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RESOURCES
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GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH
CLIMATE

PIXEL PERFECTION FOR CARBON DETECTION

Forest carbon data in high definition

NANCY HARRIS, WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

“An interactive online mapping application of carbon density and loss from aboveground live woody biomass across the tropics from 2001 to 2014, estimated using a combination of ground and medium-resolution satellite data”^{1,2,3,4,5}

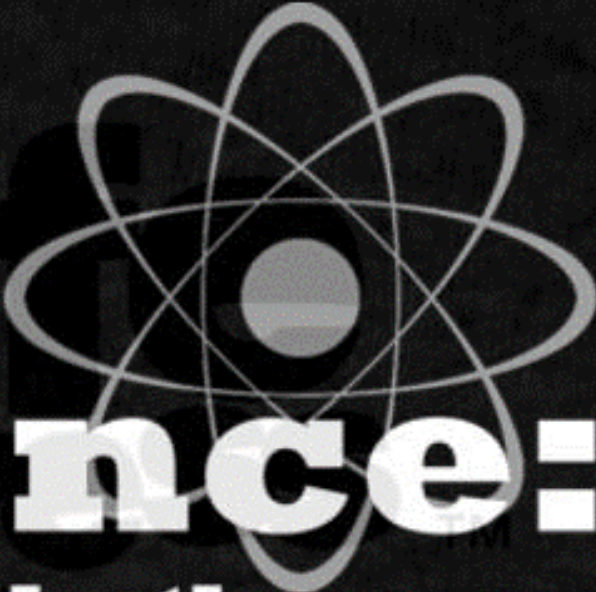
1 tree cover loss does not always equal deforestation

2 Multiple biomass maps are available for certain regions, see Saatchi et al, Baccini et al., Avitabile et al., Asner et al. and others

3 C stock and C loss estimates may be biased for some countries due to non-statistically based estimators

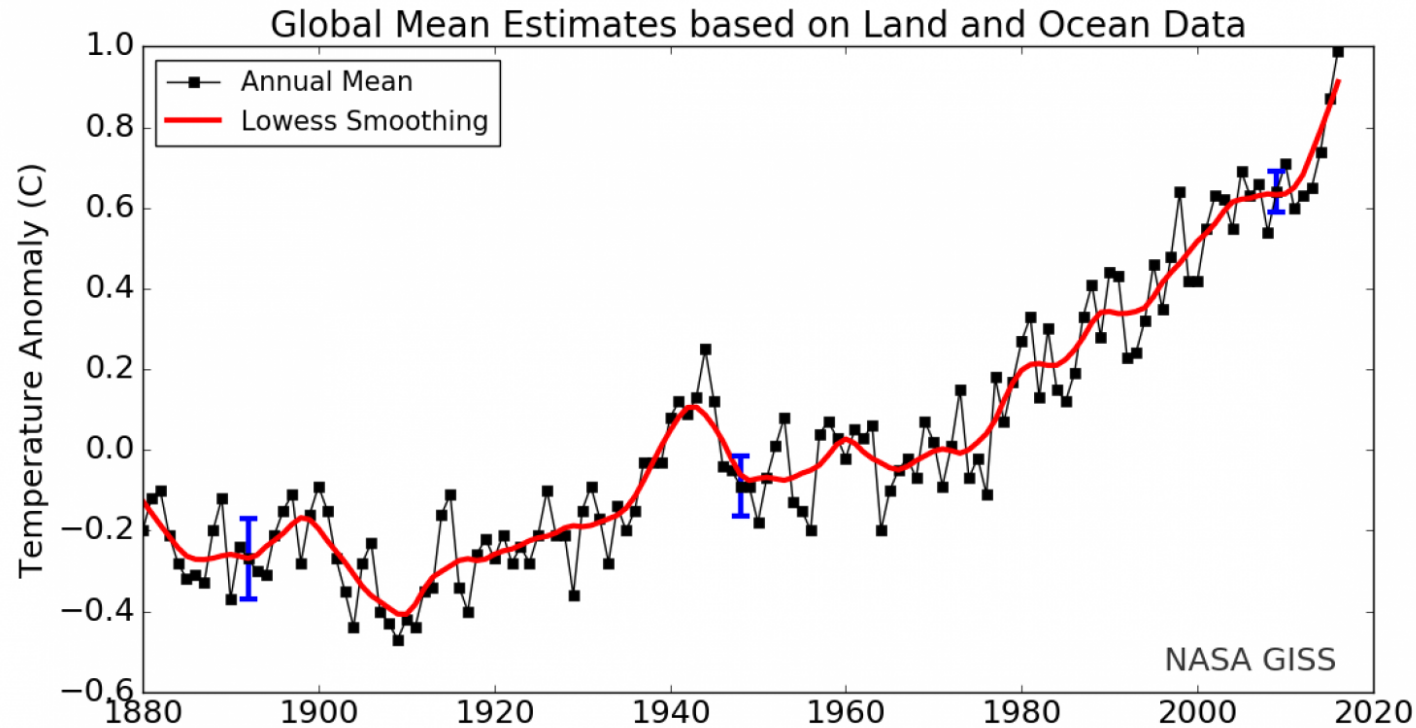
4 other C pools are currently excluded from calculations, although default values may be added in the future

5 the inclusion of the time dimension of carbon flux varies both by C pool and by C accounting method



Science:
it works whether you
believe in it or not

U.S. scientists officially declare 2016 the hottest year on record. That makes three in a row.



ABOUT WRI | WRI is a global research organization that turns big ideas into action at the nexus of environment, economic opportunity and human well-being.

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Forests

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Better forest
management.**

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HCV Resource Network

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Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
SarVision
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Urthecast
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The State of the Forest INDONESIA

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under the accession no. SRR630211. The genome assemblies are available at the National Center for Biotechnology Information under BioProject PRJN072239. We thank Z. Wilson and A. Gorchakov for technical assistance.

Supplementary Materials:
www.science.org/suppmat
DOI:10.1126/science.1239502
Materials and Methods
Supplementary Text
Figs. S1 to S10
Tables S1 to S3
References Cited
23 April 2013; accepted 30 September 2013
10.1126/science.1239502

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 2103 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. 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 regulation (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 or 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 km² of forest were lost due to disturbance over the study period and 0.8 million km² of new forest established. Of the total area of combined loss and gain (2.3 million km² ± 0.8 million km²), 0.2 million km² 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, countries, and countries (see table S1 in SI 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 2103 km²/year. Tropical rainforest countries 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 km²/year. However, increased annual loss of Eurasian tropical rainforest (1592 km²/year), African tropical moist deciduous forest (536 km²/year), South American dry tropical forest (459 km²/year), and Eurasian tropical moist deciduous (221 km²/year) and dry (123 km²/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 km²/year in 2003 to 2004 and a low of under 20,000 km²/year in 2010 to 2011. Of all countries globally, Indonesia exhibited the largest increase in forest loss (1023 km²/year), with a low of under 10,000 km²/year from 2000 through 2003 and a high of over 20,000 km²/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 initiated moratorium on new licensing of concessions in primary natural forest and peatlands (7), initiated in 2011, is to be determined.

Subtropical forests experience extensive forestry landscapes 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 domain. 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 southeastern 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



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THE FORESTS OF THE CONGO BASIN
State of the Forest 2006

The LAST OF OUR FOREST LANDSCAPES IN NORTHERN EUROPEAN RUSSIA

Mapping of intact forest landscapes in northern European Russia using high-resolution satellite imagery – methods and results

Alexey Yu. Yaroshenko, Peter V. Potapov, Svetlana A. Turubanova

GREENPEACE RUSSIA AND GLOBAL FOREST WATCH

With the support of the Biodiversity Conservation Center, the Socio-Ecological Union International and the Kola Branch of the Biodiversity Conservation Center

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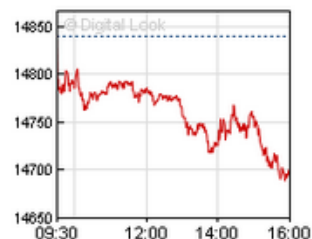
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..... Previous close value *All charts show local time

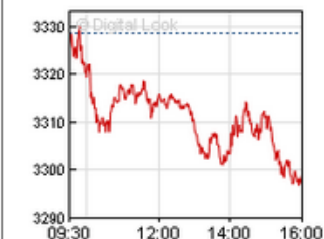
Dow Jones 15 min delay



value	change	%
14700.95	-138.85	-0.94

Waiting for winners/losers data

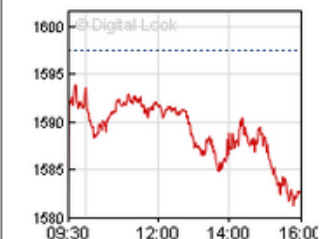
Nasdaq 15 min delay



value	change	%
3299.13	-29.66	-0.89

Waiting for winners/losers data

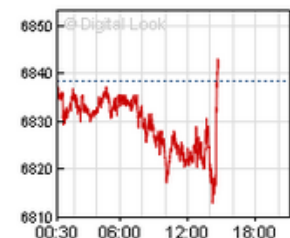
S&P 500 15 min delay



value	change	%
1582.70	-14.87	-0.9

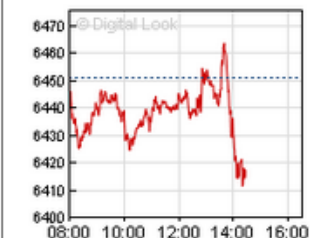
Waiting for winners/losers data

BBC Global 30



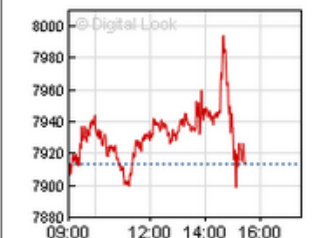
value	change	%
6841.26	+2.66	+0.04

FTSE 100 15 min delay



value	change	%
6414.95	-36.34	-0.56

Dax 15 min delay



value	change	%
7913.17	-0.54	-0.0

Market reports

- ▶ London
- ▶ Paris
- ▶ Frankfurt
- ▶ Wall Street
- ▶ Tokyo

Top winner and loser

Glencore International	327.05p	+12.75	+4.06
Shire Plc	1935.00p	-85.00	-4.21

Top winner and loser

Infineon Technologies AG	6.54	+0.55	+9.0
Thyssen Krupp AG	13.32	-0.42	-3.0

Stock markets

Stock markets	change	time (ET)
FTSE 100	6417.80 -33.49	Thu 09:28
Dow Jones	14700.95 -138.85	Wed 16:04
Nasdaq	3299.13 -29.66	Wed 16:00
Dax	7920.30 +6.59	Thu 09:28
Cac 40	3828.21 -28.54	Thu 09:28
S&P 500	1582.70 -14.87	Wed 16:01
BBC Global 30	6838.22 -0.38	Thu 09:43

Currencies

Currencies	change	time (ET)
Sterling - US Dollar	1.5544 -0.0010	Thu 09:30
Sterling - Euro	1.1888 +0.0080	Thu 09:40
Euro - US Dollar	1.3076 -0.0104	Thu 09:40
US Dollar - Yen	97.7880 +0.3930	Thu 09:40

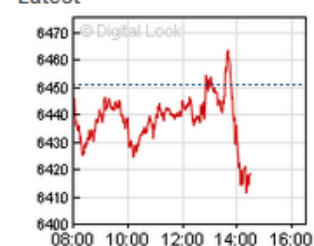
©BBC >>

Asia Pacific

	£1 buys	change	%
Japanese Yen	152.0400	+0.55000	+0.36
Australian Dollar	1.51660	+0.00300	+0.20
New Zealand Dollar	1.83380	+0.00400	+0.19
Hong Kong Dollar	12.06400	-0.00700	-0.06
Singapore Dollar	1.91980	+0.00200	+0.10

FTSE 100

Latest



..... Previous close value *All charts show local time

3 Months



[BBC business news >>](#)

DATA



**GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH**



USERS

Space agencies
National
Regional
Local
Crowd

Make complex data
easy to understand,
decision-relevant,
and in near-real time

Governments
Business
Civil society
Communities
Educators

A diverse spectrum of users and use cases

**GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH**

**GLOBAL
FOREST
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COMMODITIES

**GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH**
FIRES

Stakeholders



Civil Society



Private Sector



Government

Multiple Scales

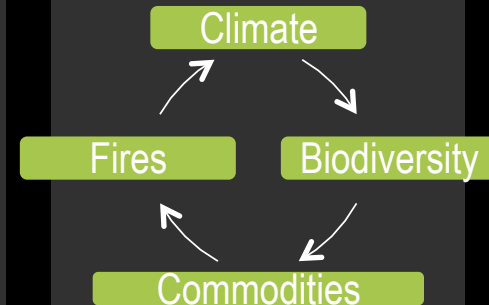


Global



Community/FMU

Interrelated Issues

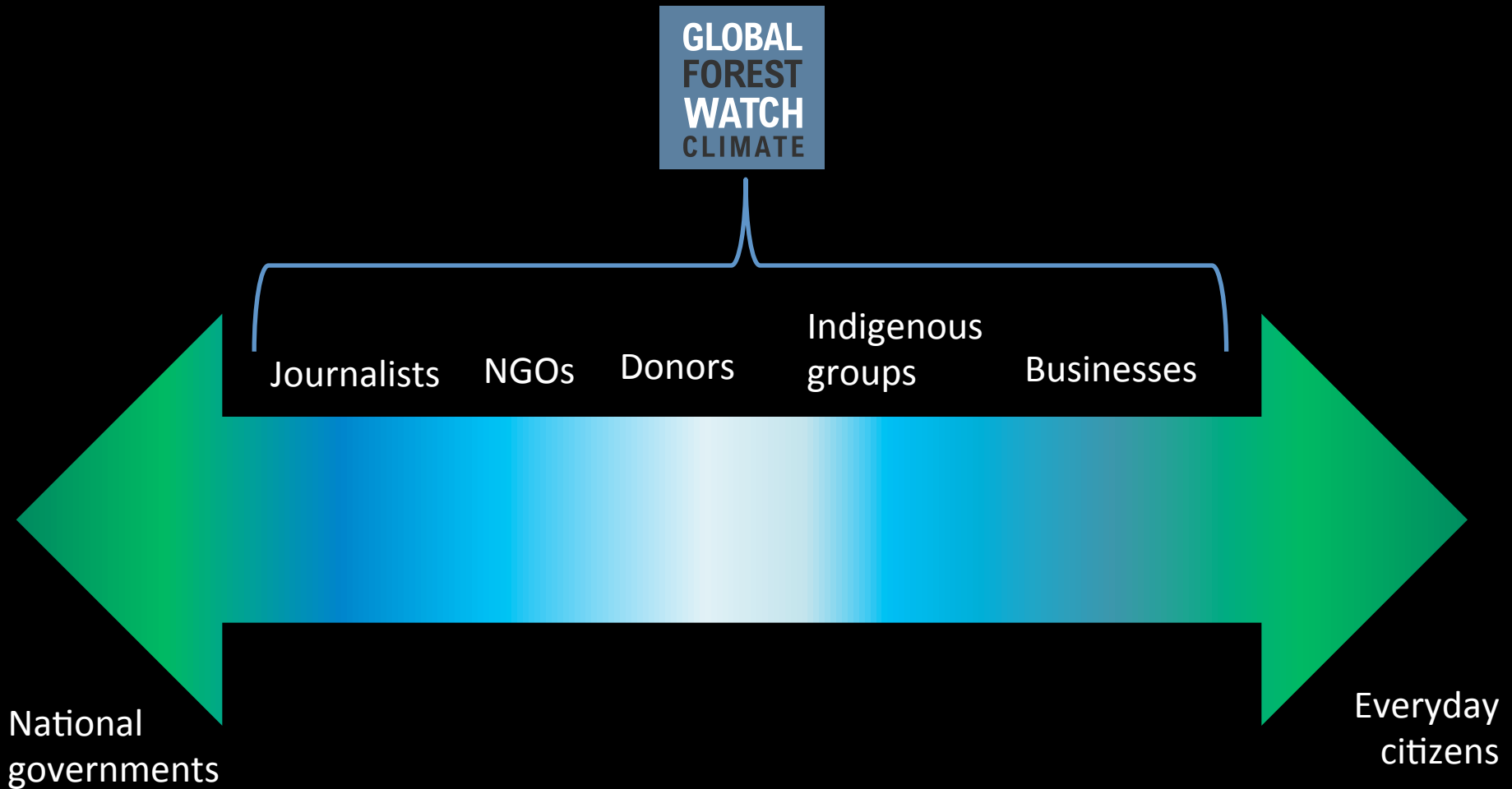


**GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH**
CLIMATE

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FINANCE

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BIODIVERSITY

TARGET USERS



Different Land Use Processes



Fluxes occur differently for each process



“Natural” forest sink

Changes in land use

Emphasis on forests

Changes in area

Croplands (clearing and abandonment)

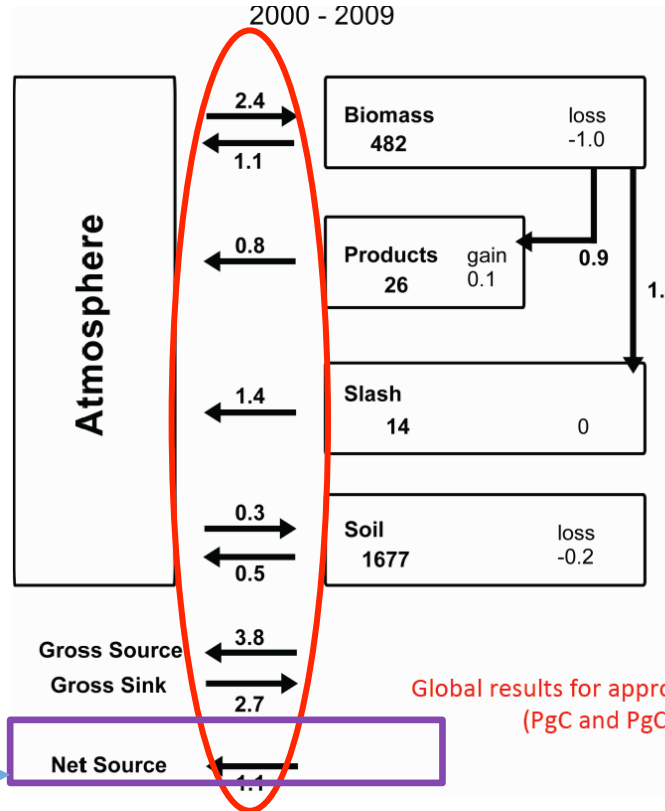
Pastures

Shifting cultivation

Changes in carbon stocks (C/ha) within forests

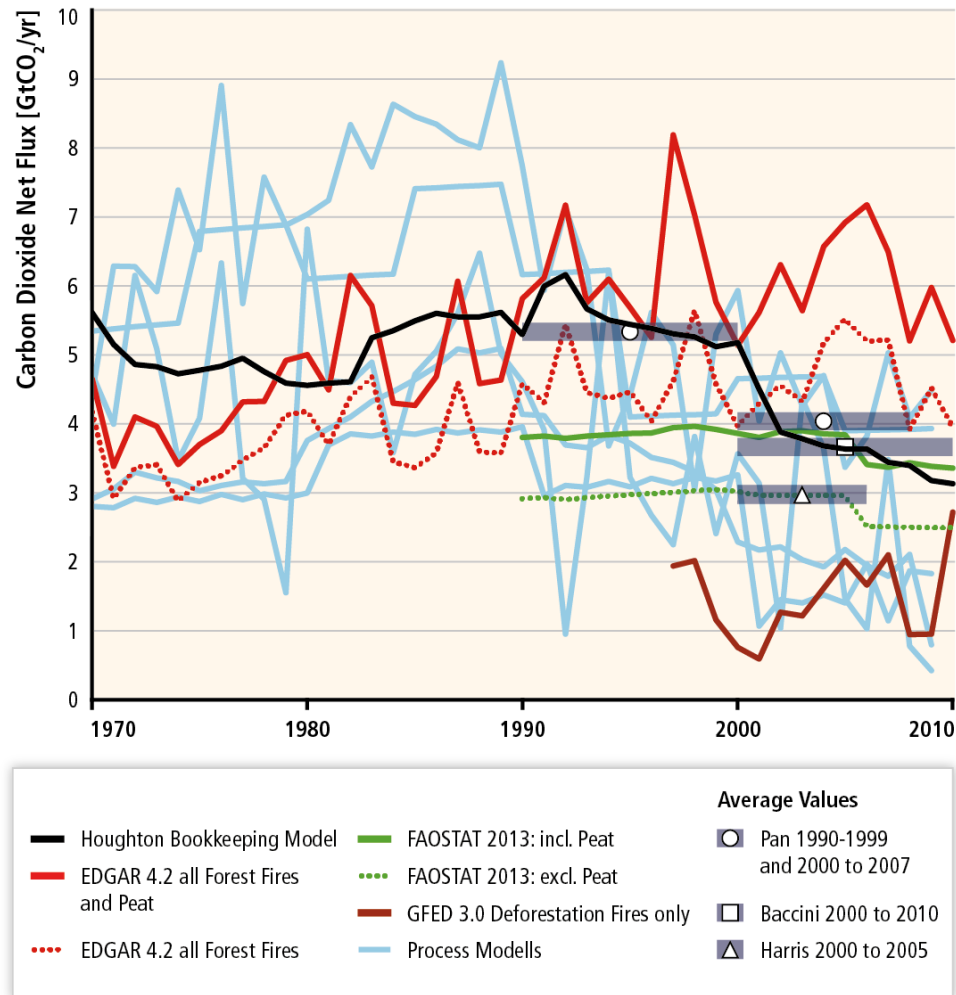
Wood harvest & recovery

Fire management

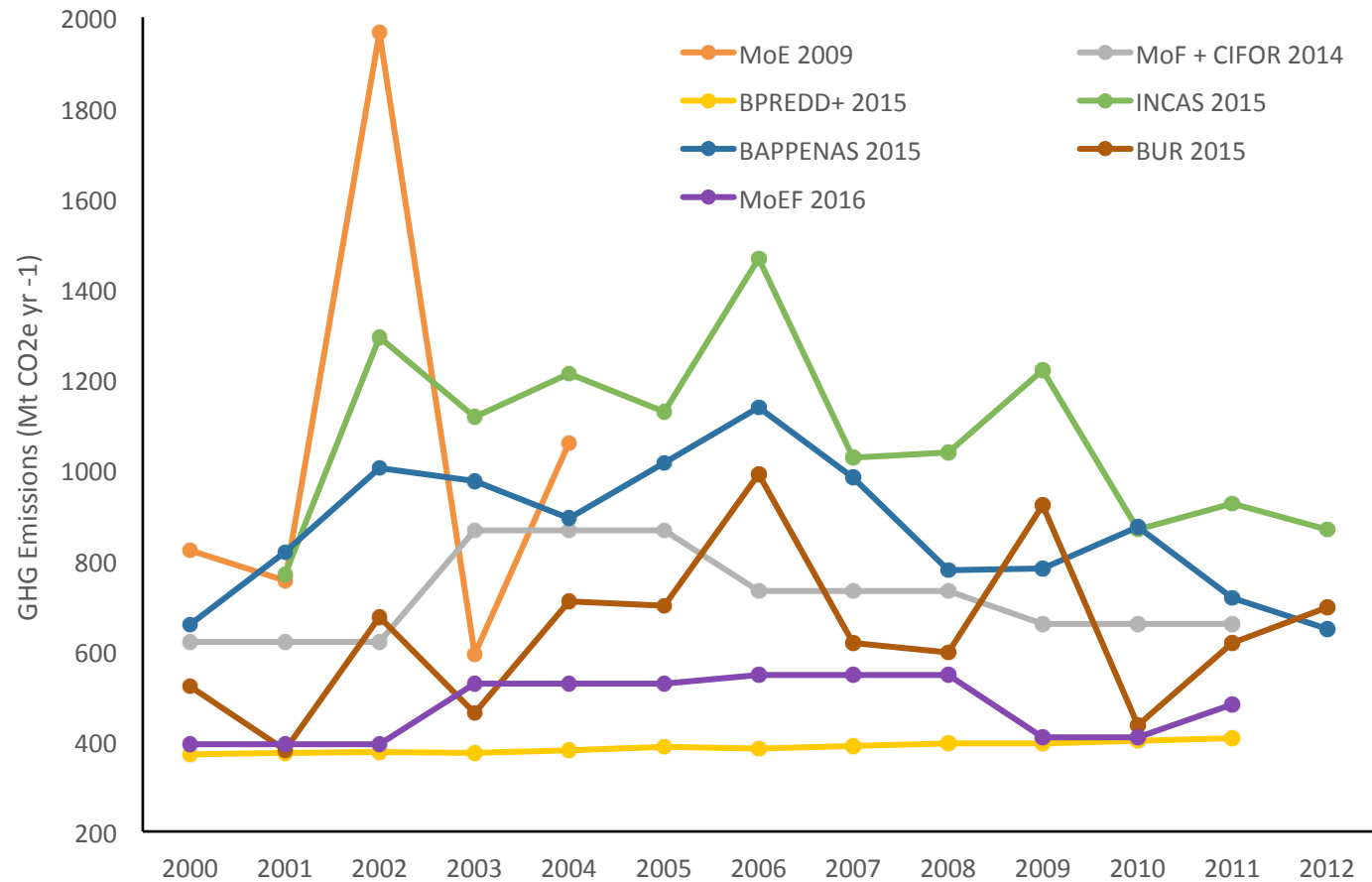


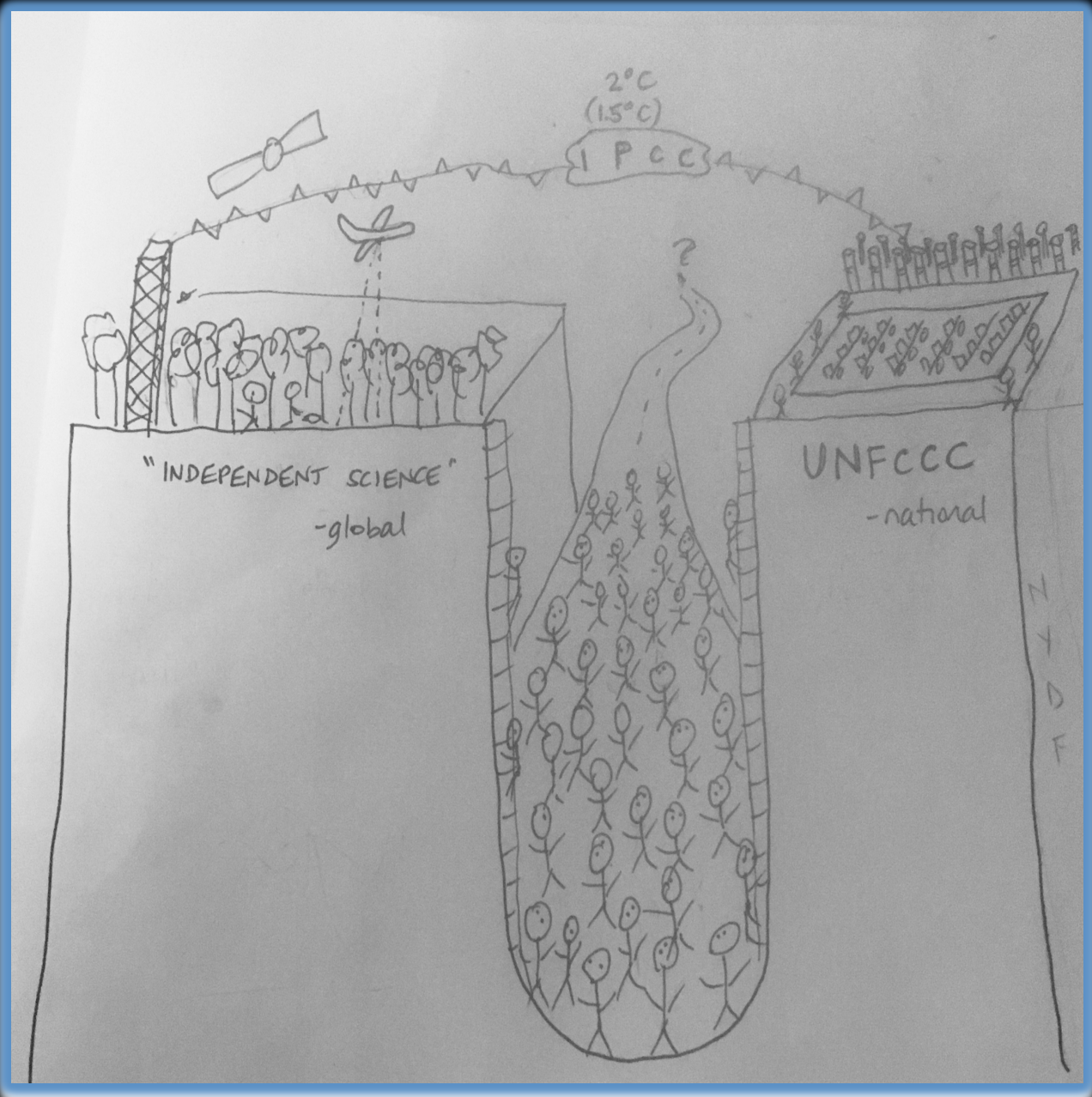
This is the only thing that gets reported.

Global Uncertainty



National Uncertainty – Indonesia as a case study





COP21 MAJOR OUTCOMES

LONG-TERM GOAL
for net zero carbon
this century

**STRENGTHEN
CLIMATE
ACTIONS**
every 5 years

ADAPTATION
to help most
vulnerable

**ENHANCED
TRANSPARENCY**
and accountability

**FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**
especially for least
developed
countries

GLOBAL
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UNFCCC'S 2018 "GLOBAL STOCKTAKE" UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT

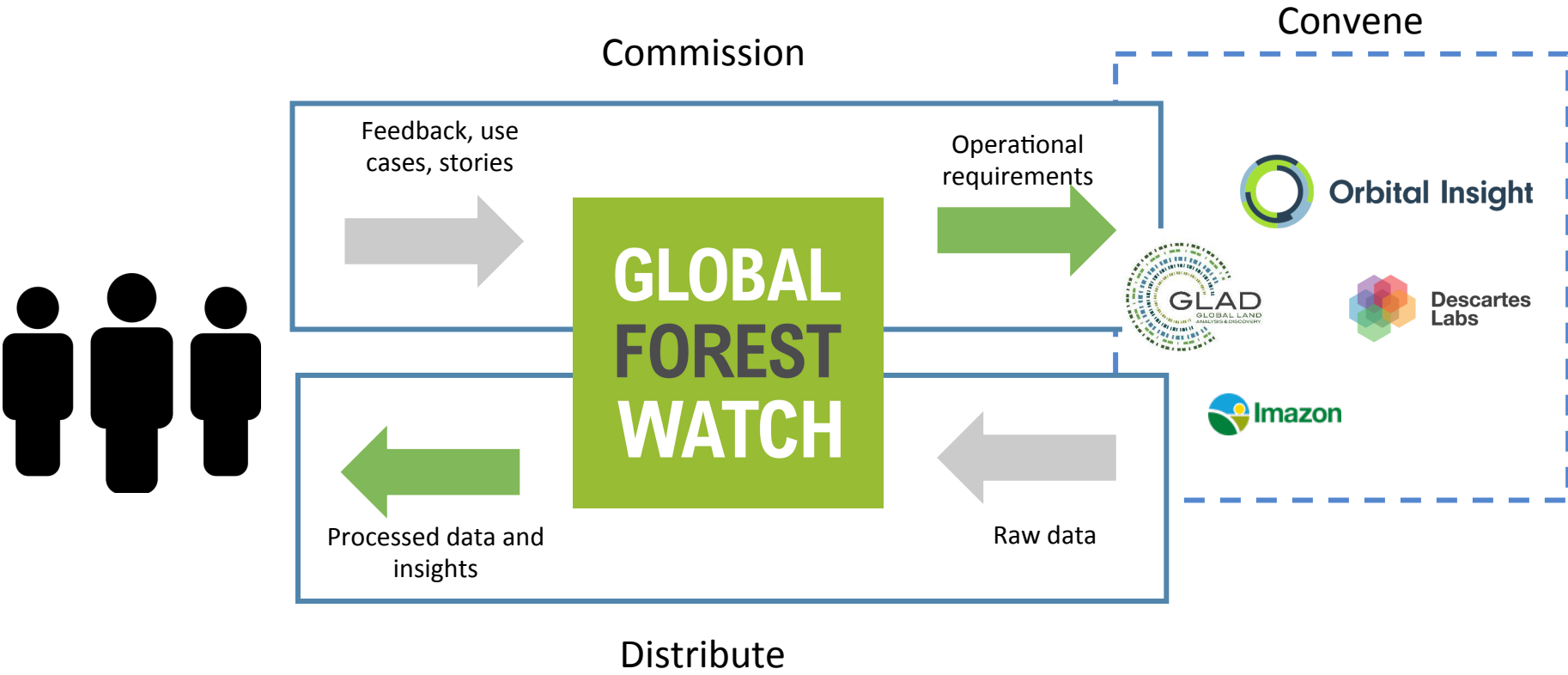
- “**Collective moment of review**” every five years, beginning in 2023, also a “facilitative dialogue” to take stock in **2018**
- Informed by science, progress made in implementation, assess how far is left to go, what opportunities exist for enhanced action
- develop a list of existing information sources, including **national reports**, reports from **UNFCCC subsidiary bodies** and **scientific inputs** (i.e. the IPCC special reports).

climate.globalforestwatch.org

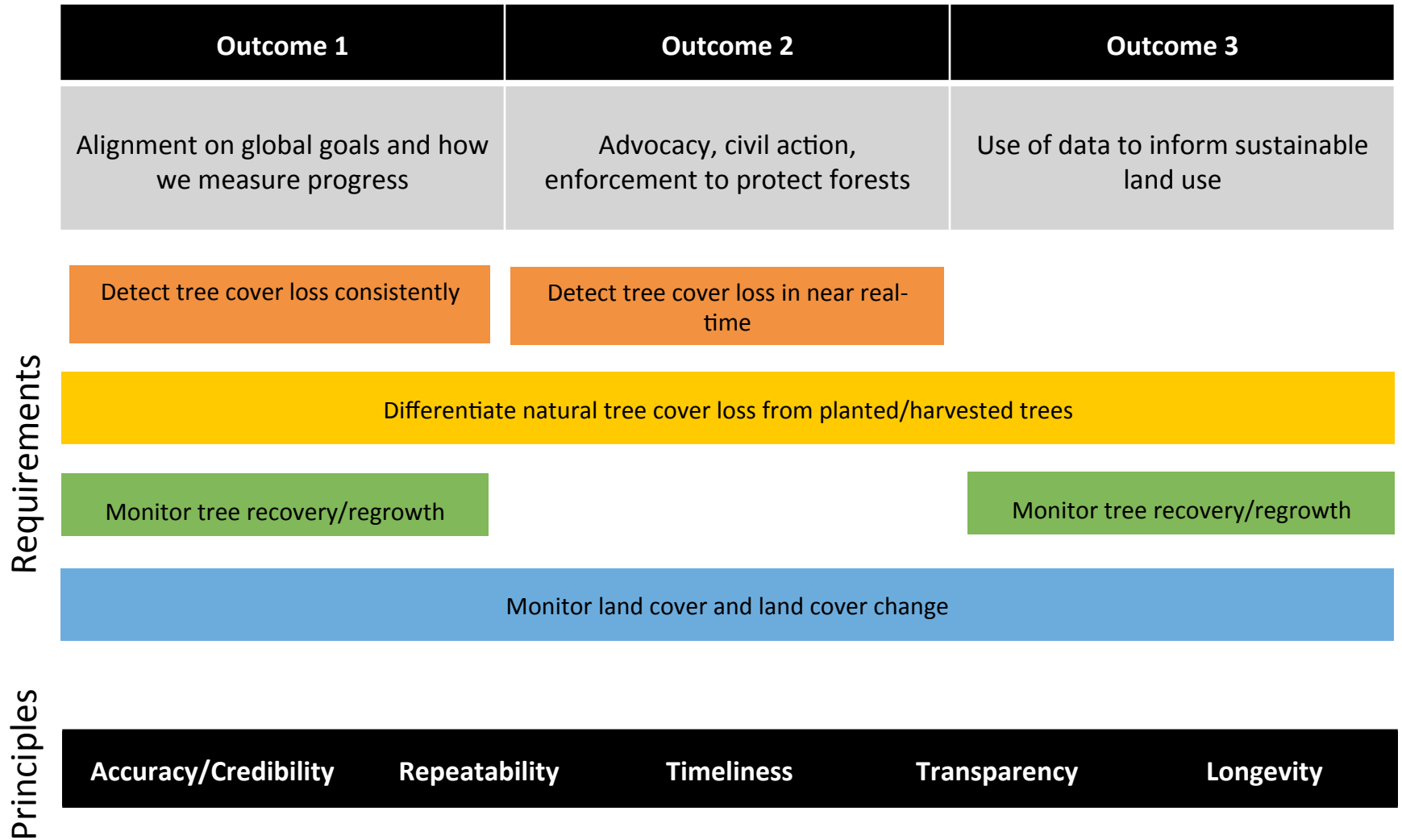
CHALLENGES

- Research timelines \neq operational timelines
- Striking the right balance between global and local
- Forest monitoring for what?
- Critics – nothing's perfect
- Climate change not “urgent”; global carbon cycle science “too wonky”
- Long-term funding questions

GFW: Convener, commissioner, distributor



Mapping data requirements onto outcomes



E. O. WILSON

“We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom. The world henceforth will be run by synthesizers, people able to put together the right information at the right time, think critically about it, and make important choices wisely.”

