

Environmental & Social Consequences of the EU Renewable Energy Policy on Africa: Evidence from Ghana

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Presented for Friends of the Earth-Ghana at the bioenergy conference organized by NOAH at Copenhagen-Denmark. 19 November 2015, ahead of 2015 Climate talks in France.

1. background



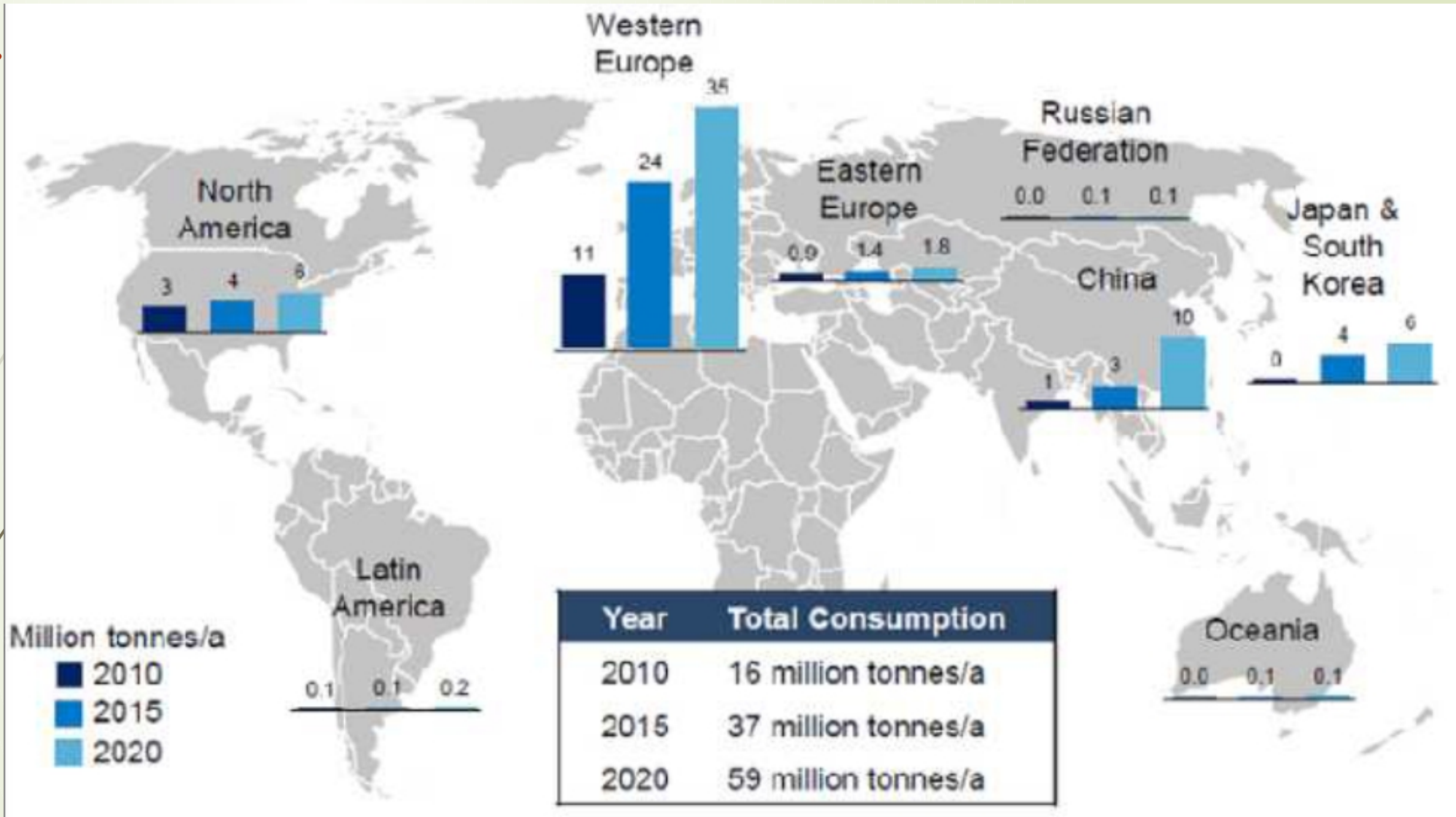
- 捆 EU policy on renewable energy.
- 捆 Woodfuels contribute about 60-64% of entire Ghana's local energy consumption (EPA, 2010; Duku and Hagan, 2011).



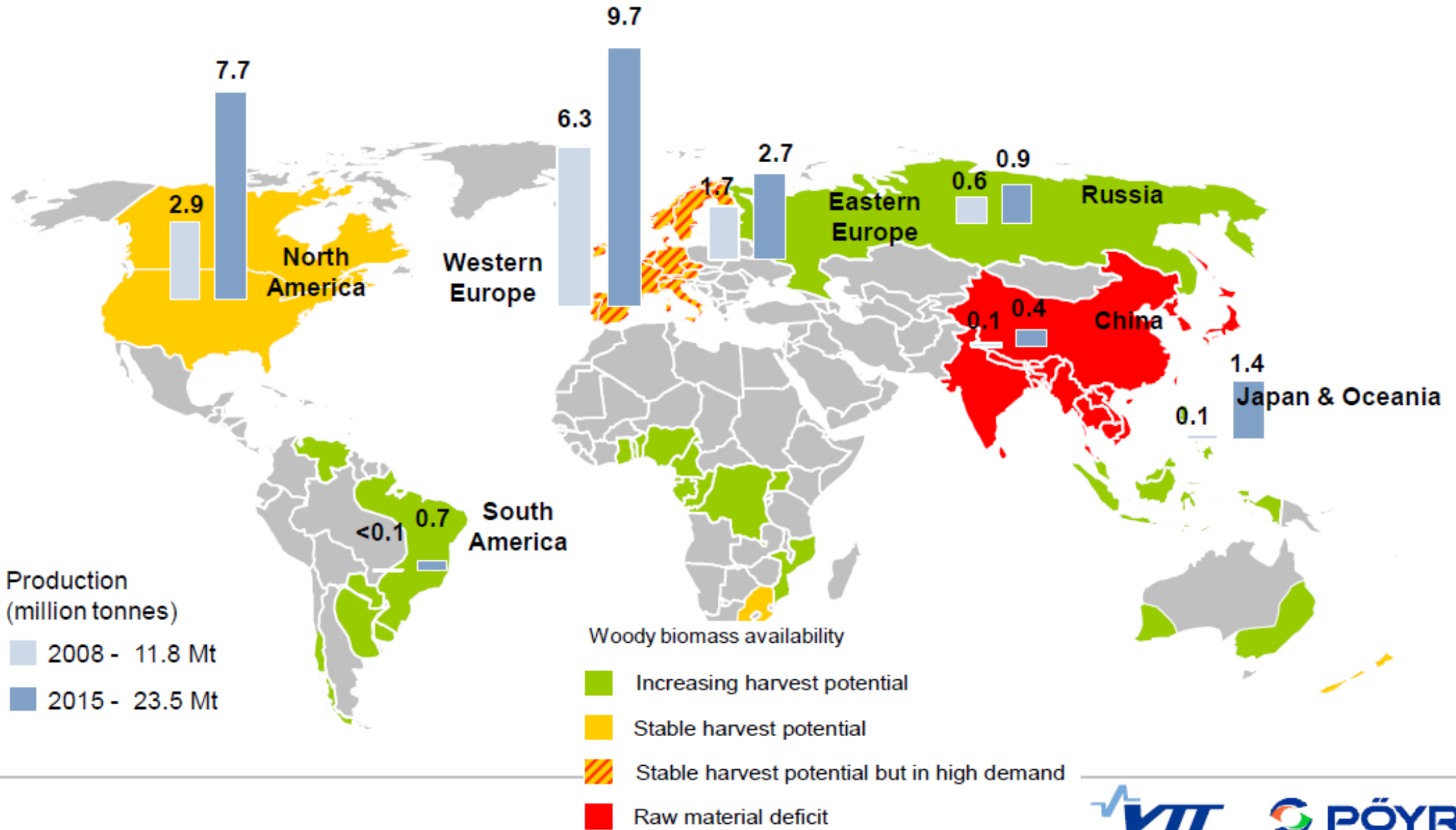


攔 Corporate/industrial interests has increasingly engulfed subsistence interests by giant corporate investments focusing on wood as raw material to produce what has been termed as ‘bioenergy’ (WRM, 2014; FoEI, 2015).

攔 A new economic order has been envisaged, where biomass has been discovered as “the major feedstock” for industrialization on the global energy arena.



Source: Ernsting (2014)





2. what are the key drivers & who are the players in bioenergy deals?

- 攔 Energy/power security
- 攔 To reduce the foreign exchange burdens
- 攔 Provide an alternative to fossil fuel ('Reduce' climate change?)
- 攔 Conversion of coal plants to wood attracting substantial subsidies...
- 攔 The key players are governments of the US, EU and Brazil, which has been actively promoting the production of biofuels since the 1990s
- 攔 Five main national and transnational corporations has shown strong interest in producing and exporting wood chips and pellets from Ghanaian plantations as biomass for electricity generation..



transnational corporations involved





transnational corporations involved

- 攔 Abellon CleanEnergy Ltd
- 攔 Miro Forestry Company
- 攔 African Plantations for Sustainable Development (APSD)
- 攔 Scanstyle Biofuels



AYUM/SCANSTYLE/MIM





3. how is the global South impacted by the craze for bioenergy by the North?

1. **Socio-economic consequences**

附 附 Land grabbing

附 附 Illegal evictions

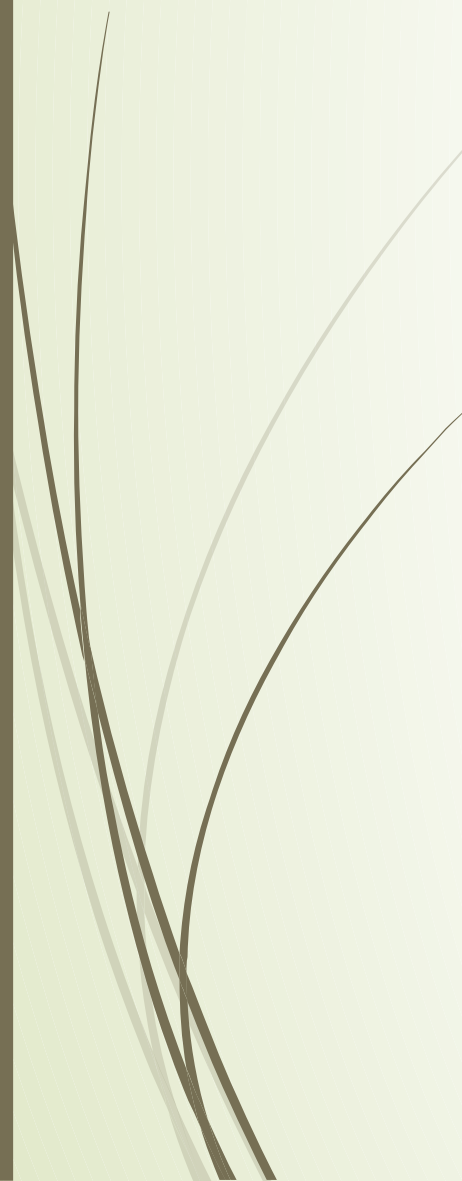
附 附 Absence of consultation

附 附 Violation of customary land rights

附 附 Inadequate compensations



攔 accessibility to water resources





攔 Food insecurity





Loss of livelihoods





摺 Poverty



攔 2. Environmental risks



Indirect land use Change (Deforestation and land degradation)



Loss of Biodiversity(cont)

**SUI RIVER FOREST RESERVE
IN 2006**



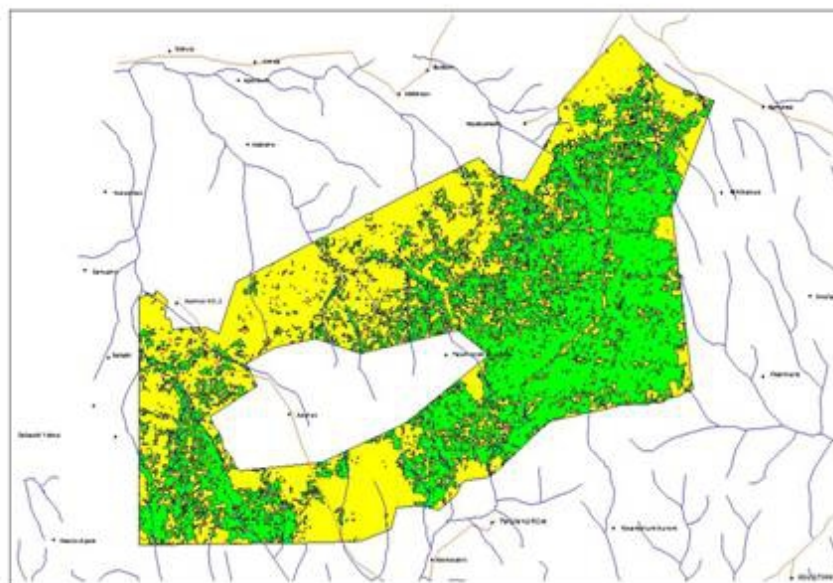
**SUI RIVER FOREST RESERVE
IN 2010**



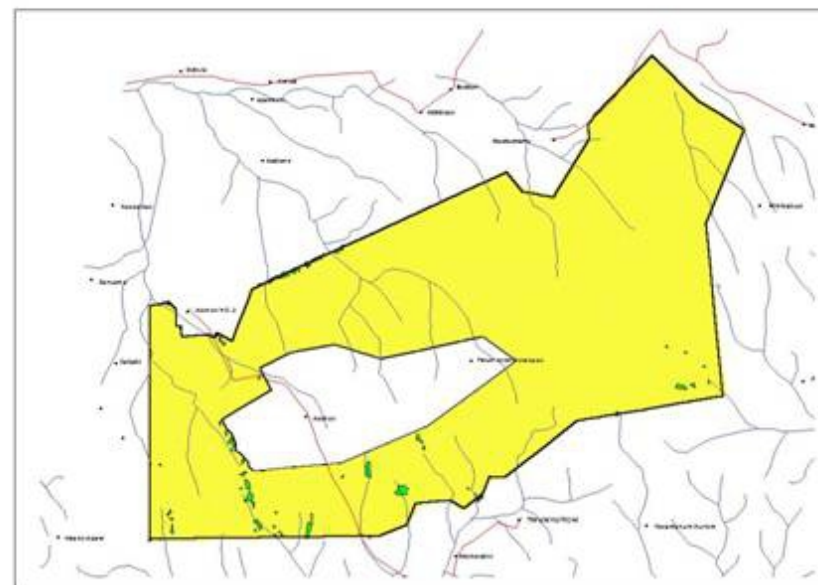


Loss of Biodiversity

PAMU BEREKUM IN 1990



PAMU BEREKUM IN 2000





4. what the EU and its bioenergy allies must do

- 攔 Broaden sustainability standards argument to address
 - 培 Indirect land use change
 - 培 Issues about food insecurity
- 攔 Support developing countries to develop stronger governance systems.
- 攔 Look at the quantities of energy that can be generated from wind, sun etc. (with respect to practical and economic feasibility) and then 'top up' with energy from biomass and consider problems that may be connected to this practice.
- 攔 Not collude with governments in developing countries to develop and implement bioenergy policies that are detrimental to the poor
- 攔 Address the issue of excessive consumption



Tak for din opmærksomhed!

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