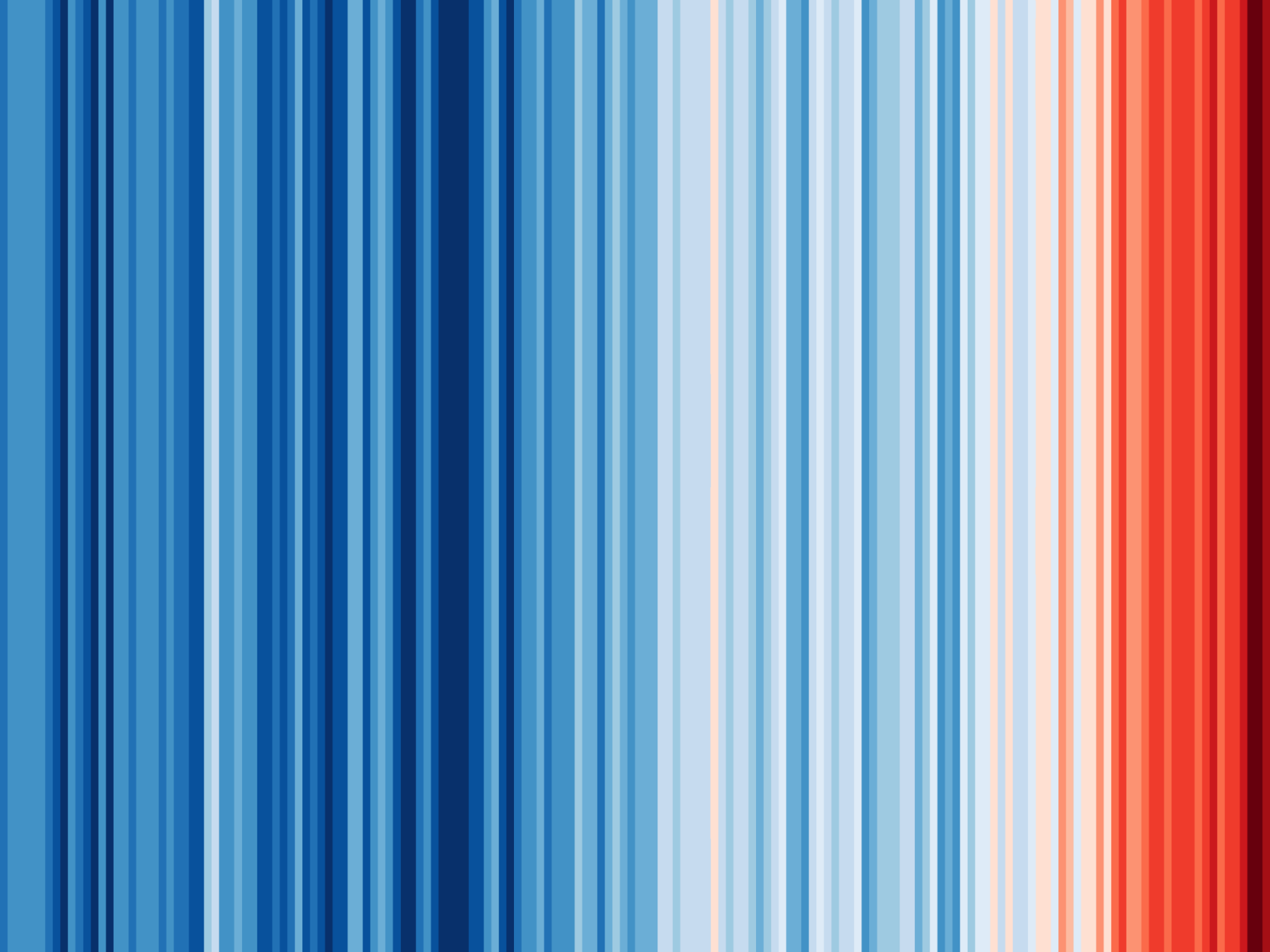
A photograph of a forest with large, mature trees and a path. The trees have thick, textured trunks and dense green foliage. The ground is covered in brown leaves and small purple flowers. A fallen log lies on the right side of the path. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

REDII biomass workshop

5 Oct 2020

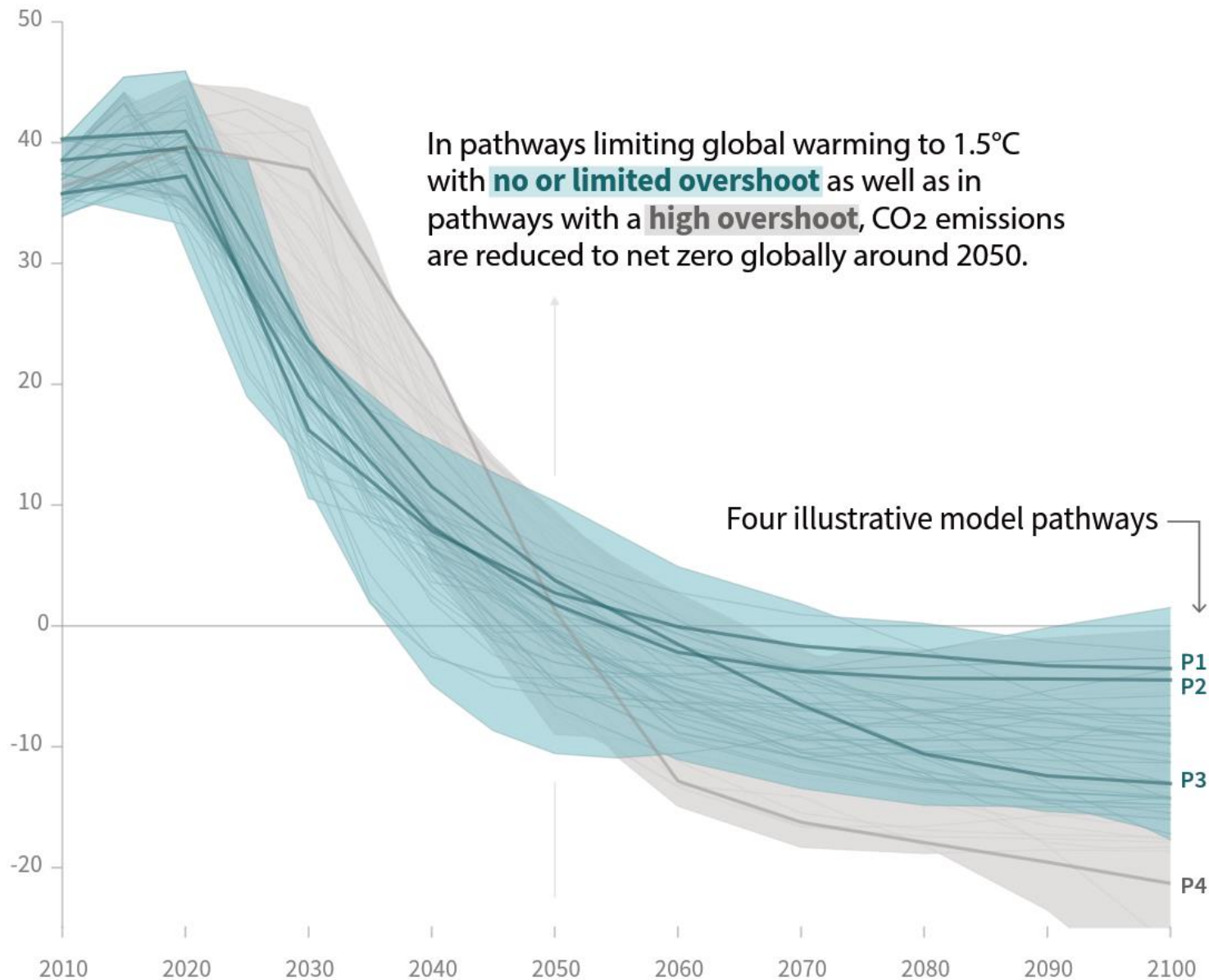
Alex Mason, WWF





Global total net CO₂ emissions

Billion tonnes of CO₂/yr







WWF

BRIEFING
PAPER

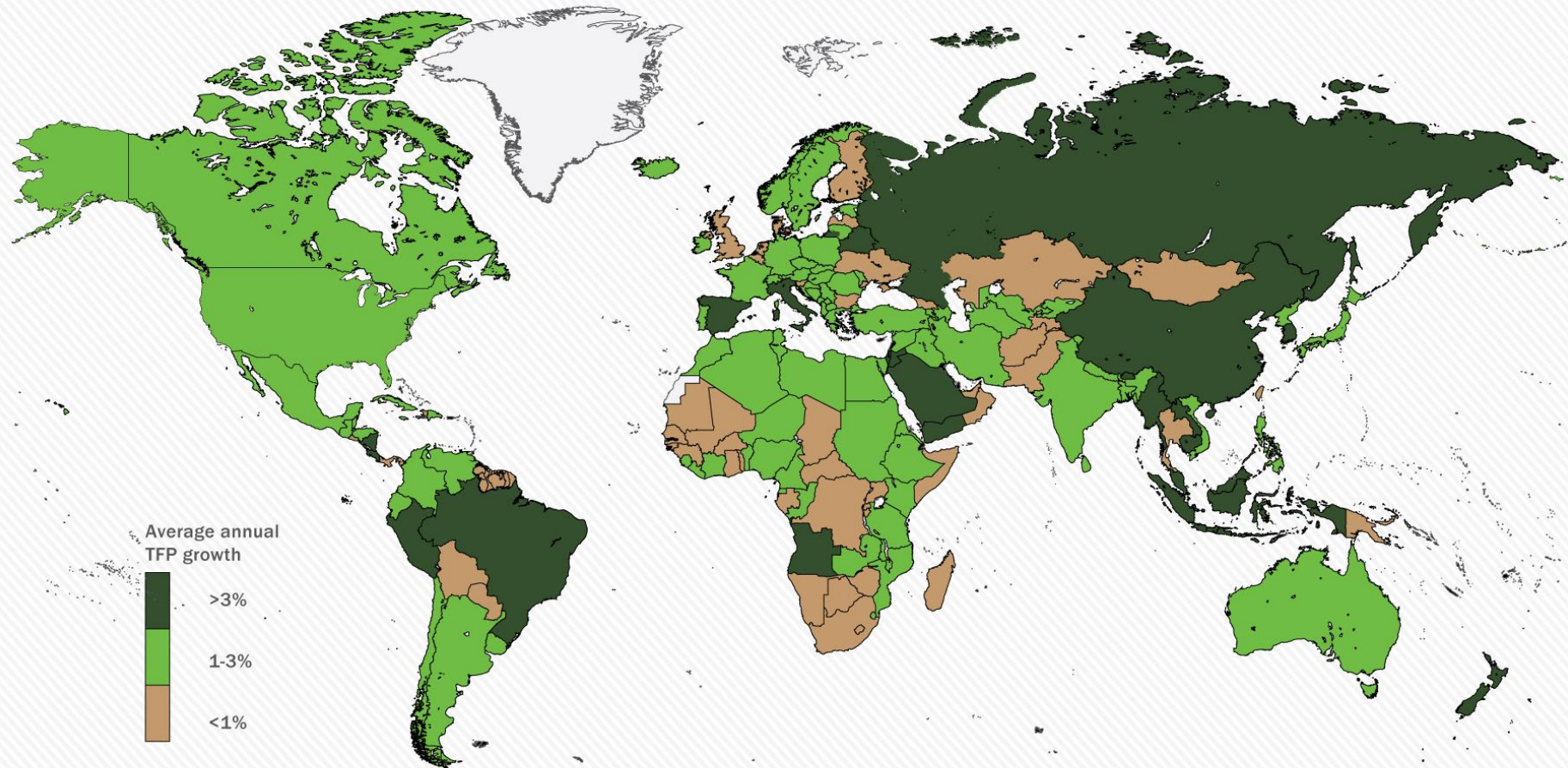
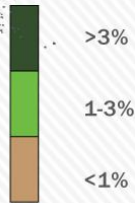
JUNE
2017

EU bioenergy policy

Ensuring that the provisions on bioenergy in the recast EU Renewable Energy Directive deliver genuine climate benefits

Bioenergy has a role to play in decarbonisation of the EU energy system. But the sustainability criteria for bioenergy proposed by the European Commission in its recast of the EU Renewable Energy Directive are deeply flawed. Stricter rules are needed to ensure that bioenergy used in the EU delivers genuine climate benefits over the fossil alternative.

Average annual
TFP growth



Source: Fuglie, Wang and Ball (2012)





LETTER FROM SCIENTISTS TO THE EU PARLIAMENT REGARDING
FOREST BIOMASS
(updated January 14, 2018)

To Members of the European Parliament,

As the European Parliament commendably moves to expand the renewable energy directive, we strongly urge members of Parliament to amend the present directive to avoid expansive harm to the world's forests and the acceleration of climate change. The flaw in the directive lies in provisions that would let countries, power plants and factories claim credit toward renewable energy targets for deliberately cutting down trees to burn them for energy. The solution should be to restrict the forest biomass eligible under the directive to residues and wastes.

For decades, European producers of paper and timber products have generated electricity and heat as beneficial by-products using wood wastes and limited forest residues. Since most of these waste materials would decompose and release carbon dioxide within a few years, using them to displace fossil fuels can reduce net carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere in a few years as well. By contrast, cutting down trees for bioenergy releases carbon that would otherwise stay locked up in forests, and diverting wood otherwise used for wood products will cause more cutting elsewhere to replace them.

Even if forests are allowed to regrow, using wood deliberately harvested for burning will increase carbon in the atmosphere and warming for decades to centuries – as many studies















“We take sawdust that’s left over from sawmills, they’re cutting the big trees into wood that goes into house building; the sawdust is collected; it’s made into a pellet”



Photo courtesy Dogwood Alliance

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2015-05-20/how-green-is-biomass-power-from-forest-to-furnace>



Enviva pellet plant, Ahoskie, North Carolina – 78% hardwood

Photo: Dogwood Alliance (www.dogwoodalliance.org)



DIRECTIVES

DIRECTIVE (EU) 2018/2001 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2018

**on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources
(recast)**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

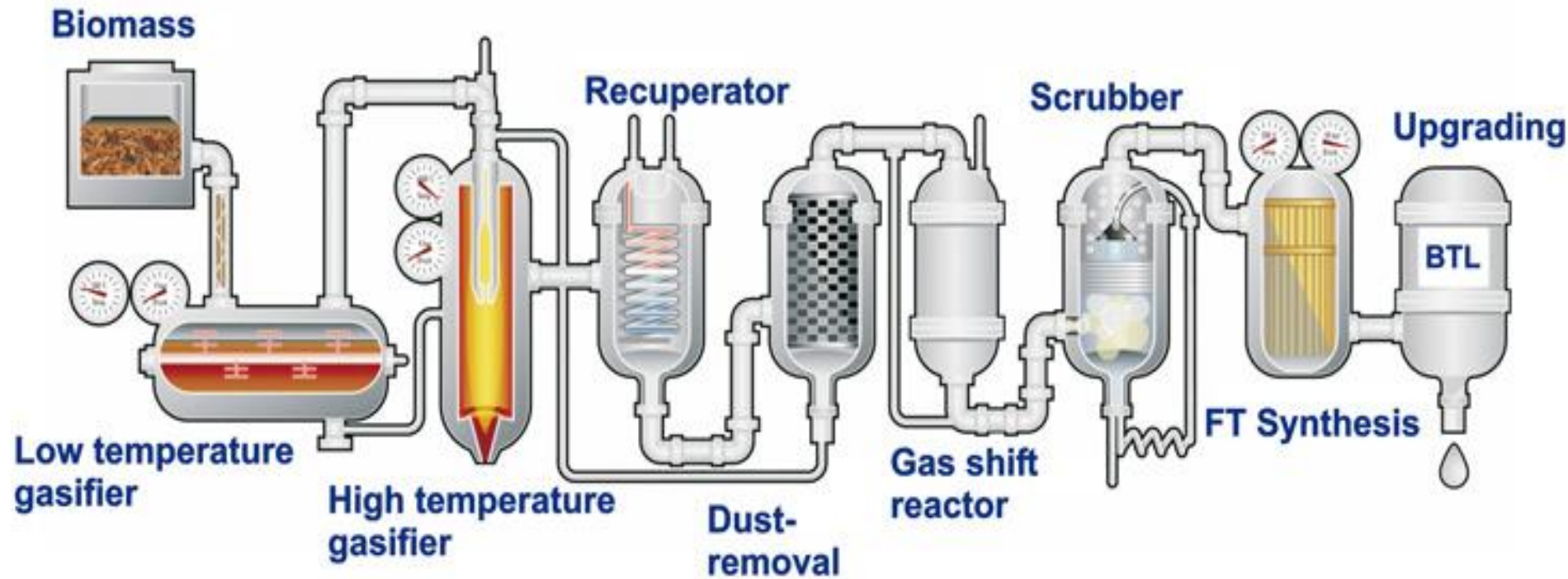
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 194(2) thereof,

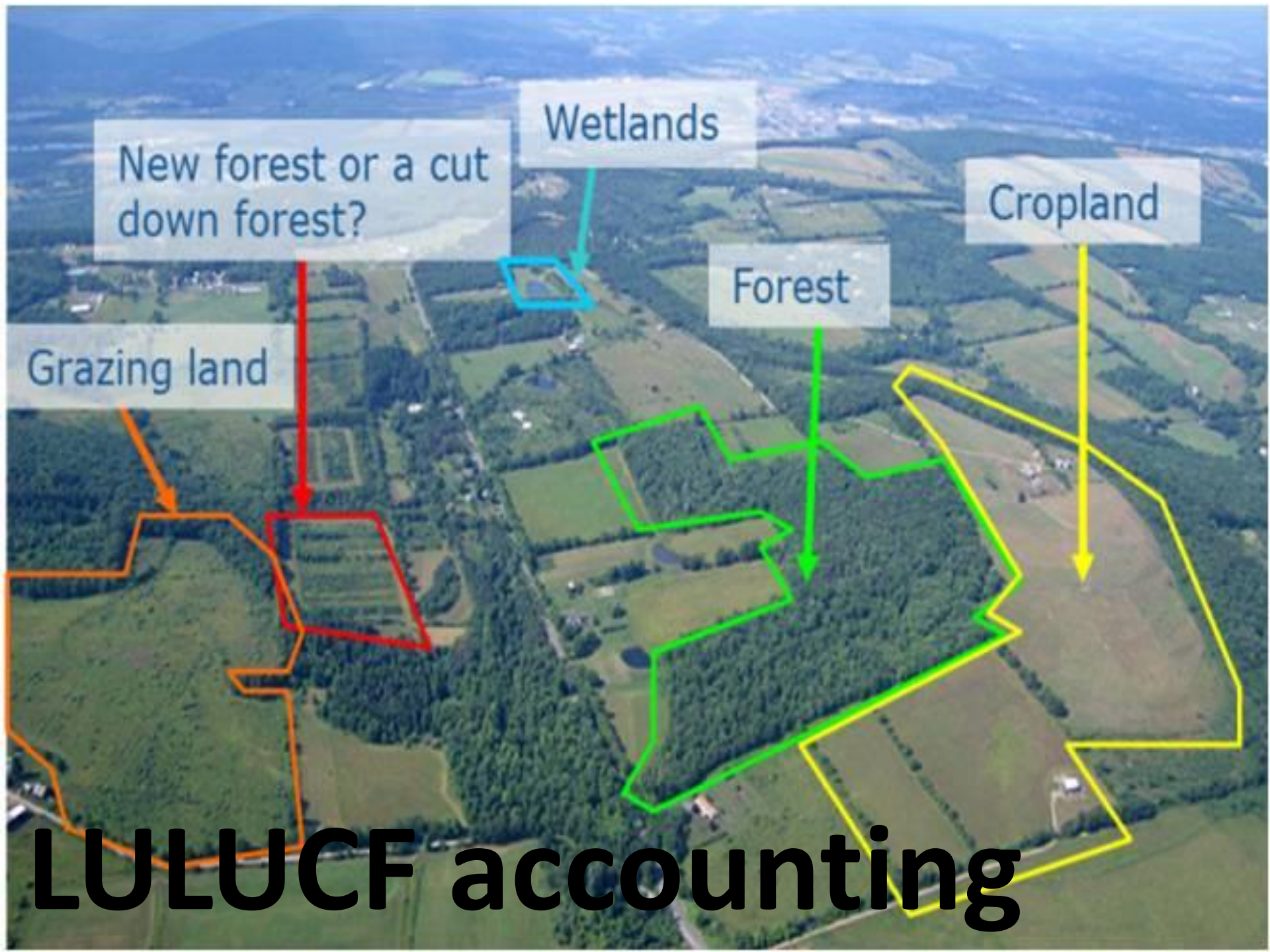
Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ⁽¹⁾,

GHG criteria





Wetlands

New forest or a cut down forest?

Cropland

Forest

Grazing land

LULUCF accounting

SFM

Sustainable Forestry Cycle



New Forest

Thinning

Stand Management Protection

Harvest Planning

New Forest



Forest Research

Carbon impacts of biomass consumed in the EU

Supplementary analysis
and interpretation for the
European Climate Foundation

“The RED II makes no specific provisions for 9 out of the 15 recommended criteria. For 3 of the 15 recommended criteria the RED II might be expected to deliver some indirect, but non-specific, support. In 3 of the 15 recommended criteria, the RED will deliver a direct policy signal.”

“It is important that those countries seeking to implement the RED II are aware of the relevance of the above sustainability criteria for the implementation of the RED II, because if the EU bioenergy policy is to meet its stated goal of reducing GHG emissions, such criteria will need to be implemented within national policy.”

So in conclusion:

- We are facing a **climate emergency** and urgently need more forest restoration
- **Bioenergy** has a role to play, but only if it delivers significant, near-term reductions in emissions;
- The forest biomass **criteria in REDII** are largely meaningless, and won't stop the growth in types of forest biomass that increase emissions compared to fossil fuels;
- Member States must implement **stricter criteria at national level**, for example by restricting incentives to fast-decaying wastes and residues with no other uses.

Thank You!

