

Mežu sertifikācija – 2025 un tendences nākamajā gadā

18.12.2025

Jānis Švirksts
Valdes loceklis
SIA STEP UP Certification



Will FSC act on the billion-dollar fraud at its heart?

23.10.2025



Illustration © Earthsight

Avots:
<https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/FSC-billion-dollar-fraud>

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- *A growing mountain of fraud cases threatens to destroy wood sustainability certifier FSC's reputation once and for all. Action is needed now before it is too late.*
- *At next week's FSC General Assembly, members will convene to vote on the scheme's policies and priorities, including how it will address fraud. A leading FSC auditor has called this GA "the last call to save the FSC"*
- *FSC's investigations, triggered by third-party research, are exposing and addressing only the tip of the iceberg of a much wider systemic issue*
- *New analysis by Earthsight suggests that between \$10 and \$30 billion of fraudulently certified goods are being sold each year*
- *Wood companies in FSC's economic chamber have vetoed all previous attempts to stamp out fraud through mandatory traceability. They can no longer ignore the problem*
- *FSC Members at FSC General Assembly 2025 must support Motion 30, which requires the development of compulsory traceability. They should also push for it to be strengthened, speeding up the timeline and removing the requirement for a second vote at the GA in 2028*
- *Environmental and social NGO members of FSC should stage a mass walk-out if the wood company members veto this measure again*
- *This isn't FSC's only serious problem. But if FSC cannot even take the steps necessary to stamp out rampant fraud, it must be abandoned*



Blood-stained birch: exposing the EU trade in Russian conflict ply
MURASHINSKY PLYWOOD PLANT
Russia

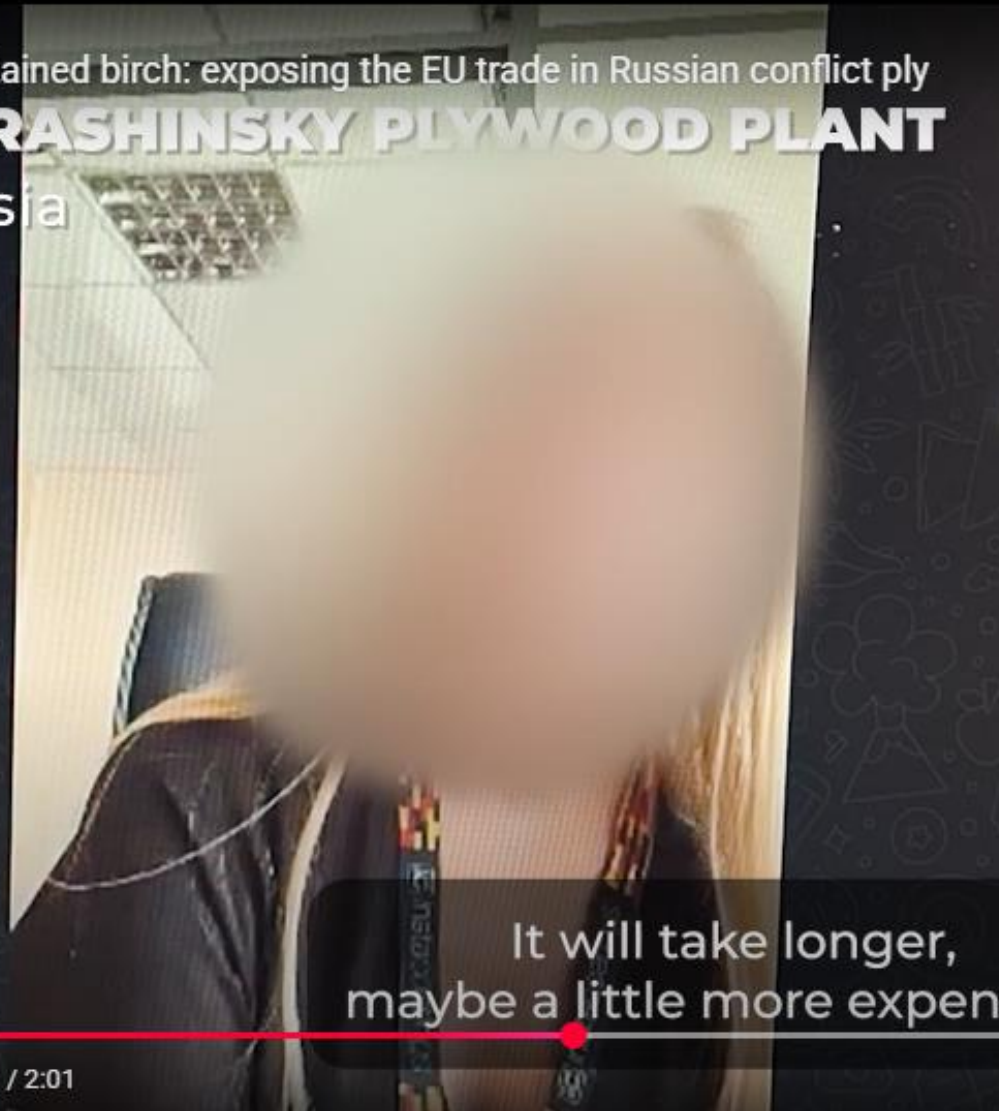


At the moment
we can offer via China.

MORE VIDEOS

0:48 / 2:01

Blood-stained birch: exposing the EU trade in Russian conflict ply
MURASHINSKY PLYWOOD PLANT
Russia



It will take longer,
maybe a little more expensive,

MORE VIDEOS

0:50 / 2:01

- <https://www.earthsight.org.uk/blood-stained-birch>

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Blood timber with a green label

Ironically, many of the companies we found handling illegal Russian plywood publicly proclaim themselves as ethical. To demonstrate this, they commonly cite the fact that they are 'certified' by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the world's largest green label for wood.

Alvi-Bel, the Polish trader caught on hidden camera admitting to importing illegal Russian wood, obtained an FSC 'Chain-of-custody' (CoC) certificate in January 2023, around the same time it got into the laundering business. Both of the Chinese plywood manufacturers who admitted to laundering large volumes of sanctioned Russian birch ply into the EU are also FSC CoC-certified, and proudly advertise this fact on their websites. Intop Group, the Kazakh middleman, obtained an FSC CoC certificate in May 2023, most probably to aid with marketing for its core business of laundered Russian wood. It had its certificate revoked in December 2023, but FSC has not published the reason. Technomar in Estonia, Castellana in Italy and Forest Traffic in Spain are also all proud holders of FSC CoC certificates. The Polish importer raided by local authorities for

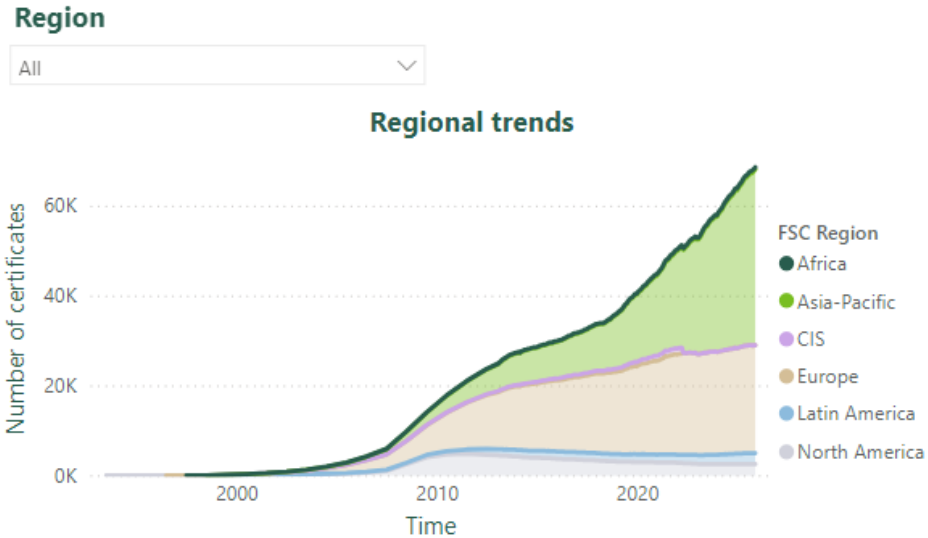
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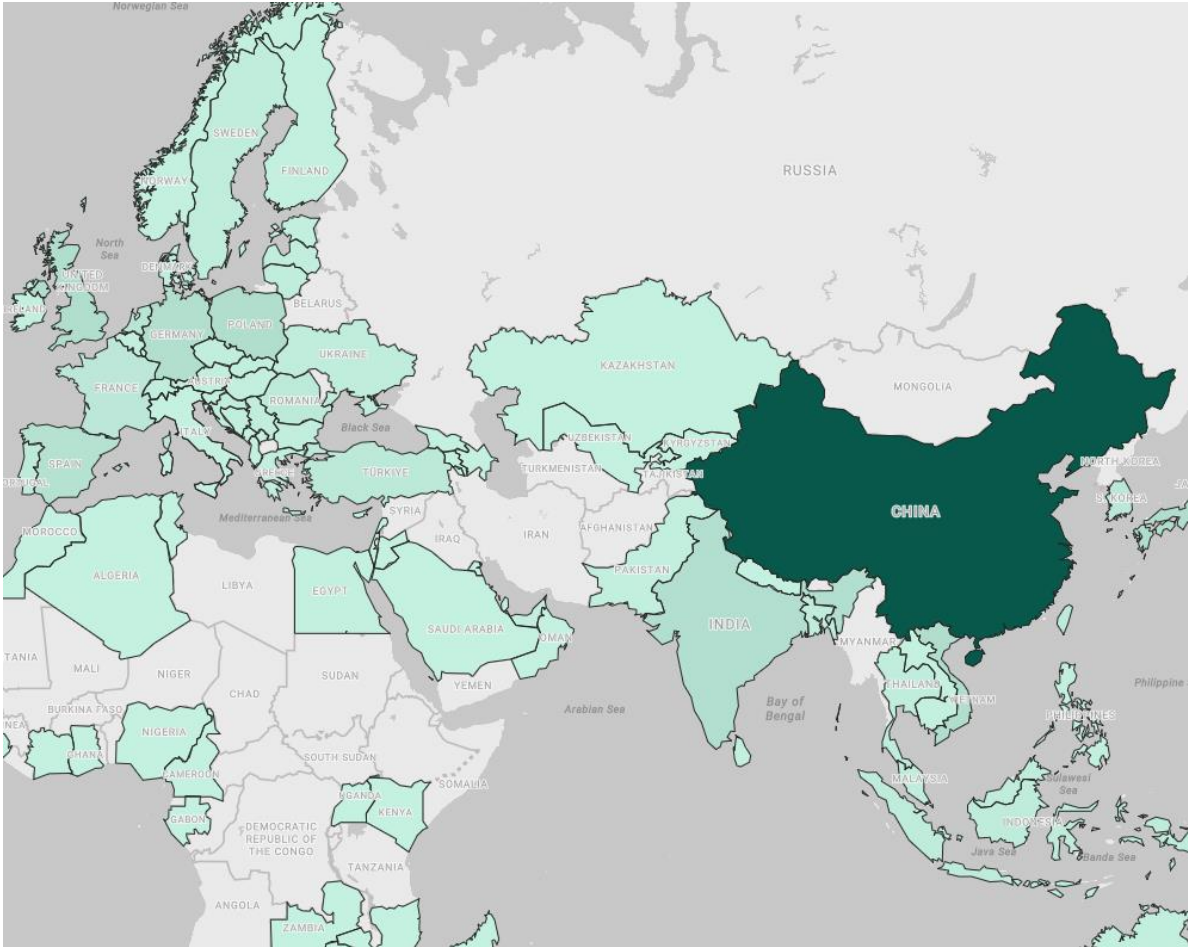
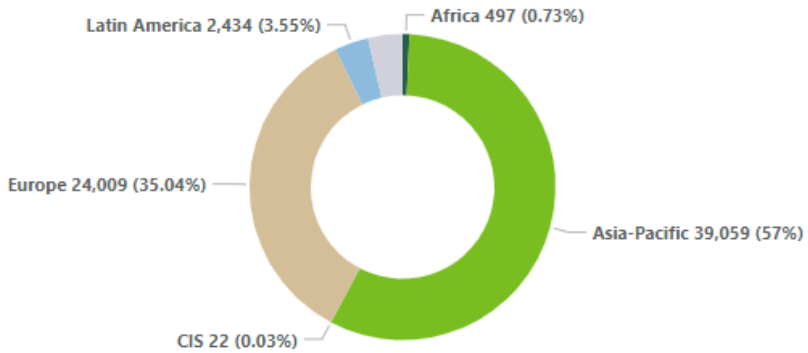
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FSC in China



Current regional distribution (Number of certificates)



<https://connect.fsc.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/monitoring-fscs-reach>



Forest Certification in Russia in Turbulent Times: Trends and Challenges

Before 2022 Russia had 62 M ha FSC certified forests. After FSC's withdrawal some formerly FSC-certified companies started logging in HCV forests, while many NGOs either halted operations or shifted focus away from nature conservation. Meanwhile the former FSC Russia team started Forest Etalon (FE), a system based on FSC standards. It has just 8.1 M ha certified because other certification schemes emerged as well. Since the latter opted for weaker requirements, it is difficult for FE to compete with them in the absence of strong support.

Russia hosts 25% of the global IFLs and Russian forests are vital for global climate and biodiversity. But today certified forest areas are shrinking, and protection for IFLs and Indigenous rights is inadequate. At the meeting, we will discuss the future of Russia's forests in the light of the global sustainable development agenda and how FSC may help

- <https://ga.fsc.org/en/forest-certification-in-russia-in-turbulent-times-trends-and-challenges>



Seeking FSC's engagement

In Panama, that awareness is what Shmatkov hopes to spark. He and 5 FSC International Members from Russia representing 3 Chambers have come not to demand official recognition, but to argue for engagement. "The world is getting polarized—and paralyzed," he says. "FSC is a global organization. You can't just exclude 20 percent of the world's forests because they're in Russia."

Russia's forests represent roughly 21 percent of the planet's remaining intact forest landscapes, home to more than 50 Indigenous nations. "They are not responsible for this geopolitical situation," Shmatkov says quietly. "But they are suffering from it."

He wants FSC to at least provide transparency: "Compare the certification systems working in Russia. Look at their standards, their audit quality. And communicate that to companies in Europe, the US, Japan, China and other countries. Many don't know what's happening."

- <https://www.preferredbynature.org/news/we-just-cannot-leave-forests-alone-former-director-fsc-russia-saving-fsc-values-sanctioned>



The PEFC paradox: One of Indonesia's worst deforesters certified as 'sustainable'

11.12.2025



Young timber plantations surround remaining patches of natural forest in the concession of PT Industrial Forest Plantation, Central Kalimantan, November 2024 © Auriga / Earthsight

- One of Indonesia's worst deforesters in recent years, PT Industrial Forest Plantation (PT IFP), has been certified as 'sustainable' under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
- Between 2016 and 2022, the company cleared nearly 22,000 hectares of natural forest within a key orangutan stronghold in central Borneo
- Despite a public pledge to end deforestation in August 2023, PT IFP continued to clear natural forest for at least 10 months after this date. Auditors were aware of this, yet still approved certification in November 2024
- PEFC standards allow companies to greenwash their image by certifying only selected areas that meet sustainability criteria – even if other parts of the same concession have been recently deforested
- The scandal exposes deep flaws in voluntary certification and shows that only legislation can compel companies to deliver meaningful sustainability
- PEFC International should revoke PT IFP's certification and revise its standards to exclude companies that have cleared natural forest anywhere on their land since 2010, along with other companies in the same corporate group

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EVERCOVER

100%
clear-cut free

schools, pre-schools,
elder care, culture
and sports facilities



Johan Berhin

Acquiring EverCover Timber Sales, CoC and Marketing Webinar 27.11.2025



AEFC Ecological Forestry Certification

28 abonenti

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- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Nb2jF36wr4>

EVERCOVER

Standard criteria 1/10

- Forest management is based on continuous cover forestry
- Gaps maximum of 0,1 ha are allowed, max. 3 per ha
- Larger gaps allowed only in exceptional cases (e.g. transition phases)



Avots: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fZ26J8Apxw>



EVERCOVER

Standard criteria 2/10



- Natural regeneration is to be used whenever possible
- Ditching or maintenance of existing ditch network is generally not allowed
- Chemicals or fertilization is generally not allowed (with some exceptions)

EVERCOVER

Standard criteria 4/10



- Retention trees are left in commercial stands (minimum of 20 large trees per ha, or similar equivalent of m^3)
- Dead wood minimum of 5 m^3 per ha, all dead wood needs to be preserved in loggings

EVERCOVER

Standard criteria 6/10

- Minimum of 10 % of the productive forest land needs to be protected
- No logging of HCV forests, even if these constitute more than 10 % of the holding's area
- Already existing protected areas can be counted in



EVERCOVER

Standard criteria 7/10



- Safeguards must exist which protect nationally and regionally rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats
- No logging is allowed during the core part of birds' breeding season

Join the pilot project

The final certification process will be completed in spring 2026 – But you can join already now!

Become part of the Evercover Pilot Program. No annual or other fees will be charged during the first year for participants in the pilot.

As a forest owner, you will gain early access to sell Evercover certified wood, and as a wood buyer, you will be among the first to use Evercover wood in your products.



- [Submit an application in the AEFC Registry.](#)
- Enter the details of your forest property to be certified and your contact information in the form.
- In the application, select a forest service company authorized by AEFC to provide group certification services. (If you wish, you can contact the company in advance.)
- The group certifier will contact you as soon as possible and provide a proposal for carrying out the certification.
- Once the certification is complete, you can practice nature-friendly EverCover forestry and sell timber as EverCover certified.

Avots: <https://aeforest.org/join-the-pilot-project/>

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No mežiem līdz ūdeņiem

- Aizvadītajā nedēļā viedās administrācijas un reģionālās attīstības ministrs Raimonds Čudars (JV) informēja, ka, ņemot vērā piekrastes zvejnieku un ūdens sporta pārstāvju iebildumus, sabiedriskā apspriešana par Jūras aizsargājamo teritoriju Dabas aizsardzības plānu tiek apturēta.
- Kritizētos priekšlikumus solīts pārstrādāt, un ministrs uzsvēris, ka ir jāmeklē kompromiss starp dabas aizsardzības interesēm, tautsaimniecības interesēm un arī vietējo kopienu interesēm.
- Kāds ir Jūras aizsargājamo teritoriju dabas aizsardzības plāna mērķis? Kāpēc ar pašreizējo plāna versiju nav apmierināti zvejnieki? Un vai vispār iespējams kompromiss? Par šiem un citiem jautājumiem raidījumā "Spried ar Delfi" žurnālists Andris Āuzāns runā ar Viedās administrācijas un reģionālās attīstības ministra padomnieci dabas aizsardzības jautājumos Astru Labuci un biedrības "Mazjūras zvejnieki" pārstāvi Ivetu Tomsoni.

<https://www.delfi.lv/52983255/spried-ar-delfi/120099167/vai-dabas-aizsardzibas-var-da-jaierobezo-piekrastes-zveja-un-atputa-uz-udeniem>



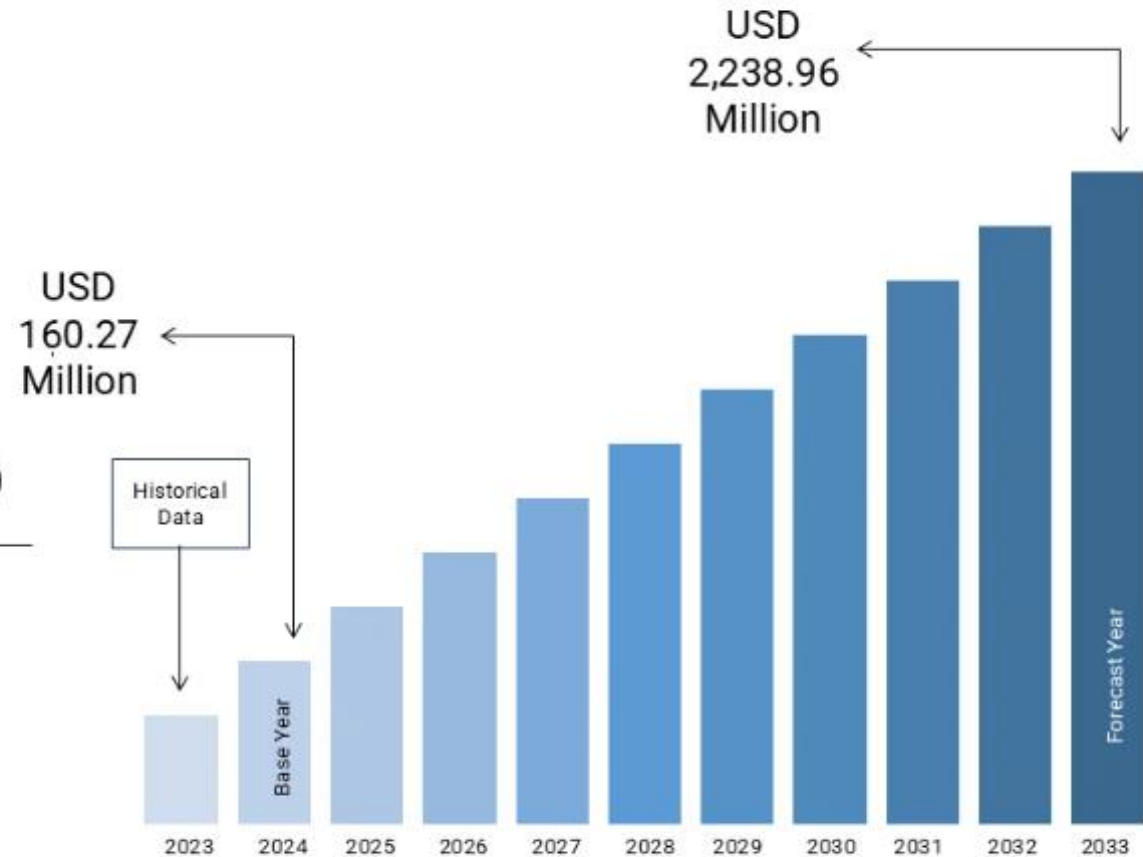
Europe Voluntary Carbon Credit Market

Market Size Overview



34.04%

Europe market CAGR,
2025 - 2033



www.marketdataforecast.com

Source: Market Data Forecast Analysis

- <https://www.marketdataforecast.com/market-reports/europe-voluntary-carbon-credit-market-report>

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Arbonics™



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Nature credits



“ We have to put nature on the balance sheet. That’s exactly what nature credits do. When well-designed, they will provide an efficient, market-driven instrument that encourage the private sector to invest and innovate. With investment and innovation, we generate revenue for those who work to protect nature, including our farmers, our landowners, our foresters. ”

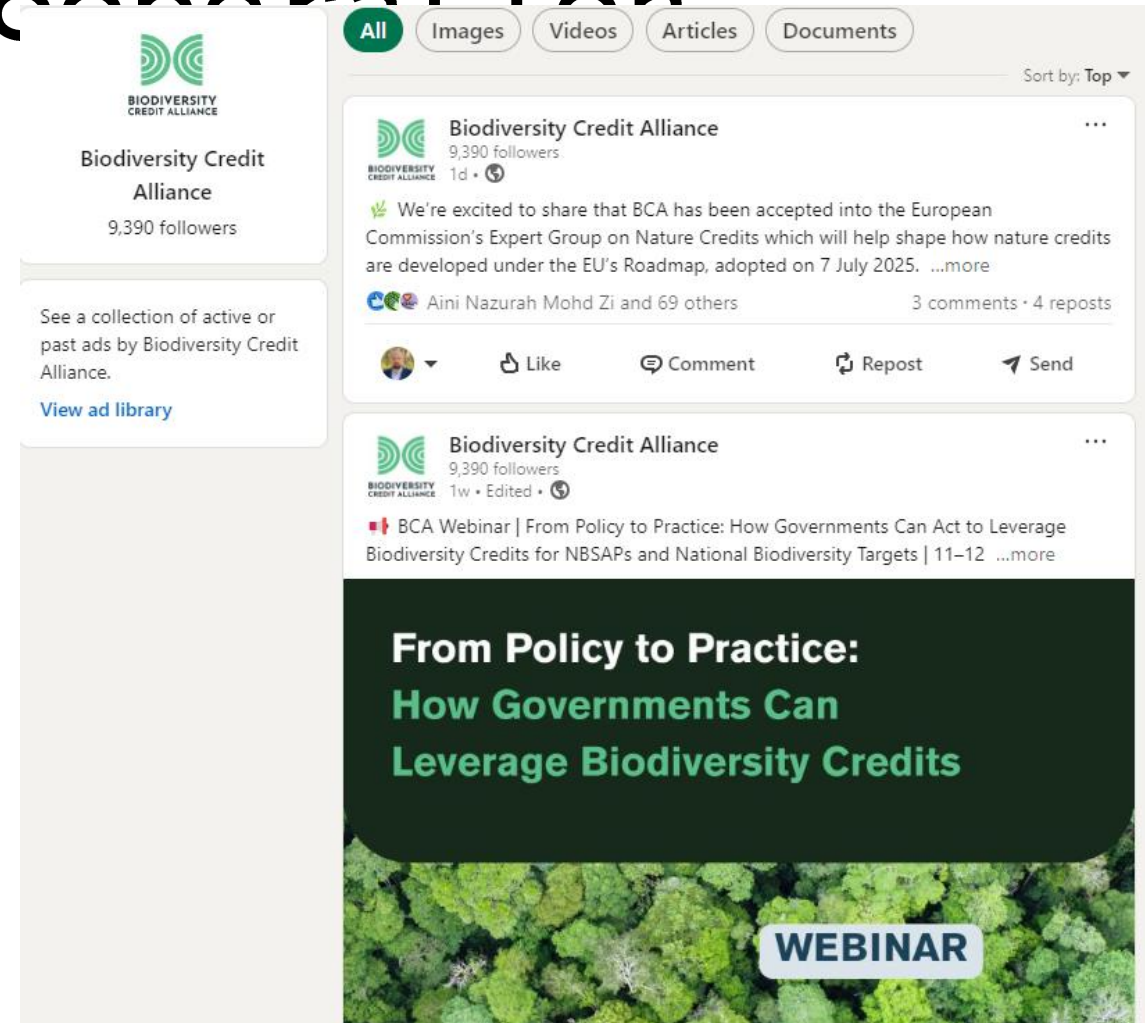
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1679



Pilot projects and international cooperation

- The EU is currently piloting nature credit initiatives in France, Estonia, and Peru and is working with international partners such as the Biodiversity Credit Alliance, the World Economic Forum and the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits.
- Nature credits can also support Member States in meeting national targets under the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and contribute to the global goals of the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.



The image shows a LinkedIn profile for the Biodiversity Credit Alliance. The profile header includes the logo, the name "Biodiversity Credit Alliance", and "9,390 followers". Below the header, there is a section for "See a collection of active or past ads by Biodiversity Credit Alliance." with a "View ad library" link. The main feed shows two posts. The first post is a text announcement: "We're excited to share that BCA has been accepted into the European Commission's Expert Group on Nature Credits which will help shape how nature credits are developed under the EU's Roadmap, adopted on 7 July 2025. ...more". It has 3 comments and 4 reposts. The second post is a webinar announcement: "BCA Webinar | From Policy to Practice: How Governments Can Act to Leverage Biodiversity Credits for NBSAPs and National Biodiversity Targets | 11-12 ...more". The webinar announcement features a dark green background with white and light green text: "From Policy to Practice: How Governments Can Leverage Biodiversity Credits" and a "WEBINAR" button in the bottom right corner.



The European Commission today published its [Roadmap for Nature Credits](#), laying the ground for a new market that would turn biodiversity into a financial instrument. Friends of the Earth Europe alerts that this push is a political distraction that will weaken environmental regulation, undermine public investment, and prioritise corporate profits over real ecological action.


Clara Bourgin, nature campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe commented:



"Nature credits are a cover for inaction, a greenwashing shortcut that allows corporations to keep destroying nature as long as they pay for it. This is not the time for market schemes that benefit only a few while putting nature at risk. Instead of treating biodiversity as a business opportunity, EU decision-makers must strengthen environmental law, properly fund nature restoration and redirect harmful subsidies."

- <https://friendsoftheearth.eu/press-release/eus-nature-credits-a-roadmap-to-greenwashing/>





“US\$9.5 trillion is needed cumulatively from 2022 to 2050 to keep climate change below 2°C, stabilise biodiversity levels and achieve land degradation neutrality.”

UNEP State of Finance for Nature, 2022



- <https://www.biodiversitycreditalliance.org/>

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EUDR jaunur

TIEŠSAISTES VEBINĀRS PLATFORMĀ ZOOM

ATMEŽOŠANAS REGULAS NOSACĪJUMI – KO TAS NOZĪMĒ MEŽA ĪPAŠNIEKIEM?

TREŠDIEN, 17. DECEMBRĪ
PLKST. 11:00

LEKTORS:
STELLA IRBE
Valsts Meža dienests

 www.mezaipasnieki.lv



Valsts meža
dienests



LATVIJAS MEŽA ĪPAŠNIEKU KORIJA



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Thank you!

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