

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, thin trees and a mossy forest floor. The text is overlaid on the image.

# Negative Emissions and forests

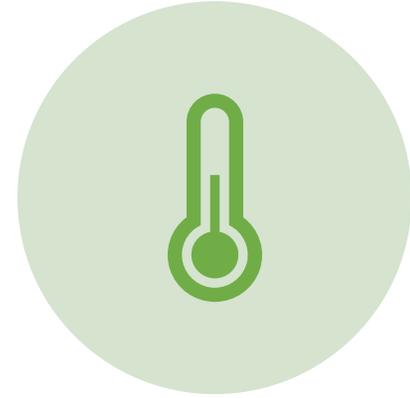
Kelsey Perlman, Forest and Climate Campaigner, Fern,  
December 12th, 2018



**BIODIVERSITY** IS CENTRAL TO LIFE ON EARTH, AND THE MORE ECOSYSTEMS ARE DEGRADED, THE MORE CARBON DIOXIDE IS RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE



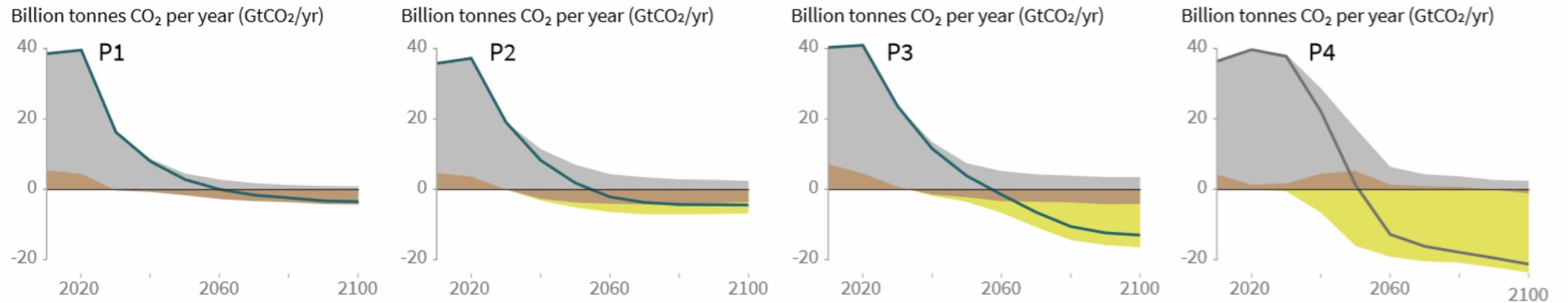
WE NEED TO DECREASE EMISSIONS FROM **DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION** TO LIMIT GLOBAL WARMING



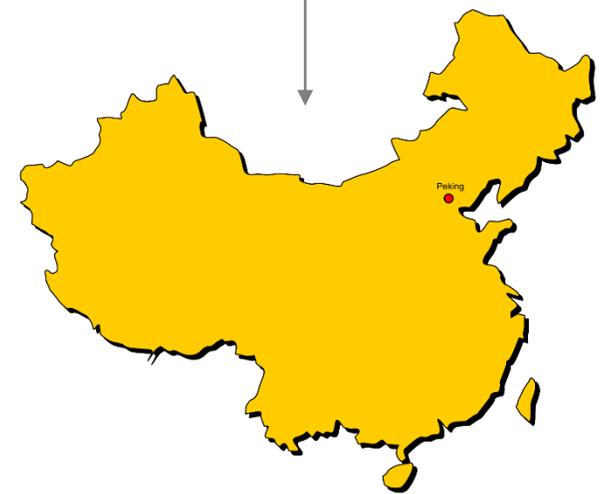
WE NEED TO **MINIMIZE RELIANCE ON HOW MUCH CARBON WE MUST TAKE OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE** TO LIMIT TEMPERATURE RISE TO 1.5° CELSIUS

# Breakdown of contributions to global net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in four illustrative model pathways

● Fossil fuel and industry   ● AFOLU   ● BECCS



Only **afforestation** considered to remove carbon dioxide



# The EU long-term strategy: land as energy?

Risk that bioenergy incentives leads to demands exceeding sustainable limits to supply:

- Commission states 'the sustainably realisable potential of wood for energy from EU forests as high as **675 million cubic meters**'
- Other studies put sustainable wood harvest lower at **590-620 million cubic meters for all uses**
- **Do we have a handle on the scope of various demands for wood?**



## Trees in the Low Tatras felled without permission

The Environment Ministry wants to toughen up conditions to prevent similar situations.



**Trees and forests**

**Poland violated EU laws by logging in Białowieża forest, court rules**

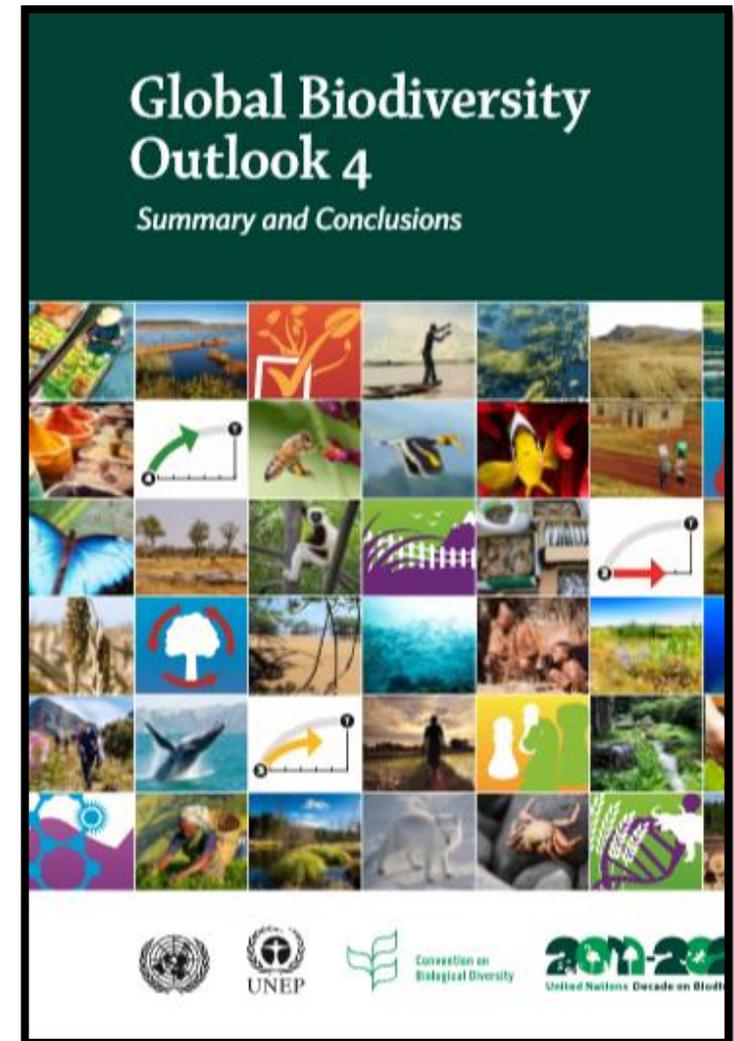
DAILY NEWS > ECO  
**Report reveals illegal logging is still a major problem in Romania**

**Forest degradation affects 400,000km<sup>2</sup> in Europe = Paraguay**

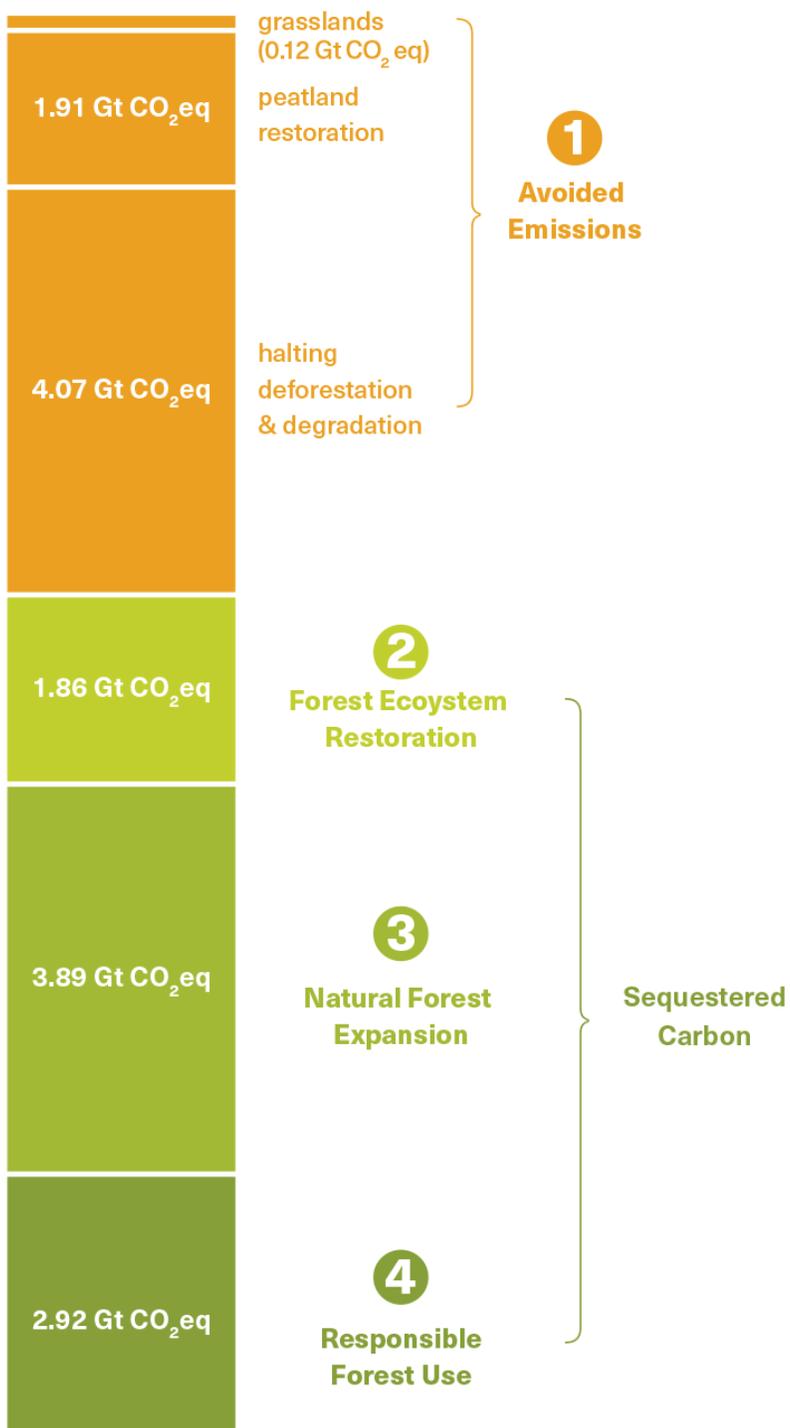
# Challenges for forests - Biodiversity

The world, including Europe, is not on track to meet biodiversity targets:

- **No significant overall progress:** on removing incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity
- **No significant overall progress:** Ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks
- **Moving away from target:** Habitats of all types, including forests, grasslands, wetlands and river systems, continue to be fragmented and degraded



14.77 Gigatons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year Globally by 2050



# Ecosystems restoration

- Missing elements in EU strategy:
  - #2 Ecosystem restoration and #3 Responsible forest use
- In a world of limited land, restoration provides an efficient, safe alternative
- 27% of forest ecosystem restoration is met in Temperate and boreal forests = **.5GT/year by 2050**

# Conclusions

**Protect primary forests:** Tackling the systemic threats to forests is key for effective climate action, which requires acknowledging priorities of forests beyond carbon and threats of biodiversity loss.

**Avoid one-trick ponies:** Addressing land as energy will not address encroaching threats to forest and could even exacerbate problems. Overconcentration on solid biomass for energy sends the wrong policy signals.

**Create a pathway for restoration:** We need to address forest degradation across Europe. There is a missing vision for land that maximizes biodiversity and carbon benefits.

