

# **Saving the world's forests**

Comparing emerging legislation to control deforestation associated with soft commodity supply chains

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# Much more than just forests

- Decades of alarmingly high deforestation, ecosystem conversion, and biodiversity loss
- 80-90% due to agricultural expansion
- Survival of 1.3 billion people
- Subsistence and income of 2 billion people
- 80% of terrestrial biodiversity
- Environmental services essential for human health and economies
- Direct climate impacts and dangerous tipping points
- Existing measures and industry initiatives have proven inadequate



# Lessons from existing examples

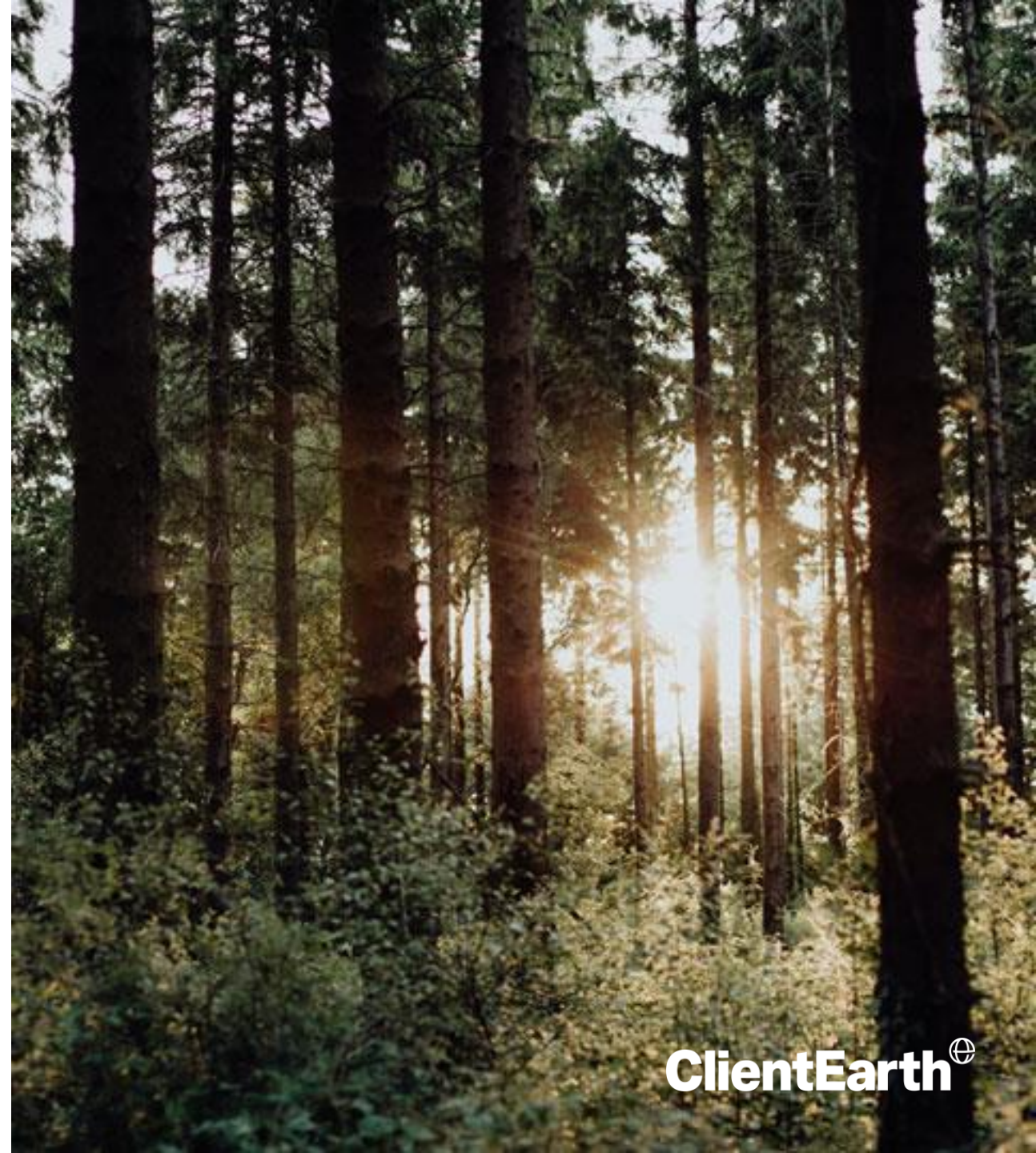
- EU laws on illegal wildlife and timber trade
- Reliant on customs for enforcement at the border
- No / limited enforcement role for customs
- No / limited requirements to cooperate





# EU deforestation-free products regulation

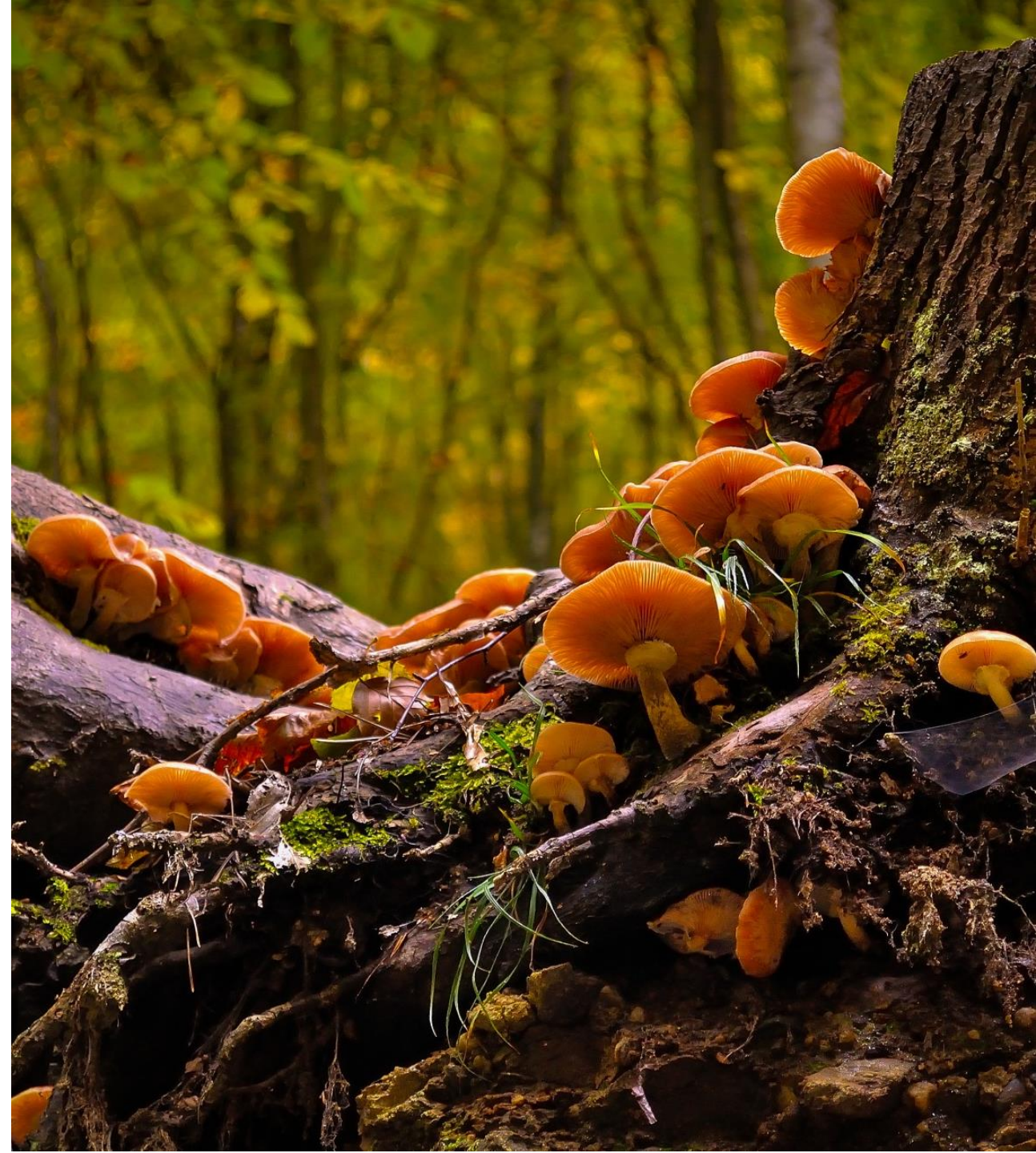
- Products listed by HS codes
- Formal role for customs authorities
- Customs declaration obligations
- Automatic alerts
- Cooperation obligations
- Alignment with the 'Single Window Environment'





# US FORESTS Act

- Products listed by customs codes
- Prohibition on import
- Customs declaration obligations
- Customs main implementing and enforcement agency
- Customs to design information sharing & submission system





# UK Environment Act

- Schedule 17: Use of Forest Risk Commodities in Commercial Activity
- Prohibition on use (not import)
- Details yet to be defined
- Not enforced 'at the border'
- No clear role for customs



# Customs are an essential partner for effective soft commodity regulation



# Thank you

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