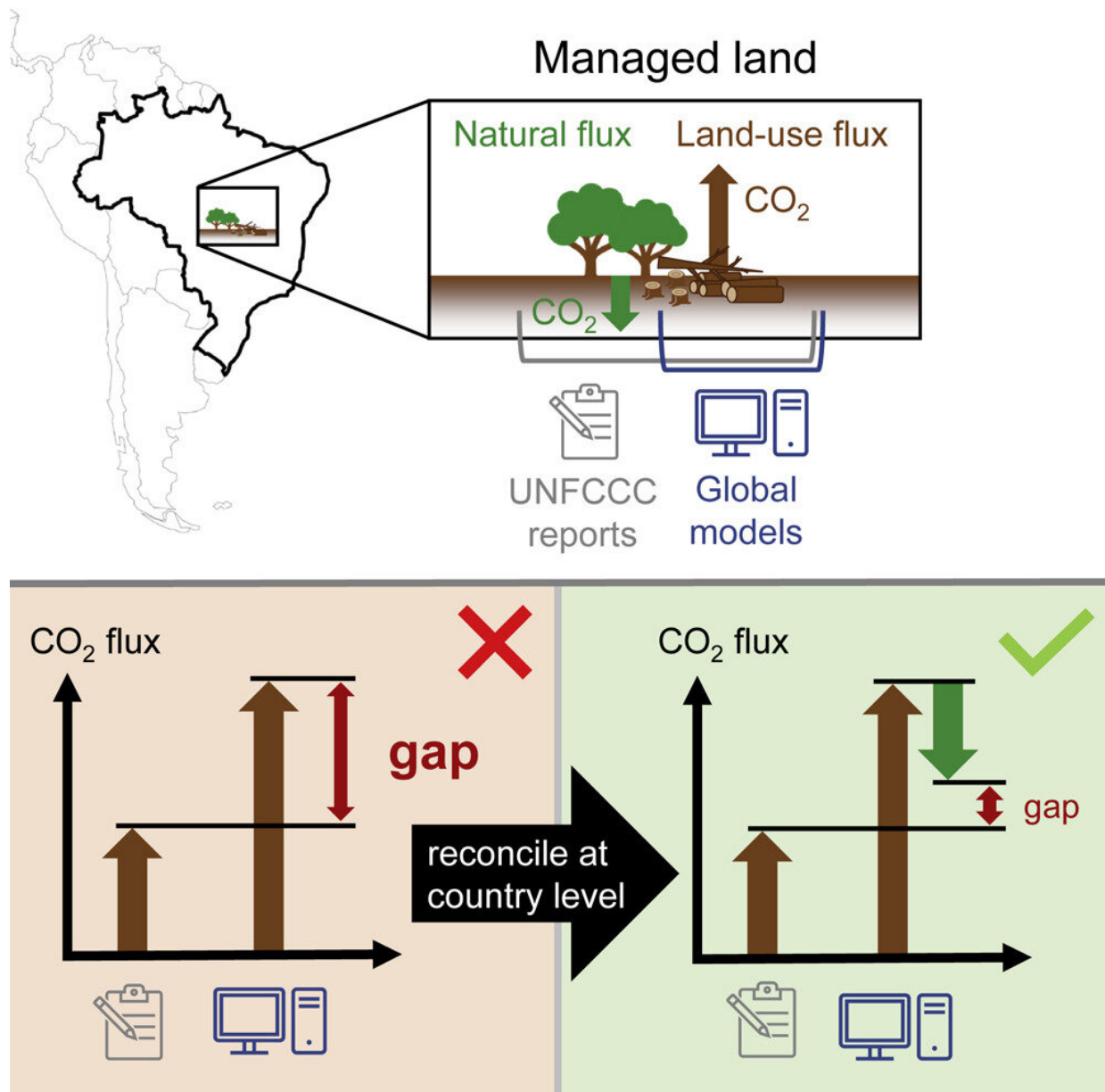


# Climate change: Evaluating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use with greater precision

December 21 2022



Graphical abstract. Credit: *One Earth* (2022). DOI: 10.1016/j.oneear.2022.11.009

Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) geographers have analyzed discrepancies in data on land-use-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, allowing more precise evaluations of climate protection measures.

Determining [greenhouse gas emissions](#) precisely and consistently is essential for mitigating [climate change](#). Due to different methods and definitions, however, the land-use-related CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes calculated from global models deviate from the data furnished to the UN in the country reports.

In their reports, for example, the [countries](#) frequently combine natural and indirect, human-caused CO<sub>2</sub> flows on managed land. This leads to a certain amount of double-counting of natural CO<sub>2</sub> absorption by the ground and vegetation, causing an overestimation of the remaining carbon budget to limit [global warming](#) to 1.5°C or 2°C.

A team led by LMU geographers Clemens Schwingshackl and Julia Pongratz has now harmonized the various calculation methods at country level and determined possible reasons for outstanding differences. The researchers' analysis allows country targets to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use to be evaluated with greater precision, thereby supporting the fair distribution of climate mitigation goals.

The work is published in the journal *One Earth*.

**More information:** Clemens Schwingshackl et al, Differences in land-based mitigation estimates reconciled by separating natural and land-use CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes at the country level, *One Earth* (2022). [DOI](#):

[10.1016/j.oneear.2022.11.009](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.oneear.2022.11.009)

Provided by Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

Citation: Climate change: Evaluating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use with greater precision (2022, December 21) retrieved 5 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2022-12-climate-co2-emissions-greater-precision.html>

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