

## REPORT

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT

# DEMONSTRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION MEASURES IN NUTRIENTS RICH DRAINED ORGANIC SOILS IN BALTIC STATES AND FINLAND

WORK PACKAGE

## ELABORATION OF THE PROJECT COMMUNICATION PLATFORM (A.2)

ACTIONS

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engagement plan**

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## SUMMARY

Managed nutrient-rich organic soils such as cropland, grassland and forest land are one of the largest key sources of GHG emissions in Temperate, Cool and Moist TCM climate regions in Europe. The main aim of the project is to fill the knowledge gap in GHG emissions from the LULUCF and agricultural sector and to demonstrate the potential of climate change mitigation measures in contributing to sustainable land use, agriculture and forestry, and to climate policy post 2030 goals set at international level within this field.

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals representatives of different realities within the LULUCF and agricultural sector, both at governmental and private level, will be involved. Moreover the scientific community as well as higher education and advisory institutions will have an important role being both final receiver and active participants in the knowledge base building process and in the analysis of CCM measures benefits and impacts. Finally entrepreneurs and their representatives, as well as the society as a whole will be informed about the project objectives and results and will be actively involved in its different actions to raise awareness on climate change and carbon neutrality goals.

Given the complexity of the project which covers scientific, financial, regulatory, biodiversity conservation and socio-economics aspects, and addresses different targets with different needs and problems, stakeholders have been at first divided into three main groups according to their level of influence and interest: primary stakeholders, secondary stakeholders and third parties. In a second phase the following further aspects have been analysed for each group and subgroup: priorities, problems, needs, constraints and benefits.

The analysis showed that stakeholders’ main priorities are to improve accounting methods and data availability on GHG emissions from managed nutrient-rich organic soils and to implement CCM measures to ensure the sustainable management of forest lands, croplands, grassland and wetlands, so to guarantee their preservation and profitability. Consequently great importance is given to educational and research activities on climate change threats and climate-smart land management solutions within the LULUCF and agricultural sector. In this respect awareness actions are seen as a further priority to sensitize the whole society on the project’s main objectives and outcomes. A further major goal, shared by the majority of stakeholders, although with different modalities and responsibilities is to support forest and rural businesses to facilitate their transition to climate-smart management solutions and to monitor social-economic effects along with GHG emissions reduction goals. Problems are both transversal and specific, but mainly focus on the lack of: complete and consistent data on GHG emissions from nutrient-rich organic soils; sustainable CCM measures within the LULUCF and agricultural sector; sufficient resources and expertise at entrepreneurial level. The need for trainings, capacity-building, educational and informative initiatives transversally emerged from the analysis of all the stakeholder involved although at different levels and with different modalities. As far as constraints are concerning, the main one can be outlined in the perceived potential socio-economic risks. The complexity and the long-term prospective of the project indeed might find the reticence

of business representatives and entrepreneurs which might consider CCM measures as potentially harmful for their business in the short-term.

The project is expected to solve the major problems outlined in the present analysis and to answer to the main needs and constraints. Through the project in fact the amount of data on GHG emissions from nutrient-rich organic soils will considerably increase and scientific based evaluations of the impact of CCM measures in the management of nutrient-rich organic soils will be carried out. Moreover several activities will be dedicated to the promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation and networking opportunities to create tighter connections between the different interest groups involved. Finally a great focus is given to education, training and awareness raising to increase entrepreneurs' know-how and public attention on climate change and environmental issues.

## ABBREVIATIONS

CCM Climate Change Mitigation

EU European Union

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GHG Greenhouse gas

HEIs Higher education institutions

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

LULUCF Land use, land-use change and forestry

NGO Non-governmental organization

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

TCM Temperate cool and moist

UN United Nations

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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# 1. STRUCTURE OF STAKEHOLDERS ANALYSIS

In order to start the project with a clear understanding of stakeholders’ expectations and possible level of contribution, the latter have been grouped according to their status, their level of participation, their interests and their influence in the project. This classification is essential to determine how to best involve stakeholders and, more precisely, which are the best way to deliver information and the most effective communication channels to be used throughout the different phases of the project.

The level of influence and interests have been matched in an Influence/Interest matrix, where the parameter “Influence” measures the degree (high/low) to which stakeholders can influence the project, while the parameter “Interest” defines the impact of the project on stakeholders. The level of interests (high/low) can also alert the parties involved on the potential initiatives that stakeholders might undertake in relation with the advantages and disadvantages related to the project, and to enhance their participation in the decision-making process.

		Influence	
		Low	High
Interest	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-governmental organisations</li> <li>• Students, local inhabitants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research/educational/advisory organisations</li> <li>• Competent EC authorities / other international organisations</li> <li>• State-owned enterprises / services</li> <li>• Local administrations</li> </ul>
	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners, farmers, foresters</li> <li>• Business representatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governmental institutions/organisations</li> </ul>

Moreover to help ensuring a clear understanding of the different backgrounds and the different levels of support that stakeholders might give to the project, as well as to be aware of potential opponents, stakeholders have been divided in:

- **Primary stakeholders:** within the project mainly represented by governmental institutions and their departments and by governmental agencies and organisations, have the highest level of participation with a control and partnership role, and consequently consulting and informing responsibilities as well. They have a direct stake in the project together with a high level of influence on the planning process and on the implementation of project-related policies.
- **Secondary stakeholders:** within the project mainly represented by state-owned enterprises, research organisations, higher education institutions, advisory organisations, regional and local administrations and EU competent authorities, have a high level of influence given by their consultancy and/or partnership role, and contribute to the project overall reputation. However they don’t have a direct stake in the project, being not the final receivers of the project actions.
- **Third parties:** within the project they are mainly represented by business representatives, landowners, farmers, foresters, non-governmental organisations, students and local inhabitants. They are actively involved in the project, in some cases also due to their high interests, but have a low influence on its outcomes.

After defining the project stakeholder levels the following further aspects have been analysed for each one of them:

- **Priorities:** focus on the goals of the analysed stakeholders in line with the objectives of the project, to understand what motivates their involvement, how the project can align with their priorities or at least how we can ensure that it won't threaten them.
- **Problems:** focus on the challenges that stakeholders have to face in order to achieve their priorities, as for example lack of data or information, lack of interest, inadequate policies and/or management, lack of involvement and participation to the decision-making process.
- **Needs:** focus on the actions that stakeholders have to undertake in order to achieve their goals and solve the main problems that interfere with their results achievement.
- **Constraints:** focus mainly on potential opponents and on the challenges that the target groups represented by stakeholders or stakeholders themselves will have to face.
- **Benefits:** focus on the results and achievements that stakeholders can obtain through their involvement in the project in order to meet their priorities and tackle the challenges related to them.

The analysis of all the aforementioned aspects provides the elements to determine the type of participation and the level of involvement of stakeholders groups, according to the following four main levels:

**Inform:** it's the lowest level of participation. Stakeholders falling under this profile are usually the final receiver of the project actions, individually or collectively. Usually they are only informed about the project development by other stakeholders who have more control. They are actively involved in the project, also due to their high interest, but have a low influence on its outcomes. This profile includes also third parties that are not directly involved in the project but that it's very important to inform in order to increase awareness, sensitize society on the issues addressed by the project and transfer knowledge to new generations.

**Consult:** stakeholders falling under this profile needs to be involved in all information initiatives, but are also consulted by other stakeholders on specific issues due to their technical/scientific competences. They have higher influence, but lower interest being not the final receiver of the project actions.

**Partnership:** stakeholders falling under this profile have equal decision-making power on one or more project actions, with one or more of the other stakeholders involved. They have high influence given by their decision making power, but low interest being not the final receiver of the project actions.

**Control:** it's the highest level of participation. Stakeholders falling under this profile are in control of all decision-making processes and therefore can highly influence them. Furthermore they have the responsibility to cooperate, consult and inform the other stakeholders as well as the society as a whole.

After building stakeholder group profile and individual priorities, problems, needs, constraints and benefits, the stakeholder analysis process can move to its final step, focusing on the communication plan.

## 2. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Primary stakeholders

#### 2.1.1 Governmental institutions/ organisations

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MEPRD)	Latvia	Vides aizsardzības un reģionālās attīstības ministrija (VARAM)	<a href="http://www.varam.gov.lv/eng/par_ministriju/">http://www.varam.gov.lv/eng/par_ministriju/</a>
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE (SES)	Latvia	Valsts vides dienests (VVD)	<a href="http://www.vvd.gov.lv/eng/">http://www.vvd.gov.lv/eng/</a>
NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY OF LATVIA	Latvia	Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde	<a href="https://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/">https://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/</a>
LATVIAN ENVIRONMENT, GEOLOGY AND METEOROLOGY CENTRE	Latvia	Latvijas Vides, ģeoloģijas un meteoroloģijas centrs	<a href="https://www.meteo.lv/en/">https://www.meteo.lv/en/</a>
RURAL SUPPORT SERVICE	Latvia	Lauku atbalsta dienests	<a href="http://www.lad.gov.lv/lv/">http://www.lad.gov.lv/lv/</a>
STATE PLANT PROTECTION SERVICE	Latvia	Valsts augu aizsardzības dienests	<a href="http://www.vaad.gov.lv/english.aspx">http://www.vaad.gov.lv/english.aspx</a>
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF FINLAND	Finland	Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö	<a href="https://mmm.fi/en/frontpage">https://mmm.fi/en/frontpage</a>
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF FINLAND	Finland	Ympäristöministeriö	<a href="https://www.ym.fi/en-US">https://www.ym.fi/en-US</a>
FINNISH ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE	Finland	Suomen ympäristökeskus SYKE	<a href="https://www.syke.fi/en-US">https://www.syke.fi/en-US</a>
FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY	Germany	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Nukleare Sicherheit	<a href="https://www.bmu.de/en/">https://www.bmu.de/en/</a>
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	Germany	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft	<a href="https://www.bmel.de/EN/">https://www.bmel.de/EN/</a>
GERMAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	Germany	Umweltbundesamt	<a href="https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en">https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en</a>
FEDERAL AGENCY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION	Germany	Bundesamt für Naturschutz	<a href="https://www.bfn.de/en.html">https://www.bfn.de/en.html</a>
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	Lithuania	Lietuvos Respublikos aplinkos ministerija	<a href="http://am.lrv.lt/en">http://am.lrv.lt/en</a>
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	Estonia	Keskkonnaministeerium	<a href="https://www.envir.ee/en">https://www.envir.ee/en</a>
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS	Estonia	Maaeluministeerium	<a href="https://www.agri.ee/en">https://www.agri.ee/en</a>
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD	Estonia	Keskkonnaamet	<a href="https://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/en">https://www.keskkonnaamet.ee/en</a>
ESTONIAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	Estonia	Keskkonnaagentuur	<a href="https://www.keskkonnaagentuur.ee/en">https://www.keskkonnaagentuur.ee/en</a>

## Priorities

Signatories of the United Nations framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, have the obligation to keep record of greenhouse gas emissions by preparing and submitting annually inventories. According to the EU 2030 climate and energy framework, EU countries are also committed to a 40% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 and by 80-95% by 2050<sup>1</sup>.

In particular the main priority of governmental institutions, related to the project, is to implement national and regional strategies and action plans in order to fulfil EU and national post 2030 CCM targets in LULUCF and agricultural sectors. Governmental organisation, operating under the involved ministries have also an important role in fulfilling this task being in charge of supervising environment management and the use of natural resources to verify it's compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and having to report on land-use management and potential threats.

To achieve these goals it's necessary to rely on and to contribute to the creation of complete and consistent data on GHG emissions in nutrient-rich organic soils as well as on the analysis of the impact of climate change on the latter. Subsequently the impact of CCM measures in this sector will have to be evaluated.

Finally national institutions and organisations, in cooperation with local authorities, non-governmental organisations and education institutions, have the duty to inform and aware the public opinion and the society as a whole on the importance of sustainable development, as well as on GHG emissions effects and on the actions to be taken and planned to tackle climate change challenges.

## Problems

Although managed nutrient-rich organic soils are one of the largest key sources of GHG emissions in boreal and Temperate Cool & Moist (TCM) climate regions in Europe, scientifically based accounting methods and activity data for GHG emissions are available mainly for organic soils in boreal climate region. According to the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories<sup>2</sup>, data from the boreal zone have been collected from 62 sites compared to only 8 sites for temperate zones, moreover lacking a division between nutrient-rich and poor soils. The lack of sufficient and precise data risks to bring to inconsistent GHG inventories and complicates the implementation of mitigation measures in national and consequently EU climate policies. Another challenge is represented by the fact that the impact of CCM measures on organic soils needs to be scientifically verified and tested under different climatic and land management scenarios.

Moreover until present, LULUCF sector has been mainly limited to the regulation, monitoring, and reporting of land-use change, often imposing constraints to fulfil environmental objectives, and without engaging in climate-smart management solutions.

Finally climate change awareness is increasing, but many still believe that there's neither need, nor chance to contribute to climate change mitigation actions. Among the main

<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2030\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/strategies/2030_en)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/wetlands/pdf/Wetlands\\_Supplement\\_Entire\\_Report.pdf](https://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/wetlands/pdf/Wetlands_Supplement_Entire_Report.pdf)

concerns we have the perception that northern countries are already green countries, that they are not big enough to impact climate change and that in general climate change is a process we can't influence or we shouldn't because it's not our responsibility to do so.

## Needs

To develop CCM strategies and action plans at both local and national level, it's important to integrate the climate objectives into the private and public sector as well as to enhance the level of knowledge and awareness of the public opinion about GHG emissions and its consequences, i.e. global warming, in order to involve all actors by involving and/or informing them about the project's phases and results.

It's necessary to constantly be informed about the different phases of the project, the results obtained and the benefit that they will have on institutions, enterprises and the society as a whole in order to be able to involve all stakeholders and the public opinion at all stages.

## Constraints

Organic soils are an important income source for national economies and the introduction of climate-smart land management approaches might be seen by local producers as a threat to their economic activity. CCM measures as afforestation and conversion of cropland to grassland will require a considerable change in the management of nutrient-rich organic soils in some cases, which could not be accepted by producers at first.

Representative bodies such as interest groups, association and unions might put governmental institutions and organisations under pressure to contrast climate change mitigation measures perceived as a potential damage to the workers they represent.

## Benefits

Through the project the knowledge gaps on data of GHG emissions from nutrient-rich organic soils will be filled, by improving accounting methods and by collecting data from cropland, grassland and forest land in the countries involved. This will allow a scientific based evaluation of the impact of CCM measures in the management of nutrient-rich organic soils. Moreover the variety of the available sites and management conditions, together with the amount of data collected will allow to make provisions of the impact of different climate change scenarios on GHG emissions from nutrient-rich organic soils.

A second phase will see the implementation of CCM measures in selected demo sites across the partner countries, giving the opportunity to put into place concrete actions and to show results also through training and educational activities.

Governmental institutions will be able to implement the CCM measures in national and regional strategies and action plans to contribute to EU and national climate targets in LULUCF and agriculture sectors.

The project will also give the opportunity to undertake cross-sectoral cooperation as well as private / public partnership for the achievement of all the aforementioned results.

Finally the dimension and importance of the project together with the communication activities planned will significantly increase public awareness on climate change and environmental issues.

## 2.2 Secondary stakeholders

### 2.2.1 State-owned enterprises / services

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
JSC “LATVIA’S STATE FORESTS”	Latvia	AS Latvijas valsts meži (LVM)	<a href="https://www.lvm.lv/en">https://www.lvm.lv/en</a>
STATE FOREST SERVICE (SFS)	Latvia	Valsts meža dienests	<a href="https://www.zm.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/#jump">https://www.zm.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/#jump</a>
ESTONIA STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT CENTRE	Estonia	Riigimetsa Majandamise Keskus (RMK)	<a href="https://www.rmk.ee/en">https://www.rmk.ee/en</a>
FINNISH FOREST CENTRE	Finland	Suomen Metsäkeskus	<a href="https://www.metsakeskus.fi/en/finnish-forest-centre-focusing-people-and-forest">https://www.metsakeskus.fi/en/finnish-forest-centre-focusing-people-and-forest</a>
TAPIO	Finland	Tapio	<a href="https://tapio.fi/briefly-in-english/">https://tapio.fi/briefly-in-english/</a>
METSÄHALLITUS	Finland	Metsähallitus	<a href="http://www.metsa.fi/web/en">http://www.metsa.fi/web/en</a>
STATE FOREST ENTERPRISE	Lithuania	Valtybinių miškų urėdija	<a href="https://www.vivmu.lt/en/">https://www.vivmu.lt/en/</a>

#### Priorities

State-owned enterprises and services are entrusted with the management of lands to increase their economic value and most of all to ensure their preservation. They are therefore committed to rational management, to ensure environmental and cultural-historical heritage protection. Moreover they are highly interested in improving land management practices to preserve them and to reduce the impact of global climate change in the short and long run.

Finally, in order to promote a positive environmental attitude, the public accessibility to the managed lands and the enhancement of public participation is ensured also through educational activities.

#### Problems

According to the “The European environment — state and outlook 2020 Knowledge for transition to a sustainable Europe” published by the European Environment Agency at the end of 2019, “Although EU environment and climate policies have delivered substantial benefits over recent decades, Europe faces persistent problems in areas such as biodiversity loss, resource use, climate change impacts and environmental risks to health and well-being”<sup>3</sup>. The report also underlines the responsibility of GHG emissions deriving from human activity, such as burning fossil fuels, agriculture and deforestation, in global changes trends.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2020>

## Needs

CCM measures should be implemented to arrest intensive land management and soil's loss in productivity, and to contain logging in forest lands and forest ageing in order to increase carbon sequestration capacity and reduce carbon emissions.

As highlighted by the aforementioned report indeed “there is increasing evidence that land and soil degradation have major economic consequences, whereas the cost of preventing damage is significantly lower”<sup>4</sup>.

State-owned enterprises' land management strategies should focus on investment in education and innovation to adopt more advanced solutions and diversify management practices, in order to reduce their impact on climate.

The objectives and results of the project should be delivered also through communication campaign addressed to a general public to share with clients and partners the contribution of state-owned enterprises in achieving the project goals, in order to cease potential arguments (e.g. against delays, price rises, and so on).

## Constraints

Although state-owned enterprises have not only economic purposes being rather oriented to land sustainable management and preservation, the risk of not sufficiently involve all interested actors in the decision making process should be taken into account. The perceived potential negative effects of CCM measures in the forestry sector as well as in other land management related activities should be therefore unravelled and discussed.

## Benefits

The project will enhance the cooperation between the different sectors involved to establish the bases for a common understanding of its objectives, but also to share concerns as well as positive feedbacks, in order to identify those measures that can advantage all targets in a sustainable way. This will give the opportunity to monitor socio-economic effects along with GHG emissions reduction goals.

In the long-term the land use conversion measures will provide alternative options for using existing properties for different purposes and will bring to alternative / supplementary income opportunities.

Moreover the collaborative approach of the project will enhance the participation level and foster collaboration among the different stakeholder both at national and international level.

Finally the keen attention on the development of transferability and replicability strategies will bring to the creation of tools and models to implement CCM measures outside of the sites involved in the project.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2020>

## 2.2.2 Research organisations

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
FOREST RESEARCH STATION (FRS)	Latvia	Meža pētīšanas stacija (MPS)	<a href="http://www.agenturamps.lv/en/">http://www.agenturamps.lv/en/</a>
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRE	Estonia	Põllumajandusuuringute Keskus	<a href="https://pmk.agri.ee/en">https://pmk.agri.ee/en</a>
ESTONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTRE	Estonia	Eesti Keskkonnauuringute Keskus	<a href="http://www.klab.ee/en/">http://www.klab.ee/en/</a>
FEDERAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR RURAL AREAS, FOREST AND FISHERIES	Germany	Thünen Institut Bundesforschungsinstitut für Ländliche Räume, Wald und Fischerei - Thünen Institute	<a href="https://www.thuenen.de/en/">https://www.thuenen.de/en/</a>

### Priorities

The LULUCF sector has a leading role in GHG emissions reduction through photosynthesis and carbon sequestration processes. The main priority of research organisations in line with the project is to undertake research activities and controls on state owned territories in order to provide support on the development of long-term scientific research also by guaranteeing a rational and efficient use of the allocated resources. They are also responsible for the instalment and maintenance of environmental monitoring facilities.

Another important priority is to ensure the continuity of LULUCF research and to promote and support training and transfer of knowledge in the field of forestry and agriculture, through education and training measures addressed to the public opinion and to administrators.

### Problems

As already mentioned in the primary stakeholder problems analysis, a main problem is the lack of sufficient and precise data which risks to bring to inconsistent GHG inventories and complicates the implementation of mitigation measures in national and consequently EU climate policies. Another challenge is represented by the fact that the impact of CCM measures on organic soils needs to be scientifically verified and tested under different climatic and land management scenarios.

Moreover until present, LULUCF sector has been mainly limited to the regulation, monitoring, and reporting of land-use change, often imposing constraints to fulfil environmental objectives, and without engaging in climate-smart management solutions<sup>5</sup>.

### Needs

It's very important in order to enhance scientific research to develop and update inventories of GHG emissions to understand which measures should be planned and in which area.

Subsequently, CCM measures within forests, farms and wetlands need to be developed and a sustainable management of carbon sinks and reservoirs needs to be promoted.

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/latvia\\_draftnecp\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/latvia_draftnecp_en.pdf); <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2020>

Forests, croplands, grasslands and wetlands management and use of their products can highly contribute to climate policies implementation and GHG emissions reduction goals. It is therefore important to timely replace traditional land management with climate-smart solutions and to develop new sustainable land management regulations in line with the specific environmental characteristics of the different sites and with the development of new environmental friendly goals and technologies.

Finally knowledge transfer initiatives should be promoted to align the educational and scientific potential and human skills, with the development pace of the LULUCF industry and the related sectors and with international standards. Fund-raising strategies and other field-specific capacities should be built in order to achieve the aforementioned goal.

### Constraints

The lack of adequate fund-raising strategies and field-specific capacities might held back the activities of scientific and research centres.

### Benefits

Through the project new data on GHG emissions from nutrient-rich organic soils will be provided to researchers and scientists in order to recalculate the GHG net emissions/reductions in the LULUCF sector.

The increased availability and consistency of the above data will allow a scientific based evaluation of the impact of CCM measures in the management of nutrient-rich organic soils. Moreover the variety of the available sites and management conditions, together with the amount of data collected will allow to make provisions of the impact of different climate change scenarios on GHG emissions from nutrient-rich organic soils allowing future predictions.

Finally transferability and replicability strategies will be developed to implement CCM measures also outside of the sites involved in the project.

## 2.2.3 Higher education institutions

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA	Latvia	Latvijas Universitāte	<a href="https://www.lu.lv/en/">https://www.lu.lv/en/</a>
UNIVERSITY OF DAUGAVPILS	Latvia	Daugavpils Universitāte	<a href="https://du.lv/en/">https://du.lv/en/</a>
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI	Finland	Helsingin yliopisto	<a href="https://www.helsinki.fi/en">https://www.helsinki.fi/en</a>
UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND	Finland	Itä-Suomen yliopisto	<a href="https://www.uef.fi/">https://www.uef.fi/</a>
GREIFSWALD UNIVERITY	Germany	Universität Greifswald	<a href="https://www.uni-greifswald.de/en/">https://www.uni-greifswald.de/en/</a>
ROSTOCK UNIVERSITY	Germany	Universität Rostock	<a href="https://www.uni-rostock.de/en/">https://www.uni-rostock.de/en/</a>
ESTONIAN UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES	Estonia	Eesti Maaülikool	<a href="https://www.emu.ee/en/">https://www.emu.ee/en/</a>

## Priorities

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are committed to contribute to the development of the country by supporting research and technological progress and by establishing national and international relations through cooperation and networking activities. They also have a key role in guaranteeing students the opportunity to acquire excellent higher education and professional skills, as well as to pursue personal development through scientific research.

Finally higher education institutions have among their main priority that of forming new highly qualified specialists, such as researchers, policy makers and technicians.

## Problems

A major problem for the universities involved in the project is the lack of reputation at international level, if compared to other leading universities in Europe. In some cases the recognition by and collaboration with the local business sector is also a concern. A further identified weakness, common to all the involved higher education institutions is the insufficient number of international students and international academics and the insufficient number of academics scientific publications, especially in top quality international scientific journals.

Moreover it is hard to involve students and graduates in agriculture, forestry and climate-related issues studies and research activities as their interests often focus on other scientific fields. Consequently a further challenge is the one of attracting new experts, in particular juniors, within public institutions working within the aforementioned fields.

## Needs

The cooperation with the business sector and organisations should be enhanced to increase the recognition of the university as a society active player. International academic and research cooperation should also be fostered.

Moreover, in order to improve their national and international recognition, the HEIs involved in the project, need to improve their position in the international main universities rankings. In addition degree and research programmes need to be revised and updated to face current climate change issues and challenges, and attract more international students, professors and researchers.

## Constraints

The emigration of graduates, PhD students, young professors and researchers abroad impedes the renewal of the academic staff and therefore the significant improvement of the quality of academic and research programmes, which is fundamental to increase both national and international cooperation.

## Benefits

The project will provide new research fields and data on GHG emissions reduction policies and CCM measures.

Moreover the involvement of institutional and entrepreneurial stakeholders and of public and private organizations both at national and international level, will enhance universities’ national and international network and will allow them to strengthen their visibility and reputation within the business and public sectors and the scientific community.

The different dissemination events organized to present the project results will also increase the visibility of the universities and is expected to sensitize the young generations on the importance and on the opportunities of environmental and environmental related studies.

## 2.2.4 Advisory organisations

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
LATVIAN RURAL ADVISORY AND TRAINING CENTRE	Latvia	Lauku konsultāciju un izglītības	<a href="http://llkc.lv/lv">http://llkc.lv/lv</a>
PROAGRIA	Finland	ProAgria	<a href="https://www.proagria.fi/en">https://www.proagria.fi/en</a>
FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)	Lithuania	Mišky priežiūros taryba FSC	<a href="https://lt.fsc.org/lt-lt/apie-fsc/istorija">https://lt.fsc.org/lt-lt/apie-fsc/istorija</a>

### Priorities

Advisory organisations’ main priority is to provide consultancy services to rural entrepreneurs, organizations and citizens operating in the field of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other related fields to support rural development within the country.

Activities focus on different aspects such as communication, training and capacity-building actions in order to help current and future entrepreneurs to develop a competitive, sustainable and innovative economic activity within the rural sector.

On behalf of the state they also support the implementation of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 the main focus of which is to improve the competitiveness of farmers and rural enterprises by improving their infrastructure, resources availability and access to consulting and training services.

Finally advisory organisations are keen on networking measures to enhance the cooperation among entrepreneurs, public institutions and organizations, including higher education and research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the civil society.

### Problems

As highlighted in the “Factsheet on 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme<sup>6</sup>” of each partner country, the growth in the agricultural and forestry sectors is held back by several aspects including: a lack of proper training and low professional qualification of employees in agriculture and forestry also due to the lack of cooperation between farms, enterprises and research

<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development/country/latvia\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/rural-development/country/latvia_en); [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key\\_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-lithuania\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-lithuania_en.pdf); [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key\\_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-finland-mainland\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-finland-mainland_en.pdf); [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key\\_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-estonia\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-estonia_en.pdf); [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key\\_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-germany-national-framework\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/food-farming-fisheries/key_policies/documents/rdp-factsheet-germany-national-framework_en.pdf)

institutions; an insufficient use of innovative solutions also due to the lack of sufficient financial resources; low competitiveness; inadequate or inefficient infrastructures.

The productivity of the farmland is also affected by low soil fertility and by natural constraints which reduce the length of the growing season bringing to potential financial loss. The lack of substantial knowledge among farmers and entrepreneurs of sustainable development and CCM measures affects their opportunities to develop a competitive and sustainable growth of their rural businesses. Finally the insufficient risk management systems (in the event of natural disasters or catastrophic events) is a further threat to the development of agriculture and forestry<sup>7</sup>.

## Needs

In order to provide effective consultancy, professional trainings, knowledge transfer and innovative measures, and in order to guarantee the access to national and European funds to the largest possible audience, capacity- building initiatives together with networking measures among all the actors involved and mainly among rural entrepreneurs, public institutions, educational and research institutions and centres, should be implemented.

CCM measures should be explored and implemented in order to increase soil organic carbon content and fertility, while traditional land use management measures should be replaced with more innovative and sustainable ones.

Finally restoring actions need to be explored to reduce the impact on GHG emissions of damaged and mismanaged lands, to increase their future competitiveness and to contribute to the EU's transition to a low carbon economy.

## Constraints

Advisory organisations and centres activity can be held back by the lack of funds and human resources which bring to time constraints too and consequently to delays and/or failures in meeting clients' requests.

## Benefits

The multi-representative character of the responsibilities held by the advisory centres involved in the project, which spaces from the promotion and defence of farmers, foresters and landowners interests, to the assurance of communication and correct implementation of EU rural policies, to the collection of data on behalf of the State, as well as communication and training initiatives, potentially brings to the centres several different benefits related to the project, that basically summarize the ones expected for other stakeholders, in particular research centres and business representatives but also governmental institutions and associations.

The project will enhance the cooperation between the different sectors, in particular among researchers and farmers, foresters and landowners, enhancing the knowledge of the latter on climate-friendly resource management and efficient production methods. The cooperation opportunities embedded in the project will also establish the bases for

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<sup>7</sup> See above

a common understanding of its objectives and will allow to identify those measures that can advantage all targets in a sustainable way.

The above mentioned upsides will give the opportunity to monitor socio-economic effects along with GHG emissions reduction goals.

A further benefit concerns land use conversion measures, which will bring to alternative / supplementary income opportunities guaranteeing not only the sustainability, but also the competitiveness of the rural areas involved. In addition the implementation of innovative technologies and the diversification of management and production systems is likely to reduce the impact of natural disasters and catastrophic events.

Finally the keen attention on the development of transferability and replicability strategies will bring to the creation of tools and models to implement CCM measures outside of the sites involved in the project.

## 2.2.5 Local administrations

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
MUNICIPALITIES	Latvia	Pašvaldības	<a href="http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/darbibas_veidi/pasv/">http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/darbibas_veidi/pasv/</a>
PLANNING REGION ADMINISTRATIONS OF LATVIA	Latvia	Latvijas plānošanas reģioni	<a href="http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/darbibas_veidi/reg_att/pl_reg/?doc=13637">http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/darbibas_veidi/reg_att/pl_reg/?doc=13637</a>
THE LATVIAN ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS (LALRG)	Latvia	Latvijas Pašvaldību savienība	<a href="https://www.lps.lv/en">https://www.lps.lv/en</a>

### Priorities

Local administrations, in collaboration with national institutions, have among their priorities the promotion of long-term and medium-term development planning documents (spatial plan and development program) within their administrative boundaries, as well as their implementation management and monitoring, by setting guidelines and conditions for land-use.

Furthermore local administrations are responsible for fostering and supporting rural business activities at regional and municipal level, ensuring at the same time that they are in line with regional and national environmental protection and sustainability regulations and guidelines.

In addition they have an important role in enhancing the level of cooperation among local realities, social partners and public institutions within LULUCF activities.

Finally local authorities have the duty to inform and aware the public opinion and the civil society on the importance of sustainable development and nature conservation, as well as on GHG emissions effects and on the actions to be taken and planned to tackle climate challenges.

## Problems

A main problem related to the project, is the usual uneven availability of resources and therefore of services among municipalities, and the different degree of decision power caused by their considerable differences in size.

Another problem related to the previous one is the lack of homogeneity in resources, training opportunities and access to national and European economic funds throughout the country.

Finally, as already mentioned in the analysis of other stakeholders, until present, LULUCF sector has been mainly limited to the regulation, monitoring, and reporting of land-use management, often imposing constraints to fulfil environmental objectives, without engaging in climate-smart management solutions.

## Needs

Local administrations need to represent local entrepreneurs' interests and concerns, ensuring that national policies and regulations will not threaten or negatively affect the rural sector actors and their economic activities.

Farmers, foresters and landowners need to be addressed collectively in order to find common solutions and share concerns along with best practices. Furthermore it's necessary to balance local and national interests in order to promote the implementation of new CCM measures with no detriment for the local economies.

Training initiatives addressed to entrepreneurs need to be implemented to give equal sustainable and innovative development opportunities throughout the country.

In addition communications measures need to be implemented in order to inform farmers, foresters and landowners about new projects and funding opportunities. In order to avoid confusion and impede a correct access to information, project referents and contact persons should be clearly identified.

Finally climate change awareness actions are needed to involve local communities and inform them about the opportunity given by national and European funds and the concrete opportunities and results obtained at local level.

## Constraints

Potential territorial reforms as for example the one that is currently under implementation in Latvia (which should be completed in 2021) might cause several tensions at local and regional level. The land use change measures implemented by the project might be perceived as a further threat to local interests and development opportunities. In the Latvian case the reforms foresees a reduction of local municipalities from the actual 119 to 39. The new division is expected to improve services and local inhabitants' conditions as well as administrative management. However this reform will significantly change the previous local governmental balances and might be seen as a threat to local interests and representativity.

An additional constraint is represented by the potential failure in sufficiently include farmers, foresters and landowners in the decision making process, due to potential ongoing asset change within the territorial realities involved.

## Benefits

The project will provide funding for the implementation of CCM measures in demo sites in the countries involved. Moreover the development of transferability and replicability strategies will bring to the creation of tools and models to implement CCM measures also outside of the sites initially involved.

Further actions will be proposed and could be incorporated in the Rural Development Programme so to provide co-funding for the implementation of CCM measures and to encourage local initiatives for the reduction of GHG emissions.

The cooperation opportunities embedded in the project will also establish the bases for a common understanding of its objectives and will also allow to identify those measures that can advantage all targets in a sustainable way. This will give the opportunity to monitor socio-economic effects along with GHG emissions reduction goals.

Moreover the collaborative approach of the project will foster the collaboration among farmers, foresters and landowners but also between local and national institutions and organisations.

### 2.2.6 EU authorities and other international organisations

Name	Website
COMMISSION’S DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DG AGRI)	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en">https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/index_en</a>
COMMISSION’S DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR CLIMATE ACTION (DG CLIMA)	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index_en">https://ec.europa.eu/clima/index_en</a>

## Priorities

The projects falls under the LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Change 2014-2020, in particular under the sub-programme “Climate Action” which supports projects in the “development of innovative ways to respond to the challenges of climate change in Europe”<sup>8</sup>.

The LIFE programme focuses on three priority area: climate change mitigation which focuses on actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; climate change adaptation which focuses on increasing resilience to climate change; climate change governance and information which focuses on increasing awareness, communication, cooperation and dissemination on climate change mitigation. The main priorities of the programme are “to contribute to the shift towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy; to improve the development, implementation and enforcement of EU climate change policy and legislation; to support better environmental and climate change governance at all levels; to support the implementation of the 7th Environment Action Programme”<sup>9</sup>.

## Problems

One of the main problems within the context of the project is the lack of data and information and the weak communication channels between Member States and

<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/life\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/life_en)

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/life\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/budget/life_en)

between them and the European Commissions, which threaten the fulfilment of EU post 2030 climate targets.

## Needs

More exchange opportunities between the European Commission and Member States and among the latter as well should be planned and a better information flow should be managed to reach all the interested targets.

## Benefits

Through the planned disseminating actions EU competent authorities will be able to increment their set of data and to increase the level of awareness on climate change policies and research findings throughout Europe.

EU authorities will also have a chance to be directly involved in the project by visiting the involved sites and/or participating to the project conferences and stakeholders meetings.

## 2.3 Third parties

### 2.3.1 Business representatives

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
LATVIAN NATIONAL PEAT ASSOCIATION	Latvia	Latvijas Kūdras asociācija	<a href="http://www.latvijaskudra.lv/en/">http://www.latvijaskudra.lv/en/</a>
FARMER'S PARLIAMENT	Latvia	Zemnieku saeima	<a href="http://zemniekusaeima.lv/">http://zemniekusaeima.lv/</a>
LATVIAN AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION COOPERATION COUNCIL (LAOCC)	Latvia	Lauksaimniecības organizāciju sadarbības padome (LOSP)	<a href="http://www.losp.lv/about-laocc">http://www.losp.lv/about-laocc</a>
LATVIAN FOREST OWNERS' ASSOCIATION	Latvia	Latvijas Meža īpašnieku biedrība	<a href="http://www.mezaipasnieki.lv/en/">http://www.mezaipasnieki.lv/en/</a>
THE CENTRAL UNION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND FOREST OWNERS	Finland	Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto MTK	<a href="https://www.mtk.fi/fi/web/en">https://www.mtk.fi/fi/web/en</a>
VALIO	Finland	Valio	<a href="https://www.valio.fi/">https://www.valio.fi/</a>
FINNISH FOREST INDUSTRIES FEDERATION	Finland	Metsäteollisuus ry	<a href="https://www.forestindustries.fi/about-us/">https://www.forestindustries.fi/about-us/</a>
TORNATOR	Finland	Tornator	<a href="https://www.tornator.fi/en/front+page/">https://www.tornator.fi/en/front+page/</a>
UPM	Finland	UPM	<a href="https://www.upm.com/">https://www.upm.com/</a>
METSÄ GROUP	Finland	Metsä Group	<a href="https://www.metsagroup.com/en/Pages/default.aspx#">https://www.metsagroup.com/en/Pages/default.aspx#</a>
STORAENSO	Finland	StoraEnso	<a href="https://www.storaenso.com/">https://www.storaenso.com/</a>
GERMAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION	Germany	Deutscher Bauernverband	<a href="https://www.bauernverband.de/der-verband">https://www.bauernverband.de/der-verband</a>
FOREST OWNERS	Lithuania	(Lietuvos miško ir žemės savininkų asociacija)	<a href="https://forest.lt/go.php/eng/">https://forest.lt/go.php/eng/</a>

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
ASSOCIATION OF LITHUANIA (FOAL)		LMSA)	<a href="http://About-us/569/42/603">About-us/569/42/603</a>
ESTONIAN CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE	Estonia	Eesti Põllumajandus-Kaubanduskoda	<a href="http://epkk.ee/about-us/">http://epkk.ee/about-us/</a>

## Priorities

The business representatives involved in the project have to represent the involved business sectors in all their forms (farms, limited liability companies, joint stock companies, unions, cooperative societies). They work together with institutions to find transversal, stable, long term solutions able to talk to a wider audience, instead of temporary, personalized ones.

Agriculture, forestry and peat management have a two-way relationship toward climate change. On one hand in fact climate change put them at risk, while on the other these sectors themselves contributes to GHG emissions.

Therefore a major interest of LULUCF business sectors is to protect, restore and sustainably manage forests, croplands, grasslands, and wetlands by implementing CCM measures, in order to preserve the economic activities that turn around them.

In addition business representatives are interested in stimulating the development of scientific researches relevant for the sectors they represent. Important for economic activities are also knowledge-transfer activities on climate-smart management solutions and innovative technologies, to increase productivity and assure quality, while guaranteeing the sustainable management of natural resources at the same time.

## Problems

“According to projections based on the current levels of animal products consumption, agricultural nonCO<sub>2</sub> emissions are expected to triple their current share and account for a third of total EU emissions in 2050 (Matthews, 2015).”<sup>10</sup>

At the same time CCM measures will have to be implemented in the agricultural, forestry and peatland sectors to cut the emissions deriving from the use of fertilisers, manure, livestock and to capture and store carbon in biomass and soil. Extensive extractions practices will have to be abandoned in favour of sustainable management solutions.

All this actions will have a return on investment moving economic activity to a more advanced level, able to avoid the long term negative consequences of traditional land use such as shortage of food supply, biodiversity loss and increasing managing costs. However producers might perceive them as a burden and/or a threat to their income at first.

<sup>10</sup> <https://ieep.eu/uploads/articles/attachments/64e06bc1-6c2e-4b94-bc93-9150725093ac/Think%202030%20Feeding%20Europe.pdf?v=63710011359>

In addition rural entrepreneurs should be better represented through local organisations to protect their interests and preserve their lands and better supported through dedicated training activities and informative local services.

## Needs

To fulfil their mission and tasks business representatives have to address farmers, foresters and landowners collectively in order to find common solutions and share best practices. Moreover they need to balance public and private interests in order to promote the implementation of new CCM measures with no detriment for their members' economic activities.

Finally business representatives are interested in stimulating the development of scientific researches relevant for the sectors they represent. Therefore knowledge-transfer activities on climate-smart management solutions and innovative technologies needs to be implemented so to increase productivity and assure quality, while guaranteeing the sustainable management of natural resources.

## Constraints

The potential reticence of landowners, farmers, foresters and producers which might not see the direct return on their economic activity at first, should be taken into account.

A further potential risk is to not be able to sufficiently involve farmers, foresters and landowners in the decision making process, through their representatives.

## Benefits

The project will enhance the cooperation between the different stakeholders involved and in particular between landowners, foresters, farmers, policy makers, NGOs and researchers, giving to all actors the opportunity to be involved and take part to public discussions, workshops and all other organized events, to share problems and concerns as well as positive feedbacks. This will give the opportunity to monitor socio-economic effects along with GHG emissions reduction goals.

The land use conversion measures will provide alternative options for using existing properties for different purposes, bringing to the production of new varieties of crops which will bring to alternative / supplementary income opportunities.

The collaborative approach of the project will enhance the participation of farmers and foresters and foster their collaboration.

A further benefit is the increase of the economic and biological value of nutrient-rich organic soils through mitigation actions.

The keen attention on the development of transferability and replicability strategies will bring to the creation of tools and models to implement CCM measures outside of the sites directly involved in the project.

## 2.3.2 Landowners, farmers, foresters

### Priorities

A main priority for rural sector actors related to the project is to sustainably manage their lands in order to preserve their economic activities also by implementing CCM measures.

In addition, to be able to face current and future challenges, rural entrepreneurs have as a priority the enhancement of their professional recognition and knowledge, through specific trainings, to acquire new expertise in the field of land management and climate change related threats and solutions.

Finally it's important for farmers, foresters and landowners to access to national and EU support measures and to engage in networking activity in order to apply effective climate-smart management solutions, to increase their representative power and their expertise.

### Problems

Climate change and losses deriving from traditional land management will have an increasingly negative impact on agriculture and land management related economic activities with a consequent shortage in food supply and increasing managing costs.

At the same time the necessary CCM measures in the long term will bring to considerable changes in land management practices and might therefore be perceived as a potential threat to economic interests at first.

### Needs

Entrepreneurs need to find a space within which claim and ensure the protection of their economic interests to make sure that land use regulations will not threaten their economic activities, by imposing ineffective, rigid solutions unable to answer to specific challenges. At the same time they need to ensure the continuity of their economic activity in the long term and protect it from climate change challenges.

In order to achieve the above mentioned goals entrepreneurs need to reinforce the collaboration among them, have a wider access to information regarding LULUCF activities, environmental sustainability and funding opportunities related to GHG emissions reduction and carbon storage measures. Finally they need to access to training opportunities in order to enhance their expertise and professional qualification to be more competitive in a developing and transforming society.

### Constraints

The lack of decision-making power and in some cases the lack of representability, might prevent entrepreneurs from being fully involved in the project. The lack of access to direct information from the institutions, organisations and businesses involved, might give easily access to fake news and misinformation which might distort the objectives of the project consequently bringing to the loss of entrepreneurs support.

## Benefits

Through the project, entrepreneurs will have opportunity to use existing properties for different purposes bringing to the production of new varieties of crops and consequently to alternative / supplementary income opportunities.

The collaborative approach of the project will enhance the participation of farmers and foresters and foster their collaboration. The project will also actively involve them and ensure their participation in the decision making process through cross-sectoral collaborations actions.

Entrepreneurs will be actively involved in the project in order to evaluate the socio-economic effects together with CCM measures environmental benefits.

Finally the project will ensure the implementation of CCM measures outside of the sites directly involved in the project through transferability and replicability strategies.

### 2.3.3 Non-governmental organisations

Name	State	Name in the original language	Website
FINNISH ASSOCIATION FOR NATURE CONSERVATION	Finland	Suomen luonnonsuojeluliitto	<a href="https://www.sll.fi/en/">https://www.sll.fi/en/</a>
FINNISH PEATLAND SOCIETY	Finland	Suoseura	<a href="http://www.suoseura.fi/esittely/">http://www.suoseura.fi/esittely/</a>
WWF FINLAND	Finland	WWF Finland	<a href="https://wwf.fi/en/">https://wwf.fi/en/</a>
BALTIC SEA ACTION GROUP/CARBON ACTION	Finland	Baltic Sea Action Group/Carbon Action	<a href="https://carbonaction.org/front-page/">https://carbonaction.org/front-page/</a>
GERMANY – NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION UNION (NABU) BIRDLIFE	Germany	Naturschutzbund Deutschland	<a href="https://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/programmes">https://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/programmes</a>

## Priorities

One of the main priorities for non-governmental organisations is to raise awareness on climate change risks and on the evident environmental, social, and economic impacts they are having, and they are increasingly likely to have, in the near future and even more in the long-term. In the context of the project, NGOs’ priority is in addition to highlight the role of climate change mitigation measures in reducing GHG emissions.

In order to achieve the above priorities NGOs need to: facilitate the dialogue between different stakeholders, promote an independent dialogue on emerging and challenging environmental and in particular climate change related issues, promote awareness and solicit actions from the concerning authorities and contribute to the implementation of European projects and policies.

Their mission is also to provide expertise on climate change and climate change related risks and possible solutions and to engage the public sector, businesses and the civil society by organising seminars, trainings and providing materials.

Thanking to their less bureaucratic structure and procedures NGOs can also manage complex tasks quicker and with less constraints than governments in some cases, and can therefore provide a valid, scientific-based but also flexible support to institutions.

## Problems

As already mentioned in the present analysis, agriculture is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions both directly through product activities and indirectly through unsustainable traditional land-use methods and changes in land use. Furthermore the demand for food and agriculture related products is likely to increase<sup>11</sup>.

Moreover although climate change are a major global challenge, in some contexts actions to reduce GHG emissions are not yet perceived as urgent and prior by the society and the number of environmental NGOs and NGOs managers in some cases is insufficient.

Activities are also limited by a lack in recognition of an effective role of NGOs and of their ability to influence policies and by the lack of resources.

Finally lack of awareness on these issues still represent a problem although the society is starting to be more sensitive.

## NEED

NGOs need to strengthen their collaboration with public institutions and businesses to increase their recognition as an effective, reliable partner.

Moreover they need to find ways to increase the involvement of the society in environmental campaigns and initiatives to highlight climate change negative effects on social stability, economic growth, and society well-being.

## Constraints

The potential reticence of landowners, farmers and foresters, producers and of the organisations and political parties that represent them, which might not see the direct return on their economic activity at first, represent a constraint to NGOs activities that needs to find a way to mediate among different interests.

## Benefits

As already mentioned, a transversal benefit of the project is to enhance the cooperation between the different stakeholders involved and in particular between landowners, foresters, farmers, policy makers, NGOs and researchers, giving actors the opportunity to be involved and take part to public discussions, workshops and all other organized events, to share problems and concerns as well as positive feedbacks. This will give the opportunity to monitor socio-economic effects along with GHG emissions reduction goals.

Moreover the collaborative approach of the project will enhance the participation of third parties and in particular of environmental NGOs, local organisations and entrepreneurs and it's expected to foster their reciprocal recognition and collaboration.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture-sourcebook/concept/module-a2-adaptation-mitigation/a2-overview/en/>

Finally CCM measures implementation may impact other environmental goals promoted and pursued by NGOs.

## 2.3.4 Students, local inhabitants

### Priorities

Public initiatives to promote awareness on climate change consequences and on the actions that should be taken to arrest them, are multiplying across Europe. The public opinion is asking for concrete solutions and answers as well as for a greater involvement in environmental policies discussions. The civil society is also showing its willingness to be more informed about current climate change policies and related current and/or future actions that are under discussions, including local, national and European initiatives and projects. The main priorities for the civil society related to the project is therefore to claim their environmental rights and above all the one to a safe, clean and healthy environment<sup>12</sup>. A further priority is to enhance rural areas future employment and development opportunities through green economy policies.

### Problems

Climate change have multiple negative effects on the quality of people life having an impact on physical, mental and social well-being<sup>13</sup>. They also drastically reduce biodiversity making rural areas more and more unattractive and forcing inhabitants to move to cities to find new employment opportunities.

### Needs

In order to better understand the implemented measures local inhabitants and in particular students should be more actively involved in the different actions taken within the field of climate change mitigation and sustainable development.

Moreover students and local inhabitants should be able to clearly identify the restoration and protection actions undertaken, and be more informed about EU projects objectives and results implemented or to be implemented in European countries.

### Constraints

CCM measures might be misunderstood and seen as environmentally invasive if not accurately promoted and explained. The use of European funds for issues that are not always perceived as primary, might also cause tensions within the society.

### Benefits

The project communication plan will increase public awareness on climate change and environmental issues as well as on EU projects, objectives and funding opportunities.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/advancing-environmental-rights/what>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer/synthesis/synthesis/chapter5.xhtml>

The dimension and importance of the project together with the communication activities planned will significantly increase public awareness on climate change and sensitize the young generations on the importance and on the opportunities of environmental and environmental related studies.

The implementation of CCM measures and land use conversion initiatives are expected to bring new opportunities for local inhabitants and to create new employment opportunities in particular for young generations.

### 3. TYPE OF PARTICIPATION

The type of participation and level of involvement of stakeholder groups has been divided according to the following four main levels (for a more detailed description see the Stakeholders analysis structure):

**Inform:** it’s the lowest level of participation. Stakeholders falling under this profile are usually only informed about the project development by other stakeholders who have more control.

**Consult:** stakeholders falling under this profile needs to be involved in all information initiatives, but are also consulted by other stakeholders on specific issues due to their technical/scientific competences.

**Partnership:** stakeholders falling under this profile have equal powers of decision-making on one or more project actions, with one or more of the other stakeholders involved.

**Control:** it’s the highest level of participation. Stakeholders falling under this profile are in control of all decision-making and have the responsibility to cooperate, consult and inform other stakeholders as well as the society as a whole.

TYPE OF PARTICIPATION				
Target groups of the communication activities	Inform	Consult	Partnership	Control
Governmental institutions/organisations				
State owned enterprises				
Competent EC authorities / other international organisations				
Research/educational/advisory organisations				
Local administrations				
Business representatives				
Non-governmental organisations				
Landowners, farmers, foresters				
Students/local inhabitants				

## 4. STAKEHOLDER LIST

Stakeholders S. Groups	Country	Govern Instit. / org.	State owned enterp.	Research org.	HEIs	Advisory org.	Local instit.	EC authorities	Business repres	NGO
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (MEPRD)	Latvia									
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE	Latvia									
NATURE CONSERVATION AGENCY OF LATVIA	Latvia									
LATVIAN ENVIRONMENT, GEOLOGY AND METEOROLOGY CENTRE	Latvia									
RURAL SUPPORT SERVICE	Latvia									
STATE PLANT PROTECTION SERVICE	Latvia									
STATE FOREST SERVICE (SFS)	Latvia									
JSC “LATVIA STATE FORESTS”, STATE FORESTRY SERVICE	Latvia									
FOREST RESEARCH STATION	Latvia									
UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA	Latvia									
UNIVERSITY OF DAUGAVPILS	Latvia									
LATVIAN RURAL ADVISORY AND TRAINING CENTRE	Latvia									
MUNICIPALITIES	Latvia									
THE LATVIAN ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS (LALRG)	Latvia									
PLANNING REGION ADMINISTRATIONS OF LATVIA	Latvia									
LATVIAN NATIONAL PEAT ASSOCIATION	Latvia									
LATVIAN AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION COOPERATION COUNCIL (LAOCC)	Latvia									

Stakeholders S. Groups	Country	Govern Instit. / org.	State owned enterp.	Research org.	HEIs	Advisory org.	Local instit.	EC authorities	Business repres	NGO
LATVIAN FOREST OWNERS’ ASSOCIATION	Latvia									
FARMER’S PARLIAMENT	Latvia									
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	Estonia									
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA MINISTRY OF RURAL AFFAIRS	Estonia									
REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD	Estonia									
ESTONIAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	Estonia									
ESTONIA STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT CENTRE	Estonia									
ESTONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTRE	Estonia									
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER	Estonia									
ESTONIAN UNIVERSITY OF LIFE SCIENCES	Estonia									
ESTONIAN CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE	Estonia									
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	Lithuania									
STATE FOREST ENTERPRISE	Lithuania									
FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)	Lithuania									
FOREST OWNERS ASSOCIATION OF LITHUANIA (FOAL)	Lithuania									
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY OF FINLAND	Finland									
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF FINLAND	Finland									
FINNISH ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE	Finland									
METSAHALLITUS	Finland									
TAPIO	Finland									
FINNISH FOREST CENTER	Finland									

Stakeholders S. Groups	Country	Govern Instit. / org.	State owned enterp.	Research org.	HEIs	Advisory org.	Local instit.	EC authorities	Business repres	NGO
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI	Finland									
UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND	Finland									
PROAGRIA	Finland									
THE CENTRAL UNION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS AND FOREST OWNERS	Finland									
FINNISH FOREST INDUSTRIES FEDERATION	Finland									
VALIO	Finland									
TORNATOR	Finland									
UPM	Finland									
METSÄ GROUP	Finland									
STORAENSO	Finland									
FINNISH ASSOCIATION FOR NATURE CONSERVATION	Finland									
FINNISH PEATLAND SOCIETY	Finland									
WWF FINLAND	Finland									
BALTIC SEA ACTION GROUP/CARBON ACTION	Finland									
FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, NATURE CONSERVATION AND NUCLEAR SAFETY	Germany									
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE	Germany									
GERMAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	Germany									
FEDERAL AGENCY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION	Germany									
FEDERAL REASEARCH INSTITUTE FOR RURAL AREAS, FOREST AND FISHERIES	Germany									
GREIFSWALD UNIVERITY	Germany									

Stakeholders S. Groups	Country	Govern Instit. / org.	State owned enterp.	Research org.	HEIs	Advisory org.	Local instit.	EC authorities	Business repres	NGO
ROSTOCK UNIVERSITY	Germany									
GERMAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION	Germany									
GERMANY – NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION UNION (NABU) BIRDLIFE	Germany									
COMMISSION’S DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DG AGRI)	EU									
COMMISSION’S DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR CLIMATE ACTION (DG CLIMA)	EU									



  
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