

Open Letter

The CRCF European reglementation must be optimized to better serve global climate objectives

Forests. We are the ones who plant them, regenerate them, manage them sustainably, finance them, and sometimes create them. In Europe and around the world. It is on their behalf that we are mobilizing today and creating the NBS Coalition ("Nature-Based Solutions").

European authorities are finalizing regulations on carbon sequestration activities that are part of our work. As trees grow, they absorb some of the CO₂ stored in the atmosphere since the industrial era, much like the oceans do. Climate experts repeatedly emphasize that while reducing emissions is essential, increasing the planet's sequestration capacity is equally vital to achieving – or at least not straying too far from – the famous +1.5 degrees Celsius target by 2050: 6 GtCO₂ per year by 2050 according to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is more than the weight of all the oil produced today.

However, the current European text threatens the financing of our actions to enhance this sequestration capacity of forests worldwide. Our actions are largely supported by the sale of carbon credits on the voluntary market. Although this market has faced some turbulence recently, it is organizing and moving towards the adoption of quality standards that ensure its long-term solidity. These are the very quality standards that Europe claims to want to define in its regulation.

The problem is that the current European text implies that carbon credits from forestry and/or reforestation projects are of lower quality than those generated by necessary but emerging technologies, such as CO₂ storage in the ground. The key argument used? Forests can burn, so the carbon credits generated can only be considered "temporary" (and not "permanent").

Indeed, forests can burn. But it is overlooked that forestry projects can endure for hundreds of years, and that robust standards (VCS, Gold Standard, CAR, as well as many strong local ones) now offer risk management mechanisms to address this issue. It is also overlooked that forests are reservoirs of biodiversity that we must restore to keep the planet habitable. Most importantly, it is overlooked that it is climatically suicidal to suggest that forestry projects, because of a risk of fire, are of poor quality. What company will want to buy carbon credits labeled as "temporary" in Europe to serve a "Net Zero" strategy? Especially when this same Europe is asking Southern countries to better protect their forests and is banning many products from entering the continent unless they are guaranteed "zero imported deforestation."

The NBS Coalition requests a regulation on carbon certification that favors the financing of forest projects in Europe and worldwide.

Initiative held the NBS Coalition :

aDryada, Africa Energy Transition Services (AETS), AGROMAP, Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT), EcoAct, Ecotree, Forestry Europe, France Valley, Fransylva, Fronterra, Go2 Market, Hummingbirds, La Belle Forêt, Morfo,

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Noblesse Green Energy, Ocell, Open Forest Protocol, Pino Earth, Reforest'Action, Removall, Terea, TreeVive.