

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest with a rich green canopy. The trees are packed closely together, creating a textured, undulating surface of green. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, with some areas appearing slightly more vibrant than others.

# **Key policy issues and challenges for forests**

Presentation to WAVES  
Global Workshop on Forest Accounting  
May 11, 2014



**FORESTS**

- timber
- non-timber products
- tourism
- bush meat, wild foods
- fish
- forage and fodder
- erosion control
- irrigation
- rainfall patterns
- pollination
- less dam siltation
- charcoal
- clean drinking water
- medicine
- mosquito control
- recreation
- landslide prevention
- tsunami mitigation

**INCOME**

**FOOD**

**ENERGY**

**HEALTH**

**SAFETY**

**Development Goals**

 <p><b>1</b></p> <p>ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER</p>	 <p><b>2</b></p> <p>ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION</p>
 <p><b>3</b></p> <p>PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN</p>	 <p><b>4</b></p> <p>REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY</p>
 <p><b>5</b></p> <p>IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH</p>	 <p><b>6</b></p> <p>COMBAT HIV / AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES</p>
 <p><b>7</b></p> <p>ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY</p>	 <p><b>8</b></p> <p>GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT</p>

**What's happening to the world's  
forests, and what are the  
implications?**

**First, the good news:**

# Information on forests has never been better....

## REPORTS

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under the accession no. SRS402821. The genome assemblies are available at the National Center for Biotechnology Information under BioProject PRJNA721213. We thank Z. Walton and A. Gorchakov for technical assistance.  
Supplementary Materials  
[www.sciencemag.org/content/342/6160/46/Supp00C1](http://www.sciencemag.org/content/342/6160/46/Supp00C1)  
Materials and Methods  
Supplementary Text  
Figs. S1 to S20  
Tables S1 to S3  
References (28–50)  
23 April 2013; accepted 30 September 2013  
10.1126/science.1239552

## High-Resolution Global Maps of 21st-Century Forest Cover Change

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Quantification of global forest change has been lacking despite the recognized importance of forest ecosystem services. In this study, Earth observation satellite data were used to map global forest loss (2.3 million square kilometers) and gain (0.8 million square kilometers) from 2000 to 2012 at a spatial resolution of 30 meters. The tropics were the only climate domain to exhibit a trend, with forest loss increasing by 2104 square kilometers per year. Brazil's well-documented reduction in deforestation was offset by increasing forest loss in Indonesia, Malaysia, Paraguay, Bolivia, Zambia, Angola, and elsewhere. Intensive forestry practiced within subtropical forests resulted in the highest rates of forest change globally. Boreal forest loss due largely to fire and forestry was second to that in the tropics in absolute and proportional terms. These results depict a globally consistent and locally relevant record of forest change.

Changes in forest cover affect the delivery of important ecosystem services, including biodiversity richness, climate regulation, carbon storage, and water supplies (1). However, spatially and temporally detailed information on global-scale forest change does not exist: previous efforts have been either sample-based or employed coarse spatial resolution data (2–4). We mapped global tree cover extent, loss, and gain for the period from 2000 to 2012 at a spatial resolution of 30 m, with loss allocated annually. Our global analysis, based on Landsat data, improves on existing knowledge of global forest extent and change by (i) being spatially explicit; (ii) quantifying gross forest loss and gain; (iii) providing annual loss information and quantifying trends in forest loss; and (iv) being derived through an internally consistent approach that is exempt from the vagaries of different definitions, methods, and data inputs. Forest loss was defined as a stand-replacement disturbance or the com-

plete removal of tree cover canopy at the Landsat pixel scale. Forest gain was defined as the inverse of loss, or the establishment of tree canopy from a nonforest state. A total of 2.3 million km<sup>2</sup> of forest were lost due to disturbance over the study period and 0.8 million km<sup>2</sup> of new forest established. Of the total area of combined loss and gain (2.3 million km<sup>2</sup> + 0.8 million km<sup>2</sup>), 0.2 million km<sup>2</sup> of land experienced both loss and subsequent gain in forest cover during the study period. Global forest loss and gain were related to tree cover density for global climate domains, ecoregions, and countries (refer to tables S1 to S3 for all data references and comparisons). Results are depicted in Fig. 1 and are viewable at full resolution at <http://earthenginepartners.appspot.com/science-2013-global-forest>.

The tropical domain experienced the greatest total forest loss and gain of the four climate domains (tropical, subtropical, temperate, and boreal), as well as the highest ratio of loss to gain (3.6 for >50% of tree cover), indicating the prevalence of deforestation dynamics. The tropics were the only domain to exhibit a statistically significant trend in annual forest loss, with an estimated increase in loss of 2101 km<sup>2</sup>/year. Tropical rainforest ecoregions totaled 32% of global forest cover loss, nearly half of which occurred in South American rainforests. The tropical dry forests of South America had the highest rate of tropical forest loss, due to deforestation

dynamics in the Chaco woodlands of Argentina, Paraguay (Fig. 2A), and Bolivia. Eurasian rainforests (Fig. 2B) and dense tropical dry forests of Africa and Eurasia also had high rates of loss.

Recently reported reductions in Brazilian rainforest clearing over the past decade (5) were confirmed, as annual forest loss decreased on average 1318 km<sup>2</sup>/year. However, increased annual loss of Eurasian tropical rainforest (1392 km<sup>2</sup>/year), African tropical moist deciduous forest (536 km<sup>2</sup>/year), South American dry tropical forest (459 km<sup>2</sup>/year), and Eurasian tropical moist deciduous (221 km<sup>2</sup>/year) and dry (123 km<sup>2</sup>/year) forests more than offset the slowing of Brazilian deforestation. Of all countries globally, Brazil exhibited the largest decline in annual forest loss, with a high of over 40,000 km<sup>2</sup>/year in 2003 to 2004 and a low of under 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>/year in 2010 to 2011. Of all countries globally, Indonesia exhibited the largest increase in forest loss (1021 km<sup>2</sup>/year), with a low of under 10,000 km<sup>2</sup>/year from 2000 through 2003 and a high of over 20,000 km<sup>2</sup>/year in 2011 to 2012. The converging rates of forest disturbance of Indonesia and Brazil are shown in Fig. 3. Although the short-term decline of Brazilian deforestation is well documented, changing legal frameworks governing Brazilian forests could reverse this trend (6). The effectiveness of Indonesia's recently instituted moratorium on new licensing of concessions in primary natural forest and peatlands (7), initiated as 2011, is to be determined.

Subtropical forests experience extensive forestry land uses where forests are often treated as a crop and the presence of long-lived natural forests is comparatively rare (8). As a result, the highest proportional losses of forest cover and the lowest ratio of loss to gain (1.2 for >50% of tree cover) occurred in the subtropical climate domains. Aggregate forest change, or the proportion of total forest loss and gain relative to year-2000 forest area [(loss+gain)/2000 forest], equaled 16%, or more than 1% per year across all forests within the domain. Of the 10 subtropical humid and dry forest ecoregions, 5 have aggregate forest change >20%, three >10%, and two >5%. North American subtropical forests of the southwestern United States are unique in terms of change dynamics because of short-cycle tree planting and harvesting (Fig. 2C). The disturbance rate of this ecoregion was four times that of South American

## REPORTS

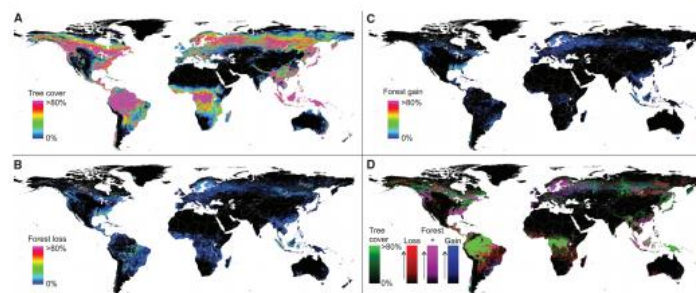


Fig. 1. (A) Tree cover, (B) forest loss, and (C) forest gain. A color composite of tree cover in green, forest loss in red, forest gain in blue, and forest loss and gain in magenta is shown in (D), with loss and gain enhanced for improved visualization. All map layers have been resampled for display purposes from the 30-m observation scale to a 0.05° geographic grid.

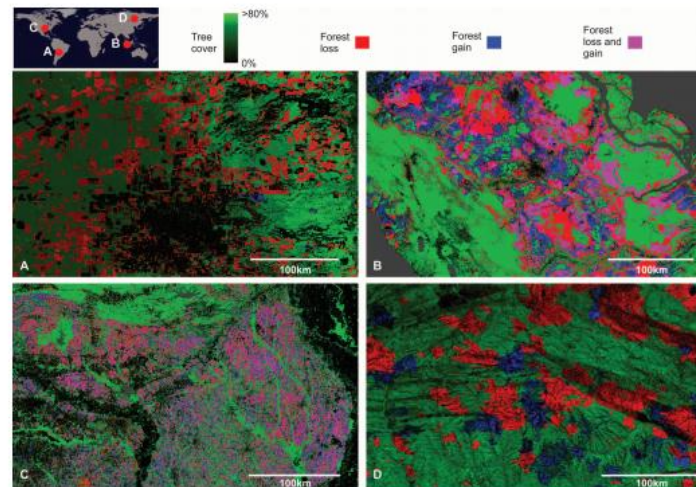
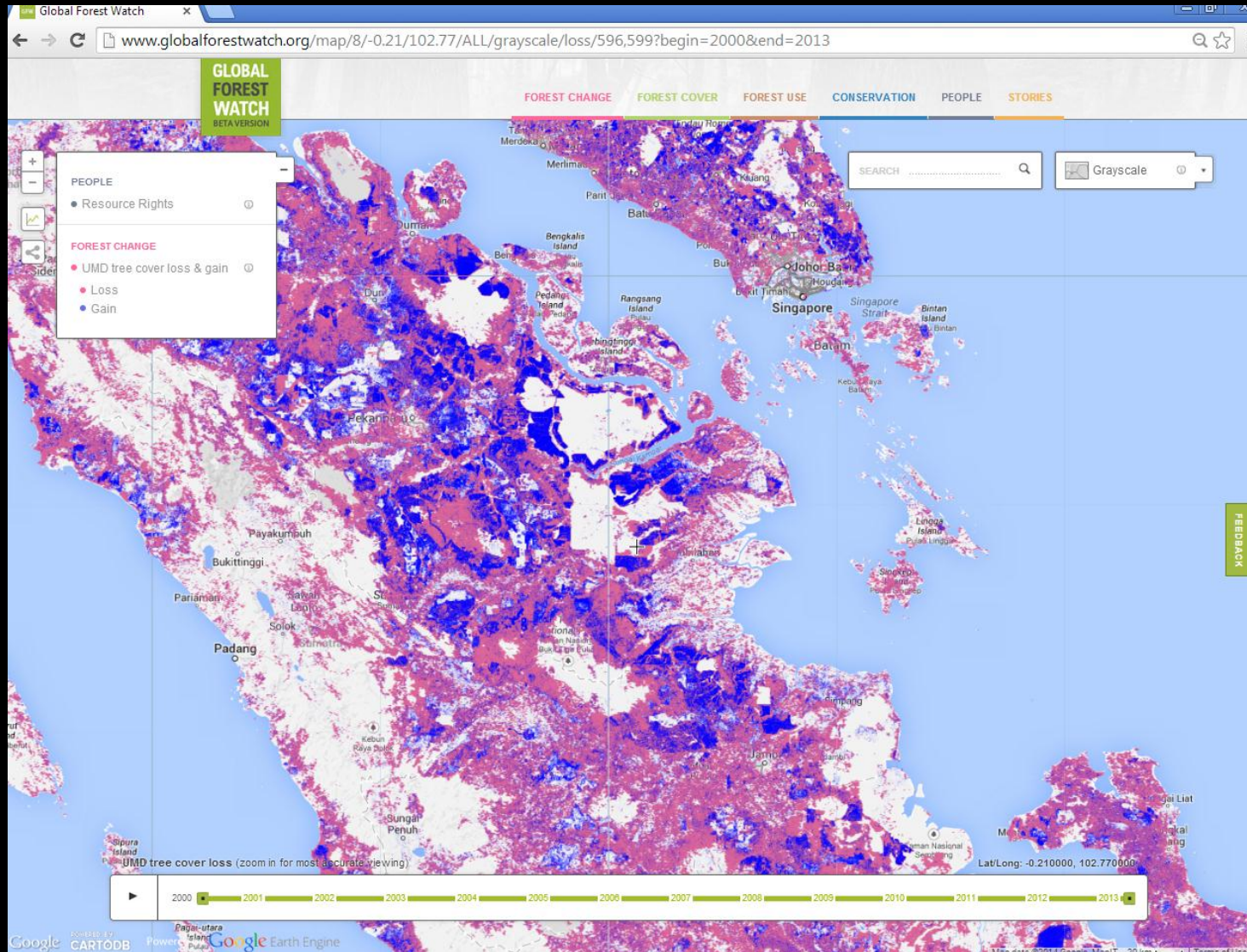
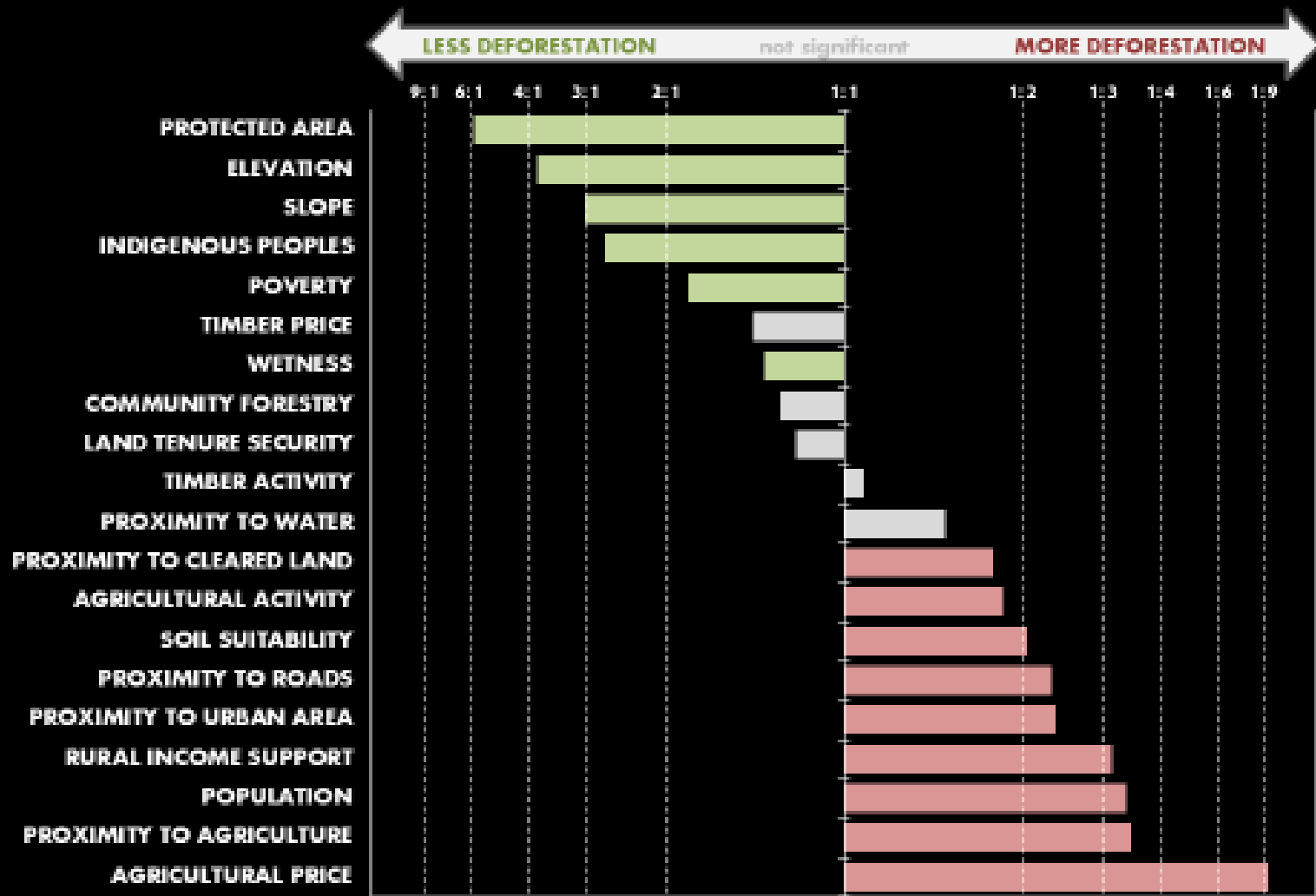


Fig. 2. Regional subsets of 2000 tree cover and 2000 to 2012 forest loss and gain. (A) Paraguay, centered at 21.9°S, 59.8°W; (B) Indonesia, centered at 0.4°S, 101.5°E; (C) the United States, centered at 33.8°N, 93.3°W; and (D) Russia, centered at 62.1°N, 123.4°E.

# ...or more accessible



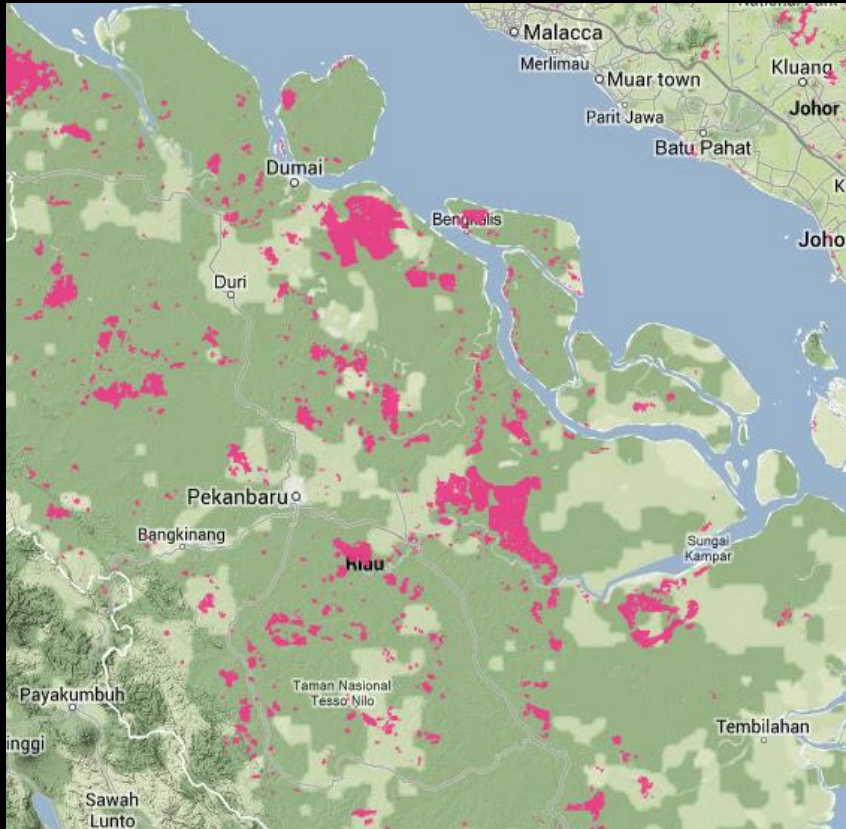
# We know what drives deforestation...



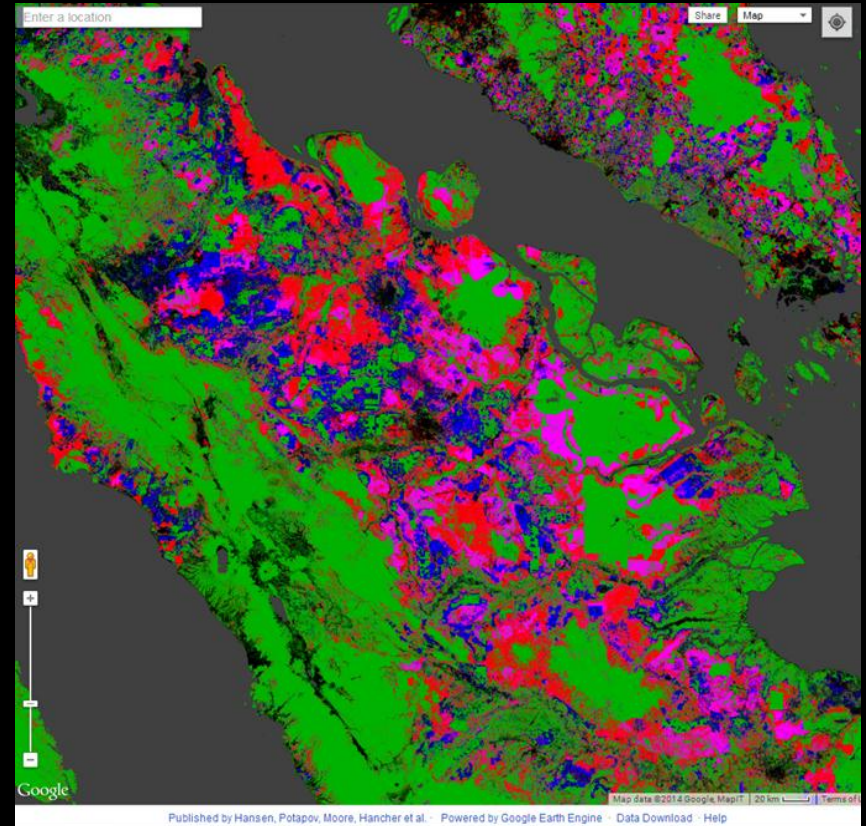
Ratio of regression coefficients showing significant negative association with deforestation to regression coefficients showing significant positive association with deforestation, based on 2465 regression coefficients in 117 spatially explicit econometric studies.

Source: Ferratti-Galloni and Busch, CGD Working Paper 0241 (2014)

# ...and can track and respond to change



**High temporal  
resolution**  
for near real-time  
monitoring and response

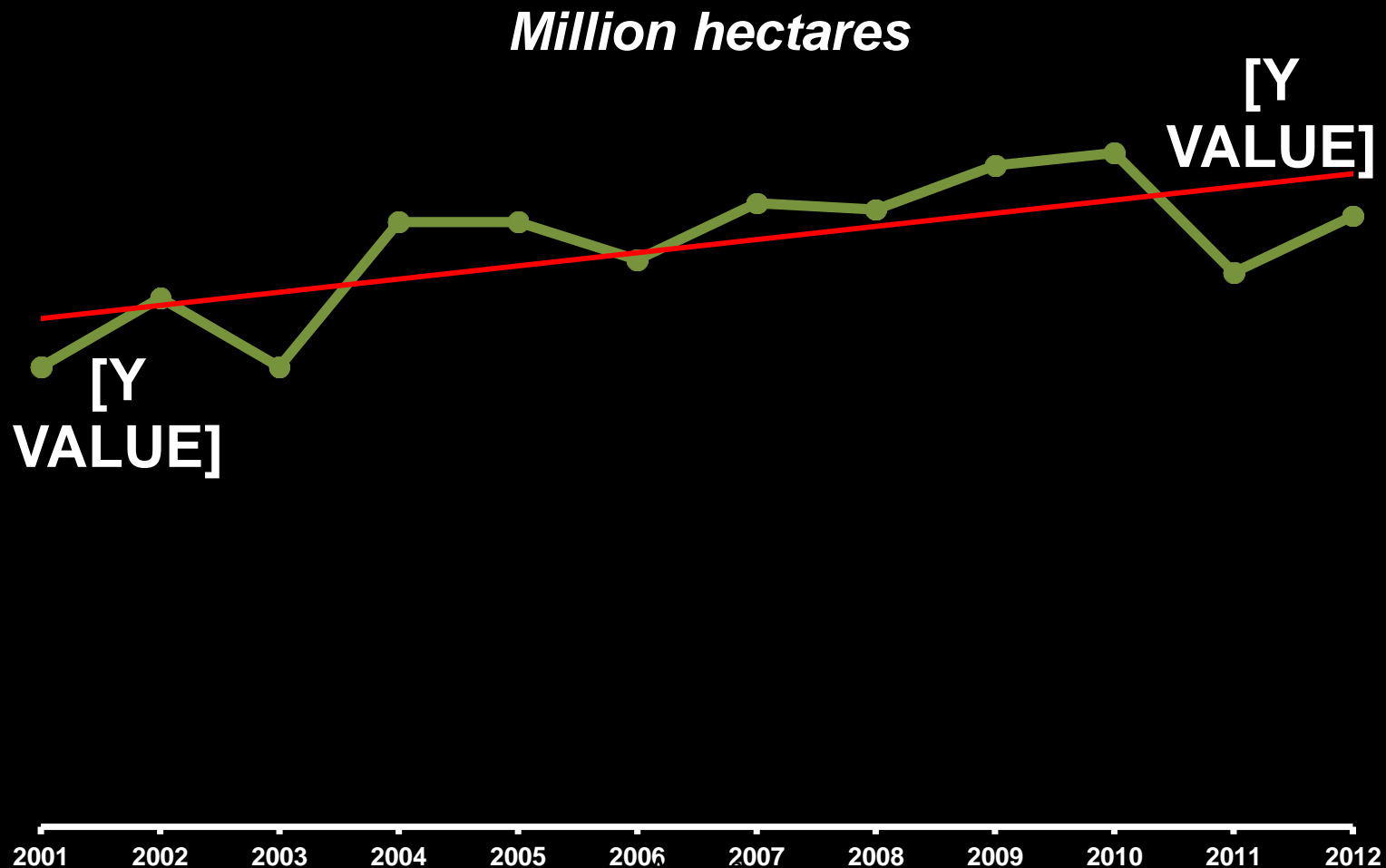


**High spatial  
resolution**  
for accurate measurement of  
annual deforestation



**Now, the bad news:**

# Tropical deforestation has been *increasing*



Source: Hansen *et al.*, 2013



**Forest Loss in Riau, Indonesia, 2000-2012.** Source: Hansen, Potapov, Moore, Hancher, et al. (Science, 2013). Powered by Google Earth Engine

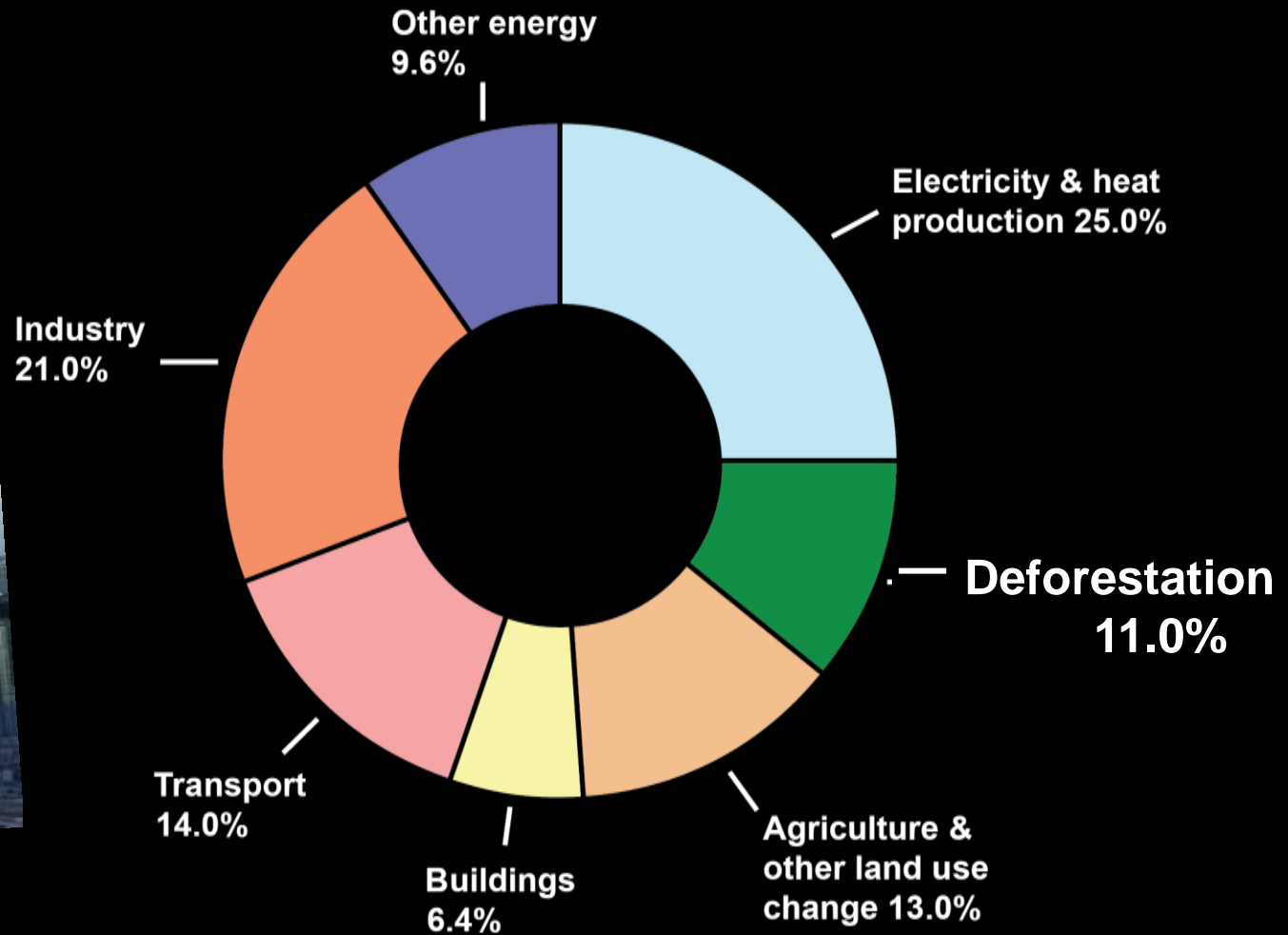




# Implications of deforestation for biodiversity

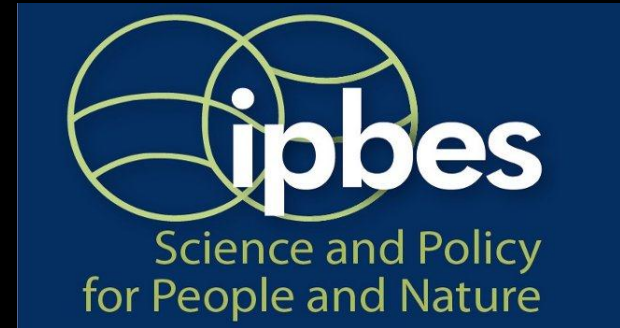


# Implications of deforestation for climate change



Data Source: IPCC, AR5 WGIII Report, 2014

# Implications of deforestation for ecosystem services



The screenshot shows the IPBES website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the IPBES logo, "Home", "About the Catalogue", "Contact", and "Login to add/edit data". Below the navigation bar, a message states "Assessments are currently under review and content is subject to change". The main heading is "Catalogue of Assessments on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services". A welcome message follows: "Welcome to the Catalogue of Assessments on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, a source of information on assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services from the global to the sub-national scales." Below this, there is a search prompt: "Get started! Try searching below". A search input field is present, with a checkbox for "Search in attachments" and a green "SEARCH" button. To the right, a world map is displayed with numerous blue location pins. A "Browse the map" link is located at the bottom right of the map. Below the search and map area, there is an "Advanced search" section with a "CLEAR" button and two input fields for "Geographical scale" and "Systems assessed". To the right of the search section, a table lists assessment entries.

Title	Countries
A Regional Assessment of Land Use Effects on Ecosystem Structure and Function in the Central Grasslands	United States
A spatial assessment of ecosystem services in Europe - The PRESS initiative (PEER Research on EcoSystem Services)	Multiple



# Implications of deforestation for livelihoods and national economies



**What's the national forest  
agenda?**

# Value current forest livelihoods 21%



Source: Wunder et al, World Development Report (2014)

# Enhance revenues from forests managed as forests



**REDD+**

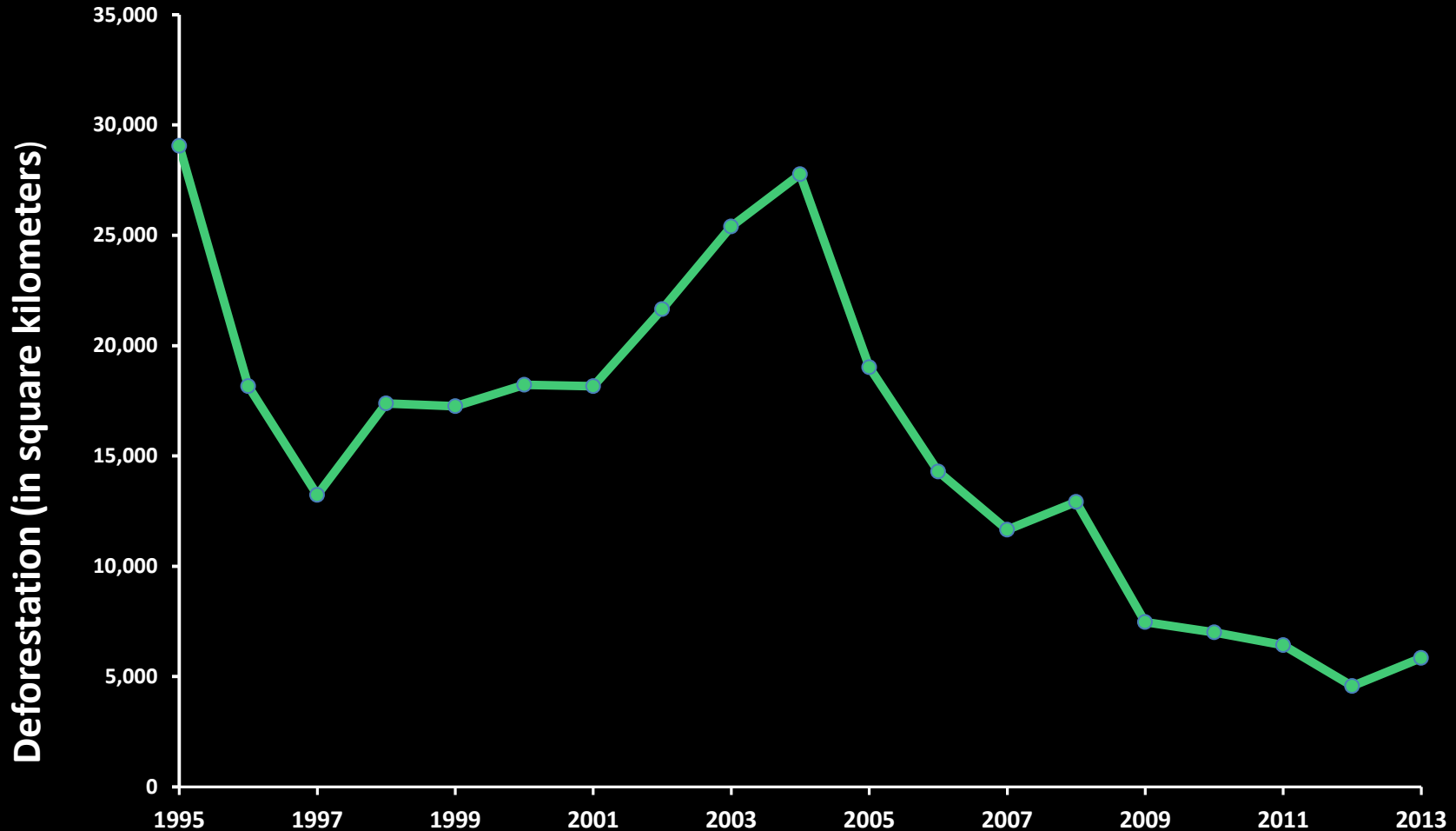
# Value forests for food security



**21%**

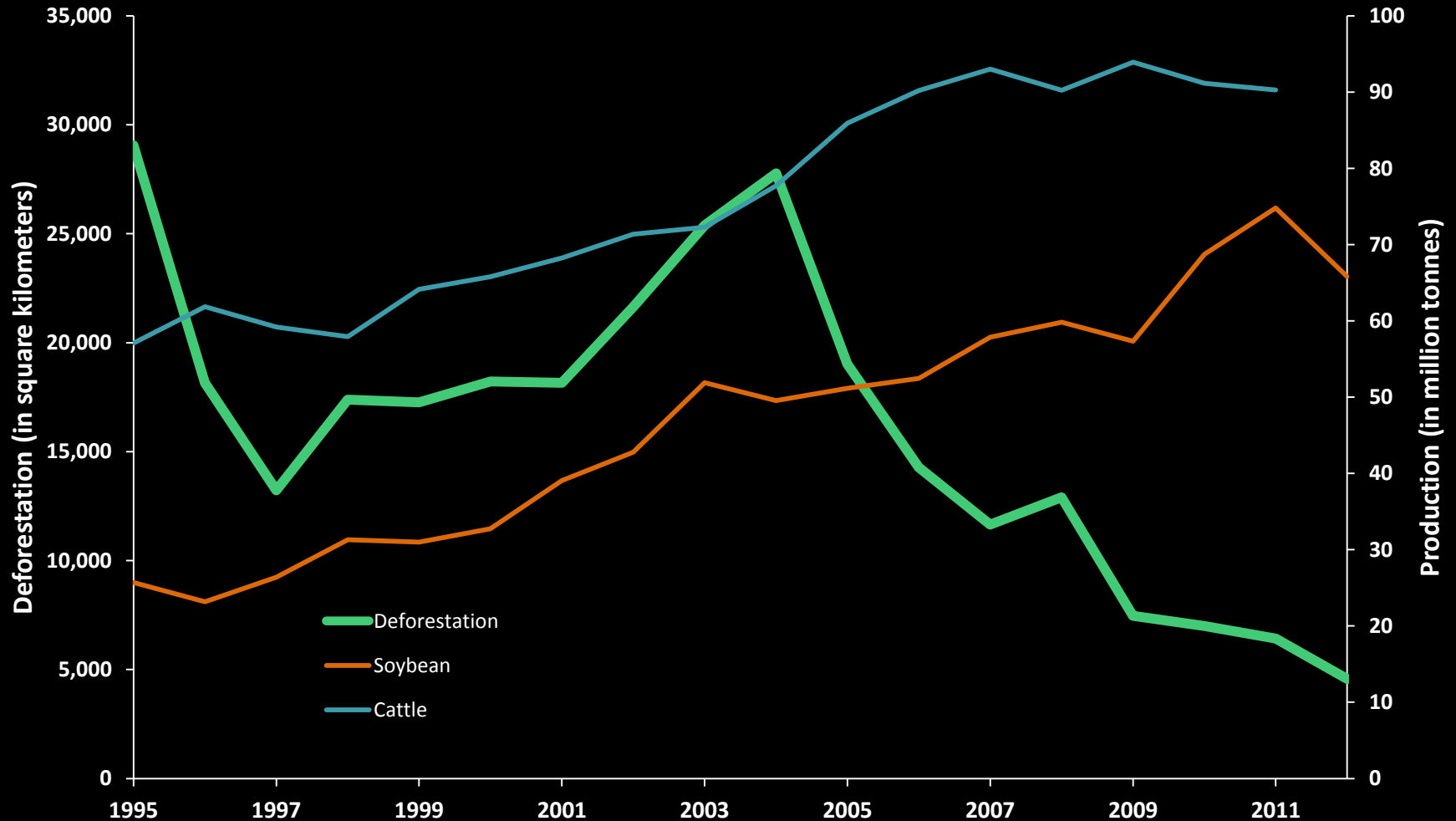
Source: Saenz and Mulligan, *Ecosystem Services*, 2013.

# Brazil has demonstrated that it is possible to reduce deforestation...



Source: Prodes, 2014

# ...while increasing agricultural production



Source: Prodes, 2014; FAOSTAT, 2014

# Value forests for adaptation





**Ensure that appropriation of forest resources is legal**



# Ensure the equitable distribution of forest benefits



# What's the national forest agenda?

- ✓ Include forest-based income in national income accounts
- ✓ Enhance revenues from forests managed as forests
- ✓ Recognize forest-based ecosystem services as an input to agricultural production
- ✓ Recognize conservation of forest-based ecosystem services as cost-effective “green infrastructure”
- ✓ Increase law enforcement effort against illegal logging and forest conversion
- ✓ Recognize and strengthen indigenous and customary forest management systems
- ✓ Understand better the impacts of policies on the distribution of forest-related benefits

**What's the global forest agenda?**

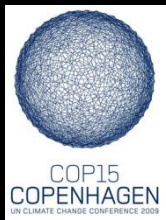
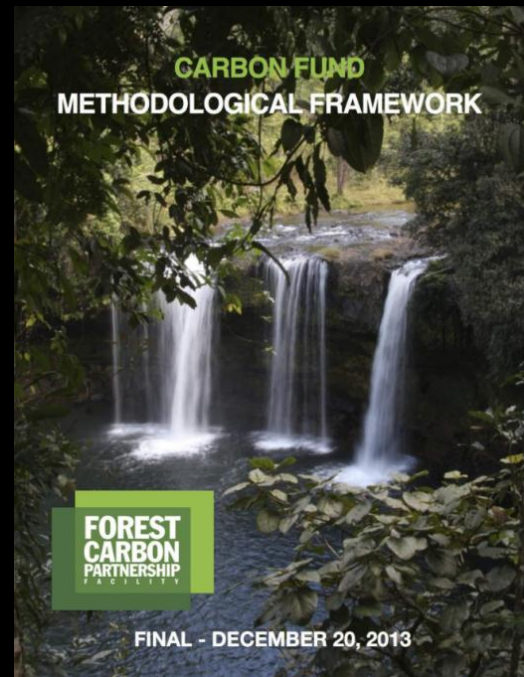
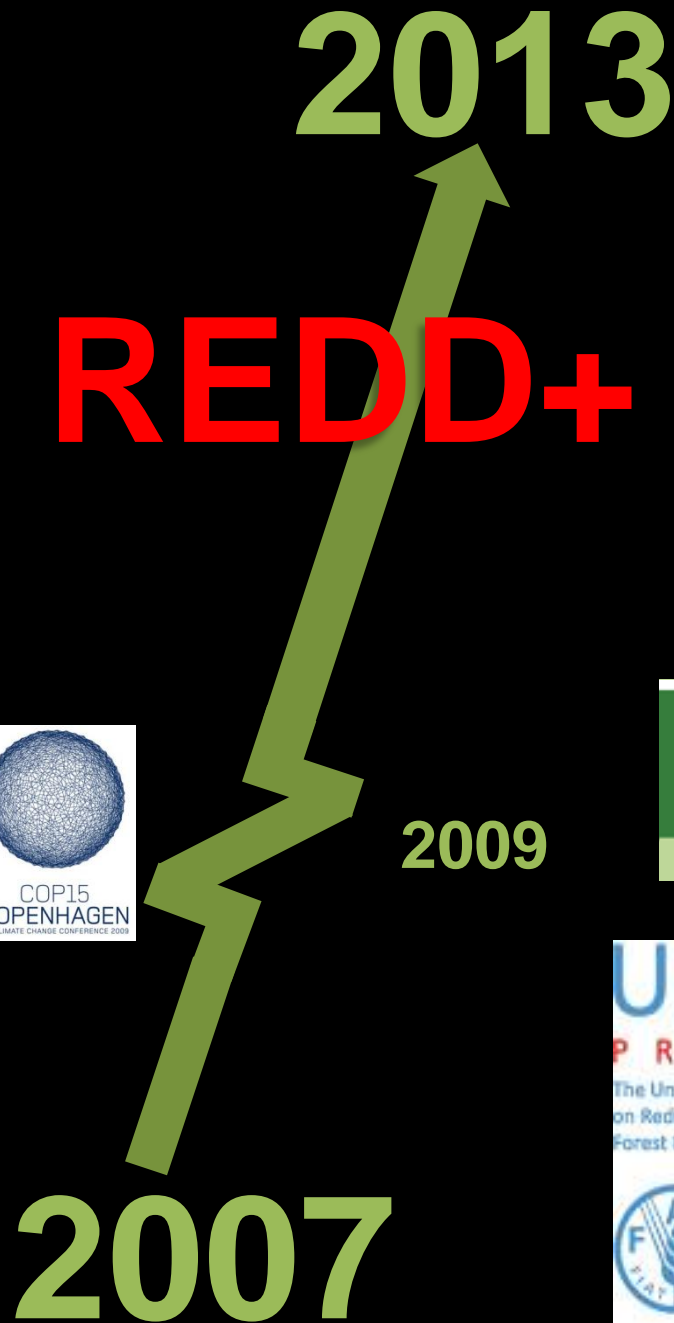
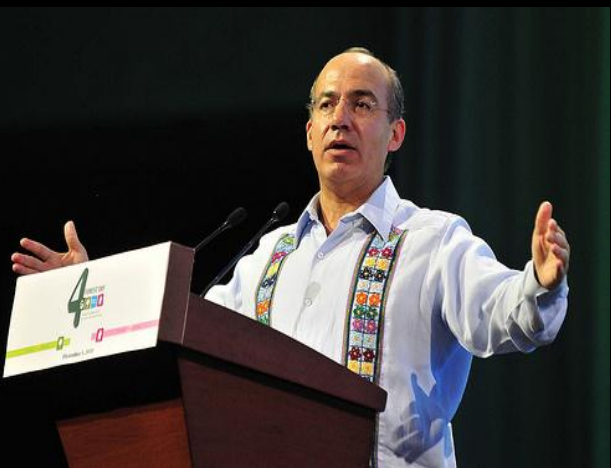
# Value forests for climate protection

## Emissions from deforestation

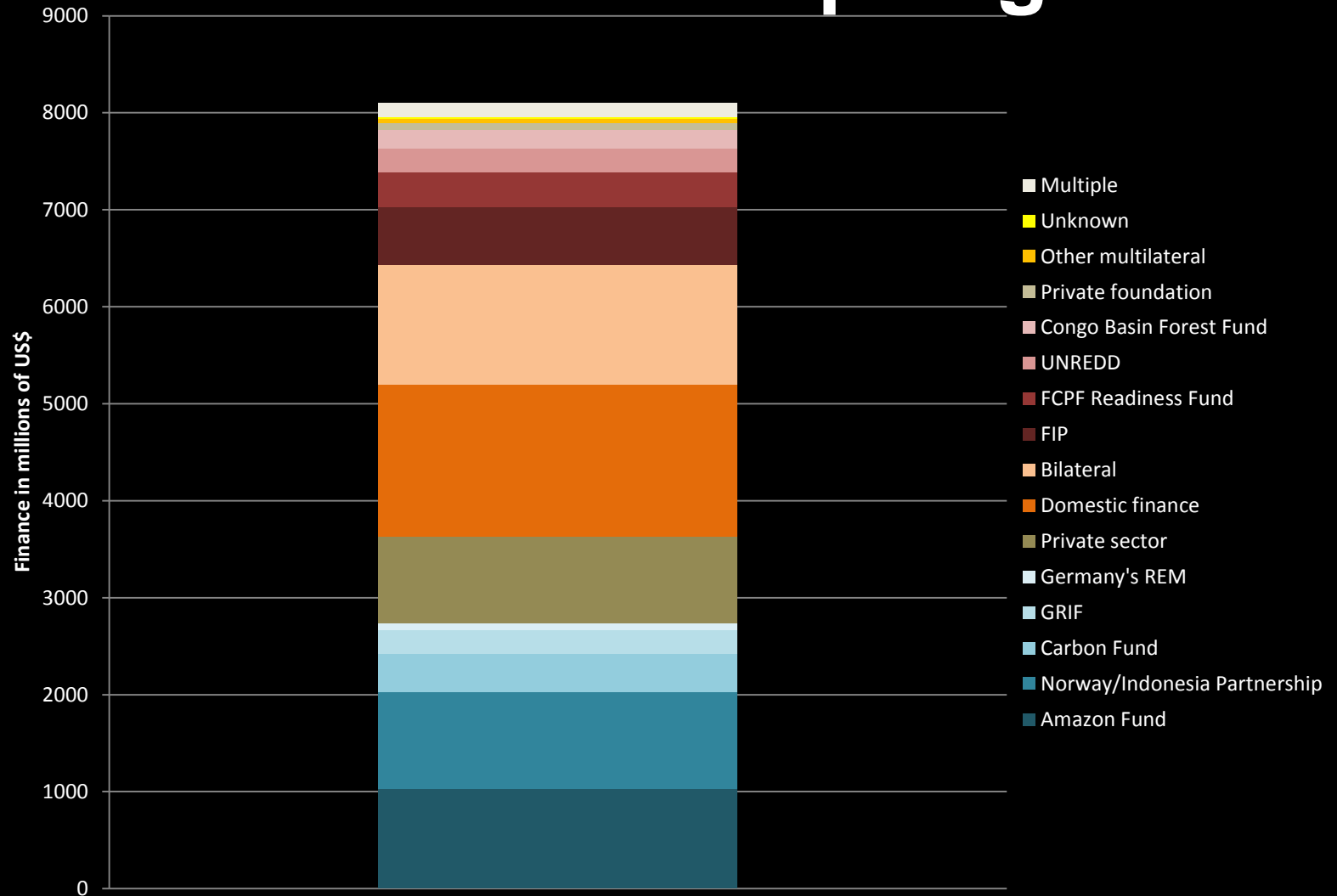


60. Busch, Jonah, et. al. Environmental Research Letters, author calculations (October-December 2009). Available at <http://iop-science.iop.org/1748-9326/4/4/044006/fulltext/>.

Source: Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2013



# REDD+ finance pledges



Source: ODI, *The State of REDD+ Finance*, forthcoming

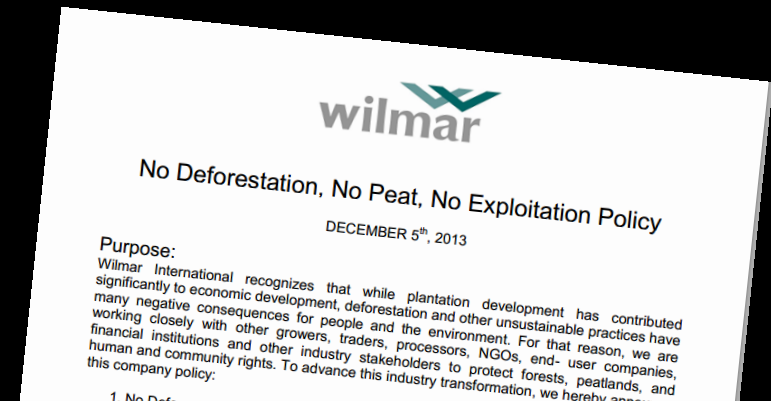
# Support market transformation



L'ORÉAL

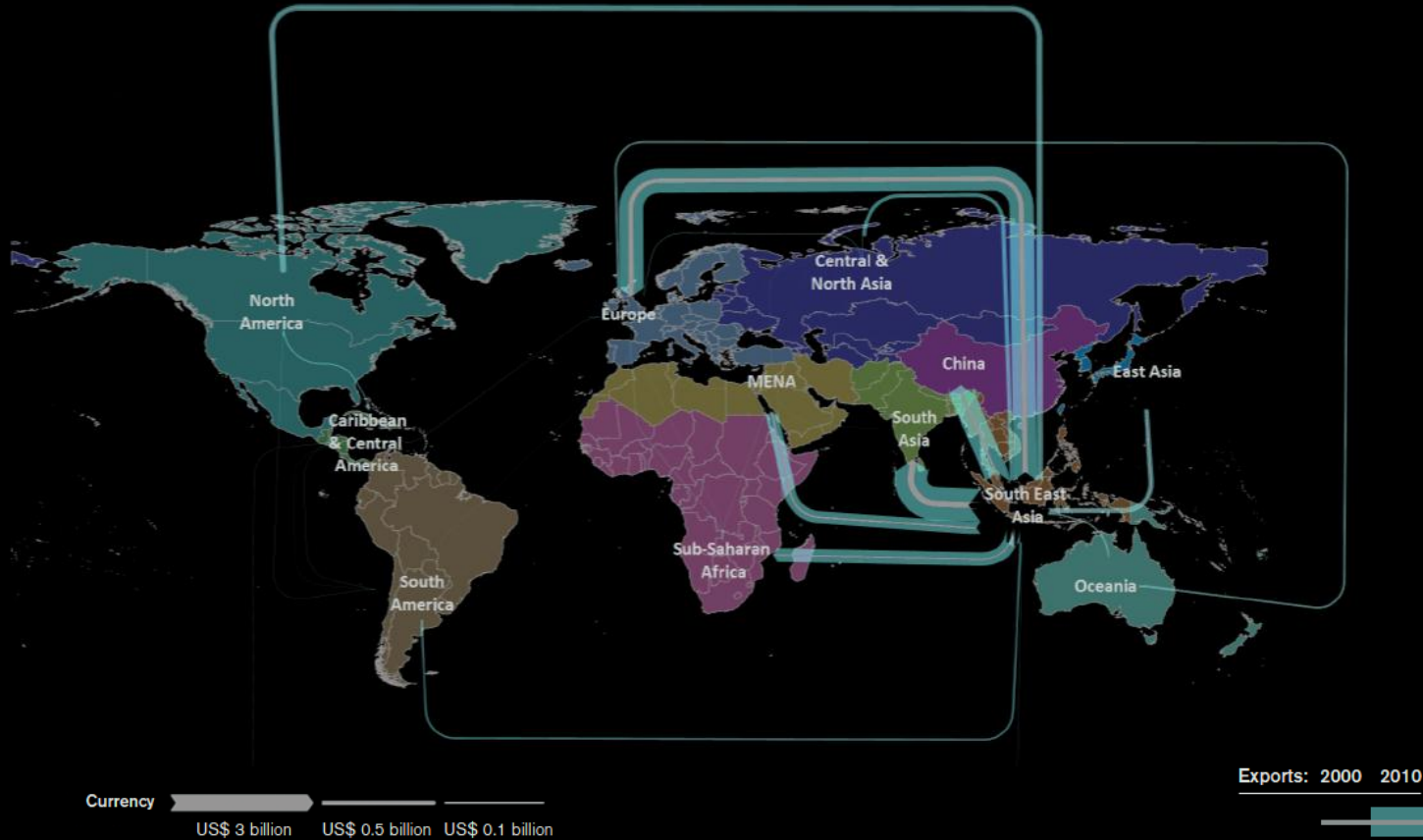


Procter & Gamble





# Consumer countries are importing deforestation in globally-traded commodities...

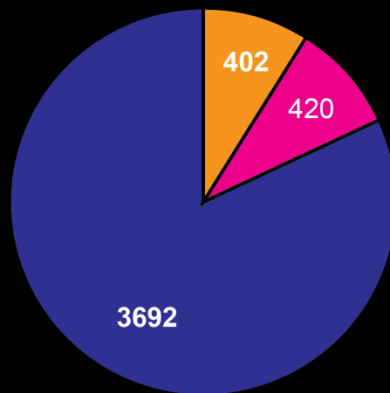


Source: Brack and Bailey (2013) based on Chatham House Resource Trade Database, BACI, COMTRADE.

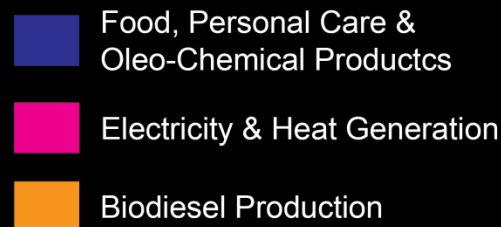
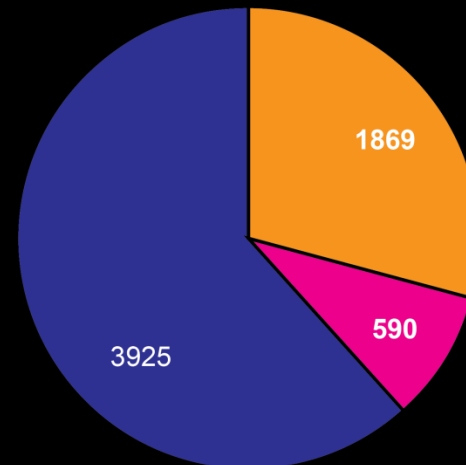
# ...and often subsidized by demand-side policies

## End Uses of Palm Oil in the EU-27 in 2006 & 2012, Thousand Metric Tons

2006 - Total: 4514



2012 - Total: 6384



Data Source: Gerasimchuk and Koh, *International Institute for Sustainable Development*, 2013.

# Employ demand-side tools to transform markets

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Office of Law Enforcement

18 USC 42-43  
16 USC 3371-3378  
Lacey Act

**TITLE 18—CRIMES AND CRIMINAL PROCEDURE**

**CHAPTER 3—ANIMALS, BIRDS, FISH, AND PLANTS**

Release date: 2004-08-06

- § 42. Importation or shipment of injurious mammals, birds, fish (including mollusks and crustacea), amphibia, and reptiles; permits, specimens for museums; regulations



## Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012

No. 166, 2012

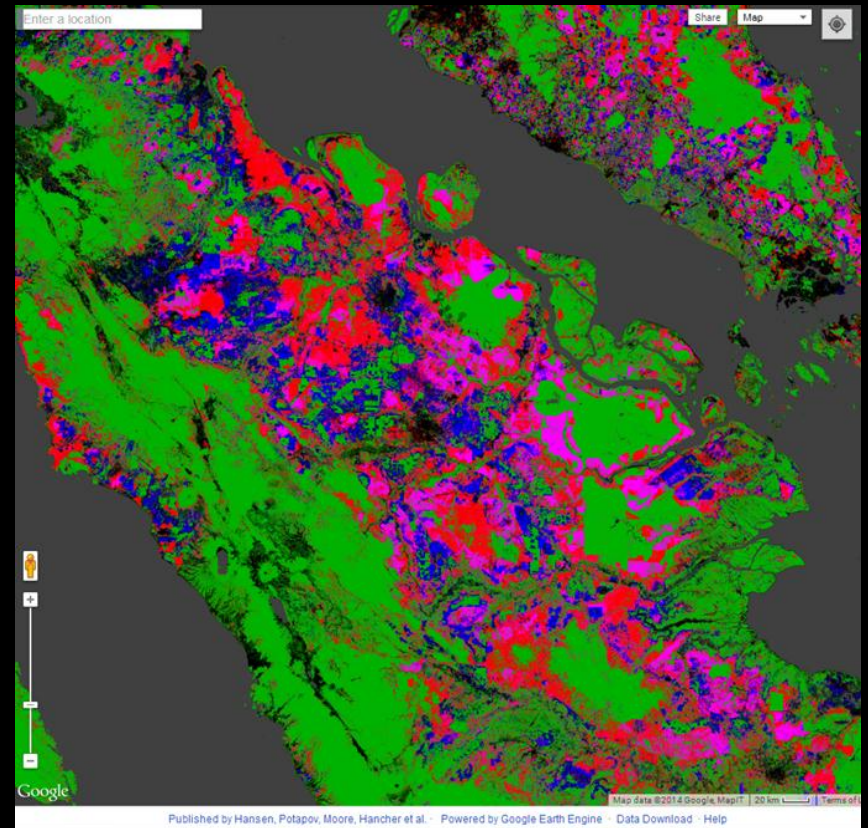
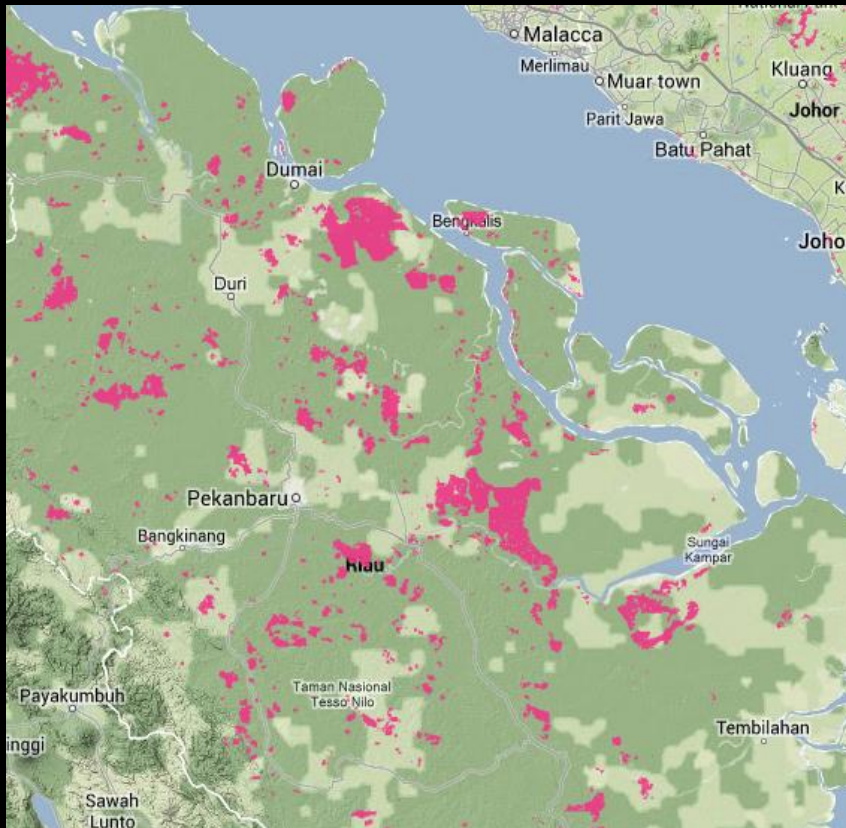


**An Act to combat illegal logging, and for related purposes**

# What's the global forest agenda?

- ✓ Mobilize finance for REDD+ and adaptation
- ✓ Support voluntary private sector commitments to responsible sourcing
- ✓ Remove subsidies for unsustainable biofuels
- ✓ Implement other demand-side policies to provide incentives for legal and sustainable production
  - ✓ Legality assurance initiatives
  - ✓ Green procurement programs

# We have succeed in making deforestation visible....



An aerial photograph of a vast, dense tropical forest, showing a thick canopy of green trees. The forest extends to the horizon, with varying shades of green indicating different tree species and canopy heights. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is centered over the middle of the image, containing white text.

**...but the economic costs and benefits of  
forest loss  
– and how they are distributed –  
are still invisible**

[www.cgdev.org](http://www.cgdev.org)

[fseymour@cgdev.org](mailto:fseymour@cgdev.org)



[@FrancesJSeymour](https://twitter.com/FrancesJSeymour)