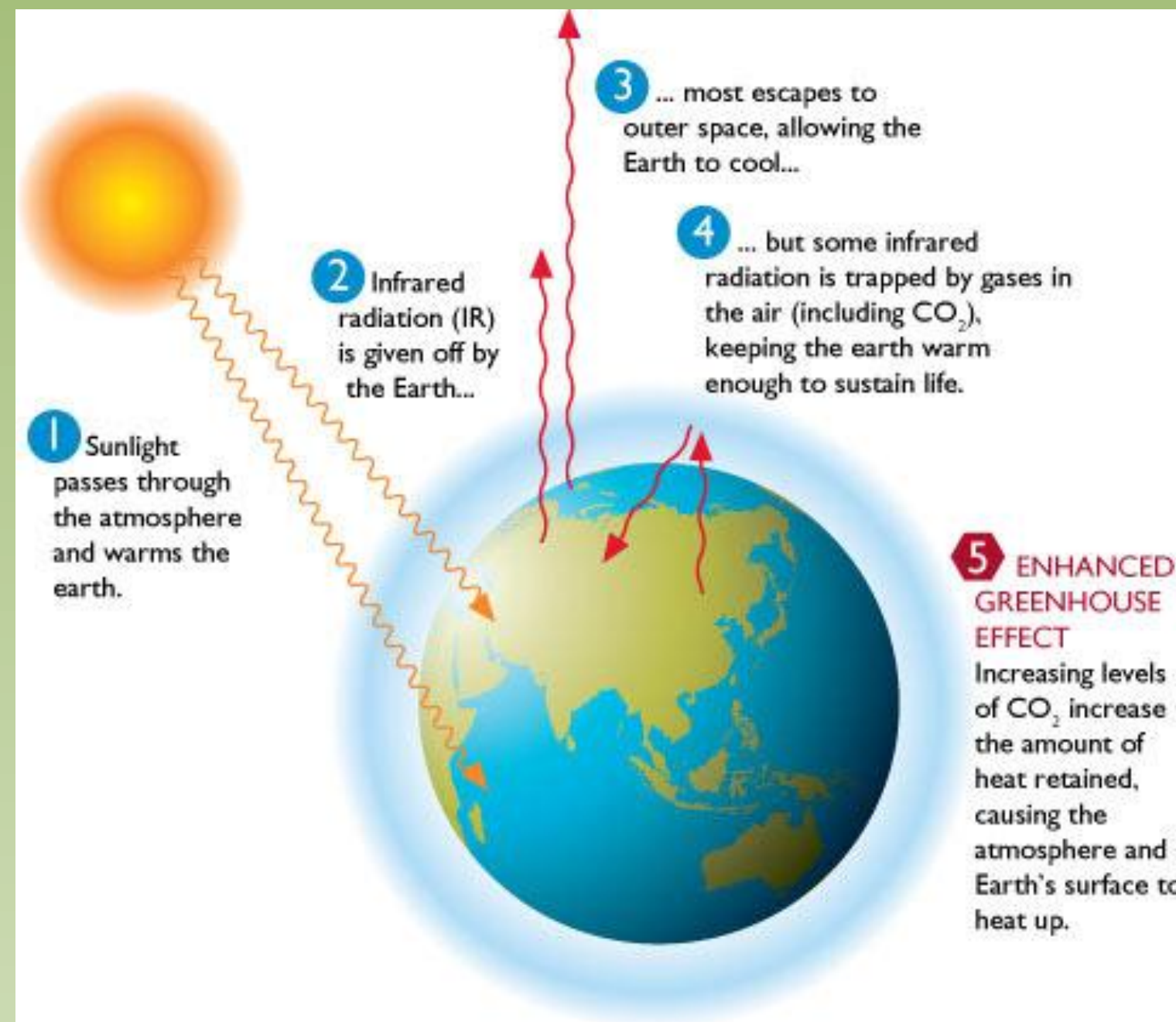


FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

CLIMATE CHANGE

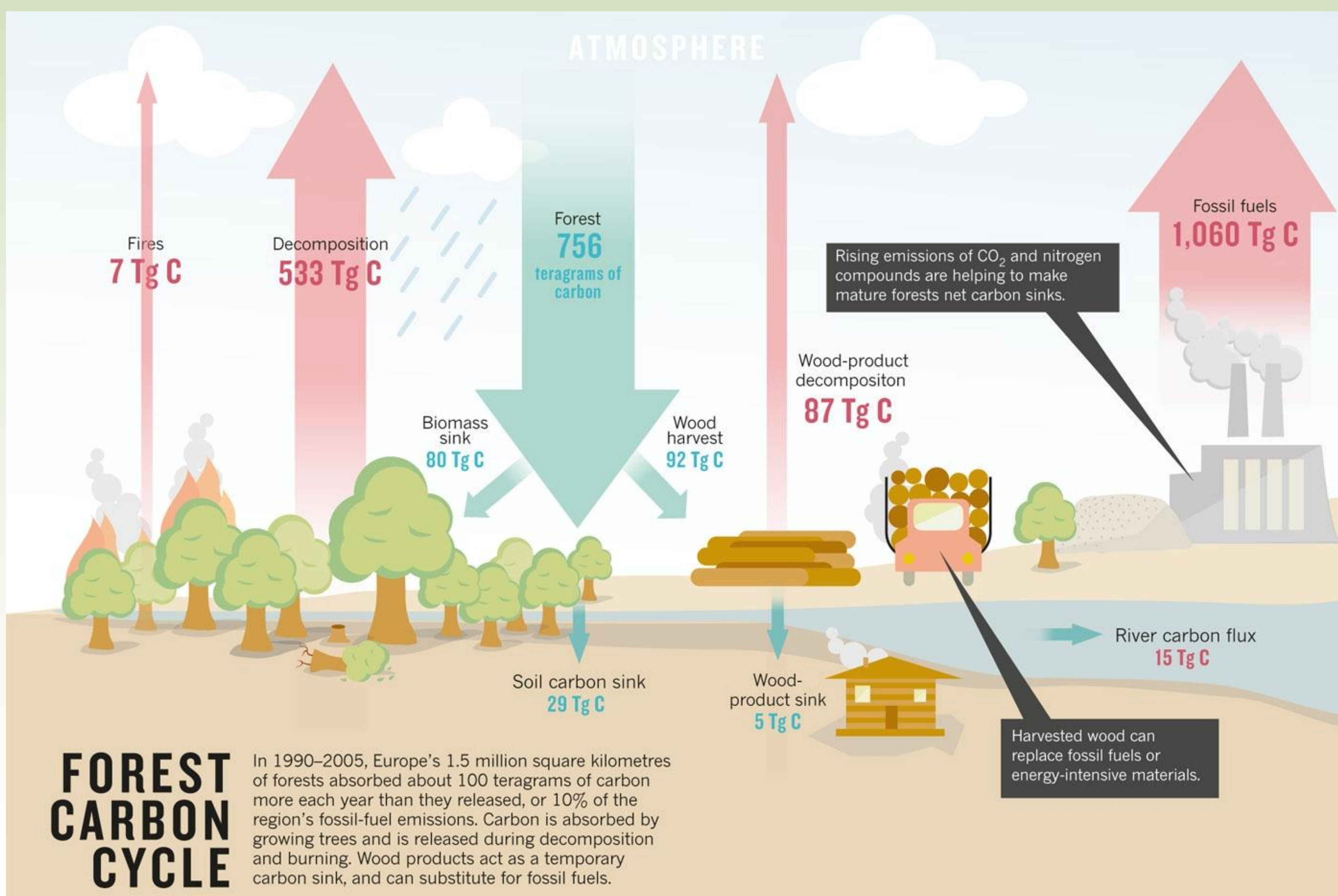
- Earth's climate is driven by a continuous flow of energy from the sun
- Energy in the form of heat (from the sun) passes through the Earth's atmosphere and warms the Earth's surface
- As the temperature increases, the Earth sends heat energy (infrared radiation) back into the atmosphere
- Because of exhaust gases of cars, litters etc.



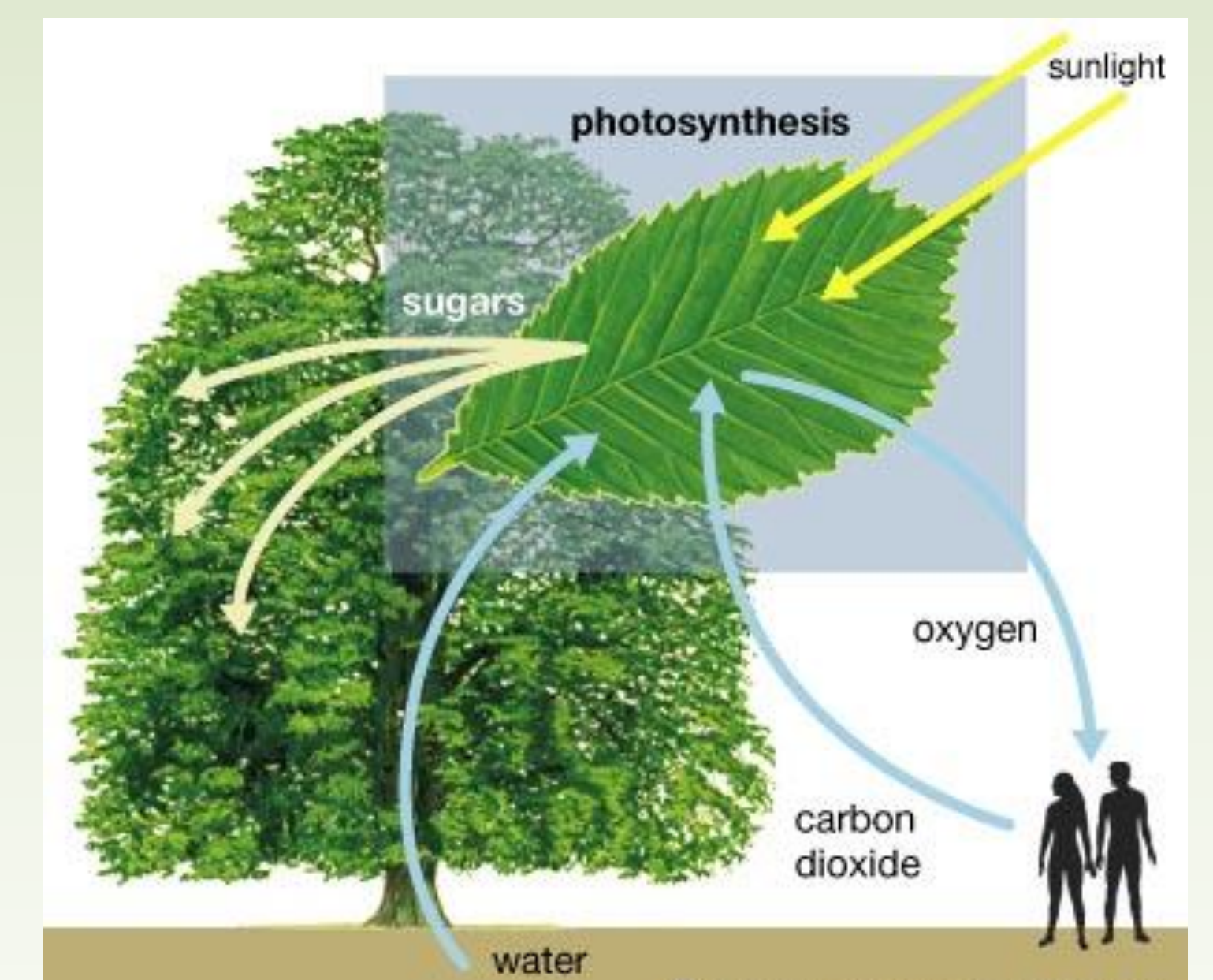
Effects that scientists had predicted in the past would result from global climate change are now occurring:

- loss of sea ice
- accelerated sea level rise
- warmer conditions
- longer, more intense heat waves

THE ROLE OF FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

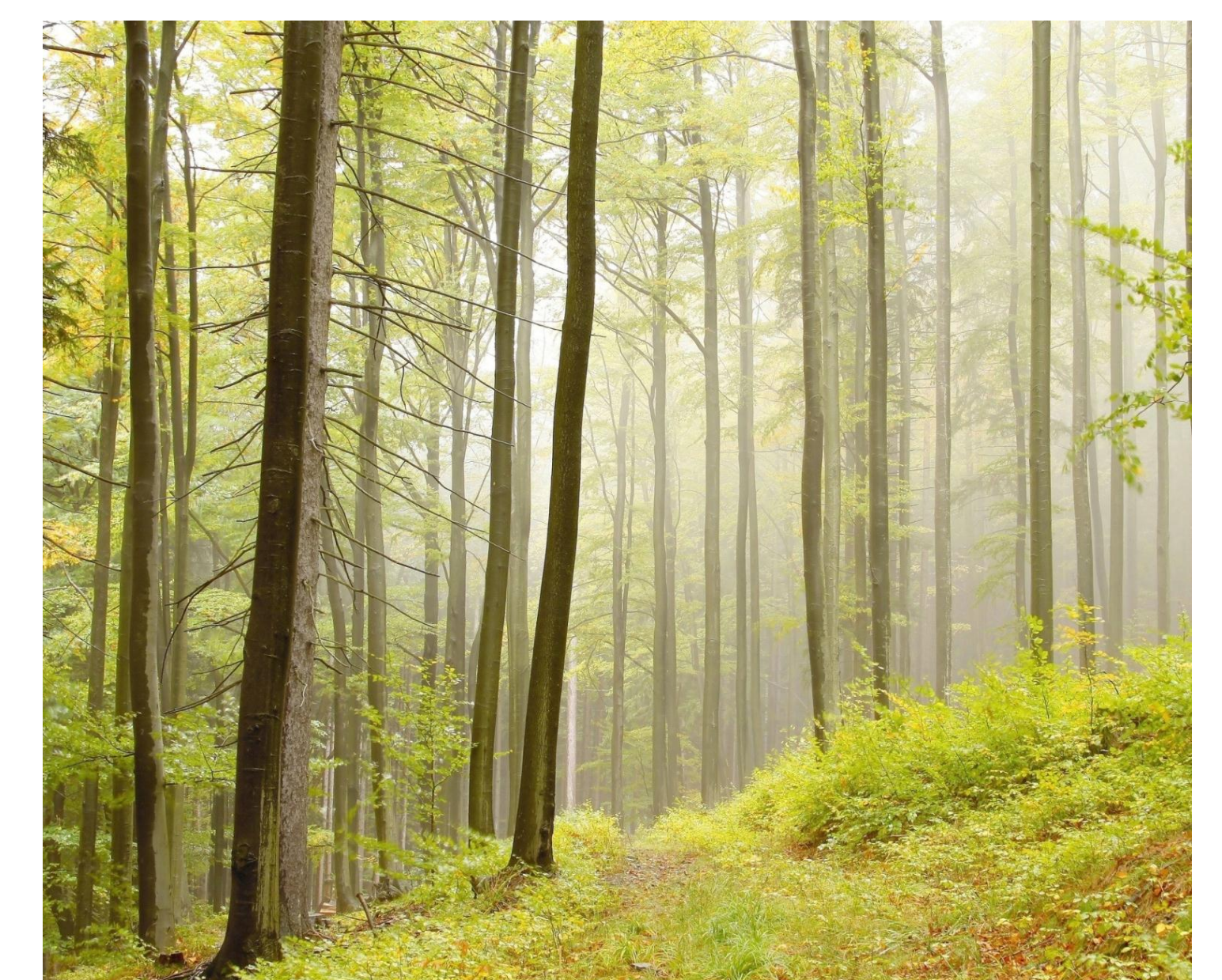


- Forests prevent soil erosion, help in maintaining the water cycle, and check global warming by using carbon dioxide in photosynthesis



- Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
- They store nearly 300 billion tonnes of carbon in their living parts
- When they're destroyed through logging or burning, this carbon is released into the atmosphere as the climate-changing greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide

- best way to manage forests to store carbon and to mitigate climate change is hotly debated
- To make good decisions about how to cultivate forests for climate-change mitigation, such as whether it is better to harvest or conserve trees, we must better understand the cause and future behaviour of this in situ carbon sink
- Wood can be a substitute for fossil fuels and carbon-intensive materials such as concrete and steel



Easy things you can do to help our climate

1. Inflate your tires
2. Travel light
3. Teleconference instead of flying
4. See the light
5. Recycle and use recycled products
6. Plant native trees
7. Turn down the heat
8. Buy renewable energy
9. Act globally, eat locally



Over the past 50 years, about half the world's original forest cover has been lost, the most significant cause for that being humans' unsystematic use of its resources.

When we take away the forest, it is not just the trees that go. The entire ecosystem begins to fall apart, with dire consequences for all of us.