

# ***Interactive comment on “Carbon Emissions and Removals by Forests: New Estimates 1990–2020” by Francesco N. Tubiello***

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During the period 1991–2020, natural forests lost annually more than 2% of their biomass C stocks, corresponding to a mitigation potential of roughly 3 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> yr<sup>-1</sup> when future C stock losses from deforestation are avoided.

Let me see if I understood this final sentence correctly? You are saying that for the period 1991–2020, natural forests (what the difference between this with the naturally regenerating forest category that you began the article with?) lost 2% of their biomass stocks. And this is equivalent to about 3 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>/yr loss for this period? And if the biomass stocks were not lost in the first place, this 3 Gt could have been the mitigation potential. Then the sentence ends by saying: "when future C stock losses from D are

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avoided" Thus it is not clear how the ending phrase tie in to the first part of the sentence which talks about losses in the period 1991-2020. And what is the impact that you want to show in this final sentence? I think the article ought to conclude with findings that leave an impact, e.g. forest continuing to be a net sink (albeit small) and thus has a role in mitigating climate change.

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