# Influence of Material Use in Green Building Policies

(A convenient truth)



Sylvain Labbé, Canada Wood Geneva, October, 2010



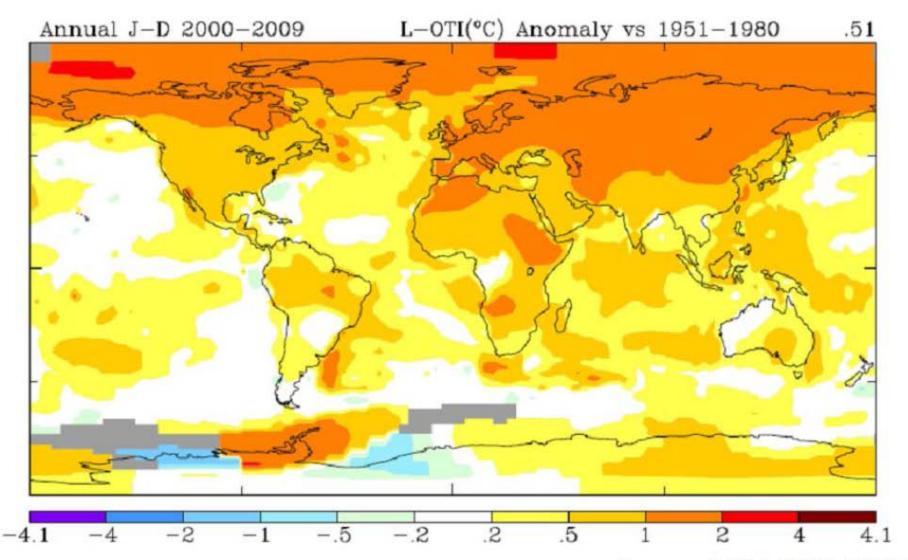
Canada Wood Group

# Summary

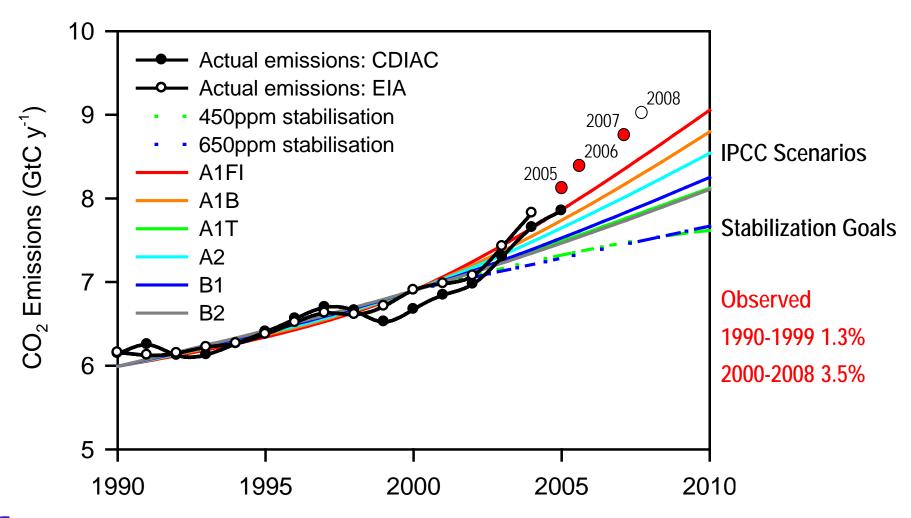
- Climate change: Update
- Role of forest and wood in mitigation
- Role of green building

A global strategy

#### 2000-2009: The warmest decade on record



Source: NASA GISS, 2010







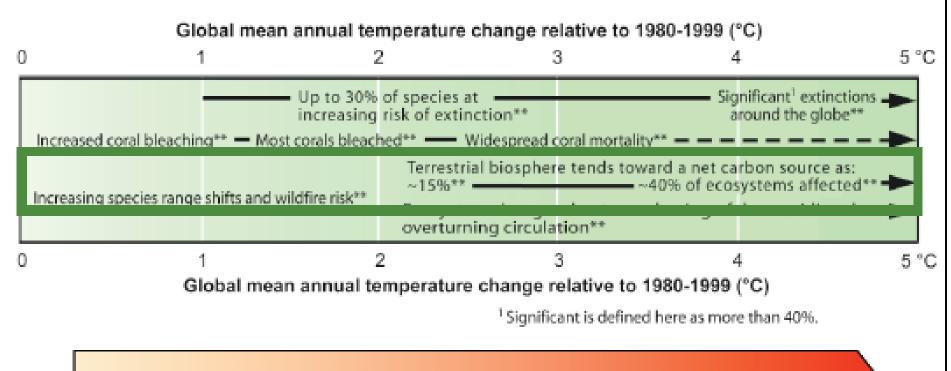






#### Summary

# Changes in Ecosystem Structures (includes in particular forests)



The warmer, the more negative the impacts!

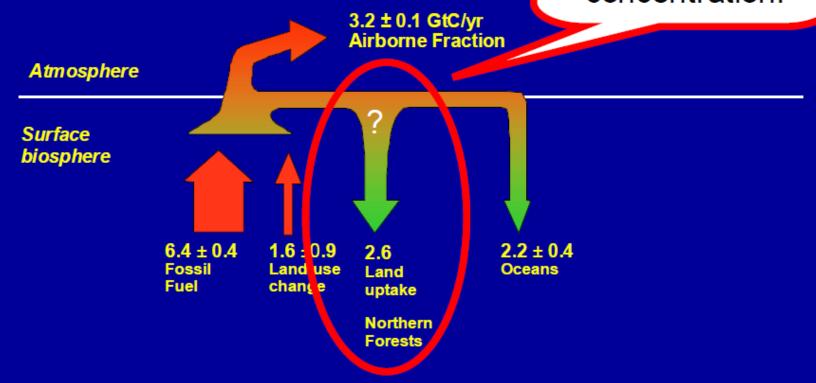
From Figure SPM.2 (IPCC, 2007c. Summary for Policy Makers by Working Group II AR4 IPCC)



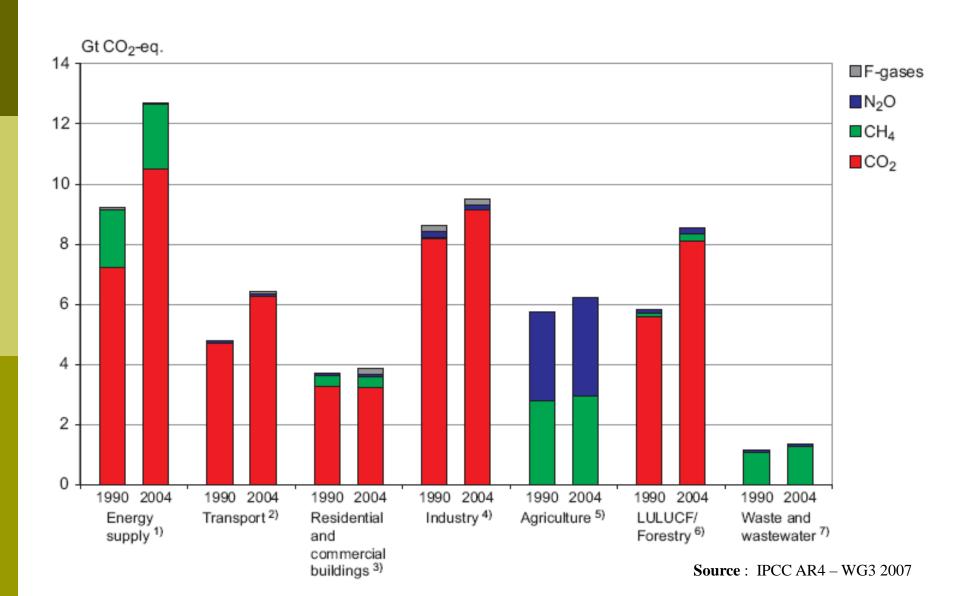
### Human Perturbations to the Global C Cycle

Less than half of *human* emissions stay in the atmosphere:
8.0 up but only 3.2 remains

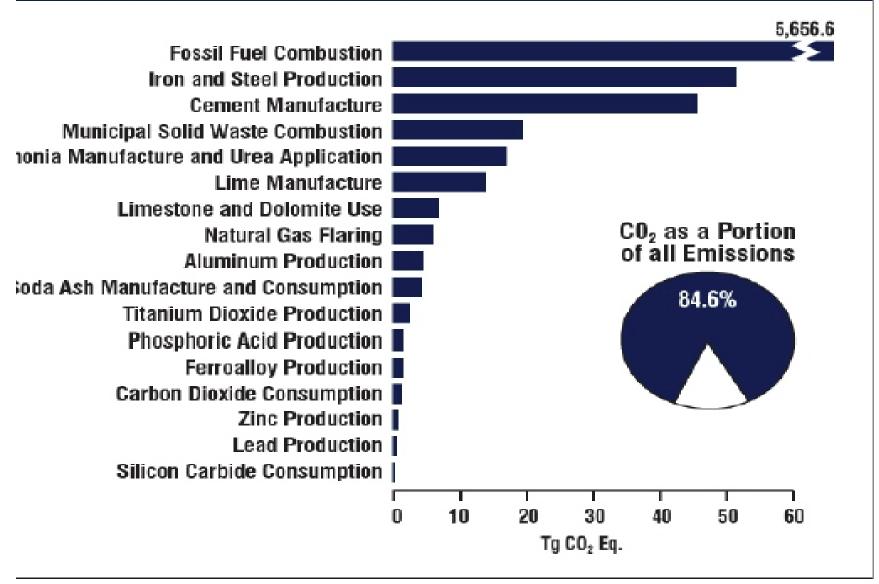
Forests will affect the future CO<sub>2</sub> concentration.



### Sources of GHG per sectors - 2007



#### 2004 Sources of CO2



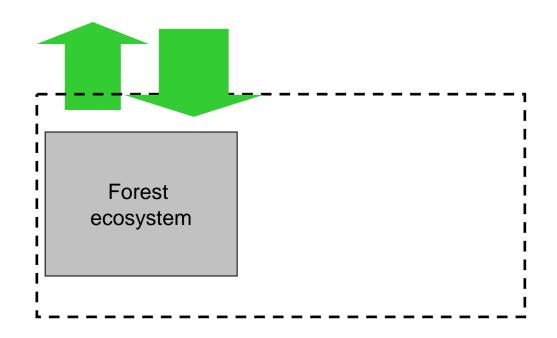
The Inventory of US Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990 USEPA April 2006

#### **Forest Carbon Account**

Carbon sink: photosynthesis,

Carbon source: harvest, biodegradation or

natural disasters



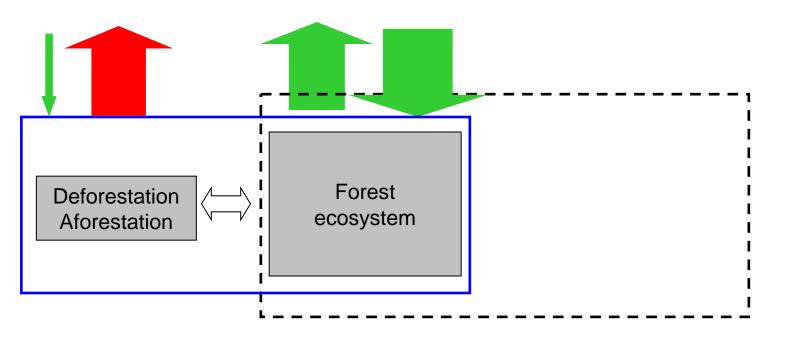
Forest sector

#### **Forest Carbon Account**

Carbon sink: phtosynthesis,

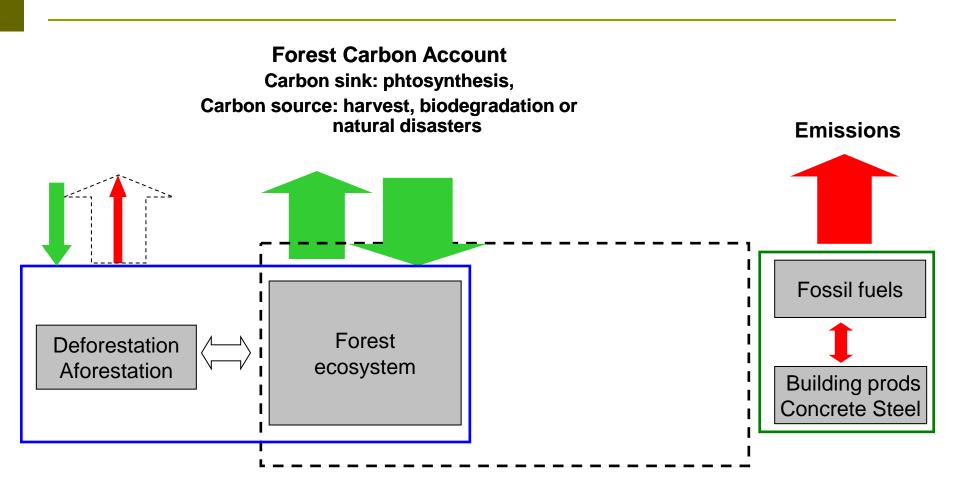
Carbon source: harvest, biodegradation or

natural disasters



Land use

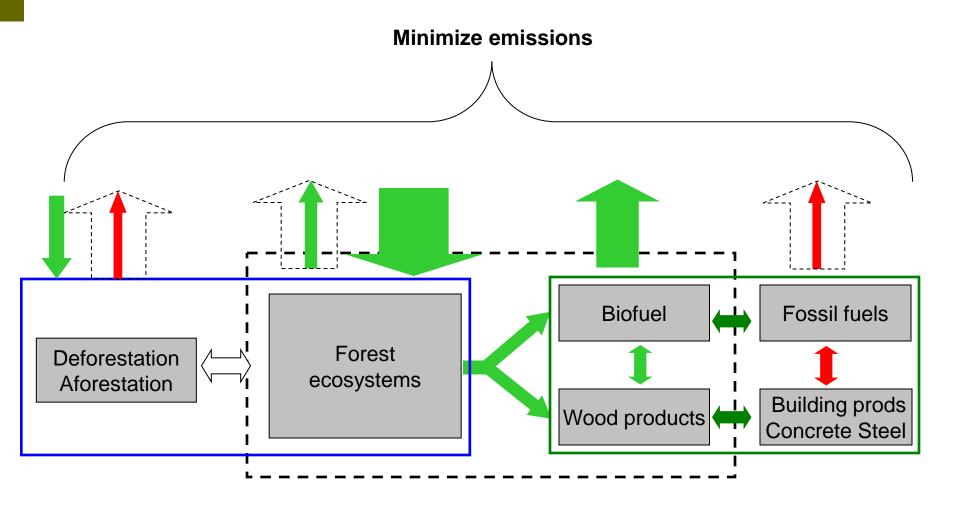
Forest sector



Land use

Forest sector

**Services to society** 



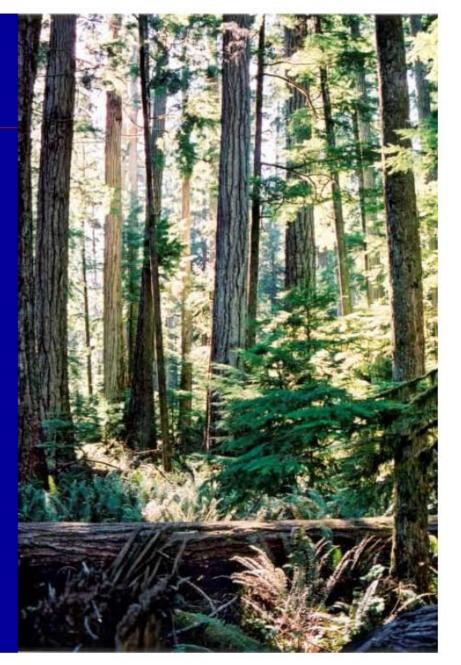
Land use

Forest sector

**Services to society** 

#### **Forest Carbon 101**

- 50% of the dry weight of wood is carbon.
- 1 m<sup>3</sup> of wood contains
   ~ 0.25 tons of carbon
- when burned releases
   ~ 1 ton of CO<sub>2</sub>
- $C \times 3.7 = CO_2$
- C in 1 m<sup>3</sup> of wood similar amount as in ~350 litres of gasoline.



Werner Kurtz, 2010

#### **Concrete 101**

- The process of reducing limestone to lime in a cement kiln requires temperatures in the order of 1400°C
- The chemical reduction of limestone looks like:

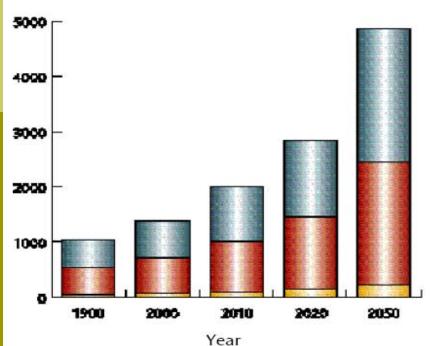
$$CaCO_3 \rightarrow CaO + CO_2$$
  
limestone  $\Delta$  lime carbon dioxide

**Source**: Bowyer et al. 2008

# Substitution of concrete

Projected CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the global cement industry through 2050 (assuming no change in current practices)

Millions of metric tonnes



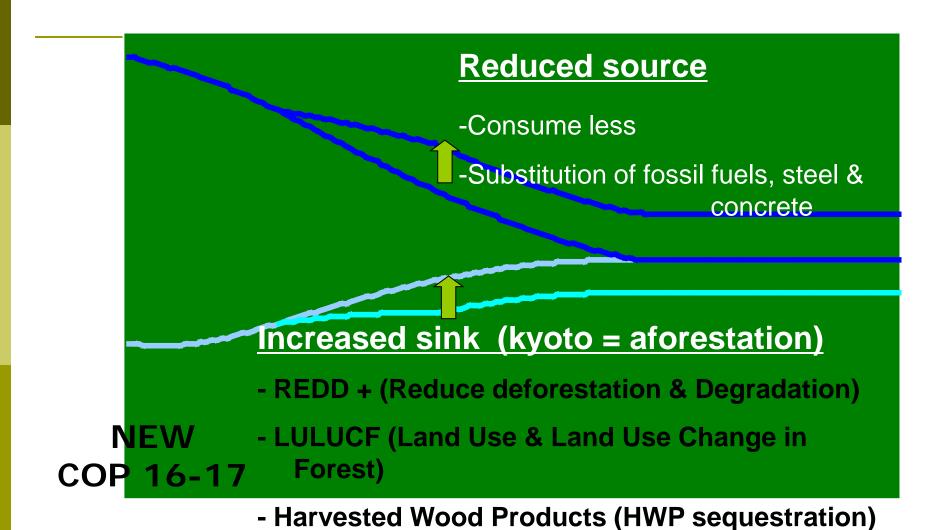


Inside a cement kiln, where temperatures reach more than 1400°C (2550°F).

- Process Emissions
- Fuel & Bectricity Emissions
- Transport Emissions

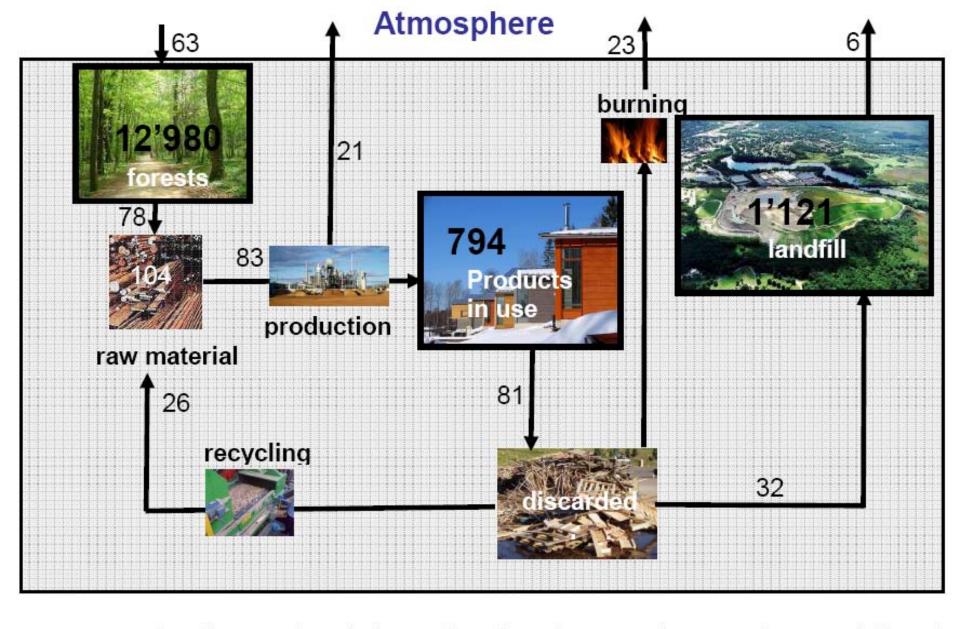
Source: Battelle Memorial Institute

# Kyoto protocol basics for mitigation achieved by increasing sinks or reducing sources



#### **Accounting of Harvested Wood Products**

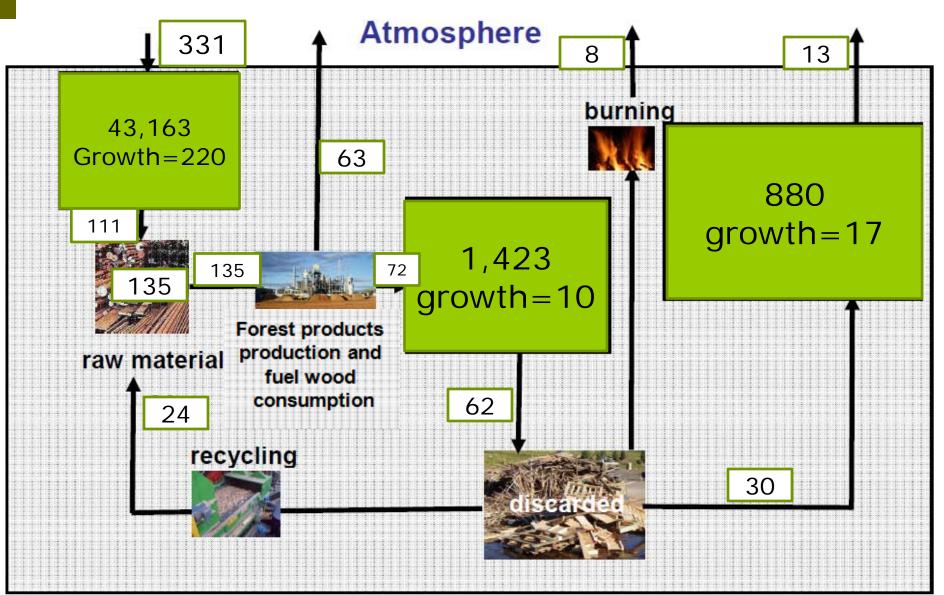
- Default assumption of the 1996 IPCC reporting guidelines is that amount of wood added to stocks of HWP from this year's harvest merely replaces C lost through decay and burning of C harvested in prior years.
- HWP C stocks are assumed constant
- Because inputs are assumed = outputs, the simplified assumption is that all material transferred from forest through harvest is immediately emitted to the atmosphere.
- But data indicate that HWP in use and in landfills are increasing (e.g. Apps et al. 1999).



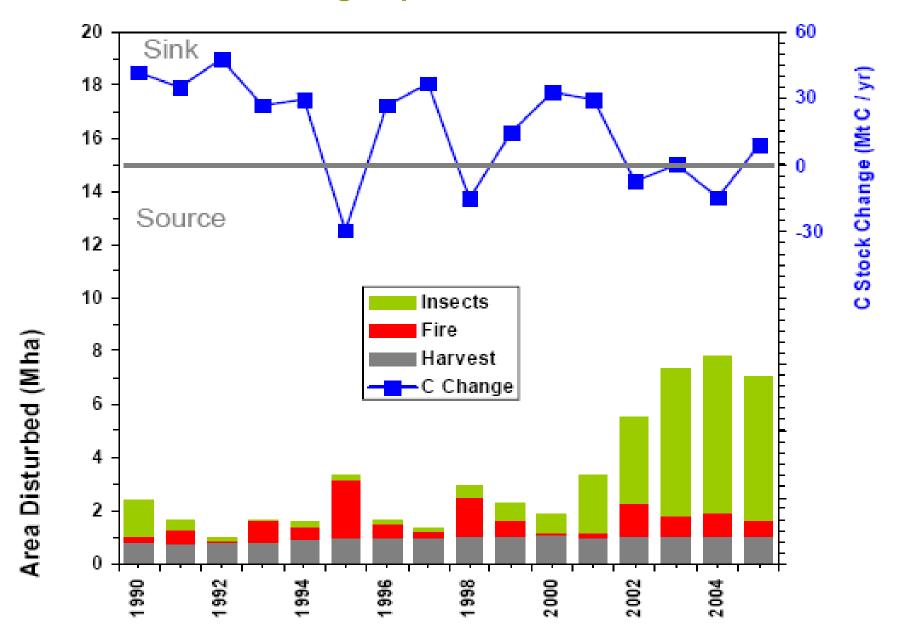
**Figure 1.** Carbon fluxes and stocks in wood products for Europe in 2000. Fluxes are indicated as arrows, stocks with boxes. The units are in teragrams  $(10^{12})$  of carbon per year (Eggers,  $2002)^2$ .

### Approximate values for the US

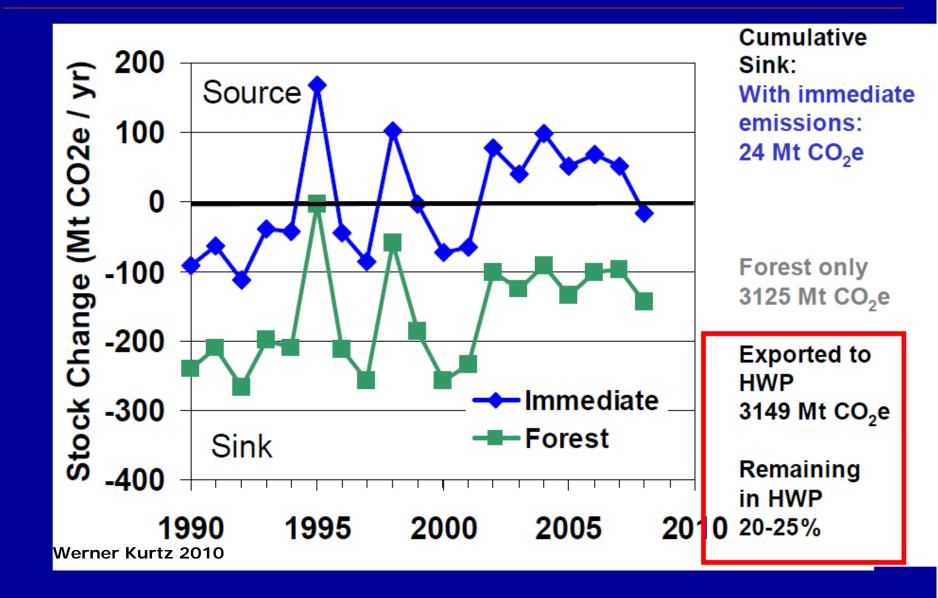
Data from USFS, FAO, AF&PA and other sources



# Carbon balance in the Canada managed forest Increasing importance of fire and insects



# GHG Fluxes with and without immediate emissions of harvested carbon



### Impact of UNFCCC reporting guidelines

- Default assumption of immediate emissions captures neither the timing nor the location of actual emissions.
- In Canada (1990 2008) ~3,150 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e are reported as emitted – but 20-25% of this remains stored in HWP.
- Many of the emissions occur outside Canada.
- Same issue for all (net) wood exporting countries.
- International convention to not report C stocks retained in HWP creates <u>public misunderstanding</u> of forest management contribution to C cycle.
- This convention also creates <u>no incentives</u> to improve HWP management for climate mitigation.

# Can the Building Sector contribute to a Climate Change Mitigation Portfolio?

- Sustainably managed forests provide renewable resources
  - → make best use of wood, carbon and energy
- Wood use in buildings can lead to long-term carbon storage
  - → design and build for long-term retention of C in wood
- Use wood to substitute steel, concrete, and other materials that are emissions-intensive to produce to reduce emissions
  - → where possible chose wood-based building materials
  - → recognise differences in embodied energy and emissions
- Good management of wood waste & post consumer material
  - → avoid disposal in landfills (CH<sub>4</sub>) and
  - → recover energy contained in wood waste

# Main Building Materials Contribution to GHG Emissions

Net Carbon Emissions in Producing a Ton of: 1/2/

Material	Net Carbon Emissions (kg C/metric ton)
Softwood lumber	33
Recycled steel (100% from scrap)	220
Concrete	265
Concrete block <sup>3/</sup>	291
Steel (virgin)	694

Values are based on life cycle assessment and include gathering and processing of raw materials, primary and secondary processing, and transportation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>/ Source: USEPA (2006).

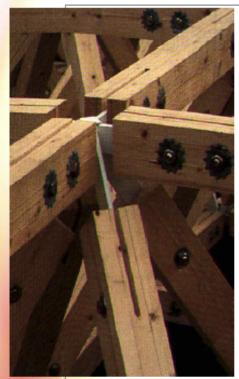
<sup>3/</sup> Based on the EPA concrete value and information about energy requirements in block-making.

# **Building Materials Carbon Footprint** (Including HWP Carbon sCquestration)

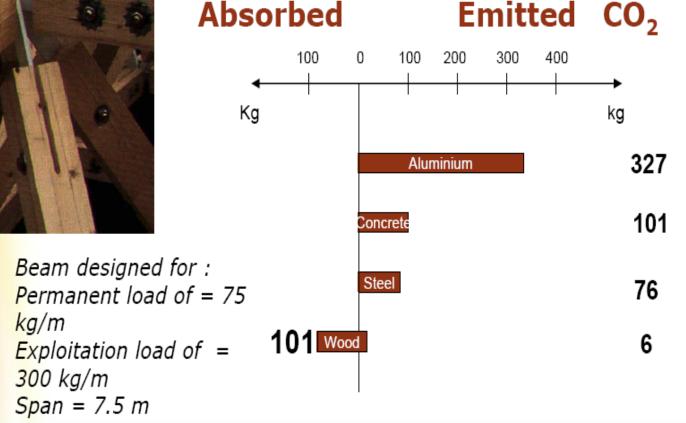
Material	Carbon emissions (Kg of C per ton)
Wood	-460
Glass	630
Virgin steel	1 090
Aluminium	2 400
Plastic	2 810

Source: Tayloraete\_Van Langenberg (2003).

# Construction Materials Compared on the Basis of CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions



Comparison of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions linked to the design of a beam made of Aluminium, Steel, Concrete and Solid Wood



## Role of Green Building Who are the Players in Green Building Policies?

### breeam

Passive House E-Design









WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL



## **Global Trend of Green Building Movement**



Green building assessment systems vary from country to country in accordance with local environmental and socioeconomic conditions.

#### **Mission Statement**



UNEP-SBCI works to promote sustainable building policies and practices worldwide.

#### **Stated Goals of the Initiative:**

- 1. Provide a common platform for stakeholders
- 2. Establish baselines
- 3. Develop tools and strategies
- 4. Demonstrate through pilot projects

#### Founding Members (2006)



- Agence de l'Environnement et de Maîtrise de l'Energie (ADEME), France
- Arcelor-Mittal Company, Luxembourg
- Broad Air-Conditioning, China
- Fasken Martineau (previously: Gravel, Leclerc & Associates), France
- Hydro Aluminium, Switzerland
- International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), The Netherlands
- Lafarge, France
- Plastedil SA, Switzerland
- Sinotech Engineering Consultants Ltd, Taiwan
- SKANSKA, Sweden
- World Steel Association, Belgium

#### 2009-2010 Membership

































































معهد بروة والديار القطرية للبحوث



















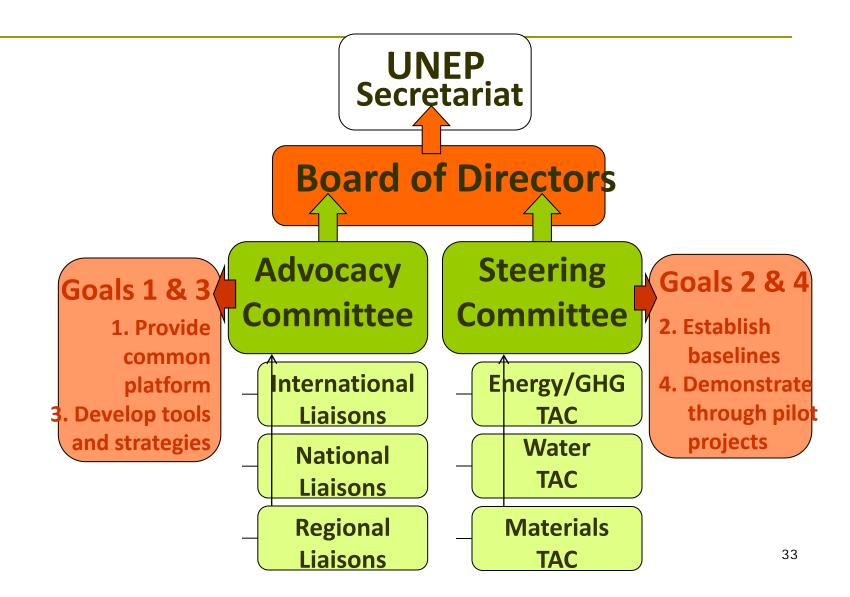






#### **UNEP-SBCI Structure**





# COP15 Submissions to UNFCCC





#### **United Nations Environment Programme**

· 联合国环境规划署 . برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT · PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

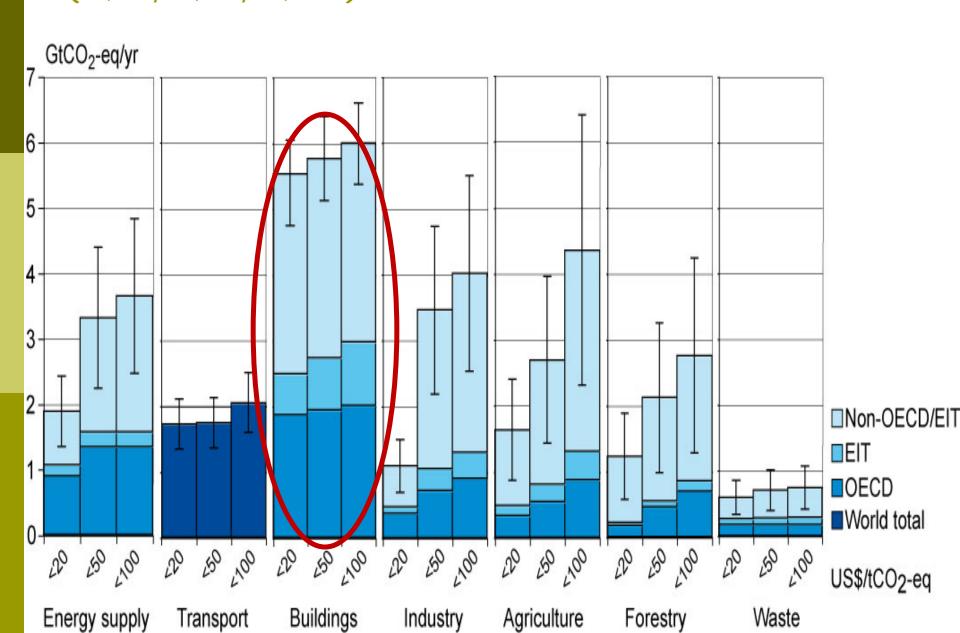
# Submission of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Sustainable Building Initiative (SBCI) to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)

24 April 2009

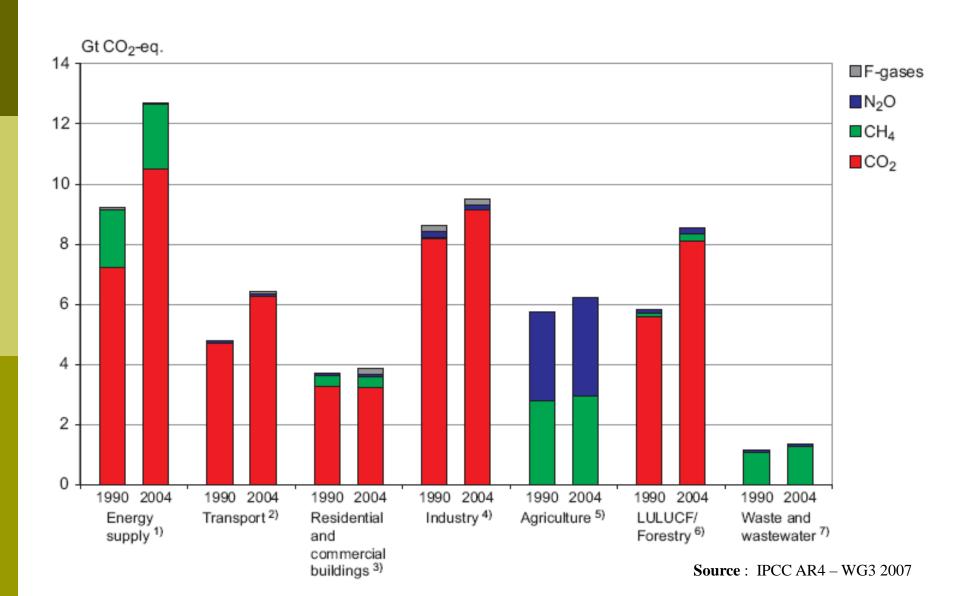
UNEP SBCI proposes that emission reduction in buildings is recognized as an appropriate area for NAMA and that the development of frameworks required to monitor, report and verify such actions are included in a post-2012 Agreement.

A registry of nationally appropriate mitigation action by all developing countries should be established, supported and enabled by developed countries through the provision of the means of implementation (technology, financing and capacity-building) to developing countries in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner in order to develop policy packages that promote emission reductions in buildings under NAMAs. These policy packages will require the development of indicators and metrics to report on emissions from buildings and to establish national baselines to enable reporting of achieved emission reductions.

# IPCC Assessment of Emission Reduction Potential in Different Sectors Depending on the Carbon Market Price (<\$20, <\$50, <\$100)



## Sources of GHG per sectors



#### **Establish Baselines**



### Objective 2: Frame a Common

Language for performance assessment of energy efficient & low carbon buildings, as a basis for consistent global reporting of building related greenhouse gas emissions.

- A. The Sustainable Buildings Index
- B. Steering Committee and Technical Advisory Committees

### **Steering Committee Members**



#### UNEP/SBCI Sustainable Buildings (SB) Index Steering Committee (SC)

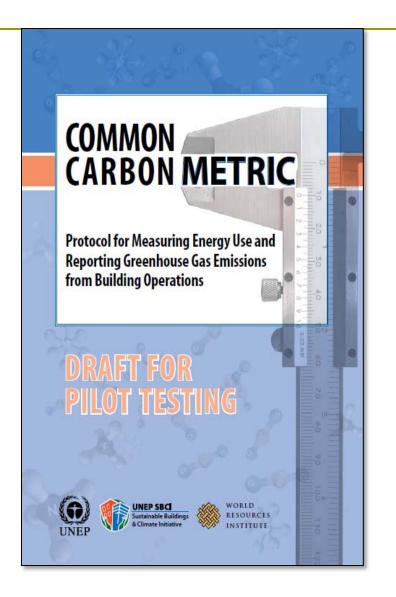
Sustainable Building Alliance	Ana Cunha	Board member	Partner- Sponsor of	
			the committee	

#### Ten seats are available for the 2010 Steering Committee. The committee is formed with the following ten nominees.

ORGANIZATION	NAME	POSITION/TITLE	SEAT
Council for Built	Nana Mhlongo	Manager Research and	Research
Environment, South Africa		Policy	Institution
Canada Wood	Robert Beauregard	Dean, Faculty of Forestry, Laval University	Not-for-Profit
Construction Industry and Development Board (CIDB)	Rodney Milford	Programme manager	Not-for-profit
Jordan Green Building Council	Abdullah Bdeir	Vice Chairman	Not-for-Profit
Hydro Building Systems	Werner Jäger	Head of Research and Development	Private sector
Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET)	Steven Baden	Executive Director	Private Sector
Bayer MaterialScience	Manfred Rink	Senior Vice President	Product Manufacturers
Lafarge	Constant van Aerschot	Director	Product Manufacturers
Brazilian Sustainable Building Council (CBCS)	Eduardo Trani	Chief in Cabinet - São Paulo State Housing Secretariat	Local Government
Building and Construction Authority Singapore	Kian Seng Ang	Director (Research)	National Government

## **The Common Carbon Metric**





Measuring Energy
Use & Reporting GHG
Emissions from
Building Operations

Energy kWh/m²/yr

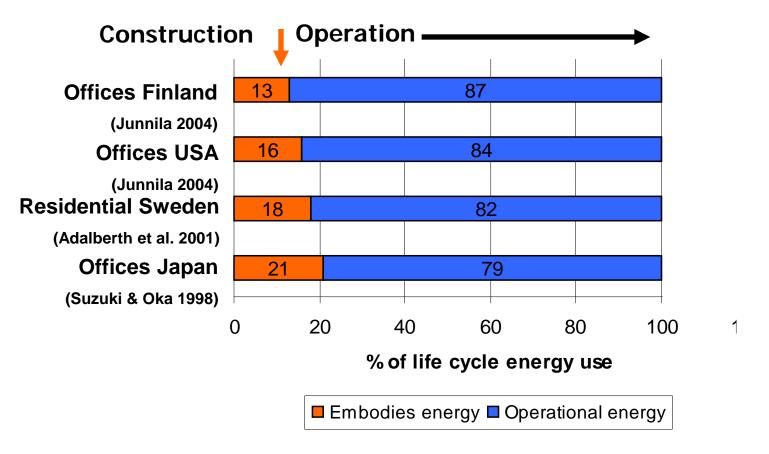
Emissions (equivalent (e)) kgCO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>/yr

In collaboration with: World Resources Institute (WRI)

## **The Common Carbon Metric**



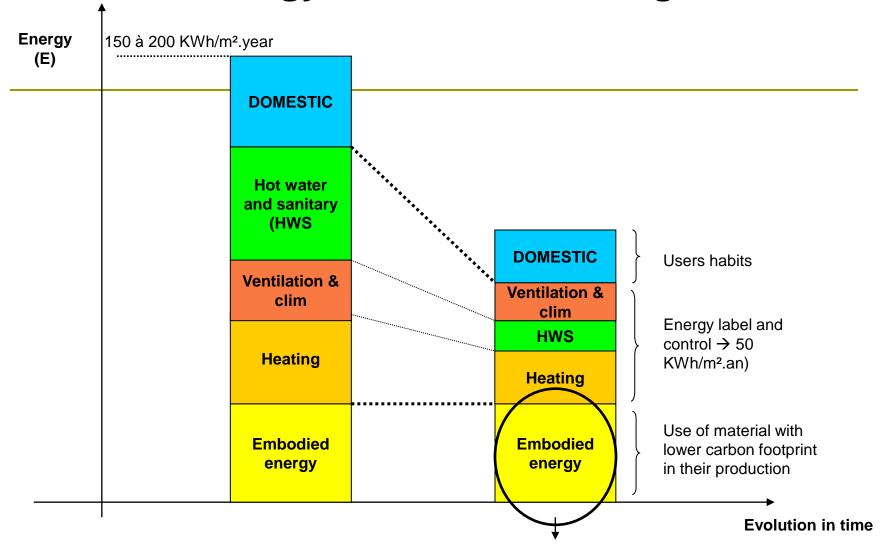
Operation of Buildings = about 80% of energy GHG



50% of total energy can be reduced at <u>net zero cost</u> with commercially available technologies

Source: SBCI, 2007

#### Embodied energy in a Green Building time frame



More efficient is the building, more important is the embodied energy in the life cycle scheme Plus' embodied energy is accounted during the first year

 Scientific evidence continues to increase and support the IPCC conclusions that:

A sustainable forest management strategy aimed at maintaining or increasing forest carbon stocks, while producing an annual sustained yield of timber, fibre or energy from the forest, will generate the largest sustained mitigation benefit (IPCC AR4, Nabuurs et al. 2007).

### WE NEED A GLOBAL STRATEGY

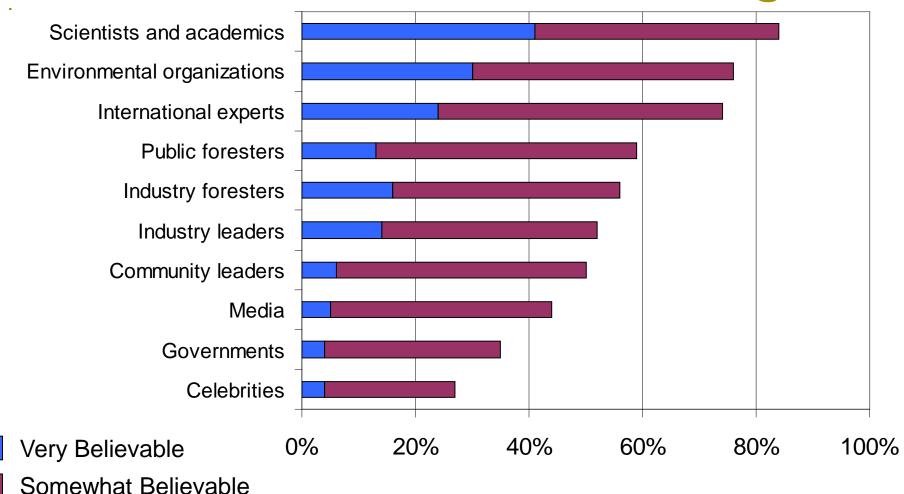
(9 Action Plans)



#### Metric

	FORÊT	BOIS	CONSTRUCTION
INTERNATIONAL	FI	ВІ	CI
NATIONAL	FN	BN	CN
RÉGIONAL	FR	BR	CR

# Who is credible in speaking about forests wood and climate change?



Source: IPSOS REID, 2007

# Next step: Social responsibility How much for this furniture? Quel prix pour ce meuble ?

Non an commerce des armes et des matieres premières avec les pags qui violent les droits humains. Amnesty 🗸 internations

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