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Land use emissions ebb with forest conservation

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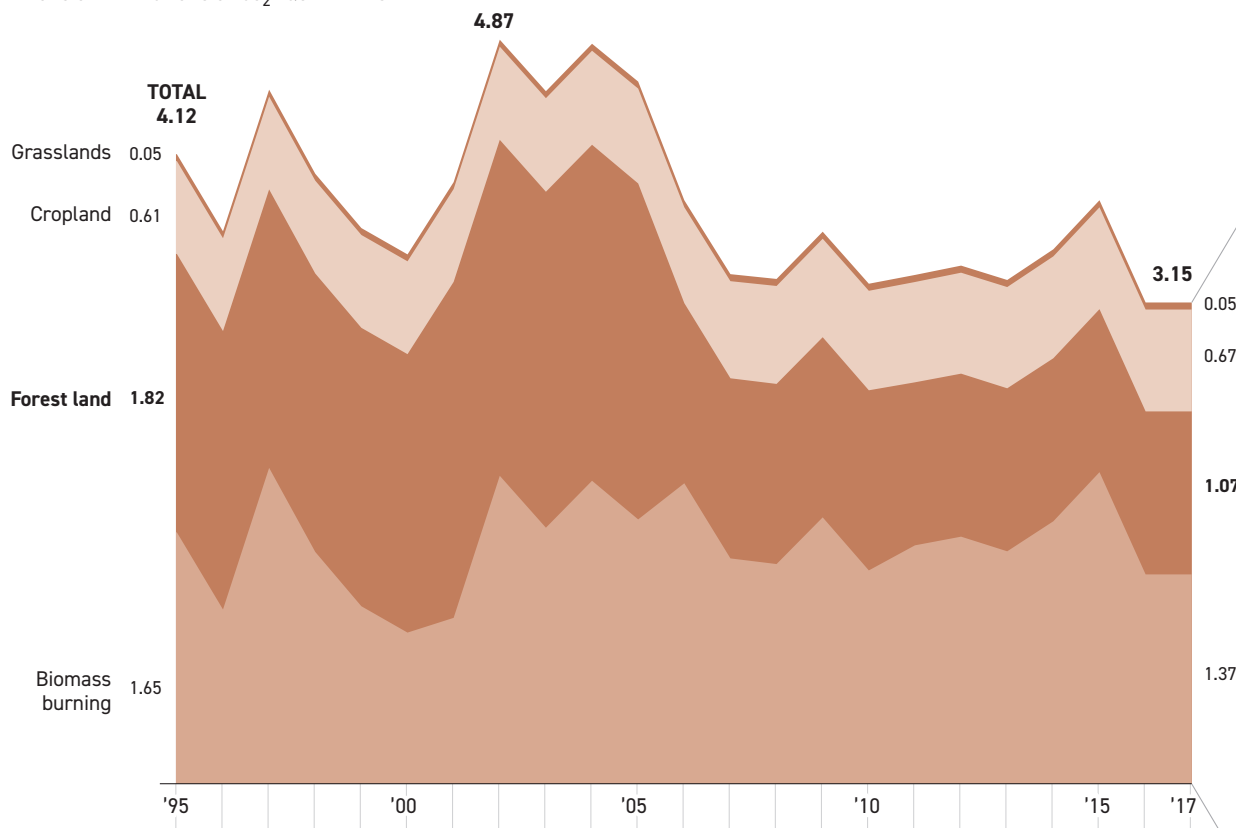
Net greenhouse gas emissions from human use of forest lands have fallen more than 40 percent since 1995, according to data from the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. Conserving forests can enhance their role as carbon sinks while helping prevent greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation. Should countries follow through with pledges of "nationally determined contributions" under the Paris agreement, scientists project that forest conservation could provide as much as a quarter of planned emissions reductions.

Overall, net emissions for total land use have decreased more than 40 percent since 1995

Net emissions from forestry have decreased in the past 25 years, but net emissions from burning biomass and agriculture are holding steady.

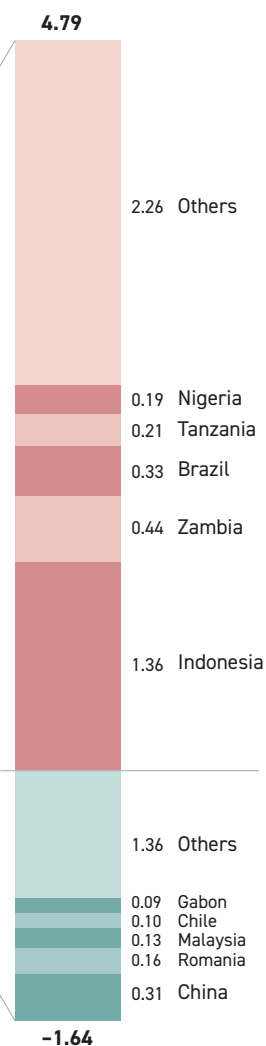
Net greenhouse gas emissions from land use,

BILLIONS OF METRIC TONS OF CO₂ EQUIVALENTS



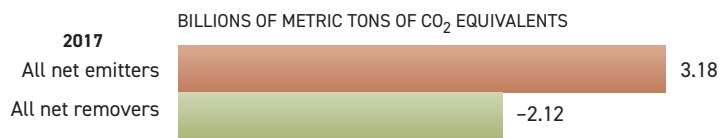
Top net emitters for total land use

Of the 122 countries in 2017 with net-positive emissions from land use, five countries accounted for more than half of those net-positive emissions.

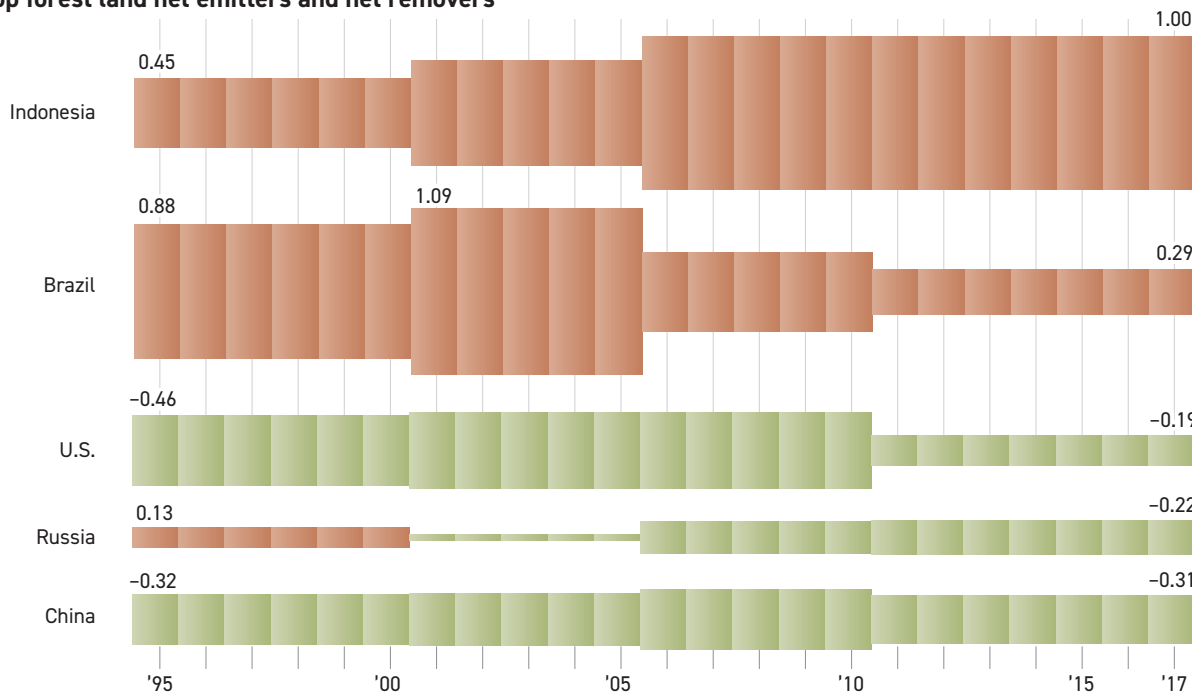


Forest land net emitters outpace net removers by 50 percent

In the past 25 years, forest loss in Indonesia increased significantly. Deforestation in Brazil had subsided until 2019. The policies of President Jair Bolsonaro now encourage conversion of protected forests to agriculture and mining.



Top forest land net emitters and net removers



Top net removers for total land use

Of the 82 countries in 2017 with net-negative emissions from land use, five countries (Gabon, Chile, Malaysia, Romania and China) accounted for nearly half of those net-negative emissions.

Sources: FAOSTAT; "The key role of forests in meeting climate targets requires science for credible mitigation," Nature - Climate Change