

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

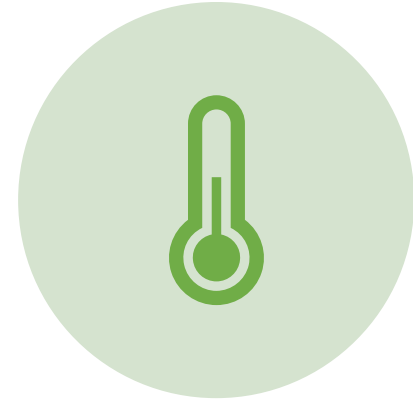
Kelsey Perlman, Forest and Climate Campaigner, Fern,
December 12th, 2018



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



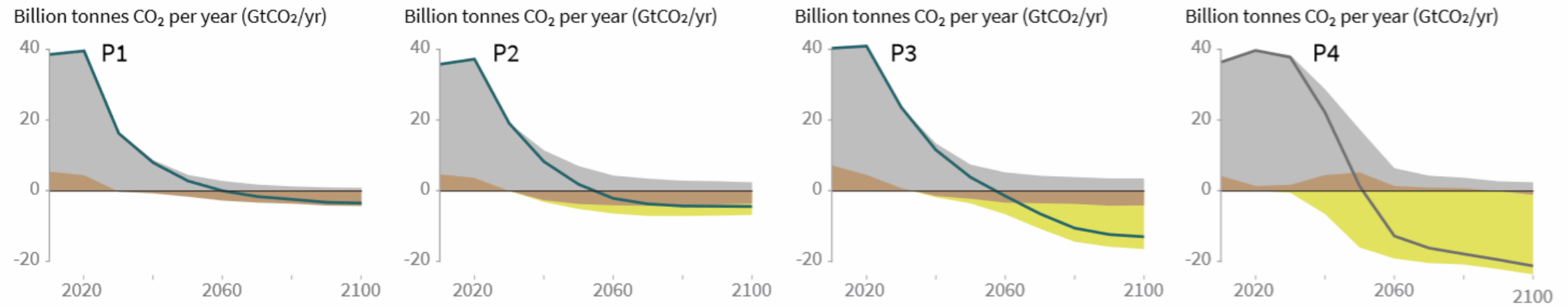
WE NEED TO DECREASE EMISSIONS
FROM **DEFORESTATION AND FOREST
DEGRADATION** TO LIMIT GLOBAL
WARMING



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 CO₂ 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

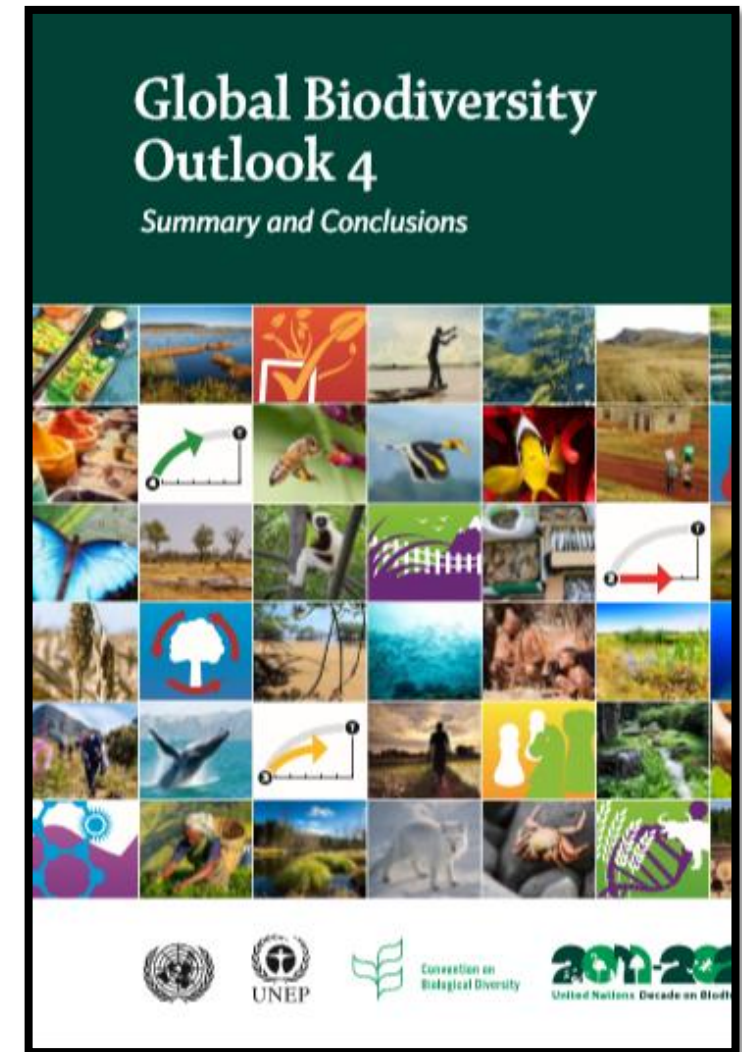
DAILY NEWS > ECO
Report reveals illegal logging is still a major problem in Romania

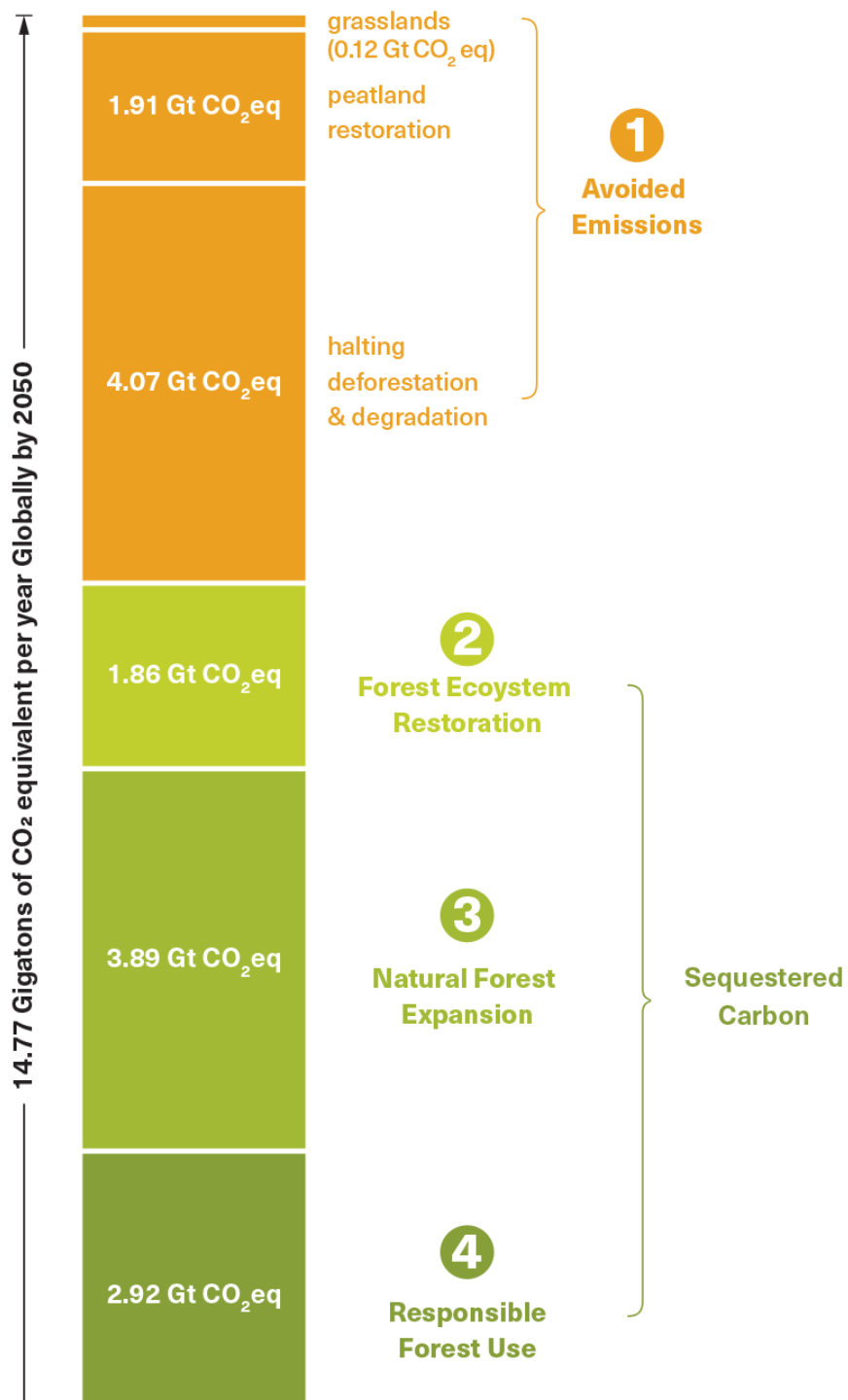
Forest degradation affects 400,000km² in Europe = Paraguay

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





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.

