

# The Sustainable Biomass Program

IEA Workshop on Sustainability Governance, 25 April 2017, Paris.



## Overview

- Context
- Scope
- Regional risk based concept
- Unintended consequences
- Use of proxies
- Sustainability definition and Verification



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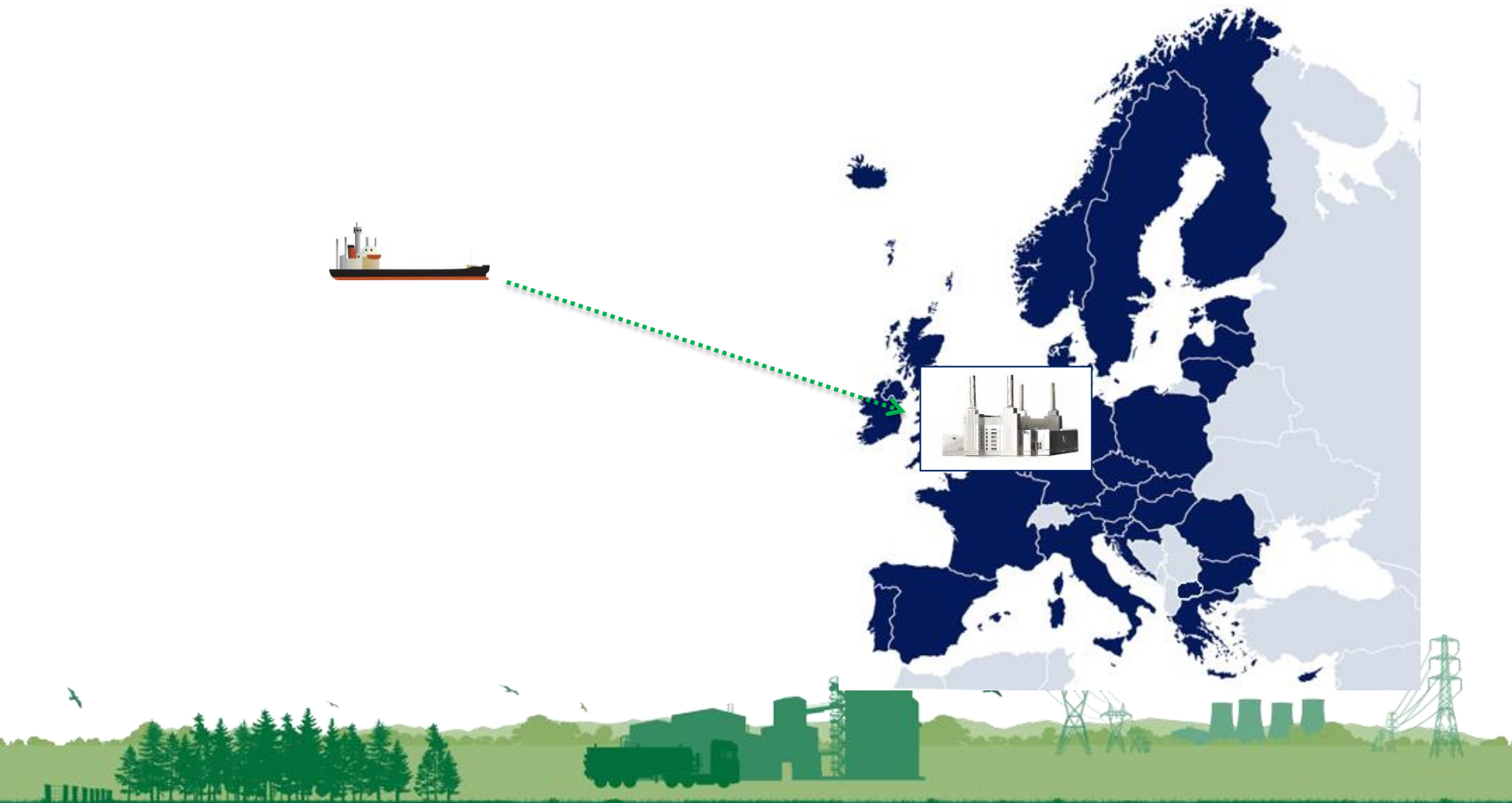


# Overview of National Schemes

Country	Schemes & Aims
Belgium	<b>Green Certificates</b> <i>- Support renewable energy &amp; optimise GHG emissions</i>
Denmark	<b>Industry Agreement</b> <i>- Ensure sustainable use of solid biomass</i>
The Netherlands	<b>Energy Accord, Contracts for Difference (SDE+)</b> <i>– Support production of sustainable energy from biomass</i>
The United Kingdom	<b>Renewables Obligation, Renewable Heat Incentive, Contracts for Difference</b> <i>- Deliver real GHG savings, assure solid biomass is sustainably produced &amp; cost effective</i>

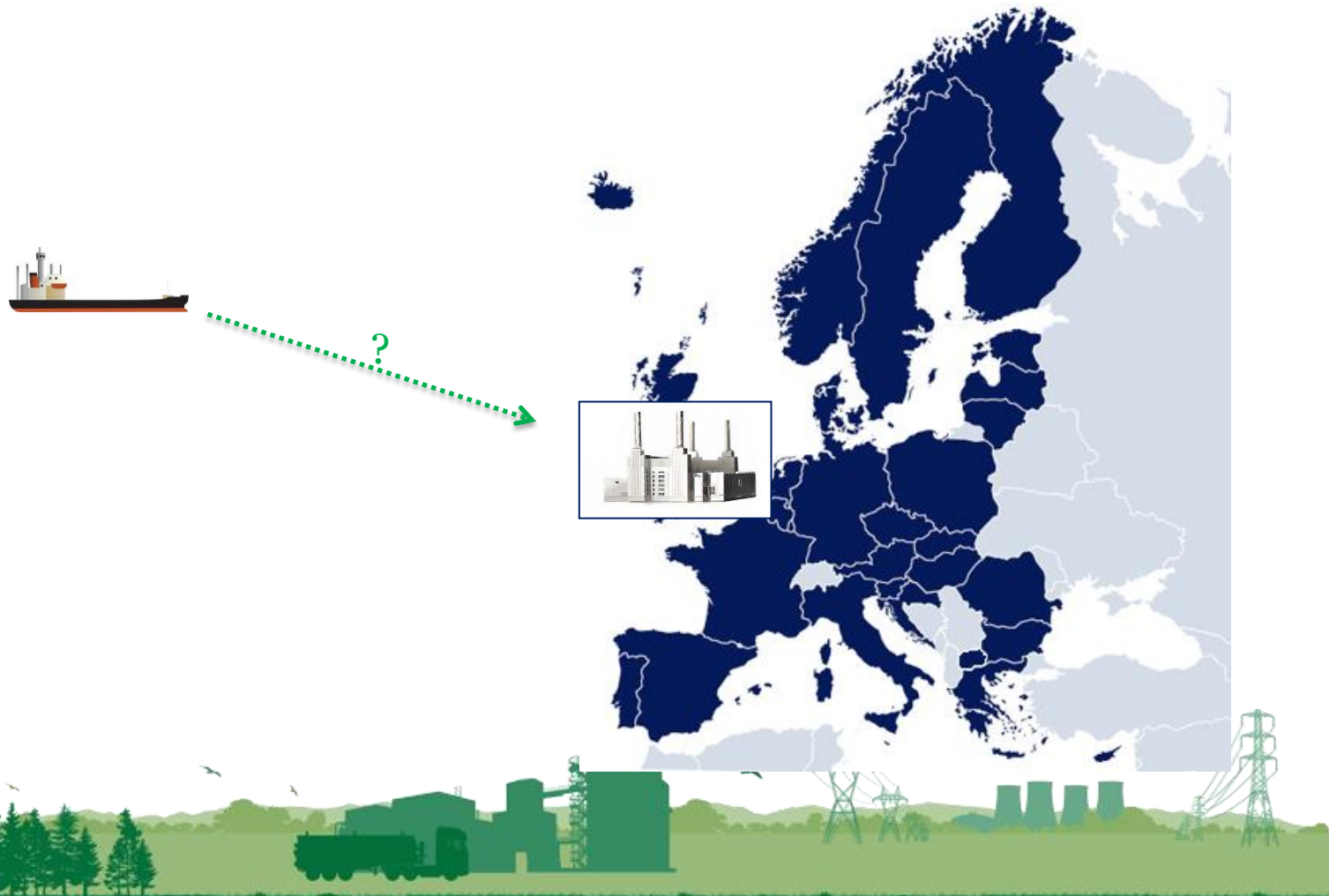
*Focusing on sustainable sourcing solutions.*

## Context: Divergent requirements



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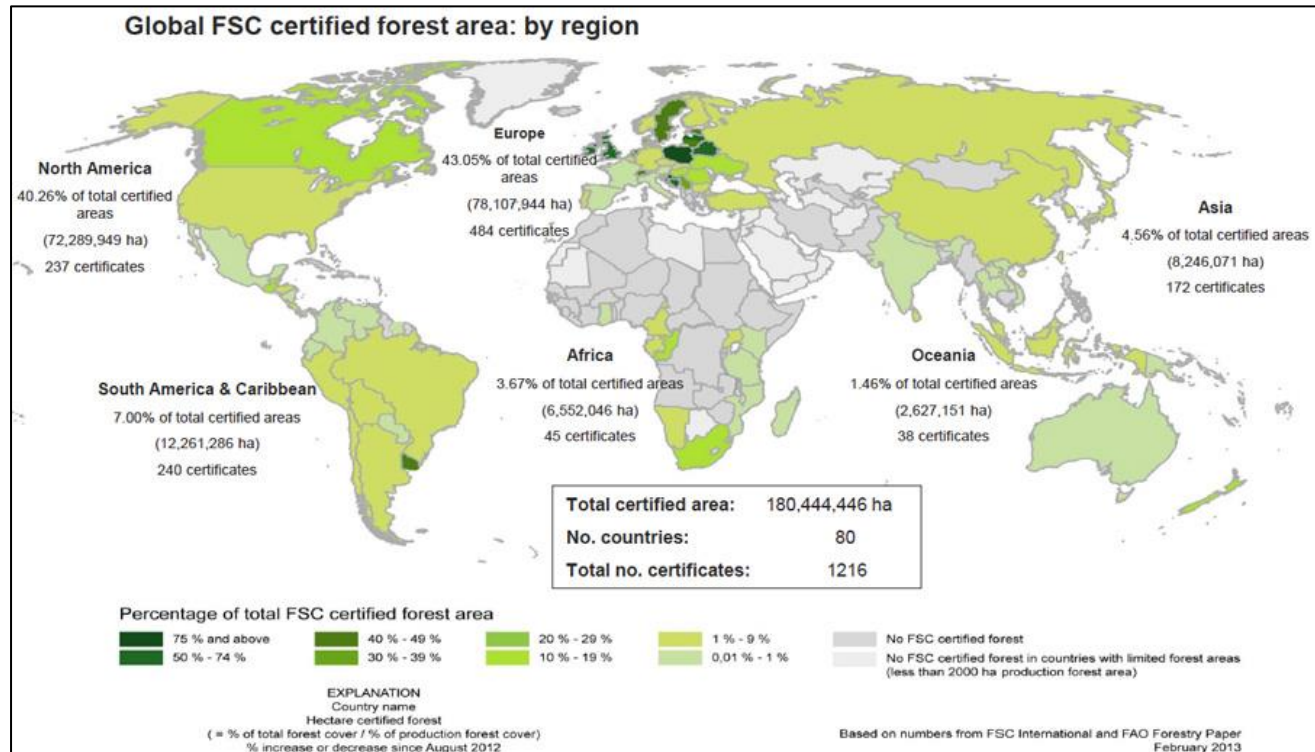




## This image displays a vast collection of sustainability certification logos arranged in a grid-like pattern. The logos are diverse in design, featuring various symbols such as leaves, recycling arrows, people icons, and abstract shapes. Some logos include text indicating specific standards or sectors, such as "Fairtrade", "BSCI", "FSC", "ISO 9000", "Green Seal", "USDA Organic", and "Fair Wear". The overall theme is environmental and social responsibility, representing different ways companies can demonstrate their commitment to sustainable practices.



## Context: Insufficient certification uptake and not all requirements are covered





Context: Sustainability is complex, difficult to verify, and often subjective

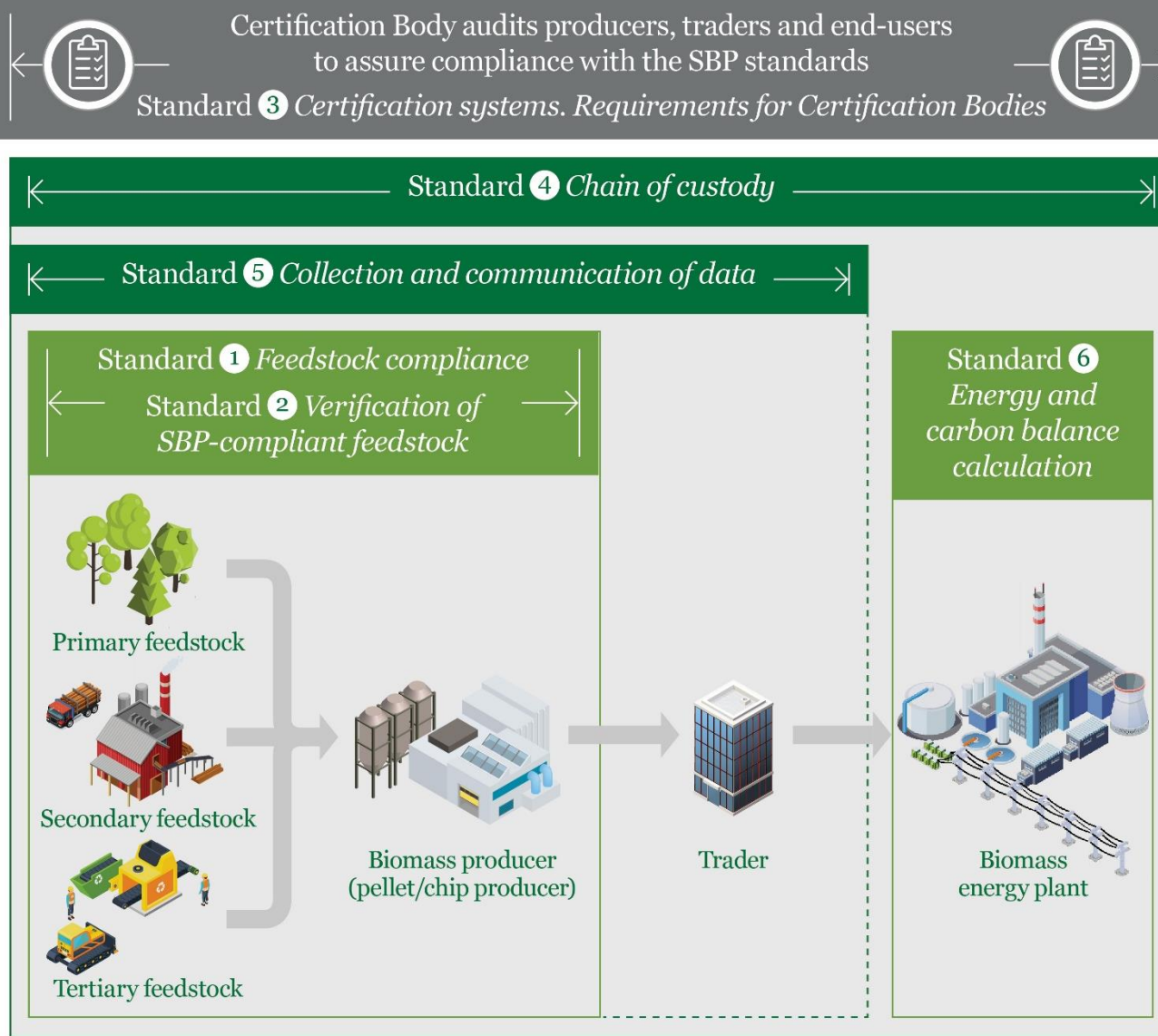


## Summary of SBP (relevant points)

- **Meeting divergent requirements.** To provide effective and verifiable assurance to cover the sustainability legality and GHG requirements of four EU countries with large scale biomass generation (UK, DK, NL, BE).
- **Minimising duplication.** Alignment where possible with globally recognized forest certifications schemes e.g. PEFC/FSC/SFI.
- **Filling gaps.** Builds on existing schemes to fill regulatory gaps, e.g. GHG data requirements.
- **Regional risk based** approach for non-certified materials.



## Focusing on sustainable sourcing solutions.



# Standard 1: Feedstock Compliance Standard

## Key concepts

- Legal compliance
- Biodiversity and HCVs
- Forest productivity
- Soil, air, water including chemical use
- Labour rights and Health & Safety
- Land and use rights
- Carbon stocks
- (Management systems for continuous improvement)



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# Scope

## SBP covers

- Legality and sustainability of feedstock
- Transmission of GHG data to generator and regulator

## SBP does not cover

- Efficiency of generator
- Wider policy issues, e.g. energy mix



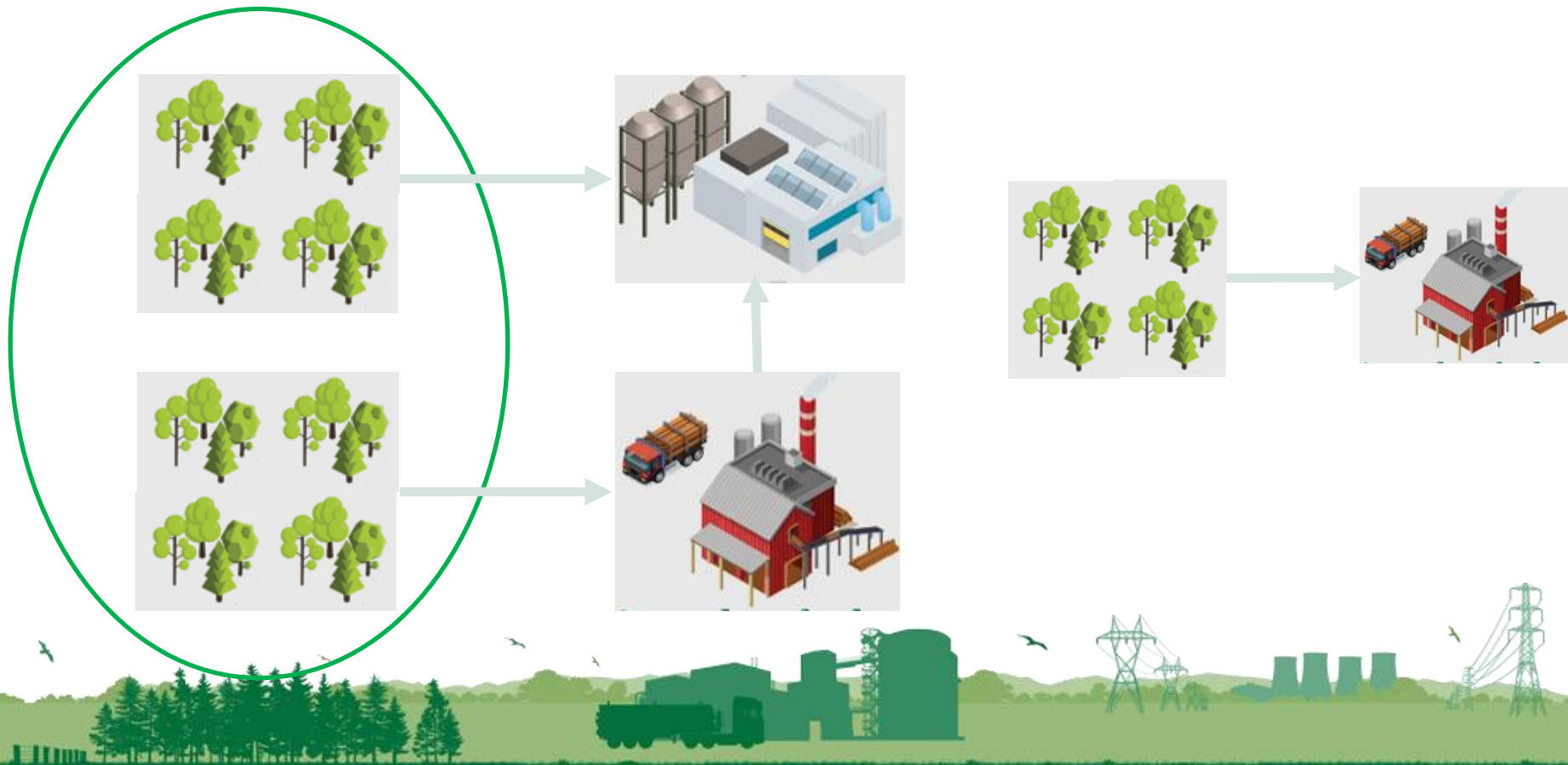
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## Supply base

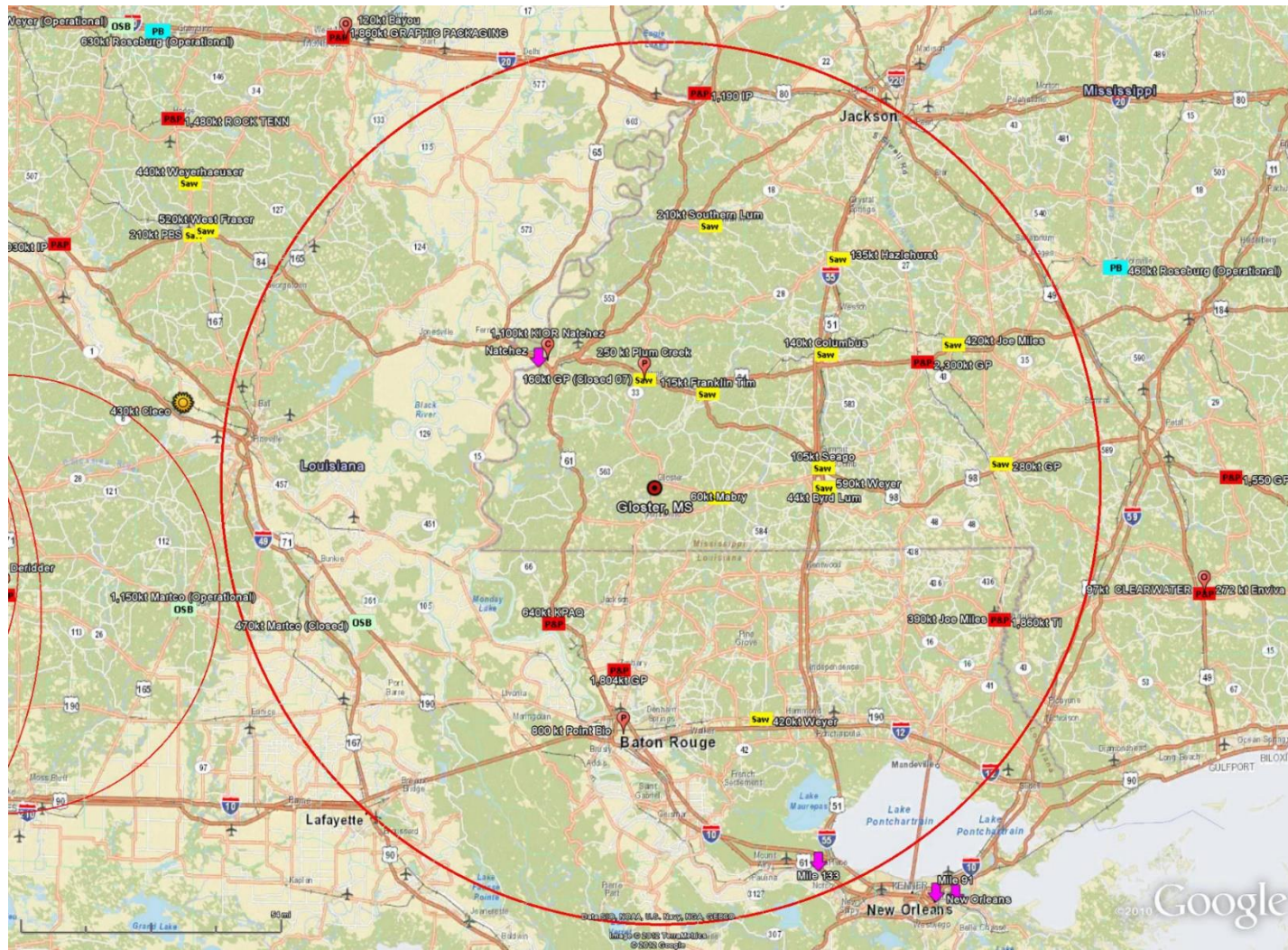








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# Regional risk based concept

## Regional approach

- Risk can be evaluated ...
  - Nationally
  - Regionally
  - Within the supply base of the pellet mill
  - Only at forest level?
- Different approaches to determining risk, for example ...
  - Child labour in Denmark
  - Legality of harvesting in Russia
  - Health and safety in Estonia
  - Biodiversity protection in Latvia



# Regional risk based concept

## Risk approach

- High risk / low risk is analogous to compliant / non-compliant
- If risks are found in the supply base it may be possible to exclude them.
  - Avoiding harvesting from certain areas
  - Avoiding certain times of year
  - Avoiding certain input (species, specifications etc.)
  - Selecting suppliers





**SBP**  
Sustainable Biomass Partnership

## SBP Regional Risk Assessment for Estonia





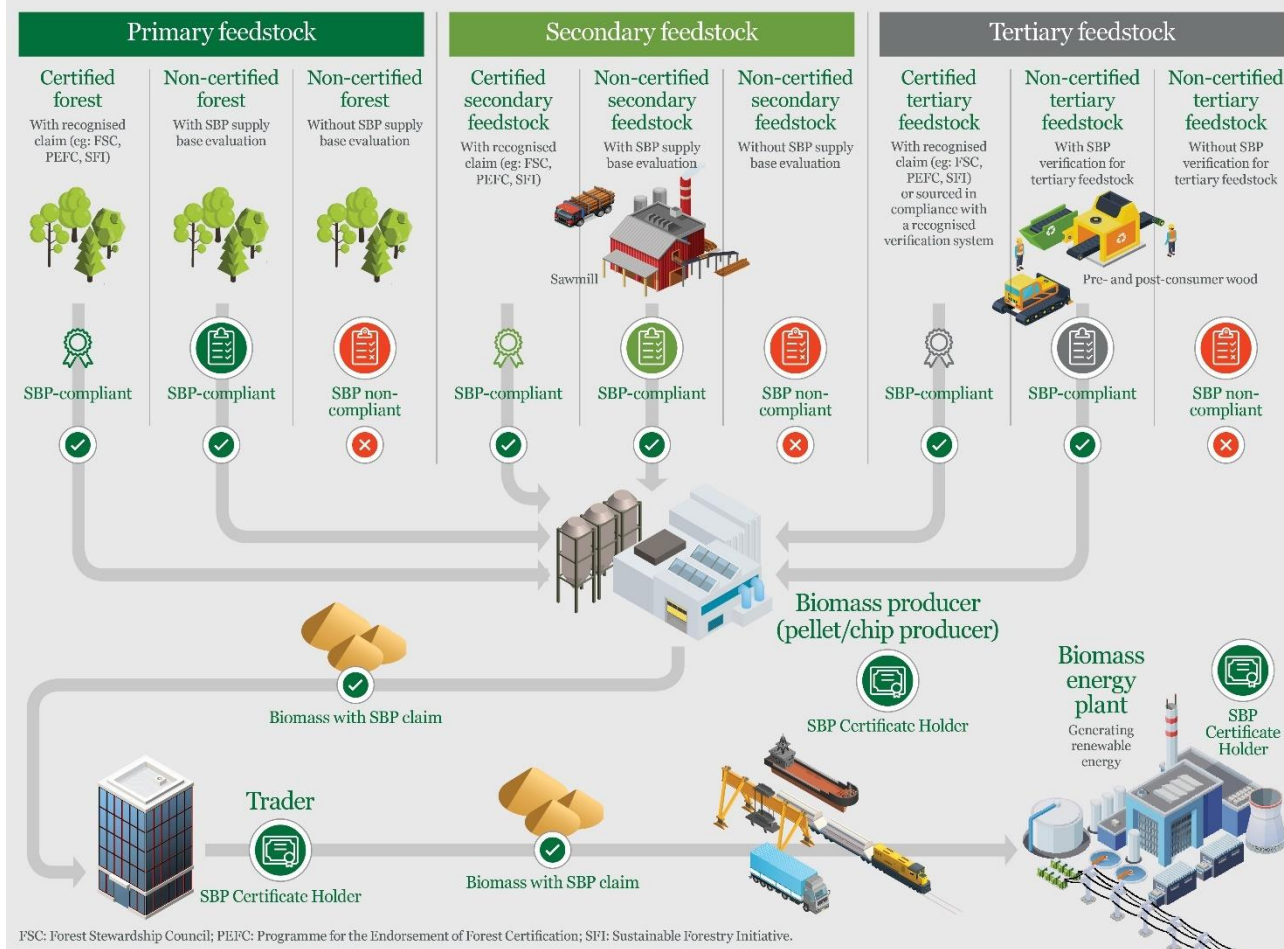
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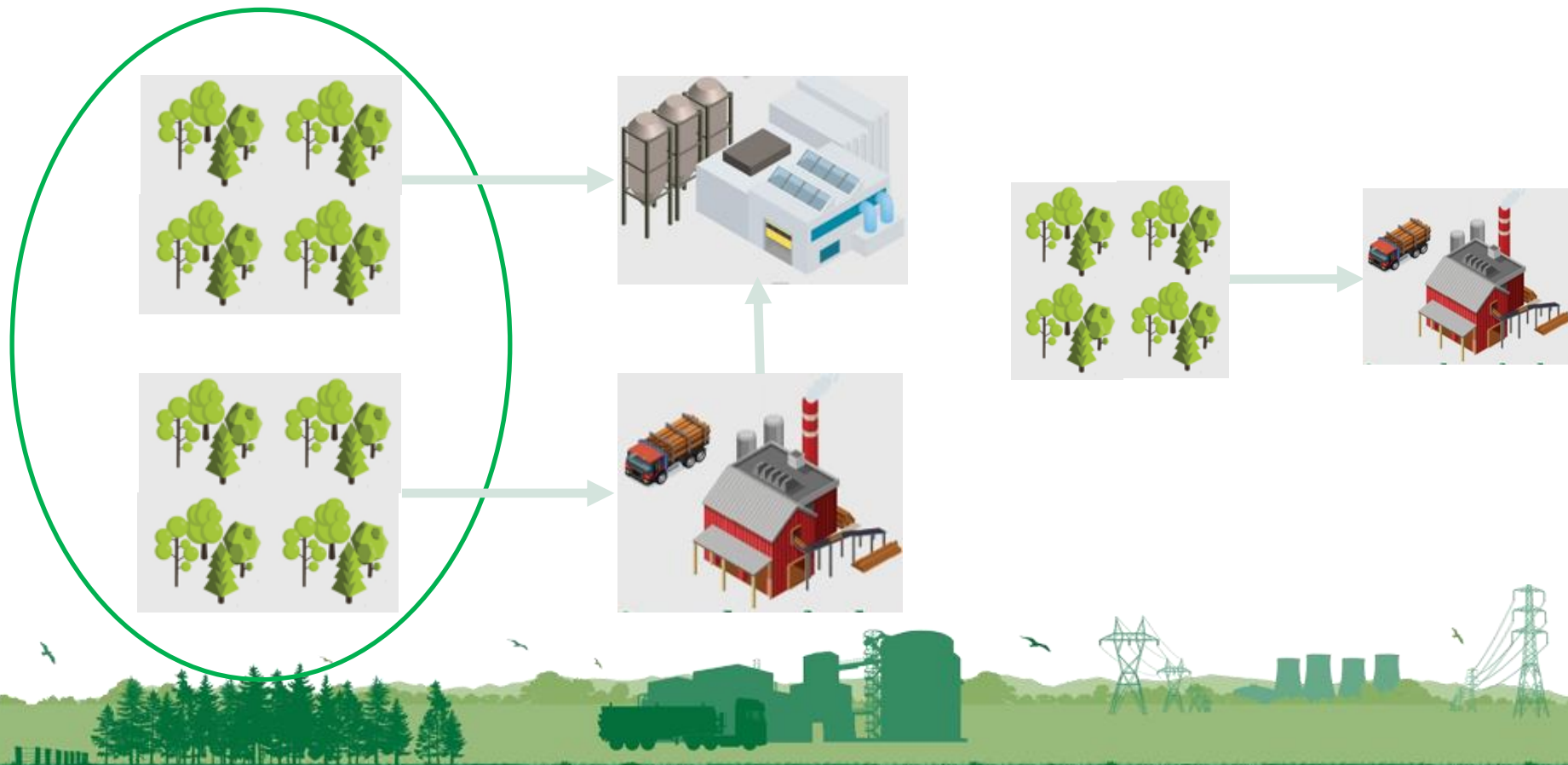
## THE WORLD IN WHICH WE OPERATE



FSC: Forest Stewardship Council; PEFC: Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification; SFI: Sustainable Forestry Initiative.



# Unintended consequences for sawmill residues



## Overview

- Context
- Clarity of scope
- Regional risk based concept
- Complexity
- Use of proxies
- Definition and Verification





Source: Peter-Paul Schouwenberg, RWE Essent

## Main issue 2: C-debt

### Positive list

Tops and branches

Thinnings

Processing residues

Post-consumer wood

Roundwood from final harvest from production forest with short (<40 year) rotation

### Negative list

### Covered by SBP?

Peatland/Wetland converted after 2008

+

Forests where long term C-stocks are NOT maintained

+

Natural forest converted to plantation after 2008

+

Stumps, unless harvested for other reasons (e.g. infra)

Info provided

### Test criterion for roundwood from final harvest for long rotation forestry (>40 years)

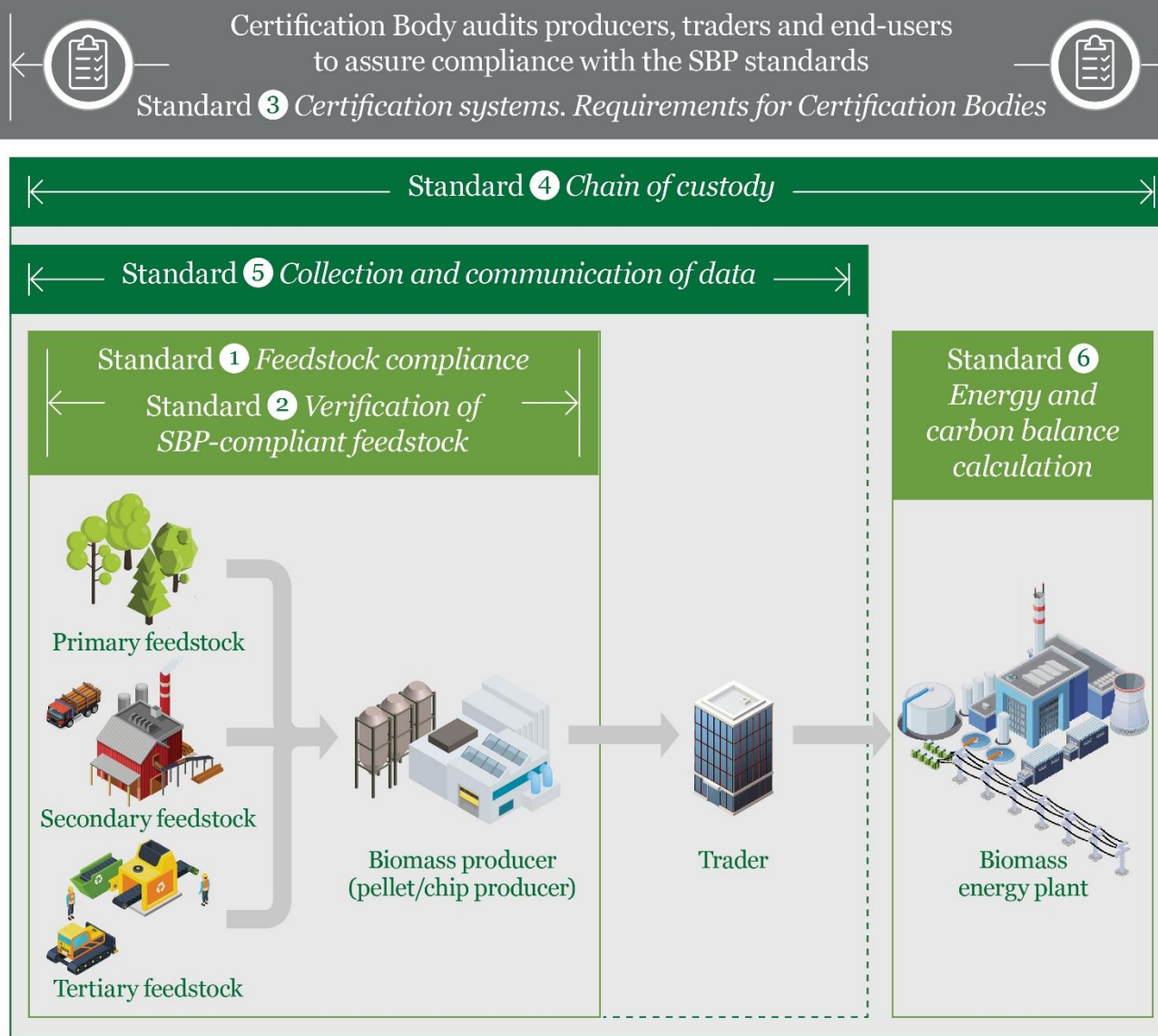
Where pellet mills make use of roundwood from final harvests from long rotation forestry, on average no more than 50% of the roundwood volume may go to pellets

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## Focusing on sustainable sourcing solutions.





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# Verification

## Third party audit and accreditation    Transparency

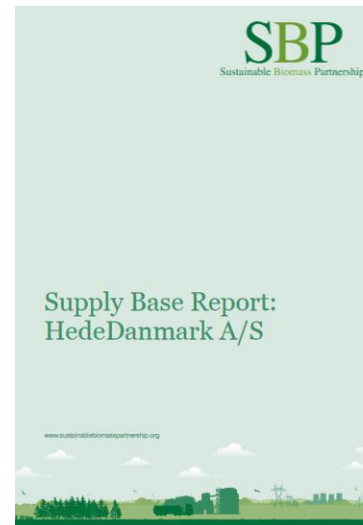


- Stakeholder engagement in audit
- ISO 17065 and ISEAL processes
- Public reporting



## Competence

- Implementing existing schemes
- Training
- Testing
- Ongoing monitoring



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Simon Armstrong

