

Conserving Tropical Forests: *An Appreciation of UK Leadership*



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

OVERVIEW

- A brief inventory of the many ways the U.K. has provided global leadership on forests
- An update on the importance of forests for climate stability and development objectives
- Reasons for optimism that we can turn the tide of tropical deforestation

An aerial photograph showing a landscape with a green field on the left, a red dirt road in the middle, and a dense green forest on the right. The text "UK leadership in global forestry" is overlaid in yellow on the forest area.

UK leadership in global forestry

Concern about tropical deforestation

Dr. Hugh Cleghorn, author of the Report of the Committee Appointed by the British Association for the Advancement of Science to Consider the Probable Effects in an Economical and Physical Point of View of the Destruction of Tropical Forests, 1852



Excellence in research and teaching



The Oxford Forestry Institute, “...for almost a century arguably the English-speaking world’s leading institution concerned with forestry education, research, information, and advice...”

Jeffery Burley et al, 2009

Leadership in international conservation



“All our efforts should be guided by the people whose lives are so much more intimately intertwined with the forests than our own; the approaches we take should both recognize and protect their rights...”, HRH The Prince of Wales, Paris, 2015

Linking tropical forests and climate change

“We are seeing a vast increase in the amount of carbon dioxide reaching the atmosphere . . . At the same time as this is happening, we are seeing the destruction on a vast scale of tropical forests which are uniquely able to remove carbon dioxide from the air”, Margaret Thatcher, UNGA 1989



Initiatives to improve forest governance




The G8 meeting in Birmingham launched the Action Programme on Forests, which put the issue of illegal logging on the international agenda, 1998

Procurement of sustainable commodities



Wood products used in London's Olympic Park certified as legally and sustainably produced, 2012

 www.gov.uk/defra

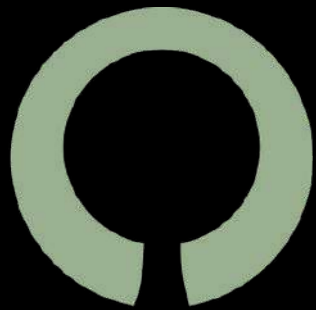
Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

**Sustainable production of palm oil, UK
statement**

October 2012



Integrating forests into development cooperation



PROFOR
PROGRAM ON FORESTS



BioCarbon Fund
Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes





The importance of forests for climate stability and development



WHY FORESTS? WHY NOW?

The Science,
Economics and
Politics of Tropical
Forests and
Climate Change

Frances Seymour
Jonah Busch

The importance of forests for climate and development

- Tropical deforestation is a major contributor to current global climate emissions; forest protection and restoration are an even larger part of the climate solution
- Forests provide many other development benefits in addition to global climate stability
- Rich countries are part of the problem, and can contribute to the solution

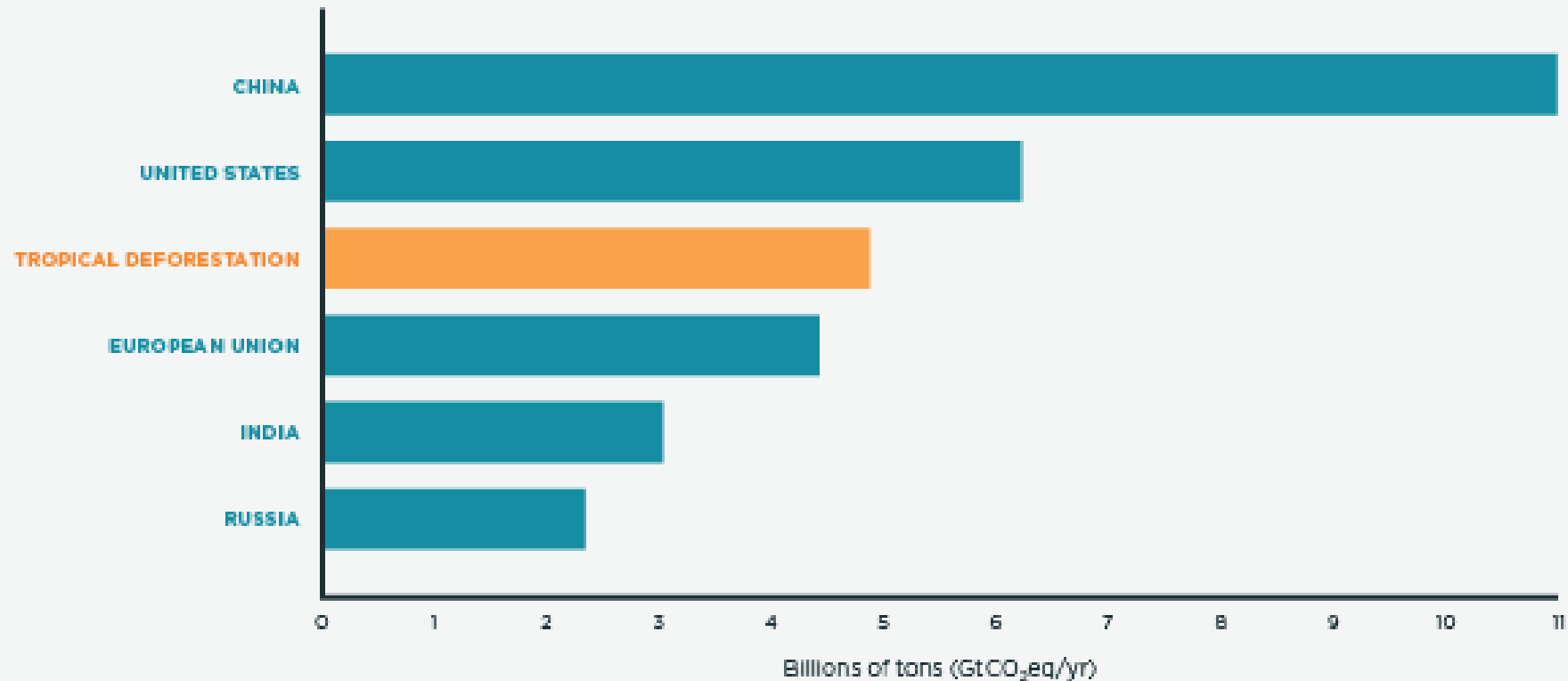




Credit: NASA Earth Observatory

If tropical deforestation were a country, its emissions would be greater than those of the European Union

ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, 2012



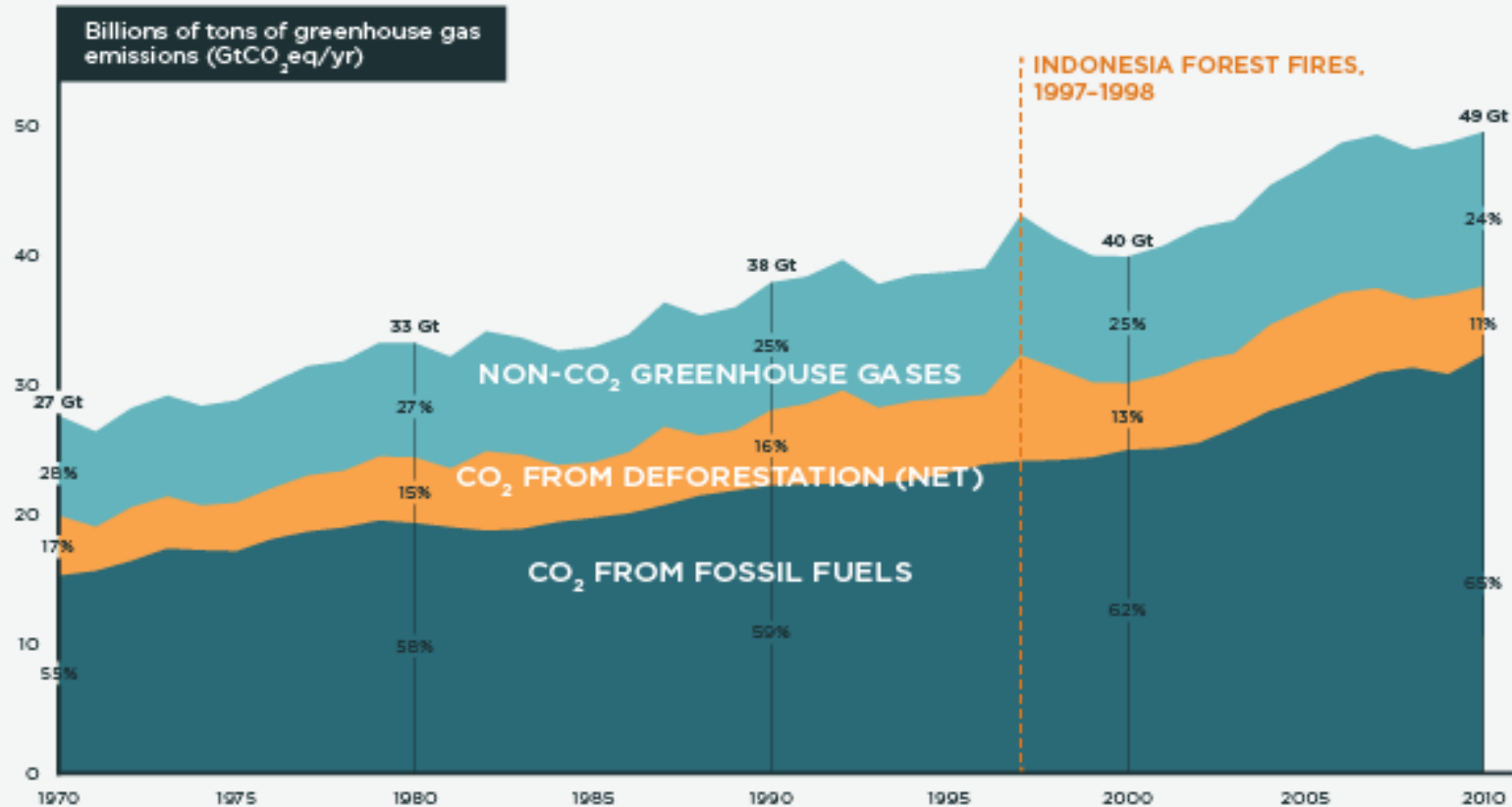
Source: CAIT v2.0 (2012); Busch and Engelmann (2015).

Emissions from deforestation refers to gross emissions from tropical forest cover loss and peat conversion



Deforestation remains a significant contributor to climate change even as emissions from other sectors have grown faster

Total annual greenhouse gas emissions 1970–2010

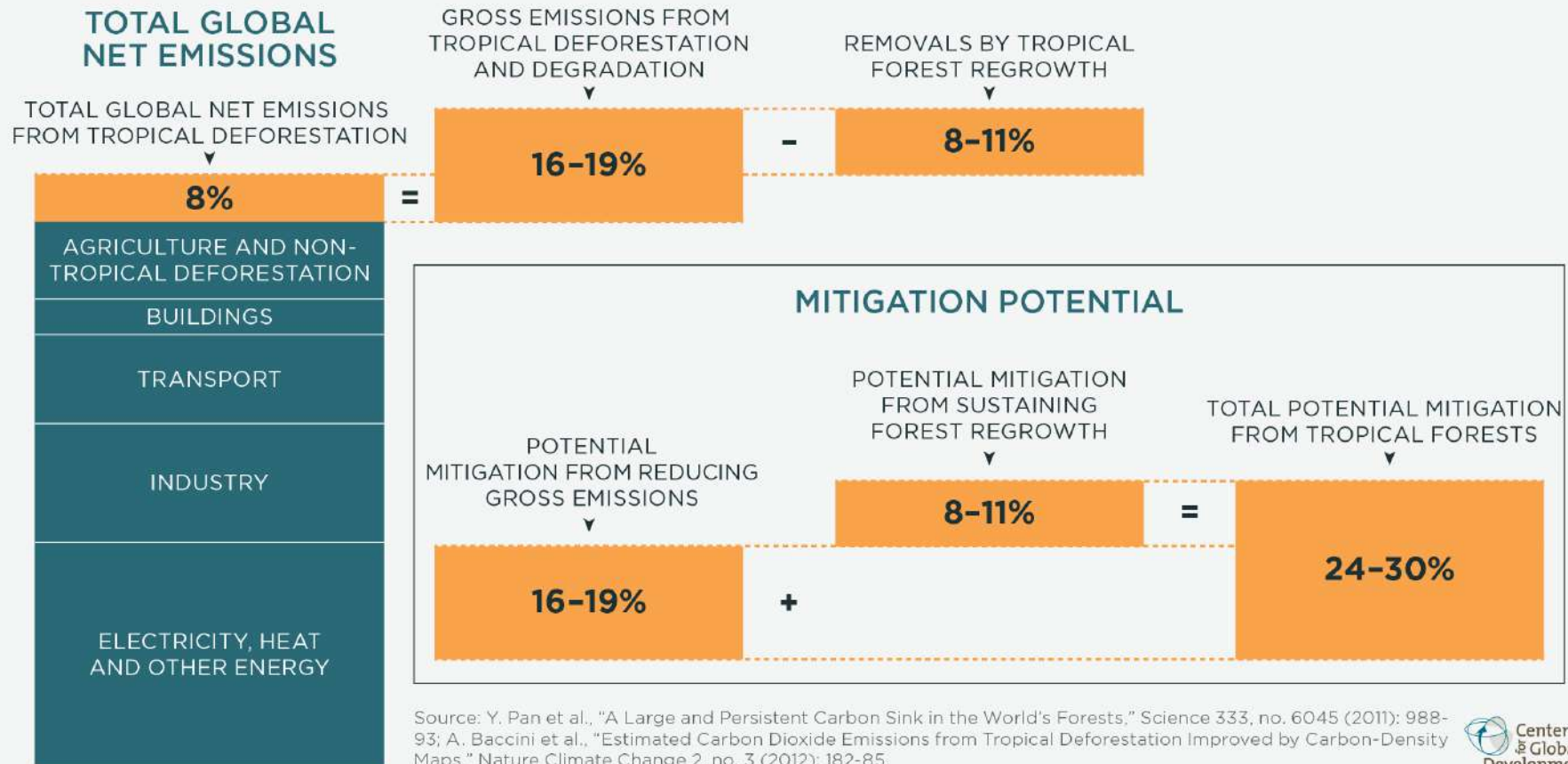


Source: Edenhofer et al. (2014)

Deforestation represents net emissions from gross forest cover loss and degradation less removals by forest regrowth.

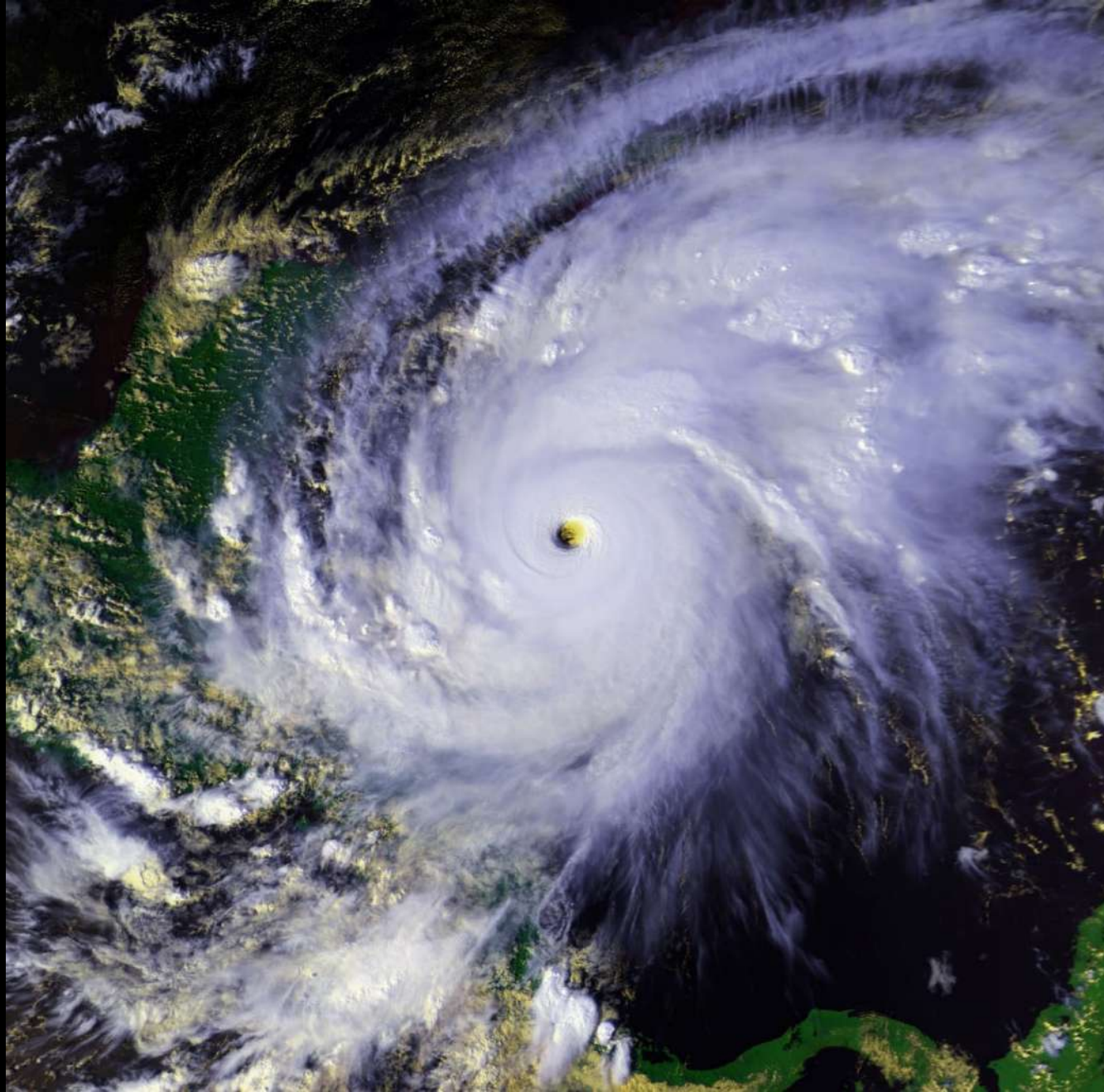


Net tropical deforestation produces 8 percent of net emissions, but halting and reversing tropical deforestation could reduce total net emissions by up to 30 percent

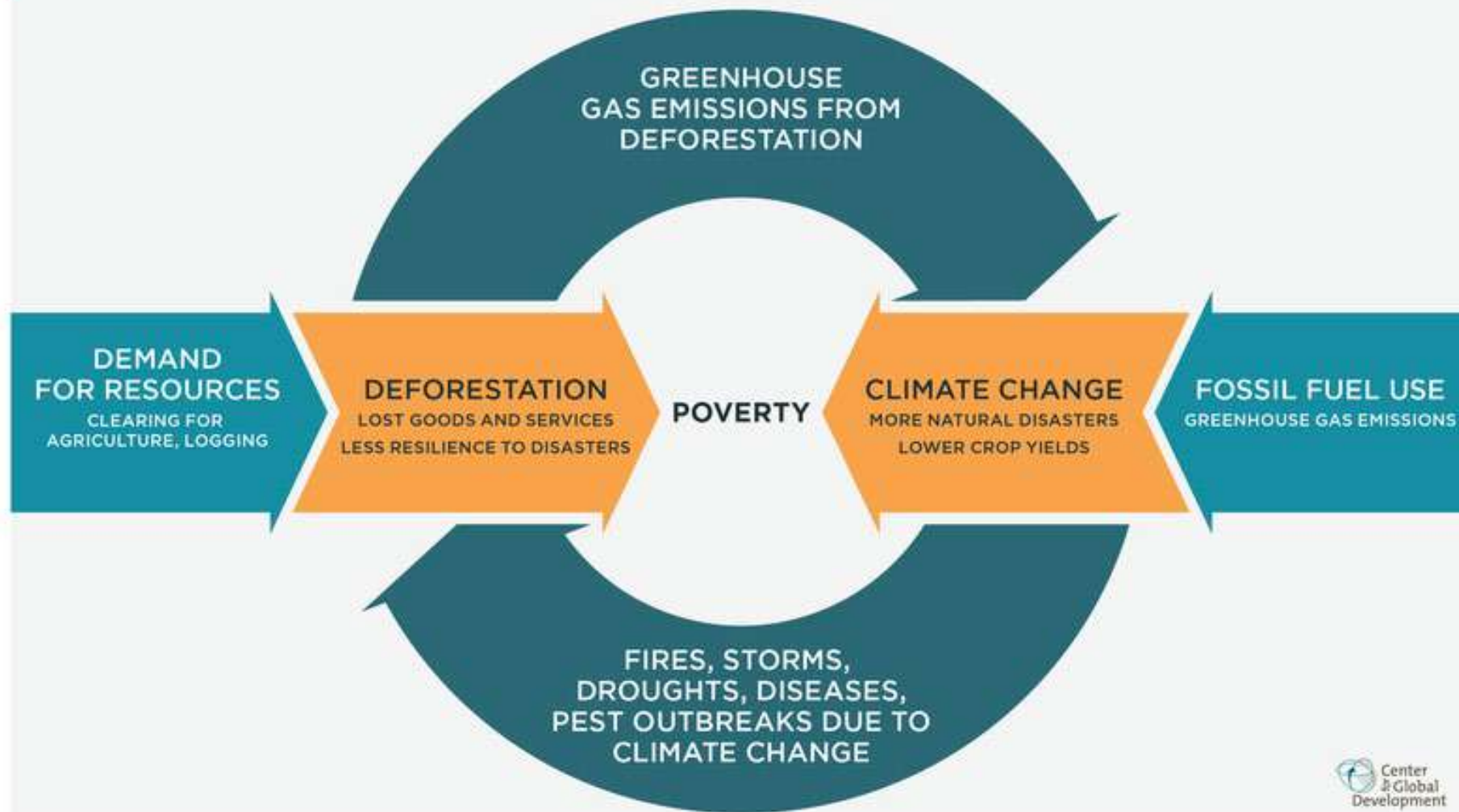


The importance of forests for climate and development

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- Rich countries are part of the problem, and can contribute to the solution



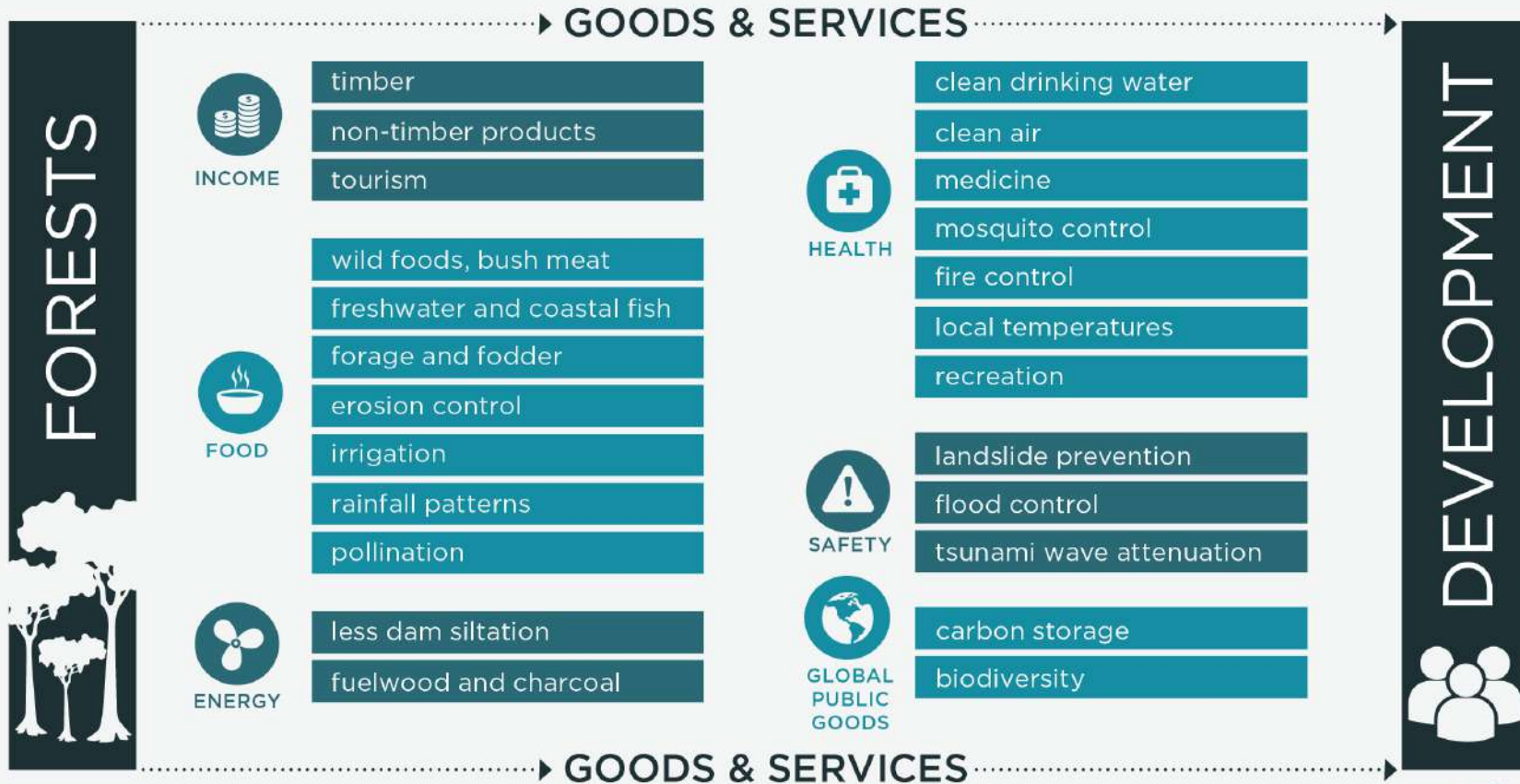
Deforestation and climate change drive a vicious cycle that exacerbates poverty







Tropical forests' goods and services contribute to development



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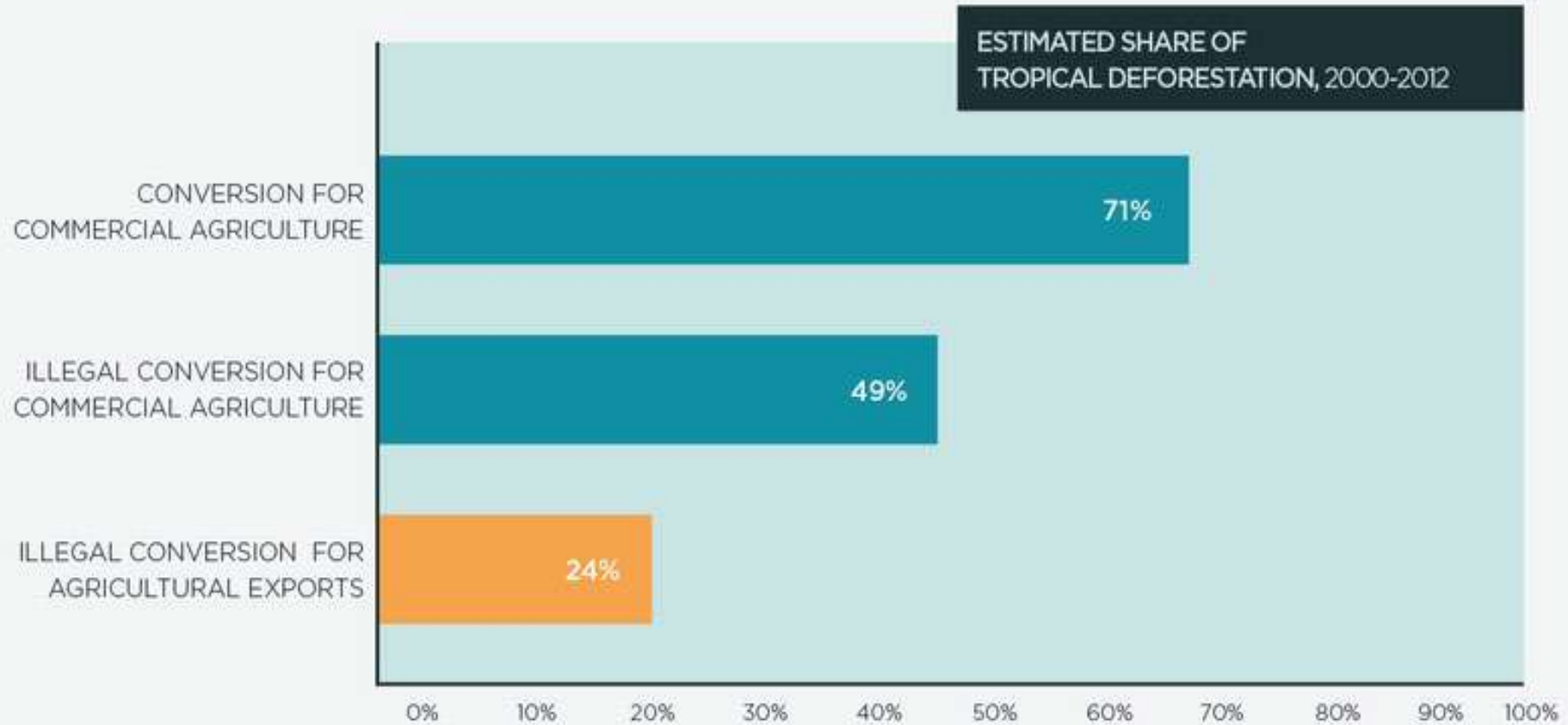
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MONGABAY.COM

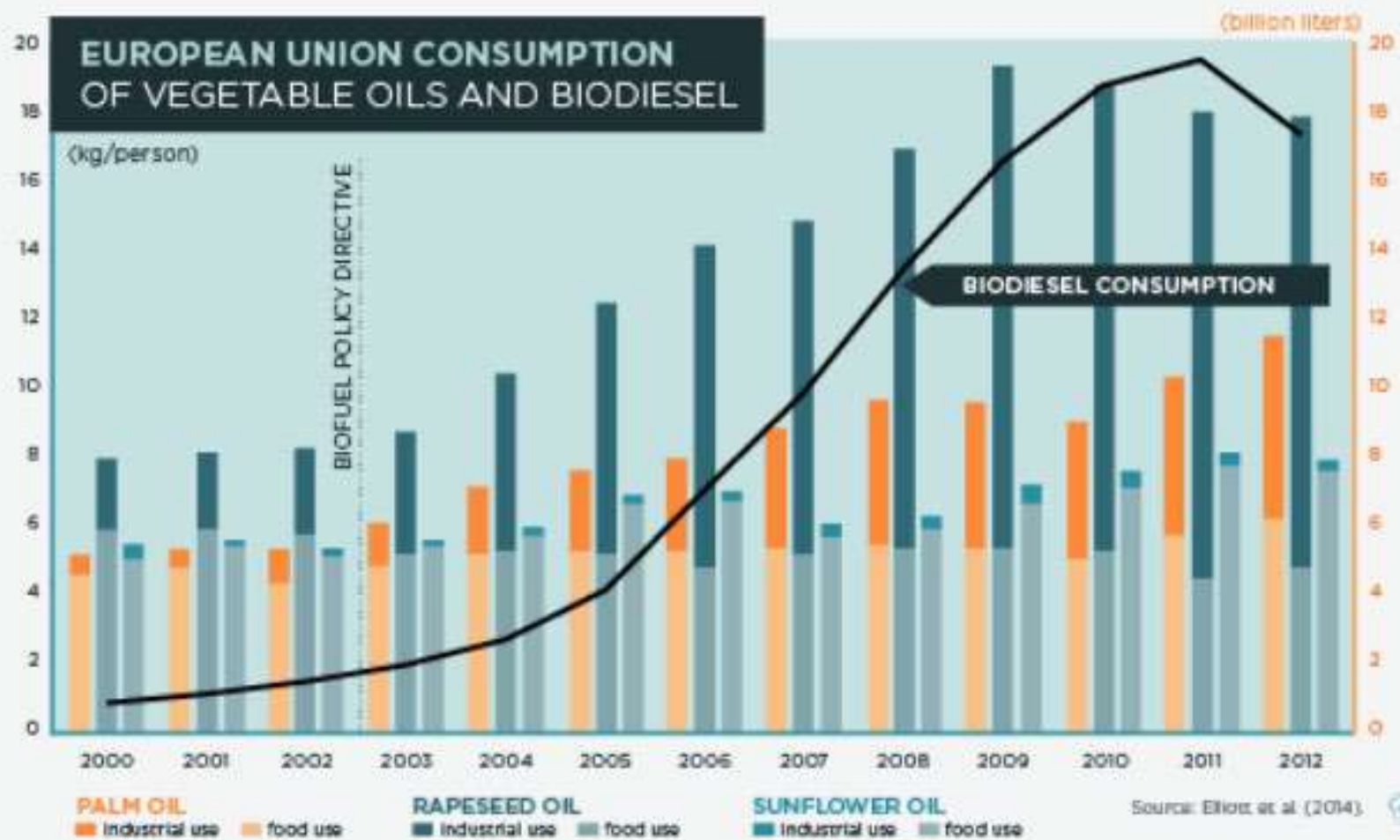
Illegal conversion of forests to produce agricultural exports accounted for almost one-quarter of recent tropical deforestation



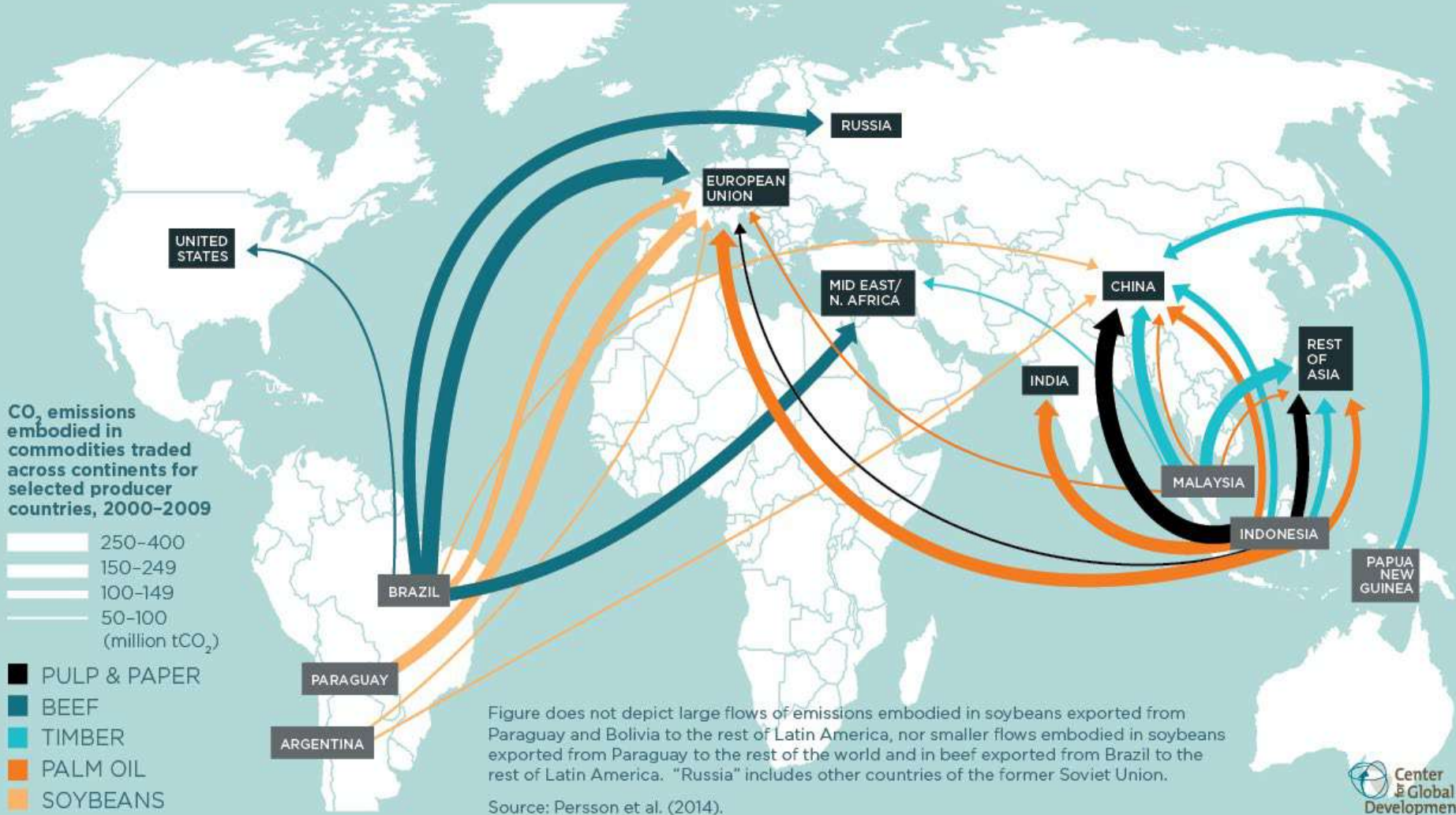
Source: Adapted from Lawson, 2014, using gross forest canopy loss greater than 51% based on satellite data (Hansen et al, 2013)



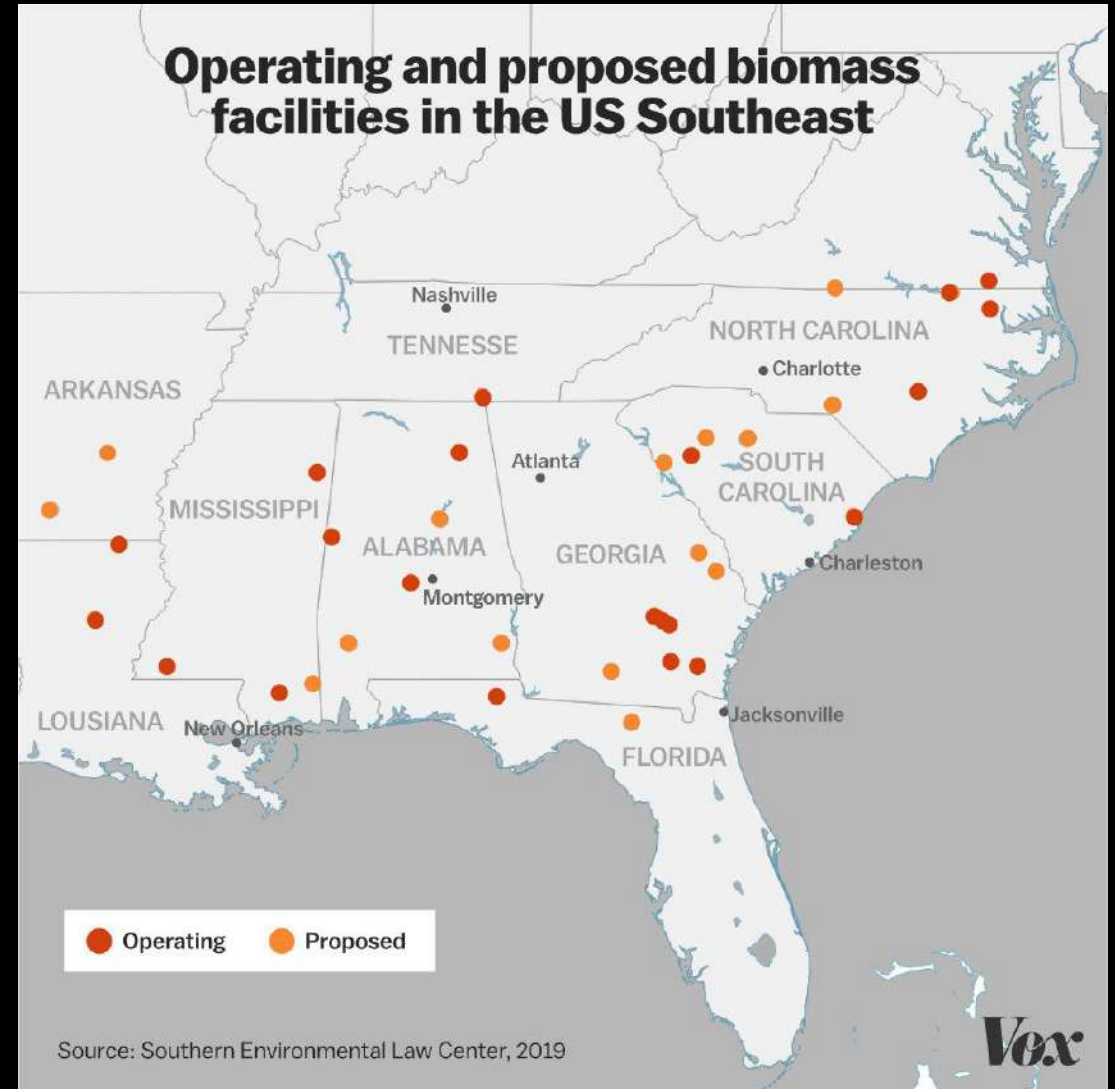
European Union biofuel policy increased demand for palm oil, a driver of deforestation



Emissions from deforestation are embodied in globally traded commodities



The problem of subsidizing wood-based energy



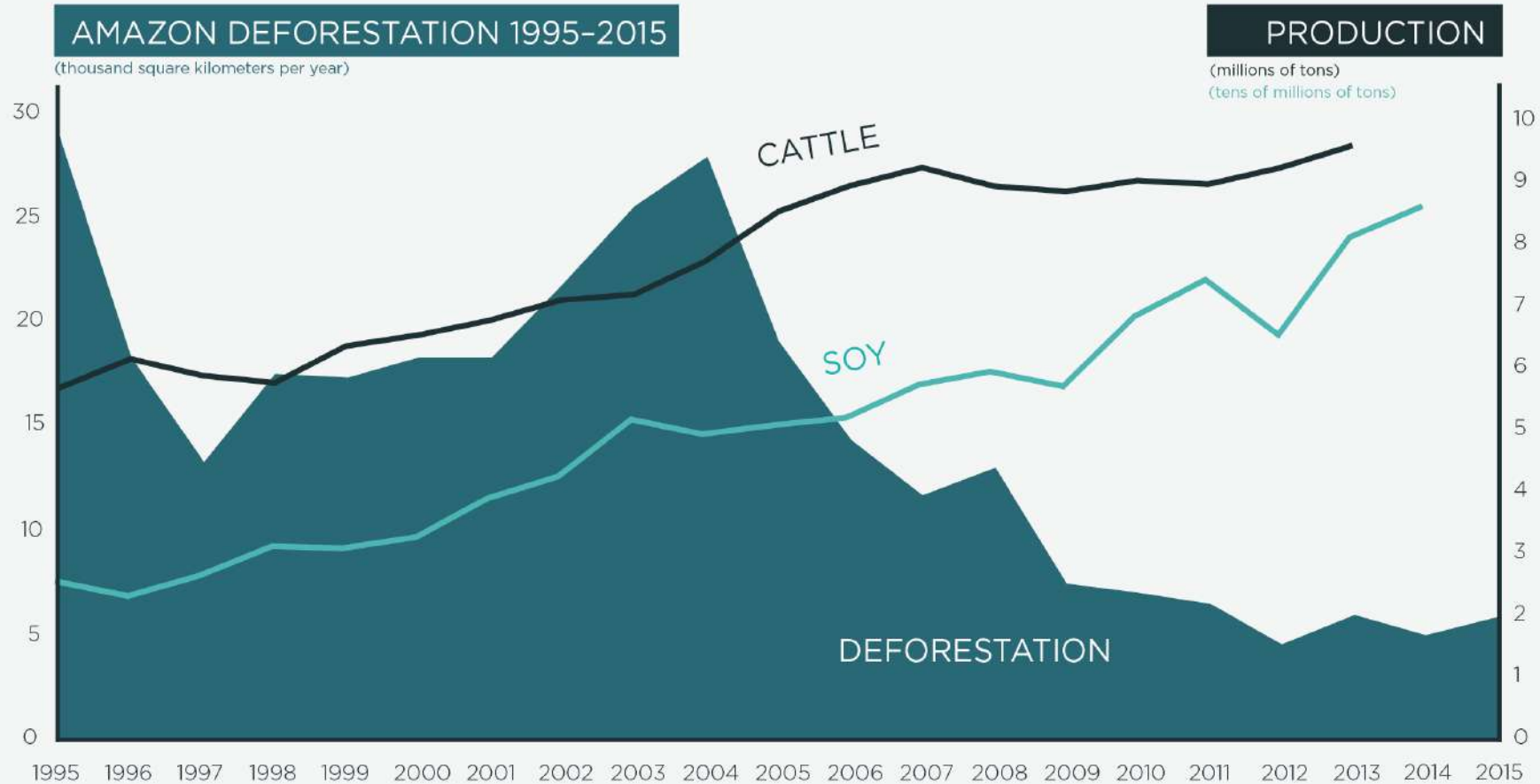
An aerial photograph showing a landscape where a large area of land has been cleared and planted with rows of young trees, likely for reforestation or agroforestry. A dirt road runs through the cleared area, separating it from a dense, lush green forest in the background. The text 'Reasons for optimism on tropical deforestation' is overlaid in large, bold, orange letters on the right side of the image.

Reasons for optimism on tropical deforestation

Reasons for optimism on tropical deforestation

- We have evidence that reducing deforestation is feasible and affordable
- New tools are enabling transparency and accountability
- Global norms are shifting in ways favorable to forest protection
- We have achieved global consensus on REDD+, but finance remains the missing piece

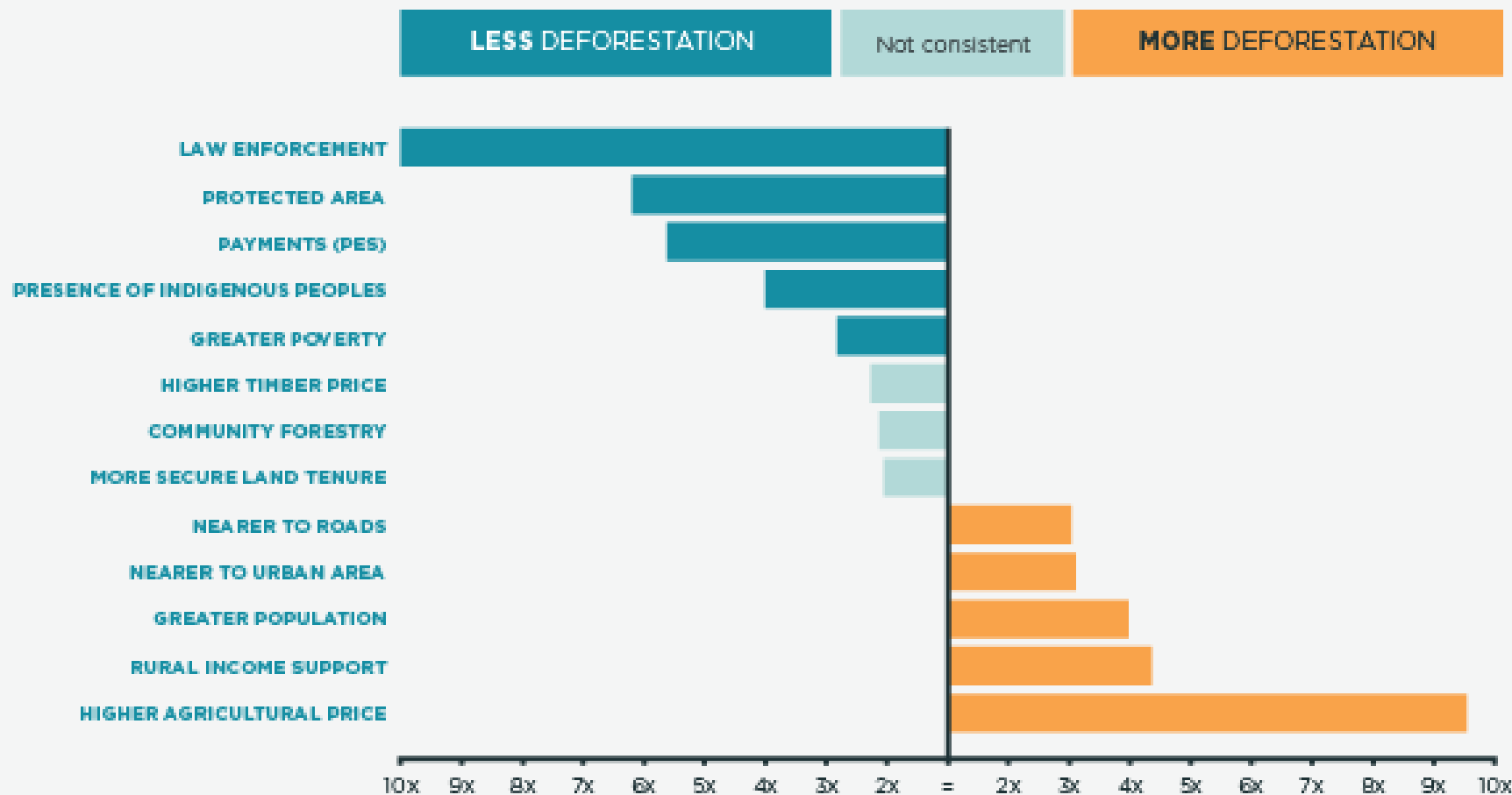
Brazil reduced deforestation and increased agricultural production at the same time



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Statistics Division, "Production quantities by country," updated 2015, http://faostat3.fao.org/browse/Q/*/*E; National Institute for Space Research (INPE), "Projeto Prodes: Monitoramento da Floresta Amazônica Brasileira Por Satélite," updated 2016, <http://www.obt.inpe.br/prodes/index.php>



Various factors were consistently associated with less or more deforestation



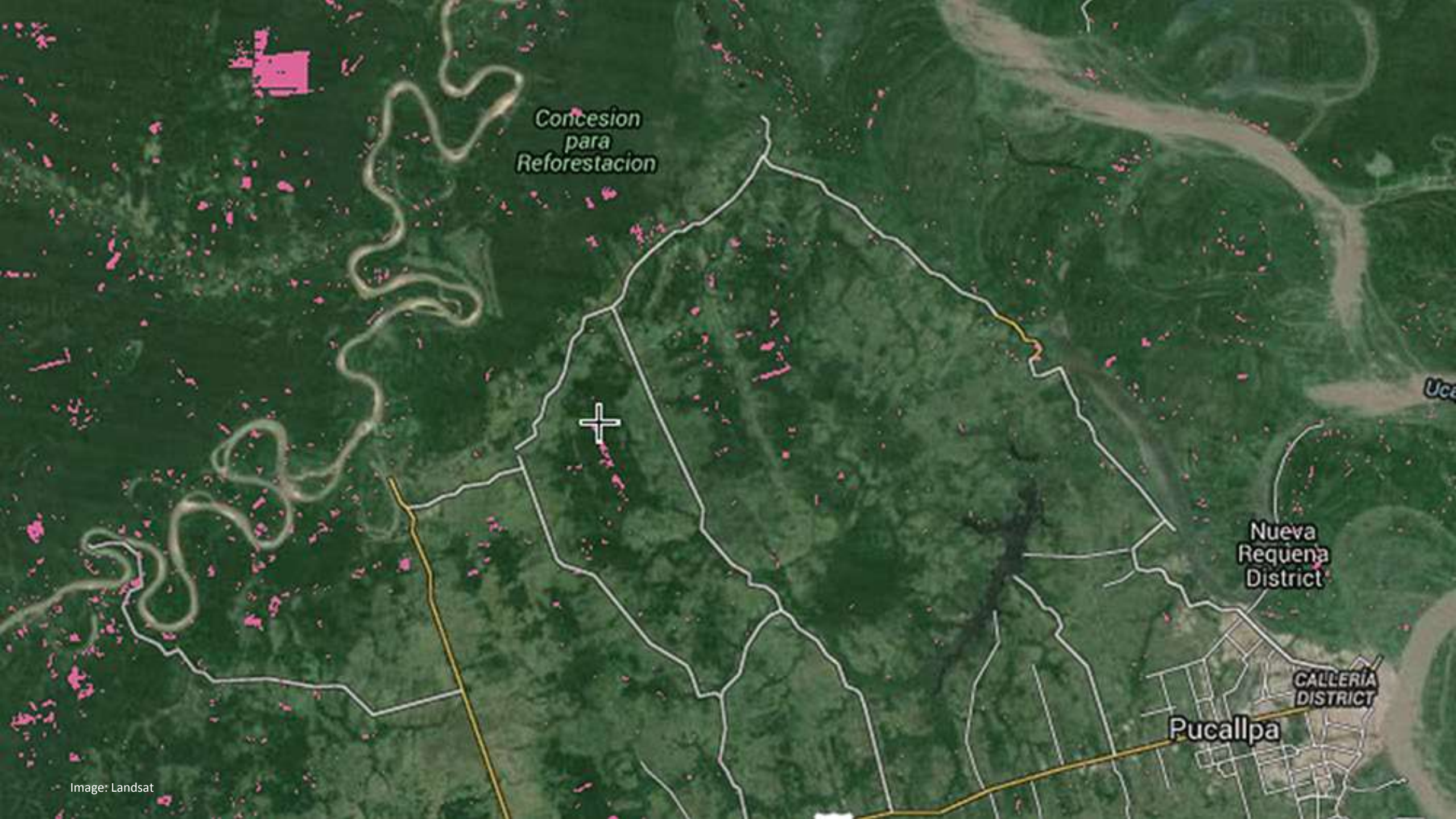
Source: Busch and Ferratti-Gallon (2014).

For example, a ratio of 4x indicates that a variable is associated with less deforestation four times as often as it is associated with more deforestation.



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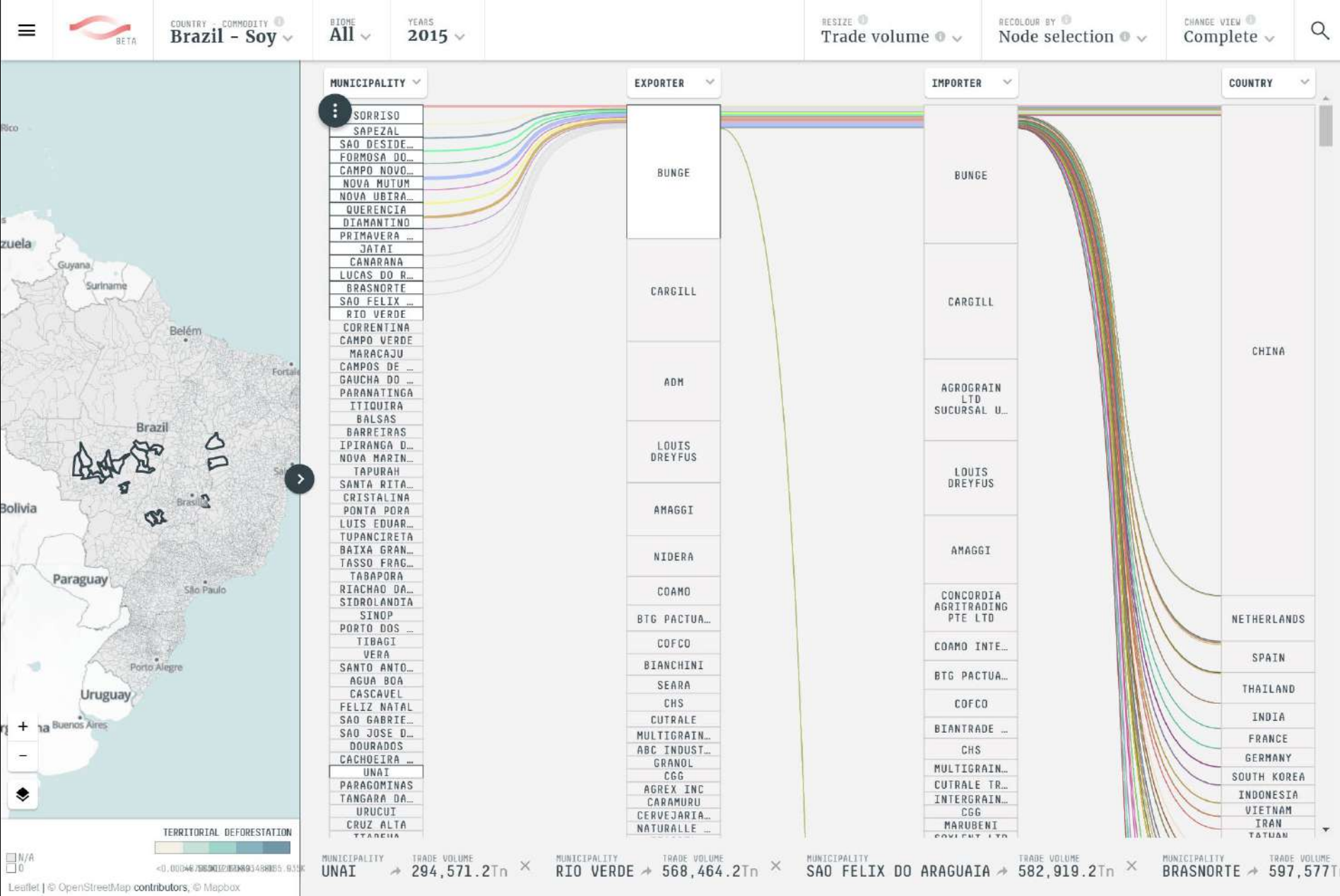
Concesion
para
Reforestacion



Nueva
Requena
District

CALLERIA
DISTRICT

Pucallpa



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Decreasing tolerance for illegal logging



Corporations are accepting responsibility



Recognition of indigenous peoples' rights



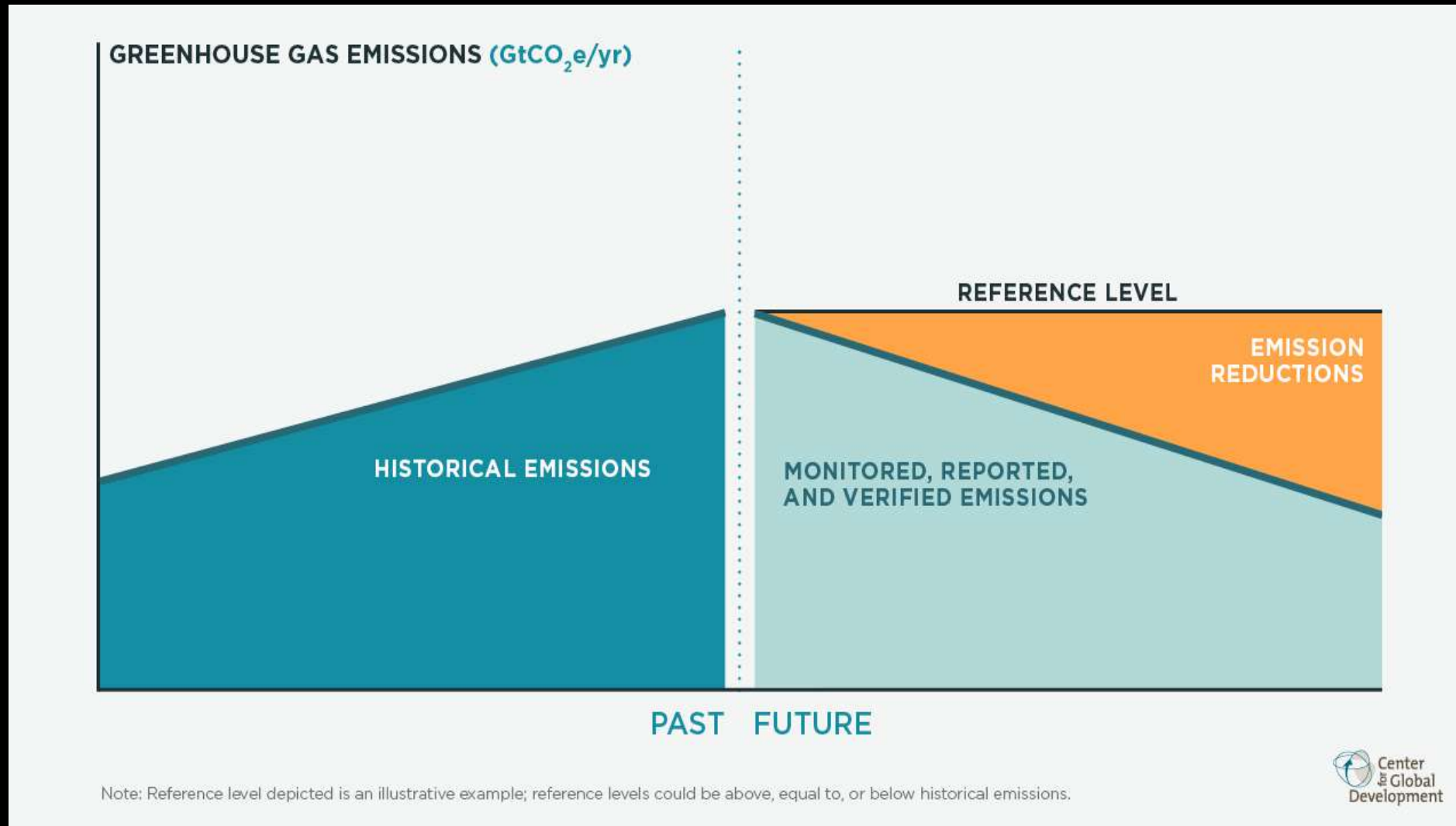
*“It was only when the international community started talking about REDD+ that we had the opportunity to show that we do exist”,
Mina Setra, AMAN,
Indonesia, 2014*

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Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation: REDD+



More than 50 countries have initiated REDD+ programs, but only a few have access to performance-based finance with international funding



"Countries that have initiated REDD+ programs with international funding" refers to countries that have signed a Preparation Grant with the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, have active, closed or pipeline national programs with the UN-REDD Program, and/or participate in the Forest Investment Program, but did not yet have a payment-for-performance agreement in place as of December 2015. "Countries with performance-based finance" refers to countries that had a payment-for-performance agreement in place as of December 2015.

Sources: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (2016); Forest Investment Program (2016); United Nations Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (2016).



Prospective sources of results-based finance



Looking Ahead

- UN Secretary General's Climate Summit – September 2019
- 2020 deadlines for national climate ambition (NDCs), and forest-related commitments in the New York Declaration on Forests
- UNFCCC Conferences of the Parties in Chile 2019 (Article 6); UK in 2020?



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