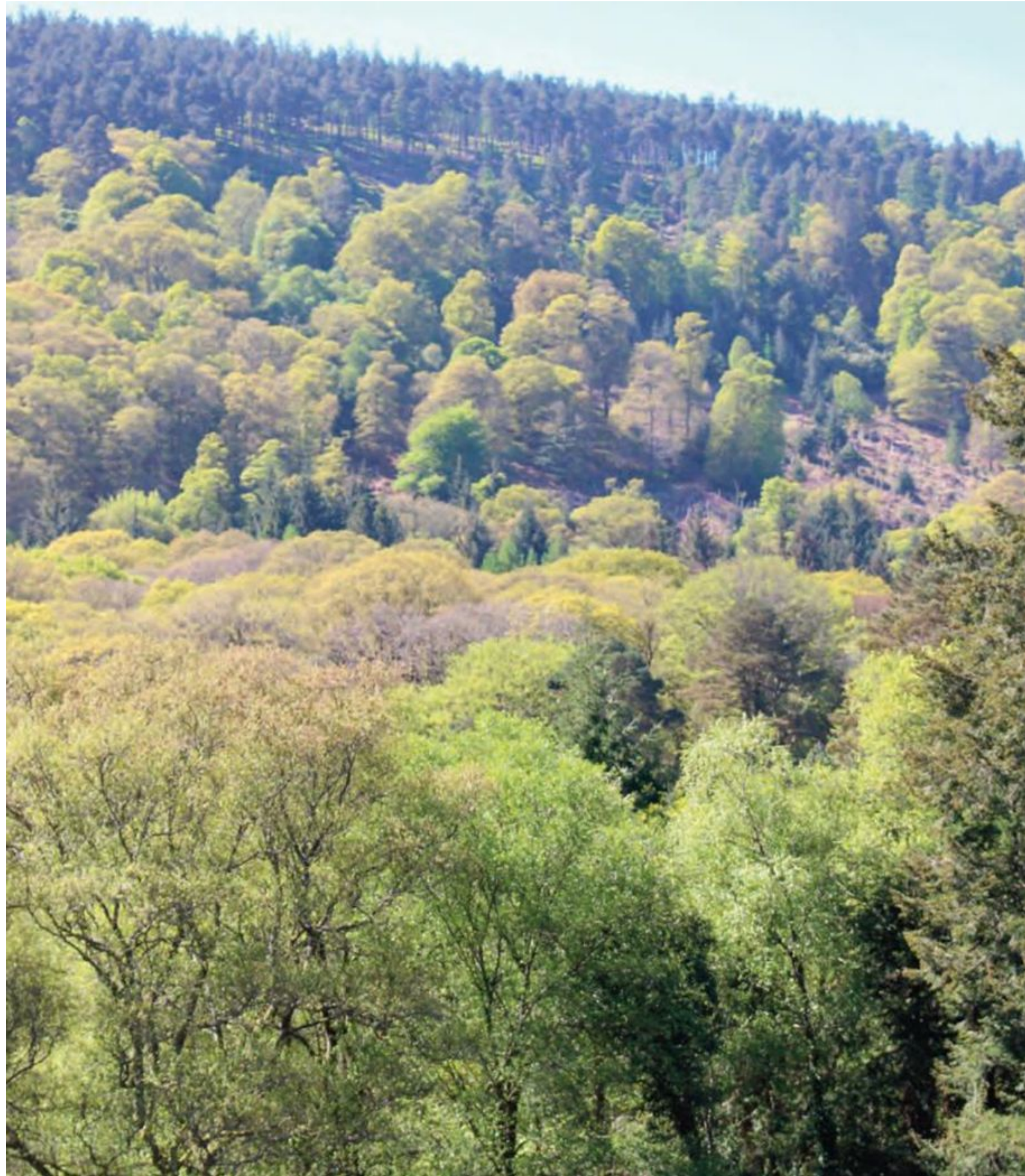
**An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Ireland's New Forest Strategy – opportunities for diversification

International Agroforestry Conference

16th – 17th November 2023, Westlodge Hotel, Bantry, Co.Cork

Fergus Moore
Head of Division
Forestry Sector Development



Presentation Content

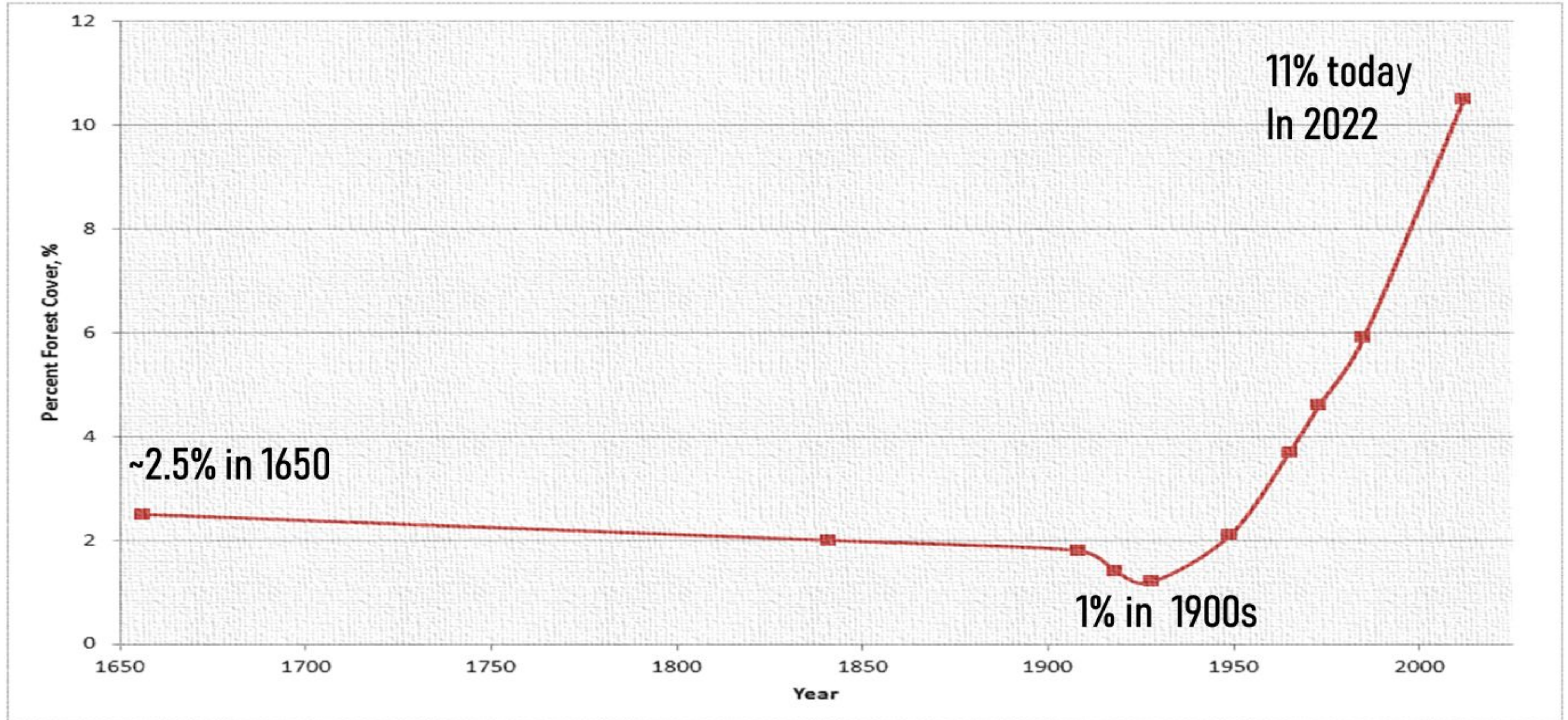


- Overview of Forestry in Ireland
 - Irelands forests
 - International policy direction
- Irelands Forest Strategy
 - Development
 - Shared Forestry Vision 2050
 - Opportunities for diversification



Overview forestry in Ireland

At the beginning of the 20th century Irelands forests were just 1% of our land area





Forest Cover
11.6%

(Conifers 70%: Broadleaved 30%)



9,400+

Employment
(direct and indirect)

Recreation:
22 Million Day
Visits per Year

Forestry

Key Facts

Afforestation
1989 – 2023
300,000 ha



~ 2 MT Yr⁻¹



~€ 2 Billion
GDP



Annual Harvest
~ 4 million m³

Forest Owners
24,000

The management of our forest resource supports a thriving forest industry



International Policy Direction



Paris Agreement – limit temperature rise to less than 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels, pursue efforts to limit to less than 1.5 degrees

EC 2030 Climate Plan - to reduce GHG emissions by 55% by 2030

Fit for 55 Package to make EU policies fit to achieve 55% reduction target

European Green Deal

EU Forest Strategy, Deforestation regulation, Nature restoration Law

Guidelines on Biodiversity-Friendly Afforestation, Reforestation and Tree Planting (Significant references to Agroforestry)



climate footprint



food security



global transition



new opportunities



resilience

National Policy Direction



- **The Programme for Government** - reduction in GHG emissions
- **Climate Action Plan 2022** - sectoral emissions reduction targets – climate neutral economy by 2050
- **Land Use review and LULUCF targets**
- **Ireland's new Forest Strategy**
- **Forestry Programme 2023-2027** – afforestation, including **Agroforestry**

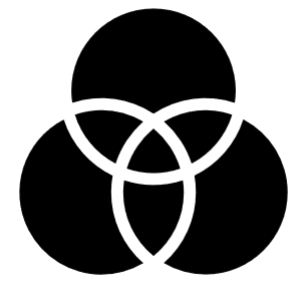


Ireland's Forest Strategy

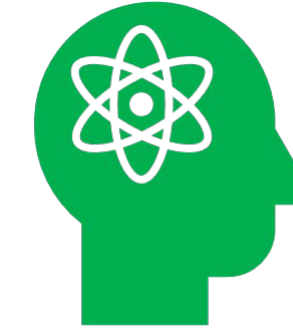
Extensive Public Consultation to develop Forestry Vision 2050 and Strategy 2030



Forest Policy
Group Established



SWOT and PESTLE
Analysis



State of Knowledge
Report

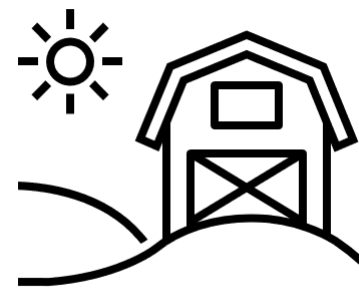


Scenario, principles
& Vision



Public Attitudes
Survey

22nd November- 3rd December 2021



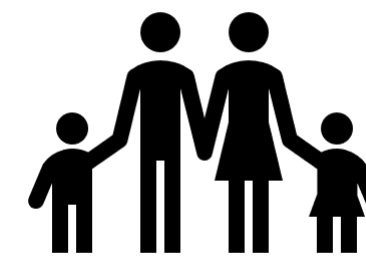
Communities
Irish Rural Link

November/December 2021



Bilateral Stakeholder
Consultation

2021-2023



Public Consultation

16th March – 27th April 2022



Deliberative
Dialogue
99 Citizens

10th – 14th May 2022



Youth
Forum

12-18yrs old
January 2022



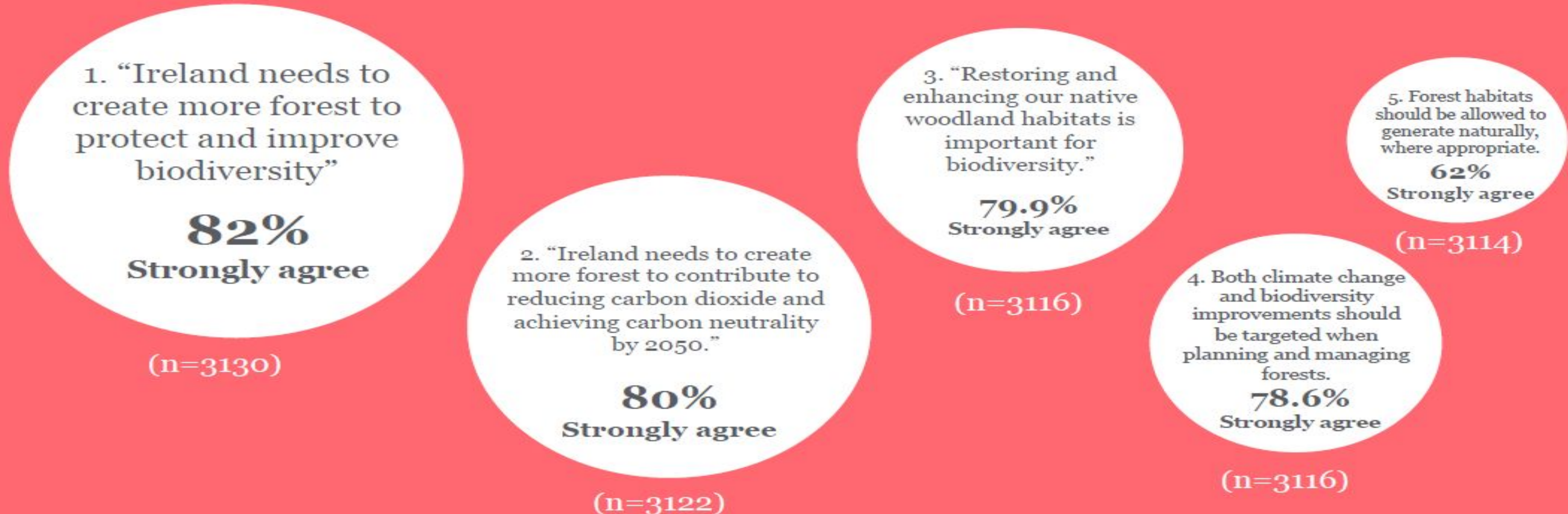
SEA

29th November
2022

Online Public Consultation 3,122 submissions

Right Reasons - Tackling Climate Change and enhancing Biodiversity

The survey asked if people agree or disagree with the following statements. The chart below shows the percentage of people that “strongly agreed” with the statements. As seen in other questions, the combination of Strongly Agree and Agree raised the level of agreement significantly.



Attitudes Survey 1000 people






- **2 in 3** state that they would like an **even balance of forests & agriculture in their ideal landscape**, while a further **quarter** would like a **forest-dominated landscape**
- **3 in 4** would like **more forests** in their county and **more trees** planted in their nearest **urban area**.
- **Of those who want more forests, 7 in 10 want a mix between conifers and deciduous trees.**

Forest Strategy : VISION 2050

THE RIGHT TREES IN THE RIGHT PLACES FOR THE RIGHT REASONS WITH THE RIGHT MANAGEMENT SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE AND THRIVING ECONOMY AND SOCIETY AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

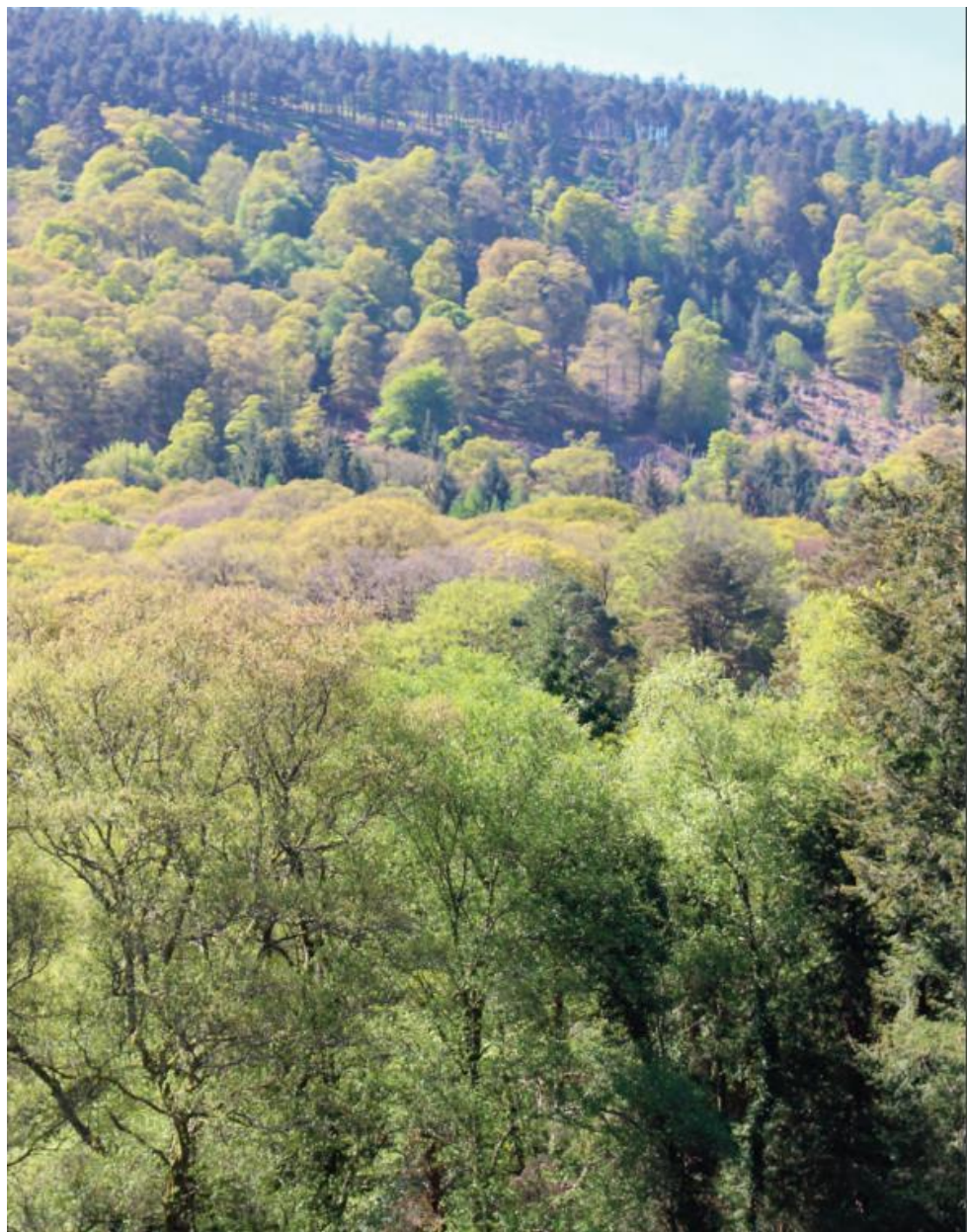


Ireland's National Forest Strategy

FOREST FOR CLIMATE	FORESTS FOR WOOD	FORESTS FOR PEOPLE	FORESTS FOR NATURE	FORESTS FOR ECONOMY
 <p>Forests sequester and store carbon. Irish forests and their soils currently store over 300 million tonnes of carbon</p>	 <p>Wood provides sustainable building materials and replaces materials made using energy from fossil fuels</p>	 <p>Forests provide places for recreation. Our public forests provide access on 400,000 ha</p>	 <p>Forests provide important habitats for plants and animals, protect water quality when established sustainably</p>	 <p>Forests produced 4 million cubic metres of timber in 2020, support a vibrant forest industry</p>
<p>Forest Strategy provides opportunities to identify actions to deliver on these 5 strategic themes</p>				



Opportunities for Diversification



FT1 – Native forests



FT2 – Forests for Water



FT11 – Mixed high forest



FT8 – Agroforestry



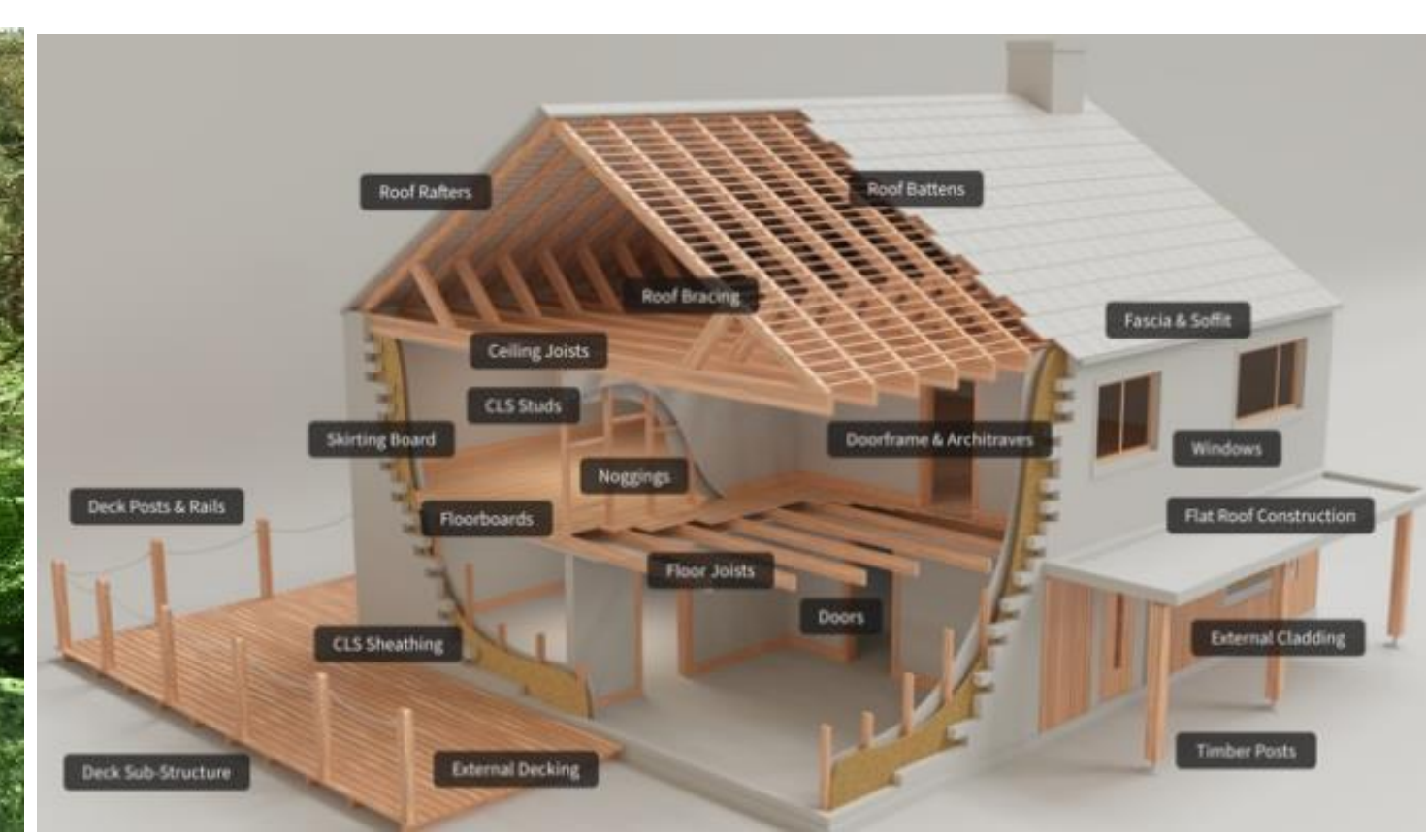
FT4 - Neighbourwoods



FT3 – Forests on public lands



Continuous Cover Forestry **Forest Roads**



Harvested Wood Products

We need lots of different types of forests and trees in our landscape



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Thank you

