



copyright Forestry Commission

## Objectives:

- Characterize & evaluate governance models
- Evaluate environmental effectiveness of targeted woodland planting
- Explore cost-effectiveness of woodland planting for reducing diffuse pollution
- Create an European PES repository of case studies
- Develop User Guidance on suitability of pollutant, ecosystem service & catchment scale models to quantify the effectiveness of tree planting to reduce diffuse pollution



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework programme of the European Union



## RESEARCH NETWORK

**PESFOR-W COST Action (CA15206):**  
(2016-2020) covering 40 countries

**Chair:** Gregory Valatin, Forest Research,  
[gregory.valatin@forestresearch.gov.uk](mailto:gregory.valatin@forestresearch.gov.uk)

Home page:

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/pesforw/>



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework programme of the European Union



**PESFOR-W**

Payments for Forests and Water

## Background:

- The EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) aims to restore Europe's water bodies to "good ecological status" by 2027 but many member states are struggling to achieve this target. Today, about half of EU rivers have sub-standard water quality and diffuse pollution poses long-term chronic risks for 42% of European freshwaters.
- Meeting WFD targets in a cost-effective manner requires flexible, incentive-based mechanisms with a high potential to use available finance more efficiently for environmental improvement. New economic instruments such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes are needed to deliver effective, spatially-targeted restoration actions.
- PES is "a transfer of resources between social actors, creating incentives to align individual and/or collective land use decisions with the social interest in the management of natural resources". PES is increasingly accepted at national and international levels, offering much scope for policies to tackle otherwise intractable environmental issues.
- Mounting evidence shows that in many cases good water status can only be achieved by targeted land use change. Small-scale forest planting ("Woodlands-for-water") has been highlighted as one potential solution, as well as a means of harnessing multiple benefits for other policy agendas (e.g. climate change adaptation and mitigation).



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework programme of the European Union

## Vision: to explore potential for developing a Woodland Water Code

**Aim:** to improve Europe's capacity to use Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) to achieve Water Framework Directive (WFD) targets & other policy objectives through incentives for planting woodlands to reduce agricultural diffuse pollution to watercourses.



copyright Forestry Commission

**Acknowledgement:** the European Commission Drawing competition, [http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest-drawing-competition\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/forest-drawing-competition_en)



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework programme of the European Union