

Leaders expand on Glasgow legacy to join the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership

- Five countries today announced that they have joined the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), and are contributing to planning for COP28.
- This high ambition partnership of countries builds on the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration for Forests and Land Use made by 140+ countries to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.
- Through joining the FCLP, countries have committed to lead high ambition efforts to deliver on the Leaders Declaration, and to be accountable, including through annual high-level events.
- The FCLP unites action by government, business, Indigenous organisations, and community leaders, and shine a spotlight on global progress at COP28 and every year up to 2030.

Today, Belgium, Denmark, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), United Arab Emirates, and Peru announced that they have joined the Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership, committing to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 in the fight against climate change.

The FCLP, launched at the inaugural Forest and Climate Leaders' Summit at COP27, is a voluntary partnership of 32 countries and the European Union committed to delivery, accountability and innovation following the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, which was endorsed by more than 140 world leaders at COP26. Leaders have committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation this decade. If achieved, this would deliver 10% of the climate mitigation action needed by 2030 to deliver on the Paris Agreement.

Led by a Steering Committee including Colombia, Costa Rica, DRC, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Norway, UK and USA, and Chaired by the United States and Ghana, FCLP members represent a range of regions, major forest areas, and centres of commerce and finance.

All members of the FCLP, who represent 60% of global GDP and over 35% the world's forests, are united by a common goal; each member must commit to leading on at least one of the FCLP's action areas. Through the FCLP, countries are leading initiatives to scale and drive delivery. These include mobilising forest-positive public and private finance, cooperation related to high integrity carbon markets for forests, building robust forest economies that contribute to a net-zero world, securing and protecting applicable forest tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and scaling efforts to conserve and sustainably manage high integrity forests.

Members work closely with the private sector, civil society, Indigenous organisations and community leaders to implement and rapidly scale up solutions on deforestation,

reforestation and sustainable forest and land use management, that reflect each members' national context and priorities as well as the urgency of the global climate crisis.

Participating countries meet annually to enhance collective efforts that maximise the contribution of forests and sustainable land use to global and national climate goals.

At the Leaders' Summit at COP28, member countries will take stock of progress since COP26 and discuss key insights, successes, challenges and priorities for future collaboration. The summit will include a public event at which member countries will speak alongside business, Indigenous organisations, and community leaders to highlight the most ambitious commitments and the strongest examples of progress since COP26.

Statements from New Members:

Albina Ruíz, Minister of Environment, Peru

“Indigenous Peoples are a key stakeholder in Peru’s climate action. They have been at the forefront of adaptation and mitigation through their traditional knowledge to protect the Amazon, and now this is being recognized in Peru’s NDC measures. It is important to highlight that improving their livelihoods and addressing the vulnerability of indigenous women is a priority for our country. Peru is looking forward to co-leading the action track for supporting indigenous peoples and local communities under the FCLP with Norwegian Minister Espen Barth Eide, with whom we share the commitment of empowering Indigenous Peoples to face climate change”.

Caroline Gennez, Minister of Development Cooperation, Belgium

“Now is the time to step up our collective efforts, deliver on climate ambition and reverse biodiversity loss while ensuring sustainable development. Belgium is committed to addressing this challenge and further supporting our partner countries, including through innovative solutions. I strongly believe that the transformational approach tabled by the Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership is the right one: unlocking financing for forest protection at-scale through focused multi-stakeholder partnerships. Investing in nature is also a development opportunity”.

Her Excellency Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak, COP28 UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, United Arab Emirates

The time to act on halting and reversing deforestation is now. Protecting nature and implementing ecosystem-based solutions are central to delivering on our global climate goals—there is no Paris without nature. Building on the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration, COP28 and the UAE are committed to transforming pledges into action. In my role as FCLP Minister, I look forward to working with countries and non-state actors to unlock finance for nature at-scale that benefits people and planet. This

requires forging true multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, to deliver on climate and nature goals at COP28 and beyond.

Dan Jørgensen, Minister of Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Denmark

“Denmark is very pleased to be joining the Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership, which will be crucial for delivering on the commitments made at COP26 in Glasgow. Forests and nature-based solutions are key to achieving the goals of both the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Danish Government has just proposed to allocate 1 billion DKK (approx. USD 150 million) to forest and nature conservation and protection over the coming years. Protecting nature and forests remains one of the best ways to deliver on the SDGs and getting us on track for 1.5 degrees while also delivering sustainable development, supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities, securing global biodiversity and green economic growth.”

Stephanie Mbombo, Special Presidential Envoy for New Climate Economy, Democratic Republic of Congo

“The Democratic Republic of Congo is pleased to join the Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership and be a source of climate and nature solutions for our people and the world. DRC’s vision to achieve this is through fostering the new climate economy.”

For questions or media enquiries, please contact
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