to be proportional to vegetation biomass. In Europe, biomass formation (of trees) has exceeded removal and natural wood decay, and stands on average have become denser and older. The buildup of soil carbon in areas that have not been harvested has counteracted the carbon flux on harvested forest land from soils into the atmosphere. Rastetter and Houghton point out that we did not take into account the intensive decay rate after harvest. However, this has only a small impact on the carbon budget (*3*), especially as total removal in Europe has not increased (*4*).

Although removal has been stable, the fraction of biomass used for sawed wood and panels has increased. This has prolonged the average decay time of harvested wood and has contributed to carbon sequestration from the atmosphere. The flux, 15×10^{12} grams of carbon per year according to our estimate (*2*), was added to the (independent) estimate of carbon accumulation in forests thus obtaining the total flux estimate of 85 to 120×10^{12} grams of carbon per year. This is three to four times higher than the respective estimate of carbon sequestration by Houghton *et al.* (*1*).

The area of forests in Europe is about 2.5 million square kilometers, less than 7% of the global forest area. We agree that estimating carbon fluxes in Europe alone will not be able to balance the global budget. R. Sedjo has recently estimated carbon sequestering of temperate forests in all northern continents (*5*). His estimate for Europe is consistent with ours.

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Corrections and Clarifications

The photograph of Thomas Caskey that accompanied the News & Comment article "DNA fingerprinting: Academy reports" by Leslie Roberts (17 Apr., p. 300) should have been credited to Baylor College of Medicine, not Baylor University.