

# ***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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