

# COP26: Leaders Pledge to cut Methane and save Forests

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# What's the news?



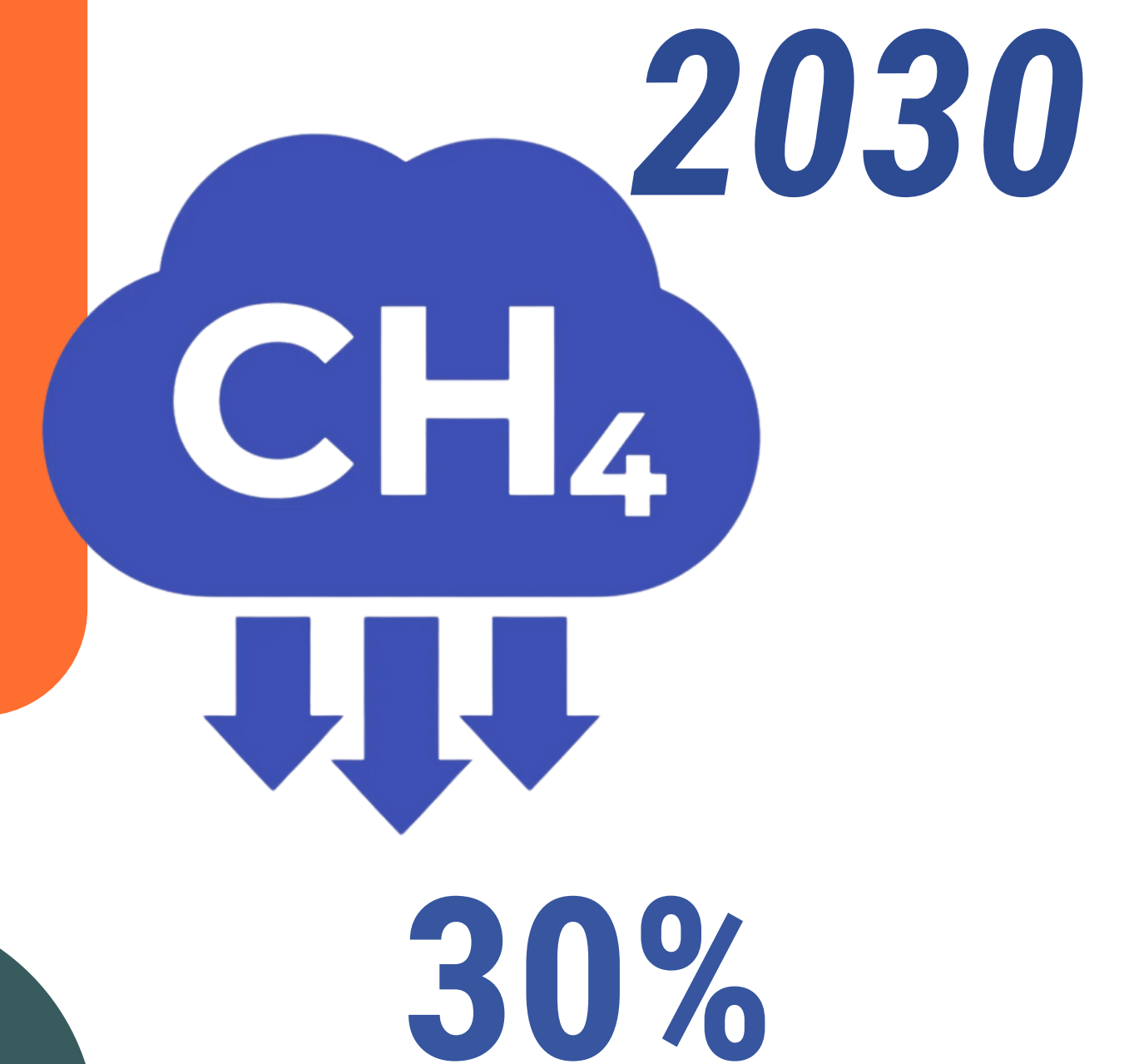
Leaders at the CoP26 global climate conference in Glasgow have pledged to stop deforestation by the end of the decade and slash emissions of the potent greenhouse gas methane to help slow climate change.

**CH<sub>4</sub>**





Nearly 90 countries have joined a U.S.-and EU-led effort to slash emissions of methane 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels.



## COP26: Pledge by Leaders

CoP26 aims to keep alive a receding target of capping global warming at 1.5 degrees

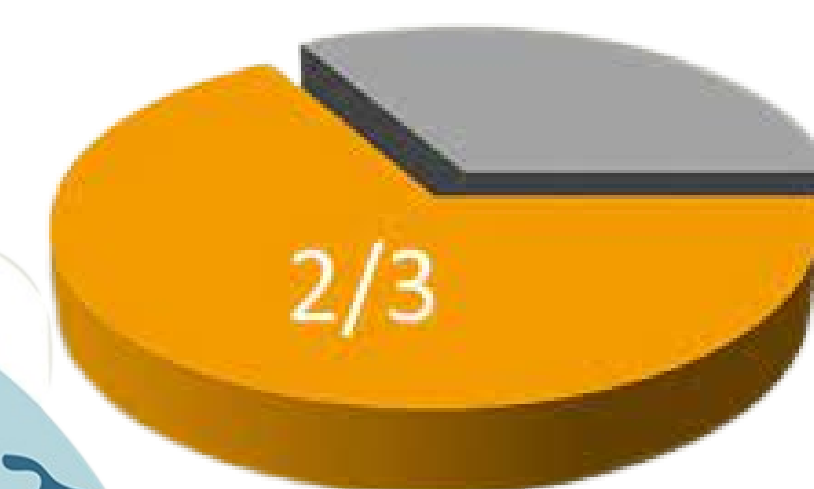
Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels to avert still greater damage from the intensified heatwaves, droughts, storms, floods and coastal damage that climate change is already causing.



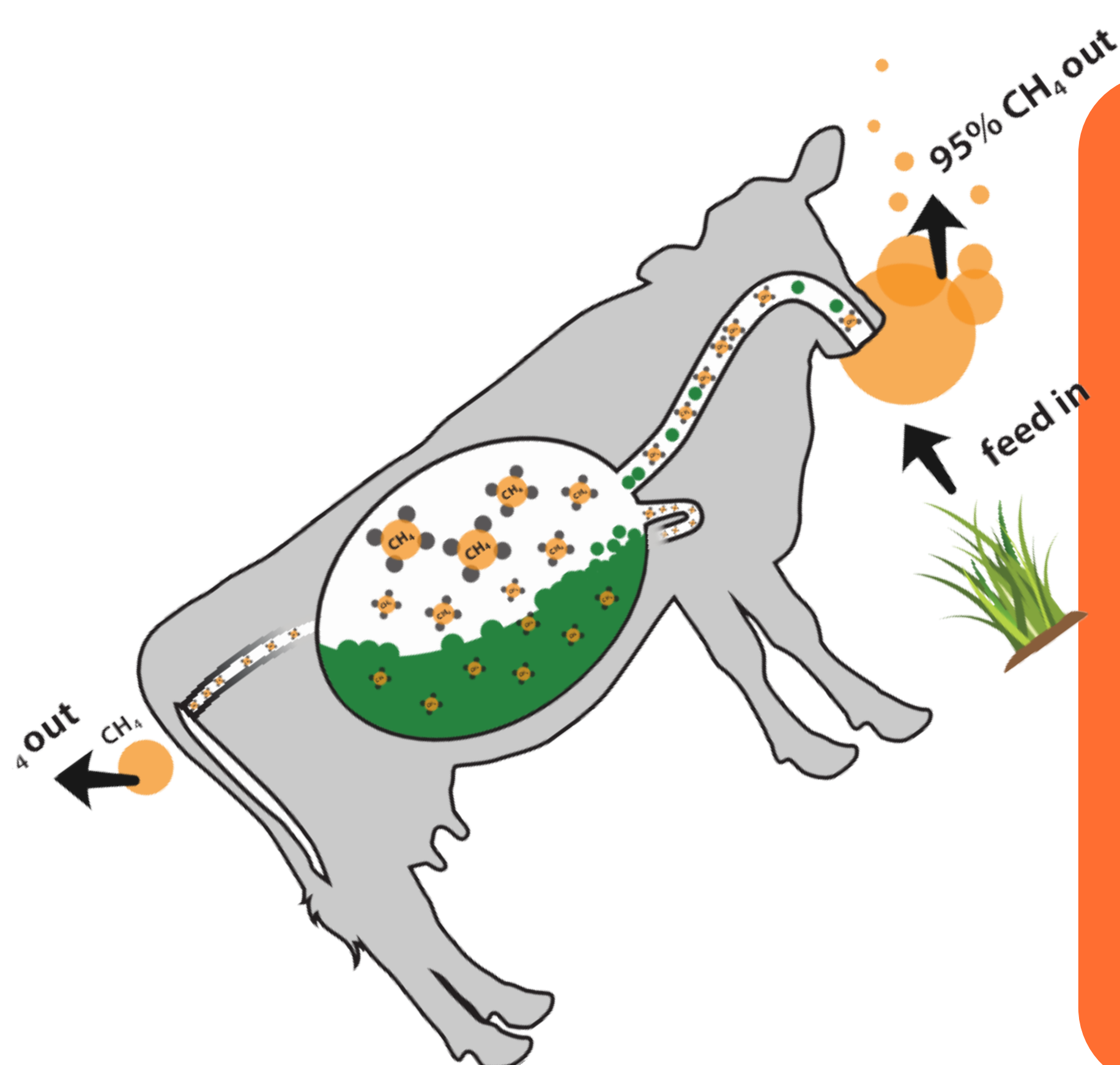




The Global Methane Pledge, first announced in September, now covers emissions from two-thirds of the global economy.



Under the agreement, 12 countries pledged to provide \$12 billion of public funding between 2021 and 2025 for developing countries to restore degraded land and tackle wildfires.

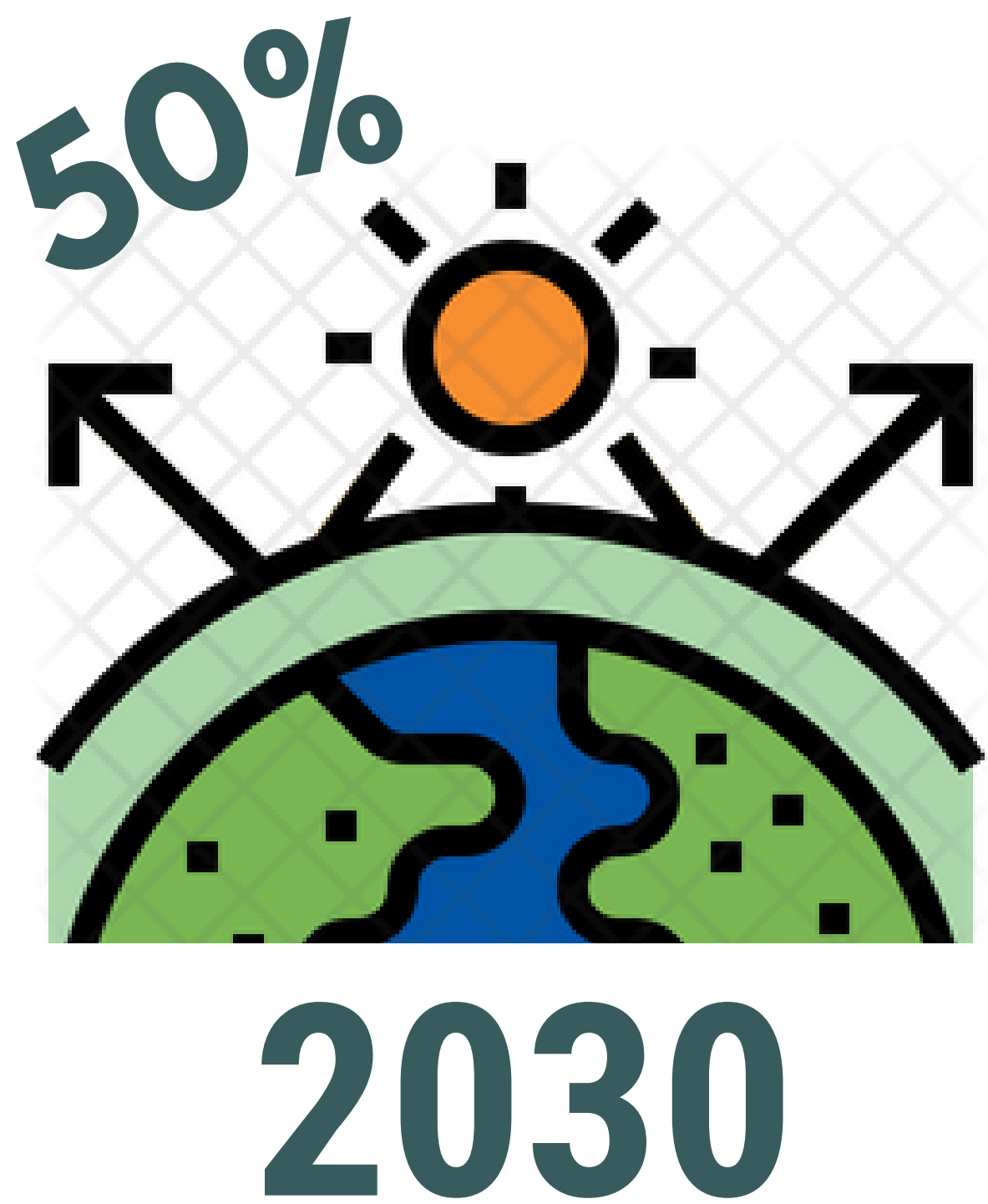


Among the signatories, Brazil is one of the five biggest emitters of methane, which is generated in cows' digestive systems, in landfill waste and in oil and gas production.





Three others China, Russia and India have not signed up, while Australia has said it will not back the pledge.



Brazil, which has cleared vast swathes of the Amazon rainforest, did make a new commitment to cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030, compared with a previous pledge of 43%..



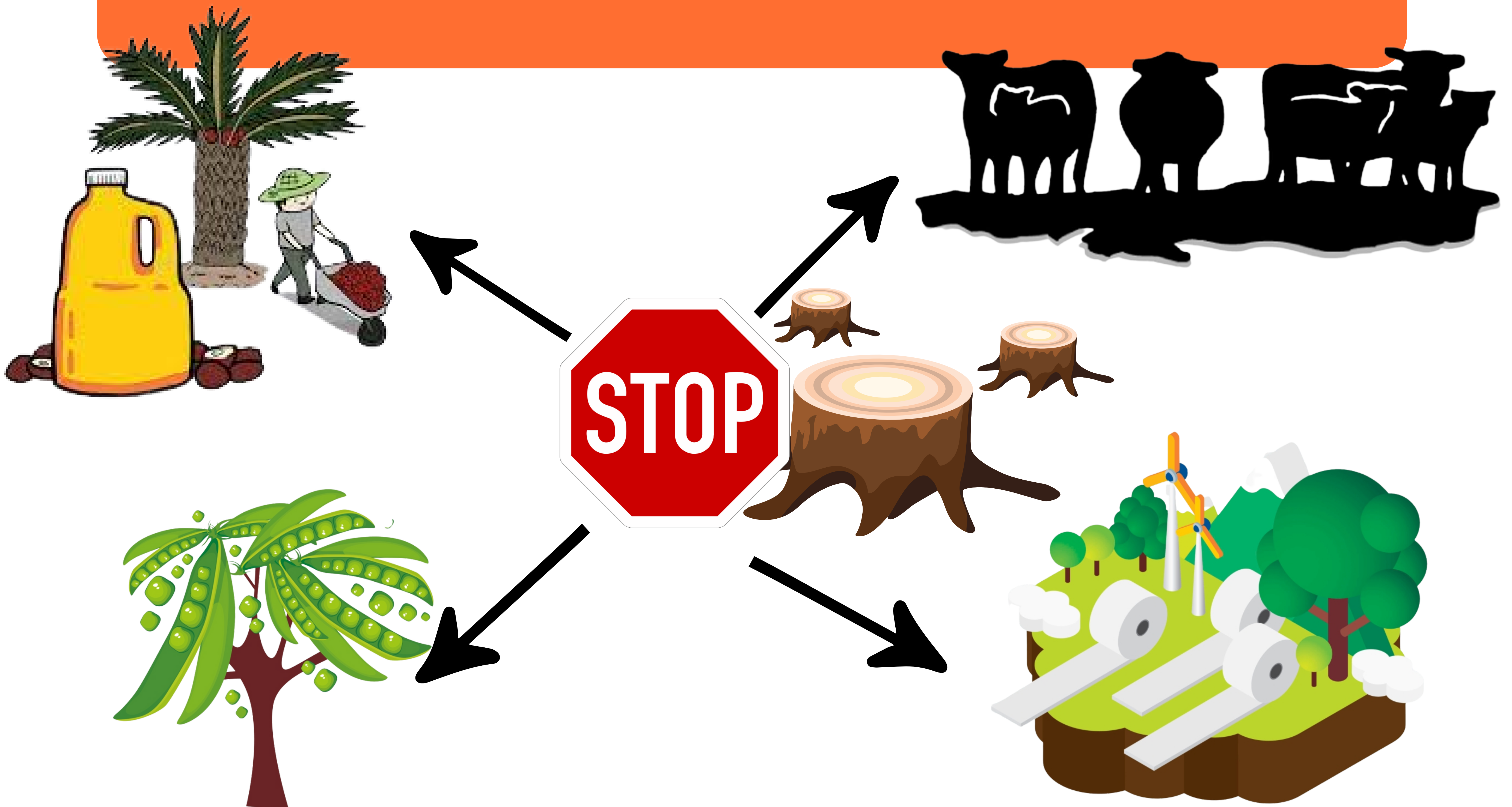
Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the first time set out a target date for India, heavily reliant on coal, to reduce its carbon emissions to a level it can absorb, albeit only in 2070 -20 years beyond the U.N.'s global recommendation..







At least \$7.2 billion will come from private sector investors representing \$8.7 trillion in assets under management, who also pledged to stop investing in activities linked to deforestation such as cattle, palm oil and soybean farming and pulp production.



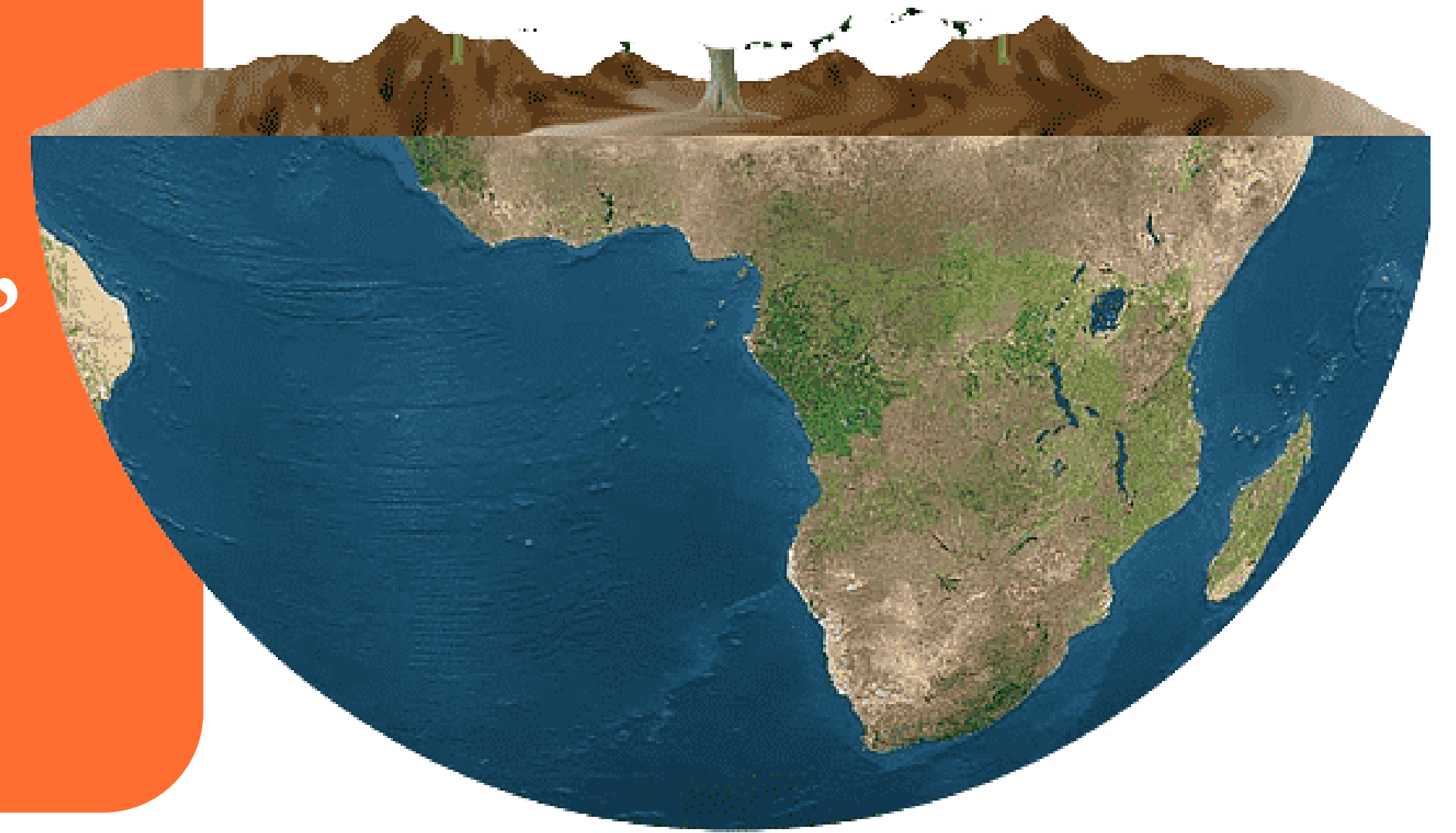


# Estimates of Lost Forests



According to WRI's Global Forest Watch, in 2020, the world lost 258,000 sq km (100,000 sq miles) of forest, an area larger than the United Kingdom.

258,000 SQ KM



Eg: The conservation charity WWF estimates that 27 football fields of forest are lost every minute.







More than 100 national leaders pledged to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation by the end of the decade, underpinned by \$19 billion in public and private funds to invest in protecting and restoring forests.

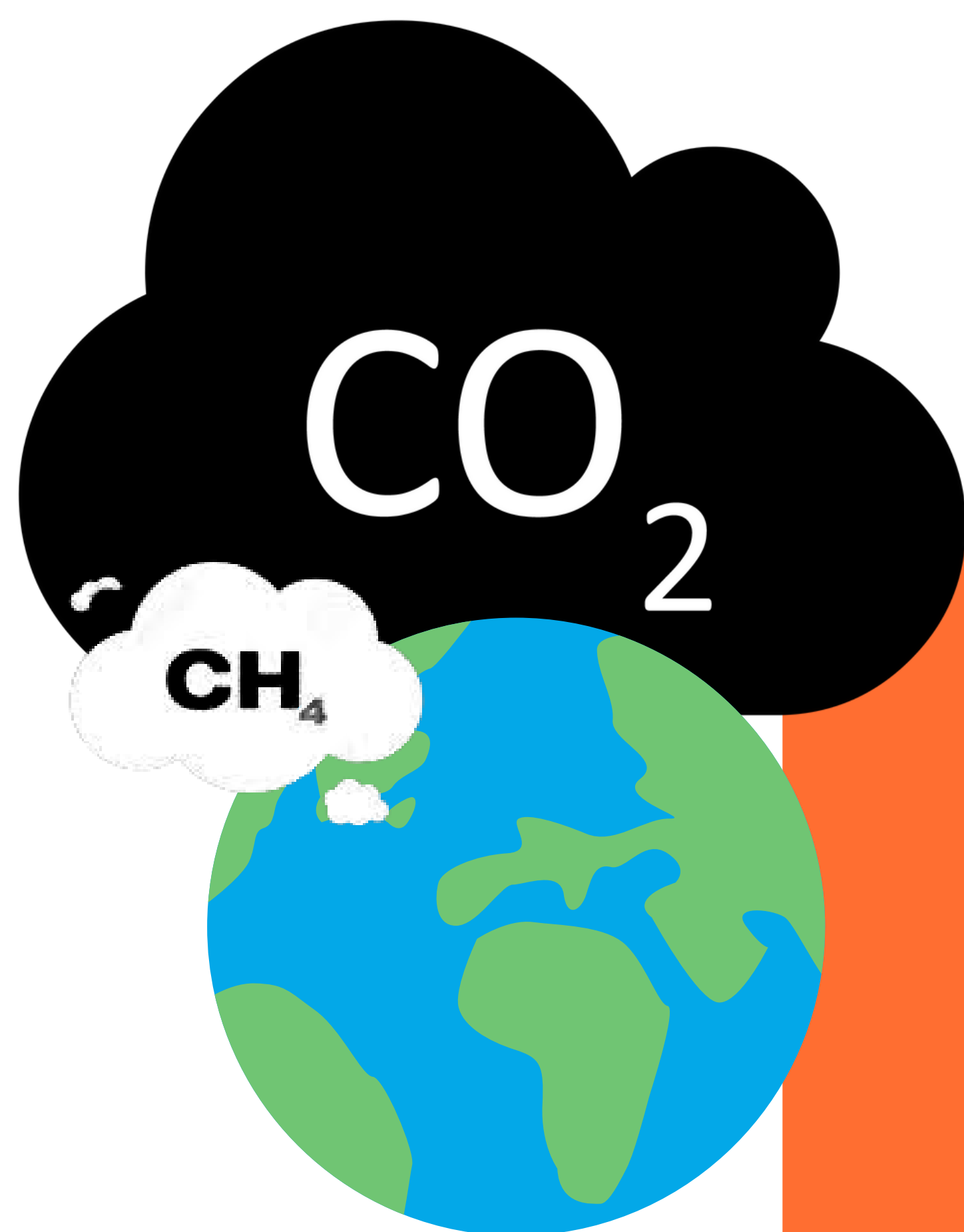


The agreement vastly expands a commitment made by 40 countries as part of the 2014 New York Declaration of Forests, and promises more resources.

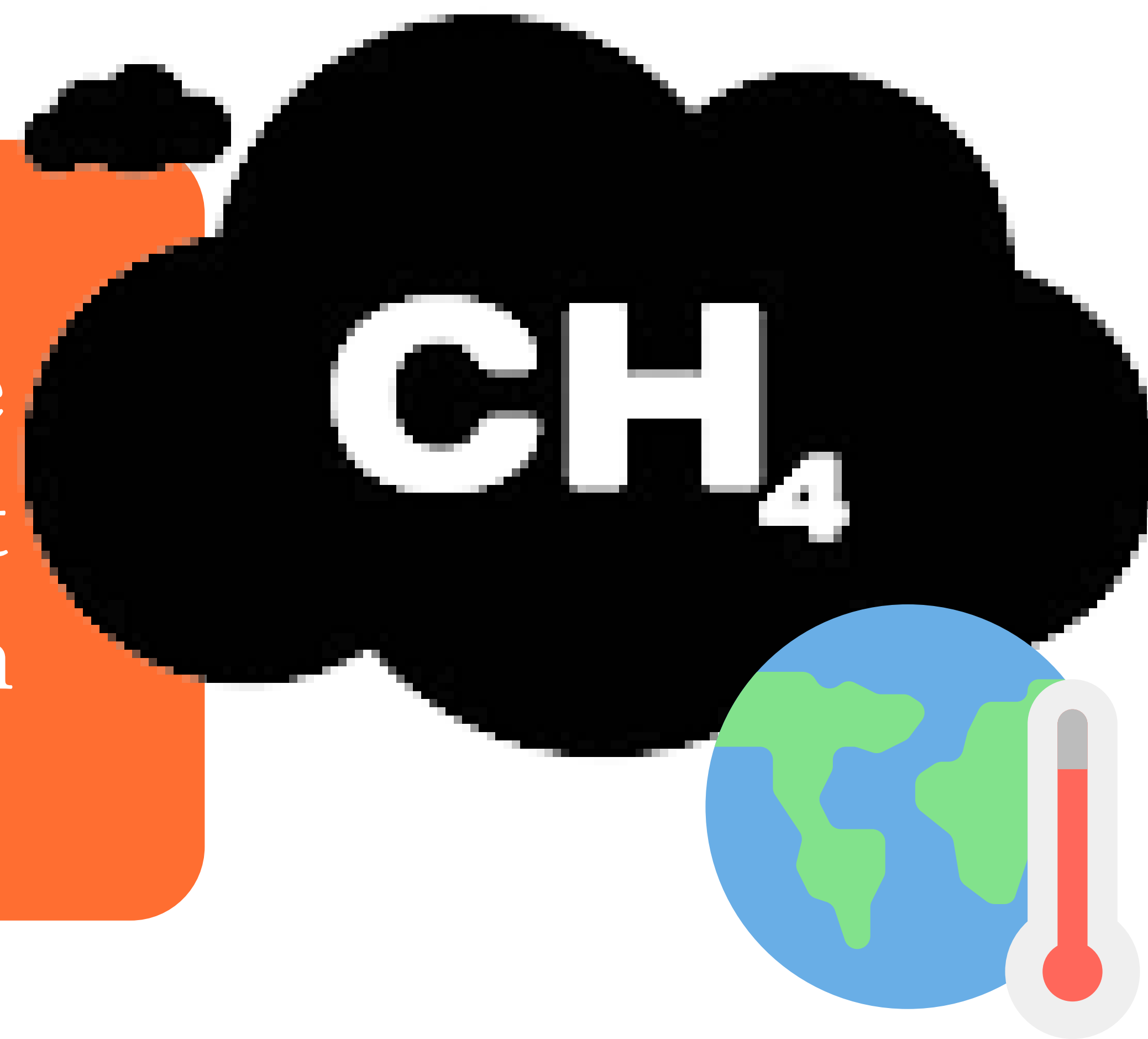




## About Methane



Methane is more short-lived in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide but 80 times more potent in warming the earth.

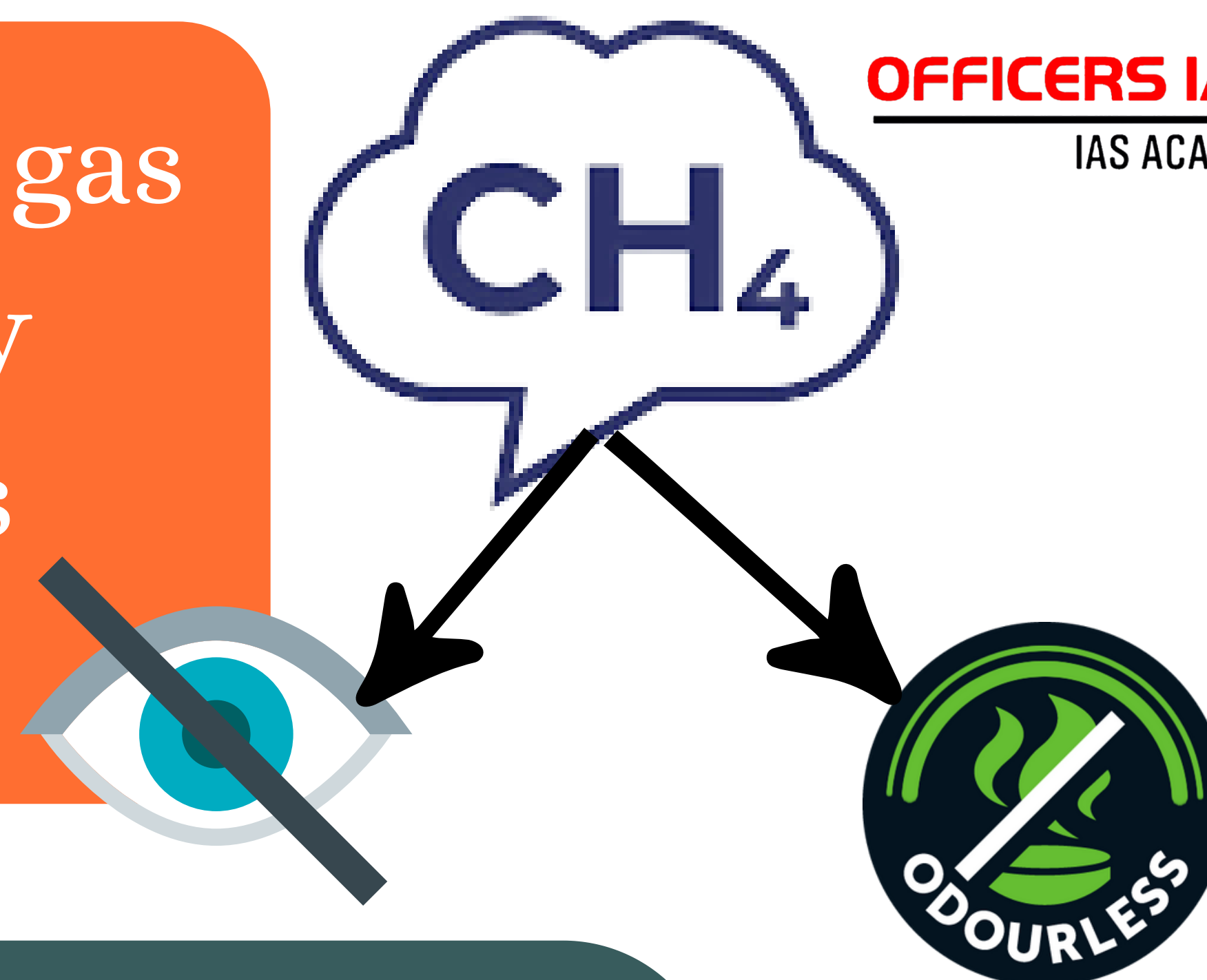


Cutting emissions of the gas, which is estimated to have accounted for 30% of global warming since pre-industrial times, is one of the most effective ways of slowing climate change.



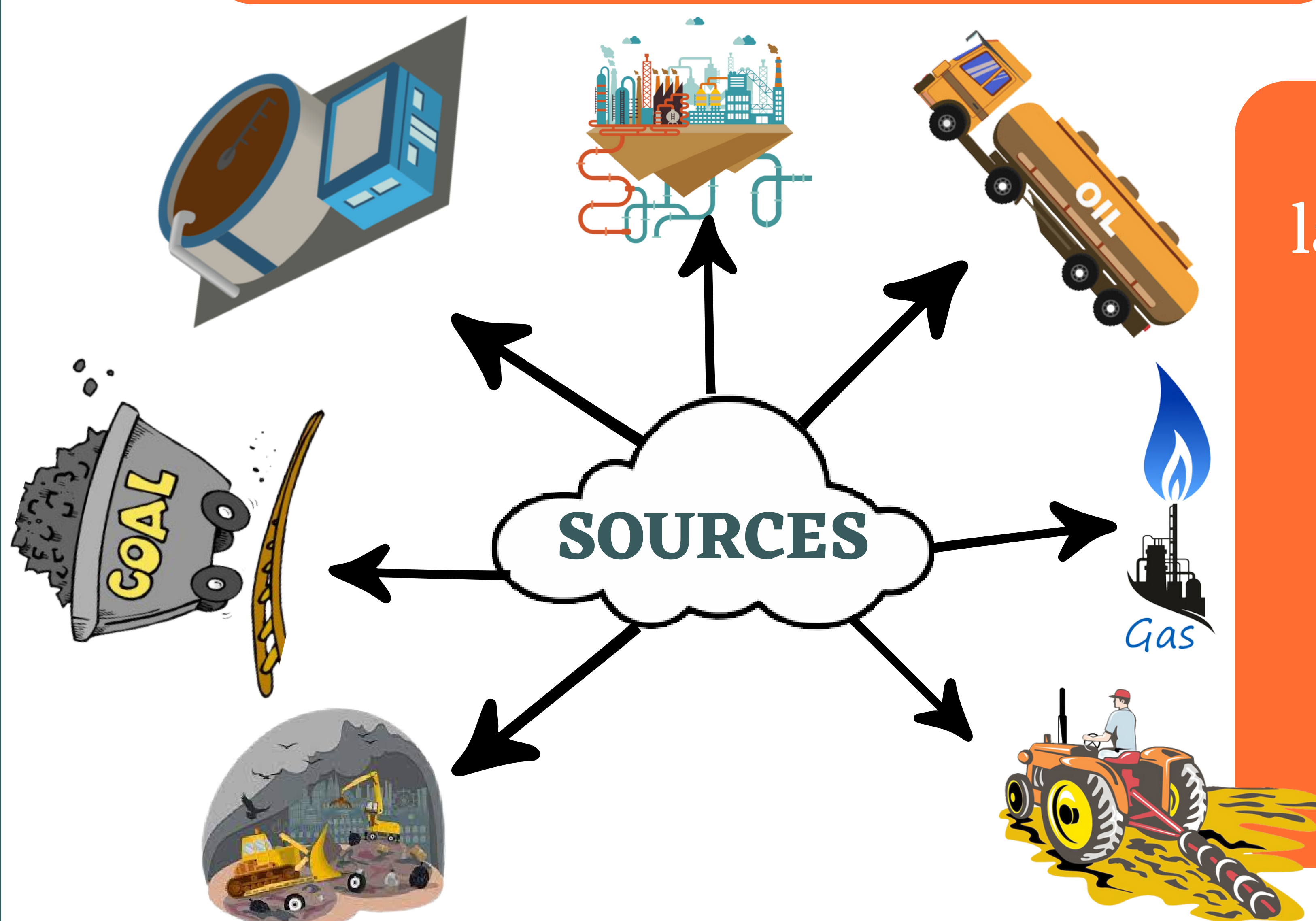
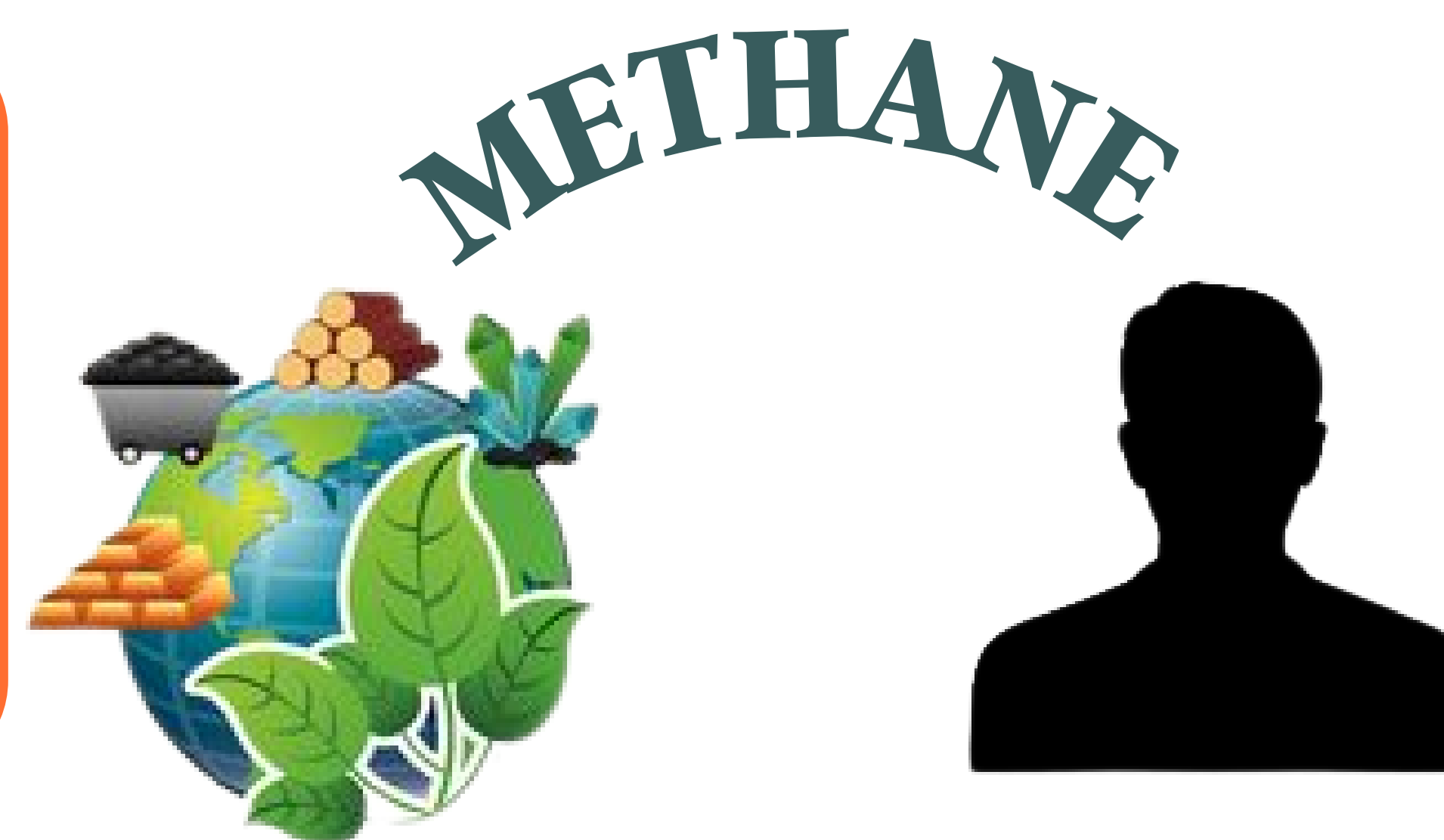


Methane is an invisible and odourless gas and is a hydrocarbon and a primary component of liquefied natural gas (LNG).



## Sources of Methane

It is emitted from a variety of human as well as natural sources.

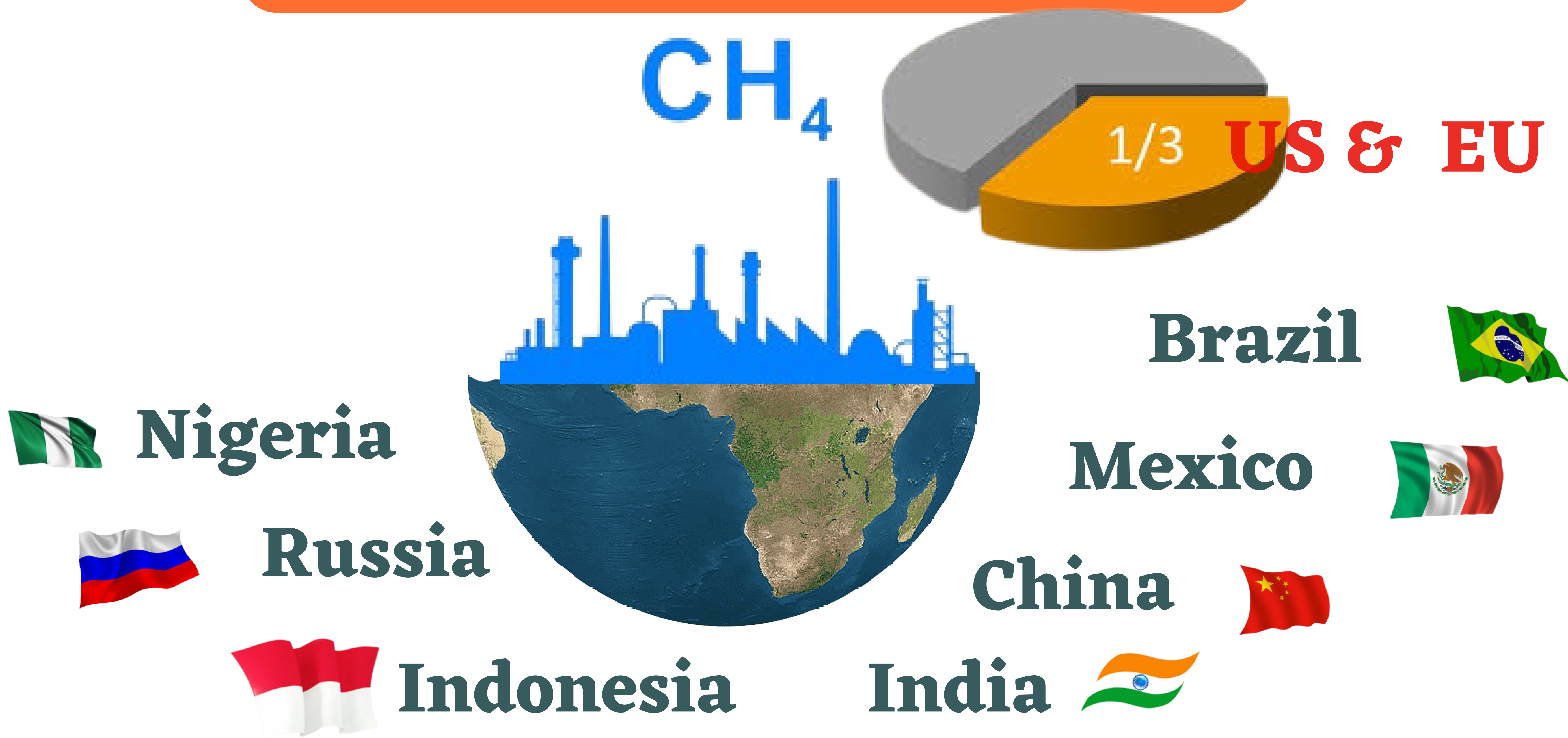


Some of these sources are landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, stationary and mobile combustion, wastewater treatment and certain industrial processes.



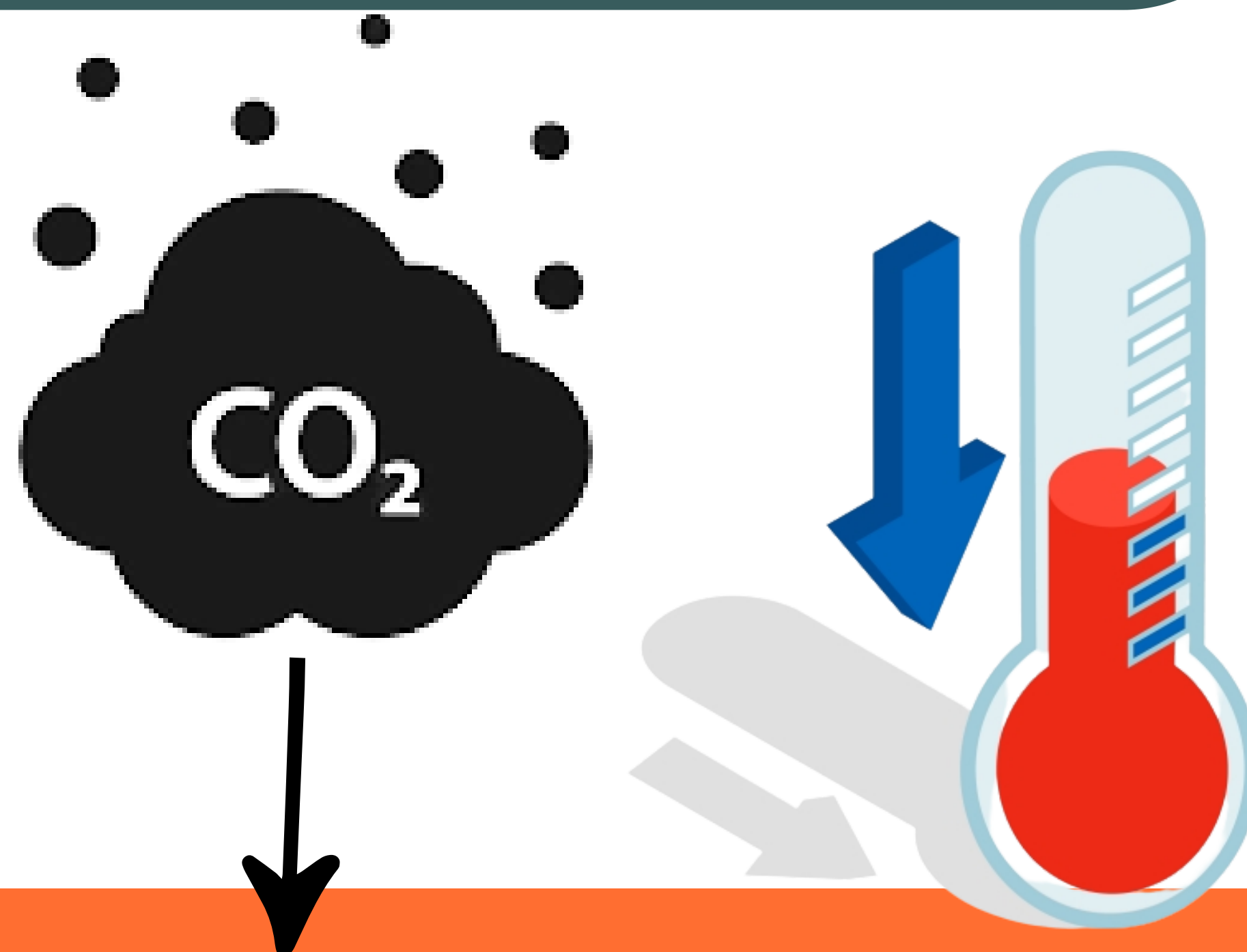
# Top Methane emitting Countries

The United States and the European Union (EU) account for more than a one third of global consumption of natural gas followed by Brazil, Russia, China, Indonesia, Nigeria, Mexico and India.

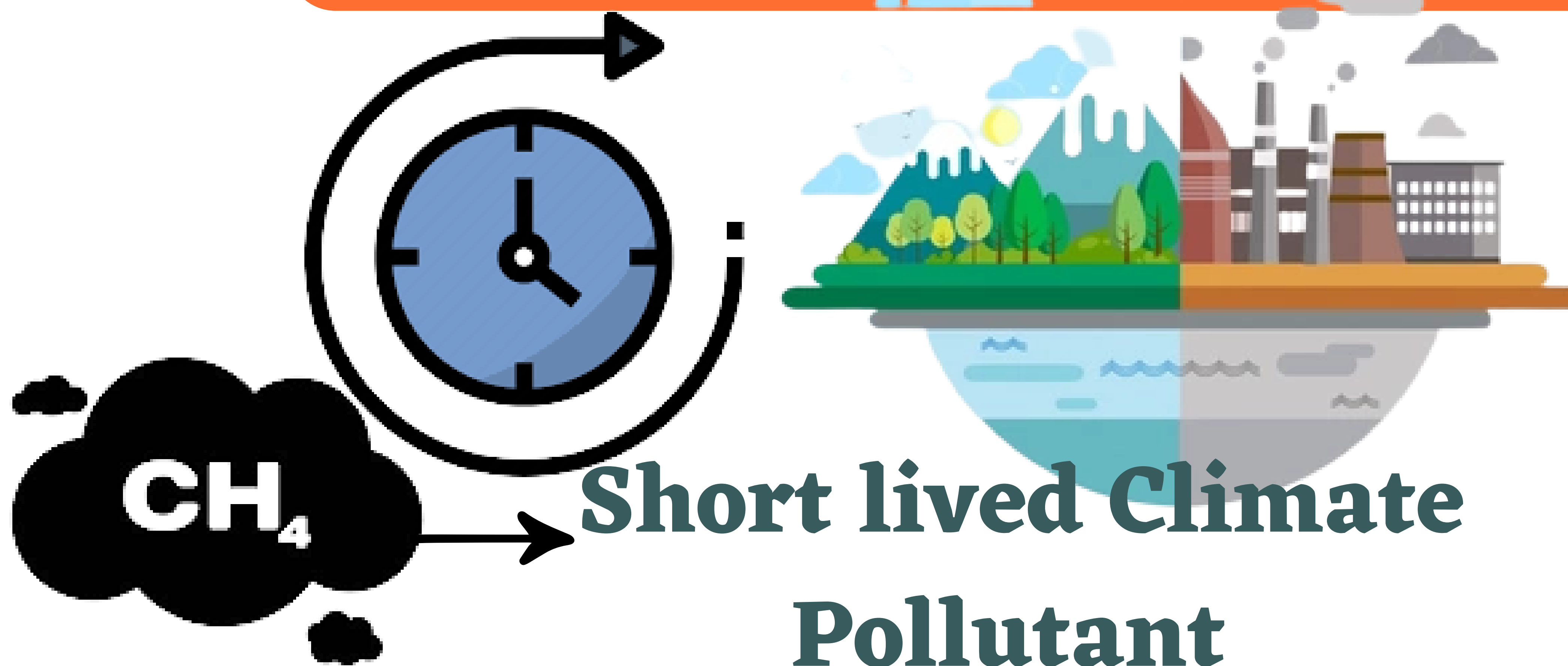




## CO<sub>2</sub> V/S CH<sub>4</sub>

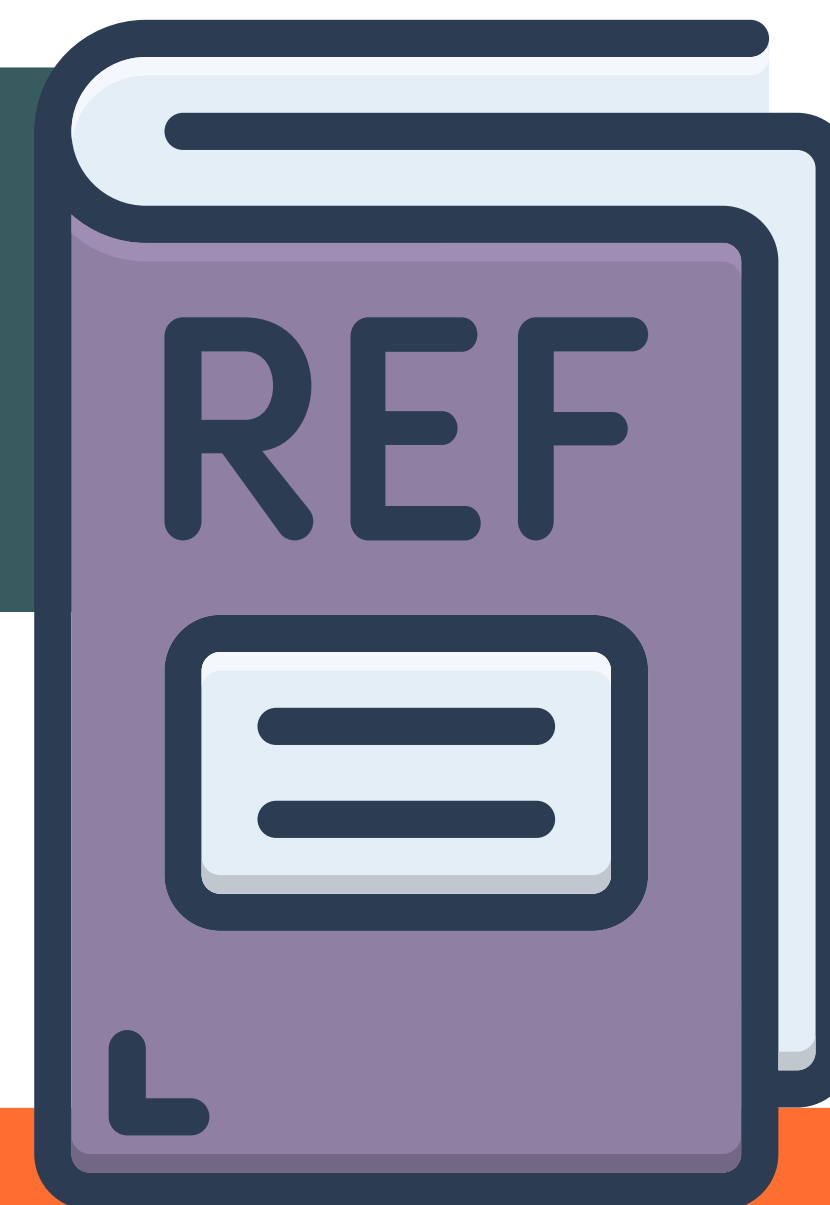


A single CO<sub>2</sub> molecule causes less warming than a methane molecule, but lingers for hundreds of years in the atmosphere whereas methane disappears within two decades (short-lived climate pollutant).





## Reference



<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/explained-where-does-india-stand-on-methane-emissions/article37362589.ece>