

Will the European solution(s) on the role
of forests in mitigating climate change be
a suitable model
for advancing the Paris agreement?

Some personal reflections
from a UK perspective

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Principles relevant in an EU and global context

- Same issues, variable circumstances and capacity
- Some time-honoured goals:
 - Development/capacity building
 - Protecting ecosystems, notably forests
- Effort should be shared fairly, transparently and realistically.

- The EU model covers accounting for deforestation activities
- It does not address accounting for, or providing incentives for, *avoiding* deforestation
- So far, this has been the subject of a separate process
- Should this remain the case or is an integrated/consistent approach appropriate?
- Previously, there has been a tendency to emphasise crediting the avoidance of deforestation where this has occurred historically.

- The increased use of biomass and bioenergy may be important as part of capacity building
- Previous points about aligning bioeconomy development with the promotion of forest carbon sinks and stocks apply
- In some circumstances, there may be opportunities to link the restoration of degraded forests to bioeconomy development
- Where relevant, this could be important
- Probably outside the scope of the existing EU model (in wide sense)
- Something else needed?

- The EU model could prove challenging (including for Member States!)
- But this is also true more generally, e.g. of IPCC Guidance
- In some cases, necessary data sets and supporting evidence do not exist and collecting them would involve significant effort
- There is no escaping that doing this properly involves additional burdens
- Transparency, and very robust/fair external review are vital for the whole thing to work
- A global process, rather than EU?



Thank you