

The Assault of Biomass Energy

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Earth Systems Science

**Life is the key ingredient
shaping the biosphere**

**Biodiversity, key measure
of planetary health**





Ecosystems drive
biospheric cycles

Carbon counting,
deeply reductionist

...Bioenergy as “carbon
neutral”

Plantations hold just 4 to
20% of carbon of natural
forests



tree-biotech.com
Eucalyptus, Kenya

Tropical regions favoured, where land rights can be easily discounted



Forest clearance for Palm Oil



Sarawak, Malaysia
Friends of the Earth Europe



Bruno Manser Fund
www.brunomanser.info

Logging Concession offered
on 1 Million Ha of protected
Penan Territory, March 2011

1/5 of all plant species face extinction; 2010 Sampled Red List Index

Land Grabs and Food Riots



Violent eviction, Guatemala
farmlandgrabs.org



Food riots; Delhi and Mozambique



Burning the biosphere for electricity

Biomass produces **1.5 times GHG emissions of coal**, excluding indirect impacts

Electricity only power stations are **only 25-30% efficient** (EU demands 70%)

New demand is **6 times entire UK wood production**

Sustainability criteria don't even recognise the need to protect human rights, no independent auditing is required, indirect impacts not addressed

Already 82% of UK 'renewable energy' comes from biomass

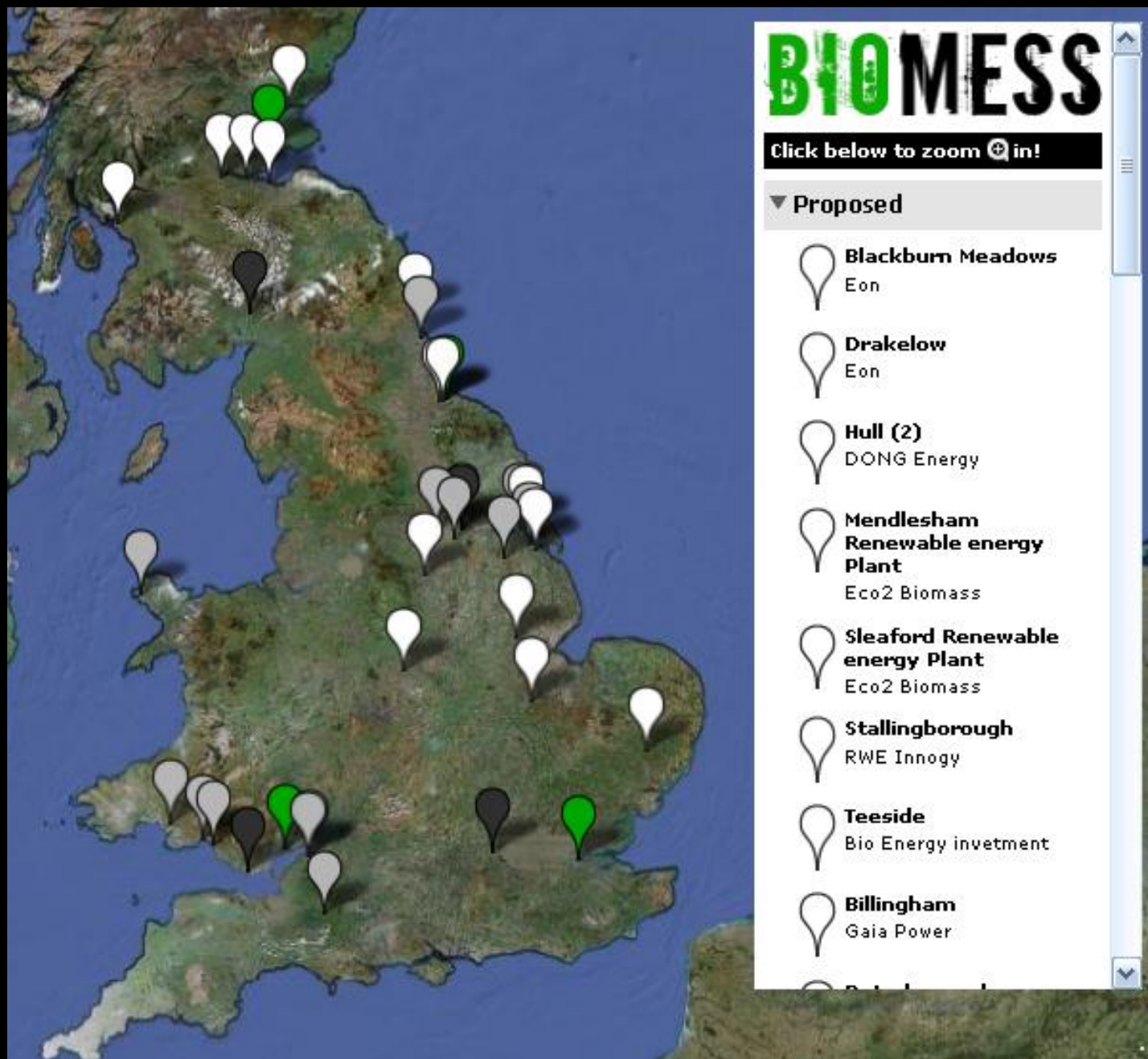


“Green, clean and provides jobs” ...!

- UK Committee on Climate Change: raised concerns on level of biomass energy emissions in relation to Climate Bill targets
- UK Environmental Audit Committee: raised concerns on already breached air quality standards in UK (1.75m life years to be lost by 2020)
- European Env Agency Scientific Committee: described assumption that biomass is carbon neutral as “a serious accounting error”

Both massive new demand and generous subsidies for bioenergy stimulate the illegal logging industry as targets bear no relation to supply availability

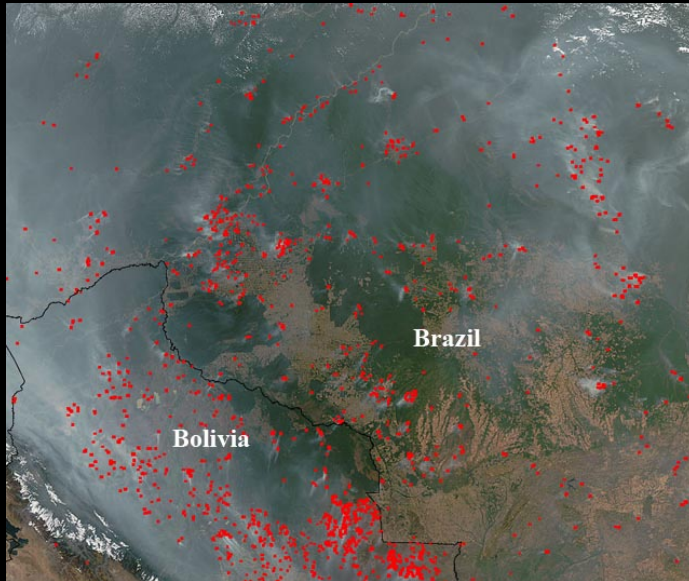
Open Letter from 200 scientists have failed to influence government to review the above



43 biomass
power stations
in pipeline

...all around the
UK coastline!

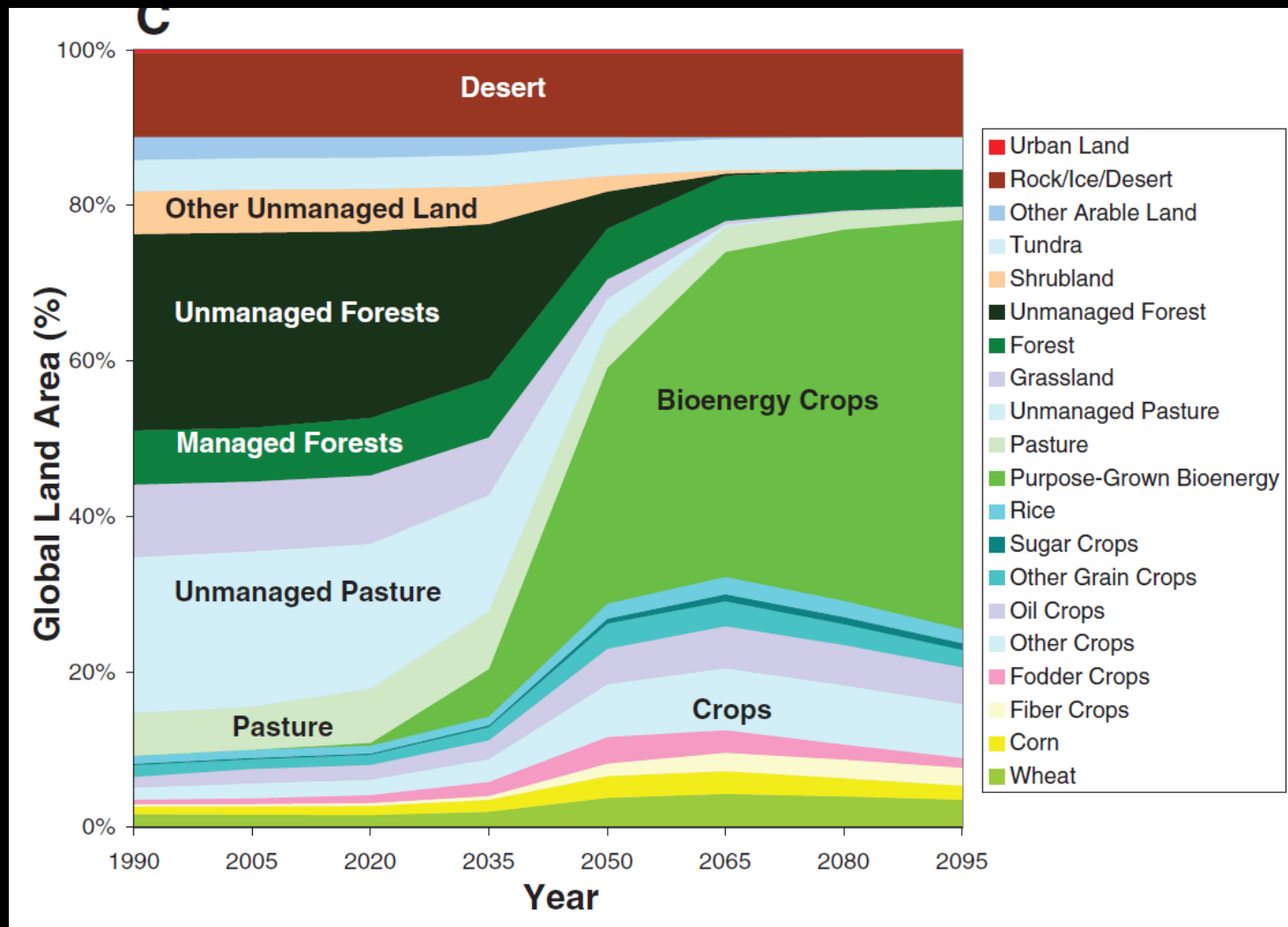
Incentives Drive the Market *leading to ecosystem conversion*



ROCs SUBSIDIES
Biomass & Energy Crops vs Onshore Wind

2 : 1

So far (2012) plans to 2020 = £3 billion pa subsidies



Forecast by **Wise et al**, published in Science of what will happen to the world's forests and grassland with policies to reduce CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels and which class all bioenergy as 'carbon neutral'.

Most large scale climate change mitigation policy proposals Involving ecosystems are either unproven or directly increase greenhouse gas emissions whilst ...

...transferring land rights into the hands of corporates

Is this the real agenda?