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Executive Summary

Background: Rewilding has emerged as an innovative approach to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration in Europe; however, its integration into national legislation and policies remains fragmented. While EU directives, such as the Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives, provide a supportive legal foundation, the operationalization of rewilding at the national level varies widely. Understanding how rewilding is addressed across different governance systems is essential for improving coherence and policy alignment in Europe.

Objectives: This deliverable provides a cross-country comparison of rewilding-related policies, legislation and normative and financial instruments across eight European countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Romania, Italia, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland. The analysis aims to identify policy objectives, instruments and action frames related to rewilding, as well as to detect potential conflicts and trade-offs in governance and decision-making processes.

Methods: An interpretative content analysis of national and European policy and legal documents was carried out following the PRISMA Protocol. A total of 178 documents were identified and screened, of which 49 were selected for detailed examination. Text fragments were coded according to thematic categories — abandoned agricultural land, proforestation and species reintroduction — to evaluate how rewilding-related concepts are addressed in laws, strategies and financial instruments. The comparative framework accounted for variations among federal, post-communist and unitary-decentralized states.

Summary of results: The analysis revealed that explicit references to “rewilding” are rare, but its principles are increasingly embedded in programmatic policy documents. Programmatic instruments often precede legal codification, indicating that policy discourse advances faster than legislation. Most conflicts and trade-offs arise in the forestry and land-use sectors, particularly concerning financial compensation, forest management restrictions and the balance between ecological and economic objectives. Federal states show multi-level governance flexibility, while post-communist countries display normative instability and rigid enforcement frameworks.

Key messages:

- 1) Rewilding is primarily framed indirectly through forest, biodiversity, and land-use policies rather than through explicit legislation.
- 2) Programmatic documents serve as gateways for introducing rewilding concepts prior to legal integration.
- 3) Governance tensions are concentrated around financial instruments and land-use regulations.
- 4) Effective rewilding implementation requires legal clarity, inter-sectoral coordination, and consistent compensation mechanisms.
- 5) A harmonized European framework could enhance policy coherence and facilitate transnational rewilding initiatives.

Keywords

Rewilding policies, governance frameworks, policy instruments, cross-country comparison, legislative analysis, trade-offs and conflicts, biodiversity and land-use management.

1. Introduction

1.1. Context of the study

Rewilding represents an innovative approach to ecosystem conservation, distinct from traditional restoration methods. Rather than aiming to reconstruct static, idealised versions of past ecosystems, rewilding focuses on restoring natural processes, ecological functions, and self-sustaining dynamics conservation (Holmes et al., 2020; du Toit & Pettoelli, 2019). Originating in North America (Soulé & Noss, 1998), where the emphasis was placed on recreating modern analogues of past landscapes, the concept has gradually evolved and been adapted to the European context. In Europe, the focus has shifted towards building adaptive, future-oriented ecosystems capable of responding to environmental change (Brown et al., 2011)

The term rewilding has become multifaceted, encompassing several implementation forms:

- a) **Lite rewilding** – passive release of land to nature with minimal human intervention (Soulé & Noss, 1998);
- b) **Pleistocene rewilding** –restoring parts of the evolutionary and ecological potential lost over the past 13 000 years (Josh Donlan et al., 2006);
- c) **Active rewilding** –reintroduction of megafauna, re-establishing ecological connectivity and core wildlife areas (Sandom et al., 2013);
- d) **Translocative rewilding** – restoring missing or dysfunctional ecological processes through species reintroduction (Seddon et al., 2014); and
- e) **Passive rewilding** – allowing natural ecological succession and self-regulation in the absence of human management (Wentworth & Alison, 2016).

Although rewilding has been discussed for over 25 years and adapted to European Environmental objectives, European countries remain cautious in embracing it (Root-Bernstein et al., 2018). Scholars have emphasized the need for legislative frameworks and transnational collaboration to enable rewilding projects, arguing that the concept represents the next logical step in the evolution of EU environmental policy (Jepson & Schepers, 2016).

The legal basis for rewilding already exists in the European Union through key policy instruments such as the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (Council of the European Union, 1992) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) (Council of the European Union, 2009), which guarantee the protection of habitats and species. Additionally, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Nature Restoration Regulation establish restoration targets for degraded ecosystems. These instruments provide a solid legal foundation for integrating rewilding into national frameworks by promoting species reintroduction, ecological connectivity and protected-area expansion.

To address national inconsistencies, this deliverable conducts a comparative analysis of rewilding-related policy and legal frameworks across eight European countries. The analysis aims to identify how rewilding is defined, framed and operationalized within national governance systems, as well as to assess the policy instruments, financial mechanisms and legislative structures that support or constrain its implementation. In this study, rewilding is approached not as a formal legal category, but as a policy frame emerging through existing instruments in forestry, biodiversity and land-use governance.

The eight countries selected for this study provide a representative sample for a cross-country comparison, encompassing diverse public policy traditions and governance models regarding nature conservation. They are grouped into three categories:

- a) **Federal states** – Belgium, Germany and Switzerland
- b) **Post-communist states** – Bulgaria, Czechia and Romania
- c) **Unitary but regionally decentralized states** – Italy and Netherlands.

Figure 1 illustrates the classification of the selected countries according to governance type. The comparative analysis focuses primarily on primary legislation and programmatic documents, as these constitute the main frameworks for integrating rewilding into national legal systems. Secondary legislation was included only where relevant to clarify regulatory mechanisms in related policy areas.

European-level documents were reviewed separately and used as a reference framework for assessing the transposition and alignment of national measures with EU environmental objectives.

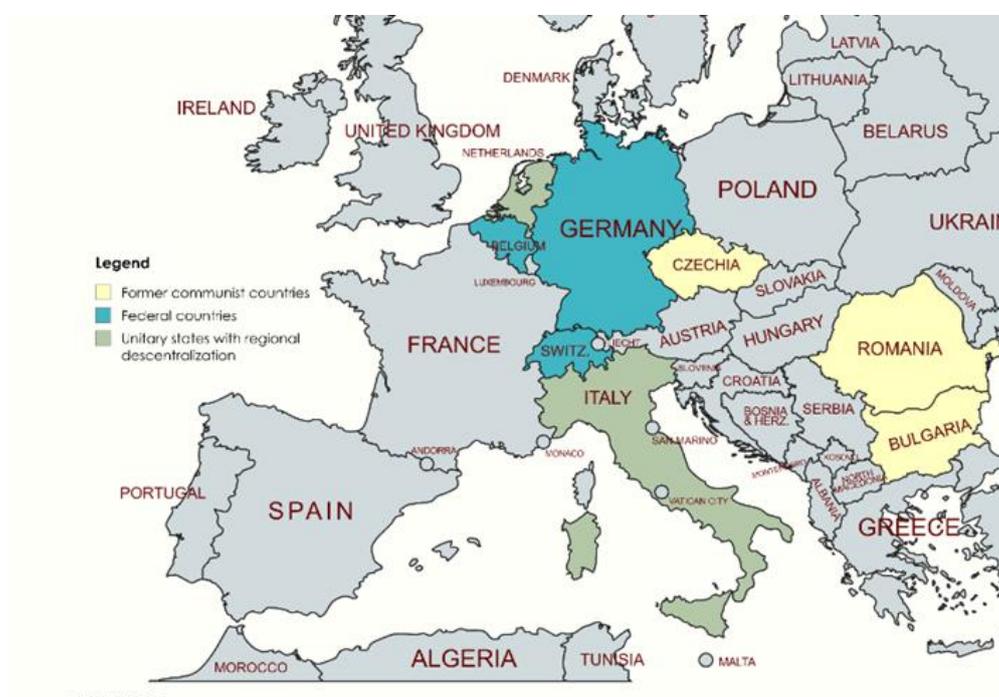


Figure 1: Classification of European countries by governance type: federal states, former communist states and unitary states with regional decentralization. Map created using the online platform <https://www.mapchart.net/europe.html>.

1.2. Objectives

The main goal of Deliverable 4.1 is to provide a cross-country comparative analysis of policy frameworks and instruments related to rewilding in eight partner countries.

Specifically, the study aims to:

- Identify policy objectives and instruments relevant to rewilding;
- Examine financial and normative mechanisms that shape decision-making processes;
- Analyse conflicts and trade-offs in governance, highlighting both structural constraints and opportunities for integrating rewilding into national and European policy frameworks.

2. Methodological approach

The methodological design combined a systematic review of policy and legal documents with an interpretative content analysis. The review followed the logic of the PRISMA Protocol (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses), adapted to policy and legal document analysis. This approach ensured transparency and replicability in the selection, filtering and interpretation of material across the eight countries.

Step 1. Identification and screening of policy and legislative documents

The first stage involved identifying and classifying policy and legislative documents relevant to rewilding.

Document collection followed the PRISMA sequence:

1. **Identification** – documents were retrieved from official sources, including FAOLEX Database (Country profiles section), official websites of national ministries and government institutions, and the European Forest Institute (EFI) database.
2. **Screening** – in this step, the scope of each document was verified, duplicates were excluded, and the legal status of each document was assessed.
3. **Eligibility** – the remaining documents were analysed using a set of ten keywords (forests, abandonment, restoration, re(-)wilding, compensation, management, threat, ecological corridor, green infrastructure and reintroduction) to identify direct or indirect references to rewilding.
4. **Inclusion** – documents were classified according to their regulatory strength into primary legislation, secondary legislation and programmatic documents (strategies, policy papers and plans).

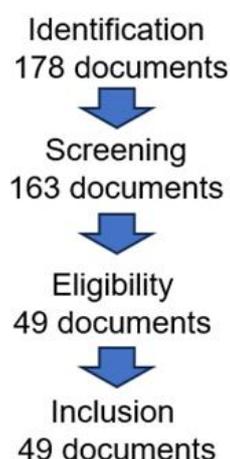


Figure 2: PRISMA Flow diagram.

This process resulted in a corpus of 49 documents selected from an initial pool of 178 (Figure 2). Within these materials, 43 text fragments were initially identified as containing direct or indirect references to rewilding.

European-level documents were not included in the PRISMA dataset of 178 records, but were examined separately to establish a reference framework. Key instruments such as the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Nature Restoration Regulation outline measures directly related to

rewilding – including species reintroduction, the expansion of protected areas, and the creation of ecological corridors. These EU-level policies serve as a benchmark for comparing the national legal and programmatic approaches in the eight analysed countries.

Step 2. Fragment coding and content analysis

The central stage of the study focused on coding legislative and programmatic fragments to identify potential conflicts and trade-offs, enabling a cross-country comparison of policy objectives, legal frameworks and financial instruments relevant to rewilding (Figure 3).

During this stage, the 49 initially identified documents were re-examined in detail. Through in-depth thematic coding, additional relevant fragments were identified – not solely through direct or indirect keyword matches, but via interpretative analysis of norms, incentives and regulatory instruments related to rewilding.

As a result, the final analytical dataset consisted of 80 text units, representing distinct normative or programmatic statements with policy relevance. The increase from 43 to 80 units reflects an expansion from explicit and implicit references to a broader interpretative understanding of how rewilding is embedded within governance frameworks.

Each text fragment was treated as a discrete unit on analysis and classified into one of three main thematic clusters, corresponding to the key ecological and governance dimensions of rewilding identified in scientific literature (Navarro & Pereira, 2015), (Perino et al., 2019):

- **Abandoned agricultural land**
- **Proforestation, and**
- **Species reintroduction**

Within these clusters, nine analytical categories were established to capture the range of governance instruments and policy mechanisms relevant to rewilding:

- 1) Financial instruments;
- 2) Forest expansion;
- 3) Land use change;
- 4) Penalties;
- 5) Policy harmonisation;
- 6) Target imposed;
- 7) Threats and vulnerabilities;
- 8) Regulatory framework for protected areas;
- 9) Regulatory framework for species.

The analytical framework was based on an adapted version of Systematic Content Analysis (SCA) (Salehijam, 2018), using a set of guiding questions, such as: „Does the document mention forest expansion?“, „What kind of measures are mentioned for protected areas?“, „How is the reintroduction or intervention regulated?“, „Does the document provide a basis for the allocation of financial instruments?“, „Decision level?“, „Conflict or trade-off?“, „What kind of conflict?“.

This coding process transformed the selected legislative and policy passages into comparable analytical units, each linked to a thematic group, a policy category and a type of governance tension (conflict, trade-off or both).

For this study, the following working definitions have been adopted for “conflicts” and “trade-offs”, in line with their use in the Wildcard Project documentation (Grant Agreement):

- **Conflict:** situations of divergence, tension or disagreement among social, economic or political actors regarding the implementation or consequences of rewilding. Examples include opposing perceptions, interests or policy positions (e.g. biophilia vs. biophobia, governance and decision-making challenges, wildlife-livestock interactions);
- **Trade-off:** the coexistence of competing objectives or outcomes, where achieving one goal (e.g., carbon sequestration or biodiversity conservation) entails a compromise or reduction in another (e.g., agricultural productivity, economic return or social acceptability).

The analysis revealed the need for **a combined analytical category – “conflict & trade-off”** – as several passages simultaneously describe both types of situations: social or governance-related conflicts intertwined with ecological or economic trade-offs. These interlinked aspects have been discussed in detail through the document.

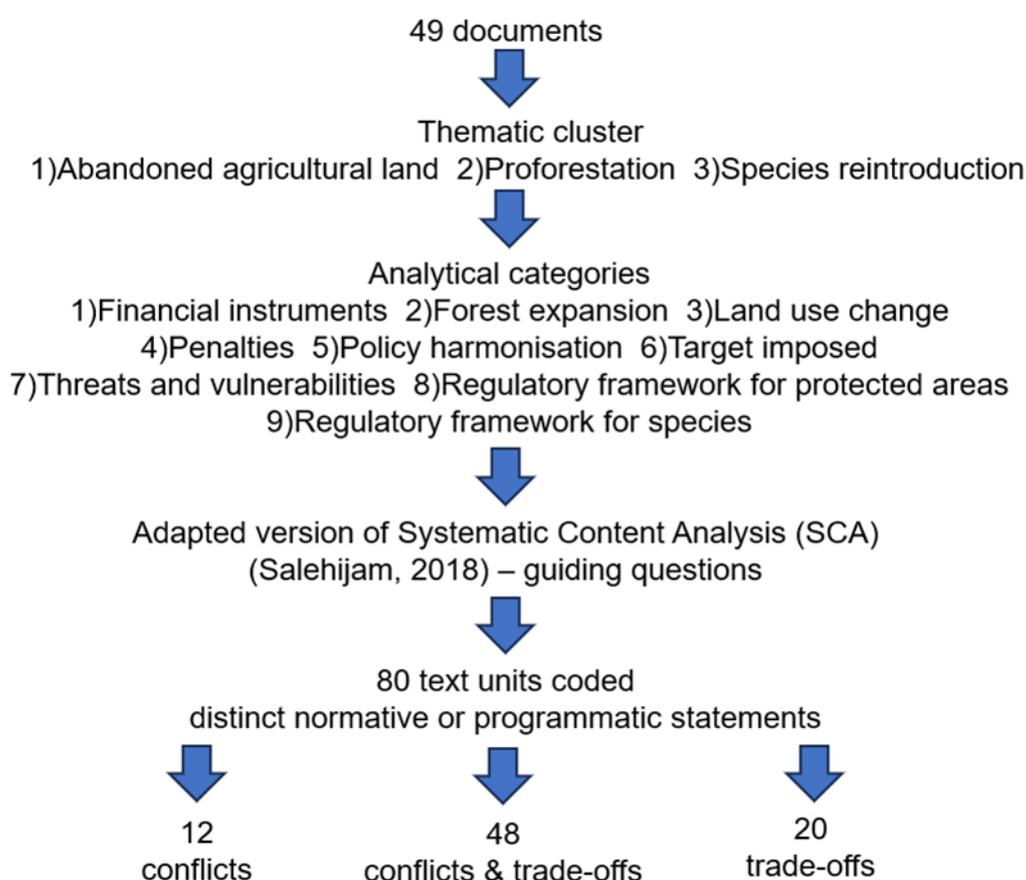


Figure 3: Fragment coding diagram.

3. Results

3.1. Results of the screening stage

To understand how rewilding is presented, defined and regulated across different national contexts, a total of 178 policy and legal documents were identified (Table 1, Appendix 1). These included both legislative and programmatic texts originating from three policy domains closely linked to the studied concept: forestry, environment and agriculture.

The documents were classified according to a taxonomy commonly applied in environmental law analysis (Aagaard, 2009) into three main categories:

- a) **Primary legislation** – national and regional laws (Appendix 2);
- b) **Secondary legislation** – government ordinances, emergency decrees and ministerial orders (Appendix 3);
- c) **Programmatic documents** – strategies, policy papers and national reports (Appendix 4).

This classification follows established approaches in comparative environmental law (Aagaard, 2009) and facilitates cross-country comparison of legal and policy instruments addressing rewilding.

Table 1: Total number of documents and their types identified for each country (listed in alphabetical order). Source: authors' analysis based on FAOLEX, EFI databases and national legal repositories

Country	Total number of documents found	Document type		
		Primary legislation	Secondary legislation	Programmatic documents
Belgium	17	7	5	5
Bulgaria	19	9	5	5
Czech Republic	14	7	5	2
Germany	33	28	2	3
Italy	41	25	12	4
Netherlands	14	7	1	6
Romania	21	7	7	7
Switzerland	19	6	1	12
Total	178	96	38	44

Across all countries, primary legislation remains conservative in its terminology: none explicitly mention rewilding, although 18 text fragments refer to its principles through measures such as forest restoration, land abandonment or expansion of protected areas. Secondary legislation is limited and primarily focused on financial mechanisms. Programmatic documents, in contrast, reveal a richer discourse, including the single explicit mention of rewilding in the Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy (2022).

These findings indicate that, in Europe, rewilding largely exists at the level of political discourse, appearing primarily in strategic and programmatic documents rather than binding legal texts. Policy rhetoric therefore advances faster than legislative frameworks, providing the basis for deeper analysis in the next phase.

3.2. Thematic coding and analysis of conflicts and trade-offs

In the previous stage, 43 text passages containing direct or indirect references to rewilding were identified. During the thematic coding phase, these fragments were re-examined in detail and analysed interpretatively.

This process allowed the identification of additional relevant fragments — not through direct keyword matches, but by interpreting legal provisions, policy norms and instruments related to rewilding. As a result, the final analytical database comprised 80 individual units of analysis, classified across the three thematic groups: abandoned agricultural land, proforestation and species reintroduction (Table 2).

*Table 2: Distribution of coded fragments by Group, Category and Type of conflict and trade-off.
Source: authors' analysis based on analysis of 49 legal and policy documents*

Group	Category	Conflict	Trade-off	Conflict & Trade-off	Total number
Abandoned agricultural land	Threats and vulnerabilities		2		2
	TOTAL = 2				
Proforestation	Financial instruments	1	2	18	21
	Forest expansion and land abandonment			10	10
	Land use change	2		3	5
	Penalties	2			2
	Policy harmonisation	3	1	2	6
	Regulatory framework for protected areas	1	4	8	13
	Target imposed	1	3	5	9
	Threats and vulnerabilities		1	2	3
TOTAL = 69					
Species reintroduction	Regulatory framework for species	1	7		8
	Threats and vulnerabilities	1			1
	TOTAL = 9				

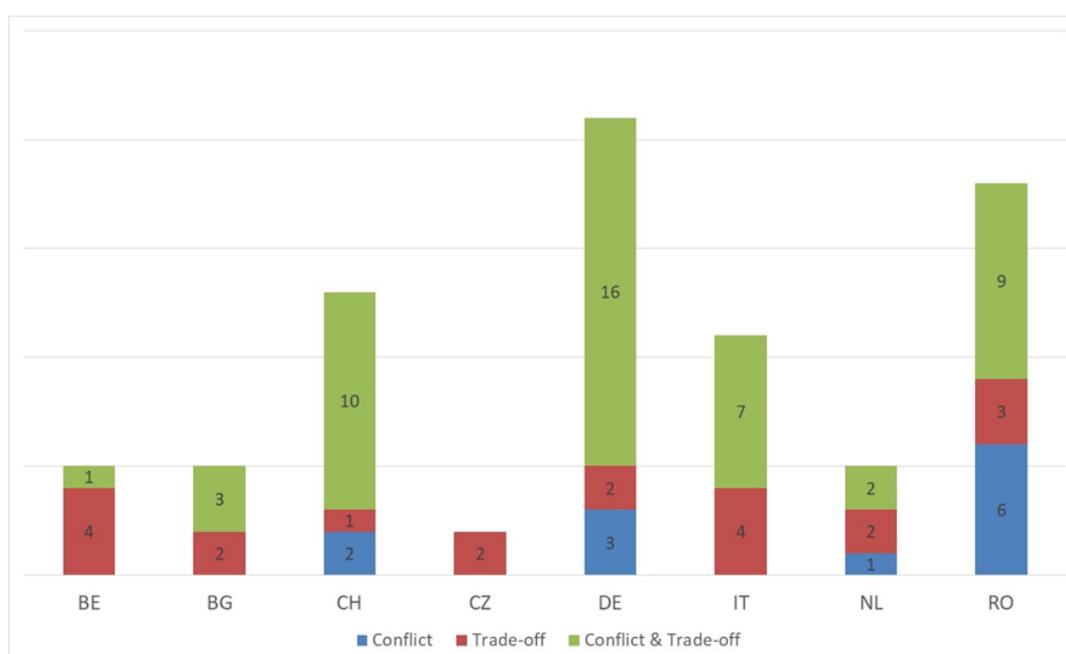


Figure 4: Distribution of conflicts and trade-offs for each country, N=80

Figure 4 illustrates the distribution of conflicts, trade-offs and mixed cases across the eight analysed countries. Most coded fragments originate from Germany (21), Romania (18) and Switzerland (13), while the fewest appear in Czechia (2), Belgium, Bulgaria and Netherlands (5 each). The high number of fragments in federal states reflects the diversity of legislative instruments across regional jurisdictions. In contrast, the elevated frequency in post-communist countries, particularly Romania, highlights persistent legislative instability and successive amendments, which complicate environmental governance.

Figure 5 presents the distribution of conflicts and trade-offs by document type. The majority of fragment originate from programmatic documents (46), which articulate national strategies on environment, climate and forestry. Primary legislation accounts for a substantial share (30 fragments), serving as the main vehicle for implementing rewilding-related measures. Secondary legislation contributes minimally (4 fragments), reflecting its limited role as a complementary regulatory instrument in this policy domain.

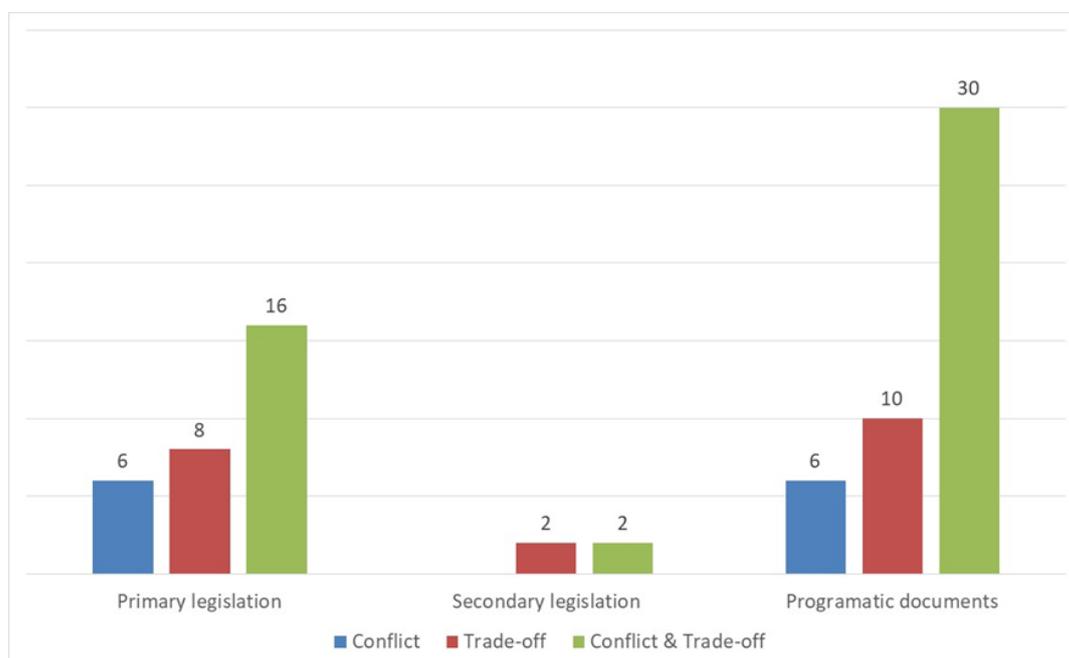


Figure 5: Distribution of conflicts and trade-offs by document typology, N=80.

The analysis revealed that the most coded fragments fall within the mixed category of conflicts and trade-offs, indicating that rewilding-related tensions are rarely one-dimensional. Rather than reflecting purely opposing positions or simple compromises, these cases illustrate complex negotiation processes within governance frameworks, where ecological objectives and socio-economic interest are continuously balanced.

3.3. Abandoned agricultural land

Only two programmatic fragments (from Czechia and Romania) were associated with this group (Table 3). Both describe agricultural abandonment as a threat to biodiversity, yet propose no active countermeasures, effectively treating natural rewilding as a passive process. This creates a trade-off between maintaining traditional land use and allowing spontaneous ecosystem regeneration.

Table 3: Distribution of coded fragments in Abandoned agricultural land Group by Category and Typology of trade-offs

Code	Type of document	Category	Conflict or trade-off	Trade-off typology
CZ_01	Programmatic	Threats and vulnerabilities	Trade-off	Traditional land use continuity vs Natural rewilding and abandonment
RO_19	Programmatic	Threats and vulnerabilities	Trade-off	Traditional land use continuity vs Natural rewilding and abandonment

Analysed fragments:

CZ_01: *“Many natural habitats are threatened either by the intensive use of the landscape or, conversely, by the abandonment of agriculture.”*

RO_19: *“[...] the conversion of natural habitats remains a direct threat, particularly evident in the following cases: e) The abandonment of meadows and pastures, especially in high and less accessible areas, which will be invaded by forest vegetation.”*

These fragments illustrate the passive approach to rewilding, where agricultural abandonment is recognised as a threat to biodiversity but no active interventions are proposed, highlighting the trade-off between maintaining traditional land use and allowing spontaneous ecosystem regeneration.

3.4. Proforestation

The Proforestation group contains the largest number of coded fragments (69 in total), distributed across eight thematic categories. Figure 6 illustrates this distribution, showing that the majority of fragments (47) belong to the mixed conflicts and trade-offs category, while 10 were coded as conflicts and 11 as trade-offs.

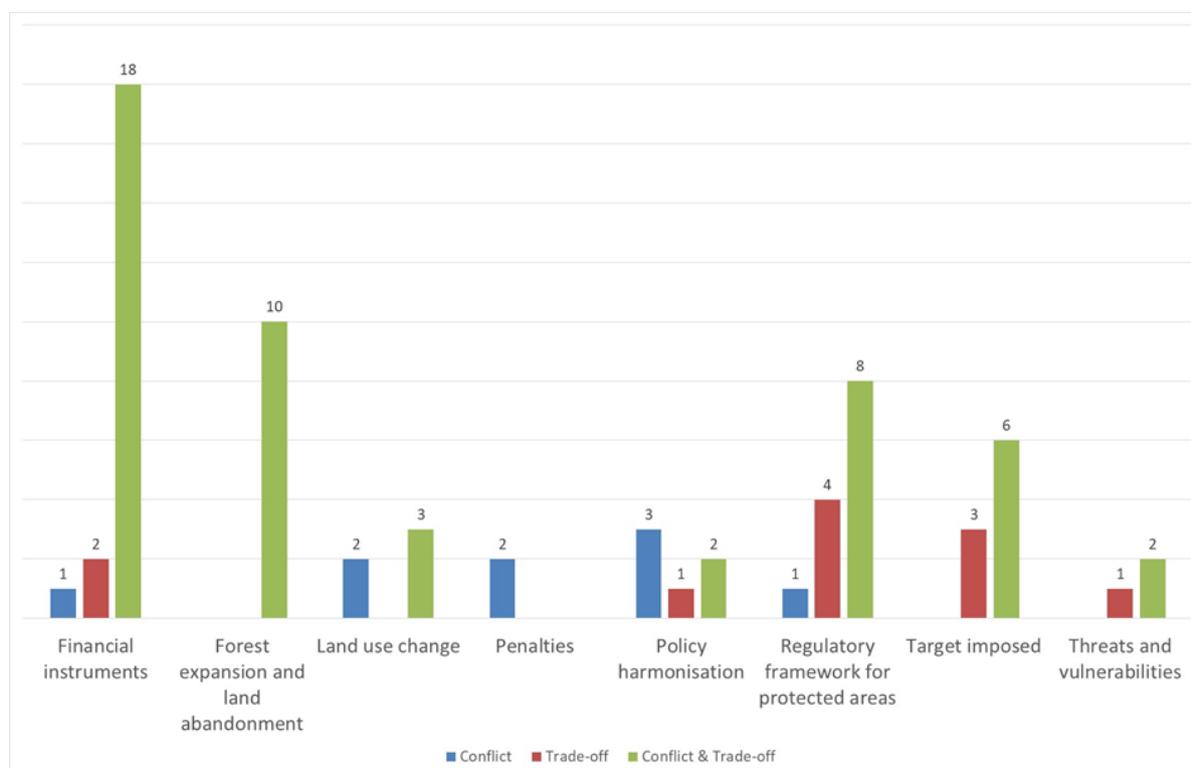


Figure 6: Conflicts and trade-offs identified within the Proforestation group, N=69

Conflicts are observed primarily in relation to financial instruments, land-use change, penalties, policy harmonisation and the regulation of protected areas, reflecting structural and legal tensions in the implementation of conservation measures. The identified trade-offs are mainly associated with financial mechanisms, protected-area governance and legislative coordination, with the highest frequency in the category of protected-area regulations.

Overall, the predominance of the mixed category indicates that rewilding through proforestation is more often perceived as a negotiated compromise between policy objectives than as a direct conflict between opposing interests.

3.4.1. Conflicts

The proforestation group includes 10 conflicts identified in both primary legislation and programmatic documents from Germany, Netherlands and Romania (Appendix 5). As shown in the Figure 7, most conflicts arise from tensions between public conservation goals and private property interests, followed by inconsistencies between national and European policy frameworks.

Examples illustrate different governance dynamics: in Switzerland, landowners are legally required to tolerate conservation measures without compensation, reflecting a conflict between public obligations and private rights. In Germany, restrictions on forest management reveal conflicts between individual economic interest and collective ecological priorities. In the Netherlands decentralisation and land-use targets generate disputes over property use, while in Romania, overlapping or incoherent legal frameworks hinder the harmonisation of environmental and forestry policies.

Overall, these conflicts highlight the structural friction between ecological objectives and existing regulatory systems. Proforestation-related rewilding thus often exposes contradictions in governance and legal coherence rather than explicit opposition to the concept itself.

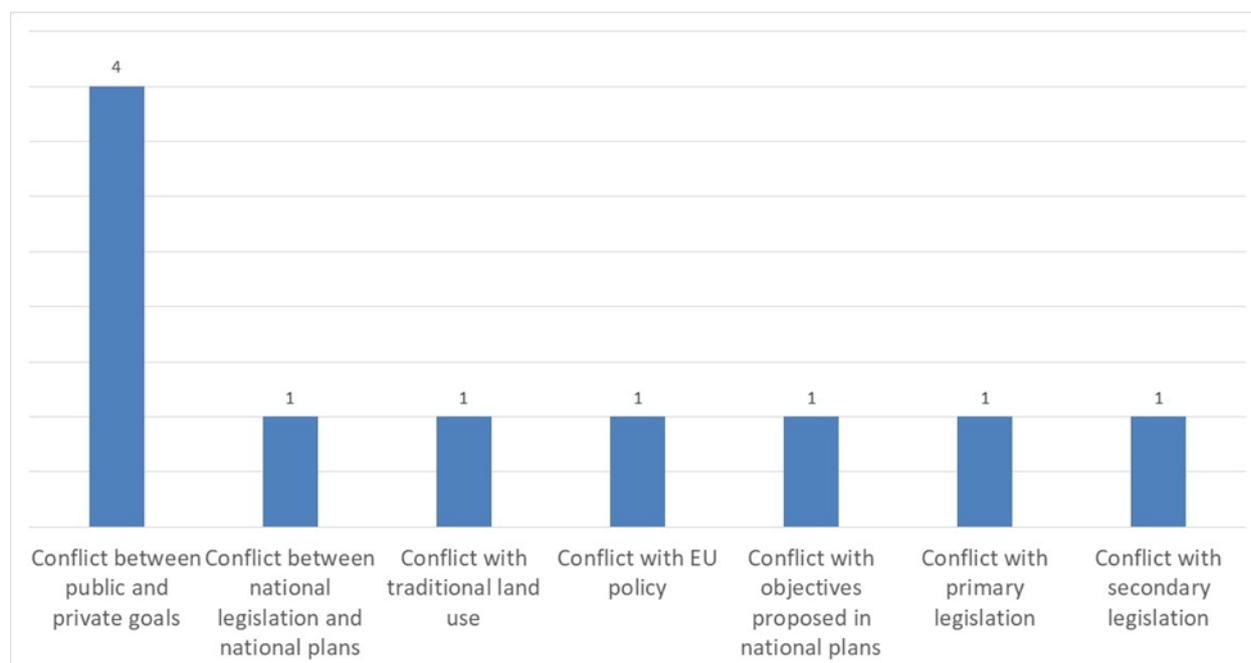


Figure 7: Typology of conflicts identified in Proforestation group, N=10

Analysed fragments:

CH_05: *“If the public interest so requires, landowners must tolerate the use and maintenance of uncultivated land without compensation. They are particularly obliged to do so when such use is necessary for the maintenance of agriculture, for protection against natural hazards, or for the conservation of threatened plant or animal species.”*

NL_10: *“In 2012, many nature management responsibilities were transferred to the provincial level, with existing budget reserves allocated to the Provincial Fund. Provincial authorities are now responsible for managing existing natural areas as well as for expanding the ecological network, for which a target of 80,000 hectares has been established.”*

DE_17: *“When deciding on a request for forest conversion, the rights, obligations, and economic interests of the forest owner are weighed against those of the wider public. Authorization is refused if the conversion is not compatible with local or regional spatial planning objectives, or if forest conservation is deemed to be of overriding public interest, particularly when the forest plays an essential role in improving the natural balance, timber production, or public recreation.”*

RO_09: *“In scientific reserves, all human activities are prohibited except for research activities, subject to the restrictions described in the management plans and with the approval of the Romanian Academy and the administrator of the protected natural area.”*

These examples illustrate how proforestation-related conflicts emerge from the tension between public conservation objectives and private property rights, as well as from the challenges of aligning national and regional governance frameworks

3.4.2. Trade-offs

Trade-offs identified in the Proforestation group originate from primary, secondary and programmatic documents across six countries: Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Romania (Appendix 6). As shown in Figure 8, these fragments fall into five analytical categories and reflect four main types of compromise, the most frequent being the tension between proforestation measures and alternative land uses.

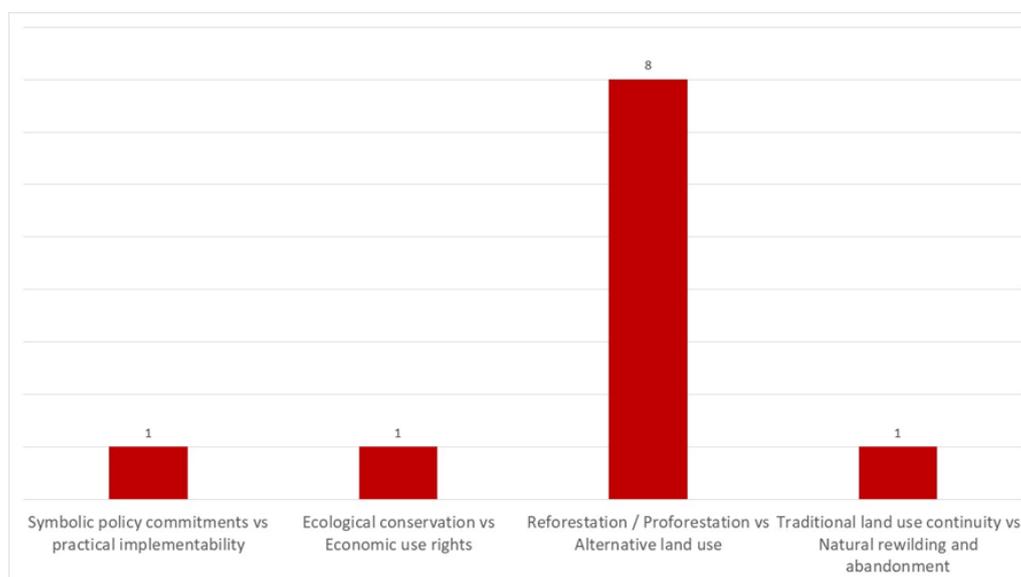


Figure 8: Typology of trade-offs identified in Proforestation group, N=11

Examples from national legislation illustrate recurring dilemmas between ecological and economic objectives. In Belgium, secondary legislation promoting biodiversity restoration creates compromises between conservation targets and competing land-use interests. In Switzerland and the Netherlands, financial instruments support rewilding indirectly but lack detailed implementation mechanisms, resulting in symbolic rather than operational commitments. In Germany and Italy, forest restoration measures for carbon sequestration highlight the balance between climate objectives and protective forestry uses. Similarly, Romania's rural development programmes reveal trade-offs between afforestation targets and competing agricultural priorities.

Overall, trade-offs in proforestation indicate that rewilding is often perceived as a negotiated equilibrium between conservation and economic development rather than as a purely ecological endeavour.

Analysed fragments:

BE_14: *“The purpose of this ordinance is to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biological diversity through measures for the protection, management, improvement, and restoration of populations of wild flora and fauna species and their habitats, of natural habitats and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, as well as through measures to maintain or restore the environmental quality necessary for this purpose.”*

CH_12: *“A second program with important components for nature protection is the program for protective forests, under which the cantons receive funding for the maintenance of protective forests if they adhere to the NaiS guidelines. These guidelines do not focus directly on nature protection itself, but emphasize the potential to create near-natural forest conditions and processes in order to increase forest resilience. In this way, they hold potential for the restoration of natural forest ecosystems.”*

DE_17: *“It is also permitted to carry out maintenance measures that are necessary for the conservation or restoration of biotope protection forests.”*

IT_18: *“More specifically, afforestation, conservation, and the restoration and rehabilitation of forests are promoted in order to increase the potential for CO₂ absorption and storage, to improve resilience, to promote the circular bioeconomy, and to protect biodiversity.”*

NL_09: *“The national government has allocated climate funds amounting to 51 million euros for: (a) the creation of a compensation fund for losses in Natura 2000 sites; (b) the restoration of landscape/agroforestry elements, including a subsidy scheme for farmers who plant forests on their land.”*

RO_15: *“Furthermore, with regard to the forestry sector, among the strategic objectives achieved through the implementation of the RDP 2014–2020 measures are: the expansion of afforested areas and the management of existing forests for carbon storage in the context of sustainable forest management.”*

These fragments illustrate how trade-offs in proforestation emerge from balancing ecological objectives — such as biodiversity protection, ecosystem restoration, and carbon sequestration — with economic priorities and policy implementation mechanisms, including financial incentives, afforestation targets, and climate funds.

3.4.3. Conflicts and trade-offs

The mixed category represents the largest share of Proforestation fragments (48) (Appendix 7), capturing provisions that simultaneously generate frictions and negotiated solutions. As shown in Figure 9, most fragments relate to financial instruments (18), followed by forest expansion and land abandonment (10) and protected-area regulations (8). Policy harmonisation and threats and vulnerabilities appear least frequently (2 each). This distribution indicates that financial mechanisms, land-use transitions and protection rules are the primary areas where ecological, social and economic objectives intersect and require careful balancing.

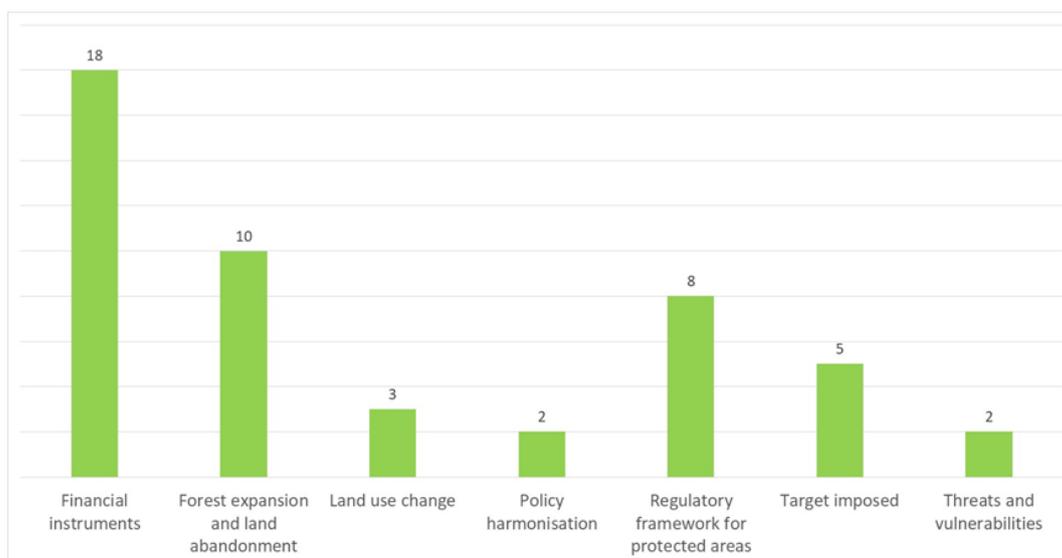


Figure 9: Distribution of conflicts and trade-offs identified in Proforestation group by category of information, N=48

The most frequent mixed typologies concern unclear or incomplete financial implementation and symbolic policy commitments vs. practical feasibility (together 18 cases, see Figure 10). Only a single fragment combines conflict between national plan targets and the trade-off between proforestation and alternative land uses, highlighting the rarity of fully specified, target-driven trade-offs within this dataset.

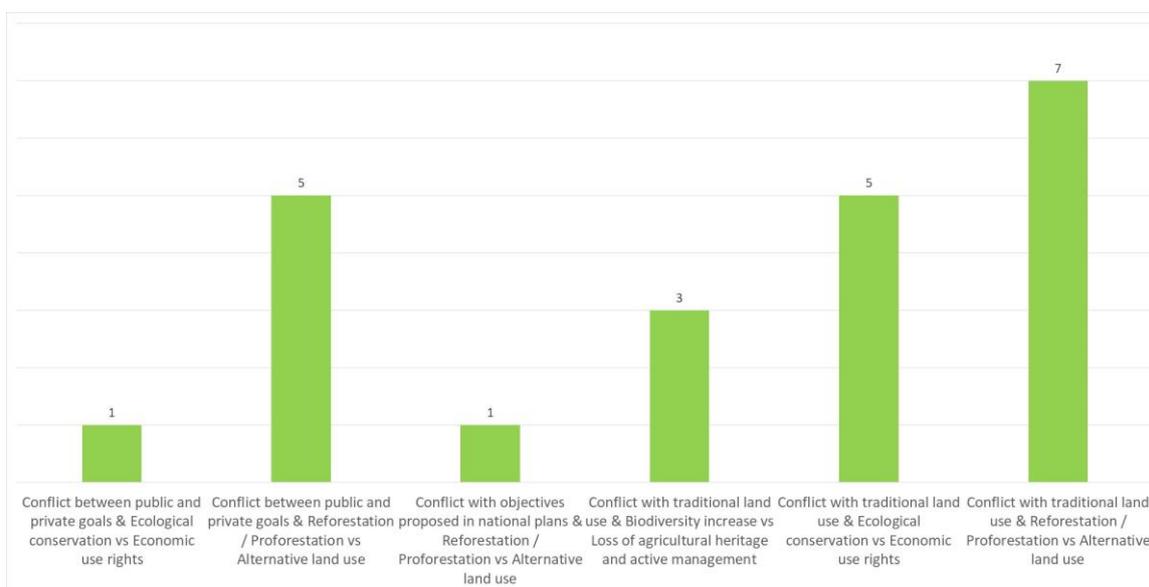


Figure 10: Typology of conflicts and trade-offs identified in Proforestation group, N=48

Illustrative cases by information category:

- **Financial instruments: Germany, Switzerland and Romania promise compensation when restrictions apply to private land, yet omit operational details – fuelling disputes over private rights while offering only partial relief.**

Analysed fragments:

CH_14: *“The Government Council may, in agreement with the respective forest owners, designate forest reserves. Forest owners are entitled to compensation for any significant loss of income they incur.”*

DE_20: *“Compensation is considered particularly when, as a result of prohibitions or orders, the previous use of the land must be abandoned or restricted.”*

RO_09: *“For land within protected natural areas that is privately owned or leased, the owners or lessees shall receive compensation for complying with the restrictive provisions of the management plan of the protected natural area or for implementing conservation measures.”*

- **Forest expansion and land abandonment: Bulgaria, Italy and Switzerland link forest growth primarily to rural depopulation and agricultural abandonment, yielding biodiversity gains but eroding agro-pastoral heritage and local livelihoods.**

Analysed fragments:

BG_18: *“The main factors driving the dynamics of this process [the increase in forest area] are the natural regeneration of non-forested forest lands and abandoned lands outside forest territories, as well as the afforestation of non-forested forest territories.”*

IT_20: *“Since the Second World War, the area of Italian forests has experienced gradual and continuous expansion: from 8,675,100 ha in 1985 it increased to 10,982,013 ha in 2015, representing a total growth of 27%. This corresponds, however, to a forest area that has tripled over the past sixty years, mainly as a result of the progressive depopulation of mountain areas and the abandonment of traditional agro-silvo-pastoral practices.”*

- **Land-use change: Belgium and Germany promote conversions (e.g. from marginal farmland to forest) but vague eligibility and siting rules spark public-private tensions alongside carbon and habitat benefits.**

Analysed fragments:

BG_17: *“The analysis of data on land use structure and changes for the period 1988–2009 shows a positive trend in the areas covered by forests. In the case of pastures, although their extent is decreasing, the figures indicate that most have shifted into the forest category.”*

BE_02: *“We therefore optimize pasture management according to their carbon storage potential and expand the area of grasslands wherever possible. To this end, we are developing incentive measures to convert, as far as possible, arable land into carbon-rich grasslands or agroforestry systems.”*

DE_20: *“Marginal agricultural land, fallow land, or abandoned land should be converted into forest if this is economically and structurally appropriate and if the efficiency of the natural balance is improved.”*

- **Policy harmonisation: Netherlands and Romania endorse ambitious EU-aligned goals, yet lack clear delivery mechanism, creating recurring frictions between conservation objectives and economic interest.**

Analysed fragments:

NL_08: *“The government remains firmly committed to halting deforestation and forest degradation worldwide by 2030 and to protecting forest biodiversity, for example by promoting the development of sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural supply chains, working within the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership, and supporting ambitious EU legislation on deforestation-free production and consumption.”*

RO_12: *“The reformed regulatory framework must make it easier and more flexible to implement initiatives for the expansion of forest plantations on agricultural land. The unadjusted application of the current general and technical legislation (specific to the forestry sector, but also to agriculture and land management) to the afforestation of agricultural land would bureaucratize the process, creating unnecessary administrative and technical barriers. Hence arises the need to develop a framework for the design and implementation of afforestation works on agricultural land, without which the afforestation targets set under the NRRP are difficult to achieve.”*

- **Protected-area regulation: Switzerland explicitly references rewilding and Germany restricts management in natural forests: both approaches advance ecological integrity while heightening conflicts with traditional uses and income streams.**

Analysed fragments:

CH_10: *“Priority is given to protecting, facilitating (e.g., through rewilding) and interconnecting ecosystems, to the sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, as well as to integrating biodiversity into financial and investment decision-making.”*

DE_27: *“In natural forests, the forest is left to self-manage. Management measures are not permitted, and any wood that is produced may not be removed. In addition, all actions that could lead to the destruction, damage, or alteration of the protected area or its components are prohibited.”*

NL_09: *“Forests, nature conservation areas, landscape elements, and existing public spaces provide opportunities to increase carbon sequestration, including through changes in their management.”*

- **Targets imposed: Germany`s LULUCF emission thresholds and Italy`s 10% green-infrastructure target steer policy toward rewilding-compatible actions, but absent implementation pathways shift costs onto land users.**

Analysed fragments:

DE_28: *“The average annual emission balances of the land use, land-use change and forestry sector for the target year and the three preceding calendar years must improve as follows: 1. to at least minus 25 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030; 2. to at least minus 35 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2040; 3. to at least minus 40 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2045.”*

IT_19: *“The inclusion in the National Strategic Plan of the CAP 2023–2027 of a specific eco-scheme for the maintenance of green infrastructure and rural development*

interventions for its expansion, setting a target of 10% of functional agricultural land for biodiversity protection and the creation of ecological networks.”

- **Threats and vulnerabilities: Italy and Switzerland flag risk (unstable protection forests, wildfire escalation) in passive settings, highlighting the need to pair proforestation with active risk management.**

Analysed fragments:

CH_13: *“Forest management has been abandoned in some areas, particularly in the Alps and the Alpine foothills. Increasing amounts of timber are left unharvested, and protection forests are becoming less stable (→ Natural hazards). This means that a large part of the potential assigned to forest functions remains unutilized, especially with regard to the use of wood as a resource and as a factor in climate action.”*

IT_20: *“The combination of climate change and the abandonment of rural and forest areas, if not properly addressed, could worsen the problem of wildfires and trigger increasingly intense and significant events, leading to major economic, social, and environmental losses.”*

Mixed cases indicate that rewilding through proforestation primarily progresses via negotiated governance rather than through outright prohibition or laissez-faire approaches. Clear compensation mechanisms, coherent legislative alignment and explicit risk-management provisions are essential for translating high-level commitments into practical, socially legitimate implementation.

3.5. Species reintroduction

The Species Reintroduction group comprises nine fragments from national and programmatic documents across seven countries. These include seven trade-offs and two conflicts, mainly associated with the regulatory framework for species and threats and vulnerabilities (Figure 11). Collectively, they illustrate how states navigate the balance between biodiversity restoration objectives, governance requirements, risk management and social acceptance.

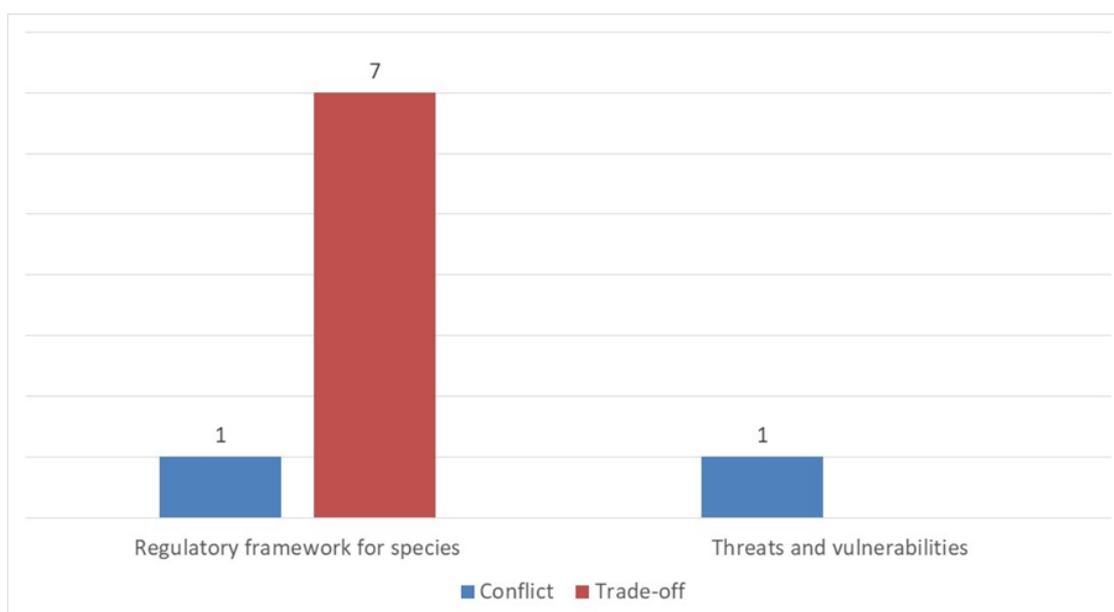


Figure 11: Conflict and trade-offs identified within the Species reintroduction group, N=9.

3.5.1. Conflicts

Only one explicit conflict was identified, concerning the control of invasive or non-native species. German and Swiss regulations mandate strict prevention and containment measures to protect native species, representing a conflict between species conservation and broader ecosystem objectives. Although these rules do not explicitly mention rewilding, they provide essential prerequisites for active species reintroduction by maintaining ecological stability and limiting unintended consequences.

Analysed fragments:

CH_10: *"People and the environment are not threatened by invasive alien species. Their spread is controlled, and new introductions are prevented."*

DE_26: *"The authorities responsible for nature conservation and landscape management, in accordance with the legislation of the Länder, and, in the case of introductions from other countries, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), may grant further exemptions from the prohibitions of Article 44 in individual cases: 3. for the purposes of research, teaching, education, or reintroduction, or for breeding operations or artificial reproduction measures necessary for these purposes."*

3.5.2. Trade-offs

The seven trade-offs highlight recurring tensions between centralized conservation planning and local adaptability:

- Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, the Netherlands and Romania formalize species reintroduction through permits, exemptions or management programs but rarely incorporate public participation or site-specific mechanisms.
- This typology – uniform national planning vs. local adaptability – reflects the gap between top-down biodiversity policies and local social-ecological realities.
- Germany's framework introduces exceptions for research and breeding under strict federal oversight, illustrating the dilemma of strict regulation vs. community engagement.

Despite this governance constrains, all cases collectively support active rewilding, institutionalizing species reintroduction as a legitimate ecological restoration tool while revealing procedural and participatory gaps.

Overall, species reintroduction is legally enabled but administratively centralized; its success depends on transparent implementation, adaptive governance and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Without these, rewilding risks remaining a policy aspiration rather than a practical ecological practice.

Analysed fragments:

BE_15: *"The designated nature reserve is a protected area whose current condition is subject to appropriate management. For this purpose, measures may be taken for the maintenance, control, or reintroduction of certain plant or animal species, for the perpetuation of certain aspects of vegetation, or for the restoration of degraded habitats."*

BG_09: *"The reintroduction into the wild of native animal and plant species, as well as the restoration of extinct populations or the support and stabilization of populations in poor condition, is carried out in a way that contributes to the sustainable recovery of the species to a favorable status. The activities referred to in paragraph 1 are*

conducted with a written permit from the relevant competent authority, in coordination with the central agencies concerned, and after taking into account the opinion of the public regarding species reintroduction”

CZ_09: “For the protection of specially protected plant and animal species, all nature conservation authorities ensure rescue programs aimed at creating conditions that allow for the consolidation of these species’ populations, leading to a reduction in their level of threat. The rescue programs consist of the design and implementation of special controlled development regimes, such as rescue breeding, introduction, reintroduction, rescue transfers, and other suitable available methods to achieve this goal”.

NL_06: “Our Minister may, insofar as this deviates from the third paragraph, grant an exemption or derogation from the prohibitions mentioned in the first and fourth paragraphs for the reintroduction of species or for the release, planting, or sowing of exotic species. Our Minister shall grant such an exemption or derogation, as mentioned in the previous sentence, in consultation with the Provincial Executive of the province in which the reintroduction or release takes place”

RO_21: “For the protection of natural habitats and native species, the introduction of alien species, interventions concerning invasive species, as well as the reintroduction of native species listed in Annexes 4A and 4B, shall be regulated by order of the head of the central public authority for environmental protection, within 90 days from the entry into force of this emergency ordinance.”

4. Discussion

The comparative analysis shows that rewilding is not explicitly mentioned in existing legislation, although related measures — such as subsidy schemes or voluntary cessation of forest management — are supported in Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy and Netherlands. Programmatic documents promote these actions through clear environmental targets but also highlighting emerging treats and vulnerabilities, suggesting that political discourse advances faster than legislative frameworks (Lorimer et al., 2015; Navarro & Pereira , 2015; Jepson & Schepers, 2016; Root-Bernstein et al., 2018).

The absence of unified legal definition reflects the conceptual flexibility of rewilding and explains the recurrence of conflicts and trade-offs — mainly between public conservation goals and private property rights or between national uniform planning and local adaptability. Federal states (Belgium, Germany and Switzerland) exhibit multilevel governance, while post-communist countries (Bulgaria, Czechia and Romania) face normative instability through frequent legal amendments. Decentralized systems like Italy and Netherlands show discrepancies between ambitious goals and weak implementation mechanisms.

This legislative fragmentation underscores the need for greater policy harmonisation in nature conservation (Young et al., 2007; Gómez-Baggethun & Barton, 2013; Hermoso et al., 2022; Bueger & Vonintsoa, 2025; Mlambo et al., 2025) and for coherent European framework to define and regulate rewilding. Transboundary cooperation is essential, as habitats and species extend beyond national borders.

Given that rewilding also requires substantial financial resources, its economic dimension is crucial for designing effective public policies. Although financial instruments appear in several national documents, their mechanisms remain vague. Future research should therefore

explore sustainable funding, efficient resource use and inter-state collaboration (Nita et al., 2016; Dunn-Capper et al., 2023).

Overall, the study highlights rewilding as a flexible yet under-regulated concept with significant strategic potential. Its success depends on coherent legislation, policy stability and financial integration at both national and EU levels. Establishing a common European legal framework and long-term public-private partnerships would enhance its implementation and ensure durable conservation outcomes.

5. Conclusions

5.1. European framework and direction

EU law demonstrates a long-standing commitment to nature protection and climate action, providing a robust legal foundation for rewilding:

- **Passive rewilding:** key instruments, starting with the 1979 Birds Directive, require protection, conservation and restoration, enabling non-intervention approaches where appropriate.
- **Active rewilding:** species (re)introductions are explicitly recognized, facilitating engagement of experts and local communities to restore habitats.
- **Financial backing:** subsidies and compensation schemes help implement rewilding measures and offset restrictions on private lands.

Across the eight countries reviewed, national legislation generally aligns with EU objectives, though frictions appear in transpositions. For instance, Romania faces adaptation and coordination challenges, whereas the Netherlands balances EU targets with private property interests. The Species reintroduction group illustrates how the Birds and Habitats Directives are integrated into national frameworks; frequent trade-offs highlight the intent to restore stable ecosystems, though public consultation mechanisms vary in clarity, with Bulgaria showing the most structured approach.

5.2. Study scope and evidence base

We catalogued 178 policy documents, of which 49 were selected for in-depth PRISMA screening (20 primary laws, 3 secondary laws and 26 programmatic documents). The term rewilding is largely absent from statutes, although 43 passages refer indirectly to its principles, including land abandonment, protected areas, species reintroduction) A subsequent interpretative review expanded this to 80 coded units across three themes – abandoned agricultural land, proforestation, species reintroduction – and nine information categories, facilitating cross-national comparison of conflicts and trade-offs.

While the analysis covered several dimensions of rewilding, the differences in the regulatory national frameworks resulted in a stronger empirical emphasis on proforestation, reflecting where governance conflicts and trade-offs are currently most articulated in European policy.

5.3. Thematic insights relevant for the political feasibility in Europe

Building on the identification of policy instruments, governance mechanisms, and recurring conflicts and trade-offs across national frameworks, the following conclusions outline implications for European-level coherence and future policy development:

- **Abandoned agricultural land:** primarily framed as a risk (biodiversity loss, spontaneous forest encroachment) with few counter-measures. The key tension lies between maintaining traditional land use and allowing passive rewilding driven by rural depopulation.
- **Proforestation** (69 fragments):
 - **Financial instruments** unclear or incomplete compensation mechanisms generate both conflicts and compromises.
 - **Forest expansion:** depopulation-driven rewilding increases biodiversity but undermines agro-pastoral heritage.
 - **Land-use change:** recurrent tensions arise between public conservation goals and private interests.
 - **Restrictive rules and penalties:** particularly in Romania, these support restoration but reveal limits of coercive, fragmented frameworks.
 - **Protected areas:** highlight trade-offs between conservation goals and economic uses.
 - **Targets imposed:** drive action but, without clear mechanisms amplify uncertainty.
 - **Threats and vulnerabilities:** include stability and wildfire risks under passive rewilding lacking active risk management.
 - **Species reintroduction** (9 fragments from 7 countries): strong legal framework support reintroduction and invasive species management. Trade-offs mainly occur between centralized planning and local adaptability, with limited guidance on participation and site-specific implementation.

The empirical emphasis reflects where governance instruments are most developed, acknowledging uneven policy maturity across themes.

The observed pattern of conflicts and trade-offs reflect the fact that rewilding functions more as a governance process than a policy instrument, being driven by the policy process. Political feasibility of rewilding in Europe depends on compensation rules, administrative and intersectoral coordination and the integration of risk management/ assessment to mitigate strong negative societal perceptions.

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Appendix

Appendix 1 – Database with national legislation documents identified for the study

BELGIUM								
1	BE_01	Loi relative à la gouvernance de la politique climatique fédérale	Act on the governance of federal climate policy	15.01.2024		In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC230080
2	BE_02	Stratégie climatique flamande 2050	Flemish climate strategy 2050	01.01.2023		Programmatic	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC218643
3	BE_03	Ordonnance portant le Code bruxellois de l'Air, du Climat et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie	Ordinance establishing the Brussels Air, Climate and Energy Management Code	17.05.2013	18.12.2015	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC151042
4	BE_04	Décret "Climat"	"Climate" Decree	15.07.2021	01.01.2024	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC197028
5	BE_05	Loi relative à l'accès du public à l'information en matière d'environnement	Law on public access to information on the environment	05.08.2006	30.03.2012	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC076295
6	BE_06	Loi relative à la protection des bois et forêts appartenant à des particuliers	Law on the protection of woods and forests belonging to individuals	19.12.1854	12.09.2008	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC027062
7	BE_07	Arrêté royal établissant le règlement de gestion des réserves forestières	Royal Decree establishing the regulations for the management of forest reserve	02.04.1979	20.12.2007	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC027290
8	BE_08	Arrêté royal concernant l'exécution du Code forestier	Royal Decree concerning the implementation of the Forestry Code	28.12.1854	04.09.2009	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC002340
9	BE_09	Loi sur la conservation de la nature	Nature Conservation Act	12.07.1973	21.12.2015	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC004104
10	BE_10	Nationaal Energie- en Klimaatplan 2021-2030	National plan for energy and climate 2021-2030	22.11.2023		Programmatic	27.11.2024	https://www.nationalenergyclimateplan.be/en
11	BE_11	Nationale strategie voor klimaatadaptatie 2017-2020	National strategy for climate change adaptation 2017-2020	22.01.2018		Programmatic	27.11.2024	https://www.cnc-nkc.be/sites/default/files/report/file/nap_en.pdf
12	BE_12	Décret relatif au Code forestier	Forestry code Wallonia	12.09.2008	20.03.2024	In force	09.12.2024	https://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/forets/foret025.htm

13	BE_13	Nationaal bosbouwboekhoudplan van België	National forestry accounting plan of Belgium	18.12.2019		Programmatic	26.11.2024	https://www.cnc-nkc.be/sites/default/files/report/file/national_forestry_accounting_plan_-_belgium_-_18122019_1.pdf
14	BE_14	Ordonnance relative à la conservation de la nature	Ordinance 892 - Nature Conservation Ordinance	08.05.2003	15.07.2021	In force	09.12.2024	https://environnement.brussels/sites/default/files/user_files/ord_20120417_mb_consolidee.pdf
15	BE_15	Wet op het natuurbehoud	Law for environment conservation	21.10.1997	01.07.2004	In force	09.12.2024	https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=nl&la=N&cn=1973071230&table_name=wet
16	BE_16	Bosswetboek	Wallon Forestry Code	19.12.1854	18.06.2014	In force	09.12.2024	https://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/eli/wet/1854/12/19/1854121950/justel
17	BE_17	Gewestelijk Natuurplan 2016-2020 voor het Brussels Gewest	Regional Nature Plan 2016-2020 for the Brussels Region	14.04.2016		Programmatic	27.01.2025	https://leefmilieu.brussels/sites/default/files/user_files/prog_20160414_naplan_nl.pdf
BULGARIA								
8	BG_01	Национална стратегия за околна среда 2021-2030 г	National Environmental Strategy 2021-2030	02.11.2023		Programmatic	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC231366
19	BG_02	Закон за собствеността и ползването на земеделските земи	Law on ownership and use of agricultural land	17.03.1991	08.12.2023	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC164528
20	BG_03	Правилник за прилагане на Закона за собствеността и ползването на земеделските земи	Regulation on the application of the Law on ownership and use of agricultural land	25.04.1991	24.08.2018	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC181139
21	BG_04	ЗАКОН за опазване на околната среда	Environmental Protection Act	05.03.1991	03.02.2017	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC052883
22	BG_05	Правилник за прилагане на Закона за горите	Regulations for implementation of the Law for the forests	26.02.1997	21.01.2011	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC061733

23	BG_06	Закон за възстановяване на собствеността върху горите и земите от горския фонд	Law on the restoration of ownership of forests and forest fund	21.10.1997	09.10.2009	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC164840
24	BG_07	Закон за опазване на земеделските земи	Law for Preservation of the Agricultural Lands	19.02.1991	06.08.2018	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC061178
25	BG_08	ЗАКОН за биологичното разнообразие	Biological diversity Act	01.03.2002	28.01.2011	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC040293
26	BG_09	Закон за биологичното разнообразие	Law on biodiversity	02.08.2002	19.08.2017	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC154432
27	BG_10	Закон за защитените територии	Protected Areas Act	11.11.1998	26.07.2013	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC067271
28	BG_11	Закон за горите	Forest Law	17.07.2012	28.05.2020	In force	14.11.2024	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC187842/
29	BG_12	Закон за опазване на околната среда	Law for environment protection	25.09.2002	20.08.2024	In force	13.11.2024	https://www.moew.government.bg/en/environmental-protection-act-7628/
30	BG_13	НАРЕДБА № 1 от 30.01.2012 г. за контрола и опазването на горските територии	Ordinance on the control and protection of forest territories	30.01.2012	12.11.2019	In force	18.11.2024	https://legislation.apis.bg/doc/525998/0
31	BG_14	НАРЕДБА № 18 от 7.10.2015 г. за инвентаризация и планиране в горските територии	Ordinance regarding the inventory and development of forest territories	07.10.2015	13.01.2023	In force	18.11.2024	https://legislation.apis.bg/doc/2677560/0
32	BG_15	Наредба № 6 от 5 февруари 2004 г. за устройство на горите и земите от горския фонд и на ловностопанските райони в Република България	Order on the development of forests and lands from the forest fund and hunting areas	05.02.2004	18.11.2016	In force	18.11.2024	https://www.ciela.net/svo-bodna-zona-normativi/view/2135482546
33	BG_16	Национална програма за действие по околна среда и здраве 2008 - 2013 г	National action program for environment and health for 2008-2013	18.12.2008		Programmatic	18.11.2024	https://strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=523

34	BG_17	Трети Национален план за действие по изменение на климата за периода 2013-2020 г	Third national climate change action plan 2013-2020	01.06.2012		Programmatic	18.11.2024	https://strategy.bg/StrategicDocuments/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=760
35	BG_18	Да, Регионален доклад за състоянието на околната среда за 2023 година	The annual plan on the state of the environment -Stara Zagora District	29.04.2024		Programmatic	18.11.2024	https://stz.riev.gov.bg/Dokladi_za_systoyaniето_na_okolnata_sreda-c206
36	BG_19	Национална стратегия за развитие на горския сектор в Република България 2013 - 2020 г. и мониторинг 2013-2016 г	The national strategy for the development of the forestry sector in the Republic of Bulgaria for the period 2013-2020	27.11.2013		Programmatic	18.11.2024	https://www.mzh.government.bg/bg/politiki-i-programi/politiki-i-strategii/nacionalna-strategiya-za-razvitie-na-gorskiya-sektor-v-republika/
CZECH REPUBLIC								
37	CZ_01	Státní politika životního prostředí České republiky 2030 s výhledem do 2050	State Environmental Policy of the Czech Republic 2030 with a view to 2050	11.01.2021		Programmatic	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC202079
38	CZ_02	Národní program na zmírnění dopadů změny klimatu v ČR	National Programme to Abate the Climate Change Impacts in the Czech Republic	03.03.2004		Programmatic	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC136296
39	CZ_03	Zákon o jednotném environmentálním stanovisku	Act no. 148/2023 on unified environmental opinion	10.05.2023		In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC220601
40	CZ_04	Nářízení vlády o stanovení podmínek provádění opatření pro zalesňování zemědělské půdy	Ordinance establishing the conditions for the implementation of measures for the afforestation of agricultural land	01.03.2023		In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC216279
41	CZ_05	Nářízení vlády o podmínkách provádění navazujících agroenvironmentálně-klimatických opatření	Regulation on conditions for implementation of subsequent agri-environment-climate measures	22.10.2019	15.03.2024	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC192362
42	CZ_06	Zákon o životním prostředí	Law 17 - Law of environment	16.01.1992	01.07.2017	In force	22.11.2024	https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf
43	CZ_07	Zákon o právu na informace o životním prostředí	Law 123 - Law on the right to environmental information	13.05.1998	21.06.2023	In force	22.11.2024	https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf
44	CZ_08	Zákon o České inspekci životního prostředí a její působnosti v ochraně lesa	Law 282 - Law on the Czech environmental inspection and its competences in forest protection	19.06.1991		In force	22.11.2024	https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf

45	CZ_09	Zákon o ochraně přírody a krajiny	Law 114 - Law for environment and landscape protection	19.02.1992	10.05.2023	In force	22.11.2024	https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf
46	CZ_10	Zákon České národní rady o ochraně zemědělského půdního fondu	Law 334 - Law regarding the protection of the agricultural land fund	01.07.1992	10.05.2023	In force	22.11.2024	https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf
47	CZ_11	Zákon o lesích a o změně některých zákonů (lesní zákon)	Law 289 - Forest law	03.11.1995	10.05.2023	In force	22.11.2024	https://www.zakonyprolidi.cz/translation/cs/1995-289?langid=1033
48	CZ_12	Vyhláška Ministerstva zemědělství č. 101/1996 Sb., kterou se stanoví podrobnosti o opatřeních k ochraně lesa a vzor služebního odznaku a vzor průkazu lesní stráže	Decree 101 - Decree for protection of forests	28.03.1996	04.05.2018	In force	22.11.2024	https://mze.gov.cz/public/portal/mze/legislativa/pravni-predpisy-mze/uplnazneni/vyhlaska-1996-101-lesnictvi
49	CZ_13	Vyhláška č. 298/2018 Sb., o zpracování oblastních plánů rozvoje lesů a o vymezení hospodářských souborů	Decree 298 - Decree regarding the processing of the regional forest development plans	11.12.2018		In force	22.11.2024	https://mze.gov.cz/public/portal/mze/legislativa/pravni-predpisy-mze/uplnazneni/vyhlaska-2018-298
50	CZ_14	Vyhláška 240 - Vyhláška o ochraně zemědělské půdy před erozí	Decree 240 - Decree regarding the protection of agricultural land against erosion	17.06.2021		In force	22.11.2024	https://www.mzp.cz/www/platnalegislativa.nsf
GERMANY								
51	DE_01	Gesetz zur Erhaltung des Waldes und zur Förderung der Forstwirtschaft (Bundeswaldgesetz)	Federal Forest Act	02.05.1975	10.08.2021	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC025758
52	DE_02	Bundes-Klimaanpassungsgesetz (KAnG)	Federal Climate Adaptation Act (KAnG)	16.11.2023		In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC223885
53	DE_03	Bundes-Klimaschutzgesetz (KSG)	Federal Climate Protection Act	12.12.2019	18.08.2021	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC192218
54	DE_04	Umweltinformationsgesetz (UIG)	Environment Information Act	14.02.2005	18.08.2021	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC076757
55	DE_05	Gesetz über die Umweltverträglichkeitsprüfung (UVPG)	Environmental Impact Assessment Act	12.02.1990	10.09.2021	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC088976
56	DE_06	Gesetz zur Errichtung eines Sondervermögens „Energie- und Klimafonds“ (EKFG)	Energy and Climate Change Fund Act	08.12.2010	14.07.2020	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC099560

57	DE_07	Strategie zur Klimaaußenpolitik der Bundesregierung	Strategy on Climate Foreign Policy of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany	01.12.2023		Programmatic	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC230280
58	DE_08	Gesetz über die strukturelle Anpassung der Landwirtschaft an die soziale und ökologische Marktwirtschaft in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik (Landwirtschaftsanpassungsgesetz-LwAnpG)	Agricultural Adaptation Act	29.06.1990	10.08.2021	Not in force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC089204
59	DE_09	Gesetz für Naturschutz und Landschaftspflege (Bundesnaturschutzgesetz – BNatSchG) vom 29. Juli 2009	Act on Nature Conservation and Landscape Management (Federal Nature Conservation Act – BNatSchG) of 29 July 2009	01.03.2010	8.05.2024	In force	28.01.2025	https://www.bmu.de/en/law/federal-nature-conservation-act-bnatschg
60	DE_10	Gesetz zur Umsetzung der Richtlinie des Europäischen Parlaments und des Rates über Umwelthaftung zur Vermeidung und Sanierung von Umweltschäden	Act serving to implement the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on Environmental Liability with Regard to the Prevention and Remedying of Environmental Damage	10.05.2007	11.02.2017	In force	28.01.2025	https://www.bmu.de/en/law/environmental-damage-act
61	DE_11	Bundes-Klimaschutzgesetz – KSG	Federal Climate Action Act	18.12.2019	15.07.2024	In force	28.01.2025	https://www.bmu.de/en/law/federal-climate-change-act
62	DE_12	Gesetz zur Erhaltung des Waldes und zur Förderung der Forstwirtschaft (Bundeswaldgesetz)	Law on the Conservation of Forests and the Promotion of Forestry (Federal Forest Act)	08.05.1975	10.08.2021	In force	28.01.2025	https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bwaldg/BJNR010370975.html
63	DE_13	Waldstrategie 2050	Forest Strategy 2050	07.09.2021		Programmatic	28.01.2025	https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/_Wald/Waldstrategie2050.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=10
64	DE_14	Verordnung zur Änderung agrarrechtlicher Vorschriften	Regulation amending agricultural legislation	18.12.2024		In force	28.01.2025	https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Glaeserne-Gesetze/Referentenentwurf/vo-aend-agrarrecht-vorschriften.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

65	DE_15	Vierte Verordnung zur Änderung der GAP-Direktzahlungen-Verordnung	Fourth Regulation amending the CAP Direct Payments Regulation	26.09.2024		In force	28.01.2025	https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Glaeserne-Gesetze/Kabinettfassung/4-vo-aend-gap-direktzahlungen-vo.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2
66	DE_16	Der Wald in Deutschland - Ausgewählte Ergebnisse der vierten Bundeswaldinventur	The Forest in Germany - Selected Results of the Fourth National Forest Inventory	08.10.2024		Programmatic	28.01.2025	https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/vierte-bundeswaldinventur.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=14
67	DE_17	Waldgesetz für Baden-Württemberg	Forest Act for Baden-Württemberg	31.08.1995	15.10.2024	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.landesrecht-bw.de/bsbw/document/jlr-WaldGBWrahmen
68	DE_18	Waldgesetz für Bayern	Forest Act for Bavaria	22.07.2005	23.12.2024	In force	29.01.2025	true">https://www.gesetze-bayern.de/Content/Document/BayWaldG>true
69	DE_19	Gesetz zur Erhaltung und Pflege des Waldes	Law on the Preservation and Care of Forests	16.08.2004	11.12.2024	In force	29.01.2025	https://gesetze.berlin.de/bsbe/document/jlr-WaldGBErahmen
70	DE_20	Waldgesetz des Landes Brandenburg	Forest Act of the State of Brandenburg	20.04.2004	20.07.2024	In force	29.01.2025	https://bravors.brandenburg.de/gesetze/lwaldg
71	DE_21	Waldgesetz für das Land Bremen	Forest Act for the State of Bremen	31.05.2005	18.10.2022	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.transparenz.bremen.de/metainformationen/waldgesetz-fuer-das-land-bremen-bremisches-waldgesetz-bremwaldg-vom-31-mai-2005-185344?asl=bremen203_tpgesetz.c.55340.de&template=20_gp_ifg_meta_detail_d
72	DE_22	Bremisches Gesetz über und Landschaftspflege (BremNatG)	Bremen Law on Nature Conservation and Landscape Management	27.04.2010	01.03.2022	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.transparenz.bremen.de/metainformationen/bremisches-gesetz-ueber-naturschutz-und-landschaftspflege-bremnatg-vom-27-april-2010-

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73	DE_23	Landeswaldgesetz	State Forest Act	08.02.1990	02.12.2013	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.landesrecht-hamburg.de/bsha/document/jlr-WaldGHArahmen
74	DE_24	Hessisches Waldgesetz	Hessian Forest Act	27.06.2013	22.02.2022	In force	29.01.2025	https://landwirtschaft.hessen.de/sites/landwirtschaft.hessen.de/files/2021-06/hessisches_waldgesetz.pdf
75	DE_25	Waldgesetz für das Land Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Forest Act for the State of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	27.07.2011	22.05.2021	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.landesrecht-mv.de/bsmv/document/jlr-WaldGMV2011rahmen
76	DE_26	Niedersächsisches Gesetz über den Wald und die Landschaftsordnung	Lower Saxony Law on Forests and Landscape Management	21.03.2002	17.05.2022	In force	29.01.2025	https://voris.wolterskluwer-online.de/browse/source/csh-da-filter%21a52e918e-8a02-41f8-8b62-1c4b6a92ff6a-WKDE_LTR_0000003520%23747e5c4c469d37ae992ea441407d38eb
77	DE_27	Landesforstgesetz für das Land Nordrhein-Westfalen	State Forestry Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	24.04.1980	16.03.2024	In force	29.01.2025	https://recht.nrw.de/lmi/owa/br_text_anzeigen?v_id=100000000000000000274
78	DE_28	Landeswaldgesetz	State Forest Act	27.07.2011	27.03.2020	In force	29.01.2025	https://landesrecht.rlp.de/bsrp/document/jlr-WaldGRPpIVZ
79	DE_29	Waldgesetz für das Saarland	Forest Law for Saarland	26.10.1977	12.06.2024	In force	29.01.2025	https://recht.saarland.de/bssl/document/jlr-WaldGSLrahmen
80	DE_30	Waldgesetz für den Freistaat Sachsen	Forest Act for the Free State of Saxony	10.04.1992	19.08.2022	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.revosax.sachsen.de/vorschrift_gesamt/5405/44335.html
81	DE_31	Gesetz zur Erhaltung und Bewirtschaftung des Waldes, zur Förderung der Forstwirtschaft sowie zum	Law on the preservation and management of forests, on the promotion of forestry and on the access to and use of open	25.02.2016	02.07.2024	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.landesrecht.sachsen-anhalt.de/bsst/document/jlr-WaldGST2016rahmen

		Betreten und Nutzen der freien Landschaft im Land Sachsen-Anhalt	countryside in the state of Saxony-Anhalt					
82	DE_32	Waldgesetz für das Land Schleswig-Holstein	Forest Act for the State of Schleswig-Holstein	05.12.2004	27.10.2023	In force	29.01.2025	https://www.gesetzesrechtsprechung.sh.juris.de/bssh/search
83	DE_33	Gesetz zur Erhaltung, zum Schutz und zur Bewirtschaftung des Waldes und zur Förderung der Forstwirtschaft	Law on the Preservation, Protection and Management of Forests and on the Promotion of Forestry	01.07.2008	06.02.2024	In force	29.01.2025	https://landesrecht.thueringen.de/bsth/document/jlr-WaldGTH2008rahmen
ITALY								
84	IT_01	Legge n. 97 - Nuove disposizioni per le zone montane	Act No. 97 on mountain areas	31.01.1994	19.12.1995	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC004853
85	IT_02	Riordinamento e riforma della legislazione in materia di boschi e di terreni montani	Royal Decree Law No. 3267 rearranging and reforming the legislation in matter of forests and mountain territories	30.12.1923	01.02.2013	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC033329
86	IT_03	Legge Provinciale n. 5 Il Trentino per la protezione del clima	Provincial Act No. 5 on climate protection	09.03.2010	17.09.2013	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC101453
87	IT_04	Legge n.183 Norme per il riassetto organizzativo e funzionale della difesa del suolo	Act No. 183 concerning the organizational and functional restructuring of land conservation	18.05.1989	03.12.2006	Not in force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC005724
88	IT_05	Legge n. 403 Ratifica ed esecuzione della Convenzione per la protezione delle Alpi, fatta a Salisburgo il 7 novembre 1991	Act No. 403 on the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the protection of the Alps of 7 November 1991	23.06.1994	05.05.2012	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC037075
89	IT_06	Legge n. 308 Delega al Governo per il riordino, il coordinamento e l'integrazione della legislazione in materia ambientale e misure di diretta applicazione	Law 15 December 2004, n. 308 Delegation to the Government for the reorganization, coordination and integration of environmental legislation and directly applicable measures	15.12.2004	16.01.2008	Not in force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC192873
90	IT_07	Legge n.353 Legge-quadro in materia di incendi boschivi	Law No. 353 Framework law on forest fires	21.11.2000	08.11.2021	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC031085

91	IT_08	Testo del decreto-legge n.120, Disposizioni per il contrasto agli incendi boschivi e altre misure urgenti di protezione civile	Decree Law 8 No. 120 concerning provisions for fighting forest fires and other urgent civil protection measures	08.09.2021		In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC209494
92	IT_09	Decreto Legislativo, n. 34 Testo unico in materia di foreste e filiere forestali	Legislative Decree n. 34 Consolidated text on forests and forestry supply chains	03.04.2018	13.12.2019	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC176340
93	IT_10	Legge n. 10 Norme per lo sviluppo degli spazi verdi urbani	Act No. 10 on the development of urban green spaces	14.01.2013	28.09.2023	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC121012
94	IT_11	Legge n. 204 Ratifica ed esecuzione dell'Accordo di Parigi collegato alla Convenzione quadro delle Nazioni Unite sui cambiamenti climatici	Act No. 204/2016 ratifying and executing the Paris Agreement adopted in Paris on 12 December 2015 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	04.11.2016		In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC161710
95	IT_12	Decreto Legislativo n. 199 Attuazione della direttiva (UE) 2018/2001 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, dell'11 dicembre 2018, sulla promozione dell'uso dell'energia da fonti rinnovabili	Legislative Decree No. 199/2021 concerning the implementation of Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 11 December 2018, on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources	08.11.2021	15.05.2024	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC227896
96	IT_13	Norme in materia forestale (Basilicata)	Forestry regulations	13.11.1998		In force	05.03.2025	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/ita21645.original.pdf
97	IT_14	Norme in materia di risorse forestali (Friuli Venezia Giulia)	Forestry resources regulations	23.04.2007		In force	05.03.2025	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/ita124176.pdf
98	IT_15	Riordino della legislazione in materia forestale e di tutela della vegetazione (Sicilia)	Reorganization of legislation on forestry and vegetation protection	06.04.1996		In force	05.03.2025	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/ita32747.pdf
99	IT_16	Legge forestale della Regione Molise	Forestry law for Molise Region	18.01.2000		In force	05.03.2025	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/ita22249.pdf
100	IT_17	Legge quadro sulle aree protette	Law 394/1991 - Framework law on protected areas	28.12.1991	16.08.2023	In force	04.01.2025	https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:1991-12-06;394
101	IT_18	Norme in materia ambientale	Legislative Decree 152/2006 - Environmental regulations	29.04.2006	17.12.2024	In force	04.01.2025	https://www.normattiva.it/uri-

								res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2006-04-03;152
102	IT_19	Legge-quadro in materia di incendi boschivi	Law 353/2000 - Framework law on forest fires	01.12.2000	11.08.2021	In force	04.01.2025	https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2000;353
103	IT_20	Orientamento e modernizzazione del settore agricolo, a norma dell'articolo 7 della legge 5 marzo 2001, n. 57	Legislative Decree 228/2001 - Orientation and modernization of the agricultural sector	36.06.2001	26.03.2024	In force	04.01.2025	https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:decreto.legislativo:2001-05-18;228
104	IT_21	Disposizioni in materia ambientale per promuovere misure di green economy e per il contenimento dell'uso eccessivo di risorse naturali	Law 221/2015 - Environmental provisions to promote green economy measures and to contain the excessive use of natural resources.	02.02.2016	05.08.2022	In force	04.01.2025	https://www.normattiva.it/uri-res/N2Ls?urn:nir:stato:legge:2015;221-art55
105	IT_22	Strategia forestale nazionale 2014-2020	National Forest Strategy 2014-2020	31.01.2018		Programmatic	04.01.2025	https://www.reterurale.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeAttachment.php/L/IT/D/4%252F3%252Fa%252FD.9cc271ea2ae2d119b7a5/P/BL0B%3AID%3D23435/E/pdf
106	IT_23	Strategia nazionale per la biodiversità 2030	National Strategy for Biodiversity 2030	14.04.2022		Programmatic	04.01.2025	https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/biodiversita/strategia_nazionale_biodiversita_2030.pdf
107	IT_24	Piano Nazionale di Adattamento ai Cambiamenti Climatici	National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation	01.12.2023		Programmatic	04.01.2025	https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/PNACC_DOCUMENTO_DI_PIANO.pdf
108	IT_25	Legge organica in materia di tutela e valorizzazione delle foreste, dei pascoli e del patrimonio arboreo della regione Abruzzo	Organic law on the protection and enhancement of forests, pastures and tree heritage of the Abruzzo region	04.01.2014		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.gransassolagapark.it/pagina.php?id=248
109	IT_26	Regolamento di attuazione della legge regionale 12 ottobre 2012 n. 45 "Gestione, tutela e valorizzazione del	Implementation regulation of the regional law of 12 October 2012 n. 45 "Management, protection and enhancement of the regional forestry heritage"	23.04.2024		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.regione.calabria.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/REGOLAMENTO-N.-4-DEL-2024.pdf

		patrimonio forestale regionale" (Calabria)						
110	IT_27	Regolamento di tutela e gestione sostenibile del patrimonio forestale regionale (Campania)	Regulation for the protection and sustainable management of the regional forest heritage	28.09.2017		In force	05.03.2025	https://agricoltura.regione.campania.it/foreste/PAF.html
111	IT_28	Piano forestale regionale 2014-2020 (Emilia-Romagna)	Regional forestry plan 2014-2020	01.08.2018		Programmatic	05.03.2025	https://bur.regione.emilia-romagna.it/dettaglio-bollettino?b=285501e1cf7b4ad4bb78fa706e61f8c1
112	IT_29	Norme in materia di gestione delle risorse forestali (Lazio)	Regulations on the management of forest resources	28.10.2002		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.gransassolagapark.it/pagina.php?id=248
113	IT_30	Norme in materia di foreste e di assetto idrogeologico (Liguria)	Regulations on forests and hydrogeological planning (Liguria)	22.01.1999		In force	05.03.2025	https://lrv.regione.liguria.it/liguriass_prod/articolo?urndoc=urn:nir:regione.liguria:legge:1999-01-22;4&pr=idx,0;artic,1;artic parziale,0
114	IT_31	Testo unico delle leggi regionali in materia di agricoltura, foreste, pesca e sviluppo rurale (Lombardia)	Consolidated text of regional laws on agriculture, forestry, fishing and rural development	05.12.2008		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.consiglioregionale.calabria.it/upload/is-truttoria/Regione%20Lombardia%20-%20Legge%20regionale%205%20dicembre%202008%20n%2031.pdf
115	IT_32	Legge forestale regionale (Marche)	Regional forestry law	23.02.2005		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.gransassolagapark.it/pagina.php?id=248
116	IT_33	Ordinamento forestale (Bolzano)	Regional forestry law	21.10.1996		In force	05.03.2025	https://lexbrowser.provinz.bz.it/doc/it/lp-1996-21/legge_provinciale_21_ottobre_1996_n_21.aspx?view=1
117	IT_34	Legge provinciale sulle foreste e sulla protezione della natura (Trento)	Provincial law on forests and nature protection	23.03.2007	01.01.2025	In force	05.03.2025	https://www.consiglio.provincia.tn.it/leggi-e-archivi/codice-provinciale/Pages/legge.aspx?uid=16530
118	IT_35	Gestione e promozione economica delle foreste (Piemonte)	Forest management and economic promotion	10.02.2009		In force	05.03.2025	http://arianna.cr.piemonte.it/iterlegcoordweb/dettaglioLegge.do?urnLegge=ur

								n:nir:regione.piemonte:legge:2009-02-10;4@2024-05-04
119	IT_36	Legge in materia di foreste e filiere forestali e disposizioni diverse (Puglia)	Law on forests and forestry supply chains and various provisions	24.03.2023		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.legislazione.it/10011144/normativa-edilizia-appalti-professioni-tecniche-sicurezza-ambiente/l-r-puglia-21-03-2023-n-1/tu-foreste-e-altre-disposizioni
120	IT_37	Legge forestale della Sardegna	Forestry law for Sardegna Region	27.04.2016		In force	05.03.2025	https://buras.regione.sardegna.it/custom/frontend/viewInsertion.xhtml?insertionId=7d36f04a-e552-48fd-adc6-4bd912e574d1
121	IT_38	Legge forestale di Toscana	Forestry law for Toscana Region	21.03.2000		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.umavc.it/sites/default/public/upload/user_25/legge_forestale_della_toscana_0.pdf
122	IT_39	Testo unico dregionale per le foreste (Umbria)	Regional consolidated text for forests	19.11.2001	07.11.2024	In force	05.03.2025	https://leggi.alumbria.it/mostra_atto.php?id=5000&v=FI&m=5
123	IT_40	Norme regionali in materia di foreste e di terreni montani (Valle d' Aosta)	Regional regulations regarding forests and mountain lands	22.08.1958		Not in force	05.03.2025	https://www.edizionieuropae.it/LAW/HTML/186/va5_13_002.html
124	IT_41	Testo unico in materia di foreste e filiere forestali (Veneto)	Consolidated text on forests and forestry supply chains	03.04.2018		In force	05.03.2025	https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/agricoltura-e-foreste/normativa-forestale
NETHERLANDS								
125	NL_01	Verzamelwet Omgevingswet	Collective Environmental Act	01.07.2021	21.07.2023	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC221711
126	NL_02	Wet houdende regels inzake de verstrekking van subsidies door de Minister van Landbouw, Natuurbeheer en Visserij	Act regulating subsidies from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	23.12.1997	19.03.2012	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC049972
127	NL_03	Wet houdende regelen met betrekking tot een aantal algemene onderwerpen op	Act containing provisions concerning general matters of environmental hygiene	21.08.1979	17.07.2024	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC008981

		het gebied van de milieuhygiëne (Wet Milieubeheer)	(Environment Management Act)					
128	NL_04	Wet houdende regelen inzake bescherming van de bodem	Act containing rules relative to protection of the soil	03.07.1986	19.07.2010	Not in force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC008966
129	NL_05	Besluit houdende voorzieningen met betrekking tot het Faunafonds (Besluit Faunafonds)	Decree No. 337 of 2002 concerning arrangements for the Fauna Fund	25.06.2002	31.03.2016	Not in force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC043065
130	NL_06	Wet natuurbescherming	Nature Conservation Act	19.01.2016	01.01.2020	In force	31.01.2025	https://zoek.officielebeke ndmakingen.nl/stb-2016-34.html
131	NL_07	De Omgevingswet van Nederland	The Environment and Planning Act of the Netherlands	01.01.2024		In force	31.01.2025	https://iplo.nl/publish/pages/191405/environment-and-planning-act-of-the-netherlands-june-2021.pdf
132	NL_08	De mondiale klimaatstrategie van Nederland	The Netherlands' Global Climate Strategy	22.12.2022		Programmatic	31.01.2025	https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-economic-affairs/documents/publications/2022/12/22/global-climate-strategy
133	NL_09	Klimaatakkoord	Climate Agreement	28.06.2019		Programmatic	31.01.2025	https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-economic-affairs/documents/reports/2019/06/28/climate-agreement
134	NL_10	Nationale Klimaatadaptatiestrategie (NAS)	National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS)	01.12.2016		Programmatic	31.01.2025	https://klimaatadaptatienerland.nl/en/policy-programmes/national-strategy/nas/
135	NL_11	Nationaal programma voor de uitvoering van klimaatadaptatie	National Climate Adaptation Implementation Programme	01.11.2023		Programmatic	31.01.2025	https://klimaatadaptatienerland.nl/en/policy-programmes/national-strategy/nas/
136	NL_12	Agenda climatique: résilience, prospérité et écologie	The Climate Agenda	25.09.2014		Programmatic	03.02.2025	https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-economic-affairs/documents/reports

								/2014/09/25/the-climate-agenda-french
137	NL_13	Klimaatwet	Climate Law	22.07.2023		In force	03.02.2025	https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0042394/2023-07-22
138	NL_14	Wet van 2 juli 2019, houdende een kader voor het ontwikkelen van beleid gericht op onomkeerbaar en stapsgewijs terugdringen van de Nederlandse emissies van broeikasgassen teneinde wereldwijde opwarming van de aarde en de verandering van het klimaat te beperken (Klimaatwet)	Climate Act	02.07.2019	10.07.2023	In force	03.02.2025	https://cdn.climatepolicyradar.org/navigator/NLD/2019/climate-act_4fcc6e84bc5ff198849a201a97babdc0.pdf
ROMANIA								
139	RO_01	Lege 347 – Legea muntelui	Law 347 – Mountain law	14.07.2004	04.08.2010	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC050678
140	RO_02	OUG nr. 196 din privind Fondul pentru mediu	Emergency Ordinance 196 regarding the Environmental Fund	22.12.2005	20.09.2022	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC225890
141	RO_03	OUG nr. 195 privind protecția mediului	Emergency Ordinance 195 on environmental protection	22.12.2005	07.04.2022	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC197188
142	RO_04	Lege 292 privind evaluarea impactului anumitor proiecte publice și private asupra mediului	Law 292 regarding the assessment of the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment	03.12.2018		Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC216015
143	RO_05	Lege 100 privind împădurirea terenurilor degradate	Law 100 on afforestation of degraded lands	03.06.2010	04.10.2021	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC197110
144	RO_06	Norme Metodologice din privind constituirea și utilizarea Fondului de ameliorare a fondului funciar cu destinație silvică	Order 1337 of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests validating Methodological Rules on the establishment and use of the Forest Land Improvement Fund	23.05.2022	02.08.2023	In force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC211063
145	RO_07	Ordonanța 77 pentru stimularea asocierii proprietarilor de păduri	Government Decision 77 stimulating the association of private forest owners for the	19.08.2004	28.06.2006	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC226030

		private în scopul gospodăririi durabile a acestora	purpose of their sustainable management					
146	RO_08	Lege 138 - îmbunătățirilor funciare	Law 138 on land improvements	27.04.2004	13.02.2009	Not in force	05.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faole/x/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC197126
147	RO_09	Lege 49 pentru aprobarea Ordonanței de urgență a Guvernului nr. 57/2007 privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei și faunei sălbatice	Law 49 validating the Emergency Ordinance of Government No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna	13.04.2011		In force	12.03.2025	https://www.fao.org/faole/x/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC203885
148	RO_10	Legea 331 - Codul Forestier	Law 331 - Forestry Code	09.01.2025		In force	10.01.2025	https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/293218
149	RO_11	HG 447 pentru aprobarea Normelor metodologice de acordare, utilizare și control al compensațiilor reprezentând contravaloarea produselor pe care proprietarii nu le recoltează, datorită funcțiilor de protecție stabilite prin amenajamente silvice care determină restricții în recoltarea de masă lemnoasă	GD 447 for the approval of the Methodological Norms for the granting, use and control of compensations representing the equivalent value of products that owners do not harvest due to the protective functions established by forestry arrangements that determine restrictions on the harvesting of wood	30.06.2017	04.10.2022	In force	18.11.2024	https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/190864
150	RO_12	Strategia Națională pentru Păduri 2030	National Forests Strategy for 2030	05.10.2022		Programmatic	20.11.2024	https://www.mmediu.ro/app/webroot/uploads/files/Starea%20padurilor%202020.docx
151	RO_13	Raport național pentru starea pădurilor	Report on the state of forests	03.06.2021		Programmatic	20.11.2024	https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/260444
152	RO_14	Planul PAC (Planul Național Strategic) 2023-2027 pentru România	CAP Plan (National Strategic Plan) 2023-2027 for Romania	22.11.2022		Programmatic	06.02.2025	https://www.madr.ro/planul-national-strategic-pac-post-2020/implementare-ps-pac-2023-2027/ps-pac-2023-2027.html
153	RO_15	Raport de mediu - Strategia națională pentru prevenirea și combaterea deșertificării și	Environmental Report – National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Desertification	04.07.2023		Programmatic	20.11.2024	https://www.mmediu.ro/app/webroot/uploads/files/Raport%20de%20mediu%2819%29.pdf

		degradării terenurilor 2019-2030	and Land Degradation 2019-2030					
154	RO_16	Studiu pentru dezvoltarea strategiei naționale pentru prevenirea și combaterea deșertificării și degradării terenurilor 2019-2030	Study for the development of the national strategy for preventing and combating desertification and land degradation 2019-2030	04.07.2023		Programmatic	20.11.2024	https://www.mmediu.ro/app/webroot/uploads/files/Strategia%20Nationala%20privind%20prevenirea%20si%20combaterea%20desertificarii%20si%20degradarii%20terenurilor%281%29.pdf
155	RO_17	OUG 34 privind organizarea, administrarea și exploatarea pajștilor permanente și pentru modificarea și completarea Legii Fondului Funciar nr.18/1991	GEO 34 on the organization, administration and exploitation of permanent grasslands and for the amendment and completion of the National Land Fund Law 18/1991	13.05.2013		In force	01.12.2024	https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/147761
156	RO_18	Legea 18 - Legea Fondului Funciar	Law 18 - National Land Fund Law	19.02.1991	03.04.2024	In force	01.12.2024	https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/1459
157	RO_19	Strategia Națională și Planul de Acțiune pentru conservarea biodiversității 2014-2020	National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation 2014-2020	22.01.2014		Programmatic	01.12.2024	https://www.mmediu.ro/img/attachment/32/biodiversitate-54784fdb3ea5.pdf
158	RO_20	Statistica activităților din domeniul forestier, în anul 2023	Statistics of forestry activities in 2023	31.07.2024		Programmatic	01.12.2024	https://insse.ro/cms/ro/content/statistica-activitat%C4%83%C5%A3ilor-din-silvicultur%C4%83-%C3%AE-n-anul-2023
159	RO_21	OUG nr. 57 privind regimul ariilor naturale protejate, conservarea habitatelor naturale, a florei și faunei sălbatice	GEO 57 on the regime of protected natural areas, the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna	29.06.2007	13.04.2011	In force	01.12.2024	https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/83289
SWITZERLAND								
160	CH_01	Loi fédérale sur la protection de l'environnement	Federal Law on Environmental Protection	07.10.1983	01.01.2022	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC001948
161	CH_02	Loi fédérale sur la protection de la nature et du paysage	Federal Law on the Protection of Nature and Landscape	01.01.1968	01.01.2022	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC018673

162	CH_03	Stratégie climatique à long terme de la Suisse 2021-2050	Switzerland's Long-Term Climate Strategy 2021-2050	27.01.2021		Programmatic	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC223977
163	CH_04	Loi fédérale sur l'aménagement du territoire	Federal Law on Spatial Planning	22.06.1979	01.01.2019	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC018682
164	CH_05	Loi fédérale sur l'agriculture	Federal Law on Agriculture	01.01.1999	01.01.2017	In force	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC016918
165	CH_06	Stratégie climat pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation 2050	Climate Strategy for Agriculture and Food 2050	01.09.2023		Programmatic	06.02.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC228430
166	CH_07	Waldpolitik 2020	Forest Policy 2020	31.08.2011		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/swi176009.pdf
167	CH_08	Kantonales Waldgesetz	Cantonal Forest Law	21.10.1998	17.12.2023	Not in force	30.01.2025	https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC155944/
168	CH_09	Bundeswaldgesetz	Federal Forest Act	04.10.1991	01.01.2017	In force	30.01.2025	https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1992/2521_2521_2521/en
169	CH_10	Verordnung über den Wald	Ordinance on Forest	30.11.1992	01.01.2020	In force	30.01.2025	https://www.fedlex.admin.ch/eli/cc/1992/2538_2538_2538/en
170	CH_11	Die Klimapolitik der Schweiz	Switzerland's climate policy	30.04.2018		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/climate/publications-studies/publications/klimapolitik-der-schweiz.html
171	CH_12	Strategie für nachhaltige Entwicklung 2030	2030 Sustainable Development Strategy	28.03.2022		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.are.admin.ch/are/en/home/sustainable-development/strategy/sds.html
172	CH_13	Integration des Naturschutzes in die Schweizer Waldpolitik - INTEGRATE Länderbericht	Integration of Nature Protection in Swiss Forest Policy - INTEGRATE Country Report	14.08.2013		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://efi.int/sites/default/files/files/publication-bank/projects/switzerland.pdf
173	CH_14	Umweltbericht Schweiz 2022	Environment Switzerland Report 2022	16.12.2022		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/documentation/reports.html
174	CH_15	Umwelt Schweiz	Environment Switzerland	07.07.2011		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/state/pub

								lications-on-the-state-of-the-environment/environment-switzerland-2011.html
175	CH_16	Klimabedingte Risiken und Chancen	Climate-related risks and opportunities	12.06.2018		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/climate/publications-studies/publications/klimabedingte-risiken-und-chancen.html
176	CH_17	Schweizer Umweltrecht. Ein kurzer Leitfaden	Swiss Environmental Law. A brief guide	30.08.2022		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/law/publications-swiss-environmental-law.html
177	CH_18	Waldpolitik: Ziele und Maßnahmen 2021–2024	Forest Policy: objectives and measures 2021–2024	20.12.2021		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/forest/publications-studies/publications/forest-policy-objectives-and-measures-2021-2024.html
178	CH_19	Nationales Waldprogramm Schweiz (NFP Schweiz)	Swiss national forest programme (Swiss NFP)	20.11.2006		Programmatic	30.01.2025	https://www.bafu.admin.ch/bafu/en/home/topics/forest/publications-swiss-national-forest-programme-swiss-nfp.html

Appendix 2 - Documents from primary legislation related to rewilding

Country	Nr.	Title of document	Year of publication and last update	Paragraph from the political document	How does the document approach rewilding?
GERMANY	1	Forest Act for Baden-Württemberg	1995 15.10.2024	It shall also be permissible to carry out maintenance and upkeep measures that are necessary for the preservation or restoration of the biotope protection forests.	Favorable to active rewilding
	2			A protected forest is a forest reserve that is left to itself. Maintenance measures are not permitted; any wood that is produced may not be removed.	Favorable to passive rewilding
	3			Compensation must also be granted if restrictions are imposed on the forest owner in the interest of the sustainable protection of the biotope protection forest.	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
	4	Forest Act of the State of Brandenburg	2004 20.07.2024	Compensation shall be considered in particular where, as a result of prohibitions or orders previously lawful uses of land must be abandoned or restricted	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
	5	Forest Act for the State of Schleswig-Holstein	2004 27.10.2023	10% of the total area of state and corporate forests should be taken out of management to create a network of natural forests	Favorable to passive rewilding
	6	Hessian Forest Act	2013 22.02.2022	Forest owners are entitled to compensation for disadvantages they suffer in the management of their land as a result of management regulations or restrictions resulting from a protected forest or recreational forest.	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
	7	Law on the preservation and management of forests, on the promotion of forestry and on the access to and use of open countryside in the state of Saxony-Anhalt	2016 02.07.2024	For nature conservation reasons, forests may remain unmanaged without relinquishing their useful function. This requires approval from the higher forestry authority, except in the parts of nature and landscape protected under nature conservation law where the abandonment of forest management is anchored in the purpose or objectives of the protection.	Favorable to passive rewilding
	8			If the forest owner suffers demonstrably significant economic disadvantages as a result of the declaration of his forest or part thereof as a specially protected	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures

				forest area pursuant to Section 18 (2) sentence 1 or Section 19 (2) sentence 1, he shall be entitled to appropriate compensation in money, insofar as the measures or restrictions cannot be required within the framework of proper management.	
	9	State Forestry Act for the State of North Rhine-Westphalia	1980 16.03.2024	In the case of a forest being declared a protective or recreational forest or a natural forest cell, the forest owners and other users shall be compensated by the State for any disadvantages they suffer as a result of the ordering or prohibition of certain measures in relation to the unrestricted forestry management of their land.	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
	10			In natural forest cells, the forest is left to itself. Management measures are not permitted; any wood that is produced may not be removed. In addition, all actions that could lead to destruction, damage or alteration of the protected area or its components or to lasting disturbance are prohibited.	Favorable to passive rewilding
	11	State Forest Act (Rhineland-Palatinate Land)	2001 27.03.2020	If this Act or a legal order based on it or a measure based on it means that a previously lawful use of the forest can only be restricted or no longer continued with regard to the purpose of protection and if this restricts the private commercial use of the land in a way that exceeds the social obligation, an exemption must be ordered or appropriate compensation must be paid.	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
	12	Forest Act for the Free State of Saxony	1992 19.08.2022	The private forest owner shall be entitled to compensation in accordance with the principles of expropriation law for the disadvantages caused to him by the declaration of protection forest according to Art. 29 paragraph 2 [Forests may be declared protective forests if, in order to avert or prevent dangers, significant disadvantages or significant nuisances for the general public or to preserve communities worthy of protection and in need of protection, it is necessary to carry out, refrain from or tolerate certain forestry measures, unless the protective purpose is achieved by other legal provisions.] or recreational forest	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures

SWITZERLAND	1	Federal Law on Agriculture	1998 01.01.2017	If the public interest so requires, landowners must tolerate without compensation the exploitation and maintenance of fallow land. They are required to do so in particular when the exploitation of the land is necessary for the maintenance of agriculture, for protection against natural hazards or for the preservation of plant or animal species particularly worthy of protection	Impose rewilding measures without monetary compensation to private land owners
	1	Law 331 - Forestry Code	20.12.2024	The compensatory payment system is intended for forest owners to compensate for additional disadvantages to those determined by ensuring minimal ecosystem services, created as a result of the mandatory imposition of restrictions, resulting from the assumption by public authorities of the implementation of a biodiversity conservation/ecosystem services provision regime	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
ROMANIA	2	Law No. 49 validating the EOG No. 57/2007 on the regime of protected natural areas, conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna	13.04.2011	For lands in protected natural areas held in private ownership or under concession, the owners or concessionaires will receive compensation for complying with the restrictive provisions of the protected natural area management plan or for conservation measures	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
	3			In scientific reserves, any human activities are prohibited, except for research activities, with the limitations described in the management plans, with the agreement of the Romanian Academy and the administrator of the protected natural area	Favorable to passive rewilding
BULGARIA	1	Biological diversity Act	2002 28.01.2011	Reintroduction into nature of native animal and plant species shall be carried out in a manner that would contribute to the permanent restoration of the species to a favorable condition	Favorable to active rewilding
	2	Law on biodiversity	2002 19.08.2017	Re-introduction into the nature of native animal and plant species and the restoration of extinct populations or supporting and stabilizing populations in poor condition is carried out in a way that would contribute to the sustainable recovery of the species in a favorable condition	Favorable to active rewilding

Appendix 3 - Documents from secondary legislation related to rewilding

Country	Nr.	Title of document	Year of publication and last update	Paragraph from the political document	How does the document approach rewilding?
BELGIUM	1	Ordinance 892 - Nature Conservation Ordinance	2003 15.07.2021	The purpose of this ordinance is to contribute to ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of the constituent elements of biological diversity through measures of protection, management, improvement and restoration of populations of species of wild flora and fauna as well as their habitats, natural habitats and terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, as well as through measures of maintenance or restoration of the quality of the environment required for this purpose	Favorable to active rewilding
	1	Emergency Ordinance No. 196 regarding the Environmental Fund	2005 20.09.2022	The Environment Fund shall be used to finance pilot projects and programmes and the following categories of projects and programmes for environmental protection: [...] afforestation of degraded land, ecological reconstruction and sustainable forest management	Addresses the existence of a fund from which ecosystem conservation and restoration projects can be financed
2	The Environmental Fund is used to finance pilot projects and programmes and the following categories of projects and programmes for environmental protection: [...] restoration of land removed from the natural heritage.			Addresses the existence of a fund from which ecosystem conservation and restoration projects can be financed	
ROMANIA	3	GEO 57 on the regime of protected natural areas, the conservation of natural habitats, wild flora and fauna	2007 13.04.2011	For lands in protected natural areas, privately owned or concessioned, owners or concessionaires will receive compensation for complying with the restrictive provisions of the protected natural area management plan	Necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures

Appendix 4 – Documents from Programmatic documents related to rewilding

Country	Nr.	Title of document	Year of publication	Paragraph from the political document	How does the document approach rewilding?
GERMANY	1	The Forest in Germany - Selected Results of the Fourth National Forest Inventory	2024	In addition to sustainable, integrative forest management, targeted restrictions on use or protected areas to promote natural forest development make an important contribution to preserving and promoting biodiversity in the forest	Addresses the importance of prohibitive measures in ecosystem conservation
	2	Forest Strategy 2050	2021	For affected forest owners or businesses, the nature conservation obligations in particular can lead to restrictions on forest use – so far mostly with no or only little financial compensation	Addresses the lack of funds to compensate private forest owners
SWITZERLAND	1	2030 Sustainable Development Strategy	2022	Priority is given to protecting, facilitating (e.g. through rewilding) and interconnecting ecosystems, sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, as well as factoring biodiversity into the making of financial and investment decisions.	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation
	2	Environment Switzerland Report 2022	2022	To further improve the positive contribution that forests make to conserving biodiversity, the proportion of forest reserves must be increased, in accordance with the federal government's Forest Policy from just over 6% of the forest area today to 10% by 2030.	Addresses the necessity to increase the protected nature areas
	3			Forest management has been abandoned in some places, especially in the Alps and Alpine foothills. More and more timber is being left unfelled, and protection forests are becoming less stable (→Natural hazards). This means that much of the potential contained in targeted support for forest functions remains untapped, especially where the use of wood as a resource and as a factor in climate action are concerned.	Addresses the threat posed by the lack of forest management
	4	Integration of Nature Protection in Swiss Forest Policy - INTEGRATE Country Report	2013	A second program with important components for nature protection is the substantially larger program for protective forests, where the cantons receive funding for tending of protective forests if doing so, they adhere to NaiS guidelines. These are not focused on nature protection per se, but	Addresses the existence of a fund from which ecosystem conservation and restoration projects can be financed

				emphasize the potential of creating near-natural forest conditions and processes to increase forest resilience. Thus they hold potential for the restoration of natural forest ecosystems.	
	5	Forest Policy 2020	2011	The main objective of the Forest Policy 2020 is the guaranteeing of sustainable forest management and the creation of favourable conditions for an efficient and innovative forestry and timber sector. Forest management can also include the decision not to manage forest.	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation
	6	Swiss national forest programme (Swiss NFP)	2006	The main objective of the Forest Policy is to guarantee sustainable forest management and create favourable conditions for an efficient and innovative forestry and timber sector. Forest management may also include the decision not to manage forests.	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation
BELGIUM	1	Flemish climate strategy 2050	2023	We therefore optimize the management of grassland according to carbon storage potential and expand the grassland area where possible. To this end, we develop incentive measures to convert arable land as much as possible to more carbon-rich grasslands or to agroforestry systems.	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation
ROMANIA	1	National Forests Strategy for 2030	2022	Currently, European biodiversity and forest strategies require that 30% of the land area of the member states be included in protected natural areas, and a third of this (10% of the total) be strictly protected.	Addresses the necessity to increase the protected nature areas
	2			For forests not included in the national forest fund, it is necessary to establish financial support mechanisms to attract owners to implement ecological/silvicultural reconstruction works, with the aim of increasing forest stability, carbon sequestration capacity and the provision of ecosystem services.	Addresses the importance of engaging private forest owners in implementing rewilding measures through financial incentives
	3			Financing/subsidy system – payment systems to stimulate forest owners for sustainable forest management, integration of biodiversity conservation and appropriate management of forests with a socio-cultural role	Defines the financial system of subsidies granted to private forest owners who adopt sustainable management

	4			Financial support instruments are therefore needed for restoration works of degraded stands and compensation for the additional restrictions imposed by biodiversity conservation requirements.	Addresses the necessity of granting subsidies to private forest owners in case of rewilding measures
	5			The compensatory payment system – is intended for forest owners to compensate for additional disadvantages to those determined by respecting the minimum level of ecosystem services, created as a result of the imposition of restrictions, resulting from the assumption by public authorities of the implementation of a biodiversity conservation regime/provision of ecosystem services;	Defines the financial system of subsidies granted to private forest owners affected by restrictive ecosystem conservation measures
	6	National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation 2014-2020	2016	The conversion of land for the development of urban, industrial, agricultural, tourist or transport infrastructure is the main cause of biodiversity loss, leading to the degradation, destruction and fragmentation of habitats and implicitly to the decline of natural populations. [...] the conversion of natural habitats remains a direct threat, visible especially in the following cases: e) Abandonment of meadows and pastures, especially in high areas, more difficult to access, which will be invaded by forest vegetation	Addresses the threat posed by the land abandonment
ITALY	1	National Strategy for Biodiversity 2030	2023	Peatlands, wetlands, forests and oceans play a key role in absorbing and storing carbon, thus contributing to mitigating climate change: it will therefore be essential to conserve, restore and maintain healthy these ecosystems in particular	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation
	2	National Forest Strategy 2014-2020	2018	S.W.O.T. Analysis – T) The progressive abandonment of agro-forestry-pastoral activities, especially in hills and mountains, which further leads to a progressive loss of landscape identities and local knowledge, as well as to an increase in vulnerability to natural and anthropogenic disturbances of the stands, with possible risks to public safety.	Addresses the threat posed by the land abandonment
	1	The Netherlands' Global Climate Strategy	2022	The government remains firmly committed to stopping deforestation and forest degradation around the world by 2030 and protecting biodiversity in forests, for example by promoting the development of sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural commodities supply chains, working within the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership, for instance, and	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation

				supporting ambitious EU legislation on deforestation-free EU production and consumption.	
NETHERLANDS	2	Climate Agreement	2019	Existing forests, nature conservation areas, landscape elements and public spaces provide opportunities to increase carbon capture, including through changes to their management;	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation
	3			Together with farmers situated near Natura 2000 areas, we will look at whether agricultural nature management can contribute to less intensive land use and thus to climate goals and nature restoration.	Addresses the importance of rewilding measures in ecosystem conservation
	4	National Adaptation Strategy (NAS)	2016	In 2012, many nature management tasks were devolved to provincial level, with the existing budgetary reserves transferred to the Provinces Fund. The provincial authorities are now responsible for the management of existing nature areas as well as the expansion of the ecological network, for which 80,000 hectares is to be acquired.	Addresses the necessity to increase the protected nature areas

Appendix 5 – Conflicts identified in Proforestation group

Code	Type of document	Category	Conflict typology
CH_05	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Conflict between public and private goals
DE_17	Primary legislation	Land use change	Conflict between public and private goals
RO_13	Programmatic	Land use change	Conflict between national legislation and national plans
RO_02	Primary legislation	Penalties	Conflict between public and private goals
RO_09	Primary legislation	Penalties	Conflict with traditional land use
RO_13	Programmatic	Policy harmonisation	Conflict with EU policy
RO_14	Programmatic	Policy harmonisation	Conflict with objectives proposed in national plans
RO_19	Programmatic	Policy harmonisation	Conflict with primary legislation
DE_31	Primary legislation	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with secondary legislation
NL_10	Programmatic	Target imposed	Conflict between public and private goals

Appendix 6 – Trade-offs identified in Proforestation group

Code	Type of document	Category	Trade-off typology
CH_12	Programmatic	Financial instruments	Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
NL_09	Programmatic	Financial instruments	Ecological conservation vs Economic use rights
BE_14	Secondary legislation	Policy harmonisation	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
BE_09	Primary legislation	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
DE_17	Primary legislation	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
IT_18	Programmatic	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
IT_19	Programmatic	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
BE_02	Programmatic	Target imposed	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
IT_25	Programmatic	Target imposed	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
RO_15	Programmatic	Target imposed	Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
IT_18	Programmatic	Threats and vulnerabilities	Traditional land use continuity vs Natural rewilding and abandonment

Appendix 7 – Conflicts and trade-offs identified in Proforestation group

Code	Type of document	Category	Conflict & trade-off typology
CH_14	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_17	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_20	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_24	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_27	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_28	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_30	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_30	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_30	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
DE_31	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
RO_02	Secondary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
RO_09	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
RO_10	Primary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
RO_13	Programmatic	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
RO_13	Programmatic	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
RO_16	Programmatic	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
RO_16	Programmatic	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability

RO_21	Secondary legislation	Financial instruments	Unclear or incomplete financial implementation provisions & Symbolic policy commitments vs practical implementability
BG_18	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Conflict with traditional land use & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management
BG_18	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Conflict with traditional land use & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management
CH_11	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Policy goals for rewilding vs. rural socio-economic decline & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management
CH_15	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Policy goals for rewilding vs. rural socio-economic decline & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
CH_15	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Policy goals for rewilding vs. rural socio-economic decline & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
CH_19	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Policy goals for rewilding vs. rural socio-economic decline & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management
IT_18	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Conflict with traditional land use & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management
IT_18	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Conflict with traditional land use & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management
IT_19	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Policy goals for rewilding vs. rural socio-economic decline & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management

IT_20	Programmatic	Forest expansion and land abandonment	Policy goals for rewilding vs. rural socio-economic decline & Biodiversity increase vs Loss of agricultural heritage and active management
BE_02	Programmatic	Land use change	Conflict between public and private goals & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
BG_17	Programmatic	Land use change	Conflict with traditional land use & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
DE_20	Primary legislation	Land use change	Conflict between public and private goals & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
NL_08	Programmatic	Policy harmonisation	Conflict between public and private goals & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
RO_12	Programmatic	Policy harmonisation	Conflict with objectives proposed in national plans & Proforestation vs Alternative land use
CH_10	Programmatic	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with traditional land use & Ecological conservation vs Economic use rights
CH_11	Programmatic	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with traditional land use & Ecological conservation vs Economic use rights
CH_18	Programmatic	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with traditional land use & Ecological conservation vs Economic use rights
DE_16	Programmatic	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with traditional land use & Ecological conservation vs Economic use rights
DE_17	Primary legislation	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with traditional land use & Ecological conservation vs Economic use rights
DE_27	Primary legislation	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with traditional land use & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use

DE_31	Primary legislation	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict between public and private goals & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
NL_09	Programmatic	Regulatory framework for protected areas	Conflict with traditional land use & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
CH_13	Programmatic	Target imposed	Conflict between public and private goals & Ecological conservation vs Economic use rights
DE_28	Primary legislation	Target imposed	Conflict with traditional land use & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
DE_32	Primary legislation	Target imposed	Conflict with traditional land use & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
IT_19	Programmatic	Target imposed	Conflict with traditional land use & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
IT_19	Programmatic	Target imposed	Conflict with traditional land use & Reforestation / Proforestation vs Alternative land use
CH_13	Programmatic	Threats and vulnerabilities	Policy goals for rewilding vs ecosystem stability and safety & Passive ecological restoration vs active risk management
IT_20	Programmatic	Threats and vulnerabilities	Policy goals for rewilding vs ecosystem stability and safety & Passive ecological restoration vs active risk management