



SUPERB

Upscaling Forest Restoration

Deliverable 4.1

Data Collection Protocol for Sustainable Finance

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Executive Summary

This deliverable constitutes a written protocol outlining how the data collections in WP4 will proceed along the different paths relevant for the different agents targeted.

We delimit the scope of data collection: we are concerned with forest nature restoration whenever biodiversity is in focus, even if not being the sole focus, and where there is a significant involvement of private agent financing in play. We describe how we target four types of agents: forest landowners/managers, mediators, funders, and regulators. We address and target agent types differently: from each we will derive information about own activities, as well as, where relevant, triangulating about those of other types of agents. The latter will in particular be pertinent for regulatory impacts on the actions and motivations of other agents. We briefly outline the types of issues and information we pursue from these types of agents. The deliverable also contains the first draft guiding semi-structured interviews and the questionnaires targeting different agent groups. These will be further developed and refined as part of the actual data collection process in Task 4.2.

Access to these agents is crucial. We outline how we will pursue access, in ways customized to agent types. Already as part of the work on this deliverable, we have started reaching out to partners for information to that end. We include the letters to partners as well as listing other collaborators on the issue of access to forest landowners. We also discuss how different types of access and agents will open up options for data collection. This spans both the use of primary data from interviews and surveys, as well as of existing databases, secondary data and other online or physical sources. We also outline how we plan to collaborate across the WPs of SUPERB on access to stakeholders, data collection, analyses and the application of our insights to upscaling instruments (“the Marketplace”). We describe selectively planned collaboration with the sister projects and various experts in our network.

Based on existing literature and our experience as researchers, we have also started compiling a list of possible mechanisms and instruments for sustainable finance, to likely enter our list of activities of forest and nature restoration, and to be confirmed during data collection. Finally, we have developed our first draft guidelines for semi-structured interviews of e.g., mediating agents, and the first non-exclusive set of questions, which we hope to pose to forest owners using survey formats that will be adapted to our access forms.

Keywords

Forest restoration, ecosystem services, sustainable finance, Green Deal, upscaling.



1. Context

Under Task 4.1, the WP4 team have agreed to develop a detailed protocol (i.e., this document) for how to approach the collection of data and information on the ways current and emerging innovative sustainable finance activities supporting European forest restoration take place. The protocol has been complemented by a short literature review categorising existing and emerging sustainable finance mechanisms, while also mapping diversity within the four focal categories of economic agents under WP4.

The economic agents are in this context the different actors operating in the market for financing and implementation of forest restoration and biodiversity conservation. The four different categories of agents, as conceptualised within WP4, are:

1. *landowners/ managers* (i.e., the people making decisions about land use, incl. restoration);
2. *mediating agents* (i.e., the people/companies or organisations working to raise funding for land-use change that includes restoration, and connecting landowners to financing agents);
3. *financing agents* (people, companies or organizations funding restoration or making/influencing decisions funding (e.g. restorations agents); and
4. *regulatory authorities* (i.e., the people or organisations setting the rules that govern the financing of restoration projects).

Once the protocol has been completed, the implementation itself will involve a number of processes to refine the data collection instruments themselves i.e., questionnaires and interview guides. These processes include using relevant stakeholders in focus groups, evolving dialogue processes and other forms of dialogue about the specific instruments and issues.

2. Protocol

2.1 Scope

Included within our scope are all mechanisms that, de facto or potentially, finance afforestation, reforestation, and forest restoration – with forest nature restoration and biodiversity conservation among the main objectives (including, for example, mechanisms such as biodiversity offsetting, nature-based solutions, and payments for ecosystem services). We include sustainability certification within our scope. We do not include mechanisms the sole environmental focus of which is greenhouse gas sequestration, where there is no forest nature restoration, biodiversity impacts or (sub-) objectives present. This is on purpose a rather explorative approach as the main aim is to explore different types of drivers rather than to have a representative set of mechanisms.

Our focus within WP4 is on funding for forest restoration where governmental funding is not the sole source of finance', i.e. we are exploring sustainable finance mechanisms that do not rely (entirely) upon the flow of public money. Similarly, we exclude financing based on purely charitable donations and individual philanthropy that are not targeting specific actions on the ground, but reflect just organisational or political support as these cannot be assumed to be sustainable sources of finance; these include *inter alia* donations to NGOs or foundations dedicated to nature management. Geographically, our scope includes all countries within the



continent of Europe (not limited to the EU). However, emerging financing mechanisms outside Europe will also be considered.

As a result of implementing this data protocol, the WP4 team will develop a long list of mechanisms that could be used to finance forest restoration in Europe, excluding direct government investment in protected areas (PA)/ forest management. Examples are given in Section 3 and in the Figure below (from COWI, 2021).

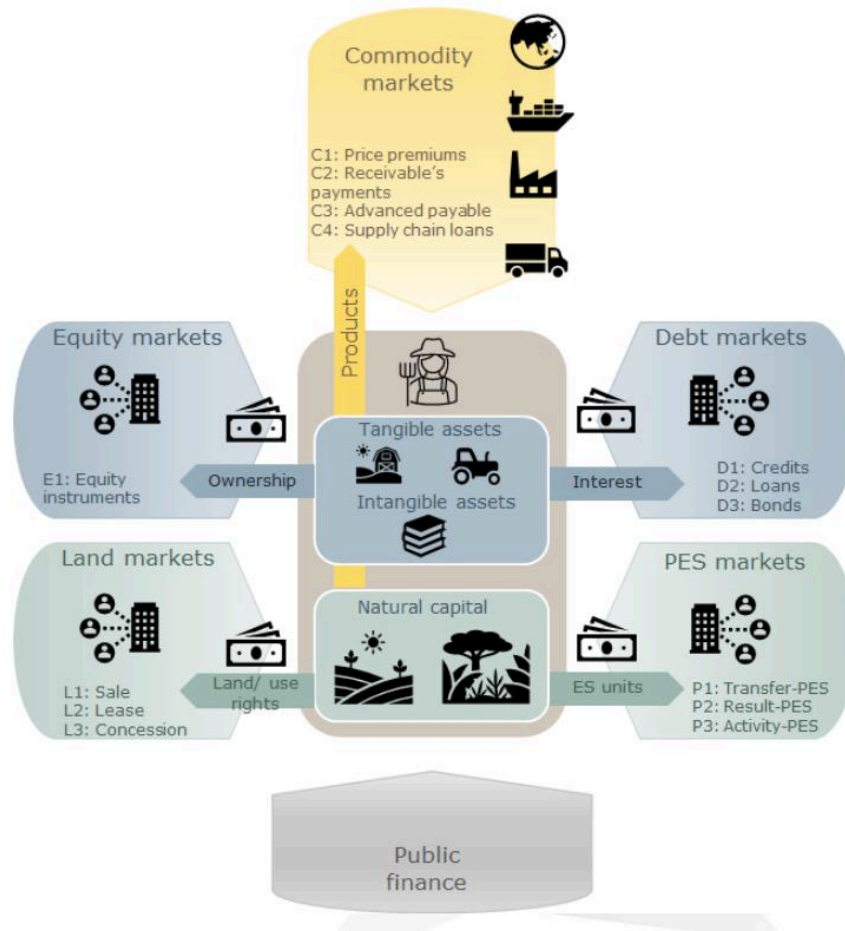


Figure 1. Examples of financing mechanisms. COWI (2021)

2.2 Information to be collected

We will collect at least the following information from the different types of agents:

Landowners. Land opportunity costs; motivations for (*de facto* or potentially) engaging in restoration; self-implemented actions and perceptions of access and obstacles towards financing; blend of financing mechanisms chosen; sources of finance; rationale for choosing/ targeting specific finance mechanisms (preferences); needs for mediating agents; preferred levels of monitoring; contract-specific preferences; perceived risks and regulations.

Mediating agents. Details of business models; terms of contracting with landowners and financing agents; perceptions of risks and mitigation; accessibility and reliability of different finance mechanisms; projected sustainability of different finance mechanisms.



Financing agents. Their motivations and types of restoration targeted (incl. location); terms of financing (e.g., monitoring, ownership, impact evaluation); binding regulations faced; use of mediating agents; risks and strategies for mitigation.

Regulating agents. Role played in private sector finance; opportunities for blending public and private finance; preferences between finance mechanisms for forest restoration; long-term strategy for financing restoration.

As part of engagement with the agents above, we will also try to access contracts on existing funding agreements for restoration (incl. written contracts and other relevant documentation). This information is to be requested from all agents, in whatever acceptable format.

2.3 Agent interviews

2.3.1 Exclusion criteria

At this early stage of the project, we have still relatively few exclusion criteria (except from these mentioned above), as the starting point is to capture as many potentially relevant agents as possible. Agents linked in some way to any financial mechanisms for forest restoration that fall within the scope outlined above – as well as those expressing an interest in participating in those mechanisms *in the future* – will in this first stage be included.

Note that engagement with agents in the project will be somewhat limited by the working languages of the WP4 team (English, Danish, German), though we will of course engage with our SUPERB partners to overcome language difficulties, where possible.

2.3.2 Listing and accessing agents

Our starting point for identifying agents for inclusion in data collection, and gaining access to them, will depend upon the category of agent in question. It is assumed that there will be no centralised point for each jurisdiction which captures all relevant agents and therefore no association or authority we can rely on to contact forest owners in Europe; therefore, we will in all cases rely strongly on extant databases and snowball sampling (requesting information on additional individuals/organisations from all agents we engage with).

Extant databases identified during the literature review will be interrogated to identify and source information on different financial mechanisms, and any specific agents associated with these. In general, this will be done manually. One exception is the planned application of the beta [Benchmark for Nature](#) (BfN) tool, which is used on a unique database containing many months' worth of information sourced and compiled from the [GDELT](#) project. The GDELT project monitors global media sources (broadcast, print, and internet) from every country and in over 100 languages, making these available daily. The BfN project is building up a searchable database of these media sources, using a ML algorithm which will eventually extend to other sources too (e.g. academic literature). The BfN tool can be set to focus on 'forests' (and synonyms) as biodiversity components, and 'financial mechanisms' (and synonyms) as anthropogenic responses to biodiversity loss, and automatically sift global media sources for relevant articles – in turn, this will likely enable the WP4 team to expand the known list of financial mechanisms and agents associated with these.

As soon as the WP4 team has begun to contact specific agents, we will implement snowball sampling to capture additional agents -- both via membership organisations and via individuals and their networks. Suggested routes are as follows.



Accessing landowners through:

- Landowner associations;
- National Forest Inventory (NFI) data points, coupled with other earth observations matched to cadastres;
- RESTOR data coupled with other earth observations matched to cadastres;
- Mediators and funding agents may provide access information (and perhaps data) on forest owners already in the market;
- Identification of landowners through web-searches for stories about concrete cases;
- Snowball sampling, to identify other individuals in the personal networks of landowners we have already engaged with.

Letters for involving both SUPERB and external partners have been drafted and enclosed in Appendix 5.5 and 5.6.

Accessing mediating agents

- Access through forest extension services;
- Snowballing through our networks of researchers, forest owner organizations and practitioners;
- Identification of mediating agents through web-searches for stories about concrete cases;
- Interrogation of the RESTOR database, and any similar databases.

Accessing financing agents

- Search via 'portal' organizations (e.g., UN Global Compact) utilizing data these organizations might have on funding agents;
- Search via organisations that might work with large numbers of financing agents (e.g. NGOs like the WWF that may have 'business club members');
- Snowballing through our networks into researchers, forest owner organizations and practitioners, identifying also through competitors;
- Identification of financing agents through web-searches for stories about concrete cases;
- Interrogation of the RESTOR database, and any similar databases.

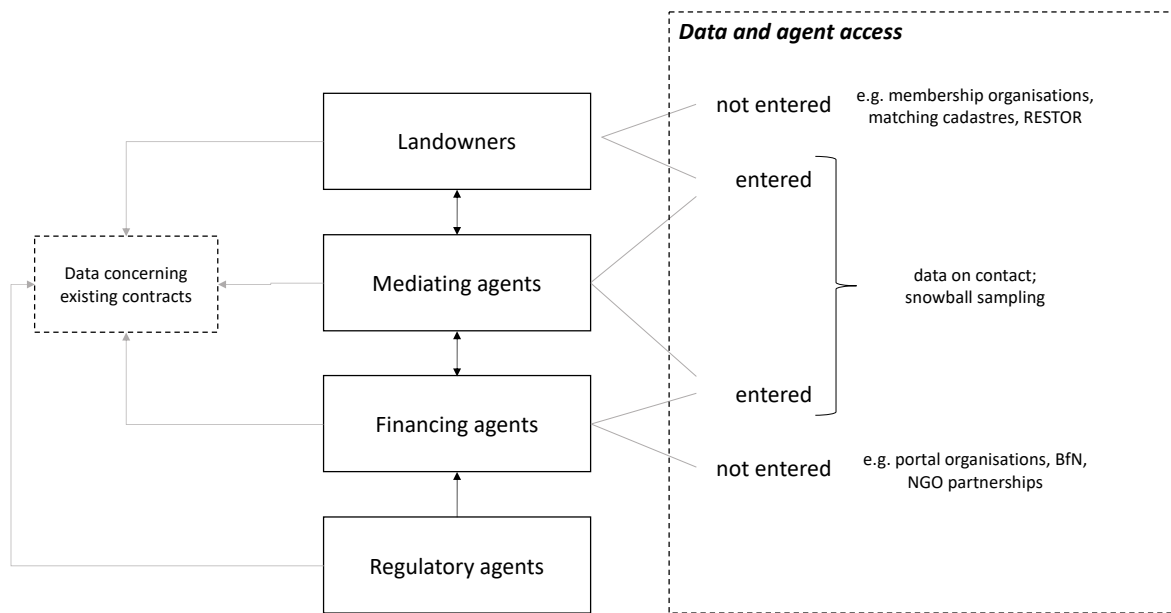


Figure 2.1: conceptual framework for access to different agents targeted by WP4

2.3.3 Engagement and incentives

Agents will be contacted and requested to participate in sharing information with SUPERB, with standardised information presented on the goals and objectives of SUPERB in general, and WP4 in particular. Depending on the type of agent the challenges related to approaching them will differ and therefore a need for a diversified approach to engaging with them will be considered. Written consent to participate will be obtained, with information collected to be retained for analysis ‘in the public interest’. Full ethics and data management plans are detailed separately to this protocol document in the form of existing ethics and data management plans of SUPERB.

Content and themes for data collection are inspired and guided by the existing literature on primarily landowner surveys, e.g., Boon et al (2004), Broch & Vedel (2014), Vedel et al (2015), Nichiforel et al (2018). Information will be collected in the form of semi-structured interviews, with the outline structure created based on ‘information to be collected’ (see above). Since this is a scoping stage for the WP, respondents will be actively encouraged to explore topics that are pertinent, but outside of those listed above. Interviews will be recorded (with permission) and transcribed. A first draft of the semi-structured interview guide for the different types of agents are included as appendixes 5.1-5.3.

Where access to sufficient amounts of agents can be secured, we may apply questionnaires to gather quantitative information along the same lines as above, but in higher numbers. Such questionnaires will be developed based on knowledge obtained on the semi structured interviews mentioned above and will be tested using focus group interviews. The first draft of such questionnaire for landowners is attached as appendix 5.4. If suitable, these quantitative data collections might also include preference elicitation instruments.



Financial incentives for participation will not be offered to those participating. Incentives will take the form of timely access to project outputs, which will be disseminated (retaining full respondent anonymity) to all respondents who opt-in to receive them.

2.3.4 Data collection, analysis, and outputs

Interview transcripts will be compiled into a central, secure WP4 repository, adhering to current GDPR legislation and regulations related to transfer of data between EU and non-EU countries. An inductive thematic analysis will be performed (using NVivo or similar), extracting key topics relevant to the implementation of innovative sustainable finance activities supporting European forest restoration. Quantitative data will be analysed using relevant methods depending on the type of instruments used and the detailed design e.g., if preference elicitation formats are used.



2.4 Consultation with other parties

2.4.1 Different SUPERB Work Packages

There are opportunities to work with other work packages under SUPERB to identify finance mechanisms and the agents associated with them, such as WP2, WP3 and WP7.

Throughout the project WP2 will organize the so-called finance & landowners pathfinder, which includes several ‘fireplace explorations’ (targeted meetings with high-level financing agents), as well as a set of snowball launchers (a series of online events and interventions at 3rd party events), and finally a pathfinder conclave (a bigger meeting bringing together the extend of relevant agents engaged to date). The foundation for these will entail a mapping of actors of relevance to financing restoration activities covering the agents as outlined above.

WP3 will synthesize information about current ecosystem restoration across Europe, collecting information for individual restoration projects on the ecological, social, economic and political aspects of implementation. This offers an excellent opportunity to gather information on existing financial mechanisms supporting forest restoration, and the agents involved with them. The WP4 team will request WP3 to collect information on the relevant funding mechanism/s for each project they include, as well as which agents are involved (landowners, mediating agents, financial agents).

WP7 is the work package governing the implementation of the restoration demonstration sites themselves. During the SUPERB kick-off, the WP4 team considered whether any of the sites might be in receipt of funding from novel financial mechanisms (as opposed to public funding and/or charitable donations, which fall out of our scope). Those that might will be approached by the WP4 team to request information on the financial mechanisms and agents involved. Of particular interest are e.g., the sites in:

- Sweden (Vindelaven Biosphere reserve);
- Serbia/Croatia (border river floodplain);
- Scotland (Queen Elizabeth Forest Park);
- Romania (Fagaras mountains); and,
- Spain (Castilla y Leon).

The work of WP4 feeds directly into the WP8 targeting the Gateway, the Market Place that researchers from WP4 will help co-design to reflect the lessons learned in each WP and the booster communities.

2.4.2. EU Green Deal flagships

SUPERB is one of four flagship restoration projects funded through the EU Green Deal, the other three being: [MERLIN](#) (freshwater systems), [waterLANDS](#) (wetlands), and [REST-COAST](#) (coastal systems). Representatives of these projects were present at the SUPERB kick-off meeting, and it is clear that at least some will also have a component focused on sustainable and innovative restoration finance mechanisms. Also the EU funded project [RESONATE](#) is relevant for collaboration.

Consequently, the WP4 team will establish contact with the relevant individuals in each consortium, and seek to pool information on finance mechanisms identified by each project – as well as the associated mediating and financial agents. We will look beyond areas of overlap to explore whether any of the additional mechanisms/agents not previously identified by



SUPERB might support forest restoration as well as the habitat types relevant to the three other projects. These will then be explored as per the protocol above.

2.4.3 Academic groups

There are numerous academic research groups exploring conservation finance at institutions around the world. Examples include the Oxford Sustainable Finance Group (University of Oxford, led by Dr. B Caldecott) and Centre for Policy Futures (University of Queensland, e.g. Dr. M Evans, Dr. N Cadenhead), but there are many more. In order to validate our list of finance mechanisms, and also further expand our set of contactable agents, we will reach out to these groups to collaborate (some will also be contacted as part of stakeholder engagement under Task 4.3).

Academic groups will be identified via the literature review completed under Task 4.1: co-authors on papers captured during the literature review will be listed, and a manual search performed for current research group affiliations. Individuals representing each of the research groups identified will be contacted (one per group) to explore collaborative opportunities.

Other

Other groups could be major cross-sector initiatives with multiple private sector members e.g. Taskforce for Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), EU Business@Biodiversity platform.

3. Examples of relevant mechanisms and agents

3.1 Financial mechanisms

Examples of financial mechanisms to incorporate might include:

- biodiversity offsets, as part of an impact mitigation hierarchy;
- products with voluntary market-based certificates (i.e., with recognised certifications, such as MSC/FSC/RSPO);
- Reverse auctioning where funding agents as landowners and other to offer land for specific restoration actions against a specific or requested payment;
- carbon mechanisms with biodiversity components e.g., Nature-based Solutions (NbS); projects meeting Verra Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) standards;
- environmental impact bonds, incl. resilience bonds (e.g., Blue Forest Conservation's Forest Resilience Bond) and conservation bonds (e.g., the World Bank's Wildlife Conservation Bond, "Rhino Bond");
- sustainability-linked loans;
- thematic private equity funds (ESG and impact investment funds);
- seed finance / venture capital for environmental enterprises
- blended finance through development finance institutions (DFIs) to catalyze commercial finance (incl. concessional capital, first-loss guarantees, pooled funds, and technical assistance facilities);
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments (e.g., companies donating to environmental specific or general conservation activities)
- investment risk management e.g., through the Natural Capital Protocol, or



- TNFD;
- direct Payment for Ecosystem Service fees;
 - natural infrastructure investments to ensure ongoing Ecosystem Service provision; and,
 - sustainable supply chain management, when coupled with e.g. chain compliance and responsibility measures.
 - Web3 related investments, like blockchain based investment portfolios, start-ups might also be interesting to include here.

The list will be supplemented and expanded through the scoping stage performed in Task 4.2.

3.2 Agents

Examples of agents across the categories might include the following:

Landowners: private individuals (from those with smallholdings up to industrial scale farms); limited liability partnerships set up to own land; long-term tenant farmers with financial decision-making power; etc.

Mediating agents: Environmental/sustainable finance consultancies, NGOs, foundations, conservation trust funds, DFIs/CDFIs/MFIs (e.g. Finance Earth; the Environment Bank (UK); WWF and subsidiaries (e.g. Landscape Finance Lab), TBC, Landlife, (WWF subsidiary), REDD+, conservation trust funds.)

Funding agents: Real economy companies, associations, institutional investors, HNWIs, Social investors/banks (e.g. UN Global Compact; SBTN; UK Nature Positive Pledge, the Danish Nature Fund, Aage V Jensens Fonde.

Regulatory agents: government departments (e.g., Defra, UK); other statutory bodies (e.g. Natural England, UK; JNCC, UK; national State-forest organisations or regulatory agencies).



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5. Appendices

The present appendices section consists of three different parts.

1. We present (in appendices A, B and C) interview templates that are intended for use by the interviewer to secure progress in the interview and sufficient coverage of the different topics as well as key ethics and RCR compliance issues. This includes the interviewee's consent for the interviewer to record the interview. We will strive to use recording, as this greatly increases accurate use of the interview. This is particularly true, if there is only one interviewer present. The interviewer should use judgement and allow deviations from the template questions to pursue more detailed information or information that may be of interest and not foreseen in this general structure. The interviewer should obtain consent to return to the interviewee for clarifying follow-up questions or obtaining materials.
2. We include in appendix D a first draft of a self-administered questionnaire for obtaining quantitative data on landowners' restoration and funding activities and experience.
3. We show (in appendices E and F) two draft letters for collecting sources for contact databases of landowners in Europe for distributing the aforementioned questionnaire.

5.1 Appendix A. First draft of semi-structured interview template for landowners

This version of the template presents questions directed at both landowners who already have engaged and landowners who potentially will engage in restoration. Some questions might therefore need to be rephrased but they are included here to indicate the intension.

Period/Aspects	Themes and Example of questions
Warming up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background for interview - Clarification of terminology - Explain ethics and anonymity terms - Obtain consent for use of interview - Obtain consent for recording the interview
Information about the interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Name, title? - Organisational background - Role as forest owner/lessee/manager - Experience in forest management
Exploration of motivations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can you please share your experience in forest restoration? - What motivated you to engage in restoration?/Why are you planning to engage in restoration? - What are the expected short- and long-term benefits for you (or others)?
Exploration of self-implemented actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please describe the restoration action implemented? Why did you choose these actions?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the scale (ha, number of plants, etc.) of your action? - When did you implement the restoration on your land? - Did (do) you consider other types of restoration? - Would you consider to do it again?
Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you would undertake forest restoration, what would you perceive as cost for you as a landowner? - What are the main cost components? - Would you share information about their size with us?
Perceptions on the Financing Landscape and Contract forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did you finance your restoration action? Did you consider blended financing? - Which sources (mechanisms) did you consider? What made you choose one over another? - How did you inform yourself on the possibilities for financing? - Do you have experience in using brokers/mediators? Would you elaborate on this experience? - What are the terms of the financing you obtained? Is there a form of contract or agreement? Could you please share it? - Who do you consider as impactful agents?
Finish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarising interview - Feedback and obtain consent for returning with clarifying questions - If relevant, obtain consent to contact to obtain e.g., written contracts not made available under the interview - Acknowledgment



5.2 Appendix B. Semi-structured interview template for mediating agents

Period/Aspects	Themes and Example of questions
Warming up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background for interview - Clarification of terminology - Explain ethics and anonymity terms - Obtain consent for use of interview - Obtain consent for recording the interview
Information about the interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisational background - Role as mediating agents - Size of the company (employees, turn-over, geography, length of time/experience etc.)
Exploration of business model and modus operandi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can you explain the core of your main business model or models for forest restoration activities? - How do you identify suitable restoration projects? - Do you always look for projects for a specific customer/funding source? - Or do you identify projects and then look for funding? - What kind of landowners do you engage with? Do you have data you could share on them, or contact details? - What kind of funding sources do you try to attract? Do they differ by project? What are the determining factors?
Exploration of forest restoration actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What types of forest restoration project do you mainly engage in? Why? - What type do you find the most worthwhile? What types are the most challenging? - Which ones are most in demand from funding sources? - What is the scale (ha, number of plants, etc.) of your actions? If relevant: Do you have an overview of this by forest restoration type?
The cost side of projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could you describe the main cost components in key forest restoration project types – in rough terms? - Would you share information on their size with us?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What cost components are associated with the contact to funding sources, public or private?
<p>Perceptions on the Financing Landscape and Contract forms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could we ask some details on how contracts and agreements are designed? - Do you typically make an agreement with the funding source and another with the land owner? Or do they make a contract between them, without you as a part, but just a mediator, typically? Or...? - What are main formats and components of such agreements or contracts? E.g.: - Do they run for a set period? - Do agreements include monitoring and verification of efforts? Of outcomes? Who undertakes this - Are payments up front or conditional on some verifications – or are the over several years? - What are the main risks in these types of projects? - Who carries what risks e.g., regarding the success of the restoration action resulting in the improved forest environment targeted? Or regarding payments forthcoming or actions being taken? - Do landowner sometimes carry costs themselves? - If you have different types of contract/agreement designs, which ones work best, do you think? Or is this dependent on the context or case? - Could you explain a bit about what types of funding sources you target? E.g. what private sources, what public sources? - Could you provide us with information on some of these sources e.g., contact details, so we can interview them on their interest in forest restoration? - Which funding sources do you find most accessible and reliable to work with? Why? - Looking ahead, which sources of funding do you find the more sustainable in the longer term i.e., those most likely to stay around and have sufficient scale? - What are the key emerging types of funding?
<p>Finish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarising interview - Feedback and obtain consent for returning with clarifying questions



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If relevant obtain consent to contact to obtain e.g., written contracts not made available under the interview - Acknowledgment
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5.3 Appendix C. Semi-structured interview template for financing agents

Their motivations and the types of restoration they target (including location); terms of financing (e.g., monitoring, ownership, impact evaluation); binding regulations faced; use of mediating agents; risks and strategies for mitigation.

Table 1. Draft for template for semi structured interview.

Period/Aspects	Themes and Example of questions
Warming up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Background for interview - Clarification of terminology - Explain ethics and anonymity terms - Obtain consent for use of interview - Obtain consent for recording the interview
Information about the interviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organisational background - Role as financing agents - How many projects/what value of projects have you financed so far? - Size of the company (employees, turnover, geography etc.)
Exploration of the search for projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How do you identify suitable restoration projects? - What is your experience in using brokers/mediating agents? - Do you (the funding agent/company) have a strategy for funding restoration, and if so, please describe this? - What other similar funding activities have you done? - What features of a restoration project do you find attractive to fund? - Can you elaborate on the motivations for funding projects? - What kind of mechanisms for funding has been considered? - Which mechanism did you end up choosing?
Exploration of forest restoration funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please describes the types of forest restoration project you have engaged in?



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the level of engagement? (transfer of money, involved in planning etc.) - What factors were important for your funding? - Would you be willing to share the amount of money used for funding? - What is the motivation for engaging in these kind of projects?
<p>Perceptions on the Financing Landscape and Contract forms</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could we ask some details on how contracts and agreements are designed - What are main formats and components of such agreements or contracts? E.g.: - Do they run for a set period? - Do agreements include monitoring and verification of efforts? Of outcomes? Who undertakes this? - Are payments up front or conditional on some verifications – or are the over several years? - What do you perceive as the main risks in these types of projects? - Who carries what risks e.g., regarding the success of the restoration action resulting in the improved forest environment targeted? Or regarding payments forthcoming or actions being taken? - Do landowner sometimes carry costs themselves? - If you have different types of contract/agreement designs, which ones work best, do you think? Or is this dependent on the context or case?
<p>Finish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summarising interview - Feedback and obtain consent for returning with clarifying questions - If relevant obtain consent to contact to obtain e.g., written contracts not made available under the interview - Acknowledgment



5.4 Appendix D. Draft Questionnaire template for landowners

Introduction:

The European Commission recently initiated a project aimed at creating an enabling environment for the restoration of European forest landscapes. Under this initiative, the University of Copenhagen, in collaboration with the University of Kent and the European Forest Institute, will be collecting insights into forest restoration finance flows and actors to derive lessons for an upscaling of forest restoration actions in Europe.

Given the significant role that forest landowners play in managing European forests, this survey aims to investigate their relationship with and perceptions of restoration and restoration finance. The survey therefore targets anyone who has the discretion to enforce management measures in relation to land with more than 10% tree coverage within Europe (hereafter: landowner or land manager).

The results of this survey will be published in the form of scientific articles and will be used by the European Commission to inform the design of policy instruments and support tools aimed at facilitating the restoration of European forests.

The survey will take approximately X minutes to complete. Taking part in this survey is voluntary and you may opt out at any point. Your responses will be treated confidentially, meaning that they are collected for internal research purposes only and will only be made public in anonymized and aggregate form. Any data we obtain from this survey will be securely stored and deleted within X months.

Thank you for completing this survey. Your input is highly appreciated.

Survey questions:

1. Are you a landowner/land manager?
Yes / no (if no, thank you and exit survey)
2. What kind of land do you own/manage?
Pure forestland / pure farmland / mix of forestland and farmland / urban land / other (exit survey if answer = urban land/ /other?)
3. What is the (approximate) size of the land you own/manage?
X ha
4. What is the (estimated) tree coverage on the land you own/manage?
Percentage intervals
5. What is the tree species distribution on the land you own / manage?
6. What is your legal role in the tenure of the land?
Owner / renter / leaser / hired manager /other, namely...

Land opportunity costs:

7. What activities do you currently conduct on the land you own/manage?
Timber production / hunting / crop production / livestock production / tourism / recreation / real estate renting / nothing / other



8. Do these activities constitute your main source of income?
Yes / no
9. How much income do you derive from these activities, distributed on income sources?
Income intervals

Motivations for engaging in restoration:

10. Are you implementing any forest restoration measures on the land you own/manage?
Yes / no
11. *If no Q9* -> What are your reasons for not engaging in restoration on the land you own/manage?
Lack of funding / lack of knowledge/expertise / uncertainty about impact / no interest in restoration / other, namely...
12. *If yes Q9* -> What kind of restoration measures are you implementing on the land you own/manage?
Natural regeneration / managed natural regeneration (pest control, assisted forest rejuvenation by removal of old trees and forest residue, protection of young trees from wild game, etc.) / reforestation (planting and seeding) / agroforestry / silvopasture / other, namely...
13. *If yes Q9* -> What are your reasons for engaging in restoration on the land you own/manage?
Additional source of income / biodiversity protection or enhancement / climate resilience (protection against droughts/floods) / land value enhancement / scenic beauty / other, namely...

Self-implemented actions vs. participation in restoration schemes:

14. *If yes Q9* -> Are the restoration measures that you are implementing part of any official restoration schemes?
No, they are independently implemented measures / Yes, namely: Biodiversity offset scheme / carbon offset markets / biodiversity auction scheme / eco-certification scheme / payment for ecosystem services scheme / government-imposed regulation / other, namely...
15. *If yes Q13* -> What are your motivations for engaging in this restoration scheme (as opposed to implementing restoration measures independently or engaging in other restoration schemes)?
Higher revenues / low costs / fewer requirements/higher flexibility / higher impact / more guidance / compatible with other requirements / other, namely...
16. Do you know of any (other) restoration schemes in your area/country?
No / Yes, namely: Biodiversity offset scheme / carbon offset markets / biodiversity auction scheme / eco-certification scheme / payment for ecosystem services scheme / other, namely...
17. *If yes Q15* -> Why are you currently not engaging in these restoration schemes?
High (transaction) costs / land unsuitable (does not meet requirements) / high management restrictions / conflicting requirements with currently implemented restoration measures / lack of knowledge/expertise / uncertainty about impact / I don't trust the authorities behind the scheme / I am already doing enough / ...

Blend of financing mechanisms chosen / Sources of finance:

18. *If yes Q9* -> How do you finance the restoration measures you are implementing?
Own funds / revenues from restoration activities / mix of own funds and revenues from restoration activities / the measures do not require funding / other, namely...



19. *If answer to Q17 includes external funding ->* What is the funding source behind the restoration scheme?

National government / regional or municipal government / non-governmental organization / private company / foundation or trust fund / other, namely...

20. From which of the following funding sources would you prefer your restoration activities to be funded?

[List of different sources, such as private firms, NGO's, government etc.]

Perceptions of access to financing:

21. How easy do you perceive access to finance for forest restoration to be?

Likert scale of ease

Obstacles towards financing:

22. What do you perceive to be the most important obstacles towards obtaining finance for restoration?

Lack of suitable pre-established financing schemes / strictness of requirements for obtaining finance / limited profitability of available financing options / high transaction costs of applying for finance / other, namely...

Needs for mediating agents:

23. Would or have you considered to use some kind of mediating agents (such as companies or organisations that specialise in facilitate funding through external donors)

Yes / no

Risks and regulations:

24. What do you perceive to be the most important risks with regard to the implementation of restoration measures?

Unsustainability of impact / unexpected adverse impact / change of legislation / discontinuity of funding / other, namely...

25. How conducive do you perceive your location's legislative framework to be to engagement in forest restoration?

Scale from very restrictive to very conducive

26. What do you perceive the most important regulatory obstacles towards forest restoration in your location to be?

?

Sociodemographic background:

27. What is your gender?

Male / female / non-binary / other

28. How old are you?

X years

29. What is your highest completed education level?

Secondary education / bachelor's or equivalent / master's or equivalent / doctorate



30. What is your yearly income?

Income intervals

31. Which country is the land you own/manage situated in?

Drop-down menu of EU countries



5.5 Appendix F. Draft letter for getting access to forest owner information

Dear [SUPERB partner],

As you know, WP4 is aimed at mapping sustainable restoration finance flows and actors to derive lessons for an upscaling of forest restoration activities in Europe. To achieve this, we plan to conduct surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders such as private forest landowners. Since our current access to these stakeholders is limited, we rely on external help to collect contact details and other information about them in the different countries we hope to cover.

Thus, looking at the country you are based in, where would you think we could find access data (e-mails etc.) for forest owners? We would be grateful for any information about or contact details for such databases of ~~European~~ forest landowners in your country that you may know of. In our experience, such access data could be derived from:

- Landowner associations
- Cadasters
- National forest inventory databases
- Extension services?
- or any other relevant sources.

Any information, connections, networks or organisations with contacts that would allow us to access such data would be greatly appreciated.

Please reach out to [XX], cc-ed in this email, with any questions or information that you might have.

Thank you very much in advance.

Best regards from the WP4 team



5.6 Appendix H. Draft letter for external partners

Dear [external party],

The European Commission recently initiated a program aimed at creating an enabling environment for the restoration of European forest landscapes. Under this initiative, the University of Copenhagen, in collaboration with the University of Kent and the European Forest Institute, will be collecting insights into sustainable forest restoration finance flows to derive lessons for an upscaling of forest restoration actions in Europe. [INSERT LINK TO WEBPAGE FOR THE SUPERPROJECT]

To achieve this, we plan to conduct surveys and interviews with relevant stakeholders such as European private forest landowners. Since our current access to these stakeholders is limited, we rely on external help to collect contact details and other information about them.

Given [your/your organization's] involvement in/with [forestry sector/relevant actors], we believe that your support in identifying potential participants for our research activities could be of great help to the advancement of our project. We would be grateful for any information about or contact details for such databases of forest landowners in your country that you may know of. In our experience, such access data could be derived from:

- Landowner associations
- Cadasters
- National forest inventory databases
- Extension services?
- or any other relevant sources.

Any information, connections, networks or organizations with contacts that would allow us to access such data would be greatly appreciated. In exchange for your support, we would be happy to provide you with timely access to the research outputs of this project and/or offer opportunities for joint collaboration on the research articles that we plan to publish in relation to this project (following standard RCR and Vancouver guidelines).

Please reach out to [XX], cc-ed in this email, with any questions or information that you might have.

Thank you very much in advance.

Best regards from the WP4 team