



CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE | 2018-2022

Global Initiative



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

GOAL

We aim to reduce climate change by supporting international policies, programs, and finance that help conserve forests and lands, and increase their ability to remove carbon from the atmosphere, while securing the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and rural communities, and protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services.

WHY A GLOBAL INITIATIVE?

The world's growing global population demands more food, fuel, fiber, and feed. This demand drives the expansion of industrial-scale agriculture and infrastructure and extractive industries, resulting in massive deforestation, conflict over land, and violations of forest peoples' rights. As forests are lost, so is their ability to provide clean air, fresh water, medicines, and support to livelihoods and biodiversity. Deforestation also fuels climate change—worsening global poverty and hunger and threatening human health and security.

Globally, finance that promotes deforestation outpaces funding for forest protection by 40 to 1. But if the right policies, practices, and finance were in place, the world could produce sufficient food and forest products sustainably, and in ways that protect the climate. Forests are essential to a more secure and sustainable future for people and planet.

The Global Initiative

The Global Initiative promotes forests and sustainable land use within international climate and development arenas—highlighting not only their mitigation potential but also the social, environmental, and economic benefits they provide. As part of this effort, we work to ensure public

sector donors maintain support for forests, that the land and resource rights of the indigenous peoples and local communities who protect forests are respected, and that the private sector delivers on its responsibility to prevent deforestation and social conflict in their supply chains.

WE SUPPORT

We support efforts in the following areas:

1 International Forest Policy and Funding

Promoting international policies and programs that support an enabling regulatory environment and provide additional and more effective finance to actions that reduce deforestation and land use emissions and protect indigenous and community rights.

2 Secure Land and Resource Rights

Helping indigenous peoples and local communities who manage tropical forests secure their land and resource rights.

3 Deforestation- and Conflict-Free Commodities

Eliminating forest and peatland loss and degradation, and associated rural conflict and violations of indigenous and community rights, from beef, soy, palm oil, pulp and paper, illegal timber, and biofuel supply chains.

4 High Standards for Infrastructure and Extractives

Advancing global social and environmental standards, transparency, and legal oversight of investment in and development of infrastructure and extractive industries to reduce negative impacts on forests, associated violations of indigenous and community rights, and other environmental, social, and governance risks.

5 Awareness of Forests as a Climate Solution

Increasing understanding of the importance of protecting forests and sustainably using land to global climate commitments and sustainable development.





1

WE SUPPORT

International Forest Policy and Funding

The science is clear: it will be impossible to meet global climate targets without a significant role for forests and land use. Though the sector can provide as much as one third of total emissions reductions needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, global climate policy venues do not fully recognize the importance of forests and land use to climate change mitigation. Many countries have made ambitious emissions reduction commitments, but funding for reducing deforestation does not match what's needed to meet many of these targets. Funders also lack effective means for channeling their resources to the local level, particularly to indigenous peoples and local communities who protect tropical forests.

The Alliance will support the development of international policies, programs, and investments that advance a strong role for forests and land use in global climate change mitigation efforts through national and local actions.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Recognition of Forests in Climate Goals

Increasing recognition in global climate and development policy arenas of the critical role forests and land use play in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement by mobilizing greater political interest and advancing the evidence base.

Reporting on Forest Emissions and Removals

Supporting Paris Agreement signatory states' efforts to accurately and transparently communicate their emissions and removals from forests and land use.

Robust Public Sector Funding

Encouraging public-sector donors to maintain their political and financial support for forests while increasing the coordination and effectiveness of relevant policies, programs, and funding.

Effective Market-Based Investments

Making the investment case for additional and more effective market-based finance for forests and land use with high standards for protecting environmental integrity and indigenous and community rights.



2

WE SUPPORT

Secure Land and Resource Rights

A substantial and growing body of scientific evidence shows that secure indigenous and community land tenure reduces deforestation and associated greenhouse gas emissions and generates large economic benefits at local and national levels. But forest communities face mounting threats and need additional support to secure, defend, and manage their forests. Globally, the pace of rights recognition is too slow, and there remain significant political and regulatory barriers to clarifying and securing tenure.

Many grassroots indigenous and community networks from major tropical forest regions are working together to increase recognition of the contributions they make to protecting forests, and of the threats they face in doing so. The Alliance supports these networks by helping create an open political space for community and indigenous leaders to voice their opinions on the international stage. We also seek to educate policymakers, funders, and partners about the connection between local community land rights and community forest management and emissions—making the case that not only is securing land tenure a human rights issue, but that entrusting forest communities as guardians of the land is also a proven method of reducing emissions from deforestation.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Recognition and Reform

Increasing recognition of indigenous and community forest and land rights as an effective and cost-efficient climate change solution.

Evidence and Awareness

Supporting the development and communication of a robust evidence base for the economic, environmental, and social benefits of secure indigenous and community rights.

Protection of Land and Environmental Defenders

Promoting transparency about crimes, eliminating impunity, and increasing costs for perpetrators with an aim to end the killing and criminalization of land and environmental defenders.

Connected Forest Communities

Convening national and regional networks of indigenous and community forest managers to share experiences and lessons and coordinate their advocacy in global venues, with a focus on greater involvement of women and youth.

3



WE SUPPORT

Deforestation- and Conflict-Free Commodities

Commercial agriculture, including pulp and paper, timber, and biofuels, is responsible for more than 70% of tropical deforestation, and agricultural expansion—much of it illegal—is a major driver of rural conflict and violations of indigenous and community rights. Real progress in reducing emissions from deforestation will not be possible without eliminating deforestation and rights abuses from forest risk commodity production, trade, consumption, and finance. Companies continue to commit to no deforestation, no peat, and no exploitation (NDPE) in their production and sourcing of palm oil, beef, soy, wood products, and other commodities. Yet progress towards implementing and reporting on these commitments has lagged. A shift from commitments to action is needed within these companies, by the financial institutions that support them, and the governments that regulate them.

To maintain progress and encourage further momentum, the Alliance supports efforts to ensure NDPE commitments are implemented and verified, with measurable and transparent social and environmental impact. This work also includes developing criteria that empower investors and consumers to differentiate among companies driving deforestation and conflict and those adopting effective deforestation and conflict-free practices.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Private Sector Action and Reporting

Supporting transparent and credible reporting on and independent verification of progress in implementing NDPE commitments.

Sustainable Investments

Encouraging public and private institutions and investors to shift their investments away from companies and activities driving deforestation and conflict and toward companies and practices that protect forests and rights.

Supportive Government Policy

Helping governments in consumer and producer countries develop tools that support implementation of NDPE commitments and increase demand for NDPE commodities.



4

WE SUPPORT

High Standards for Infrastructure and Extractives

As global demand for resources increases, mining, oil, natural gas, and other infrastructure and extractive industries are expanding into tropical forests. This expansion is a serious threat to the environment and to forest communities, through increased risk of deforestation, violations of human rights, and negative impacts on forest governance. Failing to respond to these threats endangers past achievements in reducing deforestation and securing indigenous and community rights.

The Alliance seeks to remove deforestation and rights violations from infrastructure and extractive industry supply chains and to support indigenous peoples and local communities in defending their land and resource rights. Toward this end, we focus on strengthening global social and environmental standards, transparency, and legal oversight of investment in and development of infrastructure and extractive industries.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Corporate Commitments and Behavior

Improving operations of companies within the infrastructure and extractive sectors and of their investors by ensuring that policies and programs minimize negative impacts on forests and the communities within them.

Binding International Agreements

Promoting international agreements and norms that include safeguards to minimize environmental and social impacts of infrastructure and extractive industries, and include independent verification and reporting of implementation by national governments.



5

WE SUPPORT

Awareness of Forests as a Climate Solution

Around the world, there is a growing recognition that climate change is an urgent threat with potentially catastrophic effects. Yet recognition of the role forests and land use can play in mitigating climate change, as well as the importance of empowering indigenous and forest communities to protect forests, remains relatively low, particularly given the significant potential forests and lands hold as a climate solution.

The Alliance aims to expand the communications work of our partner organizations and further build a body of evidence. By supporting efforts to develop additional research, we hope to add to the evidence base of objective, compelling material that will help ensure forests and land use remain visible in global media to inform sustainable land use policies and practices.

WHERE WE FOCUS

Building Evidence

Expanding and better communicating the evidence base of scientific research demonstrating the central importance of forests and land use to addressing climate change.

Profiling Forests and Climate

Promoting stories on the importance of forests and land use in international and national media to inform decision-makers and contribute to sustainable forest and land use policy priorities.



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