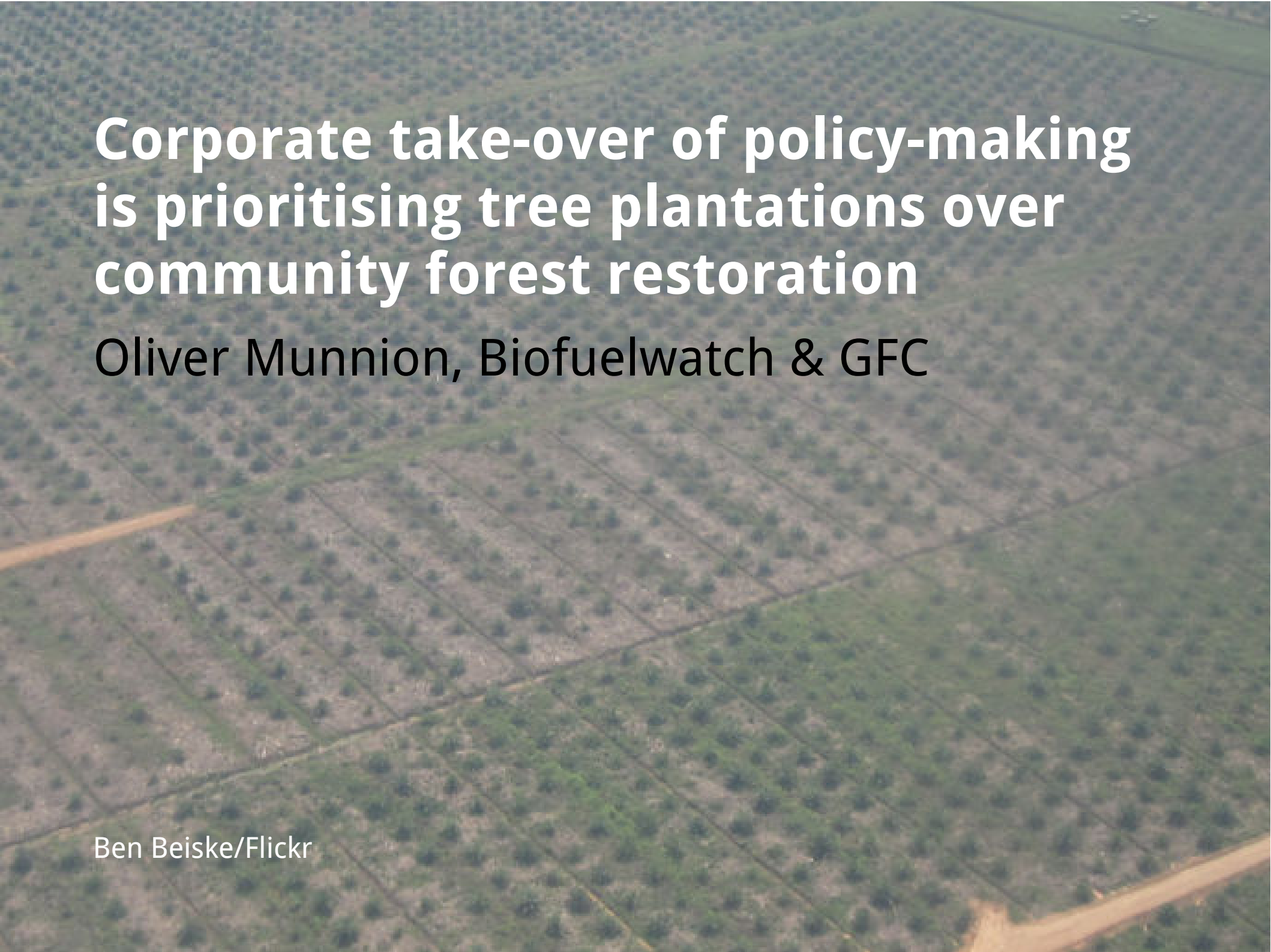
Corporate take-over of policy-making is prioritising tree plantations over community forest restoration

Oliver Munnion, Biofuelwatch & GFC



Ben Beiske/Flickr

Nepal

Nawalparsi FECOFUN

Tanzania

Simone Lovera

Tanzania

Edna Kaptoyo

Sabah, Malaysia

PACOS Trust

BUT, sadly, these fantastic projects recieve little support.

Why?

- There is a real problem of corporate capture of policy making in the forest and climate change sector
- Increasing emphasis on private climate finance and PPPs
- Public institutions become dependent on corporate finance and will prioritise commercially attractive projects like bioenergy plants and monoculture tree plantations
- Corporations then lobby for subsidies for their bioenergy and tree plantation businesses
- Governments will be hesitant to refuse as they depend on private finance themselves

Climate Finance for tree plantations

- **Brazil:** Commercial reforestation of the Cerrado, 18,000ha commercial teak plantations (FIP)
- **Ghana:** Public-private partnerships for the restoration of “degraded forest reserves” through commercial teak plantations (FIP)
- **Ivory Coast:** Project involves 100,000ha of tree plantations, public-private partnerships (FIP)
- **Mozambique:** “Emissions reductions” through planting of 200,000ha of eucalyptus plantations for pulp and paper with global pulp and paper company (FIP)
- **Paraguay:** 23,000ha exotic tree plantations for soy sector (GCF)
- **Uganda:** 12,000ha commercial pine plantations, carbon credits sold to Swedish Energy Agency (CDM/FSC)

Paraguay

"Exotic" tree plantations to produce bioenergy for the soy sector, one of the main drivers of deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions in the country

Ronnie Hall

Carbon Violence

Uganda

- Forced evictions
- Loss of access to grazing & food security
- Pesticide pollution

Plantations in Portugal

Allysse Riordan

Journal de Noticias

In 2017…

64% of “reforestation” permits were for eucalyptus,
Only 13% for native oaks

More eucalyptus planted than in any other year:

- 18 million Euros from Portuguese Government to increase productivity of eucalyptus plantations, alongside a
- 125 million investment from the private sector
- And 9 million from the EU “rural development program”

Also… 24 million Euros made available for planting with native species, but **ZERO** spent

PTP
PENELA SERRA LANAGENS

Subsidies and support for bioenergy: Incentivising plantations & forest destruction

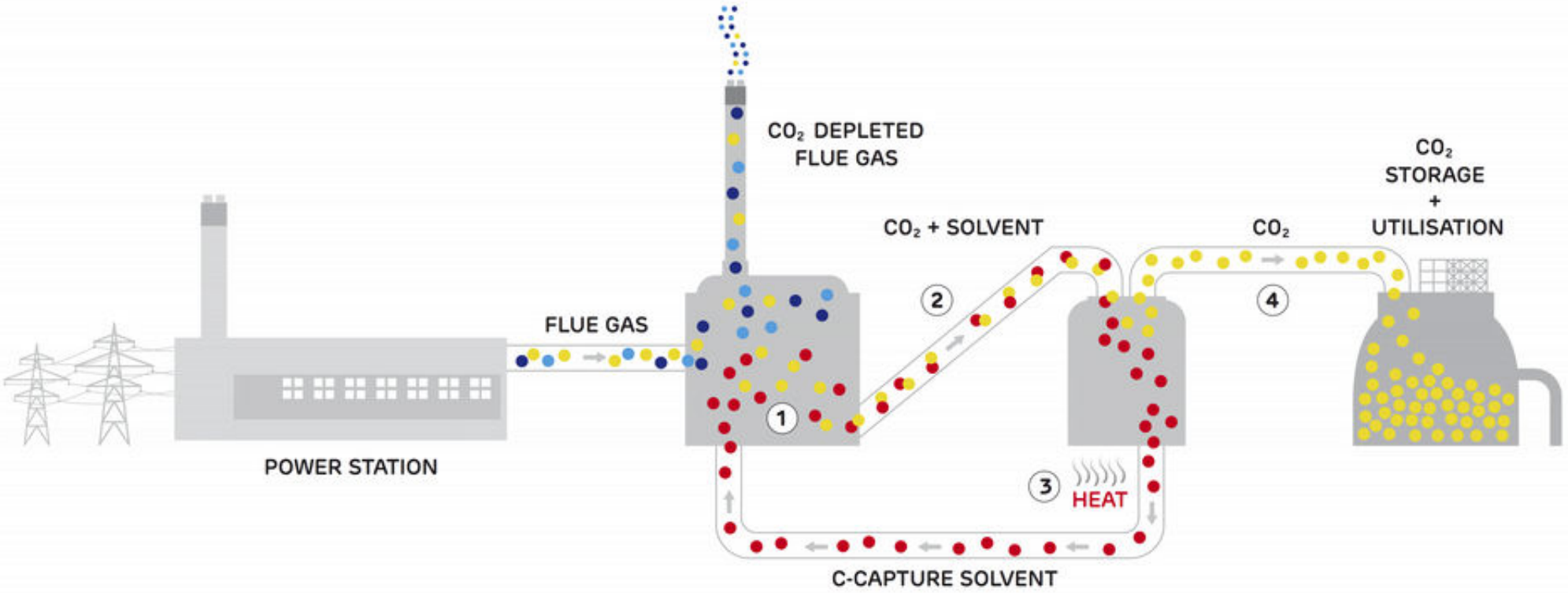
Nican45/Flickr

Dogwood Alliance

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Geoengineering with BECCS...

C-Capture BECCS pilot at Drax Power Station



KEY:

- Flue gases
- C-Capture solvent
- CO_2

PROCESS:

1. Drax biomass flue gases injected into absorber containing C-Capture's solvent
2. The solvent 'collects' the CO_2 and is transferred to the next phase of the process
3. Heat is used to separate the C-Capture solvent from the CO_2
4. CO_2 is stored and utilised, whilst the C-Capture solvent is re-used

BECCS feedstock: tree plantations?

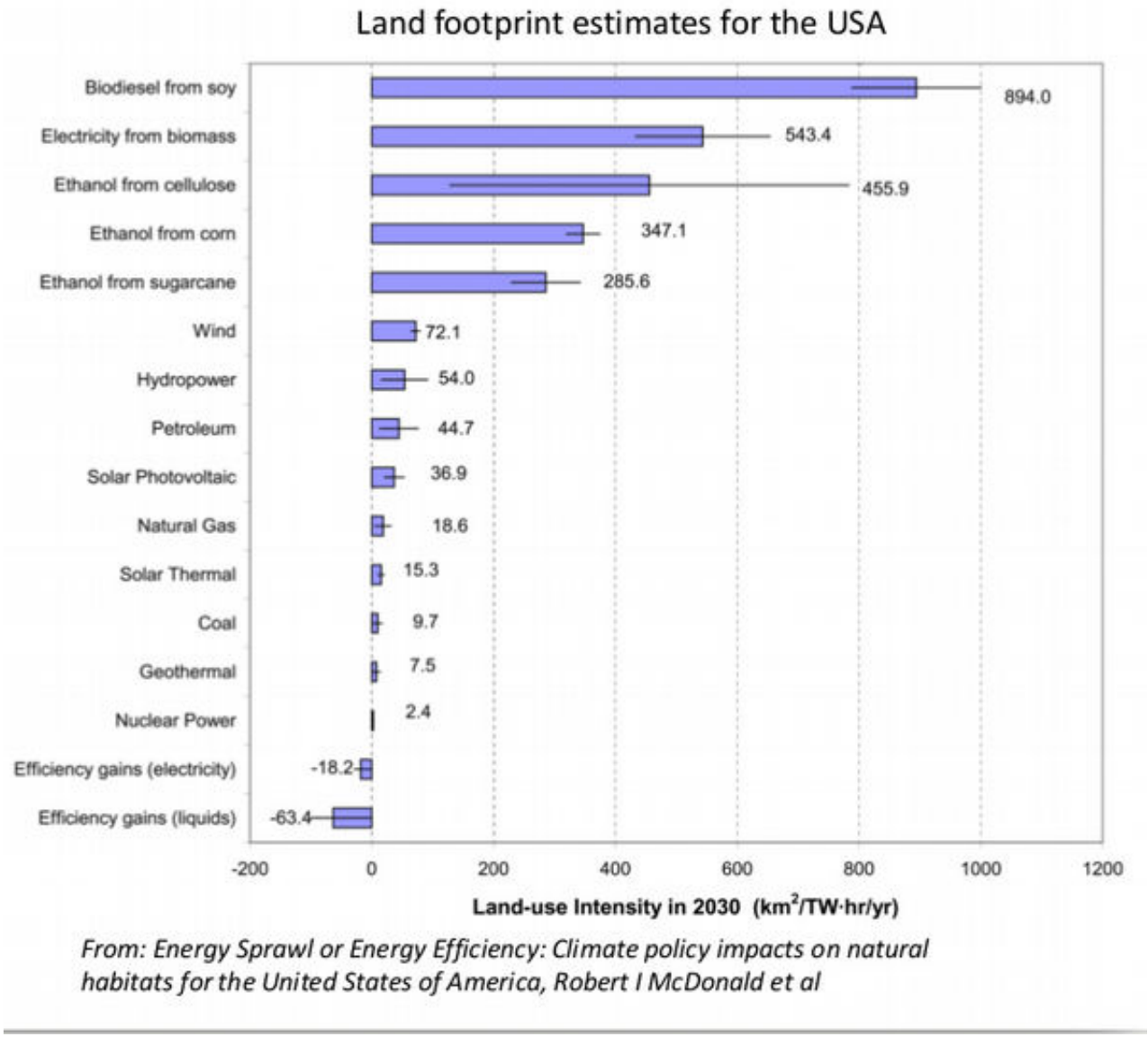
Ivonete Gonçalves de Souza

Bioenergy has by far the largest land footprint of all forms of energy.

AND

Estimates of "residues and wastes" availability hugely optimistic.

Tim Searchinger: Burning all genuine logging residues in the USA for energy could meet just 1% of the country's energy demand – & deplete soils of nutrients & carbon.



From: Energy Sprawl or Energy Efficiency: Climate policy impacts on natural habitats for the United States of America, Robert I McDonald et al

Is large-scale BECCS likely? No!

But policy support for it will…

Legitimise dirty forms of bioenergy

Result in a significant gearing-up of new industrial tree plantations

… And already, Climate Finance is being directed towards commercial tree plantations

There are other ways of removing carbon from the atmosphere!

- let forests and soils to keep doing it
- end deforestation
- ecosystem & forest restoration
- community management and conservation

But, the approach must be:

- rights-based
- led from the bottom-up
- free from private-sector capture

Thank you!