



Recent trends in European Forests

Kelsey Perlman, Forest and Climate Campaigner, Fern

Outline

01

Recent trends and figures.

02

What do we need?

03

What do we need to watch out for?

Forest facts

1/3

Loss of the carbon sink from 2005 to 2030 shown in National Energy and Climate Plans

49%

Rise in clear-cut areas as compared to the average from 2011-2015 as outlined by the Joint Research Center

2%

Out of 180 million hectares of European forests, only 3.4 million primary forests are left and many are not protected

Causes

1. Continuation of harvesting practices
2. The recent expansion of wood markets
3. Climate change disturbances leading to salvage logging



Current policies

The New York Times



Wildlife Collapse From Climate Change Is Predicted to Hit Suddenly and Sooner

Scientists found a “cliff edge” instead of the slippery slope they expected.



What is needed?

1. Rapid reductions in other sectors to halt GHG emissions
2. Enhancing the carbon sink
3. Achieving the above in a way that addresses biodiversity and adaptation concerns

Pitfalls to avoid



Avoid combining emission reductions and removals from land

For transparency, ambition and accountability, the amount of GHGs reduced should be unambiguous.



Options for supporting Carbon Dioxide Removal
Discussion paper
Authors: Louise Jeffery, Niklas Höhne, Mia Moisiu, Taryn Fransen
WORKING PAPER
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

ENHANCING NDCs BY 2020: ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT
TARYN FRANSEN, ELIZA NORTHROP, KATHLEEN MOGELGAARD, AND KELLY LEVIN
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AGU100 ADVANCING EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE

Earth's Future
RESEARCH ARTICLE
10.1029/2019EF001190

Ambiguity in the Land Use Component of Mitigation Contributions Toward the Paris Agreement Goals
C. L. Fyerson^{1,2} and M. L. Jeffery¹

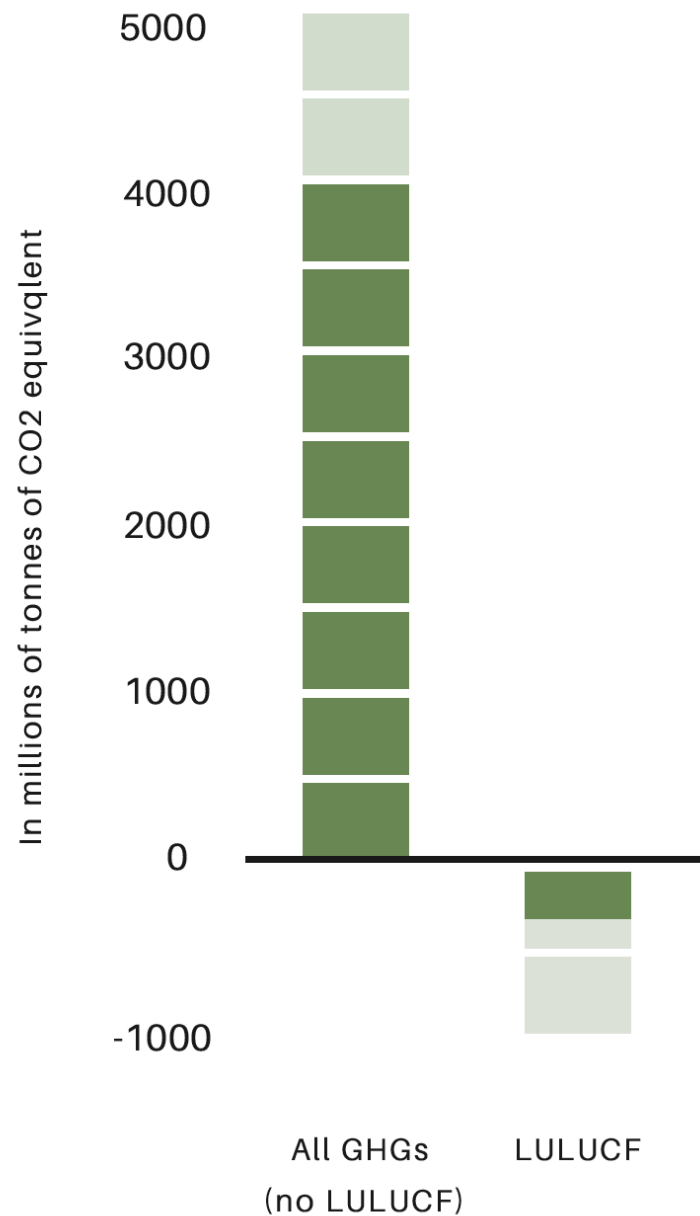
¹Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Potsdam, Germany, ²Climate Analytics gGmbH, Berlin, Germany

Key Points:

- There is a wide variation in how countries include the land sector in their national mitigation contributions under the Paris Agreement
- Most countries provide an ambiguous land use mitigation target, causing ~3 GtCO₂/year uncertainty in global land use emissions in 2030
- To reduce this uncertainty, countries could clarify their land sector mitigation plans by providing clear and distinct land use targets

Supporting Information:

Abstract Land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF) activities, including deforestation and forest restoration, will play an important role in addressing climate change. Countries have stated their contributions to reducing emissions and enhancing sinks in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); in 2023, the Global Stocktake will assess the collective impact of these NDCs. Clarity in the contribution of LULUCF to NDC targets is necessary to prevent high LULUCF uncertainties from undermining the strength and clarity of mitigation in other sectors. We assess and categorize all 167 NDCs and find wide variation in how they incorporate LULUCF; many lack the clear information necessary to understand what land-based mitigation is anticipated. The land sector is included in 121 NDCs, but only 11 provide a LULUCF target that can be fully quantified using information presented or referenced in the

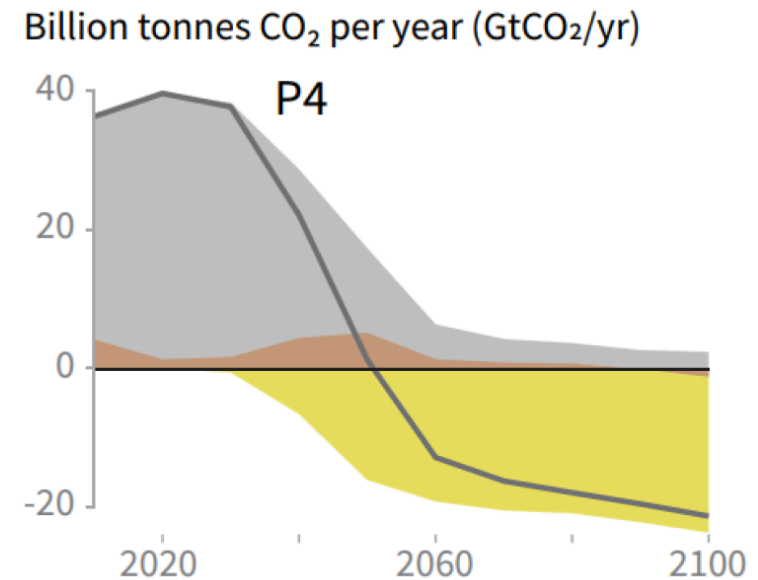
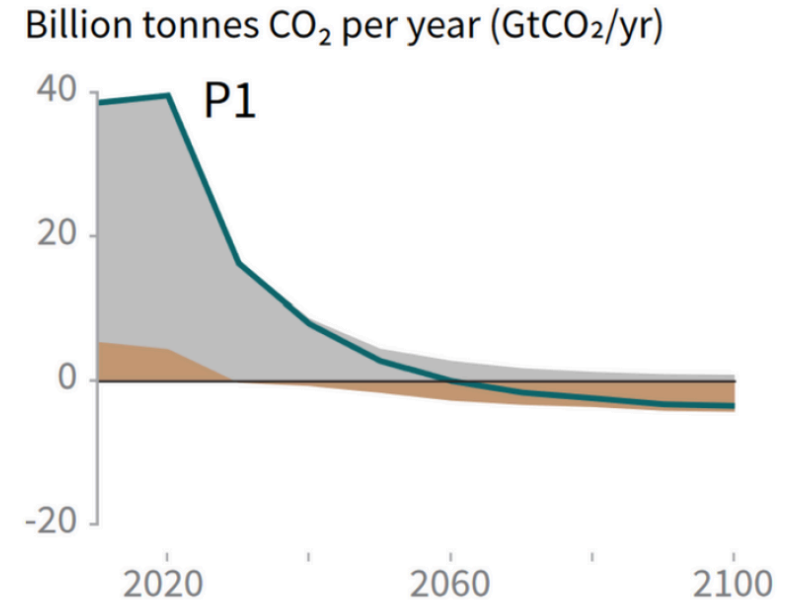


50.5 - 52.8%

The consequence of a combined 55% target is real emission reductions decrease. The larger the contribution from land the smaller the contribution from other sectors.

Avoid setting the wrong incentives

Base policy off of potential sequestration not on the needs of other sectors. This avoids negotiating delayed action through negative emissions.



Don't focus merely on carbon

"Countries are more likely to increase their ambition level in LULUCF if there is a closer connection between concrete management practices, [and] co-benefits of other policy targets..."

This points to a need for **healthy forest goals** (increased sequestration, biodiversity enhancement).

www.oeko.de



The climate impact of forest and land management in the EU and the role of current reporting and accounting rules

An investigation into the incentives provided by LULUCF reporting and accounting and their implications

Briefing for ECF and Fern

Berlin, 30.07.2020

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The background of the entire slide is a close-up photograph of green leaves, likely from a plant like a lemon verbena, with detailed vein patterns visible. The leaves are dark green and fill the frame.

Recommendations

01

Separate emissions and removals to safeguard ambition. Develop a natural carbon removals target separately.

02

Base a natural carbon removal target on what the sector can do not on the ambition (or lack thereof) in other sectors.

03

Tightly bind a carbon removals targets with biodiversity goals, mainly the restoration targets.