



SCIENCE AND  
EDUCATION **FOR**  
**SUSTAINABLE**  
**LIFE**

# **From a climate perspective, is it better to store carbon in forests or sustainably use the forest resource?**

## **And accounting under EU/2018/841**

Questions to [hans.petersson@slu.se](mailto:hans.petersson@slu.se)

A manuscript with the preliminary title “Restrictions imposed by accounting frameworks in creating incentives for climate mitigation by forestry” is planned to be published

Preliminary author list: Petersson Hans; Appiah Mensah Alex; Berndes Göran; Egnell Gustaf; Ellison David; Lundblad Mattias; Lundmark Tomas; Lundström Anders; Stendahl Johan; Wikberg Per-Erik



## **Conclusions, from a pure climate perspective:**

- The role of forestry is to substitute fossil fuel-based products and energy – not to store biomass in the forest
- There is a stand-specific optimal rotation period to maximize growth
- We conserve forests for biodiversity, not for climate. Increased conservation comes at the expense of lost substitution
- Reporting (UNFCCC), accounting and what is best for climate are different things. Don't forget the substitution effect in other sectors (Energy)
- Remove the cap to promote future growth
- The EU regulation creates incentives to increase growth if all growth can be harvested. A bad strategy during the reference period may stimulate a bad strategy in the future
- In the short term, different management strategies do not significantly influence climate benefits (slow growing boreal forests), but the choice of strategy is very important in the long term

