



Climate and Land Use Alliance

*Cultivating solutions for people and the planet*

---

# Strategic Focus and Priorities

## **Global Initiative 2013-2016**





THE CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE:

# An Overview

The mission of the Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) is to realize the potential of forested and agricultural landscapes to mitigate climate change, benefit people, and protect the environment. The Alliance's members include the ClimateWorks Foundation, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Each of the member foundations brings to this mission distinct organizational perspectives and priorities that inform the development of CLUA strategies and their implementation. The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation works in alignment with CLUA and supports its strategies through the implementation of site-specific activities.

## **WITH THE RIGHT POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN PLACE, CHANGES IN LAND USE PRACTICES CAN:**

- ▶ **Yield substantial, cost-effective emission reductions**
- ▶ **Provide sustainable socio-economic development opportunities**
- ▶ **Improve the livelihoods and control over natural resources of forest-dependent communities, including indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers**
- ▶ **Provide many environmental and social “co-benefits,” including biodiversity protection, reduced air and water pollution, and protection of watersheds, which improve local and regional resilience to climate change**

CLUA strategies are currently organized into four geographically focused initiatives (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Central America, and the United States) and one Global Initiative that focuses on relevant public and private sector policies and finance that are international in scope. Our multi-foundation teams bring diverse expertise and seek to develop and maintain strong relationships with partners—ranging from grantees and contractors to other donors, government agencies, and the private sector. We put priority on strategic interventions, aim to fill important gaps, and work collaboratively with others.

CLUA faces a complicated global landscape. International negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process are too slow and alone will not achieve the fundamental objective for which the UNFCCC was intended—“the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”—or the more specific land-use-related task to which it committed itself to “slow, halt, and reverse forest cover and carbon loss.”

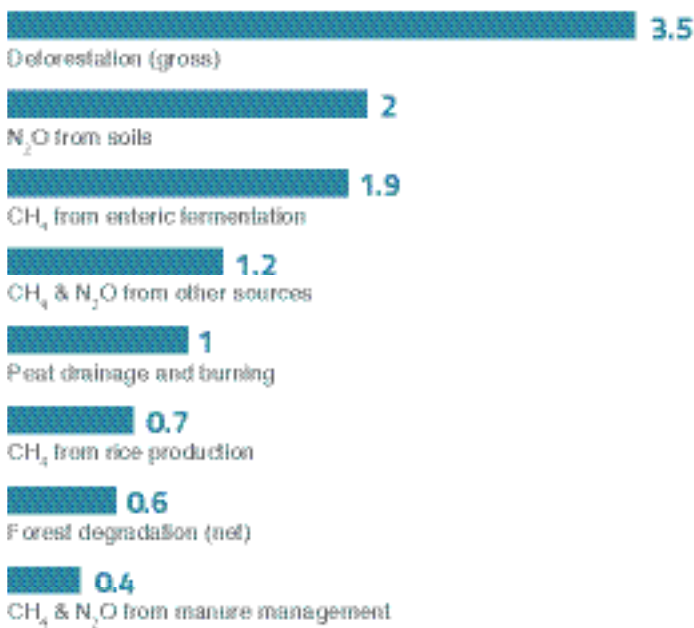
A scientific and political consensus has emerged around the imperative of limiting climate change to an increase of no more than 2 degrees Celsius. The opportunity to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would achieve that result, however, is rapidly slipping away, with current “business-as-usual” projections at 4 to 6 degrees Celsius.



Land use is currently responsible for about 25% of greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activity—more than the transportation sector worldwide. These emissions come predominantly in the form of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from deforestation, forest degradation, and the draining and burning of tropical peatlands, as well as nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) production from fertilizer application to agricultural fields and methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) from rice and cattle production. Avoiding dangerous climate change will be significantly more difficult and costly if emissions from land use are not substantially reduced.

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions From Land Use

Measured in CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (billions of tons)



New risks to CLUA's mission include less political attention to climate change, generally, and to the role of land use, specifically. In addition, unrealistic expectations that accompanied new initiatives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) have not been realized, despite some very significant progress. Recent poor performance of carbon markets, and the risks of linking forests to those markets, has raised concerns about the “payment-for-performance” approach associated with REDD+.

Meanwhile, the expansion of commodity production and infrastructure expansion—major drivers of deforestation and the displacement of indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers—increasingly threatens tropical forests and the people who inhabit them. Agricultural commodity production itself is no longer driven primarily by demand from the industrial world but by demand from “emerging” economies.

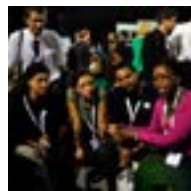
**Our strategies must recognize these realities and address the challenges and opportunities they present. We recently developed revised strategies for each of our geographically focused initiatives in Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Central America, and the United States, and for our Global Initiative. Collectively, this work is linked by our crosscutting intent to:**



**Shift the expansion of commodity production away from native forests and peatlands to areas that are already under cultivation, where sustainable productivity increases are achievable, or to areas that were previously degraded and are currently underused**



**Increase recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and rural communities over forests as a critical part of achieving clear and more coherent land and resource tenure**



**Encourage incentives for emission reductions through policies, measures, and actions that are consistent with internationally recognized guidance on safeguards, monitoring reporting and verification, and carbon reference levels**



**Promote transparency and strategic communications**



**Build relevant capacities and capabilities within our focal geographies**

# Global Initiative

---

The goal of our Global Initiative for 2020 is to help implement international public and private sector policies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land use, help indigenous peoples and rural communities, protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in CLUA focal geographies, and reduce the risk of diverting deforestation elsewhere by:

**1**

.....  
Removing deforestation and associated rural conflict from the supply of agricultural commodities, while increasing production

**2**

.....  
Improving the rights of indigenous peoples and other local communities to forest resources

**3**

.....  
Increasing the amount and effectiveness of international finance available for reducing deforestation



THE CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE:

# Global Initiative

CLUA's Global Initiative aims to provide effective and timely support to innovators working at the global level on CLUA's central mission: to realize the potential of forested and agricultural landscapes to mitigate climate change, benefit people, and protect the environment.

The goal of our Global Initiative for 2020 is to help implement international public and private sector policies that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land use, help indigenous peoples and rural communities, protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in CLUA focal geographies, and reduce the risk of diverting deforestation elsewhere. CLUA's global strategy distinguishes itself from a geographic strategy by drawing on relevant experience from other countries in ways that spur progress in the focal geographies and beyond and by cross-fertilizing and diffusing learning across regions.

This section describes the three main objectives of the Global Initiative and their implementing strategies.

## 1 Our first objective aims at removing deforestation and associated rural conflict from the supply of agricultural commodities, while increasing production.

By 2030 the world may need to produce 50% more food than it does today, compounding the challenge of reducing GHG emissions from land use. Demand is also increasing for biofuels and for wood products. Population growth, income increases, and changing diets are raising the global demand for agricultural commodities.

The expansion of commodity production to meet this growing demand is a major driver of tropical deforestation, threatening the planet's biodiversity and ecosystem functions, raising conflicts with traditional inhabitants over land, and converting vast stocks of stored biological carbon into greenhouse gas emissions. But increasing production does not require new land clearing. There are large opportunities to increase yields on lands that are already under cultivation, and vast areas of previously degraded or already cleared lands remain underused.

Although "green" certifications, such as those issued by the Forest Stewardship Council, have influenced the level of consumer demand for more-sustainable products and provided standards that have influenced policy, only a fraction of the world's timber supply has been certified by credible schemes. More recent commodity-specific roundtables have demonstrated progress, although the standards may fall short of what is needed for sustainable land use and market penetration is also a challenge. Efforts to address illegal logging and deforestation are most effective when they create a fear of legal proceedings against major offenders who otherwise act with impunity. Enforcement efforts can be counterproductive when they serve as a pretext for exerting political authority over vulnerable communities.



## CLUA GLOBAL INITIATIVE – OBJECTIVE 1

### Substantial and measurable progress toward the elimination of forest and peatland conversion/degradation, and associated rural conflict, from commodity production of palm oil, beef, soy, biofuels, and wood products

#### CHANGES NEEDED

- ▶ Increased governance and legality in wood supply chains, especially in southeast Asia
- ▶ Adherence to legal and sustainable practices in commodity production fully mainstreamed as good business practice
- ▶ Reduction in GHG emissions from biofuels use in the European Union, United States and Brazil, including corn ethanol as well as woody biomass as a feedstock

#### IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

- ▶ Defend and enhance effective implementation of U.S. Lacey Act
- ▶ Advance national implementation of E.U. timber regulation (EUTR) and associated Forest Governance Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)
- ▶ Explore and advance opportunities for expansion of similar policies in Asian and Pacific Region importing countries, including Australia, Japan, and China
- ▶ Understand and minimize social risks and potential for perverse outcomes associated with increased enforcement
- ▶ Build on FLEGT Action Plan and U.S. Lacey Act enforcement templates for improving the sustainability of supply chains for other commodities
- ▶ Promote implementation of zero-deforestation commitments by Consumer Goods Forum companies and their uptake by others
- ▶ Support an integrated campaign effort aimed at financiers, producers, traders, and consumer-facing companies to eliminate forest and peatland conversion/degradation, and rural conflict, from palm oil production
- ▶ Support efforts that aim to shift production of beef and soy to more sustainable practices while significantly reducing the loss and degradation of natural ecosystems by working with producers and demand side stakeholders to create a market pull for sustainably produced products
- ▶ Support market differentiation strategies
- ▶ Prevent the expansion of acreage and markets associated with corn ethanol and palm oil biodiesel production
- ▶ Quantify the volume of biofuels and bio-energy 'mandated' by national policies, and the associated land-use, and GHG-emission impacts

## Our second objective aims at improving the rights of indigenous peoples and other local communities to forest resources.

More than a billion poor rural people depend on forest resources for all or part of their livelihoods.

Forest clearance and degradation directly and immediately affect local and indigenous communities living in and near forests. Bureaucratic barriers, insecure tenure, and unrecognized customary rights limit the legitimate access of local communities to forests outside of the 30% of forest areas in developing countries that are owned or designated for use by local communities and indigenous peoples. Unclear forest rights and incoherent or inconsistent policies can cause conflict as well as exacerbate deforestation.

### CLUA GLOBAL INITIATIVE – OBJECTIVE 2

#### Increased transfer of rights over forest resources to indigenous peoples and local communities

##### CHANGES NEEDED

- ▶ Bilateral and multilateral donors and international processes give greater priority to clarification and security of community rights as an effective climate mitigation strategy
- ▶ Communities and indigenous peoples receive greater funding and support services for forest-related activities
- ▶ Regulatory and tax burdens imposed on community and small-scale forestry enterprises are reduced
- ▶ Influential private companies that invest in forest-risk commodities and acquire land-based assets start to adopt practices that uphold community rights
- ▶ Forest resources and assets controlled by communities no longer change designation or classification without free, prior, and informed consent

##### IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

- ▶ Garner support and evidence for clarification of community rights over forests as an effective climate mitigation strategy
- ▶ Advance the case with donors that climate finance be earmarked to secure community control over forests and provide them with models of effective finance they can adopt
- ▶ Support international analysis, evidence, and processes that encourage national and local authorities to rethink rules and simplify regulations
- ▶ Support community representation in international processes to promote private sector “zero deforestation” standards, policies, and practice in favor of community rights
- ▶ Support evidence, analysis, and discussion internationally on the “legality” surrounding deforestation-related natural asset acquisition and investment



Forest governance has been a particularly difficult challenge, in part because state control of forests has generally been a foundation of political power even when initiated under the pretense of forest protection. Centralized states have encroached on local interests to control forests with a colonial culture, including use of force, causing backlash against governance efforts and creating new waves of resistance and conflict. Nevertheless, there have been some successes related to community management of forests, with recent findings indicating that given a supportive policy and legislative environment, indigenous territories can limit deforestation as much or more than traditional nature reserves can, that forest cover can improve under community management, and that community forests can have more and larger trees, fewer fires, and less grazing.

## Our third objective aims at increasing the amount and effectiveness of international finance available for reducing deforestation.

Under the UNFCCC, nations have agreed to negotiate a new legal agreement on climate change by 2015 to come into full effect after 2020. This may create a structure of incentives, legal and financial, that will drive long-term, sustained changes in behavior to mitigate climate change, including through more-sustainable land use and associated emissions reductions. The lack of ambition or, in some cases, of time-bound national targets to reduce emissions, along with insufficient finance to support actions to meet these targets, substantially inhibits progress.

Disbursing finance effectively is critically important for successful implementation, both to reward emissions reductions in countries where rates of deforestation are slowing and to support those ready and willing to change specific policies and implement measures that can “turn the tide.” Activities supported with multilateral and bilateral funding establish important precedents, provide technical assistance and money for action on deforestation, send signals for how incentive-based payments might work to scale in the future, and can create vested expectations of results.

### CLUA GLOBAL INITIATIVE – OBJECTIVE 3

#### Increased international financing of national actions that reduce deforestation and land-use-related emissions, consistent with UNFCCC guidance on safeguards, monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) and reference levels

##### CHANGES NEEDED

- ▶ Continued and additional finance for incentives and actions that generate REDD+ results, consistent with agreed UNFCCC policies
- ▶ Improved coordination internationally to achieve comparable, verifiable, and just results

##### IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES

- ▶ Encourage continued and scaled-up finance beyond the fast-start period for mid-term actions that can lead to results
- ▶ Encourage models for results-based REDD+ finance as developed by the World Bank climate change programs
- ▶ Encourage donor governments to complement Norway’s efforts and make bilateral agreements for REDD+ with forest nations and/or other recognized subnational jurisdictions or provide other types of complementary support
- ▶ Feed lessons drawn from the local geographies in to the international climate debate, while encouraging multilateral, bilateral and private initiatives to develop and use international guidance based on best practice
- ▶ Promote greater communication, coordination, and collaboration amongst public and private philanthropic actions consistent with CLUA’s strategy

A fourth priority objective is behavioral change that reconciles consumption habits with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from land use. CLUA is not currently allocating resources to this objective, although we recognize its fundamental significance.





## Photo Credits

- 1 Aulia Erlangga for CIFOR  
Neil Palmer for CIAT
- 2 Michael Padmanaba for CIFOR
- 3 Rini Sulaiman for CIFOR  
Kate Evans for CIFOR  
Neil Palmer for CIAT  
Neil Palmer for CIAT  
Marco Simola for CIFOR  
Michael Padmanaba for CIFOR
- 4 Tomas Munita for CIFOR
- 5 Ryan Woo for CIFOR
- 7 Aulia Erlangga for CIFOR
- 9 Neil Palmer for CIAT

## Contact Us



Climate and Land Use Alliance  
*Cultivating solutions for people and the planet*

235 Montgomery Street, 13th Floor  
San Francisco, California 94104  
tel +1 415.433.0566  
fax +1 415.398.2327  
[climateandlandusealliance.org](http://climateandlandusealliance.org)  
[info@climateandlandusealliance.org](mailto:info@climateandlandusealliance.org)