Forests are supposed to help stop climate change – these forests didn't

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Article 5

Article 7

UNFCCC, 2015

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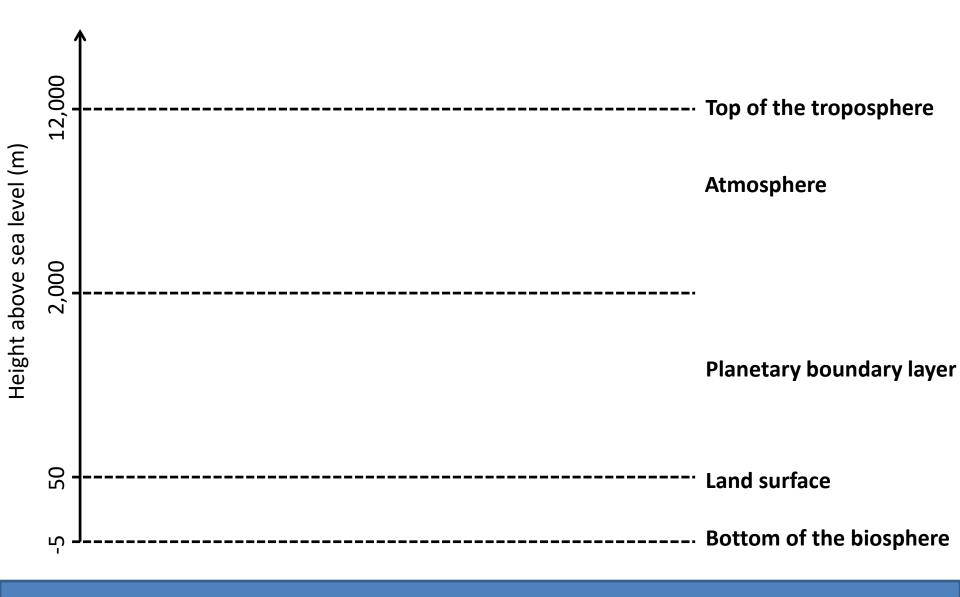
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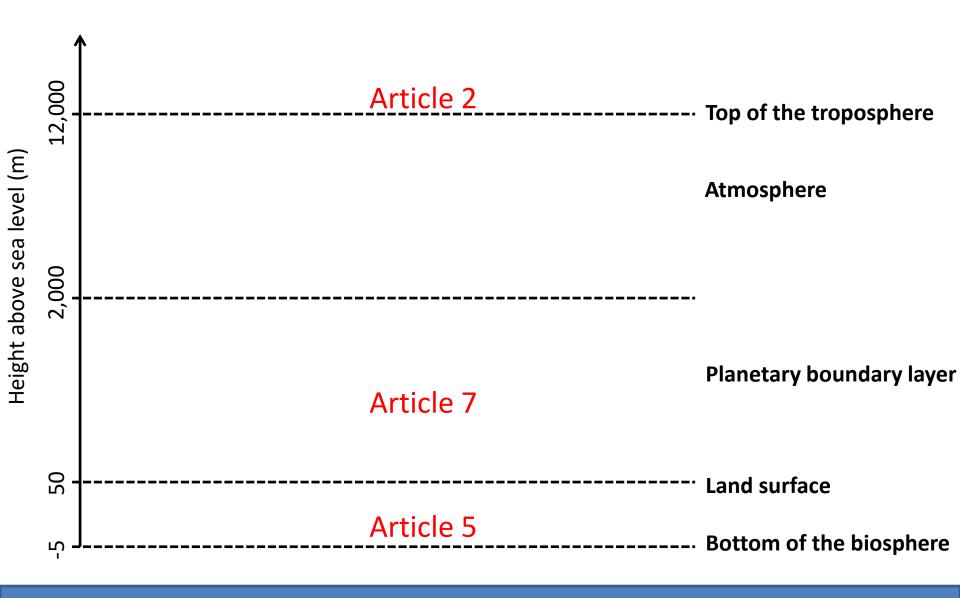
Article 7

[...] makes a contribution to the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems. [...] greater levels of mitigation can reduce the need for additional adaptation efforts.

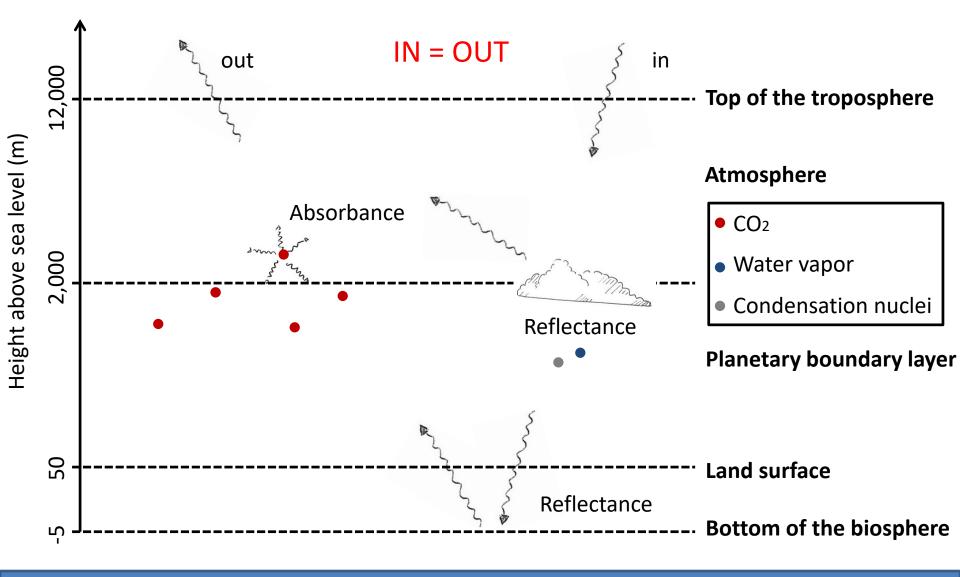
From Paris to the Earth system



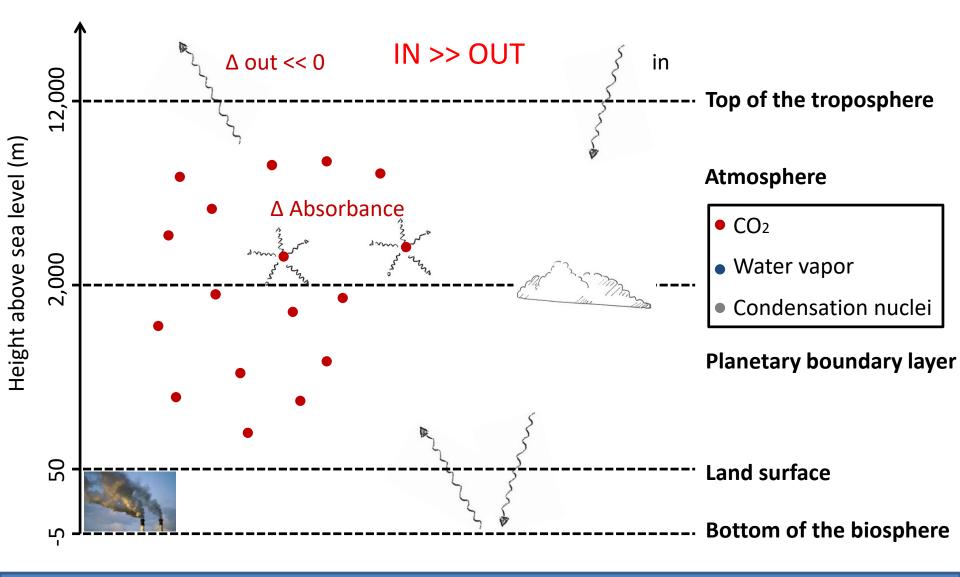
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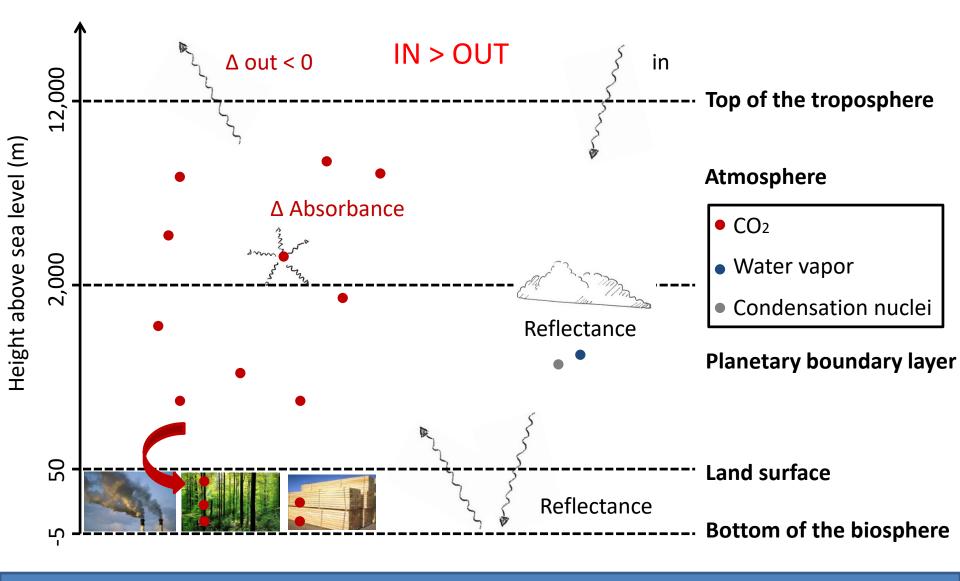


The basics of the radiative balance

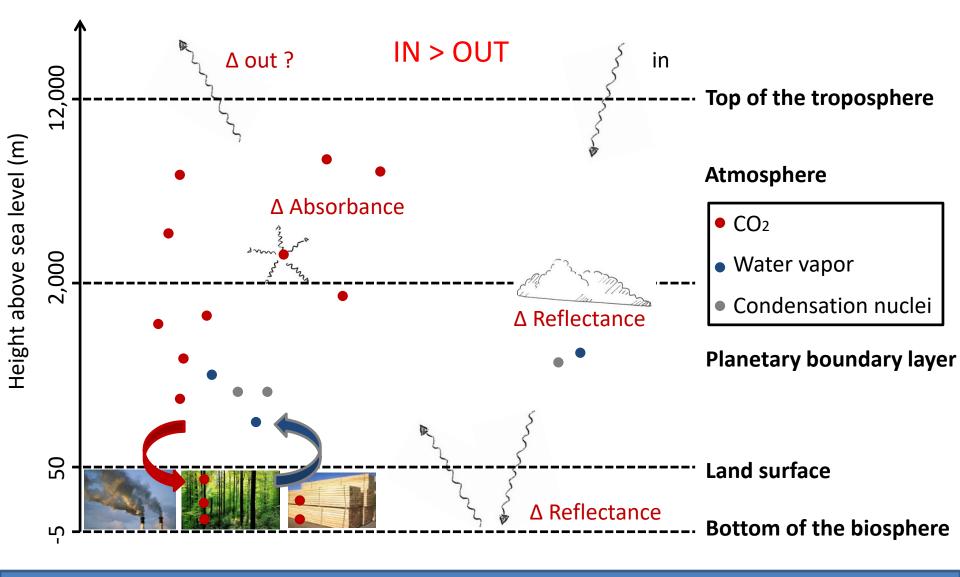


The basics of climate change



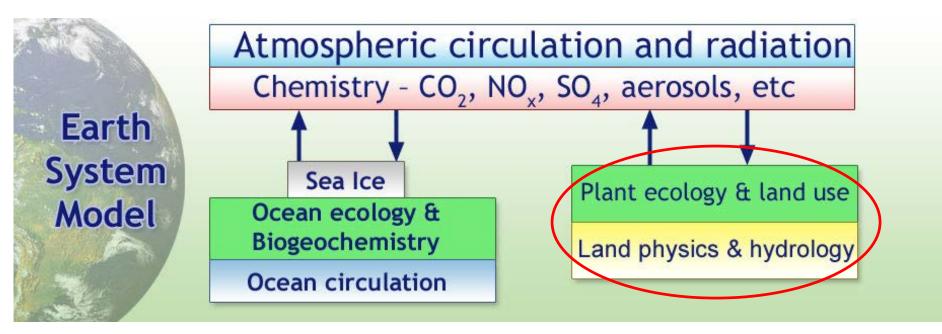


Article 2, 5 & 7 – An Earth system perspective



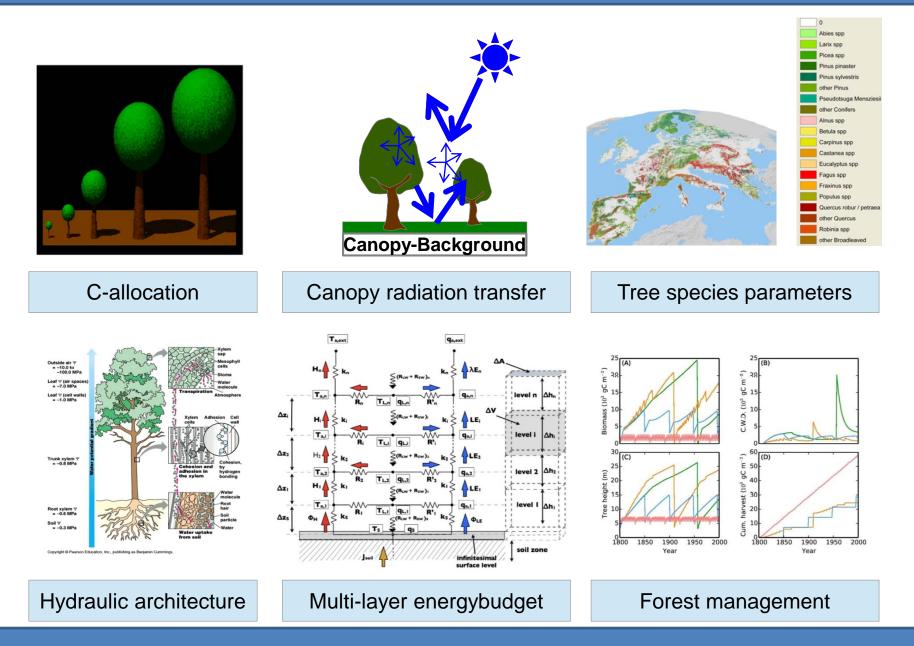
Assessing the net climate effect

Net Climat	Top of the troposphere Planetary boundary layer		
Biogeochem No feed	U	Biophysical forcing No feedbacks!	Land ourface
GHG sink	GHG accounting	(Non) radiative	Land surface
Soil: CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O Litter: CO ₂ Biomass: CO ₂ Land-use: CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O Land-cover: CO ₂ Disturbances: CO ₂ , CO, CH ₄ , N ₂ O	Management: CO ² Transport: CO ² Transformations: CO ² Wood products: CO ² Landfilling: CO ² , CH ⁴ Avoided emissions: CO ² , CO, CH ⁴ , N ² O	Albedo Emissivity Evapotranspiration BVOCs Sensible heat Roughness Evapotranspiration	Bottom of the biosphere



https://www.gfdl.noaa.gov/earth-system-model/

Enhanced modelling capabilities

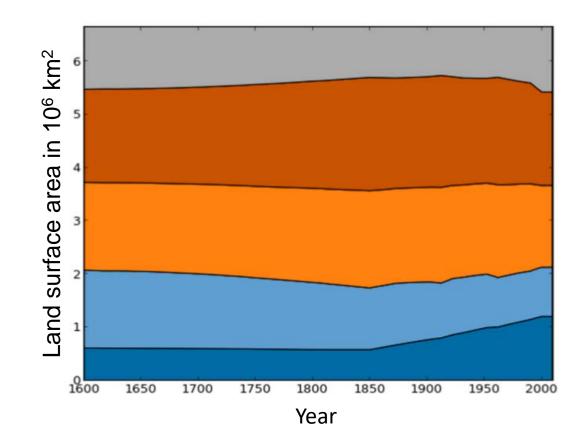


Climate effects of 250-years of forest management



Land cover reconstruction

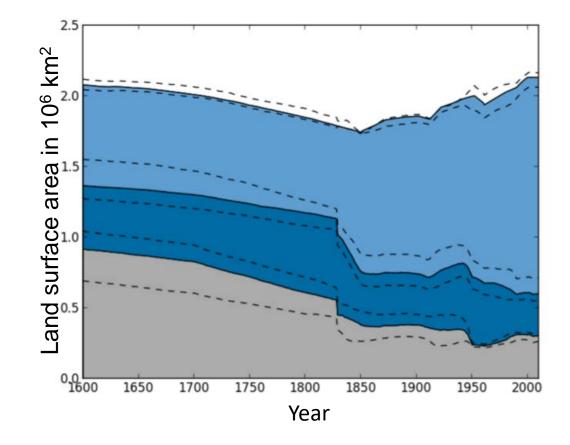




McGrath et al. 2015; Picture credit: Ake Nilsson

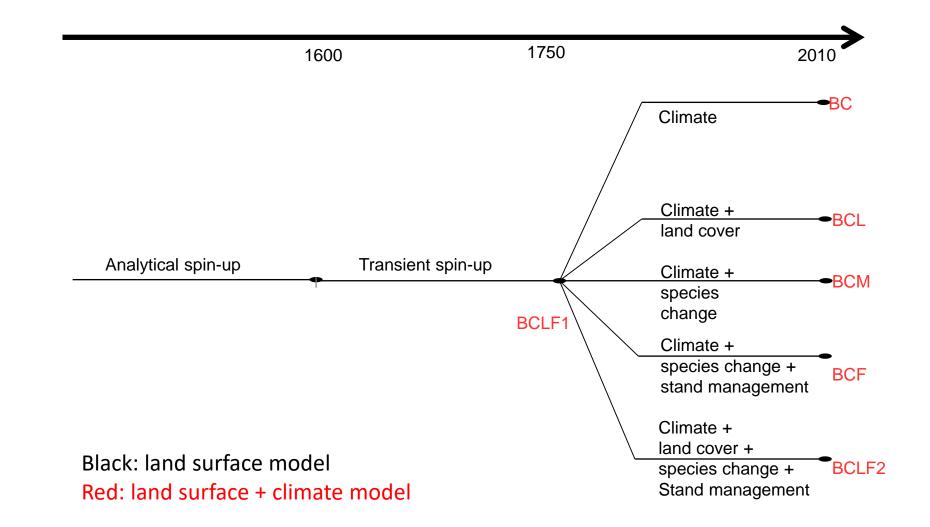
Forest management reconstruction





McGrath et al. 2015; Picture credit: E.-D. Schulze ; M. Saarinen

Climate effects of 250-years of forest management



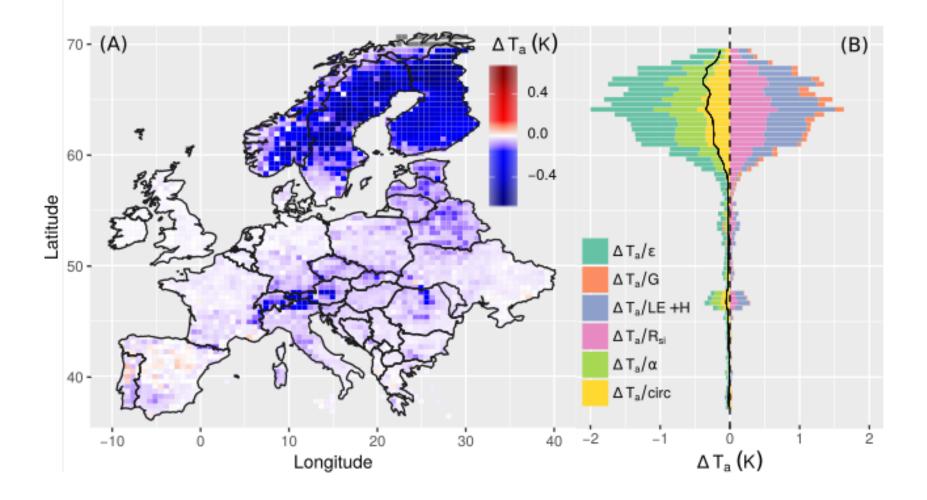
Naudts et al. 2016

	∆RF due to GHGs (W m ⁻²)	∆RF due to surface change (W m ⁻²)	∆T _a , summer (K)	∆Precipitation, summer (mm per season)	∆Atmospheric carbon (Pg C)†
Global					
Greenhouse gas emissions	2.98*‡	0.00	1.71*‡	-6	247§
European					
Land-use change	0.01*	0.11*¶	0.12*#	-3	3.1
Land-cover change	-0.01	0.12*¶	0.02*¶	0	-0.7**
Forest management	0.02	-0.01	0.10*#	-3*††	1.9
Species conversion	-0.01	0.00	0.08*#	-4*††	-0.6‡‡
Wood extraction	0.03	-0.01	0.02*	1	2.7



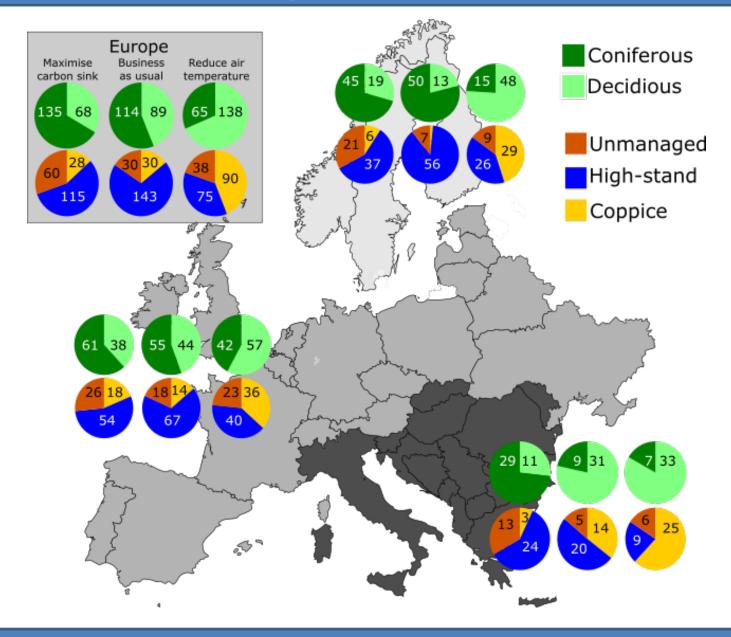
	Art. 2 (TOA)	Art. 5 (Carbon sinks)	Art. 7 (Adaptation T)	Art. 7 (Adaptation P)
Strongest sink	No effect	Succeed	No effect	Fail
Weakest sink	No effect	Fail	Fail	Fail
Brightest surface	No effect	No effect	Succeed	Fail
Darkest surface	No effect	Succeed	Fail	Fail
Lowest temperature	No effect	Succeed	Succeed	Fail

How to achieve the Paris agreement?



Luyssaert et al. 2018

How to achieve the Paris agreement?



Luyssaert et al. 2018

- When managing the carbon balance of a forest, unintended but unavoidable changes in surface properties and behavior occur. These should be accounted for when assessing the climate impact of forest management.
- Carbon-management and climate-management should not be used interchangeable

Before 1997



After 1997



After reality checks

