



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

The Seed Stand & Seed Orchard Schemes

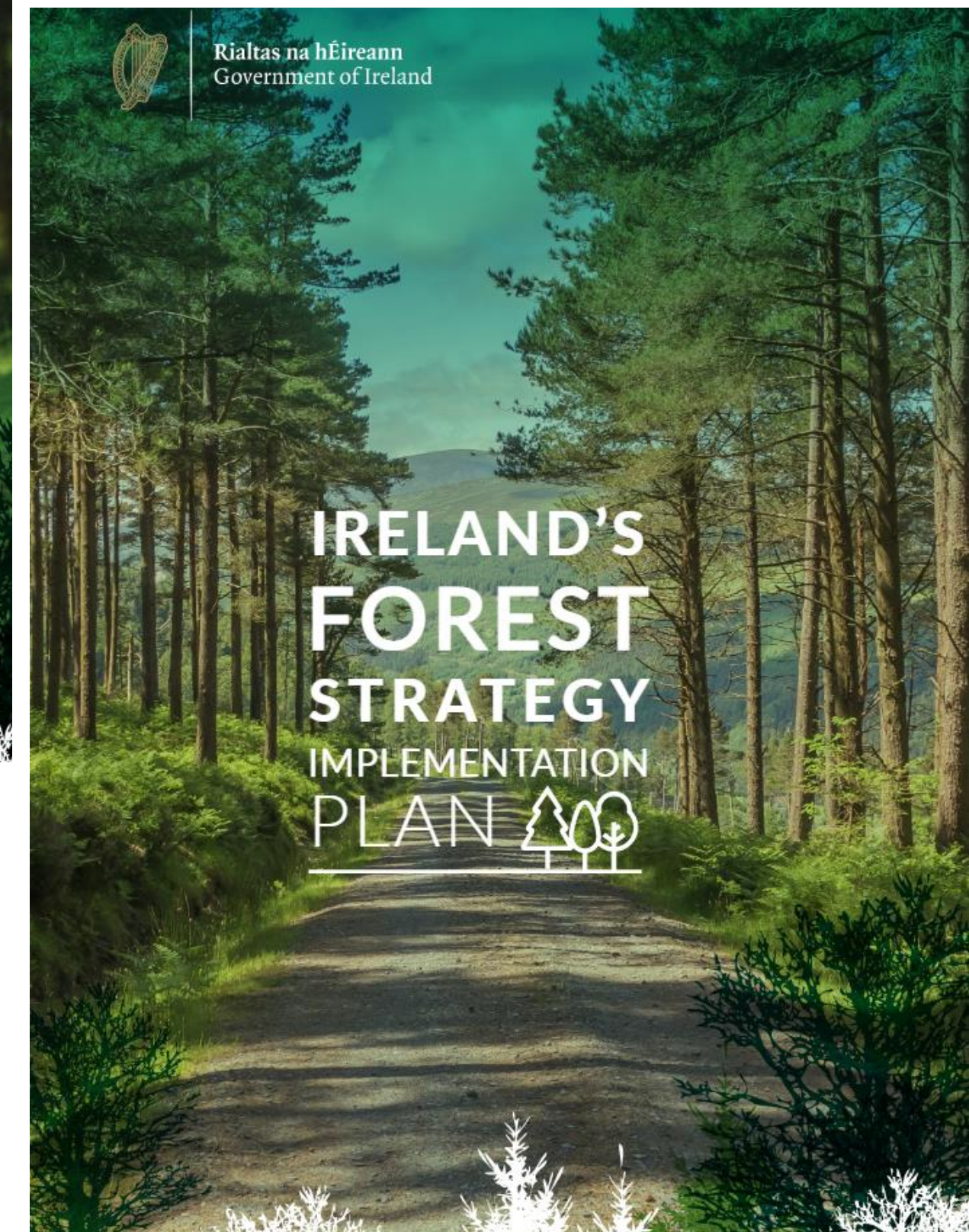
Investment Aid for the Development of the Forest Tree Nursery Sector Scheme

Policy context - Forest Strategy 2023 - 2030



“The overriding objective between now and 2030 is to urgently expand the national forest estate on both public and private land in a manner that will deliver lasting benefits for climate change, biodiversity, water quality, wood production, economic development, employment and quality of life.”

“Quality seed and other reproductive material suited to their environment are the building blocks for forest expansion and are essential to drive the economic, environment, scientific and societal benefits that forests provide.”





FRM demand

Forest Strategy & Forestry Programme 2023-2027:

- emphasis on increasing the diversity of tree species established.
- significant increase in the use of broadleaf and native tree species.

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme:

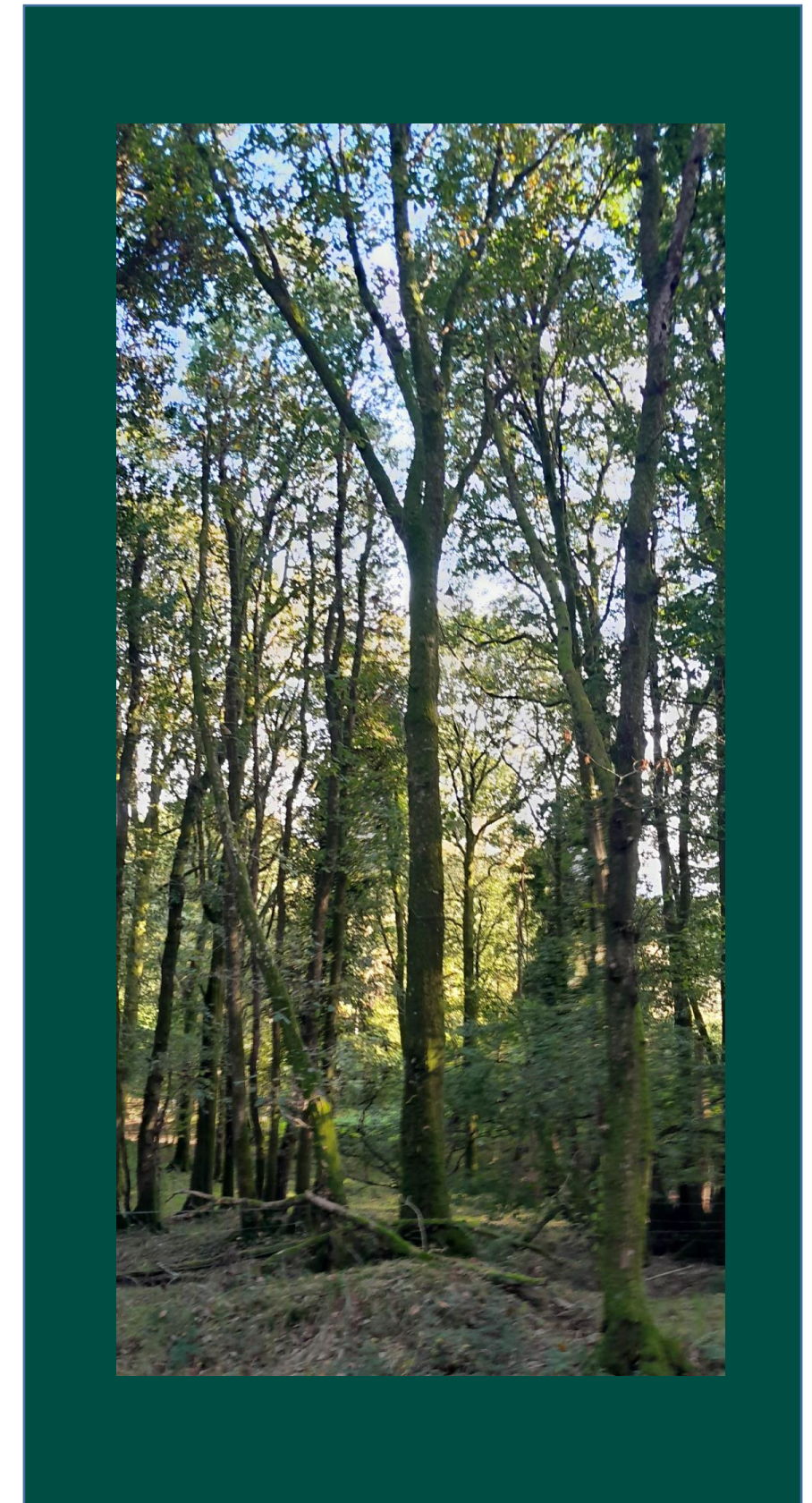
- Tree planting measures which require quantities of broadleaf tree species.

(Public forest estate - Coillte Strategic Vision)

Likely significant increase in demand for broadleaf seed from Irish sources

Challenges

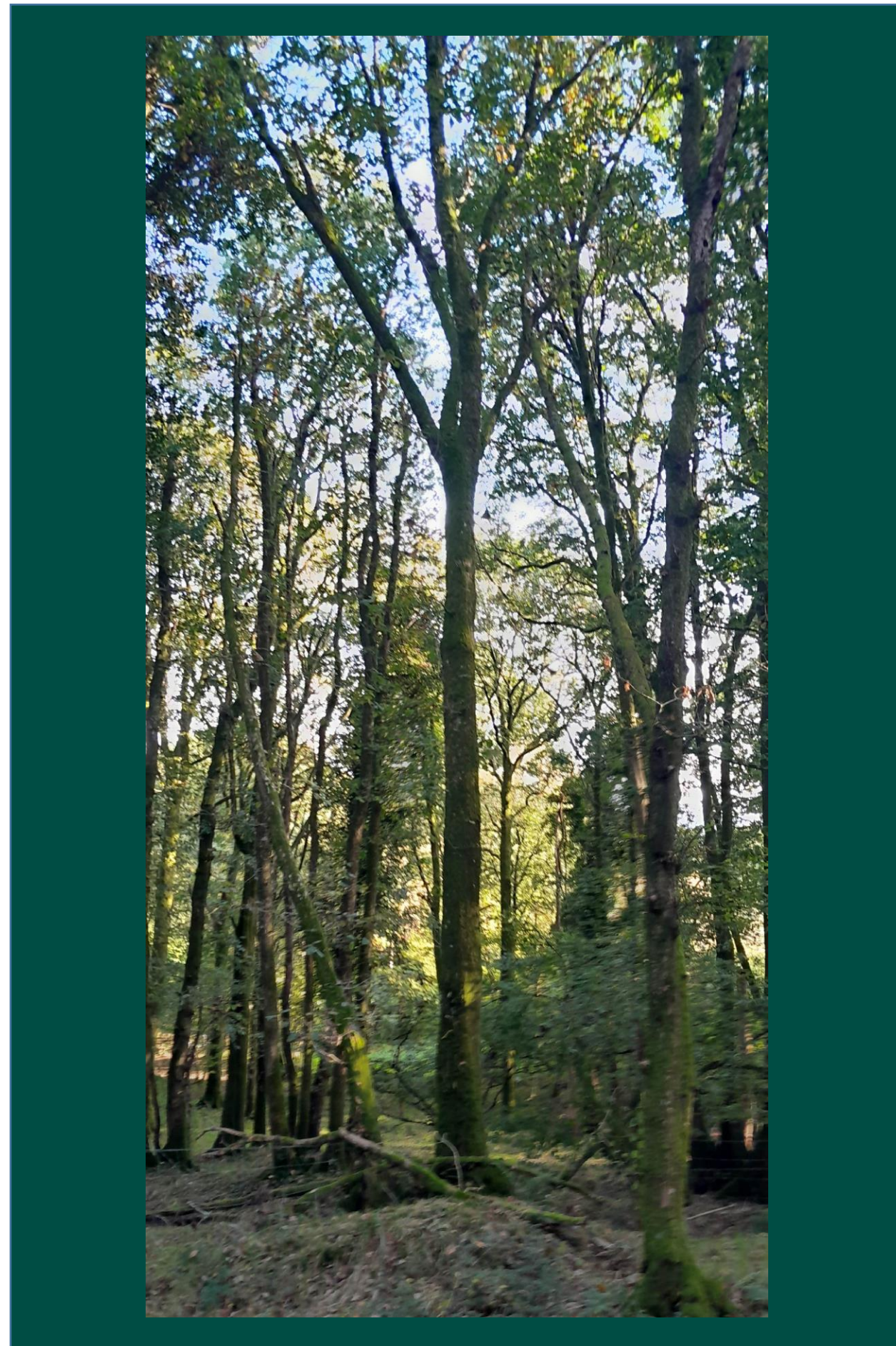
- lead-in time to produce planting material (2-4 years depending on species),
- good seed years vary greatly by species and location.
- storage of seed: some large-seeded broadleaves cannot be stored for any great length of time.



Measures to increase the supply and quality of FRM in the Forestry Programme 2023 - 2027



Seed Stand Scheme



Seed Orchard Scheme



Nursery Scheme

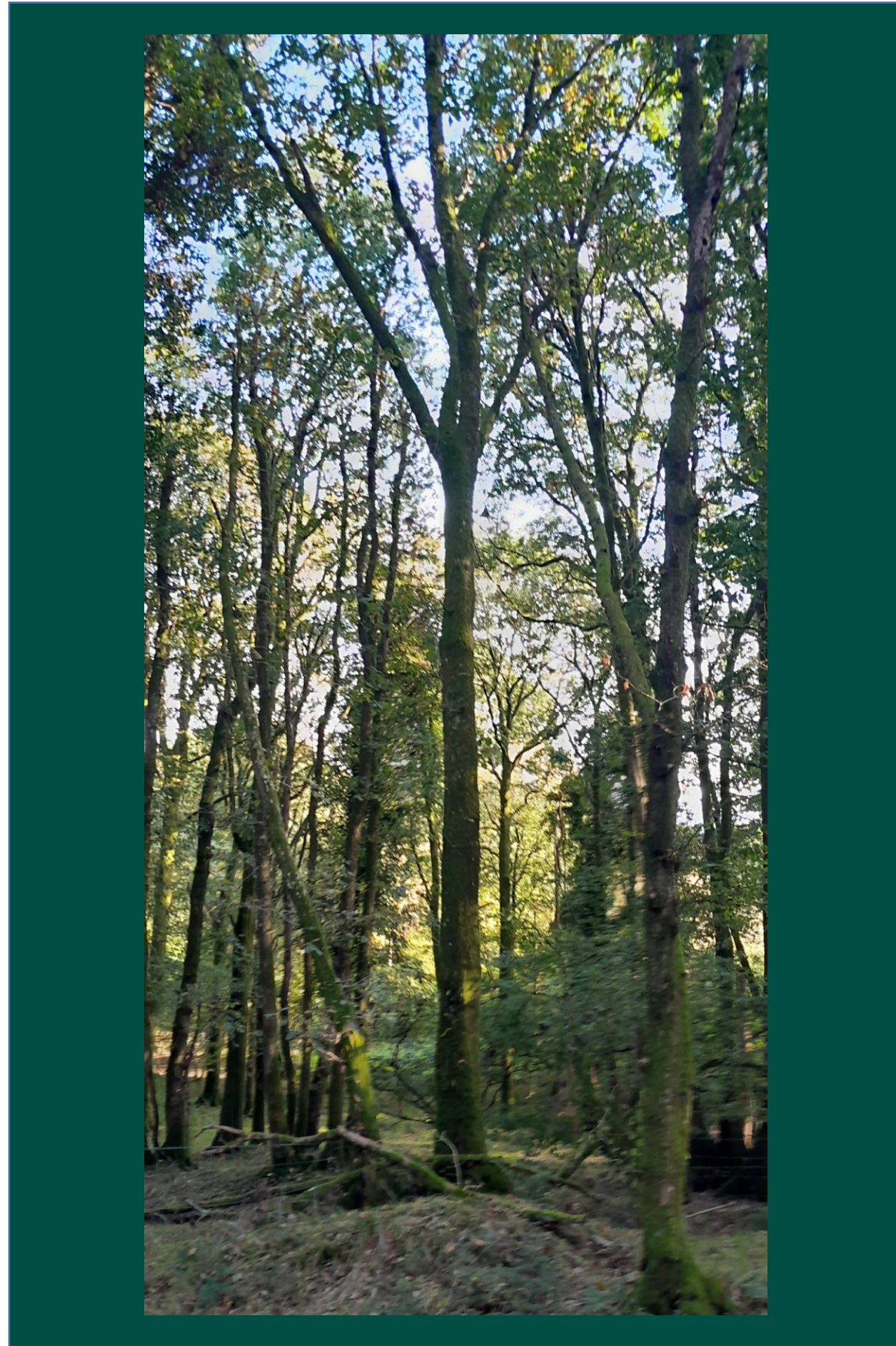




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Seed Stand Scheme

Seed Stand Scheme



Woodland Improvement Scheme: Element 5 Seed stand management

To be launched in the coming weeks



Purpose: increase the availability and quality of forest tree seed through supporting the management of seed stands

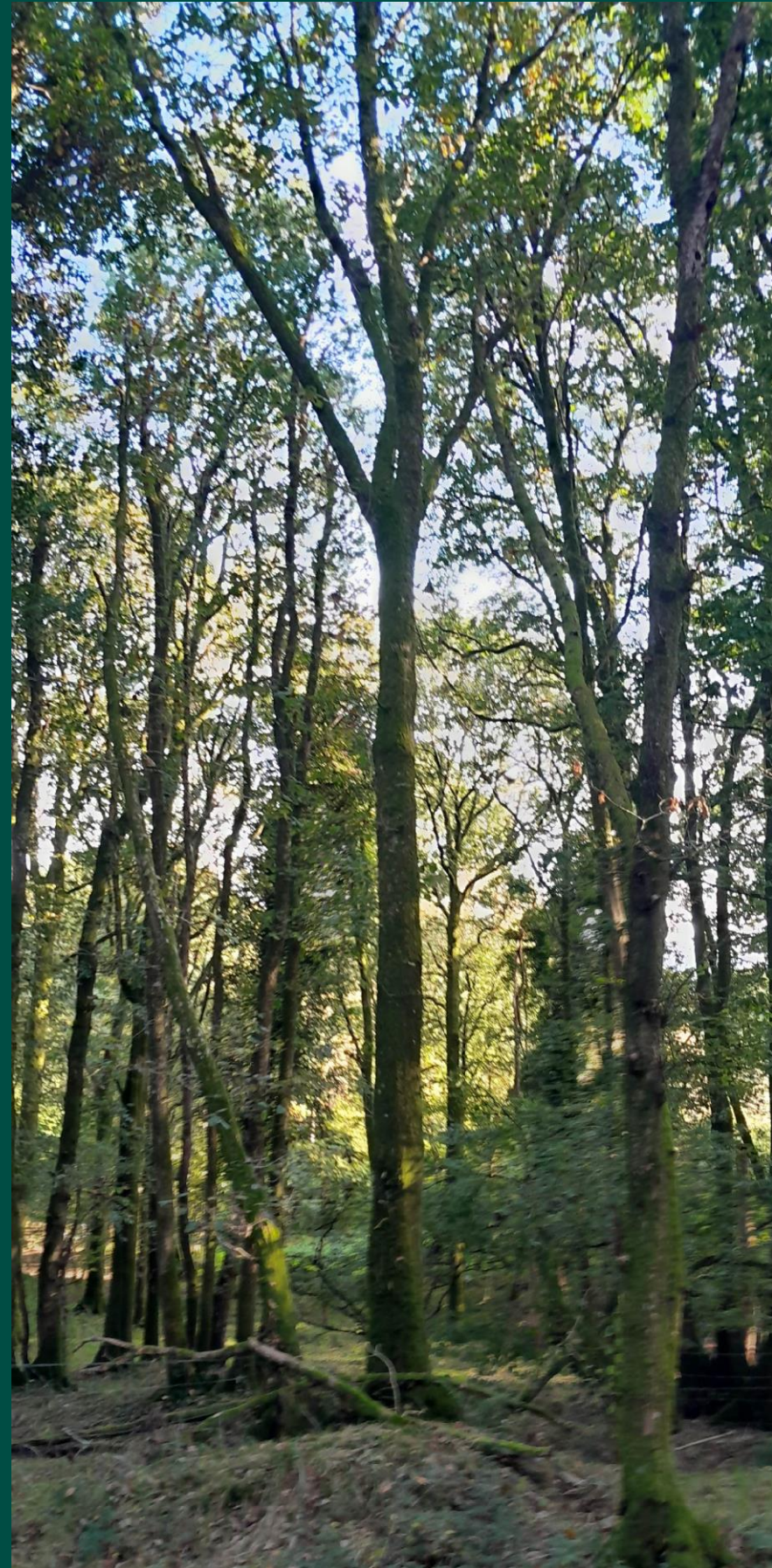
Target Group: Private and public forest owners.

Eligible stands: Broadleaf seed stands, and minor conifer seed stands, registered on the National List of Forest Basic Material as **“Select”** will be considered for funding.

- “Source Identified” stands may be eligible where they are managed for the purpose of gene conservation.
- Can be **newly registered stands**
 - to encourage the registration of more sessile and pedunculate oak seed stands, and seed stands for minor species and understorey species, as listed under the Native Woodland Scheme

Maximum area: 5ha (10ha for oak) although the total area of the seed stand can be larger.

Seed Stand Scheme



Woodland Improvement Scheme: Element 5 Seed stand management

Operations eligible under this scheme are:

- provision of access paths,
- fencing,
- control of ground vegetation,
- ongoing maintenance (including vegetation management)
- non-commercial thinning/pruning to open up crowns to promote seed production,
- maintenance of documented record of specific operations undertaken to enhance seed production,
- other related operations, as agreed with Forest Service

- Grant: €1,200 per ha
- PES* premium payment (private landowners only): PES 3 Seed stand management €500 per ha

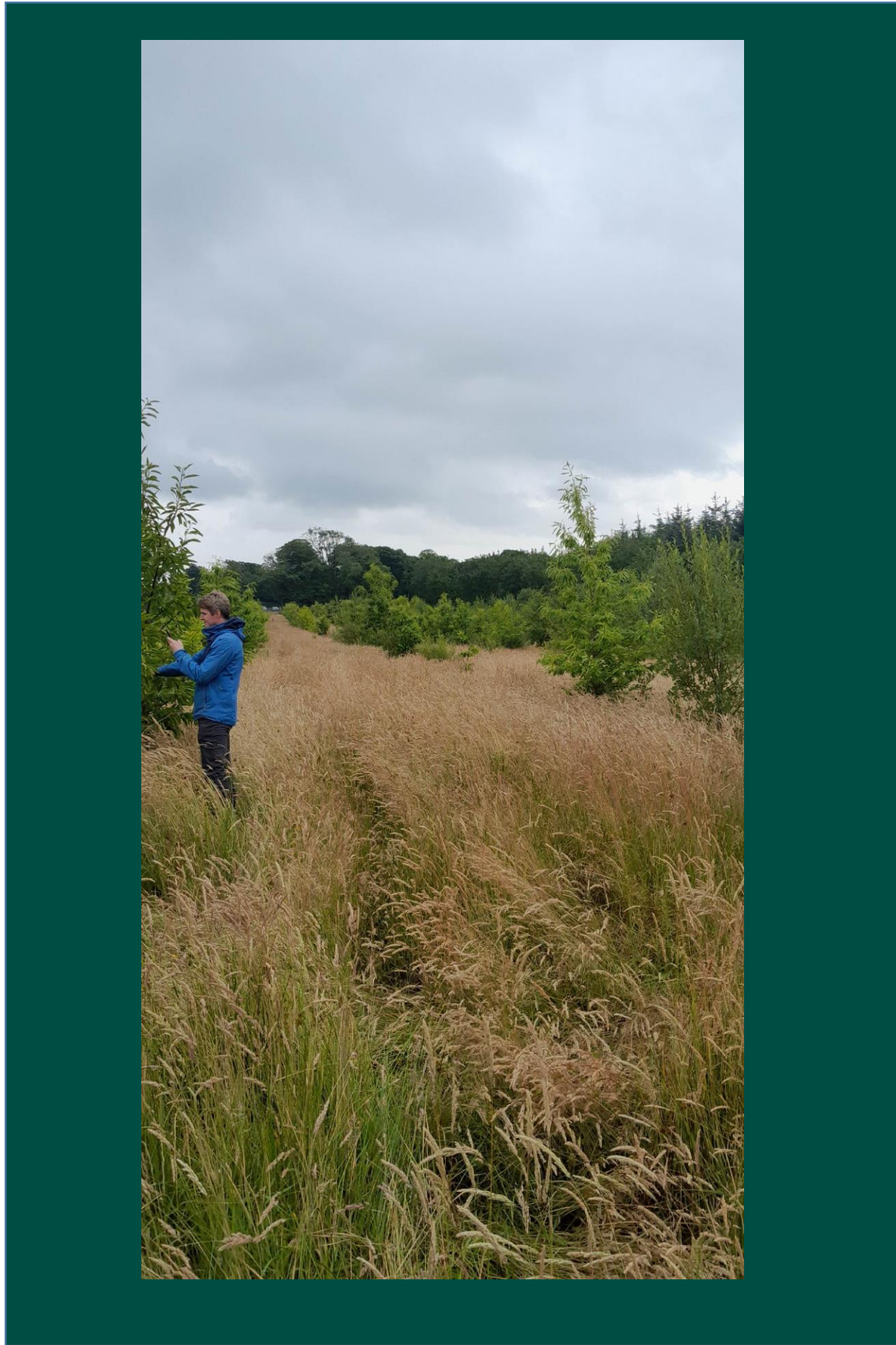
*Payment for Ecosystem Services (Pilot Premium Structure): for existing forest owners, that are out of premium payments or never received a grant payment for their forest. It is an annual per ha payment of **7 years duration**.



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Seed Orchard Scheme

Seed Orchard Scheme



Forest Type 9: Seed Orchards

Purpose: to increase the quantity and quality of forest tree seed through support for the establishment of seed orchards:

- Effective production of a large amount of high-quality forest seed for tree species with **high economic importance in forestry**.
- **Gene conservation** for indigenous, scattered or endangered species. For example, to increase the availability of reproductive material for native woodland establishment or conservation.

Eligibility:

- Public and private landowners
- Orchards must comply with **Council Directive 1999/105/EC**: minimum requirements for Basic Material for the production of **“Qualified”** or **“Tested”** FRM (most likely require input from Tree Breeding Specialists).

Area Eligible: minimum plot area is 0.2 ha, maximum is 5 ha (capped, may be larger)

Grant:

	Forest Type	Grant/ha	Annual Premium/ha	Duration of Premiums for farmers	Duration of Premiums for non-farmers
FT9	Seed Orchards	€10,000	€1,142	20	15

Eligible species:

- Pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*)
- Sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*)
- Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)
- Spanish chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)
- Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)
- Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)
- Silver birch (*Betula pendula*)
- Downey birch (*Betula pubescens*)
- Common alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)

Seed orchards for other species may also be funded under the Scheme, on application.



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Investment Aid for the Development of the Forest Tree Nursery Sector Scheme

Enda Coates 14/11/2023

Nursery Scheme

Innovative Forest Technology Scheme Module 2: Investment Aid for the Development of the Forest Tree Nursery Sector



Purpose: to enhance the quantity, quality and diversity of domestic production of **native** tree species, by **grant aiding capital investments** in **specialised equipment**, as well as technology adoption specific to native forest tree production.

Types of projects eligible:

- a) Seed collection equipment.
- b) Seed storage infrastructure.
- c) Polytunnel infrastructure / equipment.
- d) Irrigation systems and infrastructure.
- e) Transplanting systems.
- f) Grading machines.
- g) Biosecurity investments such as water treatment and refrigeration equipment.
- h) General costs linked to expenditure referred to in points a – g such as architect,
- i) engineer and consultation fees, fees relating to advice on environmental and economic sustainability, including feasibility studies.
- i) Cost of native tree species seed (2023 & 2024 only)

Eligibility: suppliers of forest reproductive material of native tree species for forestry purposes. Private, or third sector organisation are eligible to apply.

Funding available: 100% on the accepted net cost (excluding VAT, discounts and allowances) of up to a **maximum of €250,000** approved and completed to the satisfaction of the Department.

The minimum investment which will be considered for grant aid is €10,000 excluding VAT, except in the case of tree seed collection where a minimum investment of €2,000 excluding VAT applies.

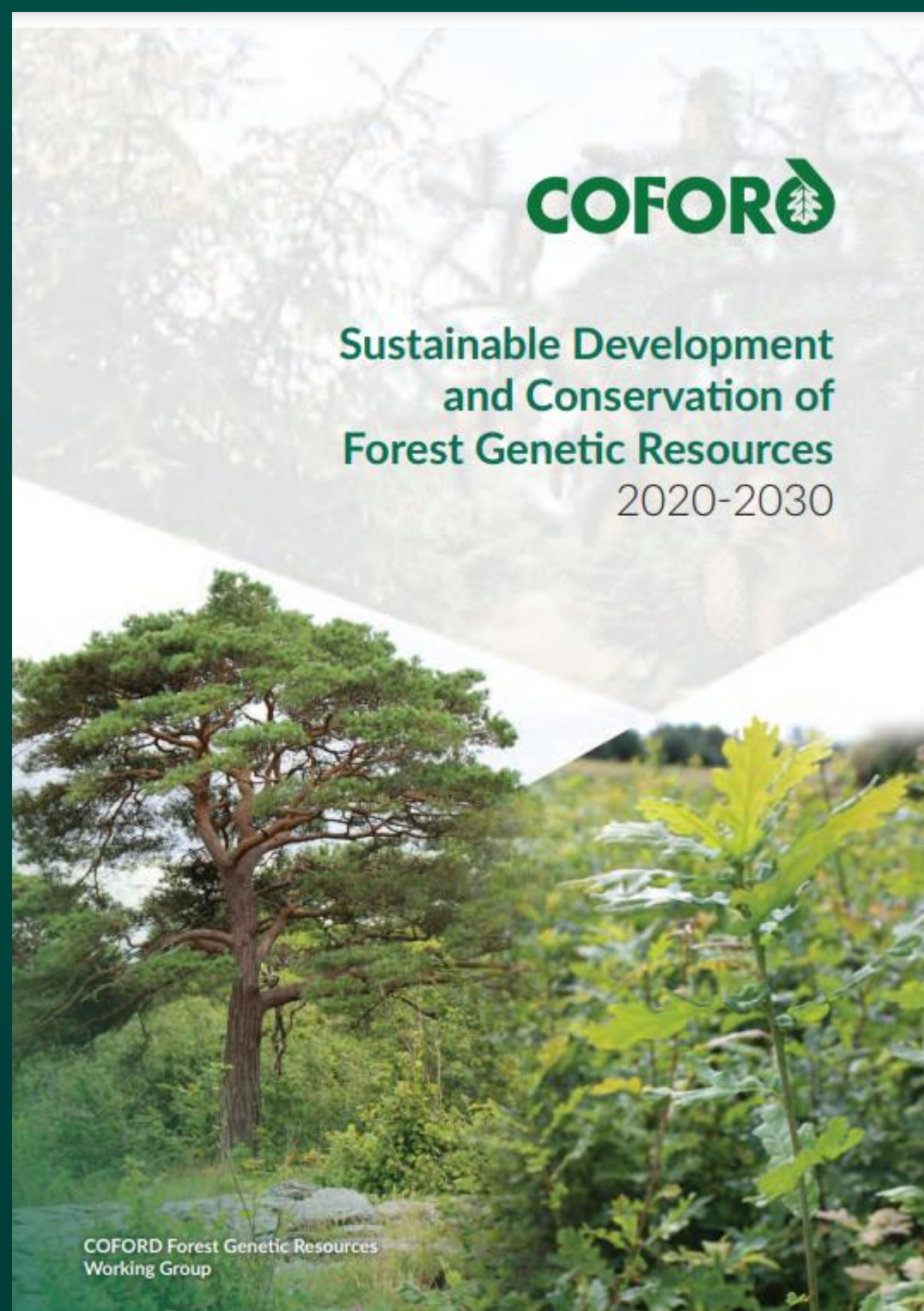
DAFM propose to fund 4 projects per year





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Recommendations:



7. That steps outlined in this report to increase the proportion of genetically improved forest reproductive material are taken to increase the availability of genetic resources which have been developed in the categories 'Selected', 'Qualified' and 'Tested' in accordance with the EU Directive 1999/105/EC

Steps Necessary for Delivery	Stakeholders
a. The establishment of seed orchards should continue to be a priority in order to increase the availability of 'Qualified' and 'Tested' FRM.	DAFM, Coillte, Teagasc, private-sector forest nurseries.
b. The system of updating and registering the network of seed stands be maintained.	DAFM.
c. A seed stand activation programme should be initiated to increase the number of stands from which seed is collected. Initially at a pilot level focusing on oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i> & <i>Quercus robur</i>).	DAFM, FGRT.
d. An annual assessment of seed cropping is needed in order to provide a forecast of potential cropping ahead of time.	Coillte, private-sector forest nurseries.
e. The seed stands element of the Forest Genetic Resources Reproductive Material: Seed Stand & Seed Orchard should be maintained post-2021 and enhanced to include supports to enable effective seed collection.	DAFM.