

The Green Economy Agenda in Europe and Rural Development Policy in Rural Areas

David Baldock (IEEP)

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Introducing the Green Economy

- An umbrella term for new goals and dynamics in both policy and the (rural) economy itself
- Puts emphasis on longer term sustainability, resource efficiency, low carbon and climate adaptation
- Multiple impacts on rural areas in terms of production chains, land management, infrastructure, marketing, the recovery of ecosystems, etc.
- Involves both innovation and the pursuit of good practice

Defining the Green Economy

The United Nations Environment Programme defines the Green Economy as:

‘an economy that results in improved human well-being and reduced inequalities over the long term, while not exposing future generations to significant environmental risks and ecological scarcities’ (UNEP, 2010)

The OECD defines ‘green growth’ as:

‘fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies’ (OECD, 2011)

In relation to rural development, key elements are:

- Improved resource efficiency, including water, soil and nutrients
- Building a low carbon economy
- Increased emphasis on the circular economy

Drivers of the Green Economy

- Policy at the national, EU and global levels
- Market demands, including those expressed by retailers, processors, tourists, restaurants, etc.
- All in a state of dynamism
- And feeding in to the wide sphere of rural development policy and implementation

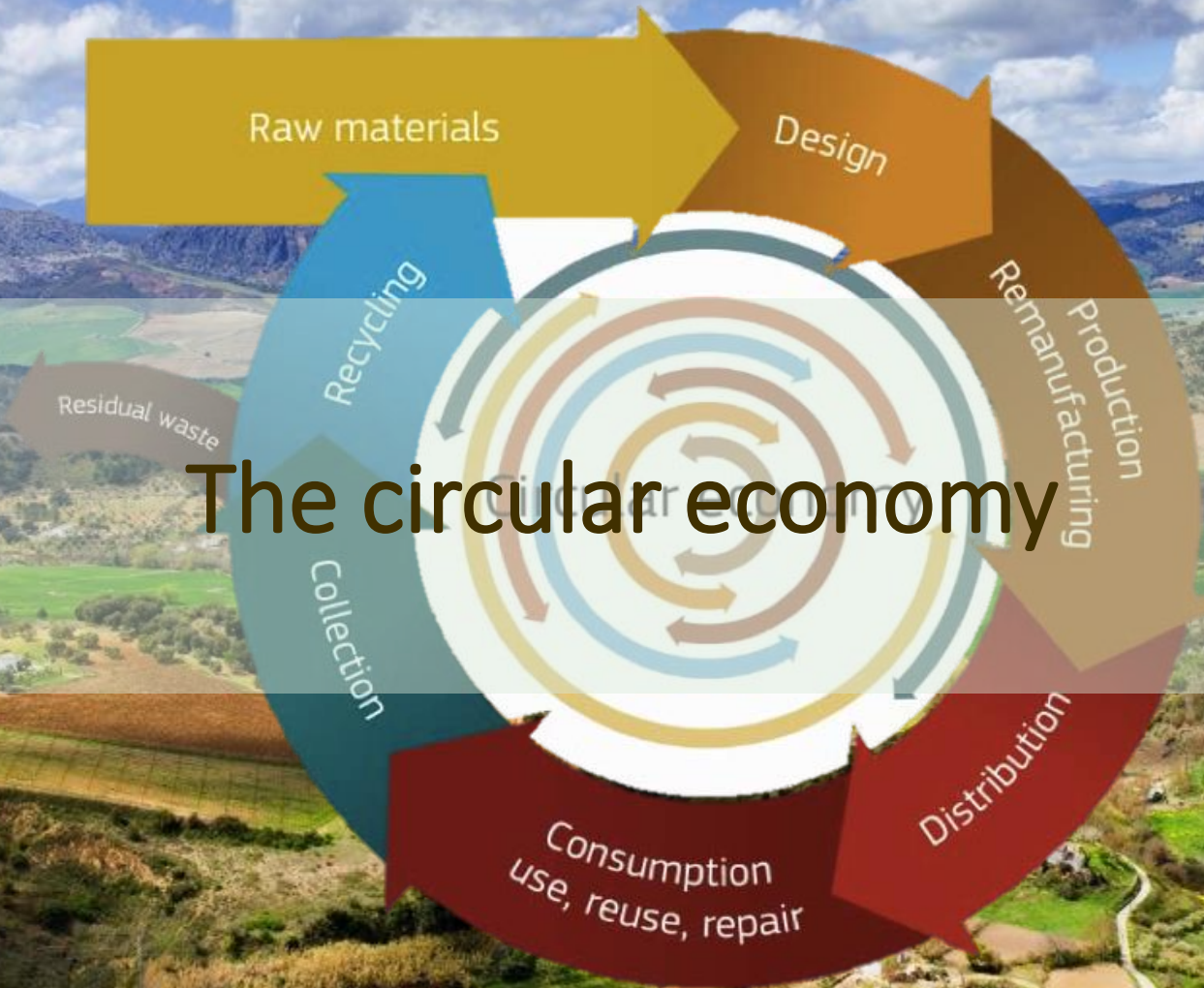
Some Key Policy Drivers

- Climate and energy policies
- Agriculture and forestry
- Jobs and growth
- Waste management
- The Circular Economy
- Food
- The wider environment, including water, biodiversity, etc.
- SDGs



Rural
Development
Policy

The circular economy

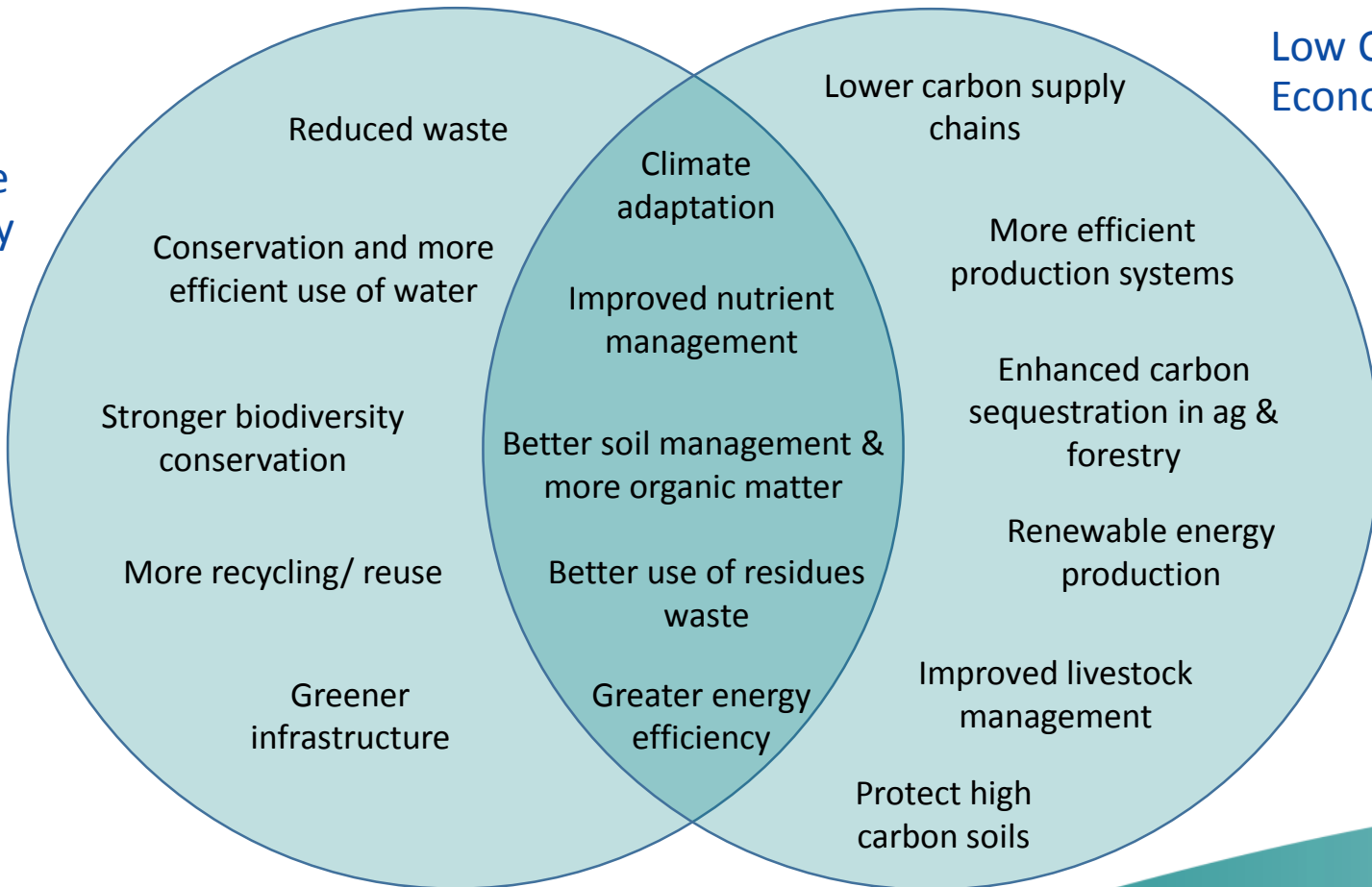


EU Climate and Energy Policy Moving Forward

- Paris Agreement, December 2015
- EU response, including 2030 targets
- Proposals emerging for revised “Effort Sharing Decision” affecting agriculture to 2030
- Proposals emerging for LULUCF, affecting agriculture, forestry and land management
- Policies on renewables, biofuels and energy conservation
- Other policies, including regulations potentially affecting emissions of ammonia and methane from agriculture

A Resource Efficient and Low Carbon Economy

Resource
Efficiency



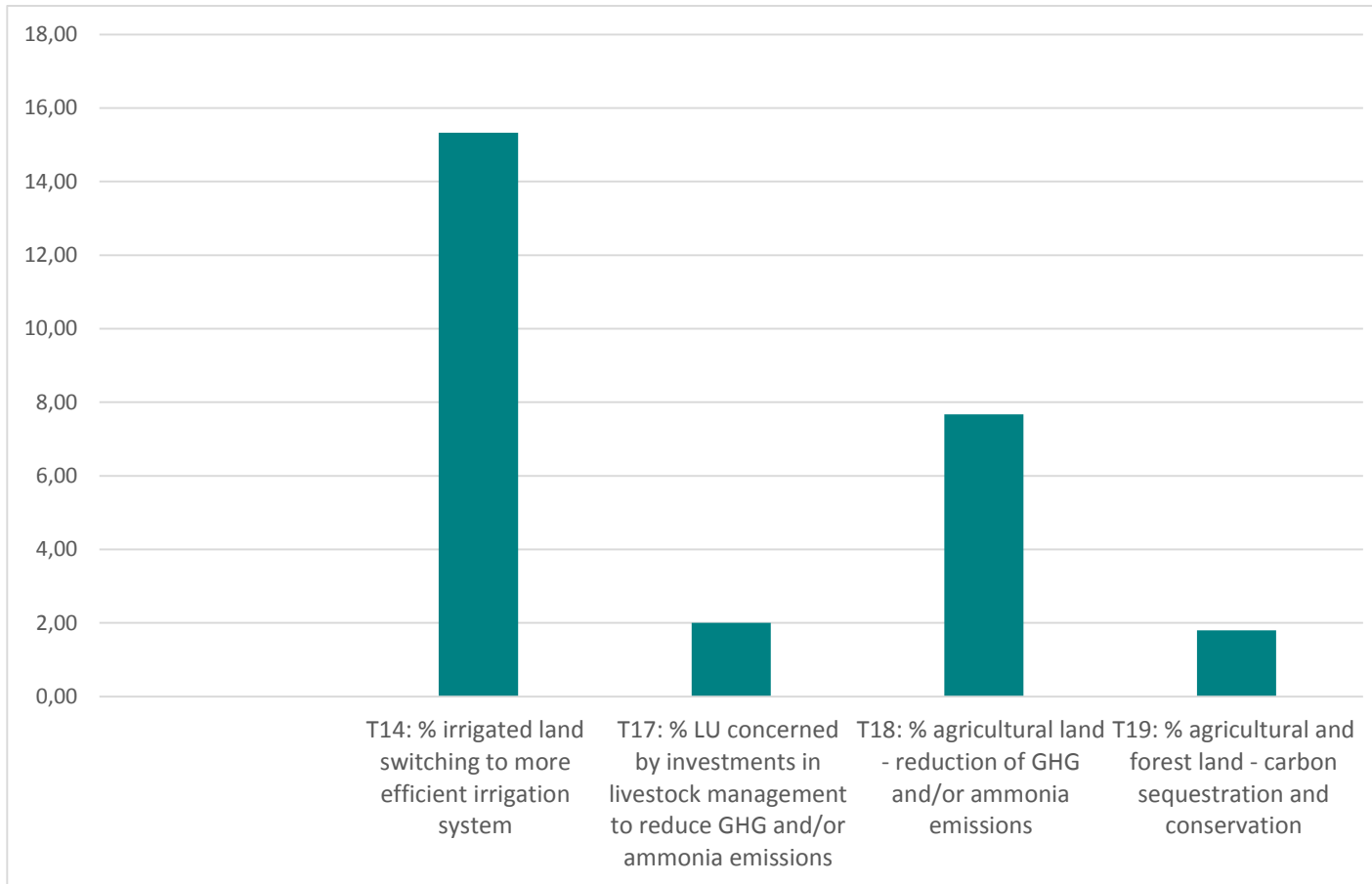
Low Carbon
Economy

Support Through RDPs

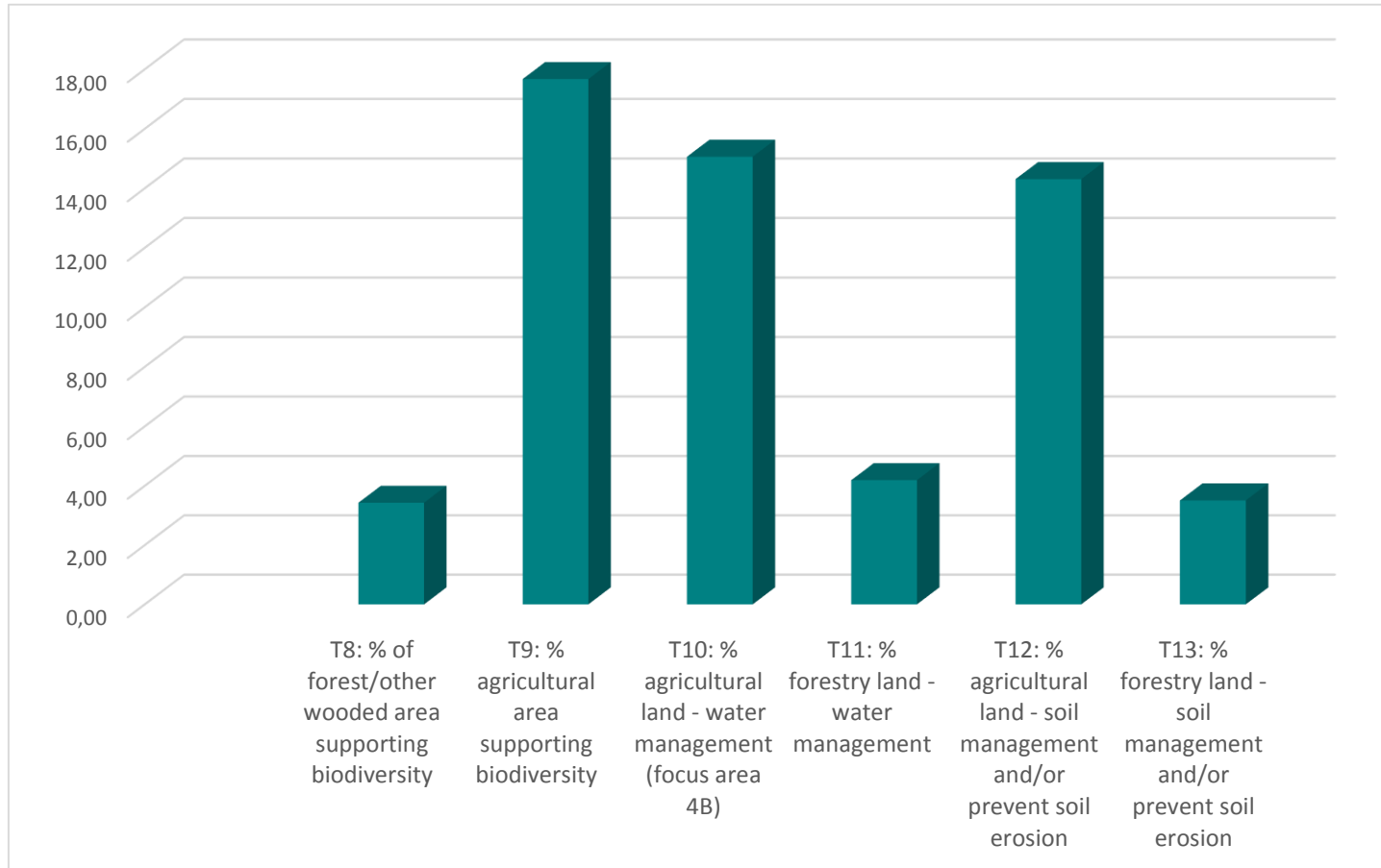
Priority 5: promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors

- Strategic planning, setting objectives and targets (7% of EU farmland to be under contract to reduce GHG or ammonia emissions)
- Wide range of specific measures e.g. AECMs investment aid, forestry measures, LEADER initiatives
- “Softer” measures e.g. advice, training, information provision, all important

Targets for EU Priority 5-Climate

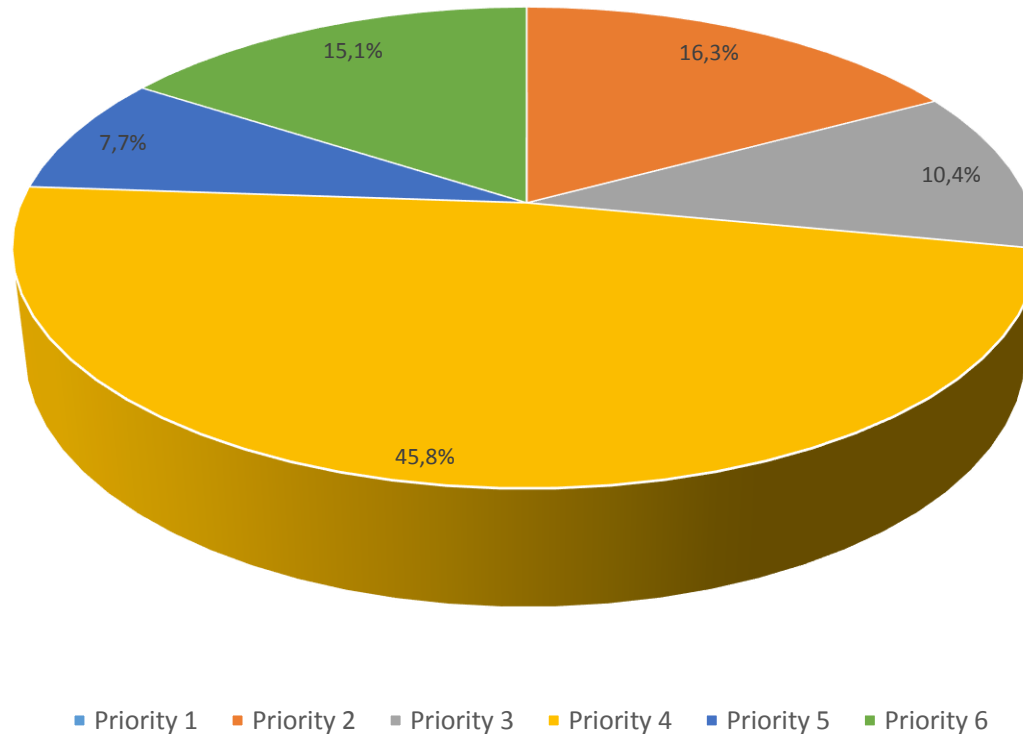


EU Targets for Land Under Management Contracts Relating to Biodiversity, Water and Soils - EU-28



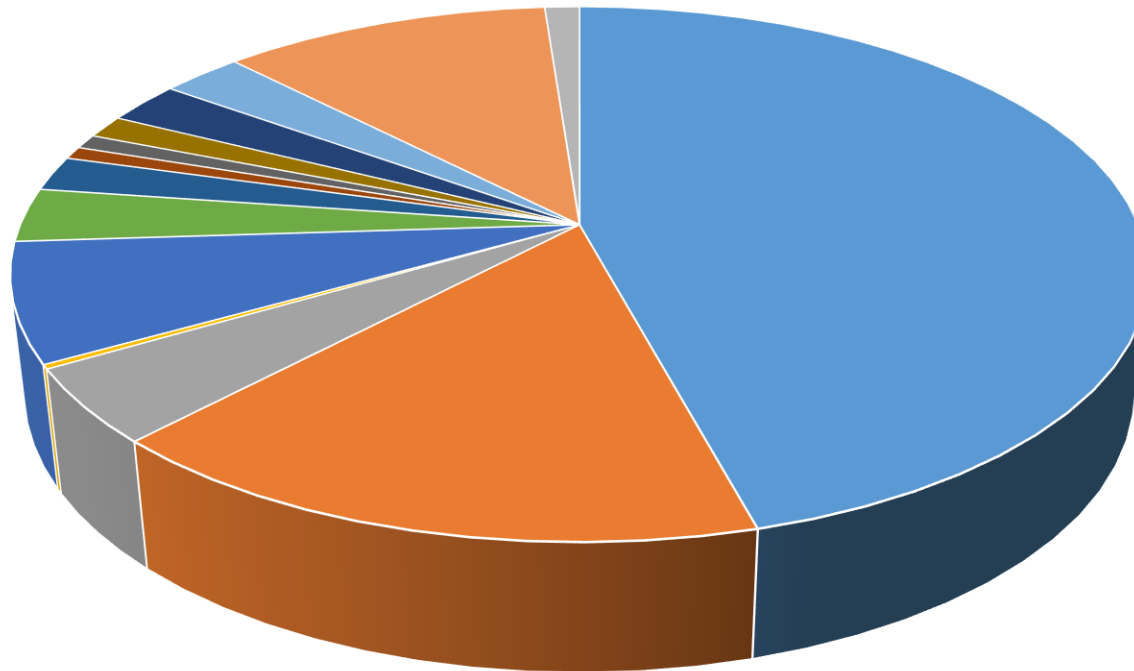
Target 5 Expenditure – a High Enough Priority?

Proportion of total public funding by priority - EU-28



Relatively Small Share for Related Focus Areas

Proportion of total public funding by Focus Area



■ 4 ■ 2A ■ 2B ■ 2C+ ■ 3A ■ 3B ■ 5A ■ 5B ■ 5C ■ 5D ■ 5E ■ 5F+ ■ 6A ■ 6B ■ 6C

Concluding Reflections

- The dynamics behind the Green Economy are increasing
- Several policy drivers will exert a growing influence; the Paris Agreement will create new momentum
- Some of the emerging policies can be difficult for rural actors to interpret
- RDPs potentially are an important mechanism to support a substantive transition
- However, current commitments look modest from this perspective
- What are the best options for strengthening the focus?

Thank you

dbaldock@ieep.eu