



New EU Forest Strategy and forestry in the new Rural Development Policy post 2013

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The new EU Forest Strategy

Forestry Strategy and Forest Action Plan



1998: EU Forestry Strategy

2005: Implementation of the EU Forestry Strategy

2006: Forest Action Plan (2006-2011)

2011: Launch of the review of the EU Forestry Strategy

New Forest Strategy scheduled for first quarter of 2013





Workshops with Member States and Stakeholders

Working Group under the Standing Forestry Committee

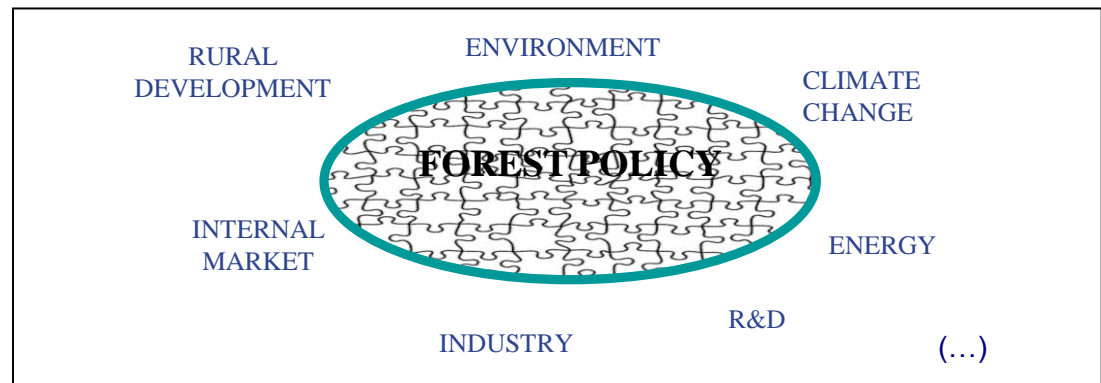
Ex-post evaluation of the Forest Action Plan

Why



- Substantial changes to the character of EU forests after the enlargement
- Increasing demands and emerging needs that call for improved coordination and knowledge

- Policy puzzle

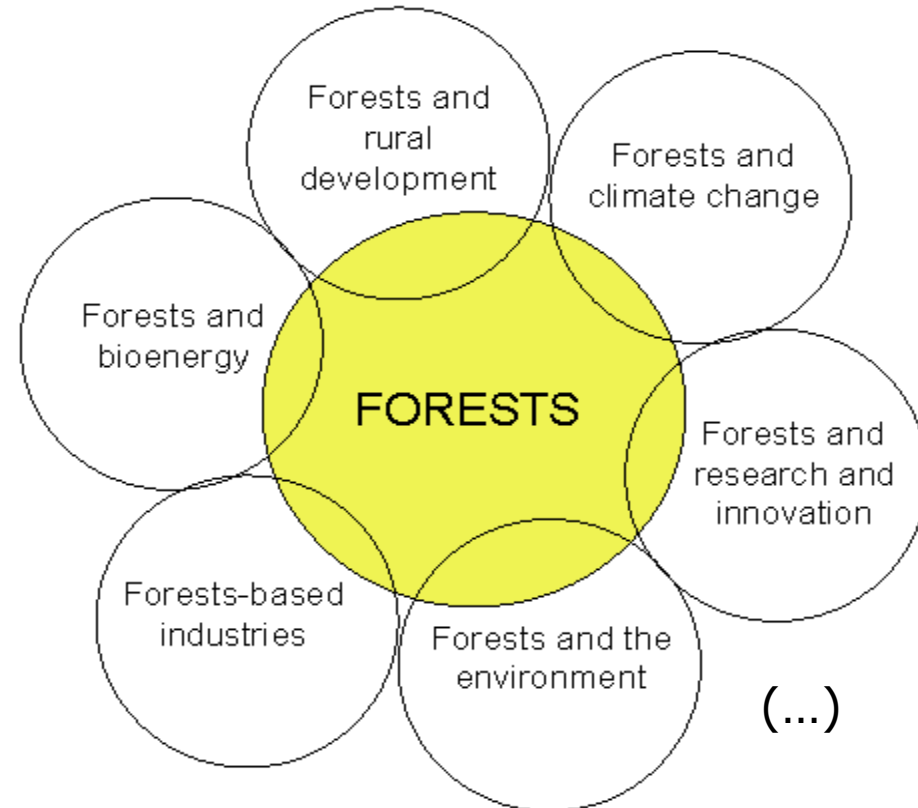


- Forest Strategy

- A holistic view of forests and all related policies, addressing also the value chain.

- Enshrine and endorse the principles of SFM whilst observing the limits of what forests can sustainably supply.

Scope of the Forest Strategy





(Possible) political objective

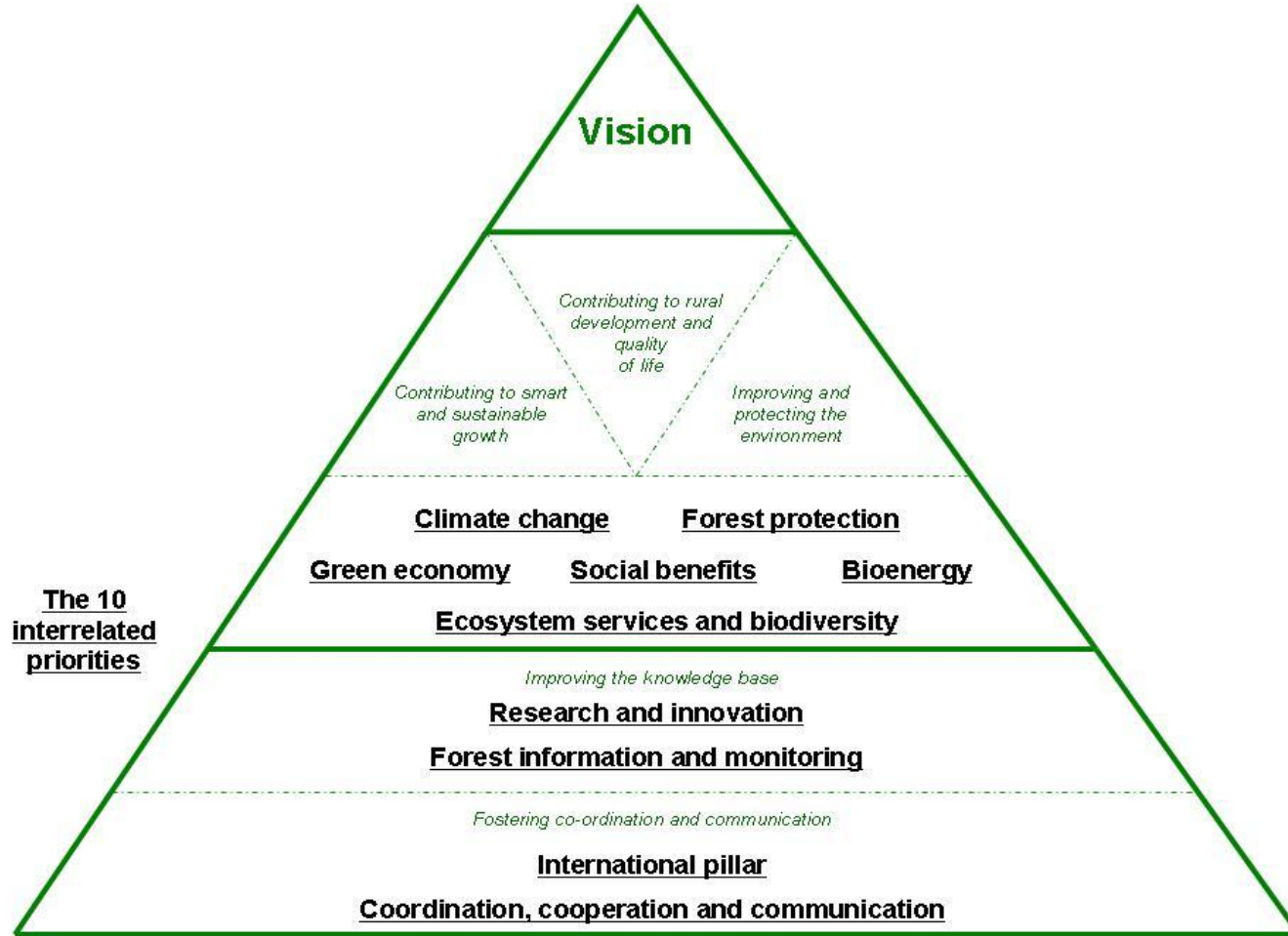
“The aim of demonstrating/ensuring to **society** that EU forests are managed according to **SFM** principles and thus contribute to **balancing** the different forest functions and competing demands so as to provide a basis for forestry and the whole forest-based value chain to be competitive and valuable contributors to the **green economy**”

(Opinion of the Standing Forestry Committee contributing to the development of a new EU Forest Strategy)

- EU commitment to SFM as defined by Forest Europe
- Strong and coherent framework with mechanisms to improve coordination, cooperation and communication
- Sustainable solutions to emerging challenges and to sustainably manage the multiple demands
- Focus on the 10 interrelated priorities

(Proposal from the WG under the Standing Forestry Committee contributing to the development of a new EU Forest Strategy)

WHAT: 10 interrelated priorities



(Proposal from the WG under the Standing Forestry Committee contributing to the development of a new EU Forest Strategy)

Calendar for EU Forest Strategy Review



8 June 2012	Adoption of the report from the WG under the Standing Forestry Committee
4 of July 2012	Workshop with Member States and stakeholders: presentation of the final report
September 2012	Opinion of the Standing Forestry Committee on the final report
October - December 2012	Preparation of the proposal / communication by the Commission services
First quarter 2013	Adoption of the New Strategy COM addressed to Council and Parliament
2013	Possible debate in Council and Parliament (up to Council and Parliament to decide on the follow up)



Forestry in Rural Development Policy post 2013

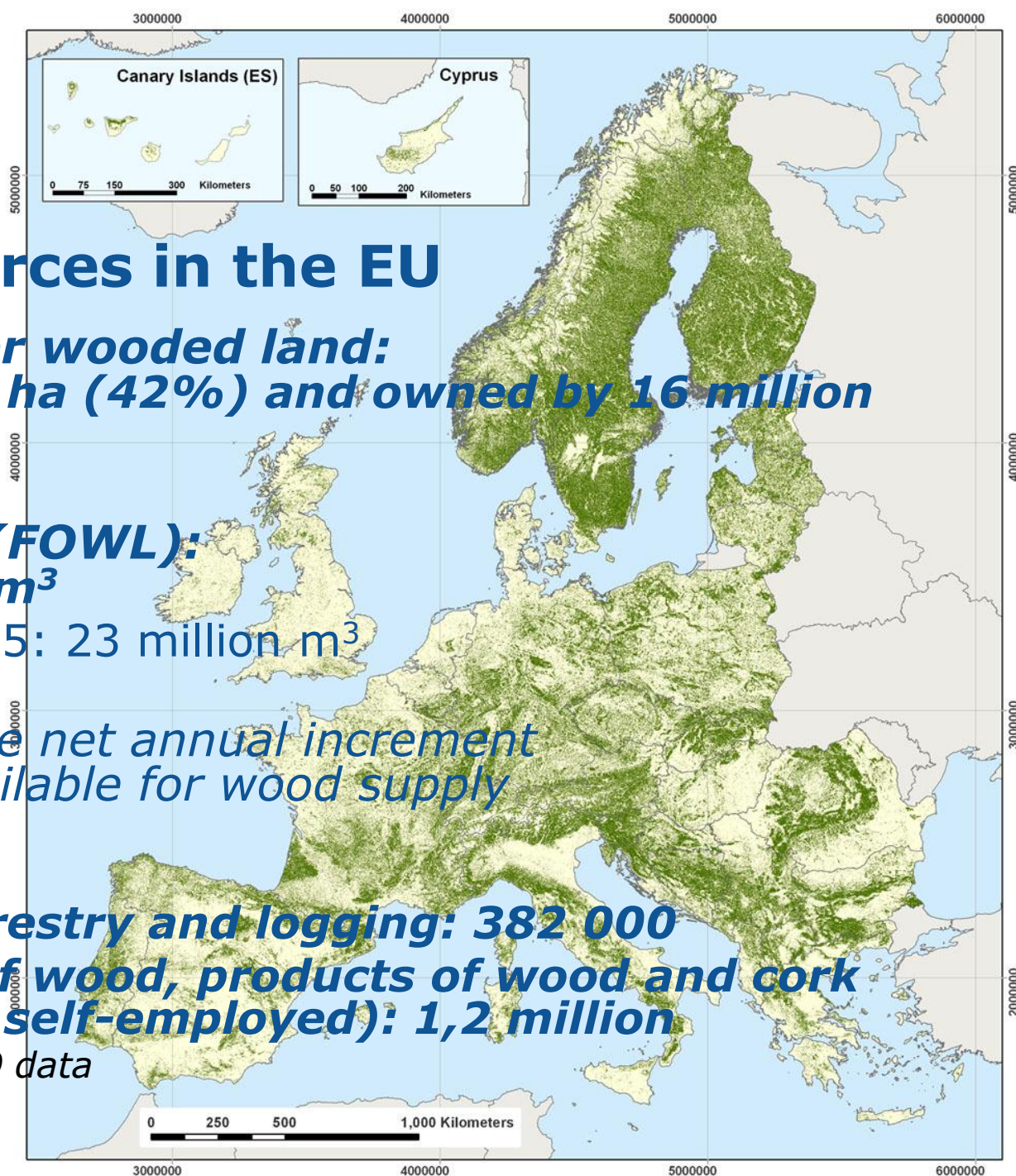
Forest resources in the EU

- **Forest and other wooded land:**
- 178 million ha (42%) and owned by 16 million owners.
- **Growing stock (FOWL):**
- 24 million m³
- data for 2005: 23 million m³
- **Felling:**
~ 60 % of the net annual increment in forest available for wood supply

Based on FRA 2010 data

- **Employees in forestry and logging: 382 000**
- **Manufacturing of wood, products of wood and cork (employees and self-employed): 1,2 million**

Based on EUROSTAT 2009 data





Forestry related measures in RD for the period 2007-2013

- *Modernisation of agricultural holdings (121) (SRC is included to this measure)*
- *Improving the economic value of forests (122)*
- *Adding value to primary agricultural and forestry production (123)*
- *Cooperation for development of new products (124)*
- *Improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation agriculture and forestry (125) first afforestation of agricultural land (221)*
- *first establishment of agro-forestry systems (222)*
- *first afforestation of non-agricultural land (223)*
- *Natura 2000 payments (224)*
- *forest-environment payments (225)*
- *restoring forestry potential and introducing prevention actions (226)*
- *support for non-productive investments (227)*

Summary of forestry related measures in RDPs

- *Adding together the financial resources intended to be made available*
 - **for forestry-specific (EUR 6.2 billion)**
 - **and other forestry-related measures in Axis 1 and 3 (EUR 1-2 billion)**

*it may be concluded that during the period 2007-2013 **around EUR 8 billion** will be made available from the Community budget (EAFRD) and up to EUR 16 billion in total.*

- *These amounts correspond respectively to **9 % of the EAFRD funding** and 7-8 % of the total amount of financial resources.*

Commission proposal for RD for the new period 2014-2020

Guiding principles;

- *Simplification, fewer measures (grouping of existing ones)*
- *More flexibility to increase the implementation and cope with the changing needs and environment*

The Rural development regulation

- ***Knowledge transfer and information actions (Art 15)***
 - Persons engaged in the forestry sector and land managers continue to be eligible
- ***Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services (Art 16)***
 - Forest holders continue to be eligible
- ***Investments in physical assets (Art 18)***
 - Forest holders continue to be eligible for infrastructure **e.g. forest roads**



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Art. 22: Investments in forest area development and improvement of the viability of forests

Support covers the following operations :

- **afforestation and creation of woodland (art. 23)**
- **establishment of agro-forestry systems (art. 24)**
- **prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters, including pest and disease outbreaks, catastrophic events and climate related threats (art. 25)**
- **investments improving the resilience and environmental value as well as the mitigation potential of forest ecosystems (art. 26)**
- **investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products (art. 27)**

For holdings above a certain size, to be determined by the MS, support shall be conditional on the submission of a forest management plan or equivalent instrument in line with sustainable forest management

Art. 23: Afforestation and creation of woodland

- **Support available for:**

Costs of establishment up to 100% and annual premium per hectare to cover the costs of maintenance, including early and late cleanings, for a maximum period of 10 years

- Both agricultural and non-agricultural land eligible
- minimum environmental requirements
- No support shall be granted for the planting of short rotation coppice, Christmas trees or fast growing trees for energy production
- In areas where afforestation is made difficult by severe pedo-climatic conditions, support may be provided for planting other perennial woody species such as shrubs or bushes suitable to the local conditions
- *Beneficiaries*
 - Private land-owners and tenants, municipalities and their associations

Art. 24: Establishment of agro-forestry systems

- **Support available for:**
 - Costs of establishment 80%
 - Annual premium per hectare to cover the costs of maintenance for a maximum period of 3 years
- **"Agro-forestry systems"** shall mean land use systems in which trees are grown in combination with extensive agriculture on the same land
- The maximum number of trees to be planted per hectare shall be determined by MS taking account of local pedo-climatic conditions, forestry species and the need to ensure agricultural use of the land
- *Beneficiaries*
 - Private land-owners and tenants, municipalities and their associations

Art. 25: Prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires and natural disasters and catastrophic events

- Support for the establishment of protective infrastructure.
- local, small scale prevention activities against fire or other natural hazards
- establishing and improving forest fire, pest and diseases monitoring facilities and communication equipment
- restoring forest potential damaged from fires and other natural disasters including pests, diseases as well as catastrophic events and climate change related events
 - need for formal recognition by the MS that a natural disaster has occurred
 - at least 30% of the relevant forest potential is destroyed

Art. 25: Prevention and restoration (cont)

- ***Eligibility***

- **In the case of preventive actions** concerning pests and diseases, the risk of a relevant disaster occurrence must be supported by scientific evidence and acknowledged by scientific public organisations

Where relevant, the list of species of organisms harmful to plants which may cause a disaster must be provided in the programme

- Eligible operations shall be consistent with the MS forest protection plan
- Forest areas classified as medium to high forest fire risk shall be eligible for support relating to forest fire prevention

Art. 26: Investments improving the resilience and environmental value of forest ecosystems

- **Investments** shall be aimed at the achievement of commitments undertaken for environmental aims or providing ecosystem services and/or which enhance the public amenity value of forest and wooded land in the area concerned or improve the climate change mitigation potential of ecosystems, without excluding economic benefits in the long term
- *Beneficiaries*
 - Natural persons, private forest owners, private law and semi-public bodies, municipalities and their associations
 - In the case of state forests support may also be granted to bodies managing such forests, which are independent from the state budget

Art. 27: Investments in new forestry technologies and in processing and marketing of forest products

Investments enhancing forestry potential or relating to processing and marketing adding value to forest products

- **Investments related to the improvement of the economic value of forests** shall be at the level of the forest holding and may include investments for soil and resource friendly harvesting machinery and practices
- **Investments related to the use of wood as a raw material or energy source** shall be limited to all working operations prior to industrial processing
- *Beneficiaries*
 - Private forest owners, municipalities and their associations and to SMEs

Art. 28: Setting up of producer groups

- Adapting the production to market requirements
- Jointly placing goods on the market, including preparation for sale, centralization of sales and supply to bulk buyers
- Establishing common rules on production information, with particular regard to harvesting and availability
- Other activities that may be carried out by producer groups such as development of business and marketing skills and organization and facilitation of innovation processes

Forestry sector is covered

Art. 31: Natura 2000 and WFD payments

- Support linked to Natura 2000 in agricultural land granted only for requirements going beyond the GAEC.
- Support linked to WFD for:
 - specific requirements resulting from the river basin management plans, imposing major changes in land use and/or major restriction on farming practices;
- **Designated Natura 2000** agricultural and **forestry** areas
 - other delimited nature protection areas contributing to the implementation of Art.10 of Habitats Directive (up to 5% per RDP of the designated Natura 2000 areas covered by RDP)
 - agricultural areas included in river basin management plans under WFD.

Art. 35: forest environmental and climate services and forest conservation

- **Per hectare support** for operations consisting of one or more voluntary forest-environment commitments for a period of 5 to 7 years (longer period possible for particular types of commitments, in duly justified cases)
 - **Commitments to go beyond relevant mandatory requirements** to be specified in programmes
 - **conservation and promotion of forest genetic resources outside forest-environmental commitments**
- *Beneficiaries (forest-environmental commitments)*
 - Forest holders, Municipalities and their associations
 - Bodies managing state owned forests if independent from state budget
- *Beneficiaries (genetic resources)*
 - Private entities, Municipalities and their associations

Art. 36 Co-operation

- 1. Support under this measure shall promote forms of co-operation **involving at least two entities** and in particular:
 - ***(a) co-operation approaches among different actors in the Union agriculture and food chain, forestry sector and among other actors, including inter-branch organisations;***
 - ***(b) the creation of clusters and networks;***
- 2. Co-operation under paragraph 1 shall relate in particular to the following:
 - ***(a) pilot projects;***
 - ***(b) the development of new products, practices, processes and technologies in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors***

Co-operation (cont)

- ***(c) co-operation among small operators in organising joint work processes, sharing facilities and resources;***
- ***(d) horizontal and vertical co-operation among supply chain actors for the establishment of logistic platforms to promote short supply chains and local markets;***
- ***(f) joint action undertaken with a view to mitigating or adapting to climate change;***
- ***(h) horizontal and vertical cooperation among supply chain actors in the sustainable production of biomass for use in food, energy production and industrial processes.***
- ***(j) drawing up of forest management plans or equivalent instruments.***

Art 53: EIP network

- *Objectives:*
 - **support the EIP 'Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (Art 61)**
 - **Networking of operational groups, advisory services and researchers**
- *Tasks of EIP network*
 - **Helpdesk function**
 - **Animation**
 - **Screening and reporting on relevant research results**
 - **Collect, analyse and disseminate information and good practices on innovation**
 - **Organise conferences and workshops**
- *Implementing acts setting out organizational structure and operation*

Where we are with the CAP reform process

- **12 October 2011 Commission legal proposals on the CAP**
- **2011-2013 Debate in the European Parliament and the Council**
- **2013 Approval of Regulations and implementing acts**
- **2014 Implementation starts, (to be prepared...)**
- *More information on the CAP after 2013*
http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/index_en.htm

Thank you