# Raising ambition, accelerating action

2024

## Towards enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions for forests

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# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| **AFOLU** | Agriculture, forestry and other land use |
| **AP** | Asia Pacific |
| **COP** | Conference of the Parties |
| **FOLU** | Forestry and other land use |
| **FREL** | Forest Reference Emissions Level |
| **GHG** | Greenhouse gas |
| **INPE** | Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais |
| **IP** | Indigenous Peoples |
| **IPCC** | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| **LAC** | Latin America and the Caribbean |
| **LCs** | Local communities |
| **LULUCF** | Land use, land-use change and forestry |
| **MRE** | Ministério das Relações Exteriores |
| **NDC** | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| **PPCDAm** | Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon |
| **REDD+** | Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries |
| **RRI** | Rights and Resources Initiative |
| **UNEP** | United Nations Environment Programme |
| **UNFCCC** | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| **WRI** | World Resources Institute |

2024

# Executive summary

Intact forests are extraordinary resources whose role in supporting flourishing economies and societies is often overlooked. They regulate water supply. They provide essential resources for people. They are home to pollinators that food systems depend upon. They are also vital for storing carbon, which contributes to mitigating climate change. Yet deforestation threatens the provision of these benefits, endangering the economies and societies that need them.

**8/20**
**countries**

experiencing most tropical deforestation have quantified targets to reduce deforestation in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

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**11 NDCs**

contain quantified targets relating to afforestation or reforestation.

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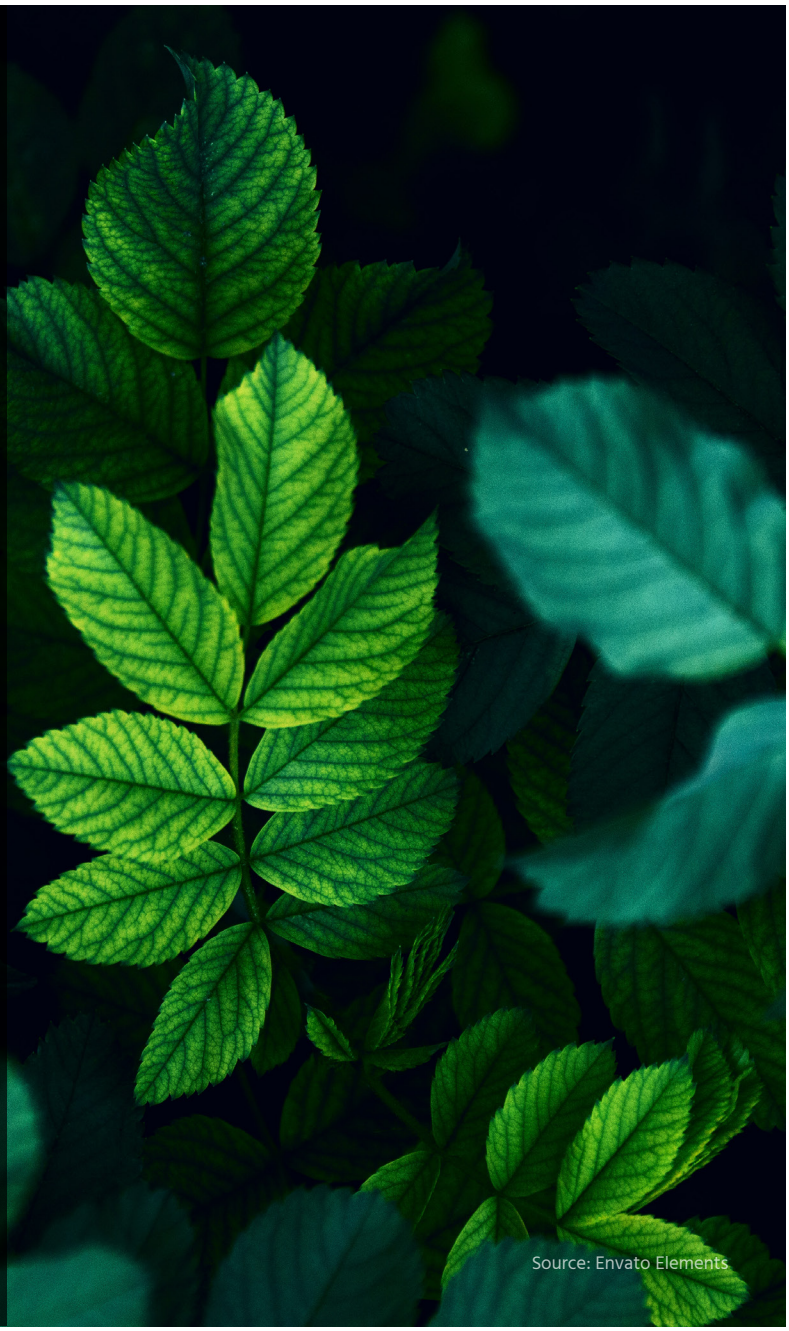
**Current pledges in the most recent NDCs**

do not meet the global ambition to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030



Source: Envato Elements

## Mitigating climate change requires reducing deforestation first, as it takes many years to capture the carbon lost through deforesting an equivalent area through afforestation and restoration.

Protecting forests is essential to maintain these benefits while ensuring resilient economies and promoting sustainable socioeconomic development. It is also one of the most cost-effective ways to mitigate climate change, which poses significant risks to people across the world.

Global leaders have been making promises to protect forests for over a decade but have so far failed to deliver. The 2030 ambition to halt deforestation must be achieved if humanity is to avoid tremendous risks to our planet and the life it supports.

Pledges to reduce deforestation in REDD+ countries and pledges to financially support this transition from developed countries are insufficient to halt deforestation by 2030.[1] This report finds that commitments within the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from the twenty countries with the highest emissions from tree cover loss are not enough to meet the goal. Only eight countries include explicit quantified targets to reduce deforestation. All fall short of global ambition to halt deforestation by 2030.

This is a tragedy given the contributions of forests not only to the planet's stable climate but the global economy and the livelihoods of diverse communities inhabiting them.

As a first step, REDD+ countries can strengthen and enhance forest-based targets in NDCs and other policies. Planned actions to reduce deforestation must be specific, equitable and feasible. This includes recognizing and empowering Indigenous People and local communities, women and young people.

Countries are not starting from the beginning on these matters. Most governments already have national environmental policies in place that provide a starting point.

Next, policies need to be put into practice, while adhering to social and environmental safeguards. Continued positive action to end deforestation is needed to create sustainable and flourishing economies. Action from REDD+ countries, developed countries and the private sector is essential as the drivers of deforestation are global. REDD+ countries should not bear this burden alone.

Meanwhile, the provision of immediate substantial financial and technical support for forest protection is key. This is crucial for levelling the playing field and supporting forest-based economies. REDD+ countries have called for developed countries to honour their promises of climate and forest finance.

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2025 is an excellent opportunity for countries to strengthen their NDCs and to act on deforestation before it is too late. Working together across nations to take these actions will put us on the path towards living in harmony with nature. The time to act is now.

[1] Activities in developing countries that involve reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, sustainable management of forests and the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.


# Time is running out to protect forests

Forests are essential for people and the planet. They regulate water quality, maintain habitat for pollinators and provide essential resources for people (Thompson *et al.* 2011; Brockerhoff et al. 2017; Shackleton and de Vos 2022). They are vital carbon sinks (Harris *et al.* 2021), which contribute to mitigating climate change. They are also home to much of the world's biodiversity (Gibson et al. 2011). Yet this is threatened by continued deforestation.

Halting deforestation is essential for the world to meet its socioeconomic development, biodiversity and climate change mitigation goals. It is a cost-effective climate change mitigation action (Austin *et al.* 2020). However, the world's progress toward halting deforestation by 2030 (Box 1) is not on track (Forest Declaration Assessment Partners 2023).

Countries have an opportunity to include their targets to reduce deforestation in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), which outline the actions countries will take to adapt to and mitigate climate change. They are updated every five years, starting from 2020. To date the commitments articulated in NDCs are insufficient to curb global emissions in line with the Paris agreement (Fransen et al. 2022; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] 2022). This insufficient ambition is also true for actions related to nature and forests (WWF-UK 2021). For example, only 38% of Parties to the UNFCCC include measures to reduce conversion of forests and other ecosystems (UNFCCC 2023). All countries, including developed countries, will need to raise their ambition to reduce their emissions in their next NDC updates in 2025. For countries with high emissions from tropical deforestation, this will include targets related to activities within the reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD+) framework.

Action is needed immediately to realize the full potential of forest-based climate change mitigation (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] 2019; Zhu et al. 2022). This action needs to be equitable and coordinated. Forest countries need support from developed countries to reduce deforestation and to begin to address historical and present inequalities. Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP and LCs), women and young people need to be included in planning and action, and to benefit from forest protection. This is vital to ensure that environmental and social safeguards are met as well as achieving broader socioeconomic goals.

The benefits of conserving and restoring forests are huge. Forests are essential carbon sinks. The world's forests sequester twice as much carbon as they emit.

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2025 is a global milestone for ambition on forest protection. Halfway towards the 2030 goals, it is the time for revised NDCs to be submitted when COP30 is hosted in Belém, Brazil – the heart of the Amazon.[2] To avert climate catastrophe, the world must reach COP30 with NDCs aligned with the Paris Agreement and progress well underway to halting deforestation.

## Box 1: International recognition of forests

The world has recognized the importance of the benefits of forests and the dire consequences of their continuing loss. Efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) have been an important part of international climate action for over fifteen years, since the REDD+ mechanism was adopted at UNFCCC COP13. Other international and regional agreements have been made, for example:

- **The New York Declaration on Forests** aimed to halve deforestation by 2020, which was not achieved (Forest Declaration Assessment Partners 2020), and to end forest loss by 2030.[3,4]
- **The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use** seeks "to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation."[5]
- At the **Amazon Summit in August 2023,** the eight Amazon nations, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Indonesia, the Republic of Congo and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines signed the "United for our Forests" pact, agreeing to do their part in reducing deforestation (Ministério das Relações Exteriores [MRE] 2023).

Recently, the Global Stocktake from the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC 2023) emphasized the importance of enhancing efforts towards the 2030 forest goal, the first time it has appeared in a UNFCCC decision. It is time that this recognition of forests turns into outcomes.

[2] https://www.gov.br/planalto/en/latest-news/2023/12/formally-official-belem-pa-and-brazil-are-preparing-for-cop-30-in-2025
[3] Original declaration in 2014: https://forestdeclaration.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NYDF_Declaration.pdf
[4] Renewed declaration in 2021: https://forestdeclaration.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/EN-NYDF-Refresh.pdf
[5] https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230401054904/https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/

Source: Envato Elements

# Deforestation emissions are not on track

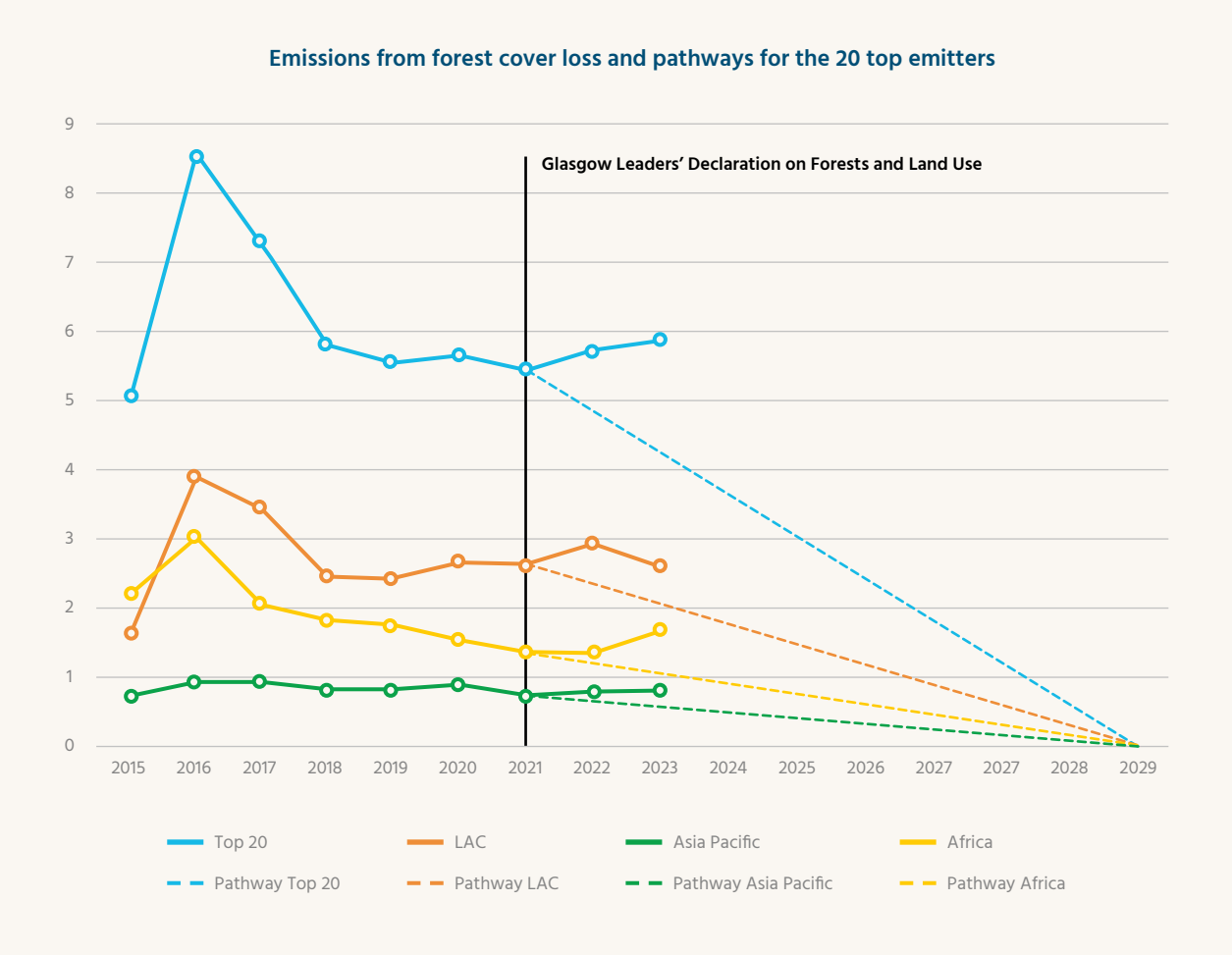
An average of 5.6 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e) was emitted from tropical deforestation per year between 2019 and 2023 for the top twenty countries, according to Global Forest Watch (Harris *et al.* 2021; Figure 1).[6] This is more than four and a half times the emissions from international aviation and shipping combined.[7] Emissions from deforestation have increased since the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use in 2021. Emissions trends are not on track to reach zero by 2030.[8]

[6] Bolivia (Plurinational States of), Brazil, Peru, Mexico, Colombia (Latin America and the Caribbean); Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sierra Leone (Africa); Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam (Asia Pacific). Estimated using annual deforestation emissions data from Global Forest Watch (GFW). Although this data does not necessarily match with country data (due to different definitions of forests, among other things), we use this as it has a globally-consistent methodology and provides an overview of trends.

[7] Using data from the Emissions Database for Global Atmospheric Research (EDGAR) Community GHG Database (European Commission Joint Research Council 2023). Between 2018 and 2022 (inclusive) there was an average of 463.1 million tCO2e/year for international aviation and 723.6 million tCO2e/year for international shipping. This excludes domestic aviation and shipping.

[8] The emissions data here are for gross carbon emissions from forests, excluding regrowth, afforestation or reforestation.

***Figure 1:*** *Emissions from the top twenty tropical countries with the highest emissions from tree cover loss, using data from Global Forest Watch (Harris et al. 2021). Solid lines are historical emissions. Dashed lines are illustrative pathways for reaching zero deforestation emissions by 2030, assuming a linear decrease year-on-year. Illustrative pathways begin in 2021 – the year of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.*




The increase in global deforestation emissions until 2022 was mostly driven by those from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), which have been going up since 2019. However, a more recent annual decline by 22% in deforestation in Brazil (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais [INPE] 2023) shows that rapid improvements can be made. Despite this progress in 2023, the LAC region still has a gap between the illustrative pathway to 2030 (dashed lines in figure 1) and actual emissions. In Africa and Asia Pacific, recent deforestation emissions have shown an increasing trend, illustrating the size of the challenge of halting deforestation by 2030. The drivers of these trends are complex, consisting of both direct and underlying local, national and global factors (Kissinger, Herold and De Sy 2012; Box 2). An equitable and effective approach to halting deforestation will require coordinated action at a global level.

[9] from 11,594 km$^2$ (August 2021 to July 2022) to 9,001 km$^2$ (August 2022 to July 2023), according to data from PRODES, a system from the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE 2023).

## Box 2: The complexity of deforestation drivers

The direct causes of deforestation interact with the complex underlying causes, such as global and national socioeconomic and political characteristics (Kissinger, Herold and De Sy 2012). Some of these drivers are highlighted below.

Agriculture is the major cause of deforestation (Curtis *et al.* 2018; Pendrill *et al.* 2022), with international demand for commodities, such as soybean, beef and oil palm, driving much of this (Hoang and Kanemoto 2021). For example, fluctuations in the market prices of oil palm have been linked to deforestation rates in Indonesia (Gaveau *et al.* 2022). Although deforestation in the Congo Basin is primarily driven by small-scale agriculture (Shapiro *et al.* 2023a; Shapiro *et al.* 2023b), industrial activities and commercial agriculture pose a greater risk to primary forests, often opening intact areas to settlement and small-scale agriculture (Ferrat *et al.* 2022).

A lack of effective and enforced land-use policies also contribute to high deforestation rates. For example, high deforestation rates in the Brazilian Amazon between 2019 and 2022 were attributed to the reduction in environmental policies and lack of enforcement of those that existed (Gatti *et al.* 2023).

Assessments of the different drivers have been done at regional level – e.g., for the Amazon (Hänggli *et al.* 2023), the Congo Basin (Shapiro et al. 2023a; Shapiro *et al.* 2023b) and South-East Asia (Jamaludin *et al.* 2022; Chen *et al.* 2024) – and national or sub-national level – e.g., the Littoral Region in Cameroon (Mahmoud *et al.* 2019), Guinea (Fitzgerald *et al.* 2021), Myanmar (Lim *et al.* 2017), Malaysia (Yan *et al.* 2020), Colombia (Anaya *et al.* 2020) and Peru (Sánchez-Cuervo *et al.* 2020). Global synthesis studies (e.g., Busch and Ferretti-Gallon 2023) try to bring these together to understand global trends in deforestation.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Source: Envato Elements

# National commitments on forests fall short

Targets to reduce deforestation in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by the twenty countries with the highest emissions from deforestation do not meet the global ambition to halt deforestation by 2030.[10] Indeed, only eight NDCs include targets to reduce deforestation (figure 2). No NDCs reviewed include a goal that aligns with the global goal to halt deforestation by 2030, even when considering conditional commitments. However, Mexico includes an adaptation target to achieve net zero deforestation by 2030, meaning that area reforested would match or exceed deforested areas.

[10] Targets are quantified measures, such as a reduction of emissions by a specified amount. Countries as in the previous section. See Annexes for definitions, methodology and additional analysis.

Even when NDCs include forest-based targets, they are not always accompanied by planned actions. Some countries provide a detailed breakdown of specific actions that will be implemented to achieve their targets, whereas others state the target with no further detail.

Other deforestation targets include Bolivia's target to reduce deforestation by 80% by 2030. Over half of this reduction is conditional on international support. Côte d'Ivoire has an unconditional target to reduce deforestation by 70% (from 2015 levels) by 2030. Colombia's NDC states that it will reduce deforestation to 50,000 hectares/year by 2030 and use co-operative approaches under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement to reach net zero deforestation.

Eleven of the NDCs contain quantified targets relating to afforestation, reforestation, or restoration of forested landscapes (hereafter restoration). Although these activities are important, mitigating climate change first requires reducing deforestation, as it takes many years to capture through restoration the carbon lost through an equivalent area of deforestation (Cook-Patton *et al.* 2021). This is not currently reflected in NDCs, where five countries have restoration targets without deforestation targets.

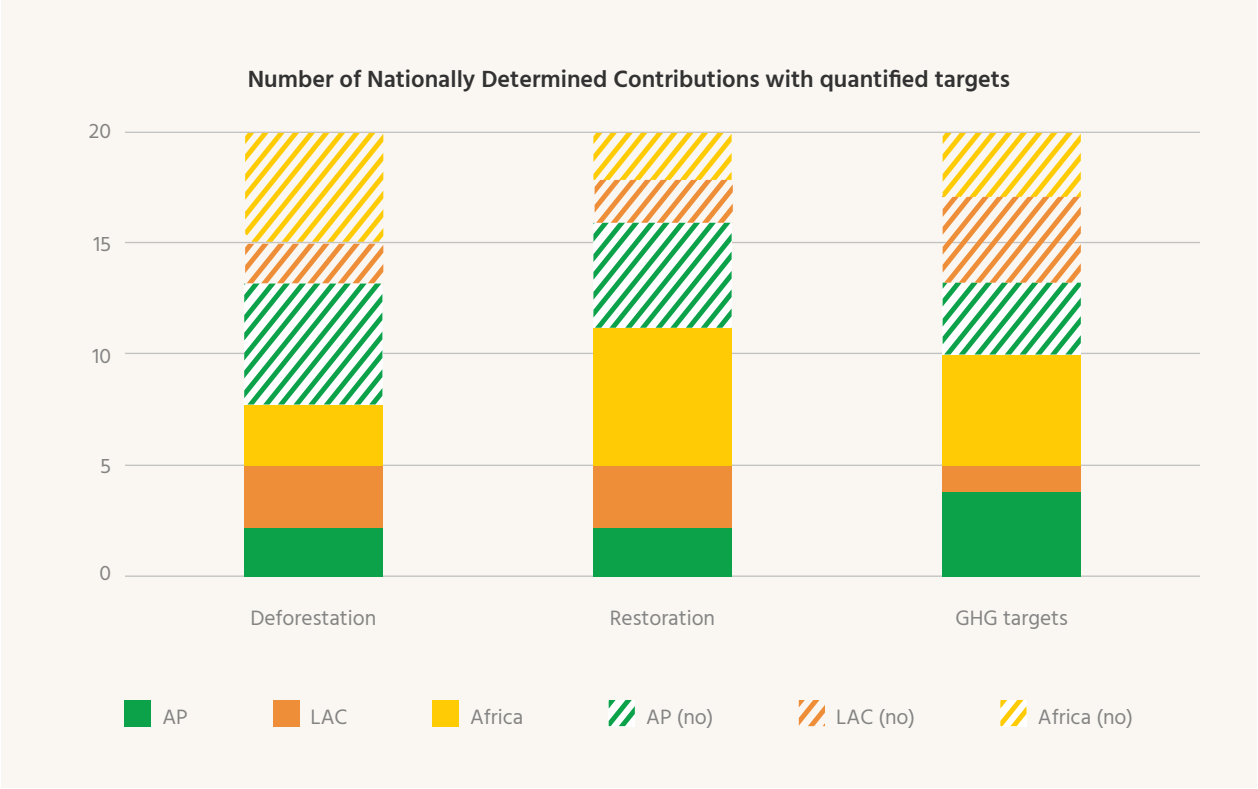
Some NDCs contain multiple forest-related targets. For example, six cover both deforestation and restoration. However, six NDCs provide no forest-related targets.

Countries frame their targets in different ways. For example, five countries have area-based targets (e.g., number of hectares), three have emissions-based targets (e.g., tonnes of CO2 equivalent) and six have both. This makes it challenging to track progress and align national targets with global ones.

NDCs contain different levels of detail regarding the plans to achieve their targets. Some provide a detailed breakdown of specific actions that will be implemented (e.g., Liberia's NDC contains fourteen 'Mitigation Actions and Policy Measures' for their forest targets), whereas others state the target with no further detail (including Mexico's net zero deforestation target).

Although NDCs are important catalysts for climate action (Jernnäs 2023), they do not provide the full picture of countries' plans to tackle deforestation. Countries may have different or more ambitious targets in other national plans or policies. For example, Brazil's updated NDC does not contain any forest-related targets, but they do mention their commitment to end deforestation by 2030. This is part of Brazil's multi-agency Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (PPCDAm).[11] Similarly, Indonesia's NDC does not have specific forest commitments, but the country's Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030 Operational Plan aims to achieve net zero emissions in forest and land use sectors by 2030. REDD+ National Strategies or Action Plans may contain more detailed actions that will be taken to reduce deforestation, even if these actions are not specified in their NDCs.

**Figure 2:** For the twenty tropical countries with the highest emissions from tree cover loss, less than half provide quantified targets for reducing deforestation, just over half for afforestation, reforestation and restoration, and half express at least one forest-related target as a greenhouse gas reduction target. Colours refer to the three regions – Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean. Solid bars represent countries that did include targets, and hashed bars, countries that did not include targets.




[11] https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/prevencao-e-controle-do-desmatamento/amazonia-ppcdam-1/ppcdam_5_en.pdf

Source: Envato Elements

# Transforming promises into practice

If the world is going to halt deforestation by 2030, developed countries and forest countries will need to work together to transform their international goals into reality.

The first step is strengthening, enhancing and aligning forest-based measures in NDCs and other national policies. Although forest-based targets in NDCs are nowhere near enough, commitments and plans in other national policies (such as Brazil's plan for the Amazon and Indonesia's FOLU plan) provide an opportunity to enhance NDCs. Many forest countries have REDD+ National Strategies, alongside forest reference emission levels (FRELs) and land-use greenhouse gas inventories. These can be used to quickly enhance NDCs while aligning accounting of the land-use sector.

A recent analysis recommends that targets to end deforestation within NDCs and national policies should be clearly defined (Gasser, Ciais and Lewis 2022). This includes clarifying whether targets refer to net or gross forest loss and specifying separate targets for primary and secondary forests. Retaining primary forests rather than replacing them with planted forests (possible under a 'net' target) is significantly better for the climate.

Additionally, NDCs should identify specific planned actions and policies that are linked with policies of other sectors (Sato, Langer and Stolle 2019). This is essential for tackling the complex cross-sectoral drivers of deforestation, while helping to reduce costs and increase political momentum (Mehling, Metcalf and Stavins 2018). These policies must be developed to specifically include climate change mitigation to ensure that they are effective (Meehan, Tacconi and Budiningsih 2019).

National commitments and NDC targets to combat deforestation should be designed with inclusivity, considering diverse needs and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and young people. An analysis of the NDCs from Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru found that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are rarely mentioned within their NDCs (World Resources Institute [WRI] and Climate Focus 2022). According to the UNFCCC synthesis report of NDCs, only 33% stated that gender considerations would be taken while implementing them (UNFCCC 2023).

The burden of these efforts cannot fall on REDD+ countries alone. Technical and financial support will be needed to enhance policies, develop integrated approaches and take action. This is clear from the multiple conditional forest-based NDC targets. Forest countries have been clear: financial commitments made by developed countries need to be realized (African Union 2023; MRE 2023).

In addition to fulfilling existing commitments, finance for forests needs to increase significantly. Current and committed finance to reduce deforestation is insufficient (United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP] 2022; Energy Transitions Commission 2023; Forest Declaration Assessment Partners 2023). There are a number of potential ways to achieve this. Some research suggests that forest carbon prices on the carbon market should increase to at least 30-50 USD/tonne of $CO_2e$ in order to incentivize action (Trove Research 2021; UNEP 2023). Innovative financial mechanisms will also be needed to fund forest conservation at scale (UNEP 2023). Suggested options include a global tax regime for funding climate action (African Union 2023), debt-for-nature swaps


**In order to incentivize action forest carbon prices should increase to:**

**30-50**

**USD/tonne, at least.**

(*Amazonia for Life Declaration* n.d.; Quintallina, Léon and Josse 2022), subsidy reform (Damania *et al.* 2023) and advance payments for emissions reductions (The Nature Conservancy 2022).

Increased commitments are a fantastic first step, but this needs to translate into action. Enforcing inclusive policies is crucial to enabling action and achieving commitments. This requires political will and often, strengthened institutional capacity (Forest Declaration Assessment Partners 2022). REDD+ activities must also follow social and environmental safeguards as agreed under the UNFCCC, to ensure co-benefits, avoid risks to people and nature and lead to long-term impacts. Commitments to combat deforestation should consider diverse needs and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth.

To ensure sustainable and long-term reductions in deforestation, integrated approaches are essential. Continued action through any political or economic changes is important for a sustained halt in deforestation, rather than short-term reductions. Implementation of policies that encourage wider sustainable economic practices, for example bioeconomy approaches (e.g., Halla 2023; Nobre *et al.* 2023), can help drive long-term economic change, provide employment and keep forests intact. They can also tackle the underlying causes of deforestation, helping create persistent change. Poverty reduction strategies have been successful in reducing deforestation in Indonesia (Ferraro and Simorangkir 2020), highlighting the links between socioeconomic development and environmental protection. Integrated approaches can tackle the local and national underlying causes of deforestation, helping create persistent change. However, the drivers of deforestation are often located outside of REDD+ countries due to global commodity demand (Box 2). Therefore, developed countries and the private sector will need to take action alongside REDD+ countries to effectively reduce tropical deforestation and ensure equity.

## Forest countries have been clear: financial commitments made by developed countries need to be realized.

*(African Union 2023; United for Our Forests 2023).*

Implementing REDD+ measures must also include strengthening legal, technical and financial support for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and young people. REDD+ policies and actions have to date rarely empowered or sufficiently considered Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women or young people (Rights and Resources Initiative [RRI] 2017; New York Declaration on Forests Assessment Partners 2021; RRI 2021; RRI and The Tenure Facility 2021; Thuy *et al.* 2021; WRI and Climate Focus 2022; RRI 2023). This includes a lack of climate finance that is directed to or supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities (e.g., Hatcher, Owen and Yin 2021) and women (e.g., Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development - Development Assistance Committee Network on Gender Equality 2016).

Furthermore, recognizing the stewardship of IP and LCs through finance, and legal recognition of land and carbon rights can play a critical and cost-effective role in conserving forests while maintaining local livelihoods and traditions (Ding *et al.* 2016; Baragwanath and Bayi 2020; Baragwanath, Bayi and Shinde 2022; Kennedy et al. 2023; WRI and Climate Focus 2022). For example, improved enforcement of existing laws through intensified raids on illegal activities occurring on Indigenous lands (Agência Brasileira de Inteligência 2023; Ministério dos Povos Indígenas 2023) has contributed to the successful reduction in deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon in 2023 (Fearnside 2023).

# Conclusions

1. As countries prepare for the submission of the next round of NDCs for COP30 — known as NDCs 3.0, with a timeframe extending to 2035 — **the report urges countries, especially those with extensive forest cover, to include concrete, measurable targets on forests in their revised NDCs.**

2. **Increased NDC ambition must be accompanied by strong and immediate action.** Predictable financial support at scale for REDD+ countries will be needed to take these steps.

Global leaders keep promising to halt deforestation by 2030, but current progress is not on track (Forest Declaration Assessment Partners 2023). This commitment to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030 needs to be achieved to protect forests for the sake of people, climate and nature, not least as it offers a crucial contribution to mitigating global climate change. The 30th UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP30) in 2025 is an important milestone to increase ambition on reducing deforestation. It should be reached with progress well underway.

Existing national commitments to end deforestation fall short of delivering the 2030 goal and avoiding catastrophic forest loss. With the next round of updates for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) fast approaching, incorporating well-defined forest-based targets, including halting deforestation is imperative. Where countries already have sufficient targets in other national policies, these provide an opportunity to easily raise ambition. Otherwise, national policies should be consistent with the new NDC targets to ensure concerted action in a coordinated and equitable way.

These commitments need to be accompanied by integrated policies and action to have long-lived impacts. Actions to reduce deforestation need to be long-term, while following social and environmental safeguards. This includes recognizing and supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, girls and young people. Empowering Indigenous Peoples and local communities to manage their land, including through financial support and enhancing land rights, is a proven strategy to protect the vast forests within their lands.

To enhance and implement the policies necessary to safeguard our planet from climate-related devastation, REDD+ countries will immediately need substantial financial and technical support. This includes developed countries honouring their financial commitments. Furthermore, the drivers of deforestation are a complex interaction between global, national and local factors. REDD+ countries should not bear the whole burden of reducing deforestation. Cooperation between REDD+ countries, developed countries and the private sector is the only way to ensure a harmonious and equitable future for people and the planet.

## Now is the time to deliver coordinated action to conserve forests and turn commitments into reality.

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# **Annex 1:** NDC methodology

The most recent Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from the twenty countries with the highest emissions from tree cover loss between 205 and 2022 (as defined by Global Forest Watch emissions; Harris e*t al.* 2021) were analysed. The Climate Action Tracker tool and reports by the World Resources Institute (Fransen *et al.* 2022) and World WWF-UK (2021) were used for cross-checking and clarification where necessary.

Measures within NDCs can be considered as one of three types (adapted from Fransen *et al.* 2021): carbon targets, non-carbon targets, and policies and actions. Targets refers to quantified measures, whereas policies and actions refers to non-quantified measures, such as 'improve sustainable forest management'. Carbon targets are expressed as a reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or an increase in absorption. Non-carbon targets are expressed as an area-based target, such as increasing forest cover by a certain amount.

We analysed NDCs for inclusion of forests-based measures in NDCs. In some cases, where no forest-based measures were specified, we looked at inclusion of the land-use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector or the agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) sector. We did not consider measures relating to ecosystems in general, such as restoring a proportion of all ecosystems, or increasing protected area coverage.

Targets were categorized into two main categories: targets to reduce deforestation and targets for afforestation, reforestation and restoration of forested landscapes (hereafter, restoration). Targets related to forest degradation, forest fires, and sustainable forest management were noted but not included in the main analysis.

Additionally, we noted down GHG targets. These targets may overlap with the deforestation and restoration targets because they may be expressed as emissions-based reductions. However, this category also includes general targets to reduce emissions from the LULUCF/AFOLU sector.

# **Annex 2:** Extended analysis of forest-related measures in NDCs

Targets to reduce deforestation in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted by the twenty countries with the highest emissions from deforestation do not meet the global ambition to halt deforestation by 2030. Indeed, only eight NDCs included targets to reduce deforestation. No NDC include a goal that aligns with the global goal to halt deforestation by 2030, even when considering conditional commitments.

Mexico's NDC aims to meet net zero deforestation by 2030, though this is presented as an adaptation target. Colombia aims to reach net zero deforestation using internationally transferred mitigation outcomes under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. It is possible that some countries may meet net zero deforestation through their restoration targets. However, quantifying this is challenging and beyond the focus of this report.

Only eight countries included targets to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. These ranged from aiming for zero deforestation by 2030 (in line with global goals), to committing to reduce deforestation by 25% by 2030.

Only two NDCs include reducing forest degradation. Eleven countries included targets related to restoration and enhancing carbon sinks. These measures include reforestation, afforestation and restoration of degraded forests. These commitments make critical contributions to climate change mitigation beyond avoided deforestation and degradation. One country (Bolivia) includes a commitment to reduce forest fires.

Not all countries include forests or the LULUCF/AFOLU sector within their NDCs. Sixteen of the twenty NDCs contain LULUCF measures (quantified and non-quantified), of which fourteen provide quantified targets. LULUCF measures in ten NDCs include a quantified GHG target. Some NDCs provide a GHG target for the whole LULUCF sector, while others provide GHG targets as part of other specific measures.

Some countries include conditional NDC targets, which significantly increases their ambition. The inclusion of conditional and unconditional measures varies across the countries analyzed. For some countries (e.g., Madagascar), the entire NDC is conditional on international support. Some countries (e.g., Guinea) provide specific unconditional and conditional targets for each of the categories included within their NDC. Some countries (e.g., Côte d'Ivoire) provide unconditional targets for one category (reducing deforestation) and both for another category (restoration). In some cases, the conditional targets lead to the ambition to reduce deforestation more than doubling (e.g., Myanmar).

The actions and policies that will be implemented to achieve NDC commitments are reported to different levels of detail by different countries. For example, Liberia contains fourteen 'Mitigation Actions and Policy Measures' for their forest targets, including implementing its REDD+ National Strategy and Bolivia (Plurinational States of) states that it will strengthen institutional frameworks. In contrast, other NDCs state the targets and measures without giving the actions or policies that will be put in place to achieve them. Furthermore, although REDD+ is referred to in thirteen of the analyzed NDCs, this can vary from simply mentioning that policies are in place as the national context, to specifically referring to REDD+ policies and actions as part of meeting targets.

Equity and inclusion are not considered in all NDCs. Some NDCs make specific mention of IP and LCs, as well as gender-responsive climate policies (e.g., Papua New Guinea). These can refer to the entire NDC, rather than specific LULUCF measures. Some countries do explicitly mention the important role of IP and LCs in their forest measures (e.g., Bolivia). An analysis of four Latin American NDCs (Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Peru) found that policies relating to IP and LCs and their lands are limited, with no specific targets for IP and LC land, unclear participation of IP and LCs (World Resources Institute [WRI] and Climate Focus 2022).

The ways in which NDC commitments are reported makes it almost impossible to determine how far off the pathway to halt deforestation the world is. NDC commitments related to forests vary by the level of detail, the metrics used, and the actions covered. Targets can be expressed as area-based commitments (e.g., hectares per year), emissions reduction volume commitments (e.g., tonnes CO2 reduced), relative commitments (e.g., percent reduction compared to a baseline) or qualitative commitments (e.g., supporting communities to reforest). Units for emissions reductions vary from referring to GHG, only CO2 or CO2 equivalent. GHG targets are set in a variety of different ways. Some refer to the entire LULUCF/AFOLU sector, not just the forest sector. Forest commitments vary by the level of detail, the metrics used (e.g., relative reductions, area-based commitments, or emissions volume commitments) and the actions covered. GHG and forest cover targets do not always distinguish between reduced emissions and enhancing carbon stocks, making it harder to quantify commitments to reduce deforestation. There are no common baselines used to measure commitments against (Jeudy-Hugo *et al.* 2021). Some countries use projected business-as-usual scenarios whereas others used fixed baselines with various reference years. Additionally, the data and methodologies used to assess commitments varies significantly between NDCs (e.g., data on carbon stores and sequestration rates, definitions of forest and forest loss).

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