



FACTSHEET

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Forests & Climate

We must act now to secure a future in which our forests stand for good –for the benefit of people and our planet



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Forest & Climate Initiative

Protect trees, reduce carbon emissions

Forests are vital to people and the planet. Tropical rainforests are home to the greatest diversity of life on Earth, with up to 50% of the world's known species found in them and over 1 billion of the world's people relying upon them for their livelihoods.

Forests are also among the world's largest storehouses of carbon, after the oceans. When forests are destroyed, the carbon in trees is released into the atmosphere. Today, up to 20% of global carbon emissions come from deforestation and forest degradation – more than the total emissions from the global transportation sector. Quite simply, halting forest loss is a key part of fighting climate change.

Getting REDD+ right

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (called REDD+) hold a great deal of promise as a way to cut global greenhouse gas emissions. WWF's goal is zero net emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 2020 – which means we are working to ensure that forests are a key part of tackling climate change. Because forests are valuable for much more than the carbon they store, REDD+ must also benefit people and nature.



20%

DEFORESTATION
AND FOREST
DEGRADATION
ACCOUNTS FOR
UP TO 20%
OF GLOBAL
CARBON
EMISSIONS

Forest & Climate Initiative: Focal landscapes



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR REDD+



To achieve this, the Forest & Climate Initiative is:

- **Advocating principles in global policy** so frameworks for REDD+ ensure real emissions reductions, conserve biodiversity and protect the rights and wellbeing of forest dwelling communities.
- **Influencing national REDD+ policy** to support development of the needed institutional and legal frameworks for REDD+ by working with governments in Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal and Peru, among others.
- **Initiating forest carbon demonstration activities** in high biodiversity landscapes in the world's key forest landscapes, including the Amazon, Borneo and Congo Basin, by working at scale with local communities and governments to test approaches for getting REDD+ right.
- **Convening communities of interest in finance** to explore the conditions under which fast start pledges of public financing can catalyze long-term, adequate and predictable financing, including private capital support for REDD+.
- **Innovating technical solutions for REDD+** by measuring, monitoring, verifying and reporting on forest carbon to accurately assess whether real progress is being made in REDD+ efforts.

What's next?

We aren't there yet and there's still work to be done to turn REDD+ into a workable solution for the climate, people and nature.

WWF will continue to advocate for an international framework for REDD+ while at the same time working with countries to prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies. From building technical capacity for measuring and monitoring the carbon in forests to addressing the drivers of deforestation, WWF is furthering REDD+ development. At the same time, we are learning valuable lessons from our programmes and partnerships around the world that we're sharing to make sure we get REDD+ right.

WWF's Forest & Climate Initiative

Our vision

The world's forests are valued for the benefit of climate, people and nature

Our goal

Zero net emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 2020

For more information:

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Notre raison d'être

Arrêter la dégradation de l'environnement dans le monde et construire un avenir où les êtres humains pourront vivre en harmonie avec la nature.

www.panda.org/forestcarbon