

## Governing sustainability in biomass supply chains for the bioeconomy

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### World Café: “REDD+ and beyond”

- Inputs/handout from Peter Holmgren

My World Café introduction will focus on the “beyond” since the “REDD” concept has been piloted for 12 years with dubious track record and an uncertain future.

The UNFCCC process has delivered a number of problem areas for the forest / climate nexus:

1. The Paris Agreement limits the role of forests (or land) to storing carbon (Article 5);
2. Most focus on forest-climate action has been on offsetting (eg REDD). This is not a solution to fossil emissions, possibly the opposite;
3. Forestry is now positioned and considered a big part of the problem;
4. There is a common (mis)perception that nature conservation is the best use of forests for the climate;
5. The “forestry sector” as defined by UNFCCC/IPCC has created a silo disconnected from value chains and products, which reduces the climate mitigation opportunities.
6. The climate deal path seems closed for any meaningful revisions

So what to do?

1. Challenge the alliance between nature conservation and climate solutions – it is counterproductive!
2. Establish the concept of circular green bioproducts for health, well-being and ecosystem services, i.e the Sustainable Development path. Climate is a co-benefit;
3. Establish that actively managed forests deliver much more sustainability benefits than unmanaged;
4. This includes fossil emissions elimination through substitution, which is a true solution for real, immediate and permanent removals of fossil;
5. Knowledge, models, reporting and commitments for substitution are needed;
6. More generally, very long-term forestry investments must be enabled through law, rights and tenure;
7. And also, investments in the demand side for forest products, especially infrastructure for efficient bioenergy (heating, cooling, electricity) is a key climate action.

Illustration 1. What happened with the forestry perspective after IPCC AR1 in 1990?

## Greater wisdom in earlier days

- Increase wood production and forest productivity by silvicultural measures and genetically improved trees, thus helping to increase the forest carbon sink, to meet increasing demand for wood as well as to support replacement of fossil fuels and other materials by wood and to avoid inappropriate land use conversion.

IPCC 1<sup>st</sup> Assessment Report 1990. Primary recommendation on forests.

Illustration 2. The very high potential of very long term forestry investments.

