Plantations and Colonialism

Durban
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Traditionally, plantations are an organization of nature that goes together with colonialism ... and slavery.
To a certain extent, this continues today.
This had an economic logic.
Colonialism is in the “nature” of plantations ...

And plantations are one of the ways colonialism organizes nature ...
... just as other kinds of social organization (e.g. forest commons regimes) are in the “nature” of certain kinds of biodiverse forests ... And biodiverse forests are one of the ways commoners can organize nature.
So there may be a slight difficulty with our favorite slogan ... ... insofar as the slogan implies that the difference between plantations and forests is one between a human-entangled and a non-human entangled organization of nature rather than one between different kinds of human-entangled organization.
After all, the distinction between these ...
... and these ...
... is not just a distinction between various vegetable items ...

... but also a social/political/technological distinction ...
... e.g., between colonialism and commons...
To focus in more carefully on contemporary tree plantations ... what (other) social/political/technological structures and relations can we see when we look at them?
If this is an Australian forest ...
... then here is a pulp plantation ...
... and here is an agrofuel plantation...
... and here is a carbon plantation ...
“Mass-producing” CO₂ reduction “equivalents”.
$\text{CO}_2 = \text{CO}_2$
Productivity!
Volume!
Speed!
Accumulation!
Conclusion

Industrial plantations don't "prop up" colonialism ...
They are constituted by colonialism ...
… as well as by overaccumulation, overproduction, financialization and many other “social” things.
… which is why talking about “sustainable” industrial plantations is like talking about “sustainable” overaccumulation or “sustainable” colonialism.