

The role of Forestry in meeting the Paris Agreement objective

Peter Holmgren

25 April 2019

@ "Our Forests Our Future", Brussels

A dense forest of tall, thin trees, possibly spruce or fir, with a blue-green tint. The trees are closely packed, and the ground is covered in forest floor debris. The lighting is soft and diffused, creating a serene atmosphere.

*1. The Paris Agreement is problematic for
the forest-climate nexus.*

Forest = Sink & Reservoir.



=



**Locking up carbon is the only role given to forests
in the Paris Agreement (as per Article 5)**

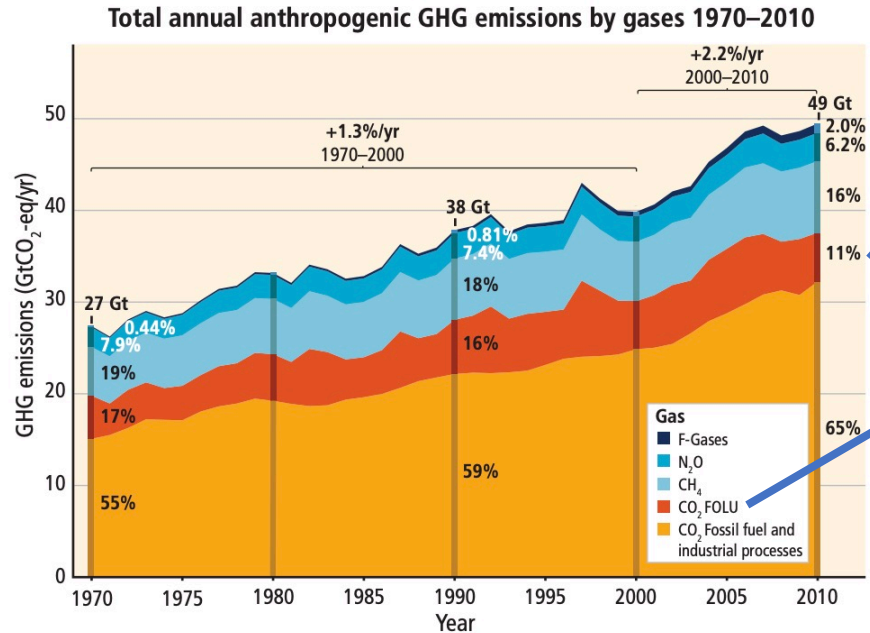
Greater wisdom in earlier days

- Increase wood production and forest productivity by silvicultural measures and genetically improved trees, thus helping to increase the forest carbon sink, to meet increasing demand for wood as well as to support replacement of fossil fuels and other materials by wood and to avoid inappropriate land use conversion.

Why did the forest perspective narrow down?

- Kyoto protocol
 - "sectors" for accounting -> silos
- LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) reporting & targets
 - Reinforces that forest = carbon storage
- REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation +..)
 - Pay to keep carbon untouched in forests (but not for reducing fossil emissions)
- Conforming with generic UNFCCC goal
 - "Removal of sources and enhancement of sinks"
- Pressure from nature conservation interests
 - Ignore active management of forests
 - and wood as a climate-smart material.

Forestry is (now) erroneously & ironically presented as a big part of the problem!

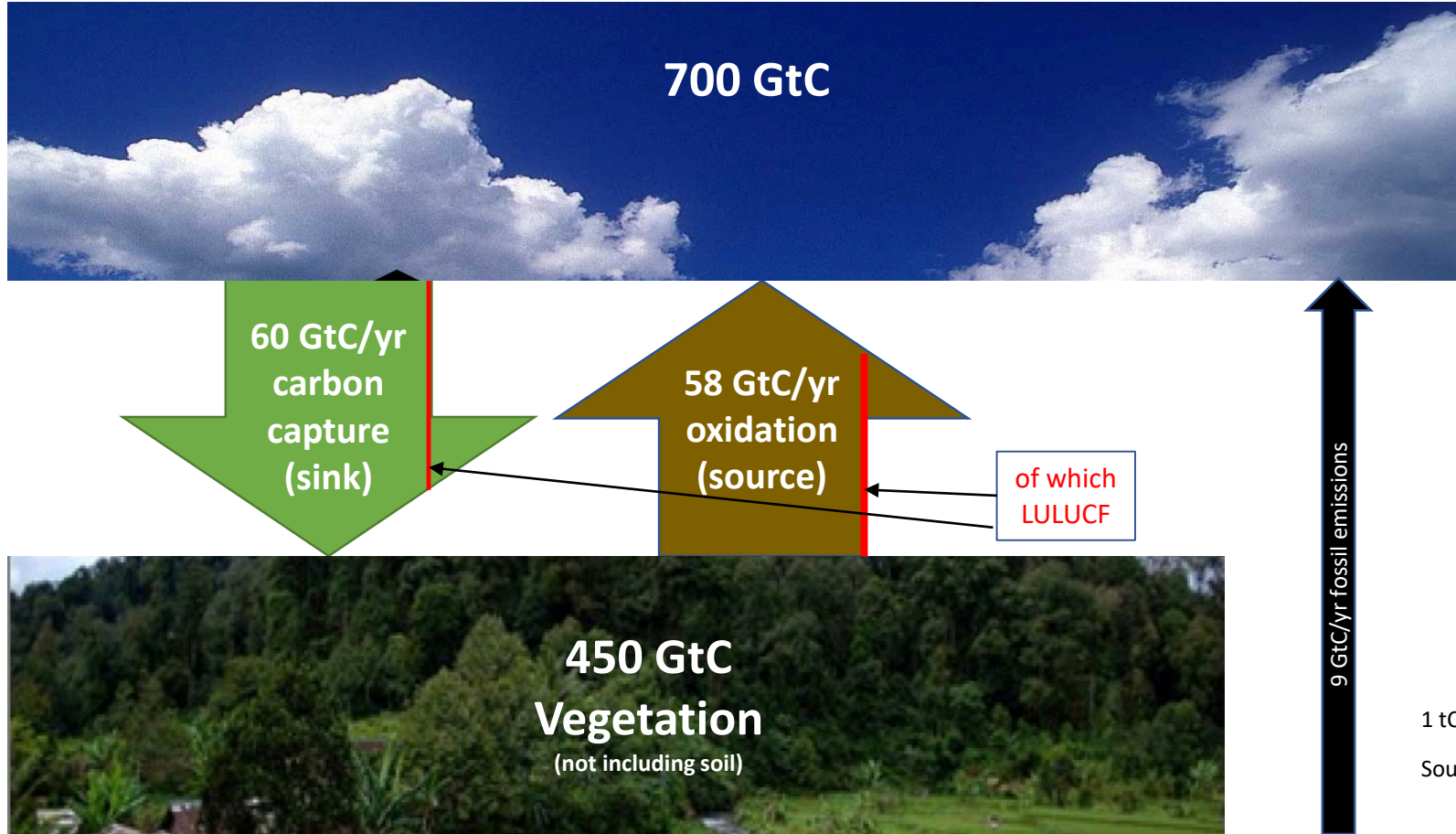


“Forestry & other land use”
= 11% of global emissions

A dense forest of tall, thin trees, possibly spruce or fir, with a blue tint. The trees are closely packed, and the ground is covered in forest floor debris. The lighting is dim, creating a moody atmosphere.

*2. Complete & dynamic
perspectives on forests & forestry.*

Global carbon reservoirs and annual fluxes

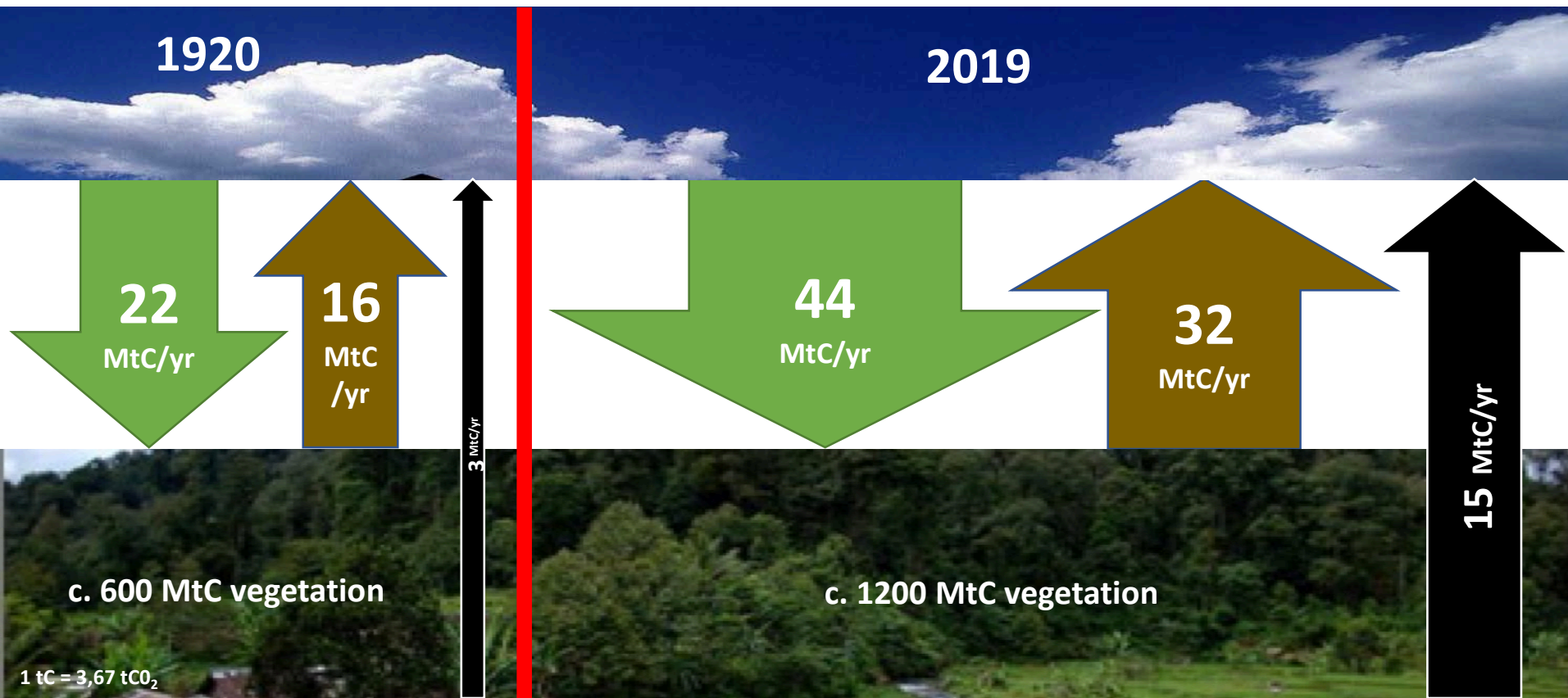


Sweden: approximate reservoir & fluxes

Forest growth – carbon capture ↓

Forest removals, losses & substitution ↑

Fossil emissions ↑



In other words:

- Carbon capture of forests is SEVERAL TIMES bigger than our fossil emissions.
- Active forest management dramatically INCREASE carbon capture.
 - PROVIDED it makes economic sense and is not ideologically blocked.
- IN ADDITION harvested wood gives further climate benefits.
 - REPLACING fossil materials and energy.

The Paris Agreement ignores all of the above.

A gigantic missed opportunity.

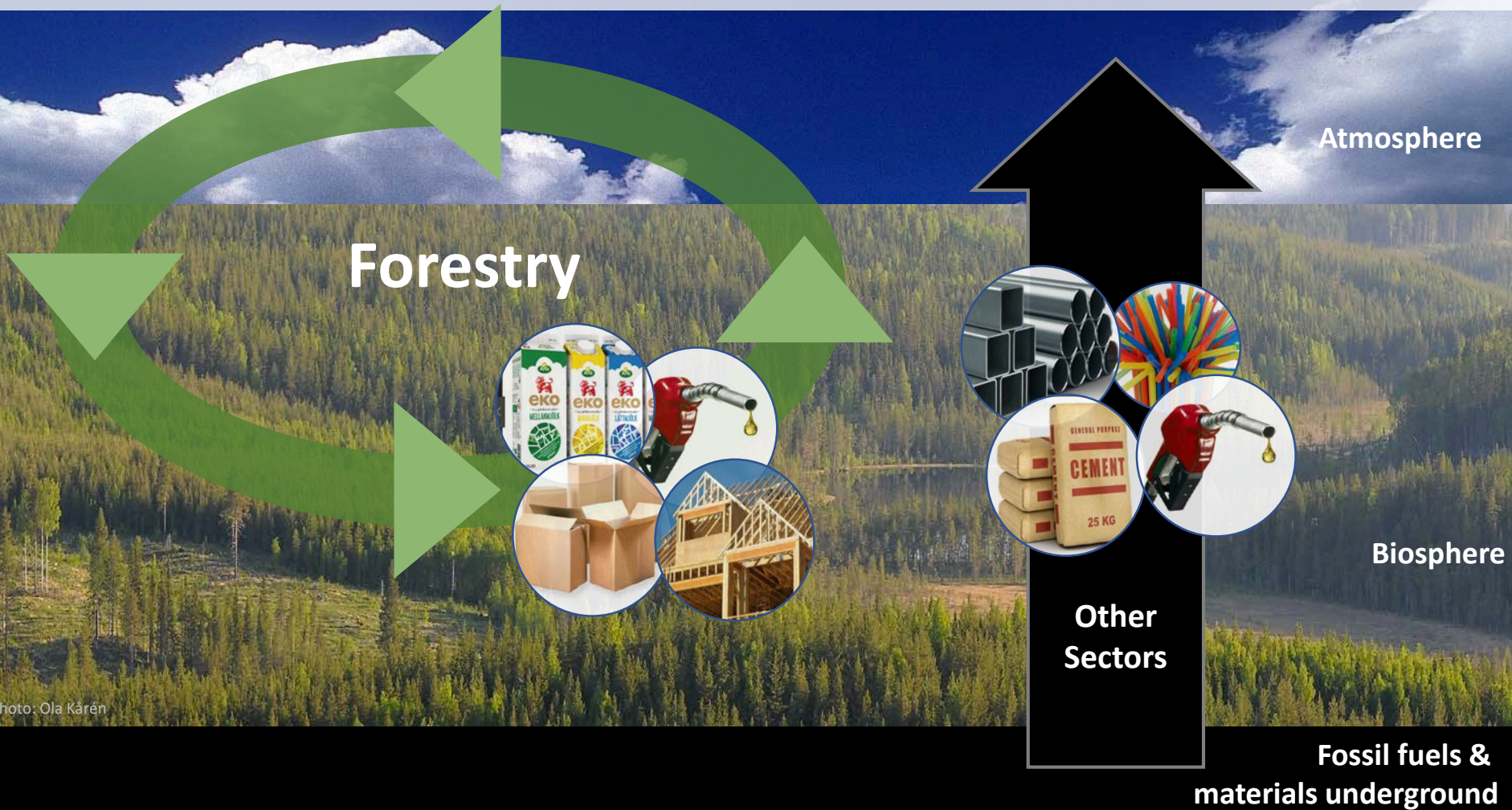


3. Forestry – role model for climate action.

GREEN CARBON

vs.

FOSSIL CARBON



Atmosphere

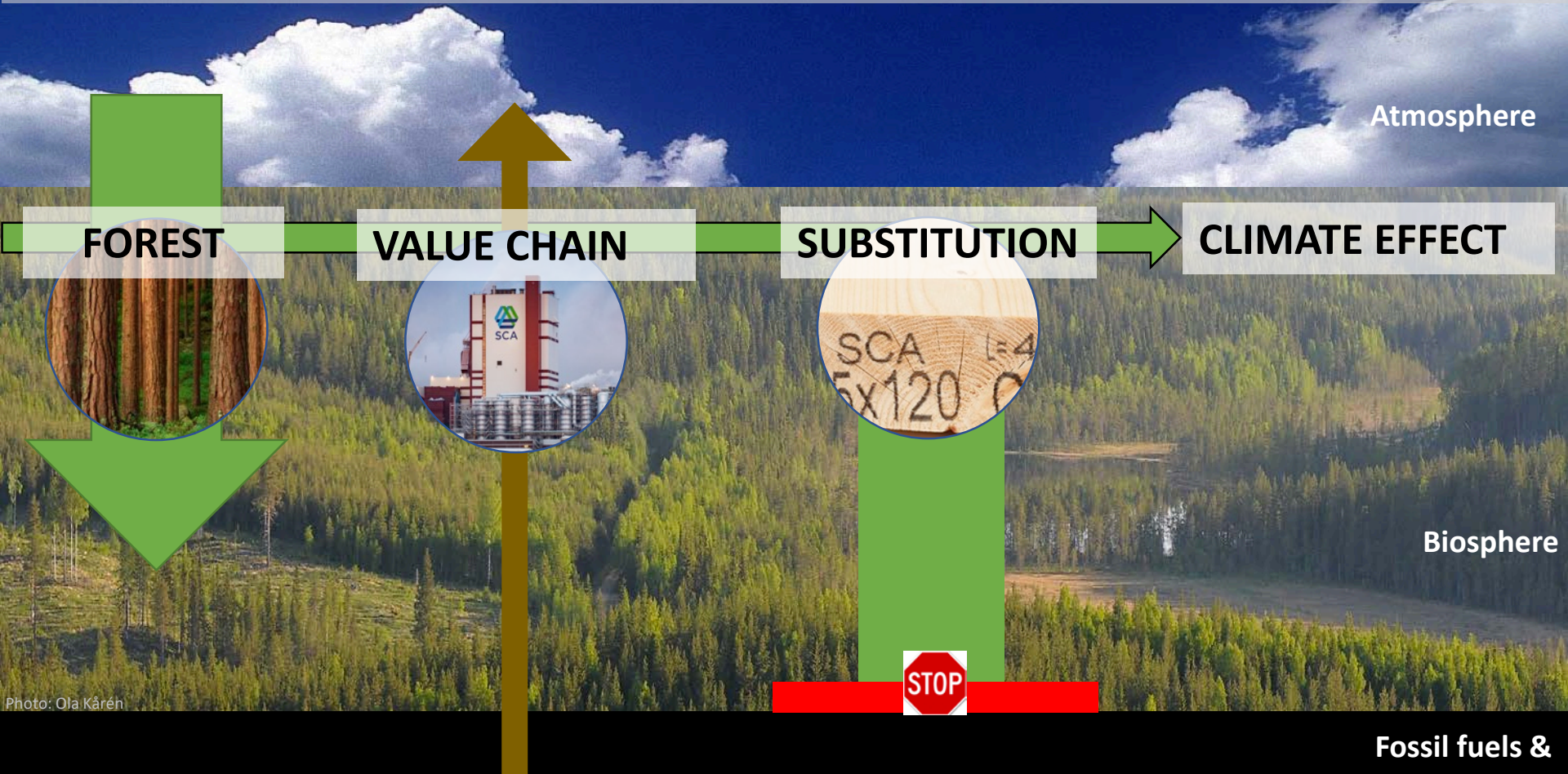
Forestry

Biosphere

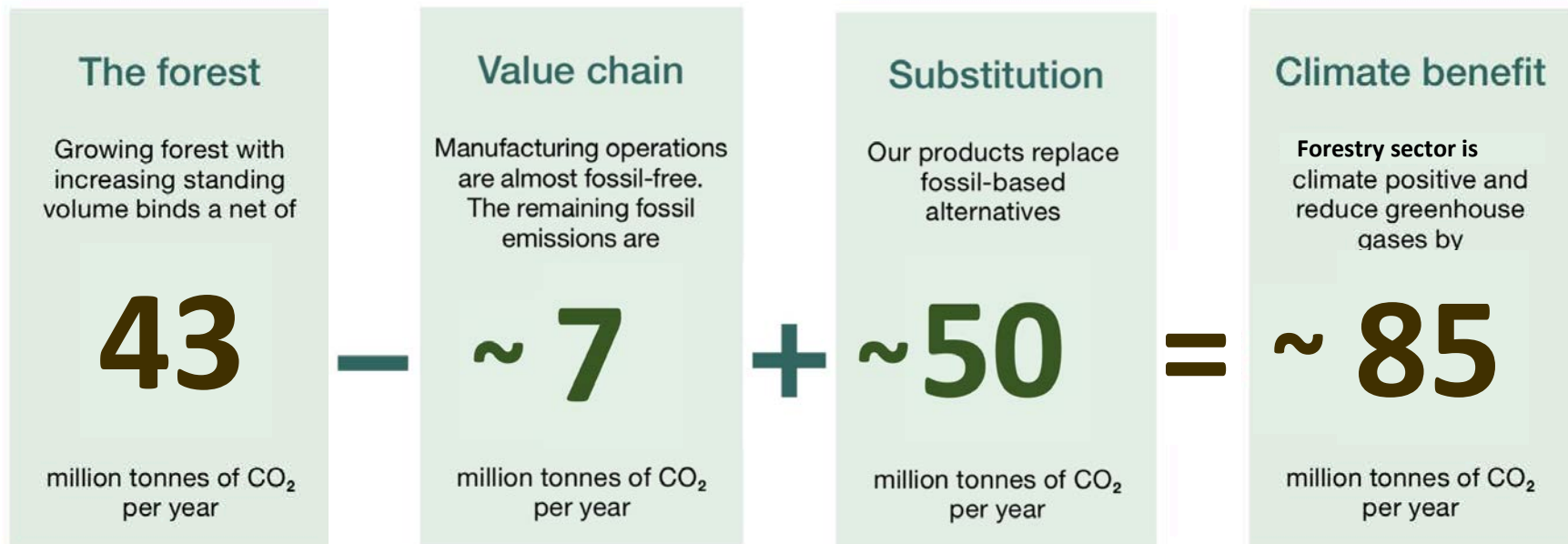
Other
Sectors

Fossil fuels &
materials underground

CLIMATE EFFECT OF FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS



Sweden: Approximate climate effect 2017 of forest and forest products, MtCO₂e



NOTE! Total reported GHG emissions from Sweden in 2017:

63 MtCO₂e including international travel (and including above 7).

We need a new deal for Forestry

- *Forests have a major role in balancing the climate.*
- *The Paris Agreement misses out on Forestry potential.*
- *Forestry – role model for climate action:
enhancing sinks, replacing fossils*
- *Forestry also provides welfare & sustainable development.*
- *We need a new deal for investments in Forestry!*