Implications of climate policy on opportunities for wood-based climate solutions

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Forestry is:

All **contributions** to Sustainable Development
made possible through Forests and Trees.

Wood

Foundation:
Forest management
that is
Climate positive
Nature positive (**Yes!**)

Opportunities:
Products and services
<u>in all other sectors</u>
- Not least for climate action!

This is where we need to focus!

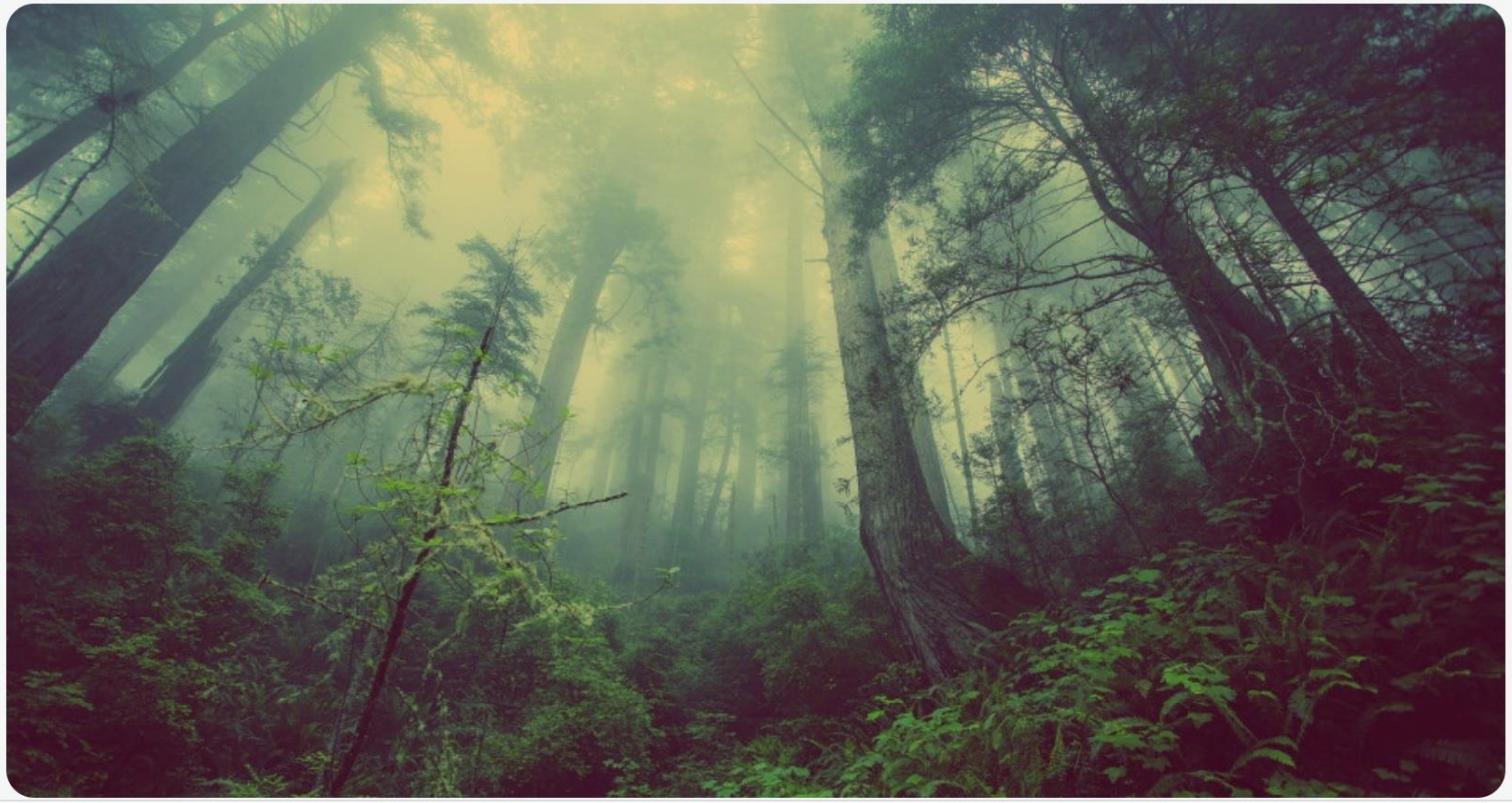
What are the questions?

- Are we conceiving forest-climate policy the right way?
  - **I say No**.
- Are we hindered by deep wheel-tracks and sector silos?
  - **I say Yes.**
- What can we do about it?
  - **Recognize, Report and Act on climate contributions of wood-based products!**


Forest and Climate policy often fails to
see outside the forest for all the trees.
Why is that?

Content

Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).



Key documents related to LULUCF

Past considerations of issues relating to LULUCF

Climate convention basics from 1992

Two climate change mitigation goals.

1. Control, reduce and prevent fossil/process emissions.

2. Conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs.

From Article 4.1 in the UNFCCC text:

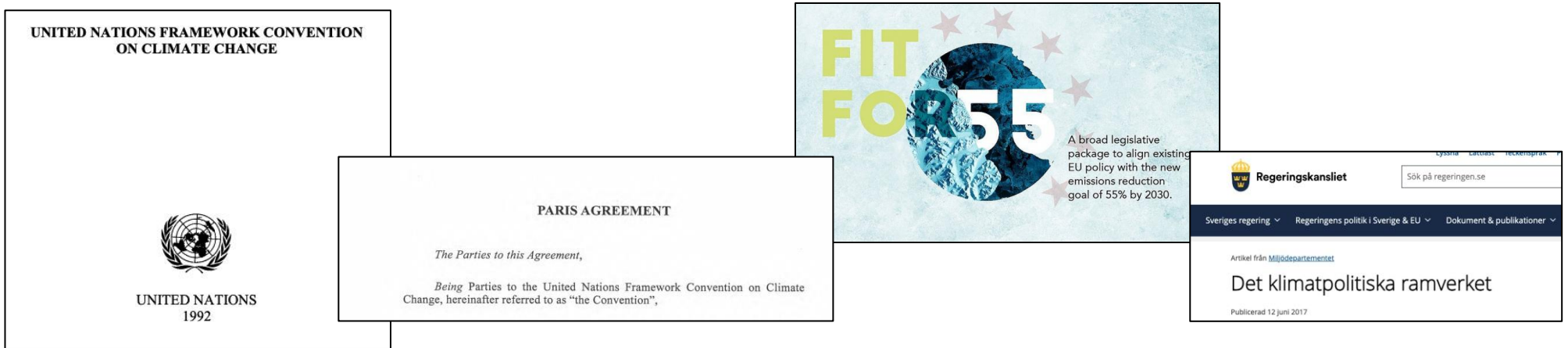
(c) Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in all relevant sectors, including the energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management sectors;

(d) Promote sustainable management, and promote and cooperate in the conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including biomass, forests and oceans as well as other terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems;

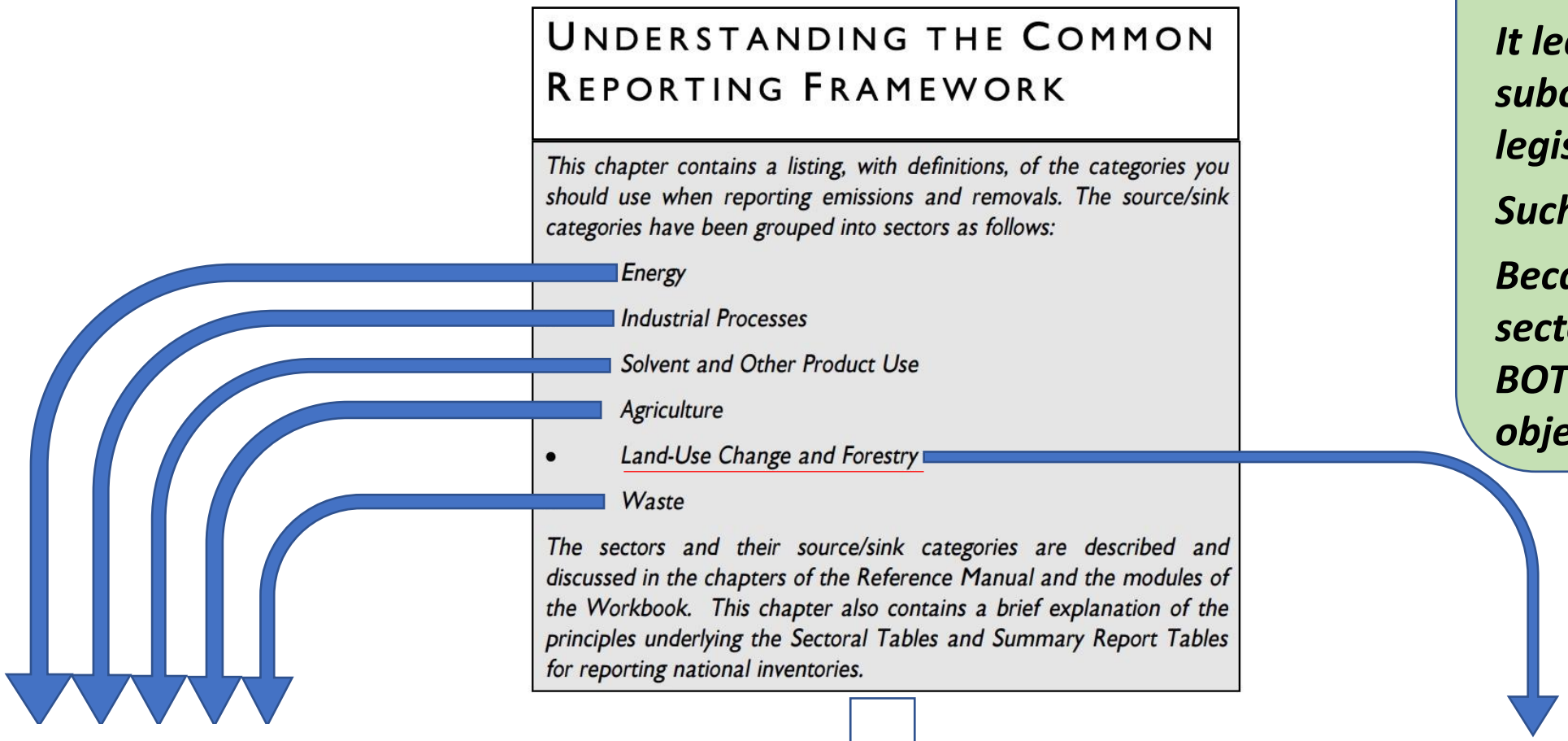
Climate change mitigation policies follow this structure along separate tracks!

- Two goals (UNFCCC 1992 Article 4.1):
  1. ***Control, reduce, prevent emissions***
  2. ***Conserve and enhance sinks and reservoirs***

- Structure flows through Paris, EU Green Deal, national goals, corporations
  - Has given us ”Net Zero” and “Carbon neutrality”



1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (remains as basic structure in climate reporting)



This division is problematic!

It leads to isolated, suboptimal policy & legislation.

Such as LULUCF.

Because forest-based sector contributes to BOTH mitigation objectives!

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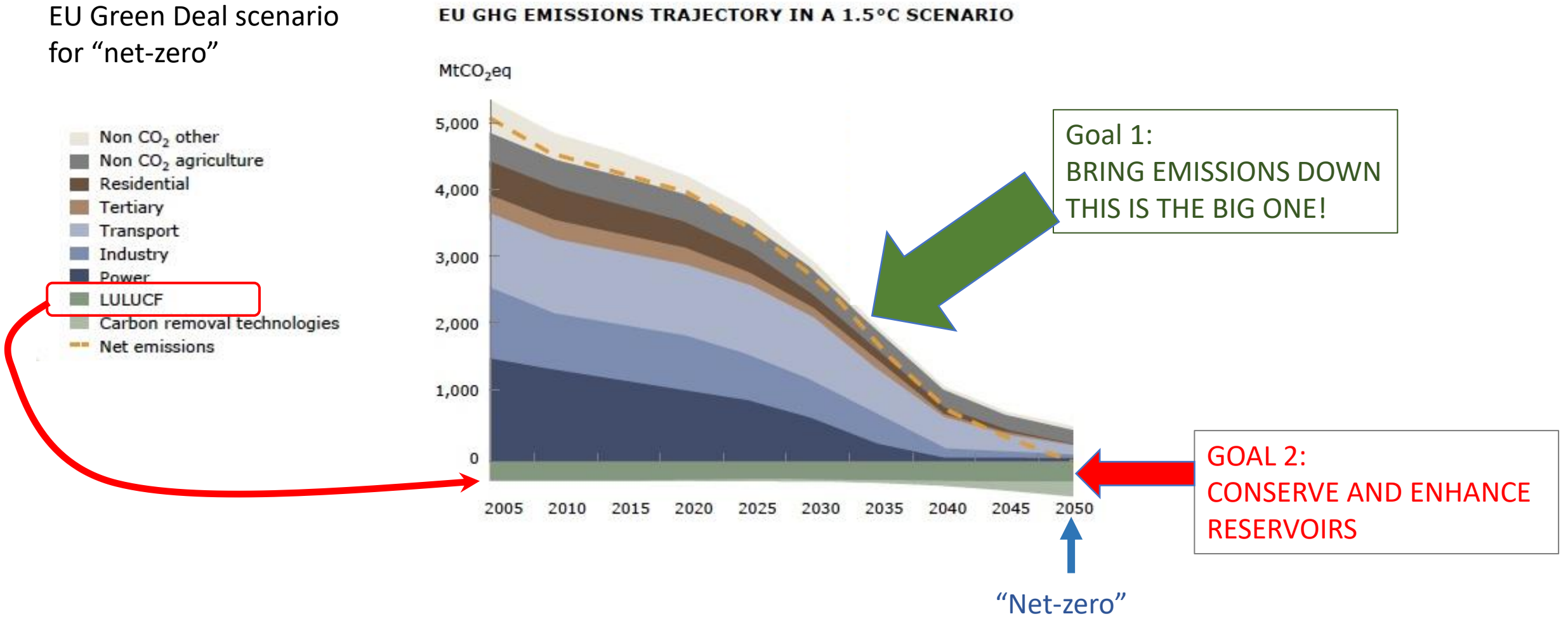
Responding to 1992 UNFCCC Climate Change Mitigation objectives

1. Reduce emissions

2. Enhance sinks & reservoirs

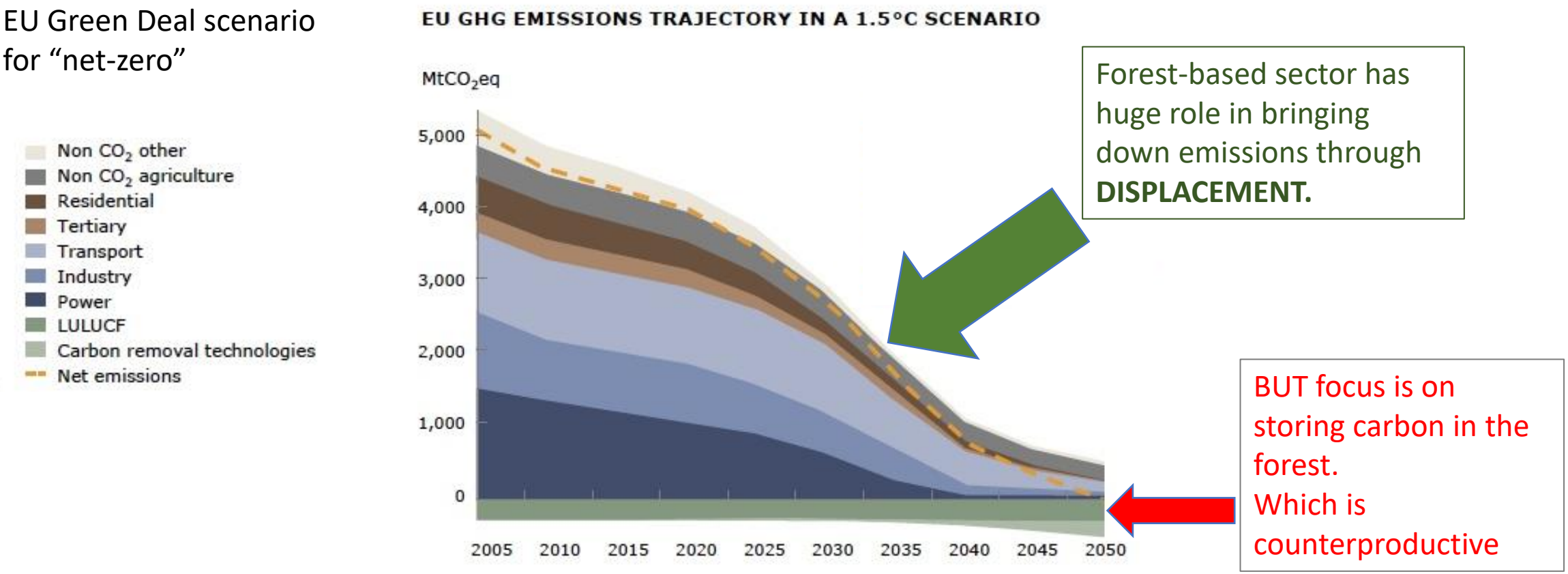
Example: EU Green Deal

EU Green Deal scenario for “net-zero”



Our problem: The forest gets stuck in the forest. Contributions to reducing emissions are hidden from policy. Our job is to make displacement visible.

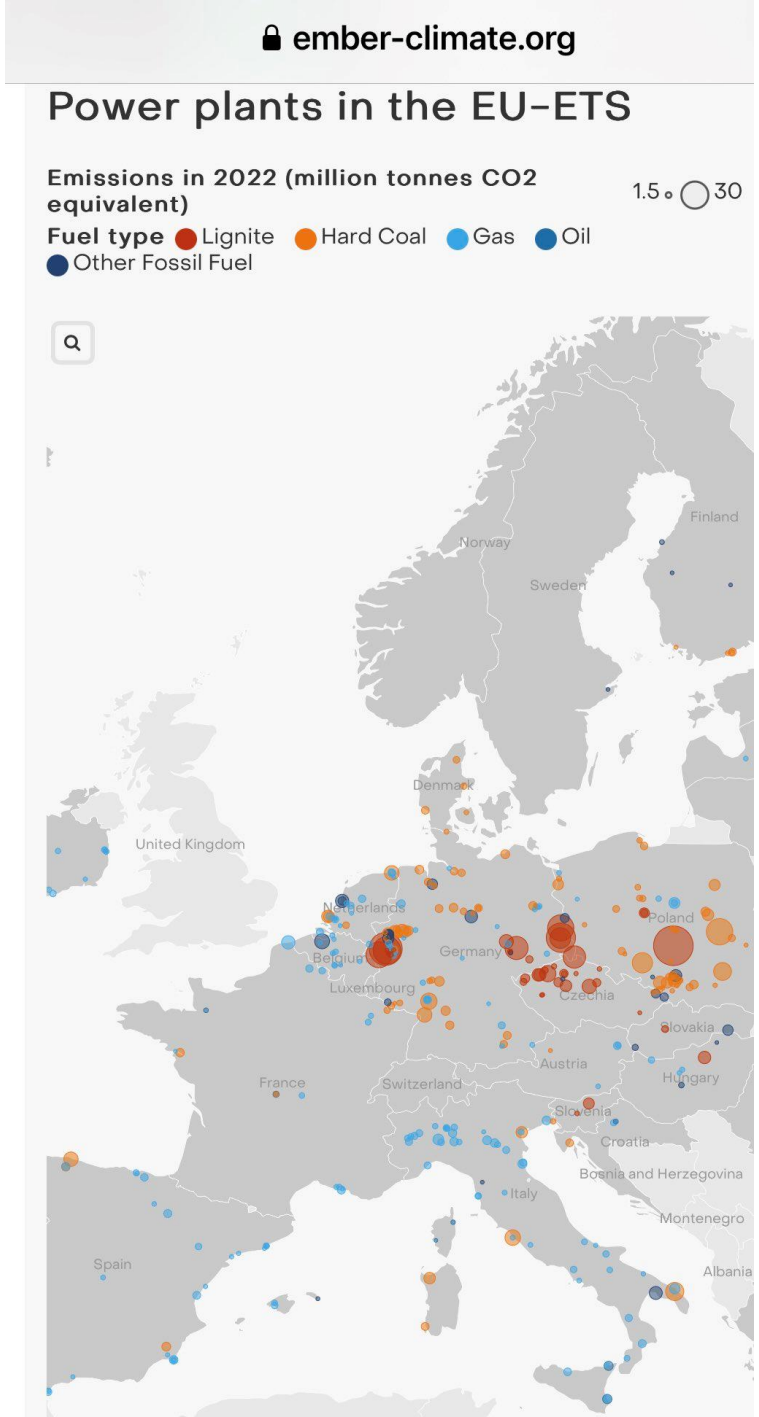
EU Green Deal scenario for “net-zero”



Fossil emissions from powerplants in ETS.

EU forests are currently expropriated to compensate some of these emissions by storing more carbon -> “net zero” Lose-lose.

Another policy could be to have active forestry and wood-based products & energy displace some of these emissions. Win-win.



So.

EU climate policy aims to add carbon to the forest to compensate for fossil emissions.

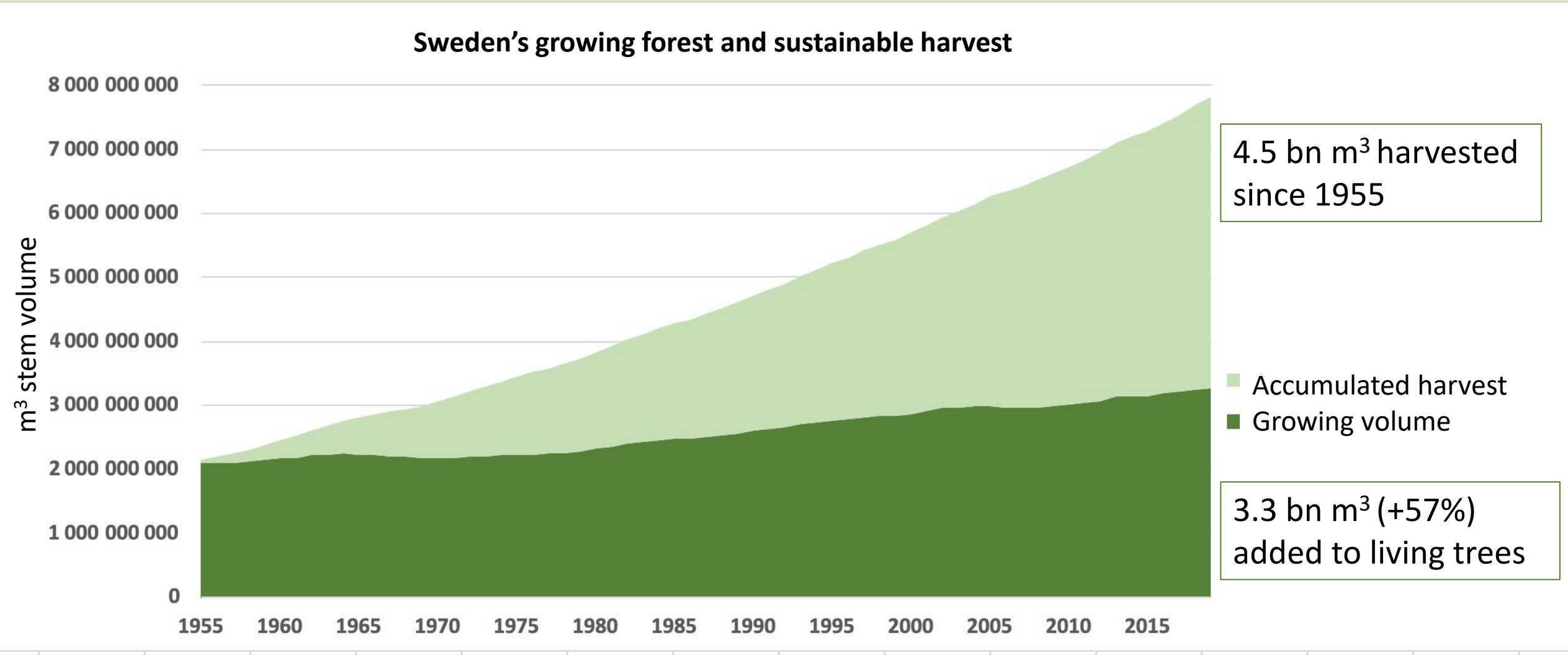
But in reality

Forestry and wood-based products contribute to BOTH climate change mitigation goals

(in addition to all other benefits to society)

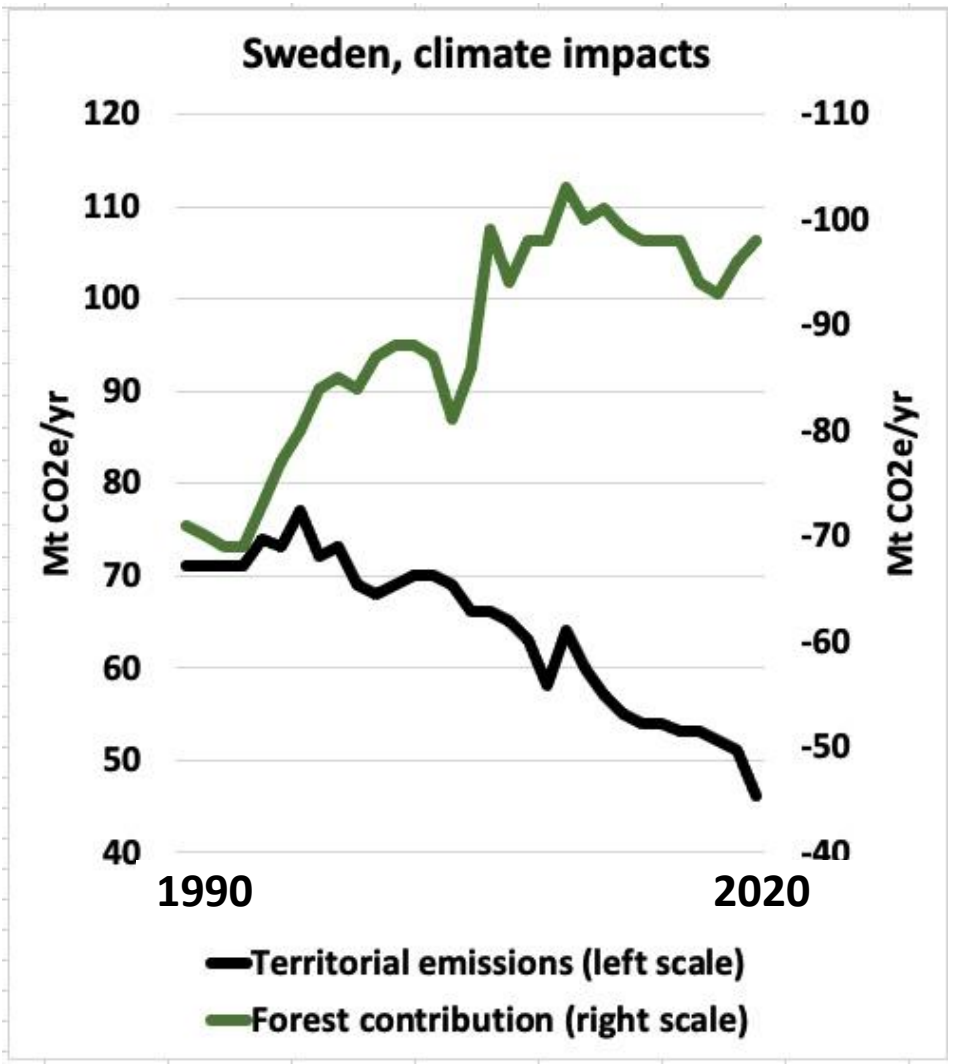

A reality check.

Sweden has 300 m^3 growing trees per capita

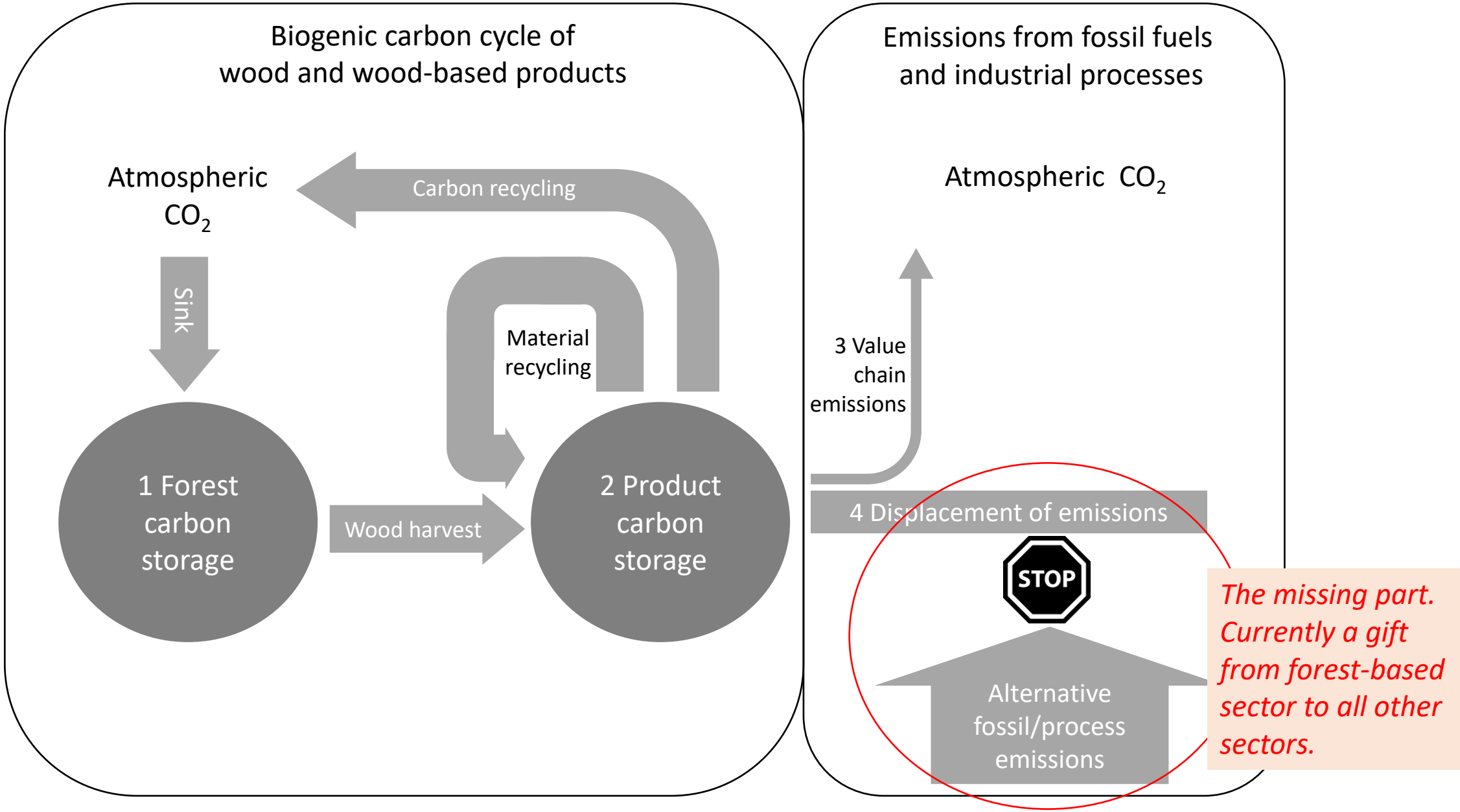


What does this mean for the climate?

- Sweden 1990-2020
  - Forest net storage: 1.4 Gt CO_2e
  - Displacement of fossil emissions: 1.3 Gt CO_2e
  - By comparison: Sweden's territorial emissions: 1.9 Gt CO_2e
- Territorial emissions go down.
- Forest contributions go up!
  - A lot of these are exported




Is there a better way
for conceiving forest-climate policy?

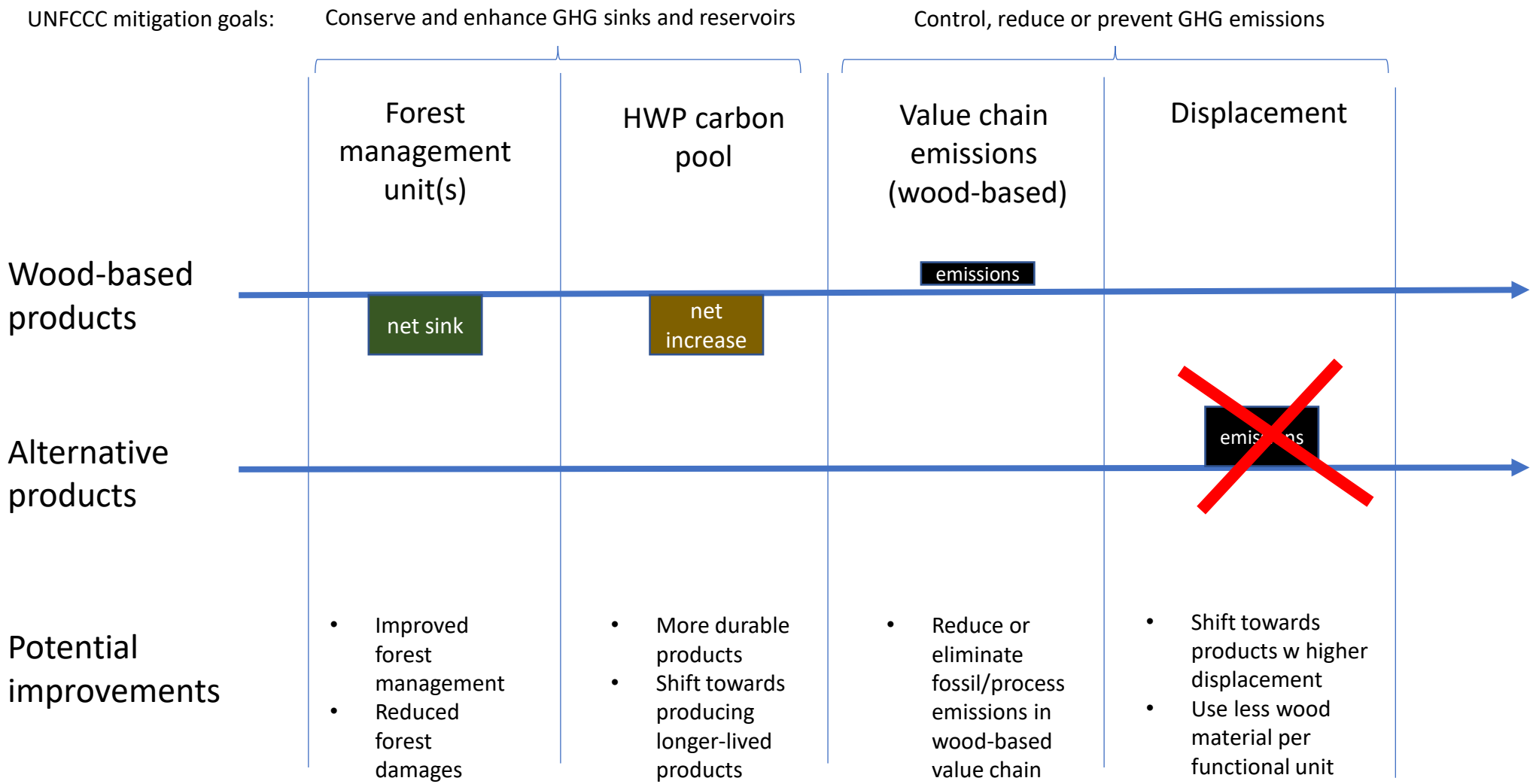


UNFCCC mitigation Goals, Article 4.1:

2. Conservation and enhancement of sinks and reservoirs

1. Reduce/control/prevent fossil/process emissions

4 components provide a focus on climate performance and potential improvements of wood-based products



Wood

Secures value and carbon build-up

Reduces fossil dependency

Foundation:
Forest management
that is
Climate positive
Nature positive (Yes!)

Harvested Wood is what carries the climate value!

Opportunities:
Products and services
in all other sectors
- Not least for climate action!

Conclusions

- Forest-climate policy is rooted in old structures of UNFCCC and IPCC
- Therefore, climate policy misses out on opportunities from the forest-based sector
- Displacement of fossil/process emissions is a major omitted factor
- A focus only on carbon storage in forests is counter-productive policy in multiple ways
- Long term enhancement of carbon storage can be combined with long-term increase of renewable wood supply.
- Harvested wood is the carrier of climate value from the forest as:
  - It gives value to the forest –> investments for its sustainable management
  - It gives opportunities to reduce fossil dependency in other sectors.


A well harvested tree is not a loss.
It is a gain in renewable materials and
sustainable landscapes