

THE MISSING MANUAL: WHAT IKEA MUST DO TO PROTECT EUROPE'S FORESTS

Ikea's Biodiversity Accountability Gap: Certified but still degrading vital forest ecosystems.

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Executive Summary

Companies contributing to the climate and biodiversity crisis are in urgent need of a crisis response manual. Climate impacts like wildfires and floods are accelerating at an alarming rate. As tipping points are reached, weather patterns are changing all over the planet, and it seems inevitable that temperature rise will exceed the 1.5 degree threshold¹. Climate change, exacerbated by logging and other extractive industries, is damaging forest ecosystems, affecting natural habitats, biodiversity and peoples' livelihoods.

So-called sustainable forestry practices and industrial agriculture are accelerating ecosystem destruction across our planet, making it vital to reduce these human drivers of biodiversity loss. Governments need to do more to stop the ongoing mass extinction of species, but the big logging companies and consumers of wood must also step up and take accountability for their impact and update their own manuals on how to reduce their biodiversity footprint and become a real part of the solution. This report puts a spotlight on Ikea's role in doing just that, and the need to put in place urgent measures to stop its involvement in forest destruction.

The importance of biodiversity protection should come as no surprise to the leadership of Ikea. Around 1 million species around the world are threatened with extinction, while the global extinction rate is already tens to hundreds of times higher than the average over the past 10 million years.² Scientists warn that we are entering a human-driven sixth mass extinction.³ For

this reason, biodiversity protection is increasingly embedded in a range of international agreements and regulatory frameworks, most notably the Convention on Biological Diversity's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), as well as the EU's Biodiversity Strategy, Nature Restoration Regulation, the Birds and Habitats Directives, and rules on supply chains and corporate due diligence, with measurable indicators of ecosystem integrity and biodiversity loss already existing or under development at international, EU and national levels. This regulatory architecture increasingly applies to companies. The KM-GBF itself requires States to ensure that large and transnational businesses monitor, assess and disclose their impacts on biodiversity across their value chains, and requires biodiversity to also be integrated into private sector decision-making.⁴

Ikea claims that it uses its 'size, scale and reach' to help halt deforestation and enhance biodiversity, but when it comes to biodiversity conservation and forest governance, it is coming up short.⁵ There are a few missing pieces from the flatpack!

This report reviews Ikea's sustainability reporting, including its official corporate disclosures and other publicly available information, and finds that it falls a long way short of "using our size to make a positive difference". On biodiversity protection targets the message is simple: "No targets are set".⁶ We have identified five accountability gaps directly related to Ikea's approach to biodiversity and

¹ UN Environment, 2026, '[Limiting Overshoot: Navigating Exceedance of 1.5°C and Pathways Towards Return](#)', United Nations Environment Programme.

² IPBES, 2019 [Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

³ IPBES, 2019 [Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

⁴ Convention on Biological Diversity, 19 December 2022, 'Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework', CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, Target 15.

⁵ IKEA, 2021, '[IKEA launches 2030 forest agenda](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

⁶ Inter IKEA Group, 2026, '[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', (p26), Inter IKEA Group.

ecosystem protection, which need to be urgently addressed. The first of these relates to insufficient measurement, since Ikea does not seek to assess changes in the condition of the forests it draws on. The second is a target gap, with no measurable or timebound goals for ecosystem protection and restoration. The third is a mapping gap, in which there is often no data on forest areas of high biodiversity value or potential. The fourth is a certification gap, which falls way short of providing adequate assurances that ecosystems are protected. Finally, there is an influence gap, as Ikea has not brought its weight to bear on the EU when biodiversity policy is decided. Taken together, these gaps leave a gaping hole in the company's sustainability portfolio.

We have also examined 25 years of tree cover loss across five countries (Poland, Sweden, Germany, Romania, and Finland) that together supply almost half of Ikea's virgin wood consumption, and highlight the gap between forest protection in these countries, and the company's rhetoric around "responsible forestry". We explore Ikea's continued sourcing of wood from forests of high biodiversity value or from areas with the potential to develop such value. We focus on unprotected forests across Europe that should be protected, but remain open for logging by those who choose to exploit them. The findings show alarmingly high loss of tree cover in these areas, and establishes that protection only saves forests from logging in strictly protected areas, but not necessarily in areas under the EU's Natura 2000 network. In Poland for example tree cover was lost in areas identified for future protection or inside Natura 2000 areas almost just as fast as, or even faster than everywhere else. Tree cover loss rates in Romania were mostly higher inside Natura 2000 than outside of them, and alarmingly high in areas identified for future protection. And in Finland, tree cover loss rates inside Natura 2000 sites are very low, mainly because these areas had received strict

protection status even before their Natura 2000 designation. Losses in areas proposed for protection, however, were still running at roughly 50 - 90% of logging in other areas.

The time has come for Ikea and other corporations that consume forests to take on their fair share of responsibility for meeting global biodiversity goals. This requires moving beyond simply measuring whether forest cover is maintained, towards maintaining ecosystem integrity: ensuring that forests retain and regenerate the composition, structure, ecological processes, stability and self-organisation that enable them to function as resilient living systems, sustain biodiversity, regulate climate and water systems, store carbon and adapt to environmental change over time.

In short, our analysis demonstrates that strict protection provides the clearest safeguard against logging, while other protection designations, including Natura 2000, do not necessarily prevent significant tree-cover loss. However, outside long-established protection areas, forests of documented or potential high-biodiversity value continue to suffer severe tree cover loss, frequently at rates higher than in other forests. These need urgent protection; without it, these irreplaceable ecosystems will be lost forever.

Ikea needs to locate their missing manual, open it, and follow the instructions, step by step to:

1. **Immediately suspend sourcing from forest areas of high biodiversity value or potential (proposed moratorium areas)** at a minimum until governments complete the area designation processes required to deliver the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy's 30 per cent land protection targets, including 10 per cent strictly protected.⁷ The exemption in Ikea's supplier Code of Conduct (IWAY F9.3(b)), which permits sourcing from Intact Forest Landscapes and High Conservation Value Forests where FSC-certified, should be removed.⁸
2. **Adopt a Corporate Biodiversity Accountability Framework with measurable 2030 targets** covering the entire supply chain, aligned with the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Biodiversity Strategy, and owned at board level rather than treated as a mere due diligence formality.
3. **Establish ecosystem integrity as a principle of Ikea's approach to governance**, moving from monitoring forest cover to monitoring forest condition, with measurable indicators for composition, structure, biodiversity, ecological processes, independent monitoring, and assessment of the effects of extraction on surrounding ecology.
4. **Publicly advocate for ambitious implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the EU Biodiversity Strategy**, including effective protection of at least 30 per cent of land and strict protection of at least 10 per cent. Ikea should fully disclose its forest and biodiversity related lobbying positions, and advocate to recognise ecosystem integrity and forest degradation as measurable implementation outcomes in the 2030 Forest Roadmap and other relevant policy processes.

⁷ European Commission, May 20, 2020, 'EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing Nature Back into Our Lives', COM(2020) 380 final, (pp4–5), European Commission.

⁸ Inter IKEA Group, undated, '[IWAY Standard, Forest Materials Section](#)', requirement F9.3(b), Inter IKEA Group.

Introduction

Ikea claims to be the world's largest home furnishing retailer,⁹ and one of the world's largest consumers of wood in the retail sector.¹⁰ It consumed around 11.9 million cubic metres of fresh roundwood in 2025.¹¹ Using wood is inherently not a bad thing. It needs to be kept in mind, though, that this wood comes from forests which are a home to millions of plants and animals, which protect us from heat, storms and secure our livelihoods. In short: Forests which are crucial for biodiversity and climate. Being crucial for our survival, we cannot log forests indiscriminately.

As a Swedish-founded Dutch company¹² with an extensive presence across the world, Ikea's market position and brand recognition give it significant influence on forest management practices and how corporations define their role in meeting climate, biodiversity and sustainability goals. This is particularly true in the EU, which is the source of 81% of the virgin wood used in Ikea home furnishing products.¹³ Ikea claims to be a force for stopping deforestation and enhancing biodiversity, but when it comes to biodiversity,¹⁴ conservation and forest governance, it is coming up short.

Ikea claims "sustainability is part of the way we develop products, source materials and do business".¹⁵ The company has made some of the timber and furniture industry's most ambitious claims related to forests

and biodiversity, even stating that it hopes to use its size and reach to help eliminate forest degradation and deforestation around the world.¹⁶ Ikea has made public commitments to improve biodiversity, support the rights of forest-dependent people, and address climate impacts beyond the company's own footprint.¹⁷ It has not been shy in promoting this promise, placing sustainability and fairness at the core of its corporate image.

It should come as no surprise that Ikea's role in protecting biodiversity is attracting increased scrutiny as new international obligations and legal frameworks are developed. Multinational corporations like Ikea have an important role to play in implementing international biodiversity targets, due diligence and corporate disclosure rules. Ikea's business model is heavily reliant on turning forests into cheap furniture, so meaningful corporate action is needed to protect forests, to preserve biodiversity and the climate.

The biodiversity crisis is also increasingly being seen as a matter of national security.¹⁸ 2026 is shaping up to be another disastrous year of wildfires with about twice the average area burnt across the EU. By Sep 8, 2026, wildfires had burnt an area of 656,000 ha in the European Union,¹⁹ over half of which affected forests.²⁰ This year's fire season is second worse only to record setting 2025 when a total of over one million hectares was burnt and over 50 million tonnes of CO₂ were emitted²¹ -

⁹ Ikano Group, 2026, '[Our Year: Ikano Retail FY25 Annual Report](#)', Ikano Retail.

¹⁰ IKEA, undated, '[We're big fans of wood](#)', Inter Ikea Systems B.V.

¹¹ IKEA, 2026, '[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', (p40), Inter IKEA Group. Reports 14.7 million m³ roundwood equivalent used in FY25, 81%, or 11.9 million cbm thereof fresh fibre, 19% recycled fibre.

¹² Milne, R., August 15, 2024, '[Is Ikea more Dutch than Swedish?](#)', Financial Times.

¹³ IKEA, undated, '[The wood we use](#)', Inter Ikea Systems B.V.

¹⁴ Inter IKEA Group, 2024, '[The IKEA Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)', (p2), Inter IKEA group.

¹⁵ IKEA, undated, '[Sustainability](#)', Inter Ikea Systems B.V.

¹⁶ IKEA, 2021, '[IKEA launches 2030 forest agenda](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁷ IKEA, 2021, '[IKEA launches 2030 forest agenda](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁸ GOV.UK, 16 Jan 2026, '[Global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security](#)', Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom.

¹⁹ JRC, 2026, '[Current wildfire situation in Europe](#)', Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

²⁰ EFFIS, 2026, '[EFFIS Damage Assessment](#)', European Forest Fire Information System; 53% when accessed on Sept. 10 2026.

²¹ ECMWF/Copernicus, 2026, '[European State of the Climate 2025, Chapter 6. Wildfires](#)', European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts - Copernicus.

more than the annual GHG emissions of Sweden, Finland or Bulgaria.²² Natural, biodiverse and non-degraded forests are far less prone to wildfires than degraded forests and intensively managed forest plantations.²³ As such, if corporate actors like Ikea are to take their responsibility for mitigating climate change and reducing biodiversity loss seriously, they need to drastically transition away from harmful forestry and land-use practices that fuel the climate crisis and pose an increasing danger to society.

Ecosystem Integrity is the capacity of an ecosystem to maintain and regenerate the composition, structure, ecological processes, stability and self-organisation that enable it to function as a resilient living system under prevailing environmental conditions. High ecosystem integrity allows ecosystems to sustain biodiversity, regulate climate and water systems, store carbon, provide ecosystem services and adapt to environmental change over time.

See: Rogers B.M., Mackey B., Shestakova T.A., Keith H., et al, 2022, Using ecosystem integrity to maximize climate mitigation and minimize risk in international forest policy. *Front. For. Glob. Change* 5:929281.

Despite increasingly ambitious commitments from government and corporations alike, Europe's forests continue to experience degradation, fragmentation, and declining ecological

conditions, which reveal significant accountability gaps.²⁴ Political institutions and corporations are collectively failing to implement the ambitious targets they set for themselves.²⁵ Even in cases where legal requirements, certification, and reporting systems are strong on paper, remaining loopholes combined with inconsistent enforcement mean that results still fall a long way short of ensuring ecosystem integrity.²⁶

This report – *The Missing Manual: What Ikea must do to Protect Europe's Forests* – looks at how Ikea's positions fit within the EU's suite of biodiversity, forest and corporate regulations, and within broader international legal and policy frameworks, and shows that legal compliance and sustainability certification by corporate actors fall short of what is required to ensure ecological protection. Building on recent field and desktop investigations undertaken by Greenpeace Nordic, Germany, Romania and Greenpeace Poland (henceforth 'Greenpeace') this report examines how Ikea's actions fall short of implementing measurements to protect ecosystems and what more it should do to protect biodiversity.

The report draws on spatial evidence of tree cover loss, field visits, tracking timber to Ikea's producers, scientific literature on forest degradation, ecosystem integrity, carbon, and biodiversity; and governance evidence looking at the legal policy frameworks, including Natura 2000,²⁷ the

²² EEA, 16 April 2025, '[EEA greenhouse gases — data viewer | Maps and charts](#)', European Environment Agency.

²³ Elmqvist, T. et al., May 29 2025, '[Changing Wildfires: Policy Options for a Fire-literate and Fire-adapted Europe](#)'. European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) Policy Report 48,

²⁴ EEA, 29 September 2025, '[Europe's Environment 2025: State of Europe's Biodiversity](#)', European Environment Agency; EEA, 21 March 2023, '[How are European forest ecosystems doing?](#)', European Environment Agency; Barredo, J.I., Marí Rivero, I., Janoušková, K., 2025, '[Assessing disturbances in surviving primary forests of Europe](#)', *Conservation Biology* 39(2); Paracchini, M.L., Vallecillo, S., Marchetti, A., Marcantonio, M., Barredo, J.I. et al., 2026, '[Towards the second EU Ecosystem Assessment](#)', JRC145950, Publications Office of the European Union.

²⁵ CBD, 13 August 2026, '[Nairobi meetings pave the way for 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference](#)', Convention on Biological Diversity; EC, 12 February 2026, '[Seventh National Report of the European Union to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)', section 2.4., European Commission.

²⁶ In this report, we define 'ecosystem integrity' as the capacity of an ecosystem to maintain and regenerate the composition, structure, ecological processes, stability and self-organisation that enable it to function as a resilient living system under prevailing environmental conditions. High ecosystem integrity allows ecosystems to sustain biodiversity, regulate climate and water systems, store carbon, provide ecosystem services and adapt to environmental change over time. See Rogers B.M., Mackey B., Shestakova T.A., Keith H., et al, 2022, '[Using ecosystem integrity to maximize climate mitigation and minimize risk in international forest policy](#)'. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* 5:929281.

²⁷ Network of protected nature areas located across the European Union, designed to safeguard vulnerable species and habitats through the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive. See [EC, undated, 'Natura 2000', European Commission](#).

EU Biodiversity Strategy (EUBDS), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, and corporate due diligence systems. The report takes a deep dive into Ikea's own Biodiversity Framework and explores whether it measures up to with its stated ambition to 'influence, or even transform, the forestry industry' through its position as 'one of the leading wood users in the retail sector,' specifically regarding the protection and restoration of ecosystem integrity that its business depends on.

When Protection fails to Protect

Several EU and global laws and regulations have been introduced in recent years that aim to enhance ecosystem protection in response to the climate and biodiversity crises. International courts have also clarified States and corporate obligations under international law. In 2025, the International Court of Justice issued an Advisory Opinion on Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change (ICJ-AO).²⁸ In the same year the Inter-American Court on Human Rights put out an Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency and Human Rights (IACtHR-AO) in support of enforcing stronger environmental protections.²⁹ Further, the development of the Brazil-led COP30 Forest Roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 provides an opportunity to improve how forest conditions are measured, and strengthen governance and corporate accountability for ecosystem integrity.³⁰

Global targets were set in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), which require governments to “encourage and mandate large and transnational businesses” to monitor,

assess and disclose risks and impacts on biodiversity, while the 30x30 target seeks to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of land and sea areas by 2030.³¹ At the EU level, the Biodiversity Strategy, the Nature Restoration Regulation, and the Birds and Habitats Directives seek to restore nature, expand protected areas, improve ecological conditions, and strengthen implementation.³² In parallel, the European Union Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) require stricter control on corporate supply chains.³³

This biodiversity protection architecture assumes that European forests should become progressively healthier if governments make commitments and ensure that corporations operating within their jurisdiction meet their responsibilities. But there are significant accountability gaps that hold this back.

While the EU's headline targets are ambitious, the legal continuation of industrial and extractive logging practices are often allowed in nominally protected areas, including parts of the Natura 2000 network.

Gaps in mapping and monitoring enable ongoing forest degradation and fragmentation, leading to the continued decline of old growth and other forests of

²⁸ ICJ, 23 July 2025, '[Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change](#)', Advisory Opinion, International Court of Justice.

²⁹ IACtHR, 29 May 2025, '[Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human rights](#)', OC-32/25, Inter-American Court on Human Rights.

³⁰ UNFCCC, undated, '[COP30 Presidency Forest Roadmap](#)', United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

³¹ CBD, undated, '[2030 Targets](#)', Convention on Biological Diversity; Target 15, [Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts](#); Target 3, A global commitment to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world's land, inland waters, and coastal and marine areas by 2030.

³² EC, undated, '[Birds Directive](#)', European Commission, accessed Sept 10, 2026 ; EC, undated, '[Habitat Directive](#)', European Commission.

³³ EC, undated, '[Regulation on Deforestation-free Products](#)' European Commission; EC, 3 July 2026, '[Corporate sustainability reporting European Commission](#)', European Commission; EC, undated, '[Corporate sustainability due diligence](#)', European Commission.

high biodiversity value.³⁴ Due to globally accepted definitions, forests can remain legally classified as forests, and logging can remain legally permitted, even when their ecological condition and functioning is substantially deteriorated.³⁵ The widely used FAO definition, for example, defines ‘forest’ principally through thresholds of more than 0.5 hectares, trees higher than five metres and canopy cover of more than 10 per cent, and has influenced forest definitions used within EU regulatory and statistical frameworks.³⁶ As the FAO defines deforestation as ‘the conversion of forest to other land use’ (usually agriculture), clear cut forests are still absurdly classified as forests, as long as the plan is to allow for forest regrowth.³⁷ The EUs support³⁸ for sustainable forest management (SFM),³⁹ a concept historically focused on economic sustainability, appears to be lacking the needed reform in many parts of the EU due to outdated forestry standards and respective laws that continue to allow intensive forest degrading forestry practices and clear cuts alike.⁴⁰ SFM should not be treated as an ecological outcome in itself.

Whether forest management is genuinely sustainable should ultimately be assessed against forest condition and whether ecosystem integrity is maintained over time.

Logging rates in valuable forests across Europe

Europe’s remaining primary and old-growth forests are among its most valuable ecosystems, yet much of what remains is still at risk of degradation or loss. In 2021, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) assessed the distribution of primary and old-growth forests in the EU, highlighting their “paramount importance for biodiversity” and the critical ecosystem services they provide.⁴¹ The assessment identified around 1.35 million hectares of mapped primary and old-growth forest, while estimating that a further 4.4 million hectares may remain unmapped. This is an area larger than the Netherlands. Although around 93% of the mapped forests were within the Natura 2000 network and 87% were reported as strictly protected, the JRC cautioned that these figures should be treated carefully given the substantial mapping deficit and the unclear legal framework for strict protection.

However, Europe's biodiversity crisis extends beyond these rare remnants. Protecting primary and old-growth forests alone cannot fulfil the EU's 10% strict protection target.⁴² Achieving this objective will require expanding protection to additional forest types possessing high biodiversity value and restoration potential.

³⁴ Barredo, J.I., Marí Rivero, I. and Janoušková, K., 2025, ‘[Assessing disturbances in surviving primary forests of Europe](#)’, *Conservation Biology*, 39(2); Carter, S., Stolle, F., Weisse, M., van Veldhoven, S., 21 November 2023, ‘[Timber Harvesting and Climate Change Are Depleting Europe’s Mature Forests](#)’, World Resources Institute.

³⁵ EC, 31 May 2023, ‘[Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1115 on deforestation-free products](#)’, recitals 9 and 15, arts 2(4) and 2(7), European Commission; IPCC, 2006, ‘[IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories](#)’, Vol 4, Ch 4, §4.2 (Forest Land Remaining Forest Land), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; Barredo, J.I., Marí Rivero, I. and Janoušková, K., 2025, ‘[Assessing disturbances in surviving primary forests of Europe](#)’, *Conservation Biology* 39(2).

³⁶ FAO, 2018, ‘[Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Terms and Definitions](#)’, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, 2018.

³⁷ FAO, 2018, ‘[Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: Terms and Definitions](#)’, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, 2018.

³⁸ Council of the EU, 15 November 2021, ‘[Council adopts conclusions on EU forest strategy for 2030](#)’, Council of the European Union.

³⁹ See FAO, undated, ‘[Sustainable forest management](#)’, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, where the definition of SFM draws on the Non-legally Binding Instrument (NLBI) adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), which identifies seven thematic elements as a “reference framework” for SFM. These are: 1) extent of forest resources; 2) forest biological diversity; 3) forest health and vitality; 4) productive functions of forest resources; 5) protective functions of forest resources; 6) socio-economic functions of forest resources; and 7) legal, policy and institutional framework. It is argued that these elements allow forest owners and stakeholders to define SFM in specific countries and locations, including the management objectives and how forests should be managed to achieve them, while respecting the basic principle of perpetuity in the maintenance and enhancement of forest values.

⁴⁰ FAO, undated, ‘[Sustainable forest management](#)’, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

⁴¹ Barredo, C. et al, 2021, ‘[Mapping and assessment of primary and old-growth forests in Europe](#)’, Publications Office of the European Union.

⁴² EC, 20 March 2023, ‘[Commission Guidelines for Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary and Old-Growth Forests](#)’, SWD(2023) 62 final, European Commission.

Even when forests do not meet the strict definitions of primary or old-growth, they often harbour significant biodiversity value by offering mature structural complexity, critical habitat connectivity, and rare ecosystem functions. These forests are also disappearing. Tall, mature forests, which play a vital role in storing carbon and supporting biodiversity are declining significantly in some parts of Europe.⁴³

According to the World Resources Institute, Europe's mature forests have experienced a disproportionate increase in harvesting and natural disturbance in recent years, mainly in Sweden and Finland, reducing overall forest health in these areas.⁴⁴

To better understand the state of forests of high biodiversity value or potential in key Ikea supply countries, Greenpeace International's mapping unit looked at 25 years of tree cover loss in 5 selected European countries.⁴⁵ The selected countries collectively supply nearly half of Ikea's total global virgin wood consumption — Poland (29%), Sweden (8%), Germany (6%), Romania (3%), and Finland (2%).⁴⁶

Tree cover loss provides a useful spatial indicator of forest disturbance and canopy disruption, allowing us to identify where forest cover has been lost over time and assess the pressures affecting different areas. However, it is only a partial indicator of forest condition and needs to be interpreted alongside structural and ecological information.⁴⁷

This analysis compares losses in Natura 2000 areas or in those identified as areas

for future protection ('moratorium areas') with losses in areas outside these two categories. The comparison allows us to assess whether forests of high biodiversity value or having the potential thereof are under greater pressure from tree cover loss than other forest areas, and whether this pressure is occurring both within existing protected areas (Natura 2000) and in forests that have been identified as priorities for future protection (so called 'moratorium areas').

The scope of 'moratorium areas' is based on mapping exercises conducted at a national level by government authorities, scientists or civil society stakeholders and consists of forest areas of high biodiversity value or that have the potential to develop such values. In addition to biodiversity values, the selection of these areas considers their importance for ecological connectivity, wildlife corridors, their size and spatial distribution, and their ability to support healthy and functioning ecosystems. These areas urgently need to be protected from exploitation, allowing nature the space and time it needs to recover and thrive. They are also key to achieving the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy's targets of protecting 30% of land, including 10% under strict protection.

In Poland, these maps have been compiled by Greenpeace Poland using the proposals for new forms of protected areas created by scientists and several non-governmental organisations (see country section for more details). In Sweden, the

⁴³ Carter, S., Stolle, F., Weisse, M., van Veldhoven, S., 21 November 2023, '[Timber Harvesting and Climate Change Are Depleting Europe's Mature Forests](#)', World Resources Institute.

⁴⁴ Carter, S., Stolle, F., Weisse, M., van Veldhoven, S., 21 November 2023, '[Timber Harvesting and Climate Change Are Depleting Europe's Mature Forests](#)', World Resources Institute.

⁴⁵ Tree (or canopy) cover loss is not the same as deforestation, i.e. the permanent conversion of forest land to other uses. However, intensive timber harvesting in forest areas of high biodiversity value, inevitably degrades those severely for many decades, if they are able to recover at all. Tree cover loss data have been retrieved from [Global Land Analysis & Discovery](#) (GLAD) database, maintained by the Hansen et al / University of Maryland (UMD), accessed in August 2026.

⁴⁶ IKEA, undated, '[The wood we use](#)', Inter IKEA System B.V.

⁴⁷ Hansen, M. C., P. V. Potapov, R. Moore, M. Hancher, S. A. Turubanova, A. Tyukavina, D. Thau, S. V. Stehman, S. J. Goetz, T. R. Loveland, A. Kommareddy, A. Egorov, L. Chini, C. O. Justice, and J. R. G. Townshend., 15 November 2013, "[High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change](#)." Science 342, pp850–853. In simple terms, the dataset defines tree cover loss as the removal of at least half of the tree cover within a 30 × 30 metre area. The data used in this analysis indicate areas of tree cover loss, but cannot identify the specific cause of the loss. Next to logging, they include losses due to fire, disease, or storm damage. They also do not show whether the loss represents permanent deforestation.

maps use data produced by Metria on behalf of the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket)⁴⁸ for Northern Sweden and environmental organisations for Southern Sweden.⁴⁹ In Germany, forest areas of high biodiversity value or potential have not been precisely mapped to implement the EU's strict and effective biodiversity protection targets in forests. Data for Romania were provided to Greenpeace Romania by the corporate consortium contracted by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests to map areas for protection according to the EU Biodiversity Strategy 10% strict protection target. In Finland, data was compiled by environmental organisations together with the Luonnonmetsä working group.⁵⁰

It should be noted that the EU is now less than four years away from the 2030 deadline, yet the European Commission's official Biodiversity Strategy dashboard still lacks operational indicators to track progress on strict protection and the protection of primary and old-growth forests.⁵¹ The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) notes that, due to gaps in mapping, it is currently impossible to assess whether all remaining primary and old-growth forests can be strictly protected by 2030, and that the designation of strictly protected areas needs to accelerate drastically to reach the 10% target.⁵² While forests are not expected to account for the entire 10% target, primary, old-growth and other forests of high biodiversity value are very important to achieving it. We analysed whether forests that should be protected

from logging are experiencing higher levels of tree-cover loss while governments delay their designation, potentially leaving forests of high biodiversity value exposed to continued exploitation. This is particularly concerning as some of these forests are already within Natura 2000, which does not necessarily prevent logging Europe's vital forest ecosystems. The following analyses outline the current situation in each country as well as the shortcomings of existing national efforts to map and protect high biodiversity valuable forests.

Poland

Poland is Ikea's single largest global source for virgin wood, supplying nearly 29% of its total consumption.⁵³ Across the country, the total forest area exceeds 9.2 million hectares, which corresponds to a forest cover of 30 per cent. The vast majority of these areas - 7.15 million hectares - are state-owned forests, managed by a governmental organization called State Forests Holding.⁵⁴ In total, Ikea and its suppliers account for approximately 8% of Poland's total annual timber harvest.⁵⁵ Over the past 30 years, harvesting in Polish forests more than doubled, from 18.7 million cubic meters in 1990 to over 40 million cubic meters in the last decade.⁵⁶

The current government has committed to protecting 20 per cent of Polish forests from logging.⁵⁷ Processes to achieve this goal were initiated in early 2024 but they have not yet yielded satisfactory results.⁵⁸

⁴⁸ Metria, 10 January 2017, '[Sammanfattning av rapport: Kartering av kontinuitetsskog i boreal region](#)', Metria, on behalf of Naturvårdsverket (the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency).

⁴⁹ Skydda Skogen, undated, '[Forest Monitor - Map over Sweden's forests](#)', Skydda Skogen.

⁵⁰ The data can be found [Metsäkartat](#).

⁵¹ European Commission Joint Research Centre, 2026, '[EU Biodiversity Actions Tracker](#)', Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity.

⁵² Robuchon, M., Liqueste, C., Hammond, E., Alonso Aller, E., Barredo, J.I., et al., 2025, '[Assessing progress in monitoring and implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030](#)', JRC136024, Publications Office of the European Union.

⁵³ IKEA, undated, '[The wood we use](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

⁵⁴ GUS, 2026, '[Leśnictwo w Polsce w 2025 / Forestry in Poland in 2025](#)', Statistics Poland.

⁵⁵ IKEA, undated, '[The wood we use](#)', Inter IKEA System B.V.

⁵⁶ State Forests Holding, 8 November 2022, '[Skąd bierze się drewno / Where does wood come from](#)', State Forests National Forest Holding; GUS, 2023, '[Leśnictwo w Polsce w 2022 / Forestry in Poland in 2022](#)', Statistics Poland; GUS, 2024, '[Leśnictwo w Polsce w 2023 / Forestry in Poland in 2023](#)', Statistics Poland; GUS, 2025, '[Leśnictwo w Polsce w 2024 / Forestry in Poland in 2024](#)', Statistics Poland.

⁵⁷ Government of Poland, 10 November 2023, '[Agreement of the "October 15 Coalition" – program provisions](#)', Chancellery of the Prime Minister.

⁵⁸ Greenpeace Polska, 4 September 2026, '[Wielkie wyzwania przed następcą Mikołaja Dorożay](#)'.

Meanwhile, the area of permanently protected forests remains insufficient. A prime example is the fact that no new national parks have been established in Poland for 25 years,⁵⁹ even though experts estimate that their area should at least triple.⁶⁰

As the analysis conducted for this report shows, Natura 2000 areas do not seem to offer any real protection from logging to forests in Poland. Wood extraction inside Natura 2000 areas has been found to be almost the same as outside for most years in the period covered (2001-2025).

recommendations into a map and proposes a temporary halt to logging in these forests until their natural values are verified and

decisions on permanent protection are made. We refer to these as “moratorium areas.” They include forests currently being assessed for protection, such as old-growth and forests important to local communities, as well as valuable areas where logging continues, including forests proposed for new national parks.

Poland – TCL in Natura 2000 areas

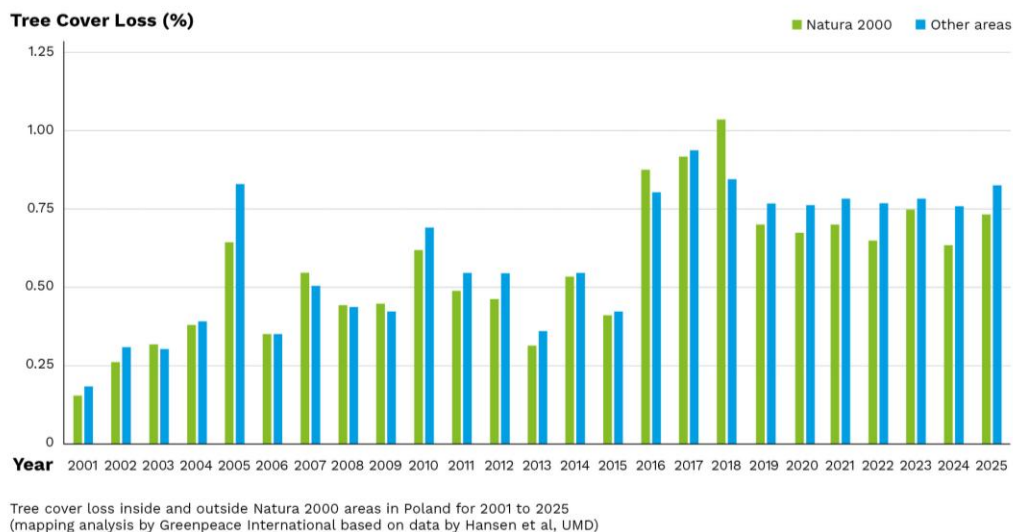


Figure 1: Tree cover loss inside and outside Natura 2000 areas in Poland for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

In Poland, scientists and forest experts have identified areas of exceptional biodiversity value that should be considered for protection. Greenpeace Poland has compiled these expert

Our analysis shows that tree cover loss in these moratorium areas remains worryingly high and has increased over the study period. Rates have largely caught up with those in forests outside the proposed

⁵⁹ Hołownia, S., 15 September 2025, '[Rządowy projekt ustawy o utworzeniu Parku Narodowego Doliny Dolnej Odry](#)', Druk nr 1721, Sejm of the Republic of Poland.

⁶⁰ Klub Przyrodników, 2023, '[Propozycja uzupełnienia sieci polskich parków narodowych](#)', Fundacja Dziedzictwo Przyrodnicze.

Poland – TCL in proposed moratorium areas

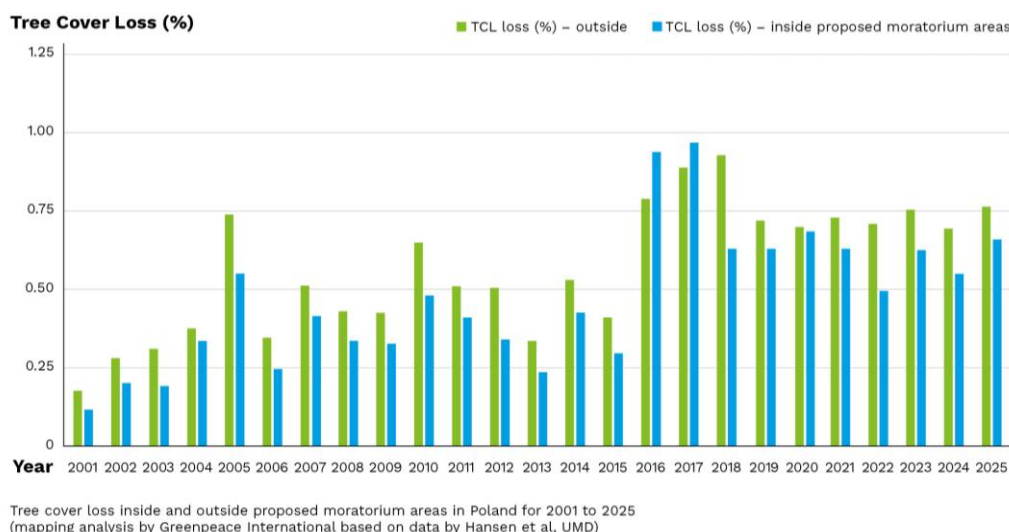


Figure 2: Tree cover loss inside and outside proposed moratorium areas in Poland for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

moratorium areas, with a particularly strong spike in 2017–2018, driven mainly by storm damage.⁶¹ This shows the urgency of securing protection for valuable forests before they are further degraded to ensure implementation of the EU Biodiversity Strategy target to strictly protect 10% of EU land.

The proposed moratorium areas include:

1. HBVF within KEO Polish Carpathians.⁶²
2. Potential old-growth forests currently undergoing environmental verification, coordinated by the Ministry of Climate and Environment.⁶³
3. Nature reserves proposed by scientists, but not yet established.⁶⁴
4. Areas that, according to experts, should be protected as national parks or should be

extended to include existing national parks.⁶⁵

5. The proposed community forests around 10 major Polish cities—these forests aren't necessarily the most valuable in terms of biodiversity, but they do provide a vital recreational area for thousands of people. Local residents have been campaigning for years to have these forests protected due to their significant importance to the community. Work is currently underway, coordinated by the Ministry of Climate and Environment, to establish management methods for these forests.⁶⁶

6. Forests that, by decision of the Minister of Climate and Environment in 2024, were subject to a temporary suspension of logging due to their exceptional biodiversity values – should ultimately be placed under permanent protection.^{67 68}

⁶¹ State Forests Holding, 2026, '9 lat po huraganie stulecia', State Forests National Forest Holding.

⁶² Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe, undated, 'High Biodiversity Value Forests in Carpathians', version 1.4, Greenpeace CEE.

⁶³ Government of Poland, 8 January 2025, 'Rozpoczynamy ochronę starolasów / We are starting to protect old-growth forests', Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland

⁶⁴ Klub P., undated, 'Projektowane i proponowane rezerваты', Klub Przyrodników.

⁶⁵ Klub P., 2023, 'Propozycja uzupełnienia sieci polskich parków narodowych', Fundacja Dziedzictwo Przyrodnicze.

⁶⁶ Government of Poland, undated, 'Moratorium na wycinkę lasów przedłużone', Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland.

⁶⁷ Government of Poland, undated, 'Moratorium na wycinkę lasów przedłużone', Ministry of Climate and Environment of Poland.

⁶⁸ OKO.press, 9 January 2024, 'Cenne lasy bez wycinki, chociaż tylko na pół roku. Dobry początek, ale co dalej? / Valuable forests spared from logging, albeit only for six months. A good start, but what comes next?', OKO.press.

Sweden

As Ikea's third-largest European source of virgin wood, Sweden accounts for 8% of the company's total consumption.⁶⁹ The case of Sweden highlights how industrial timber demand directly intersects with severe biodiversity decline to leave forest ecosystems in a critical state. Many forest-dwelling species are threatened as their habitats have been lost, fragmented or degraded.⁷⁰ The decline in forest biodiversity is primarily driven by intensive forestry, with clear-cutting as the dominant management method.⁷¹

A particular concern is the ongoing loss of Sweden's remaining 'continuity forests'. Unlike the majority of Sweden's intensively managed forest landscape, these forests have never been clear-cut and have retained a long and largely unbroken ecological continuity, making them especially important for biodiversity as they contain ecological structures and habitats that can take centuries to develop.⁷²

In a 2026 report, the Swedish Forest Agency (Skogsstyrelsen) states that "significant logging of forests with high conservation values and continuity forests results in irreversible losses for species conservation. At present, approximately 26,000 hectares of forest with known high conservation values and probable continuity forests⁷³ are logged each year."⁷⁴ At the current rate of logging and formal protection, estimates by the Agency point to scenarios that there will be none of

these ecologically irreplaceable forests left outside protected areas within just 26 years.⁷⁵

The Swedish Forest Agency estimates that an additional 1.56 million hectares of forest with high biodiversity values need to be protected from logging, and in many cases restored, below the mountain forest boundary. This is the amount needed to reach even the minimum threshold of conserving 20% of the area that existed before modern forestry for each relevant forest habitat type.⁷⁶ This 20% threshold, which reflects earlier conservation targets that have since been updated, is not a level at which biodiversity is considered secure, but rather a critical minimum below which the risk of species loss and further ecological degradation increases significantly.⁷⁷ This threshold falls short of the current 30% international biodiversity goal,⁷⁸ but the dire reality is that around 1.2 million hectares of known high conservation value forests or probable continuity forests (below the mountain border) remain without any form of protection⁷⁹ (compared to the 1.56 million hectares that would need protection to meet even a 20% threshold). There is evidently no room for further losses. On this basis, the Swedish Forest Agency concludes that all logging of known high conservation value forests and probable continuity forests needs to stop.⁸⁰

According to the analysis conducted for this report by Greenpeace International's mapping unit, the share of tree cover loss in Sweden's Natura 2000 areas between

⁶⁹ IKEA, undated, '[The wood we use](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

⁷⁰ SLU, 2025, '[Många skogslevande arter hotas av traktthyggesbruk](#)', Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

⁷¹ SLU, 23 May 2025, '[Hur mår den svenska skogen egentligen?](#)', Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

⁷² Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

⁷³ Continuity forests (CF) identified via satellite image analysis, that have in addition been verified with aerial imagery, are classified as 'probable CF', with all others being classified as 'potential CF'.

⁷⁴ Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

⁷⁵ Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

⁷⁶ Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

⁷⁷ Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

⁷⁸ Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

⁷⁹ Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

⁸⁰ Swedish Forest Agency, 2026. '[Biologisk mångfald i skogen/Biodiversity in the Forest](#)'. Report 2026/07, revised version.

Sweden – TCL in Natura 2000 areas

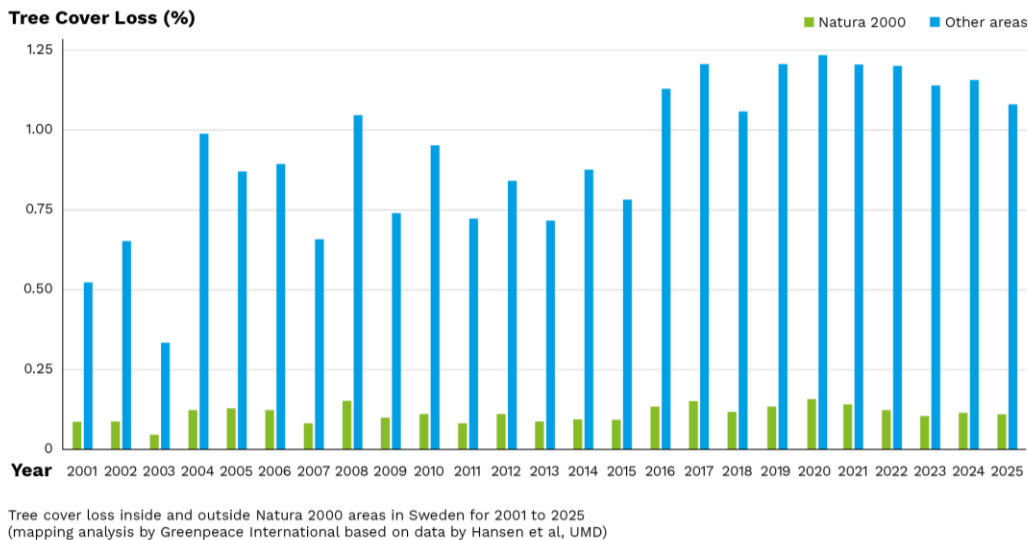


Figure 3: Tree cover loss inside and outside proposed moratorium areas in Sweden for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

2001 and 2025 were just a tenth of the rates outside of them. This low rate of forest harvesting inside Sweden's Natura 2000 areas needs to be interpreted with caution, however. More than 80% of Natura 2000 forest areas overlapped with national parks or nature reserves upon creation.⁸¹ In these areas forestry had already been restricted or prohibited before they got designated Natura 2000. The Natura 2000 network also overlaps extensively with Sweden's northern and mountainous protected landscapes, large areas of remote, low-productivity forests, or forests

already subject to other forms of protection.⁸² Consequently, the lower rate of harvesting cannot be attributed to the Natura 2000 designation alone.

According to the same analysis, Sweden's continuity forests lost a larger share of their tree cover in 2025 compared to other forests (1.08 per cent against 0.97 per cent).⁸³ This has been a consistent pattern for the past decade, a clear indication that these forests are under intense pressure from the forest industry.⁸⁴

⁸¹ Statistics Sweden, 2026, '[Protected areas by nature type, observations and year](#)', Statistics Sweden. The figure originates not from the database, but the notes on that page.

⁸² Naturvårdsverket, 2026, '[Formally protected forest](#)', Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Figures relate to 2022.

⁸³ In 2016, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (Naturvårdsverket) [released the results](#) of a mapping exercise based on aerial and satellite imagery of Sweden's forests dating back to the 50s, allowing to identify those forest areas that had likely never been clear cut. Those were coined 'continuity forests'. These forests contain old stands of trees, usually associated with high biodiversity values. This mapping did not cover the south of Sweden, but was restricted to the counties Norrbotten, Västerbotten, Jämtland, Västernorrland, Gävleborg, Dalarna and Värmland, leading to an underestimate in the analysis. For Southern Sweden, the analysis for this report relied on data compiled by SkyddaSkog and available via [Skogsmonitor](#).

⁸⁴ Note: for this analysis the original 2015 map [released by Naturvårdsverket](#) has been used. The period pre-2015 hence had to be excluded from this analysis. This 2015 map is understood to be overmapping continuity forests, hence also our calculated tree cover loss needs to be treated as a potential overestimate. The most recent map of continuity forests from 2024, on the other hand, leaves out all areas that have been harvested after 2015 and hence leads to an underestimate in the analysis. Using this later map would have changed the tree cover loss share in 2025 to 1.1%, only slightly higher than when using the original 2015 map (1.08%). Also the years 2023 and 2024, unaffected by the 2024 revision that excluded meanwhile logged areas, show similar shares as resulting from the 2015 map. Shares in previous years, when logged areas were taken out of the continuity forests map, understandably show lower rates. This result seems to suggest that the exclusion of logged areas in later maps, much more than exclusion of potential continuity forest areas, finally not qualifying to be moved into the probable continuity forest category, influenced the results.

A moratorium on forestry in continuity forests is therefore vital. The extent of continuity forests is based on a 2016 mapping exercise conducted on behalf of the government.⁸⁵ As such, there is no comparable data on tree loss cover rates before 2016, so continuity forests logged before that date could not be covered by the analysis.

forests by clear-cutting results in a double climate loss: it causes carbon emissions and disrupts the forest's function as a carbon sink,⁸⁸ while exposing carbon stocks accumulated over centuries to significant loss.⁸⁹

Moreover, forests with long ecological continuity are vital to Sámi culture and

Sweden – TCL in proposed moratorium areas

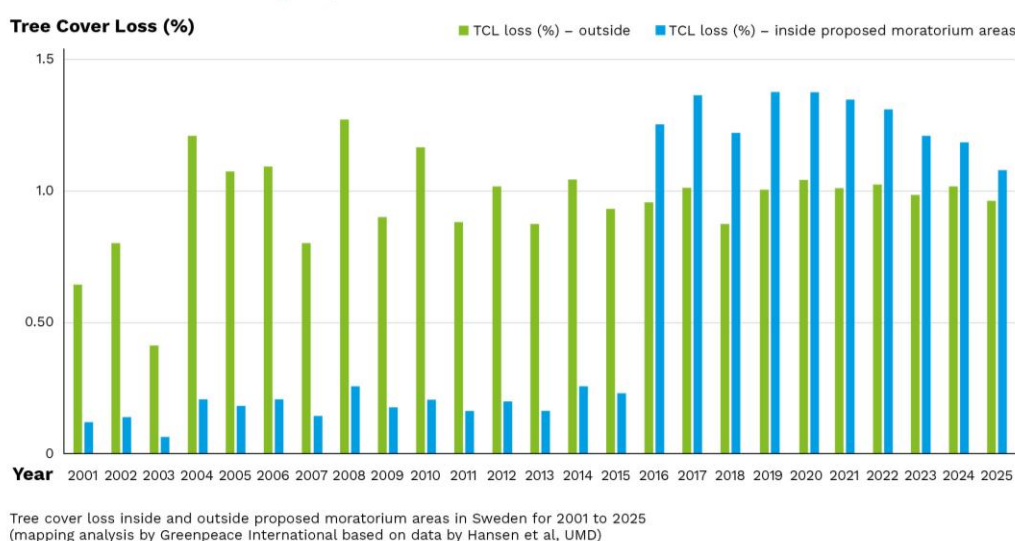


Figure 4: Tree cover loss inside and outside proposed moratorium areas in Sweden for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD). Note: Results from before 2016 and 2016 onwards are not comparable, as the moratorium areas map used here is based on satellite imagery from mainly 2015.

The importance of conserving these forests extends beyond biodiversity. Forests with long ecological continuity can contain large carbon stocks accumulated over long periods, including in living trees, dead wood and soils.⁸⁶ Studies comparing primary and intensively managed forests in Sweden indicate that less-disturbed forests store substantially more carbon, particularly in soils.⁸⁷ Harvesting these

nature-based reindeer herding.⁹⁰ Research shows that lichen-rich forests, which provide an important winter grazing resource for reindeer, have declined by more than 70% in the Swedish parts of Sápmi (the traditional territory of the Sámi people) since the 1950s, as forest landscapes have been increasingly transformed by clear-cutting and intensive forestry.⁹¹

⁸⁵ Metria, 10 January 2017, '[Sammanfattning av rapport: Kartering av kontinuitetsskog i boreal region](#)', Metria, on behalf of Naturvårdsverket (the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency).

⁸⁶ Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, 2026, '[Research call on continuity forests as carbon sink](#)', Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

⁸⁷ Pascual et al., 2026, '[Higher carbon storage in primary than secondary boreal forests in Sweden](#)'. *Science*, 391(6791), pp. 1256–1261.

⁸⁸ Lindroth, A., 2023, '[Clarifying the carbon balance recovery time after clear-cutting](#)'. *Global Change Biology* 29, pp4178–4179.

⁸⁹ Pascual et al., 2026, '[Higher carbon storage in primary than secondary boreal forests in Sweden](#)'. *Science*, 391(6791), pp. 1256–1261.

⁹⁰ Berg, A., Östlund, L., Moen, J. & Olofsson, J. (2012). '[Forest fragmentation and landscape change in a reindeer husbandry area in northern Sweden](#)', *Forest Ecology and Management* 287, pp14–22.

⁹¹ Sandström, P., et al (2016). '[On the decline of ground lichen forests in the Swedish boreal landscape: Implications for reindeer husbandry and sustainable forest management](#)', *Ambio*, Volume 45, pages 415–429, Jan 11, 2016

Germany

Germany is the origin of 6% of Ikea's global virgin wood supply. It has a wide array of forest areas with some level of legal protection status, though most of these do not offer protection from industrial logging, highlighting how administrative fragmentation creates an illusion of protection.⁹² There are more than 20 categories of protected areas, frequently overlapping, not necessarily compatible with IUCN categories, and neither centrally recorded nor transparently mapped.⁹³ A 2021 analysis by Greenpeace Germany found that while 67 per cent of German forest lies inside nominally 'protected' areas, only 2.8 per cent of forests are strictly protected from industrial logging, while at least 15 per cent of forests were found to be suited for this level of protection.⁹⁴

Existing Natura 2000 protected areas do not ensure effective forest protection. A study on the vitality, damage and rise of temperature in Germany's forests after the extreme droughts from 2018-2020 revealed that the loss of vitality and the increase in water stress was at least as great within Natura 2000 forests as outside of these areas.⁹⁵

The analysis conducted for this report confirms the concerns laid out above. Tree cover loss in Natura 2000 areas is mostly on a par with areas outside this designation and, at most, in some areas it is up to a third lower. This indicates only limited protection from a Natura 2000 designation, while it has to be noted that the analysis cannot provide causes for observed tree cover loss, making the interpretation of the results difficult without additional analysis.

Germany – TCL in Natura 2000 areas

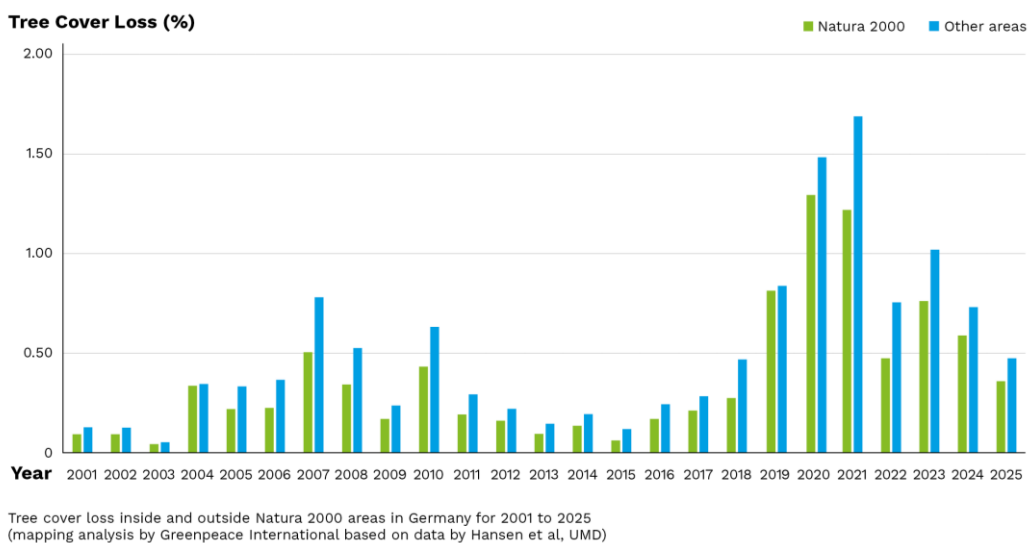


Figure 5: Tree cover loss inside and outside Natura 2000 areas in Germany for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

⁹² IKEA, undated, 'The wood we use', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

⁹³ Greenpeace Germany, September 2021, 'Schutzgebiete schützen nicht', Greenpeace (Germany) e.V.

⁹⁴ According to an analysis by Greenpeace Germany, September 2021, 'Schutzgebiete schützen nicht', (pp2 and 7), Greenpeace (Germany).

⁹⁵ Ibisch, P.L., Gohr, C., Mann, D. & Blumröder, J.S., 2021, 'Der Wald in Deutschland auf dem Weg in die Hitzezeit - Vitalität, Schädigung und Erwärmung in den Extremsommern 2018-2020', Centre for Ecnics and Ecosystem Management, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, commissioned by Greenpeace (Germany) e.V.

Furthermore, compliance with the Habitats directive - a key legislative framework to achieve the protection of the most valuable and threatened biodiversity - has been a challenge for Germany. In September 2023, the Court of Justice of the European Union declared that Germany had failed to designate certain sites as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC areas) and to adopt detailed conservation objectives for a number of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC sites).⁹⁶

The combined effect of inadequate designation and lax compliance is that Germany even missed its own National Biodiversity Strategy 2020 target of leaving five per cent of forest area to natural development.⁹⁷

The German government's approach to implementing the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy's 30% and 10% land protection targets has so far failed to define exactly how these areas will be selected or where they should be located.⁹⁸ Since agricultural land will largely be unavailable for strict protection, the majority of these areas will have to be designated within forests.

In the absence of a clear pathway for the implementation of the 10 percent strict protection target and the 30 percent effective protection target in Germany, the German government should immediately follow the precautionary approach and strictly protect forest areas that are likely to qualify for strict protection under the terms of the relevant EU guidance.⁹⁹ Based on currently available information, the majority of these forests should be located

within Nature 2000 Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), as these have already been officially designated to protect the most valuable and threatened biodiversity as part of the Natura 2000 network.

Romania

Although Romania accounts for 3% of Ikea's global virgin wood supply, and its suppliers consume roughly 2% of the country's total timber harvest,¹⁰⁰ its supply chain footprint carries an exceptionally heavy ecological cost, as detailed in field investigations published by Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe in 2024¹⁰¹ and 2025¹⁰².

Greenpeace CEE have exposed Ikea's ties to the destruction of forests of high biodiversity value in its supply chain (including two Natura 2000 protected sites) by tracing timber from felling sites through wood depots and via transport permits to processing plants. They have documented links to at least seven Ikea suppliers, producing at least 30 Ikea products. The forest stands concerned were between 120 and 180 years old according to publicly available forest management plans.¹⁰³ One supplier, Masifpanel SRL, was found to source beech from the Rusca Montana old-growth forest. The area had been opened for logging in 2025 despite it being part of a Natura 2000 site and providing critical habitats for rare and protected

⁹⁶ CJEU, 21 September 2023, '[Judgement of The Court regarding ACTION for failure to fulfil obligations under Article 258 TFEU](#)', Court of Justice of the European Union.

⁹⁷ Nationale Strategie zur Biologischen Vielfalt 2030, 18 December 2024, (p11), Beschluss des Bundeskabinetts.

⁹⁸ Borel, P., Bliefernicht, J.-G., Flinkerbusch, E., Gutsch, M., Höltermann, A., Matthes, U., Nieberg, M., Nowakowski, T., Tölle, M., Reyer, C.3.P.O., 29 June 2026, '[A standardised approach towards selecting forests for strict protection in Germany](#)', Regional Environmental Change.

⁹⁹ EC, 20 March 2023, '[Commission Guidelines for Defining, Mapping, Monitoring and Strictly Protecting EU Primary and Old-Growth Forests](#)', SWD(2023) 62 final, European Commission.

¹⁰⁰ IKEA, undated, '[The wood we use](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁰¹ Greenpeace CEE, April 2024, '[Nature Crime Files - Romania](#)', Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe.

¹⁰² Greenpeace CEE, September 2025, '[Felling the Future - IKEA's Sourcing Threatens Romania's Irreplaceable Forests](#)', Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe.

¹⁰³ Government of Romania, 2025, '[Inspectorul Pădurii/Forest Inspector](#)', Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania; data taken as shown in the attributes table of this governmental timber traceability platform.

Romania – TCL in Nature 2000 areas

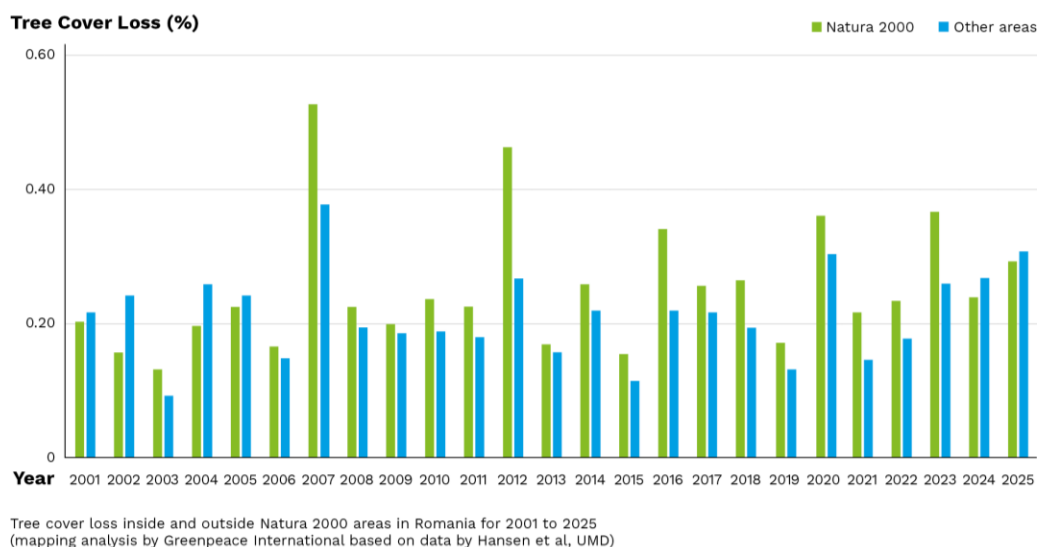


Figure 6: Tree cover loss inside and outside Natura 2000 areas in Romania for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

species.¹⁰⁴ When formally asked to stop sourcing from these forests in September 2024, Ikea contested the request, urging Greenpeace CEE to engage through multi-stakeholder platforms rather than taking unilateral action.

The analysis conducted for this report shows that these are no isolated incidents. Natura 2000 designation does not offer meaningful protection against logging in Romanian forests, underscoring systemic procedural gaps in the forest management frameworks currently under scrutiny by the European Commission.¹⁰⁵ Tree cover loss rates inside Natura 2000 areas have been even higher than outside for most years in the period covered (2001-2025). This could be interpreted as a direct result of decades of illegal logging and poor forestry management, which have severely

degraded Romania's woodland. Today, less than about 10% of its forests are over 120 years old.¹⁰⁶ This has led to a dangerous clash between nature protection and industry, as the few old forests that remain hold both the highest ecological value and the highest value timber. With mature wood depleted elsewhere, commercial logging is now heavily concentrated in the fragile ecosystems that need protection the most.

In areas identified in Romania as 'moratorium areas'¹⁰⁷ tree cover loss rates have been lower than in other forests, although they increased over the study period and are still alarmingly high, getting close to the rate on other forests in some cases. Moratorium areas encompass the 1.9 million hectares of high-conservation-value ecosystems mapped under the Romanian

¹⁰⁴ European Environment Agency, 2024, '[Natura 2000 – Standard Data Form: ROSC10219 Rusca Montană](#)', section 3.2., European Commission. "Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II to Directive 92/43/EEC."

¹⁰⁵ EC, 2026, '[Database of the European Commission on Infringement Cases](#)', case INFR(2020)2033, European Commission.

¹⁰⁶ IFN, undated, '[National Forest Inventory](#)', Inventarul Forestier Național / National Forest Inventory.

¹⁰⁷ Moratorium areas in Romania are those identified as candidate sites for the EU's Biodiversity Strategy's 10% strict protection target under the official National Recovery and Resilience Plan Component 2, Investment I.3 mapping contract No. 119 dated 16/08/2023 signed by the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania. The final map produced for the Ministry called 'Zone Prioritare pentru Biodiversitate/biodiversity priority areas' (ZPB), was provided to Greenpeace CEE Romania by the Consortium that carried out the mapping in August 2026.

Romania – TCL in proposed moratorium areas

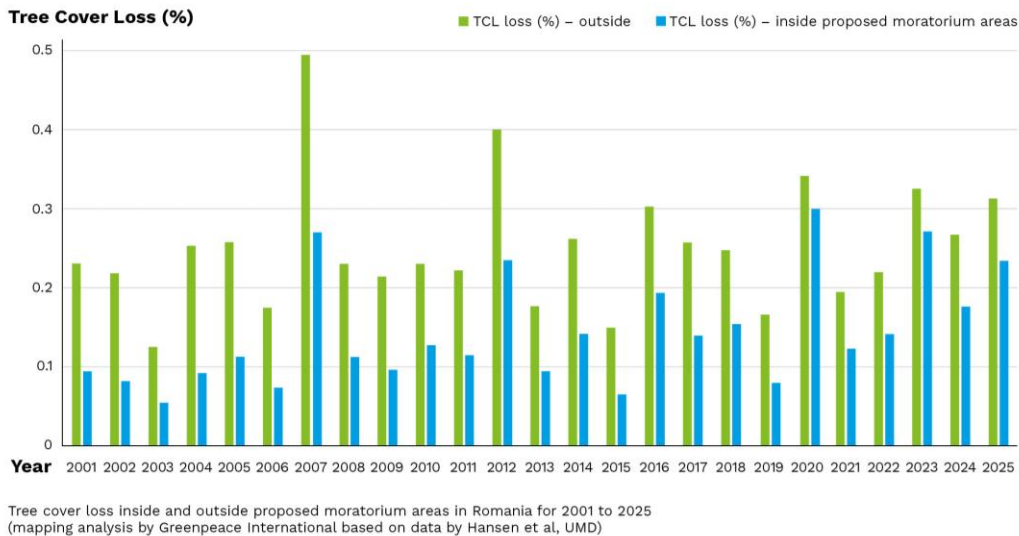


Figure 7: Tree cover loss inside and outside proposed moratorium areas in Romania for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) to fulfill the 10% strict protection target under the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. In accordance with the precautionary principle, these areas require an immediate administrative freeze on all approved management measures, especially logging in forest habitats. Establishing a temporary moratorium is the only way forward to prevent irreversible ecosystem degradation across candidate areas while the formal designation process is effectively finalized.

Finland

Supplying 2% of Ikea's global virgin wood, Finland illustrates how deep-seated industrial priorities compromise EU conservation goals.¹⁰⁸ Despite being Europe's most heavily forested nation, with woodland covering over 75% of its territory,¹⁰⁹ fewer than 7% of Finland's forests are strictly protected from commercial logging. The primary goal of

traditional forest management in Finland was raw material supply for the forest industry, a focus that has left no clear pathway for implementing effective forest protection.

The lack of mapping and information, particularly on privately owned forest land, is a serious obstacle to effective protection.¹¹⁰ There is not even a comprehensive forest survey showing where old-growth and other forests with high biodiversity value are located. Therefore Greenpeace Nordic and other environmental organisations, together with the privately funded Luonnonmetsä working group, have mapped high biodiversity value forests on mainly state lands.¹¹¹ The results of this extensive mapping exercise have been used as the basis for the organisations' demand for a logging moratorium in Finland's most valuable forest areas. According to the Finnish Nature Panel, the rate of

¹⁰⁸ IKEA, undated, 'The wood we use', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁰⁹ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 2026, [Forest resources in Finland](#). Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland.

¹¹⁰ Saijets, J., Pyykkö, J., Manninen, O., & Manninen, A., 2025, 'Jatkumo- ja luonnonmetsien kartoitus koko Suomessa 2025-2026', Kone Foundation.

¹¹¹ Endorsed by all major Finnish environmental organisations, Greenpeace, WWF and Finnish Association for Nature Conservation. More information on this map can be found [Metsäkartat](#).

Finland – TCL in Natura 2000 areas

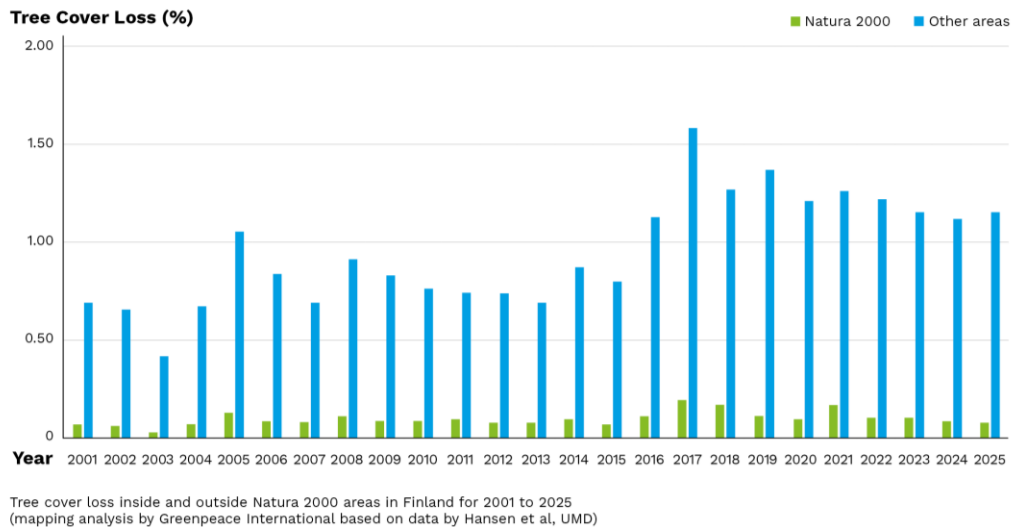


Figure 8: Tree cover loss inside and outside Natura 2000 areas in Finland for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

biodiversity loss increased in 2012–2018 compared to earlier periods, with the ecologically most valuable forests particularly affected.¹¹²

Analysis conducted for this report found that the rate of tree cover loss in Finland’s Natura 2000 areas is roughly a tenth of that outside those areas (0.05 to 0.2 per cent against 0.4 to 1.6 per cent).

A large proportion of Finland’s Natura 2000 forest areas are located in northernmost Finland¹¹³ and most of the areas were already protected as nature reserves, wilderness areas or sites of conservation programs prior to their inclusion in the Natura 2000 network.¹¹⁴ In the more economically productive forests in southern Finland the share of the Natura 2000 areas is comparatively small.

The rate of loss in ‘moratorium areas’ is not as high as in other forest areas. However, it fluctuates alarmingly between about 50 and nearly 90 per cent of the rates in other forests, underlining the urgent need to stop logging in these areas until strict protection in line with the 10% goal has been ensured. It is worth noting that privately owned forests, accounting for over 80% of all logging in Finland, were not included in the ‘moratorium area’ mapping.¹¹⁵

¹¹² Kotiaho, J. S., Bäck, J., Herzon, I., Häyrynen, S., Jokimäki, J., Kallio, K. P., Pappila, M., et al., 2023, ‘Suomen luonnon tila ja tulevaisuus – toimenpidekuilun analyysi ja ratkaisuja luontokadon pysäyttämiseksi’, (p9), Suomen Luontopaneeli, julkaisu 4A/2023.

¹¹³ Finnish Environment Institute (Syke), 2025, ‘[ArcGIS Experience Builder / Environmental Administration of Finland](#)’, Finnish Environment Institute.

¹¹⁴ Metsähallitus, 2026, ‘[Natura 2000 -alueiden verkosto suojelee luontotyyppejä ja lajeja](#)’, Metsähallitus

¹¹⁵ Luke, 2025, ‘[Hakkuukertymä ja puuston poistuma alueittain](#)’, Natural Resources Institute Finland.

Finland – TCL in proposed moratorium areas

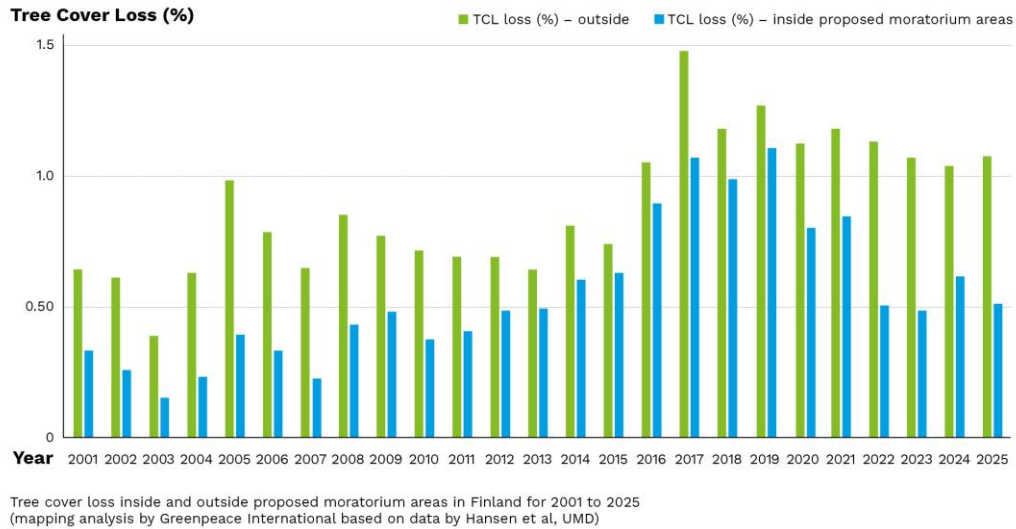


Figure 9: Tree cover loss inside and outside proposed moratorium areas in Finland for 2001 to 2025 (mapping analysis by Greenpeace International based on data by Hansen et al, UMD)

Hence, areas with high biodiversity value in these privately owned forests are not included in the analysis presented here. This particularly affects regions in southern Finland. A complete mapping of forests with high biodiversity value must urgently be conducted for the entire country.

From Biodiversity Commitments to Corporate Accountability

The Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) calls for biodiversity protection to be integrated in corporate decision-making and across whole supply chains. Target 15 of the framework calls on governments to ensure that companies monitor, assess and disclose their biodiversity-related risks and impacts, while Target 14 calls for biodiversity to be fully integrated into decision-making across all sectors, in particular those with significant impact on biodiversity, including private activities.¹¹⁶ Globally, implementation remains way off track, with the CBD's Global Review of collective progress finding that 2030 targets will not be achieved unless collective implementation accelerates rapidly.¹¹⁷ It finds only limited progress in, among other areas in the assessment of Target 15, reducing the negative impacts of businesses on biodiversity, promoting sustainable and equitable production and consumption, and developing corporate disclosure and reporting frameworks.¹¹⁸ The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) Business and Biodiversity Assessment backs this up, noting the central role that business plays in driving biodiversity loss,¹¹⁹ as well as its potential to promote transformative change.¹²⁰

Voluntary initiatives can supplement these efforts. The Taskforce on Nature Related Financial Disclosure (TNFD)¹²¹ provides a framework for corporate assessment and disclosure of nature-related impacts, risks and opportunities, while the Science Based Targets Network (SBTN)¹²² has also developed methodologies to track performance. However, voluntary commitments alone are increasingly recognised as inadequate, unless they are embedded within an international legal framework that demands corporations do more to identify and prevent harms to biodiversity and ecosystems.¹²³

A recently published Greenpeace International paper – *Beyond Deforestation: Ecosystem Integrity and the Emerging Legal Paradigm*¹²⁴ – argues that developments in international science, biodiversity policy, and international law all point towards ecosystem integrity becoming the benchmark against which forest governance, due diligence and implementation should be assessed. The paper highlights convergence between the KM-GBF, the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on Climate Change (ICJ AO), the Inter-American Court on Human Rights Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency and Human Rights (IACtHR-AO), as well as the expanding expectations placed on companies through

¹¹⁶ CBD, undated, '[Target 14 - Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level](#)' and '[Target 15 - Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts](#)', Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, Convention on Biological Diversity.

¹¹⁷ CBD, 2026, '[Nairobi meeting paves the way for 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference](#)', Convention on Biological Diversity; CBD, 2026, '[Summary, Conclusions and Key Messages of the Global Review of Collective Progress in the Implementation of the KM-GBF](#)', Convention on Biological Diversity, as considered by the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-eighth meeting (Nairobi, 27 July-1 August 2026), item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda, and by the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation Seventh meeting (Nairobi, 4-12 August 2026), item 3 of the provisional agenda: 'Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework'.

¹¹⁸ CBD, 2026, '[Key Message 5 - Whole-of-society, page 22 of Annex 1 Summary, Conclusions and Key Messages of the Global Review of Collective Progress in the Implementation of the KM-GBF](#)', Key Message 5 (Whole-of-Society), (p22 of Annex 1), Convention on Biological Diversity.

¹¹⁹ IPBES, 2026, '[IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment: Summary for Policymakers](#)', Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

¹²⁰ O'Brien, K., Garibaldi, L. and Agrawal, A. (eds.), 2024, '[Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)', IPBES secretariat.

¹²¹ See TNFD, undated, '[The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\)](#)', Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.

¹²² See SBTN, undated, '[Science Based Targets Network](#)', Science Based Targets Network.

¹²³ Lambin, E. F., et al., 2018, '[The role of supply-chain initiatives in reducing deforestation](#)', Nature Climate Change 8, p109; Lambin, E.F. and Furumo, P. R., 2023, '[Deforestation-Free Commodity Supply Chains: Myth or Reality?](#)', Annual Review of Environment and Resources 48, p237.

¹²⁴ Greenpeace International, 2026, '[Beyond Deforestation: Ecosystem Integrity and the Emerging Legal Paradigm](#)', Greenpeace International.

environmental due diligence, biodiversity disclosure and nature-related target-setting frameworks.¹²⁵

The most compelling emerging legal finding of the ICJ and IACtHR advisory opinions (AOs) is that, in the context of the climate emergency, States are expected to adopt stringent standards of due diligence to achieve greenhouse gas reductions, and protect the climate system and ecosystems.¹²⁶ This requires States to adopt and effectively implement legislative, regulatory and administrative measures governing public and private activities that contribute to climate change, including measures capable of delivering the deep, rapid and sustained emissions reductions necessary to limit warming to 1.5°C, supported by effective enforcement, monitoring.¹²⁷ The IACtHR further extends this logic to corporate conduct, requiring States to regulate business activities and ensure effective environmental, climate and human rights due diligence across supply chains.¹²⁸ This is all to be considered within the context of the multiple political pledges and commitments at the highest levels of governments, including the EU's obligation

under the KM-GBF and the UNFCCC first Global Stocktake outcome that countries need to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.¹²⁹

Whilst these AOs are directly relevant to State obligations, the protection of ecosystem integrity, the climate system and the human rights that depend on it cannot be achieved through State action alone.¹³⁰ The IACtHR clarified that not only States but also business enterprises have obligations and responsibilities with respect to climate change and its human-rights impacts.¹³¹

This finding builds on different instruments, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as the jurisprudence of courts worldwide which has upheld that corporations are expected to apply human rights and environmental due diligence standards.¹³²

To comply with these obligations, States need to adapt their regulatory landscapes to ensure effective monitoring and enforcement of standards on the production, financing, and trade in commodities, with relevant provisions

¹²⁵ Greenpeace International, 2026, '[Beyond Deforestation: Ecosystem Integrity and the Emerging Legal Paradigm](#)', Greenpeace International.

¹²⁶ ICJ, 23 July 2025, '[Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change](#)', paras 137, 138, 329, 343 and 349, International Court of Justice; IACtHR, 29 May 2025, '[Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)', OC-32/25, paras 233, 234, 247, 296, 353 and 363, Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

¹²⁷ ICJ, 23 July 2025, '[Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change](#)', paras 329, 403, 428, International Court of Justice; IACtHR, 29 May 2025, '[Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)', OC-32/25, paras 229, 230, 347 and 353, Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

¹²⁸ IACtHR, 29 May 2025, '[Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)', OC-32/25, Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

¹²⁹ New York Declaration on Forests, 2014; United Nations, 2015, 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development', UNGA Res 70/1, SDG 15; Paris Agreement, 2015, art 5; Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, 2021; Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, 2022, Decision 15/4, particularly Targets 1–3; UNFCCC, 2023, 'Outcome of the First Global Stocktake', Decision 1/CMA.5, FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/16/Add.1, paras 33–34; IUCN, 2025, 'Resolution 8.011: Delivering Harmonised Accountability and Means of Implementation for International Forest Protection Goals'; Brazilian Presidency of UNFCCC COP30, 2026, 'Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030'. See also IPCC, 2019, 'Climate Change and Land'; IPCC, 2022, 'Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change', AR6 WGIII.

¹³⁰ Greenpeace International et al, 2023, '[Amicus Brief Submitted To The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)', para 1, Greenpeace International.

¹³¹ IACtHR, 29 May 2025, '[Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)', OC-32/25, para 347, Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

¹³² Colombian Constitutional Court, 2023, 'Sentence T-072 of 2023', para 35; Colombian Constitutional Court, 2019, 'Sentence T-614 of 2019', para 9.10; Colombian Constitutional Court, 2018, 'Sentence SU-123 of 2018'; Colombian Constitutional Court, 2016, 'Sentence T-732 of 2016'; Supreme Court of Canada, 2020, 'Nevsun Resources Ltd v Araya', 2020 SCC 5, [2020] 1 SCR 166, paras 110 and 113; Constitutional Court of Peru, Jun 26, 2023, 'Plena Sentencia 310/2023', paras 53–54; Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Aug 31, 2021, 'Miskito Divers (Lemonth Morris et al.) v Honduras', Series C No 432; Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Nov 25, 2015, 'Kaliña and Lokono Peoples v Suriname', Judgment, Series C No 309, para 224; Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Nov 27, 2023, 'Habitantes de La Oroya v Peru', Judgment, Series C No 511, para 114; African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Sep 5, 2023, 'Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme and Others v Republic of Côte d'Ivoire', Application No 041/2016, and Dissenting Opinion of Judge Blaise Tchikaya, paras 52–54 (emphasis added); The Hague District Court, May 26, 2021, 'Vereniging Milieudefensie et al. v Royal Dutch Shell', C/09/571932 / HA ZA 19-379 (English version); The Hague Court of Appeal, Nov 12, 2024, 'Shell plc v Vereniging Milieudefensie et al.', 200.302.332/01 (English version), para 7.11, ECLI:NL:GHDHA:2024:2100.

extending across the whole supply chain.¹³³
States should impose stricter obligations on companies that have a greater historical or ongoing contribution to environmental harm and climate change.¹³⁴

The evolution of corporate accountability is fundamentally changing the way in which Ikea and other major timber consuming companies should be doing business. Whilst it has been standard practice for companies to adopt environmental and biodiversity policies, and to rely on voluntary certification schemes, or in some cases demonstrate legal compliance, the emerging expectation is that a company must now be able to demonstrate that their governance, sourcing policies, due diligence processes and disclosure frameworks are capable of using suitable indicators to disclose the impacts on ecosystem integrity, evaluate the implementation of the KM-GBF targets and maintain ecosystem integrity along their supply chains to prevent degradation, protect biodiversity and contribute to the implementation of the KM-GBF and the Paris Climate Agreement.¹³⁵

¹³³ ICJ, 23 July 2025, '[Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change](#)', paras 329, 403 and 428, International Court of Justice; IACtHR, 29 May 2025, '[Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)', OC-32/25, paras 229, 230, 353, Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

¹³⁴ IACtHR, 29 May 2025, '[Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)', OC-32/25, para 350, Inter-American Court of Human Rights

¹³⁵ UNSD, undated, '[SEEA-related Indicators for the Global Biodiversity Framework](#)', United Nations Statistics Division, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

Ikea must close its biodiversity

Accountability Gap in the EU

Ikea claims sustainability is embedded into every stage of their business and has sought to back this up with a series of time-bound, quantified climate commitments. Ikea has pledged to halve greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 2016 levels) by 2030 across its entire value chain, and to achieve a reduction of at least 90 per cent by 2050 without using carbon offsets.¹⁴⁶ However, the devil is in the detail, and many of its other commitments have significant loopholes.

For example, Ikea only pledges to “strive towards” 100 per cent renewable energy across the value chain by 2030, or through the adoption of intensity rather than absolute targets.¹⁴⁷ In the case of its materials pledge, Ikea has committed to raising the share of recycled and renewable content in its products to at least 90 per cent by 2030, while remaining silent on the remaining tenth and on the transition period, and defining “renewable” in a way that excludes virgin wood taken from forests of high biodiversity value or potential that ought to be protected.¹⁴⁸

Ikea's sustainability claims fall particularly short in relation to nature restoration and biodiversity.¹⁴⁹ Underpinning this is IWAY, Ikea's supplier Code of Conduct, which has a forest materials specification that is mandatory for every supplier.¹⁵⁰ IWAY however, lacks quantitative targets and clearly defined metrics for ecosystem protection,¹⁵¹ and pays relatively little attention to ensuring alignment with national biodiversity strategies and targets. A revised forest materials specification (version 1.3) took effect on 1 September 2026 but this still contains no ecosystem or biodiversity requirements.¹⁵²

We have identified five accountability gaps in how Ikea approaches biodiversity and ecosystem protection. The first of these relates to measurement of biodiversity, since Ikea does not seek to assess changes in the condition of the forests it draws on. The second is a targets gap, with no measurable and timebound goals for ecosystem protection and restoration. The third is a mapping gap, in which there is often no data on forest areas of high

¹³⁶ Inter IKEA Group, 2026, '[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', (p11), Inter IKEA Group, section '2030 objectives of the Sustainability Strategy'.

¹³⁷ Inter IKEA Group, 2026, '[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', sections E4-2 and E4-4, Inter IKEA Group. See further 'The ecosystem targets gap' below.

¹³⁸ Inter IKEA Group, 23 October 2024, '[The IKEA Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)', (p3), Inter IKEA Group, sections 'Measuring progress' and 'Biodiversity'.

¹³⁹ Inter IKEA Group, 23 October 2024, '[The IKEA Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)', (p2), Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁴⁰ Inter IKEA Group, 2026, '[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', section E4-3, Inter IKEA Group; Ingka Group, 2026, 'Annual Summary and Sustainability Report FY25', Ingka Group.

¹⁴¹ Jon Abrahamsson Ring, then CEO of Inter IKEA Group, quoted in IKEA, 25 January 2021, '[Ikea launches 2030 forest agenda](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁴² Greenpeace CEE, September 2025, '[Felling the Future: Ikea's Sourcing Threatens Romania's Irreplaceable Forests](#)', (pp1 and 5), Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe. See further 'The map gap' below.

¹⁴³ Inter IKEA Group, 23 October 2024, '[The Ikea Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)', (p3), Inter IKEA Group, section 'Forestry and agriculture'.

¹⁴⁴ Earthsight, 2020, 'Flatpacked Forests: Ikea's illegal timber problem and the flawed green label behind it', Earthsight. See further 'The certification gap' below.

¹⁴⁵ Ingka Group, undated, '[Ikea shares list of policy asks in advance of EU elections](#)', Ingka Group.

¹⁴⁶ Inter IKEA Group, 23 October 2023, '[The Ikea Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)', (p3), Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁴⁷ Inter IKEA Group, 23 October 2023, '[The Ikea Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)', (p3), Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁴⁸ Inter IKEA Group, September 2025, 'IKEA Sustainability Strategy 2025–2030', Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁴⁹ Inter IKEA Group, 27 January 2025, 'IKEA Sustainability Report FY24', (p6), Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁵⁰ Inter IKEA Group, undated, '[IWAY Standard, Forest Materials Section](#)', Edition 6.1, Inter IKEA Group; Inter IKEA Group, 'How does IKEA make sure its wood is responsibly sourced?', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁵¹ Inter IKEA Group, 2026, '[Inter Ikea Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', section E4-4, Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁵² Inter IKEA Group, undated, '[IWAY Forest Materials Specification IWAY-S-604](#)', version 1.3, effective from 1 September 2026, Inter IKEA Group.

Table 1: What Ikea says, and what Ikea does

Claim	Reality
2030 objective for nature: “Reduce negative pressures and impacts on nature across our value chain, while contributing to the protection, improvement and enhancement of natural ecosystems in our sphere of influence.” ¹³⁶	“No targets are set” – no biodiversity or ecosystem-specific target sits beneath the objective, and no baseline or indicator. ¹³⁷
“We are currently in the process of developing a science-based performance framework with indicators and goals specific to biodiversity.” ¹³⁸	Stated in October 2024 but this framework has not yet been implemented.
“The IKEA business is dependent on and impacts nature throughout the IKEA value chain. To support nature, we are committed to regenerating resources, protecting ecosystems and improving biodiversity.” ¹³⁹	Site-level biodiversity assessments are to be made “according to an internal working method, which is currently under development”. Ikea’s control of biodiversity impacts is a procedural one – conformity to third-party FSC certification, which has several flaws and limitations. ¹⁴⁰
“At IKEA, we want to make responsible forest management the norm, to stop deforestation, enhance biodiversity and support people who depend on forests for their livelihood.” ¹⁴¹	In 2024 alone 58.9 km ² of canopy was lost inside Romanian forests of high biodiversity value or potential. Greenpeace CEE traced timber from two Natura 2000 sites to at least seven Ikea suppliers, producing at least 30 Ikea products. ¹⁴²
“IKEA is committed to no deforestation and no forest degradation across our primary deforestation-linked commodities... with a target date of December 31, 2025. All wood used in IKEA products is sourced from responsibly managed forests which do not contribute to deforestation.” ¹⁴³	In Europe the main risk is degradation rather than deforestation, and the assurance against it rests on FSC. But Earthsight traced beech illegally felled in the Ukrainian Carpathians to Ikea’s Terje and Ingolf chairs; successive FSC audits of the same suppliers found no irregularities. ¹⁴⁴
Ikea has urged European leaders to “adopt regulations that promote nature protection, restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources, with clear implementation roadmaps.” ¹⁴⁵	Ikea has avoided calling for efforts to encompass the roadmap for strict protection.

biodiversity value or potential. The fourth is the gap left by certification, which falls way short of providing adequate assurances that ecosystems are protected. Finally, there is an influence gap, as Ikea has not brought its weight to bear on the EU when biodiversity policy is decided. Taken together, these gaps paint a picture of a company that has not yet built the means to deliver the biodiversity that it claims to be protecting as part of its approach to sustainability.

The biodiversity measurement gap

Ikea does not track its biodiversity performance against a dated baseline on the grounds that methods for measuring impacts, dependencies, and opportunities for nature “are still evolving.”¹⁵³ Ikea’s justification here is extremely thin, however, given that various indicators to assess the ecosystem integrity of forests of high biodiversity value already exist. At international level, the KM-GBF monitoring framework sets out headline indicators on ecosystems that have a direct bearing on forest condition, while its complementary indicators include a Forest Landscape Integrity Index as a measure of how far forests have been modified by human pressure.¹⁵⁴

The KM-GBF framework relies in turn on the UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), adopted as an international statistical standard in 2021, to make several of these indicators. The newly developed KM-GBF SEEA ecosystem accounting indicators can serve as a blueprint to assess ecosystem extent, ecosystem condition and ecosystem services, which are designed to record whether an ecosystem’s characteristics are improving or deteriorating over time.¹⁵⁵

At EU level, the Nature Restoration Regulation already obliges Member States to achieve an increasing trend in at least six of the seven forest biodiversity indicators it names: standing deadwood, lying deadwood, the share of forests with uneven-aged structure, forest connectivity,

the stock of organic carbon, the share of forests dominated by native tree species, and tree species diversity. These are defined by EU law for the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems, complete with units and methodology, and bind the very states from which Ikea buys most of its wood.¹⁵⁶

National indicator sets used to assess biodiversity and biodiversity loss in the context of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) can be more specific still. The indicator development of relevant environmental agencies and institutes working on scientific biodiversity assessments should be considered for advancing suitable indicators for corporate biodiversity accountability frameworks. Sweden’s environmental quality objective *Sustainable Forests*, for example, is assessed through indicators covering formally protected forest land, voluntary set-asides, old forests, breeding forest birds, environmental consideration in forestry, and structures in the forest landscape. The latter of these measures the area of productive forest land holding dead wood, large trees and older deciduous-rich forest, each against a defined threshold and drawn from the national forest inventory, and is reported by the Swedish Forest Agency.¹⁵⁷ These indicators demonstrate that established, measurable metrics for important aspects of forest condition and conservation already exist.

Ikea has acknowledged that it still needs “to expand our policies related to direct impact drivers on biodiversity loss over and

¹⁵³ Inter IKEA Group, 23 October 2024, ‘[The IKEA Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)’, (p3), Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁵⁴ CBD, 19 December 2022, ‘[Decision 15/5: Monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)’, CBD/COP/DEC/15/5, annex I, Convention on Biological Diversity. The headline indicators for Goal A include the Red List of Ecosystems (A.1) and the extent of natural ecosystems (A.2); the Forest Landscape Integrity Index is listed among the component and complementary indicators.

¹⁵⁵ UNSD, undated, ‘[SEEA-related Indicators for the Global Biodiversity Framework](#)’, United Nations Statistics Division; UN et al., 2021, ‘[System of Environmental-Economic Accounting — Ecosystem Accounting \(SEEA EA\)](#)’, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission at its 52nd session, United Nations

¹⁵⁶ European Union, 24 June 2024, ‘Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on Nature Restoration’, art 12 and annex VI. The data are not yet published at Member State level under the Regulation itself, but national figures for most of the Annex VI indicators are already collected (albeit in flawed form) through national forest inventories and published by country in FOREST EUROPE, 27 March 2026, ‘State of Europe’s Forests 2025’, FOREST EUROPE.

¹⁵⁷ Sveriges miljömål, undated, ‘[Indikatorer för Levande skogar / Indicators for Sustainable Forests](#)’ and ‘[Strukturer i skogslandskapet / Structures in the forest landscape](#)’, Naturvårdsverket and Skogsstyrelsen, data from SLU Riksskogstaxeringen.

above climate change and pollution”¹⁵⁸ but the September 2026 revision to its Forest Materials guidance fails to do so.¹⁵⁹ The same absence runs down to site level. Site-level biodiversity assessments are carried out “according to an internal working method, which is currently under development”, while effectiveness is defined as compliance with laws and certification processes rather than through any specific measure of whether degraded forests are restored and forest ecosystem integrity is secured.¹⁶⁰

Using existing international, EU and national indicators as a guide, Ikea has a responsibility to measure the biodiversity impacts of its own operations and extend the same guidance across its supply chains.

The ecosystem targets gap

Ikea's ecosystem targets gap arises from the fact that it has not yet set out biodiversity and ecosystems-specific targets, alongside policies to address ecosystem protection for raw materials other than wood, or specific guidance for sites in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas. At present Ikea only makes a vague and non-committal statement that by 2030 it will seek to “reduce negative pressures and impacts on nature across the Ikea value chain, while contributing to the protection, improvement and enhancement of natural ecosystems in our sphere of influence.”

Global biodiversity commitments and international legal obligations should provide the starting point for Ikea's

attempts to create meaningful biodiversity targets naming a baseline, a metric and a date in accordance with its share of overall responsibility. Amongst these, Target 15 of the KM-GBF asks States to ensure that large and transnational companies “regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity” along their supply and value chains.¹⁶¹ In particular, Ikea draws almost 80 per cent of its virgin wood from EU Member States, and as one of the bloc's largest consumers it should be prioritizing targets that align with its existing biodiversity regulations and commitments.¹⁶² The EU Biodiversity Strategy sets targets to protect 30 per cent of EU land, strictly protect 10 per cent, and strictly protect all remaining primary and old-growth forests.¹⁶³ The Nature Restoration Regulation obliges Member States to demonstrate an increasing trend in at least six of the seven forest biodiversity indicators it names, which could also be used as a guide for corporations like Ikea that are major players within several EU Member States.¹⁶⁴ The LULUCF Regulation sets an EU target of 310 million tonnes of CO₂e in net land-sector removals by 2030, which forest condition directly determines.¹⁶⁵

Ikea says it is currently developing indicators and goals specific to biodiversity, and that it has made a science-based assessment of parts of its value chain, but it has yet to develop a Corporate Biodiversity Accountability

¹⁵⁸ Inter IKEA Group, 2026, ‘[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)’, section E4-2, Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁵⁹ Inter IKEA Group, undated, ‘[IWAY Forest Materials Specification IWAY-S-604](#)’, version 1.3, Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁶⁰ Inter Ikea Group, 2026, ‘[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)’, sections E4-3 and E4-4, Inter IKEA Group. Actions and resources related to biodiversity and ecosystems (E4-3) and Targets related to biodiversity and ecosystems (E4-4). Ingka's reporting makes the circular logic explicit, defining a negative biodiversity impact as “any non-conformities identified through the third-party certification process” and reporting no such sites in FY25.

¹⁶¹ Convention on Biological Diversity, 19 December 2022, ‘Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework’, CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, Target 15.

¹⁶² IKEA, undated, ‘[The wood we use](#)’, FY25 fast facts, Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁶³ European Commission, May 20, 2020, ‘EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing Nature Back into Our Lives’, COM(2020) 380 final, (pp4–5), European Commission.

¹⁶⁴ European Union, Jun 24, 2024, ‘Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 on Nature Restoration and Amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869’, art 12 and annex VI.

¹⁶⁵ European Union, 2018, ‘Regulation (EU) 2018/841 on the Inclusion of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry’, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2023/839, art 4.

Framework with specific targets.¹⁶⁶ Without these science-based specific and measurable targets and measures, it is not possible to credibly claim that it is doing its part to implement the EUBDS or KM-GBF, including the reduction of destructive forest degrading practices and the protection of areas of very high biodiversity value or potential.

The map gap

Ikea's biodiversity measures also suffer from a mapping gap. The company's risk assessment relies on tools such as ENCORE and IBAT, which draw on official designations and datasets that can be outdated, or that omit ecologically valuable forests not yet identified, mapped or protected.¹⁶⁷

As a result, there can be situations where no material risk is registered, even when forests of high biodiversity value or potential are logged as commercial timber or under "sanitary logging" provisions.¹⁶⁸

In 2024 alone, 58.9 km² of canopy was lost within Romanian forests of high biodiversity value or potential.¹⁶⁹ The revised IWAY specification does not close this gap. For wood harvested inside the EU, geolocation assessment either falls away — suppliers outside the EU need not perform one at all — or migrates into suppliers' own EUDR systems. As the five country examples earlier

in this report demonstrate, better data is already within reach. Even without being fully harmonized, existing scientific and

national datasets can effectively identify forests of high-biodiversity value or potential and track other areas proposed for protection. The problem is not simply a lack of information, but that these datasets remain fragmented and are not systematically incorporated into corporate sourcing decisions.

Ikea currently treats traceability as a biodiversity safeguard. Its Forest Agenda states that "[s]ecuring traceability in geographical areas, including where our raw materials are sourced, is critical to enable us to assess, mitigate, remediate (where necessary) and safeguard impacts on biodiversity in accordance with regulatory requirements."¹⁷⁰ IWAY obliges suppliers to know the origin of their wood, and supply chains are mapped to the forest roadside.¹⁷¹ While traceability is an important step towards accountability, it is ultimately just a logistical instrument to establish where a log came from and the legality of felling it. Traceability offers no insights on whether the extraction was ecologically defensible. In countries where felling a centuries-old stand and replacing it with a monoculture plantation is lawful, a consignment can be fully traceable and fully legal, despite the massive erasure of biodiversity that this entails. For example, logging in forests of high biodiversity value or potential can remain legally permitted in Romania despite being inconsistent with achieving the protection objectives of the EUBDS. Legality therefore does not

¹⁶⁶ Inter IKEA Group, Oct 23, 2024, '[The IKEA Focus on Nature and Biodiversity](#)', (p8), Inter IKEA Group; Inter IKEA Group, 2026, '[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', section E4-3, Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁶⁷ ENCORE (Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure) is a screening tool that maps how production processes across economic sectors potentially depend on and impact nature, at sector rather than site level. IBAT (the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool) is a subscription mapping and reporting service giving access to three global datasets: the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the World Database on Protected Areas, and the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas. See ENCORE, undated, '[About ENCORE](#)', ENCORE; IBAT Alliance, undated, '[IBAT Alliance](#)', IBAT Alliance.

¹⁶⁸ Inter IKEA Group, 2026, '[Inter IKEA Group Sustainability Statement FY25](#)', section 'Impact, Risk and Opportunity Assessment', Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁶⁹ Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe, Sep 2025, '[Felling the Future: IKEA's Sourcing Threatens Romania's Irreplaceable Forests](#)', (pp1 and 5), Greenpeace CEE.

¹⁷⁰ Inter IKEA Group, undated, 'IKEA Forest Agenda 2030: Reducing Our Contribution to Biodiversity Loss', Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁷¹ Inter IKEA Group, undated, 'How Does IKEA Make Sure Its Wood Is Responsibly Sourced?', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.; Inter IKEA Group, Jan 27, 2025, 'IKEA Sustainability Report FY24', (p34), Inter IKEA Group.

necessarily equate to ecological sustainability.¹⁷²

The certification gap

Ikea's sustainability claims still rest largely on certification. In the 2025 financial year, over 95 per cent of the wood and paper it used were FSC-certified or recycled, with the company presenting FSC as “an additional level of assurance.”¹⁷³ The problem is that certification was not built to demonstrate ecosystem integrity.¹⁷⁴

While the FSC remains the most ambitious voluntary certification scheme available at a global scale, it has serious and even fundamental weaknesses, including weak and inconsistent protection of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs), heavy reliance on mixing non-certified “controlled wood” into labelled products, insufficient traceability, and an entrenched conflict of interest within the system itself because certification bodies are contracted and paid directly by the companies they audit.¹⁷⁵

This limitation reflects a wider problem with how Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is interpreted and implemented. FSC certification is one of the principal voluntary mechanisms through which forest management is assessed against sustainability standards. However, neither the designation of the continuous economic benefits of forest management as ‘sustainable’ nor FSC certification should, in itself, be treated as sufficient

evidence that ecosystem integrity is being maintained.¹⁷⁶ This requires a more holistic measurement of ecological condition and change over time.

This is particularly important because FSC has become one of the principal mechanisms used by companies such as Ikea to demonstrate sustainable and responsible forest management. Founded with good intentions, FSC is to date not structured as a sufficient tool to demonstrate ecosystem integrity or achieve the needed transformation of forestry practices to halt and reverse forest degradation and deforestation, nor to support large-scale forest protection efforts. It does not require conservation-area maps to be disclosed, and most of its standards do not require permanent protection of the areas set aside for conservation.¹⁷⁷

The consequences of this reliance are written into IWAY itself. Its forest materials requirements bar suppliers from sourcing virgin material from Intact Forest Landscapes or other geographically identified High Conservation Value Forests “unless the area is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.” This locks Ikea into a system whose adequacy is in question.¹⁷⁸

The influence gap

Ikea presents itself as a company that uses its size to make a positive difference.¹⁷⁹ It was one of the early

¹⁷² Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe, Sep 2025, ‘[Felling the Future: IKEA's Sourcing Threatens Romania's Irreplaceable Forests](#)’, (p3), Greenpeace CEE.

¹⁷³ Ikea, undated, ‘[The wood we use](#)’, FY25 fast facts, Inter IKEA Systems B.V.; Inter IKEA Group, undated, ‘How Does IKEA Make Sure Its Wood Is Responsibly Sourced?’, Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

¹⁷⁴ Blumröder, J.S., Hoffmann, M.T., Ilina, O. et al., 2020, ‘[Clearcuts and Related Secondary Dieback Undermine the Ecological Effectiveness of FSC Certification in a Boreal Forest](#)’, *Ecological Processes* 9, p1.

¹⁷⁵ Greenpeace International, 2021, ‘Destruction: Certified’, (p84), Greenpeace International; Earthsight, 2021, ‘Ikea's House of Horrors’, Earthsight; Earthsight, 2025, ‘[Will FSC Act on the Billion-Dollar Fraud at Its Heart?](#)’, Earthsight.

¹⁷⁶ FAO, *Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox: Criteria and Indicators – a Tool for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management*, noting that criteria and indicators are required to measure the status and trends of forest conditions and that expectations increasingly require managers to demonstrate SFM through quantified progress towards outcomes; Blumröder, J.S. et al. (2020), ‘Clearcuts and related secondary dieback undermine the ecological effectiveness of FSC certification in a boreal forest’, *Ecological Processes* 9, 1, doi:10.1186/s13717-020-0214-4.

¹⁷⁷ Greenpeace International, 2021, ‘Destruction: Certified’, (pp83–85), Greenpeace International. The areas described are representative samples of native forest ecosystems, a minimum of ten per cent of each management unit, which must be conserved.

¹⁷⁸ Inter IKEA Group, undated, ‘[IWAY Standard, Forest Materials Section](#)’, requirement F9.3(b), Inter IKEA Group.

¹⁷⁹ Ikea, 2021, ‘[Ikea launches 2030 forest agenda](#)’, Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

adopters of Targets for Nature-Related Financial Reporting, and it has set measurable, offset-free climate targets.¹⁸⁰ Yet Ikea and Ingka Group (by far the largest Ikea franchisee) have not followed this through with influence on EU decision-makers.¹⁸¹

Inter Ikea Systems and Ingka Group declared EU lobbying costs of €700,000–€799,999 and €1,250,000–€1,499,999 respectively for the financial year ending August 2025, and are recorded in 25 and 57 high-level meetings with the European Commission.¹⁸² Yet there is no evidence that their lobby efforts have been directed at supporting the EU's strict protection target. Only around 3 per cent of EU land is strictly protected at present, against a commitment of 10 per cent that should be extended to other areas of high biodiversity value or potential.¹⁸³

Moreover, while Ikea says that it has urged European leaders to “adopt regulations that promote nature protection, restoration, and sustainable use of natural resources, with clear implementation roadmaps” it has conspicuously avoided calling for these efforts to encompass the roadmap for *strict* protection.¹⁸⁴

Solutions to Increasing Corporate Biodiversity Accountability

Ikea and other corporations need to take further action to close the corporate biodiversity accountability gap, and help ensure that the goals and requirements of the KM-GBF, the Paris Agreement, EUBDS, the EU's climate-related Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) targets

and other forest and due diligence regulations are met.

As the IPBES Business and Biodiversity Assessment finds,¹⁸⁵ corporate biodiversity targets are most effective when aligned with national and global biodiversity objectives and grounded in a company's own impacts and dependencies. Ikea is a significant corporate actor that could play a leadership role in moving beyond minimal approaches to legal compliance and certification as the measure of its biodiversity performance to adopting measurable targets aligned with the KM-GBF targets and the 1.5°C goal, as well as embedding ecosystem considerations across its supply chain.

Governments and EU regulators will need to support these efforts, setting out rules to ensure that corporate sector monitoring moves beyond forest cover towards forest ecosystem integrity, as well as strengthening due diligence requirements. This would smooth the passage from minimum standard legality certification and compliance towards legitimate prevention of degradation, protecting biodiversity, and compliance with relevant international and regional legal obligations and responsibilities.

Corporate Action Ikea need to take

Closing the gaps identified above requires action across four areas: corporate biodiversity targets and accountability; measurement of ecosystem integrity and ecological outcomes; precautionary action where mapping and protection remain incomplete; and alignment of Ikea's political influence with its biodiversity commitments.

¹⁸⁰ TNFD (2024) ‘[320 companies and financial institutions to start TNFD nature-related corporate reporting](https://tnfd.global/320-companies-and-financial-institutions-to-start-tnfd-nature-related-corporate-reporting/)’, Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures. <https://tnfd.global/320-companies-and-financial-institutions-to-start-tnfd-nature-related-corporate-reporting/>.

¹⁸¹ Ikea is a franchise business and Ingka Group is the largest Ikea franchisee, generating 87.4% of total Ikea Retail sales in FY25.

¹⁸² EU Transparency Register, undated, ‘Inter IKEA Systems B.V. (ID 774019931221-41) and Ingka Services A.B. (ID 1095068839-59)’, European Union.

¹⁸³ European Commission, May 20, 2020, ‘EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing Nature Back into Our Lives’, COM(2020) 380 final, (pp4–5), European Commission.

¹⁸⁴ Ingka Group, undated, ‘[IKEA Shares List of Policy Asks in Advance of EU Elections](#)’, Ingka Group.

¹⁸⁵ IPBES, undated, ‘[Business and Biodiversity Assessment: Summary for Policymakers](#)’, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

1. **Immediately suspend sourcing — at a minimum— from forest areas of high biodiversity or potential (proposed moratorium areas) until governments finalize the designation processes required to implement the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy’s 30% and 10% land protection targets.**

Ikea must urgently put in place a logging moratorium concerning forest areas with high biodiversity value or potential to be protected under EU 2030 biodiversity targets until mapping and legal and effective protection of these areas is complete. The ‘map gap’ we identify establishes that inadequate mapping results in forests of high biodiversity value with potential for effective and strict protection may become degraded simply because an area is not included in tools and datasets used by Ikea such as ENCORE and IBAT.

Ikea should lead by example while mapping and legal and effective protection of the areas is being completed. Further, the loophole identified above in IWAY F 9.3 which specifies that sourcing from IFL/HCVF is prohibited unless it is FSC-certified should be closed. FSC certification should not override this prohibition. In other words, the FSC exemption in IWAY 9.3(b) should be removed.

2. **The Ikea Board should adopt a Corporate Biodiversity Accountability Framework with measurable 2030 targets**

Ikea has no KM-GBF and EUBS aligned biodiversity targets. There is now an opportunity for Ikea to show leadership and alignment across its sourcing policy, with the KM-GBF and the EUBDS. Ikea should therefore adopt a Board level Corporate Biodiversity Accountability Framework with measurable 2030 biodiversity targets, applicable to the entire supply chain.

Extensive legal consensus establishes that regulations at the global, regional and national level should require due diligence that prevents environmental harm.¹⁸⁶ This due diligence requirement provides an important legal basis for such an accountability framework. It should therefore not be a mere box ticking exercise,¹⁸⁷ and compliance with legal requirements or achieving certifications or simply the existence of a ‘Due Diligence Plan’ should not in themselves demonstrate that responsibilities have been met.¹⁸⁸

The Corporate Biodiversity Accountability Framework should provide a practical approach for translating these responsibilities into measurable corporate action. Ecosystem integrity should be at its core. Corporate performance should be assessed against the ecological condition of forests, rather than simply whether forest cover remains, timber is legally sourced, or certification requirements have been met. The Framework should include measurable biodiversity targets with a defined baseline, metric, date and scope across the value chain, supported by spatially explicit assessment and mapping

¹⁸⁶ ICJ, 2010, ‘Pulp Mills on the River Uruguay (Argentina v Uruguay)’, Judgment, ICJ Reports 2010, para 187; ITLOS, Feb 1, 2011, ‘Responsibilities and Obligations of States Sponsoring Persons and Entities with Respect to Activities in the Area’, Advisory Opinion, paras 110–111; ITLOS, May 21, 2024, ‘Request for an Advisory Opinion Submitted by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law’, Advisory Opinion, particularly paras 197–207; ICJ, Jul 23, 2025, ‘[Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change](#)’, Advisory Opinion, paras 279–281; IACtHR, May 29, 2025, ‘[Climate Emergency and Human Rights](#)’, Advisory Opinion OC-32/25, paras 233–234, 337 and 345–350; European Union, 2024, ‘Directive (EU) 2024/1760 on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence’; OECD, 2023, ‘Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct’, ch VI.

¹⁸⁷ European Coalition for Corporate Justice et al., undated, ‘[Joint Statement: The Big EU Deregulation — Disastrous Omnibus Proposal Erodes EU’s Corporate Accountability Commitments and Slashes Human Rights and Environmental Protections](#)’, ECCJ.

¹⁸⁸ ICJ, Jul 23, 2025, ‘[Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change](#)’, para 208, International Court of Justice.

capable of identifying degradation and fragmentation, including in forests of high biodiversity value or potential that have not yet been formally protected.

Accountability also requires companies to be able to demonstrate that these commitments are producing ecological outcomes. This means monitoring forest condition to the point of harvest, transparent reporting of impacts and failures, independent verification of performance, and precautionary no-sourcing requirements for forests of high biodiversity value or potential. Certification can provide supporting evidence but should not substitute for due diligence or demonstrate ecosystem integrity in itself, while restoration should complement rather than justify continued degradation elsewhere. Ultimately, the Framework should shift corporate biodiversity accountability away from demonstrating that procedures have been followed towards demonstrating that biodiversity loss is being reduced and ecosystem integrity maintained or restored.

3. Establish Ecosystem Integrity as a Principle of Ikea's approach to governance

Compliance with applicable forestry and environmental requirements, and certification, does not in itself demonstrate that ecosystem integrity is being maintained.¹⁸⁹ To ensure ecosystem integrity and related services there is a need for Ikea to shift away from measuring and monitoring forest cover loss alone, towards measuring and monitoring forest condition.

Drawing on the definition of ecosystem integrity used in this paper, this corporate governance principle should guide the assessment as to whether sourcing and

forest-management activities maintain and regenerate the composition, structure, ecological processes, stability and self-organisation that enable the ecosystem to function as a resilient living system under prevailing environmental conditions. This should be translated into measurable indicators of forest condition, including, as appropriate, forest composition and structural complexity, connectivity and fragmentation, standing and lying deadwood, age structure, carbon stocks, hydrological condition, regeneration and species or habitat condition, drawing where relevant on indicators already established under the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, the KM-GBF monitoring framework or the UN SEEA indicators for the implementation of the KM-GBF.¹⁹⁰

To close the biodiversity measurement gap, such systems should be capable of detecting changes in forest condition through multiple causes of degradation and fragmentation such as roads, industrial logging and other human-driven activities, and should include independent monitoring systems. The impact of extraction on surrounding ecology should also be embedded within corporate responsibility requirements, including through assessment of ecological conditions to avoid ecosystem degradation.

Such an approach should strengthen the definition and industry understanding of 'responsible forestry', to be defined by ecosystem condition rather than compliance with existing systems. Current forest management and corporate accountability systems are not capable of demonstrating that ecosystem integrity is being maintained and, in the landscapes examined, the evidence identifies disturbances and degradation that are inconsistent with maintaining high

¹⁸⁹ IPBES, undated, '[Ecosystem Integrity](#)', glossary, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

¹⁹⁰ CBD, Dec 19, 2022, '[Decision 15/5: Monitoring Framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#)', CBD/COP/DEC/15/5, Convention on Biological Diversity; UNSD, undated, '[SEEA-related Indicators for the Global Biodiversity Framework](#)', United Nations Statistics Division, System of Environmental-Economic Accounting.

ecosystem integrity.

4. **Ikea should publicly advocate for an ambitious implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the European Biodiversity Strategy to halt biodiversity loss by 2030, particularly through the effective protection of at least 30% of land, including the strict protection of at least 10% of EU land.**

The influence gap arises from the disconnect between Ikea's claimed commitment to using its considerable influence to drive systemic change and the absence of equivalent advocacy for stronger forest protection and biodiversity regulation, despite its substantial access to EU decision-makers and influence over European forest supply chains. There is no evidence that Ikea's general claims in favour of biodiversity protection have been followed up by advocacy in favour of the EU 10% strict protection objective. Ikea should urge the EU to effectively implement its 30% protection and 10% strict protection commitments, not limited to protection of all remaining primary- and old growth but including all forests of high biodiversity value and potential.

Further, for the purpose of transparency, Ikea should make public disclosure of its forest and biodiversity related lobbying positions, and ensure that the company takes a systems wide approach to ensuring that no advocacy is undertaken which may weaken or delay environmental protection, and due diligence legislation.

The 2030 Forest Roadmap process being led by Brazil as the UNFCCC COP30 Presidency provides an important opportunity here. Ikea should advocate in that process for the Roadmap to recognise ecosystem integrity and forest degradation

as implementation outcomes and for strengthened corporate due diligence and accountability across commodity supply chains.

Conclusions

As one of the largest corporate users of wood, Ikea has considerable influence over industry approaches to forest management and has itself made very public commitments to use its size, scale and reach to help halt deforestation and to make responsible forest management and wood sourcing the norm across the world.¹⁹¹ The position the company has taken publicly prevents IKEA from reasonably claiming that mere compliance with existing rules is sufficient and cannot expect that adherence to minimum legal requirements is sufficient.

Measures such as legality, certification and protected-area designation are critical governance tools but they do not in and of themselves ensure that ecosystem integrity is being maintained. Forests of high biodiversity value or potential can be legally logged, the wood products certified sustainable, and yet degradation of forests, ecosystems and biodiversity continues. Ikea can comply with FSC-certification, yet still cause ecosystem destruction and biodiversity loss inside areas covered by existing sustainability frameworks.

The country examples identified in this report clearly illustrate the point that formal protection and ecological protection do not always coincide. In many cases formal protection still allows industrial logging driving degradation and the loss of forests of high biodiversity value or potential. Insufficient mapping, weak implementation and ongoing industrial harvesting are allowing highly biodiverse forests to continue to be degraded despite

¹⁹¹ IKEA, undated, '[Wood and forestry](#)', Inter IKEA Systems B.V.

the EU's current governance architecture. The missing piece is the extent to which these policies are being implemented and enforced in a way which ensures the maintenance of functioning ecosystems.

The definition of ecosystem integrity being utilised within the context of this paper requires consideration of ecosystem composition, structure, ecological processes, stability and self-organisation. By taking a corporate governance approach which ensures the integrity of ecosystems, Ikea has an obligation to ensure that especially forests of high biodiversity value or potential remain functioning, whether these areas exist within or outside formally protected and mapped areas.

Our analysis of the approach taken by Ikea identifies a list of gaps which need to be addressed if the company truly wants to use its size and reach to make a positive difference as they claim. Gaps exist in relation to metrics, targets, mapping, certification and influence, which prevent Ikea from being able to show that the sustainability systems and frameworks put in place within the context of its governance have the ability to ensure ecosystem integrity and alignment with the KM-GBF and EUBDS across the entirety of the forests upon which the business depends. There is a need for a Corporate Biodiversity Accountability Framework to be put in place by Ikea that closes these gaps and supports the achievement of the targets as needed.

As a final point, when we look at the circumstances in Europe and as one of the leading wood users that wants to influence, or even transform, the forestry industry, we should be alarmed. For Ikea to consistently profit from a position of making a positive change under these circumstances raises serious concerns: especially as its business model is based on turning forests, essential for climate and biodiversity and home to millions of

plants and animals, into cheap furniture for sale.

Ikea should appreciate that part of leadership requires finding solutions to their business model which support halting and reversing deforestation and degradation by 2030 rather than the opposite. It should use its position as one of the leading wood users to identify insufficiencies in existing frameworks and use its political influence and purchasing power as a leader to increase the bar and do better. The European approach to address forest degradation and biodiversity protection is important globally to inform the development and implementation of initiatives such as the Brazil-led 2030 Forest Roadmap as it highlights the challenges associated with putting adequate systems of governance in place. Europe is a clear example that claiming to have a sophisticated system of environmental governance can remain insufficient to ensure ecosystem integrity and halt and reverse biodiversity loss where the incentives for enforcement and best-practice implementation are insufficient for both States and corporations alike.

Response from Inter IKEA Group

In the spirit of transparency and constructive dialogue, Greenpeace Nordic submitted a draft of this report to Ikea for review and comment prior to its publication.

In its response, the Inter Ikea Group welcomed the dialogue aimed at strengthening biodiversity but largely rejected the report's key conclusions and recommendations for action.

While Ikea welcomed the report's acknowledgment of its compliance with legal requirements, it rejected the call for an immediate logging moratorium in the areas proposed for protections. Ikea argues that procurement exclusions should not be based solely on proposals from interest groups until the legal status has been assessed through recognised scientific, legal or certification processes—that in our view ignores the fact that the proposed moratorium areas in the report are grounded on best available science established by a broader coalition of organisations and authorities. Furthermore Ikea cites the legality of forestry activities and defends its existing due diligence system (IWAY) and the use of certification schemes.

However, this statement highlights precisely the “accountability gap” emphasized in the report: relying solely on procedural due diligence obligations, formal legality, and voluntary certifications does not prevent ecologically valuable forest ecosystems from continuing to be damaged within Ikea's supply chain.

In response to Ikea's clarification that it presents its work as a contribution to biodiversity challenges rather than a claim of global leadership, we have revised our framing accordingly.