



Rural development - Funding opportunities for Natura 2000

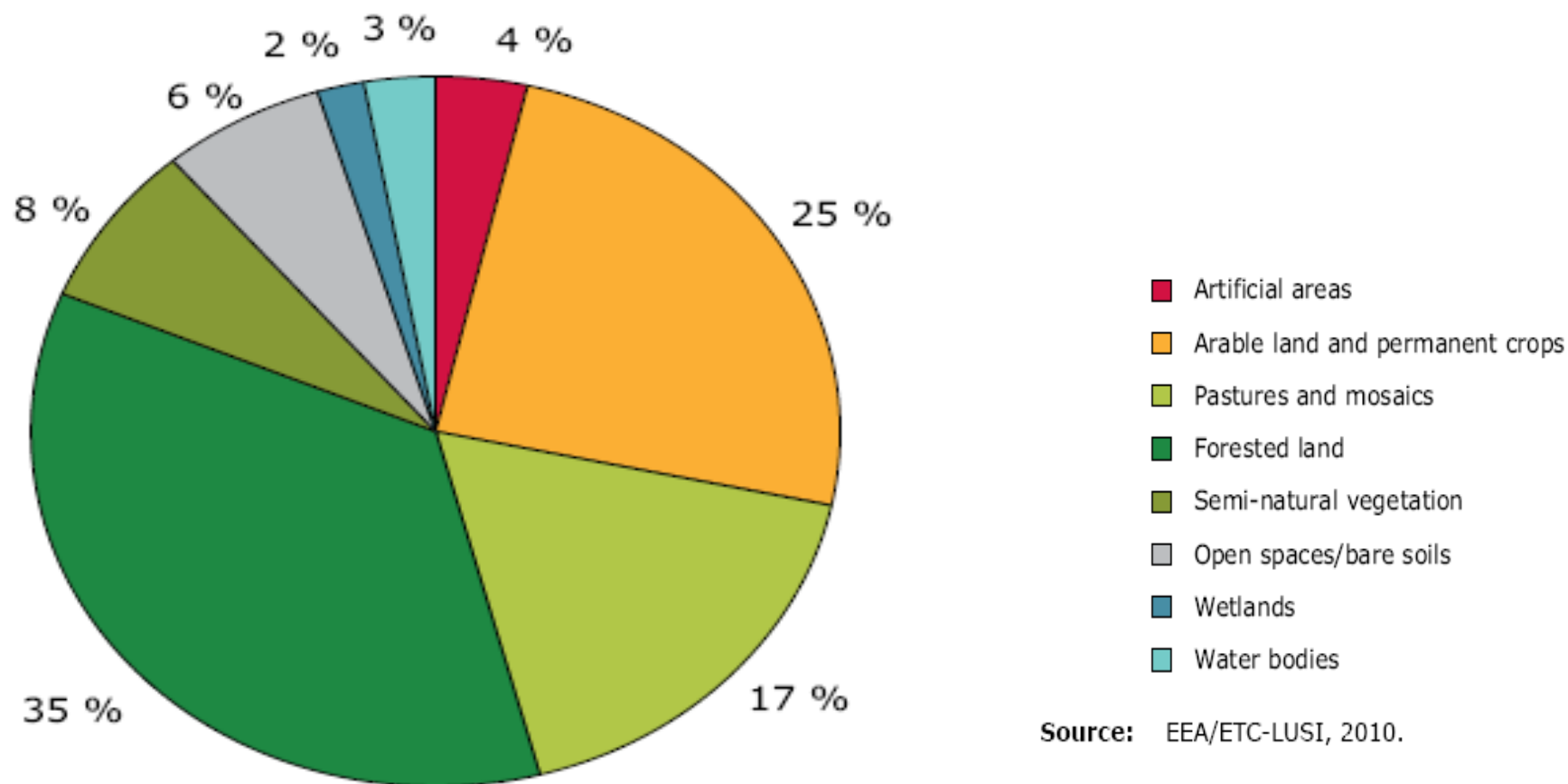
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Agriculture & environment – the inextricable link

Farmers and foresters manage more than 80% of EU land area.

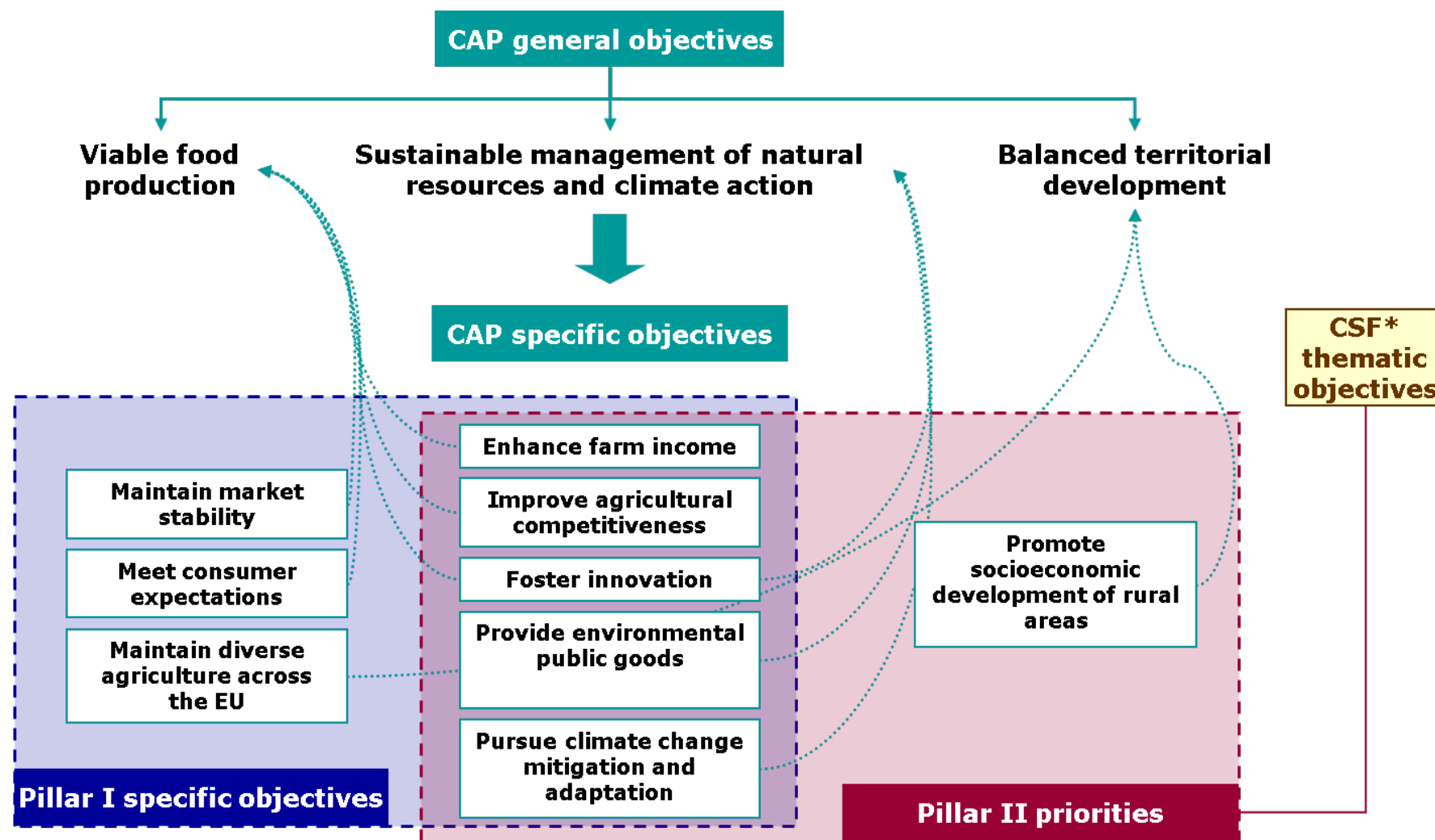
Land cover 2006 (% of total)



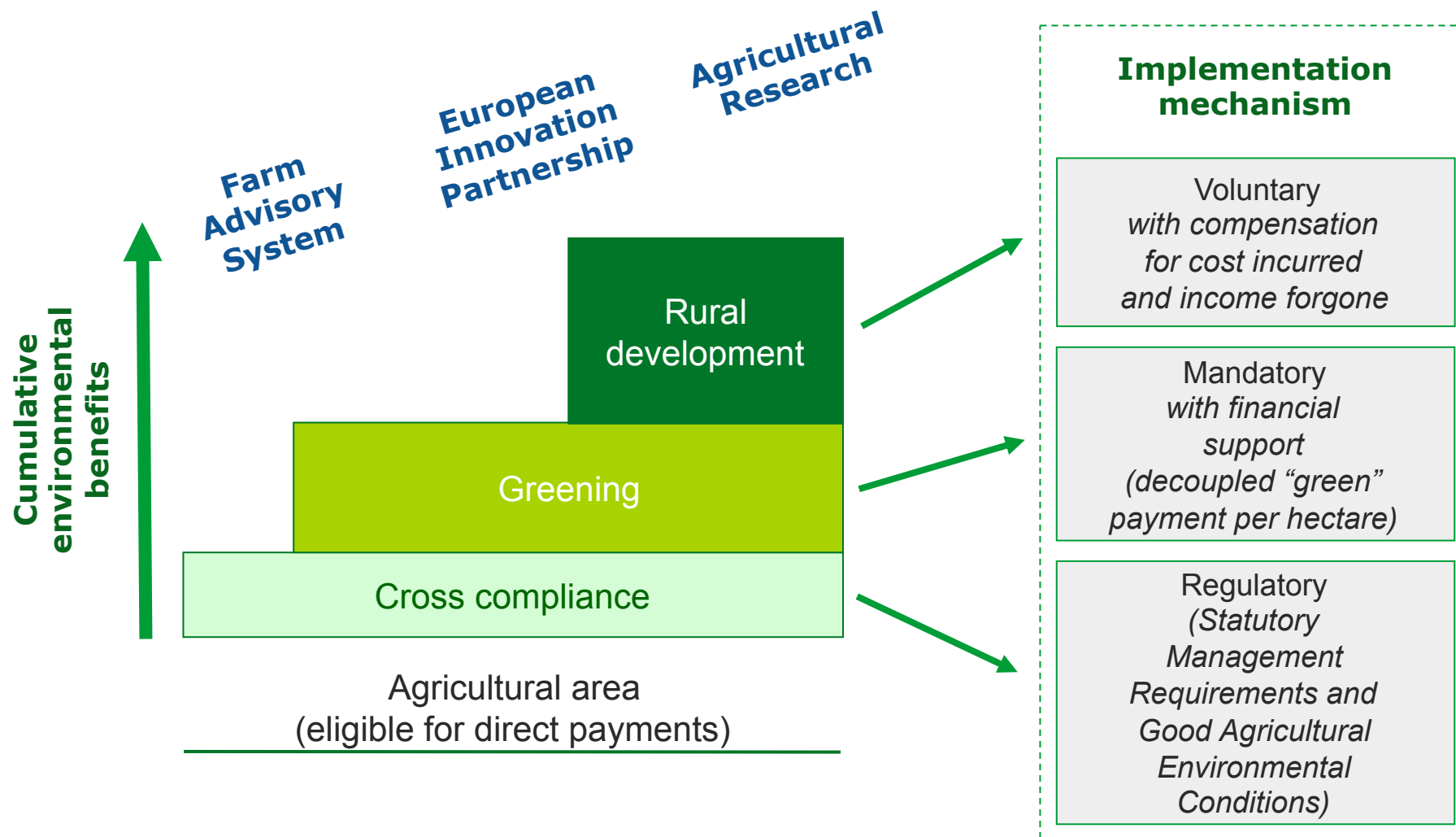
Source: EEA/ETC-LUSI, 2010.



CAP objectives



The new greening architecture of the CAP





Rural development policy

Rural development priorities

Focus areas

Cross-cutting objectives

1. Knowledge transfer and Innovation

- (a) innovation, cooperation, and the development of the knowledge base;
- (b) links between agriculture, food production and forestry and research and innovation;
- (c) lifelong learning and vocational training.

2. Farm viability, competitiveness, innovative farm technologies, sustainable forest management

- (a) economic performance of all farms and farm restructuring and modernisation, notably to increase market participation/orientation and diversification;
- (b) facilitating entry of adequately skilled farmers and generational renewal.

3. Food chain organisation, incl. processing/marketing, animal welfare and risk management

- (a) integration of primary producers into the agri-food chain: quality schemes, adding value, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups/organisations;
- (b) farm risk prevention and management.

4. Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems

- (a) biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas, areas facing natural or other specific constraints and high nature value farming, and the state of European landscapes;
- (b) water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management;
- (c) prevention of soil erosion and soil management.

5. Resource efficiency and shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy

- (a) efficiency in water use
- (b) efficiency in energy use
- (c) renewable sources of energy, by products, wastes and non-food raw material for the bio-economy
- (d) reduction of greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions
- (e) carbon conservation and sequestration

6. Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas

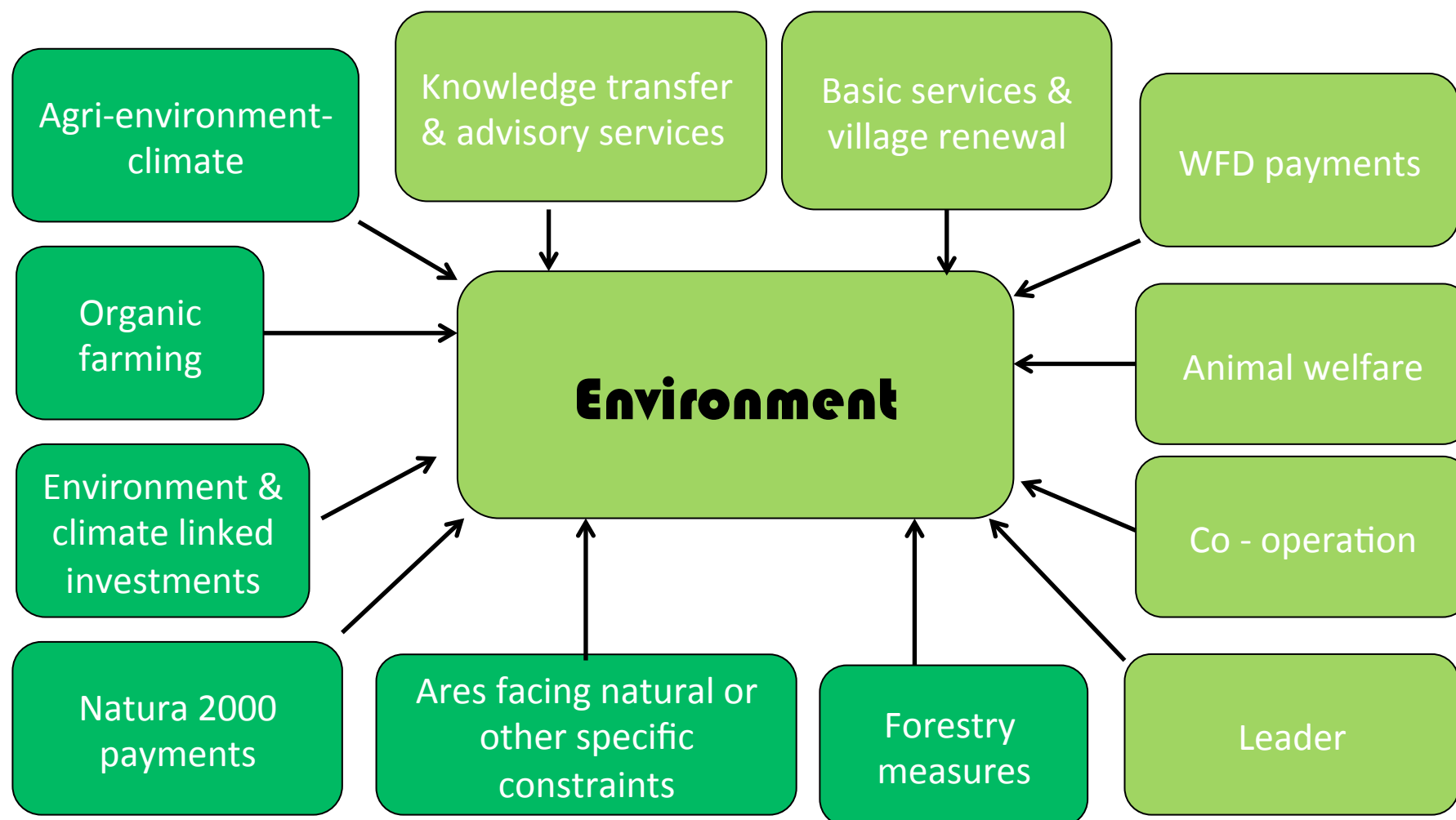
- (a) diversification, creation and development of small enterprises and job creation
- (b) local development in rural areas
- (c) information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas

Innovation, Climate Change and Environment

Required minimum budgetary allocations

- A minimum amount of the total EAFRD contribution to the RDP shall be reserved for climate change mitigation and adaptation and environmental issues through a set of measures:
 - At least **30%** for:
 - Environment and climate related investments (Article 17)
 - Forestry measures (Articles 21-26 and Article 34)
 - Agri-environment-climate (Article 28)
 - Organic farming (Article 29)
 - Natura 2000 (Article 30)
 - ANCs (Articles 31-32)

Environment & climate relevant RD measures





Key elements of strategic programming

- Ex-ante evaluation
- SWOT analysis and needs assessment in the programme area
- Strategic response:
 - SWOT analysis and identification of needs
 - Choice of relevant priorities/focus areas and approach towards cross-cutting objectives
 - Setting appropriate targets for each focus area selected
 - Establishing and justifying the choice and combination of measures in the light of the SWOT analysis
 - Establishing financial allocations to measures/operations and appropriate indicators

Natura 2000 & Water Framework Directive (art. 30)

❖ Why do we need this measure?

- To contribute to the effective management of Natura 2000 sites and river basins areas and to help ensuring the protection of these sites
- To compensate eligible land managers for disadvantages in the areas concerned resulting from the implementation of the relevant law

❖ Main features

- to simplify – combination of Natura 2000 in agriculture and forest in one measure
- to multiply benefits and ensure better protection- eligibility of the area extended to so called "stepping stones" & eligibility of beneficiaries to cover other land managers (Natura 2000)
- extended scope of beneficiaries: also other land managers when justified
- maximum aid: € 500 in the initial period up to 5 years, € 200 as a regular amount, € 50 as minimum for WFD only

Agri-environment-climate (art. 28)

❖ Why do we need this measure?

- To encourage land managers to apply land management farming practices favourable to the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- To support environmentally positive changes to farming practices as well as maintenance of the existing favourable practices

❖ Main features:

- to improve the implementation - a link to knowledge transfer and information
- to multiply environmental/climate benefits - eligibility of individual and joint beneficiaries & higher transaction costs for the latter
- to increase flexibility: annual extension of commitments after the initial period & shorter contracts for post initial period
- one-off payments in the case of permanent changes to land use for environmental conservation purposes
- maximum aid per Ha: € 600 (annual crops), € 900 (perennial crops), € 450 (other land uses) and € 200/LU (endangered local breeds)



Organic farming (art. 29)

❖ Why do we need this measure?

- A separate measure to recognise the importance of organic farming in contributing to various rural development priorities
- To support both conversion to and maintenance of organic farming practices and to answer society's demand for the use of such practices

❖ Main features

- to multiply environmental/climate benefits - eligibility of individual and joint beneficiaries & higher transaction costs for the latter
- to increase flexibility – duration of contracts linked to support for conversions may correspond to the conversion period & contracts for maintenance following commitments in the initial period can be shorter (than 5-7 years)
- maximum aid: € 600 (annual crops), € 900 (perennial crops), € 450 (other land uses)

Other measures (1)

- ❖ **Basic services and village renewal in rural areas:** drawing up of protection plans & management plans for N2000 and other HNV areas + studies & investments linked to the maintenance and restoration of the natural heritage of the villages, rural landscapes, HNV sites and environmental awareness actions.
- ❖ **Knowledge transfer:** to feed the capacity to innovate by bringing farms and other rural businesses more fully into the knowledge economy.
- ❖ **Advisory services:** help land managers in better economic and environmental/climate-related performance of the holding; advice on at least cross-compliance or greening obligations or WFD requirements or general principles of integrated pest management; it can also cover climate change, biodiversity, protection of water.

Other measures (2)

- ❖ **Non-productive investments:** linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives, including biodiversity conservation of species and habitat, enhancing public amenity value of Natura 2000 areas or other high nature value systems.
- ❖ **Co-operation:** to overcome disadvantages of fragmentation in rural areas by helping various entities work together with regard to, among others, joint approaches to environmental projects including the preservation of agricultural landscapes.
- ❖ **Areas with natural constraints:** to encourage farmers to continue land management in order to contribute to maintain the countryside, conserve the environment and promote sustainable farming.
- ❖ **Forestry measures** (seven in total) including agro-forestry and forest-environment and climate services and conservation

Progress made: monitoring output indicators

Measures	Target EAFRD 2007-2013	State of play until 2012	Share (%) of the target executed
Number of ha under Less Favoured Areas (211 212)	55 200 904	52 223 174	95%
Number of ha under N2000 measures (213 & 224)	1 549 053	1 278 383	83%
Number of ha under agri- environment (214)	41 750 969	40 727 577	98%



The concept of partnership

- ❖ Common Provision Regulation: *Member States shall (...) organise a partnership for the Partnership Agreements and programmes.*
- ❖ *Who are the partners:*
 - ✓ regional, local and other public authorities, incl. representatives of education, training, advisory and research bodies
 - ✓ economic and social partners, incl. industry, sectoral organisations, chambers of commerce, business associations
 - ✓ civil society, including environmental partners, NGOs, bodies in charge of social inclusion, non-discrimination, gender equality.
- ❖ *What is the role of these partners:*
 - ✓ shall be involved in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes
- ❖ Conditions of the consultation: timely and easy access to information, sufficient time to provide comments, dissemination of the outcome.

Thank you for your attention!