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**Federal Office for the Environment FOEN**

## **Silva2015 – 3<sup>rd</sup> European Forest Week**

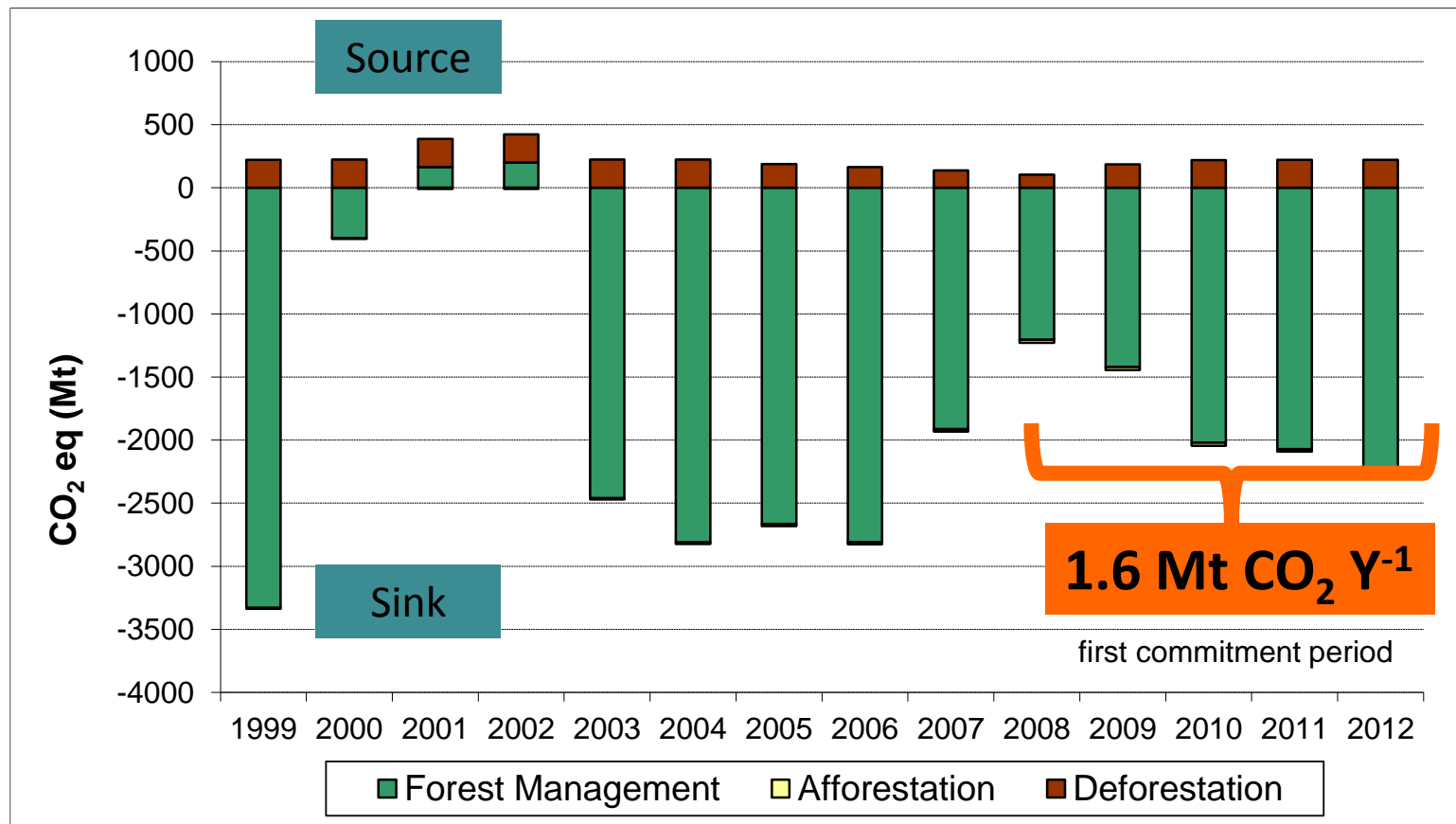
Engelberg, Switzerland, 2 – 6 November 2015

# **No mitigation without adaptation of forests to climate change**

Rolf Manser, Head of Forest Division, Federal Office  
for the Environment (FOEN)

4 November 2015

# CO<sub>2</sub>-balance of Swiss forests, 2008-2012 – a huge carbon sink





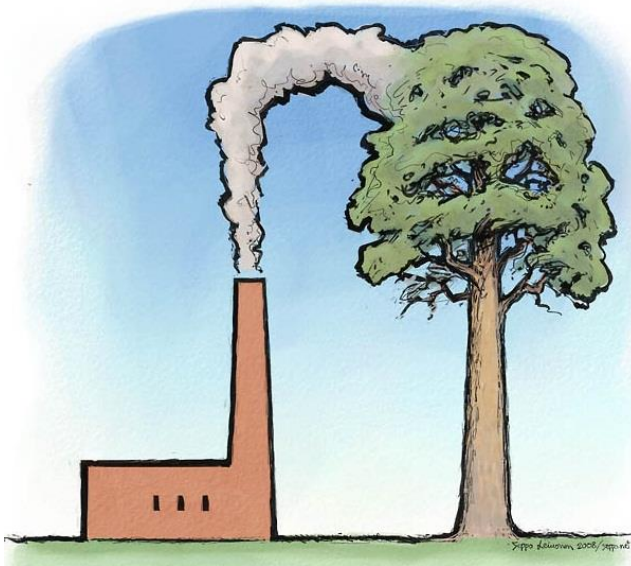
# Forest sink projects: high risks for forest owners





# Climate change protection potential of forests and wood – combine 3 effects

1. storage of CO<sub>2</sub>  
in wood



2. long-term CO<sub>2</sub>-  
detention in wood



3. Substitution of  
fossil fuel







# Waiting to be transformed into long lasting wood products







# Dry summer 2003 in Ticino







# warmer, drier, and more extreme





# Forest fires might also flash over to regions north of the Alps







# Tree regeneration with high adaptive capacity is key







# Results on Swiss Research Program Adaptation in Autumn 2016

## Research Programme Forests and Climate Change



### Why a research programme on forests and climate change?

Climate change and its impact on man and the environment is a central challenge for society in the 21st century. In the field of forestry, three questions are most important:

1. How will climate change affect forests?
2. How will climate change affect forest products and services?
3. What adaptation measures can be implemented to secure forest services?





# Important international cooperation





# Recommended actions on mitigation

- Forest owners to communicate their contribution to climate protection and claim compensation
- Develop processes and models e.g. by UNECE and FAO, to document and prove this performance
- Improve rules to optimize all three climate protection effects from forests and wood, especially in the context of the international climate negotiations
- mitigation alone through development of sinks is not sustainable, growing risks to older stocks





# Recommended actions on adaptation

- Adaptation to climate change is an indispensable condition for the forest ecosystem to safeguard mitigation and all other forest services
- The existing knowledge on adaptation of forests to climate change must be exchanged at the international level
- Adaptation as important theme at the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the FAO Committee on Forestry in 2016
- Discussion on adaptation should include all types of forest, from boreal to tropical forests
- forest policy processes like UNFF or Forest Europe to increase policy leadership on mitigation and adaptation