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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

Charting the Path to Halt and Reverse Forest Loss by 2030 **FCLP Members map strategy at COP28 high-level event**

- **The Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership reported on global and national actions that represent a significant step forward towards meeting the 2030 target to halt and reverse forest loss.**
- **In 2021 and 2022, USD 5.7bn of forest-related public finance has been provided under the Global Forest Finance Pledge of COP26.**
- **Looking ahead, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, and Papua New Guinea announced national packages for forest, climate, and nature backed by finance from public, private, and civil society partners.**
- **Governments highlighted how they are acting to tackle systemic global challenges, such as through driving the use of sustainable wood in construction and working together to strengthen forest carbon results and credits.**

Dubai, 9 December 2023 – Leaders from governments, civil society, and the business sectors convened at the [Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership](#) (FCLP) COP28 Ministerial with renewed ambition for resolutely acting in accordance with the 2021 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. One year after the launch of the Partnership at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheik, Ministers demonstrated key contributions towards halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030, crucial to achieve the 1.5 degrees Celsius target of the Paris Agreement. These included delivering progress against COP26 commitments, innovative financial instruments, sustainable economic incentives, and the role of high-integrity forest carbon credits and markets. Speakers highlighted the urgent need for international collaboration and joint action on forests and climate. Stressing that mere talks are insufficient in tackling continued high rates of global deforestation that contribute to the climate and biodiversity crises, FCLP Members set out practical strategies for immediate and collective action to conserve and restore forests, for the benefit of climate, nature, and people.

Delivering on Glasgow: Collective ambition

15 governments have united in launching a roadmap [1] to scale investment in forest carbon results and credits, emphasizing the significant potential of **Forest Carbon Markets** in scaling payments for climate and environmental services provided by forests. The statement highlights the importance of capacity-building, with members endorsing the expansion of technical assistance to help tropical forest countries overcome barriers to participating in

carbon markets. Consistent with this, FCLP members support the launch of the Jurisdictional REDD+ Technical Assistance Partnership [JTAP], which will provide critical technical assistance to governments in partnership with external stakeholders. The JTAP will assist in overcoming capacity and technical barriers tropical forest nations face in participating in high-integrity forest carbon markets. Notably, JTAP partners are already delivering on this objective, supporting with key aspects of transactional readiness, with Costa Rica and Ghana signing landmark agreements, worth over USD 60 million to supply high-integrity jurisdictional REDD+ emissions reduction and removals credits to LEAF Coalition buyers. The agreements involve funding from multiple private sector buyers, with ten companies to purchase credits, including Bayer and McKinsey. The deals demonstrate the potential of the LEAF approach to rapidly scale finance to support forest governments in their efforts to reverse tropical forest loss. [2]

Norway and Peru, in partnership with UK, Germany, DRC, Fiji, Colombia, Ecuador, the US, Costa Rica and the Netherlands, and with the [Global Alliance of Territorial Communities](#), launched a **Platform for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities (IPLCs)** to actively participate in high-level discussions, emphasising the importance of securing forest tenure rights. This represents the first collective step by FCLP members to build partnerships with Indigenous Peoples' organisations, focusing on ambitious policies prioritising consultations, inclusive governance, and increased funding coordination for Indigenous territories in forest climate action. The latest annual **Forest Tenure Funders Group Report** [3] demonstrates that funding for IPLCs tenure rights and forest guardianship is increasing. With total funding provided to date under the pledge exceeding USD 815 million, donors are on track to meet - or exceed - the USD 1.7 billion 5-year pledge commitment made at COP26.

The COP26 **Global Forest Finance Pledge (GFFP)** adopted in Glasgow represented the largest ever public forest pledge of its kind. 12 governments [4] came together with unprecedented levels of public finance dedicated to the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of forests. The latest report [5] for 2022 shows that in the first two years of the 5-year pledge, USD 5.7 billion or 47% of the USD 12 billion pledge has already been directed towards forest-related programmes in developing countries.

In recognition of the critical contribution of Central Africa's Congo Basin to global climate change mitigation and to its communities, public and philanthropic donors to the 5-year **Congo Basin Pledge** of COP26 have at the end of its first two years collectively provided [6] 70% (over USD 1 billion) of the total USD 1.5 billion commitment towards support for the protection and sustainable management of the region's forests and peatlands.

A coalition of 17 countries [7] has committed to advancing policies and approaches that support low carbon construction and **increase the use of wood from sustainably managed forests in the built environment**. This facilitation of change will result in reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhanced carbon storage while promoting sustainable development. The coalition's objectives include collaborative action on policy development,

knowledge-sharing, mobilising finance, and engaging society to collectively advance sustainable construction practices.

On 2 December, during the World Climate Action Summit, FCLP members unveiled initiatives [8] with substantial financial backing from public, private, and civil society partners during COP28. The **Democratic Republic of Congo** has introduced the "People, Forests and Nature: Partnership for the New Climate Economy (NCE) of the DRC" initiative, supported by USD 62 million, emphasizing effective conservation and accessing carbon markets [9]. **Papua New Guinea**, with initial international partners, has announced a USD 100 million package focusing on protected areas, forest management, governance, sustainable financing, and research. The **Republic of Congo**, along with international partners, has committed USD 50 million for biodiversity protection and sustainable economic models. And the Government of **Ghana**, with initial international partners, announced a USD 30 million package, complemented by a USD 50 million transaction from LEAF, targeting carbon markets, sustainable agriculture and mining, nature-positive timber and restoration, and enabling conditions for a just transition and strengthened governance.

In a collaborative effort to combat deforestation in the Colombian Amazon, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom announced a **new investment of up to USD 34 million** to protect deforestation hotspots and boost the creation of sustainable local economies, building upon the existing Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI). The partners applauded Colombia's commitment to deforestation reduction and emphasized the importance of reviewing JDI milestones to unlock the additional funding. This collective investment and commitment underscore a significant stride towards fostering environmental sustainability and socio-economic development in the Colombian Amazon region.

FCLP Members' leadership and ambition is reflected in the Partnership's first **progress report**, [10] released today. The report highlights achievements in advancing high-level policy leadership, impactful policy action, and the implementation of countries' self-determined goals in 2023. FCLP members have actively engaged in global policy agendas, prioritised Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the translation of ambitious commitments into on-the-ground actions. The report also emphasises accountability measures and underscores the FCLP's unwavering commitment to halting and reversing forest loss by 2030, with COP30 in 2025 serving as a critical milestone for assessing progress.

The Republic of Korea, Canada and the United Kingdom have announced their **commitment to support the FCLP Secretariat**, demonstrating their long-term commitment to working in partnership to deliver on collective global goals. They join existing donors, Germany, United States, and Norway.

Delivering on Glasgow: national ambition

Committed to nature-based solutions and translating policies into action, **Pakistan** has highlighted flagship initiatives like the Upscaled Green Pakistan Programme, aiming to plant 10 billion trees by 2030 with domestic funding of PKR 125.1843b (approx. USD 440 million). Successful mangrove restoration efforts, showcasing a 300% expansion since 1990, and plans to restore 350,000 ha, reducing emissions by 127 MTCO_{2e}, underscore Pakistan's dedication to climate response and resilience.

The European Union (EU), Germany, the Netherlands, and France, launched a **global Team Europe Initiative (TEI)** on Deforestation-free Value Chains [11]. Aligned with the EU's Global Gateway strategy, the new Team Europe Initiative is designed to halt deforestation and support partner countries in successfully transitioning to sustainable, deforestation-free, and legal value chains. It will contribute to implementing the new law on deforestation-free products.

The EU and its Member States announced an initial package of €70 million in new funding for the implementation of this Team Europe Initiative, complementing a broad portfolio of ongoing programmes from the EU and its Member States on forests and halting deforestation.

Netherlands announced a new contribution of 22.5 million euros to National Initiatives for Sustainable and Climate-Smart Oil Palm Smallholders (NI-SCOPS). This initiative has been developed in Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Ghana. NI-SCOPS targets landscapes and producer groups where certification is difficult or uneconomical. It 'raises the floor' by partnering with (local) governments to guide all land users on the path to climate-smart agriculture and forest conservation.

The **Norwegian parliament** has increased the support to Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) to 4 billion NOK (USD 375 million) in 2024 for rainforest efforts. Earlier this week at COP28, NICFI and the Bezos Earth Fund announced their collaboration to provide universal access to high-resolution satellite monitoring of the tropics [12]. Building on NICFI's previous USD 43 million investment in the NICFI Satellite Data program, this partnership aims to offer free access to high-quality satellite data to combat deforestation. The initiative, backed by a total contribution of NOK 100 million from NICFI and a matching amount from the Bezos Earth Fund, showcases the commitment to real-time data for effective rainforest protection and environmental accountability.

The Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado & Chaco ([IFACC](#)) initiative was launched at COP26 in 2021 by The Nature Conservancy, Tropical Forest Alliance, and the UN Environment Programme. Its goal is to create sustainable business models for soy, beef and bioeconomy which expand production without further land conversion. Santander announced that the initiative now comprises 16 signatories with USD 4.6 billion in commitments. Over USD 220 million has already been disbursed through 11 financial products in 2022 and 2023. Santander was the first bank to join the initiative as a signatory

in late 2022 and has already invested in two IFACC-aligned mechanisms and worked, alongside Febraban, in the drafting of a sectoral-level protocol to guide the financing of meatpackers in the Amazon [13].

In Glasgow, at COP26, the CEOs of the biggest agricultural commodity companies in the world committed to take action on deforestation in their supply chains to align with a 1.5 degree Celsius pathway. A year later at COP27, with facilitation by the Tropical Forest Alliance, they launched the Agriculture Sector Roadmap to 1.5°C. This year, there has been progress from individual corporates in the soy sector setting 2025 no-conversion commitments, a signal that CEOs recognise the critical role that they play in achieving global climate and nature goals. The broader sector has to follow their leadership, because sector-wide action is critical for progress at scale.

As part of its evolution program, World Bank Group will work on Global Challenge Program for Forests for Development, Climate, and Biodiversity, which aims to consolidate actions and scale up funding for forests and biodiversity, thus firmly establishing this agenda as part of global development priorities.

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"With the right technical and legal support, REDD+ countries gained access to payment initiatives that reward results. Costa Rica serves as a shining example of this, having signed agreements over USD 110 million in Emission Reductions Payments thanks to the technical assistance we received. This funding has allowed us to expand our environmental services programs and achieve a net-zero deforestation status for our agroforestry landscape."

HE Franz Tattebanch, Ministry of Environment of Costa Rica

"There is no alternative to a trusting and ambitious collaboration to solve the global deforestation challenge. We cannot reach our climate and biodiversity goals without nature, without forests. To this end, we view the FCLP as an important platform for governments that have started that journey to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. There is a long way to go yet, since global deforestation rates are still alarmingly high, but we are committed to continue the collaboration with our like-minded FCLP partners and beyond until the job is done."

HE Jennifer Morgan, State Secretary and Special Envoy for Climate Action, Germany

"The multi-faceted dimensions of Forest Carbon transactions, particularly of its multiple actors, demand that technical assistance be bespoke, nuanced and tailored to support broad level understanding and urgent delivery of climate finance. For Ghana, this is what the JTAP represents, and has the capacity to redefine technical assistance beyond the known rhetoric. As a Country pioneering broad level sustainable action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, through jurisdictional REDD+ that creates tangible results and payments, the

value of capacity building and hand holding in our journey cannot be overemphasized. We applaud the JTAP and look forward to it delivering support for urgent forest and climate action as needed. This must be for the resilience of all, particularly Indigenous People and Local Communities.”

HE Samuel A. Jinapor, MP, Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Ghana

“The UK championed forests at COP26, mobilising over 140 governments to rally behind the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use. Forests remains a key focus of our work and once again at COP28 it is one of our priorities. We are proud to be a founder member of the Forest and Climate Leaders’ Partnership - a unique mechanism to put forests at the heart of the international climate and development agenda. I am really encouraged by the progress that the initiative has made to date, but there remains much more to be done. I look forward to working with my counterparts internationally to ensure that together we can accelerate delivery of the goal we set ourselves in Glasgow – to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030.”

HE Graham Stuart, Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, United Kingdom

A growing circular bioeconomy, rooted in sustainable forest management, is key for the transition and carries positive impacts for sustainable rural development.

Mr Peter Kullgren, Minister of Rural Affairs, Sweden

“The world is losing forests at a dizzying speed, bringing us close to a tipping point. Losing forests means losing biodiversity, putting the global water cycle at risk and fuelling climate change. EU consumption can no longer add fuel to this fire. That’s why we’re working with partner countries to implement the new law on deforestation-free products. This new Team Europe initiative will bring us all closer to achieving our shared goal of halting and reversing deforestation worldwide.”

Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries,
at the launch of the Team Europe Initiative on 9 December 2023

Increased use of wood in construction offers not just a means to decarbonize the world's built environment and transform our cities into carbon sinks, but also an opportunity to strengthen safeguards in the trade of sustainably produced forest products, direct more finance to sustainable landscape management and to rural and indigenous communities, and incentivize forest reforestation and encourage restoration. And for its part, the commercial forest sector has to lead on environmental sustainability and social impact and demonstrate it can responsibly contribute to a nature- and climate-positive for our forests, our cities, and the emerging circular bioeconomy. Indeed, this is one of our primary objectives at the BTG Pactual Timberland Investment Group.

Mark Wishnie, Chief Sustainability Officer, BTG Pactual Timberland Investment Group.

“Environmental Defense Fund applauds the launch of the FCLP members roadmap to scale investment forest carbon results and credits. We appreciate this strong signal of unified

government support for scaling forest finance and high-integrity forest carbon credits. Progress on these and other key dimensions of the roadmap, such as Indigenous Peoples and local community engagement, is essential to unlocking the promise of high-integrity tropical forest carbon markets that work for all. We look forward to opportunities to collaborate with the FCLP, forest governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, civil society and the private sector to make this promise a reality."

Mark Morage, Vice President, Natural Climate Solutions

"Ambitious individual corporate commitments underpin sector-wide progress. There has been a collective effort on the part of civil society, governments, and downstream supply chain actors to encourage companies to recognise their role and to make credible science-based commitments. This collective effort has paid off, but with less than 800 days until the end of 2025, we need rapid implementation if we are to meet our climate and nature goals."

Jack Hurd, Executive Director, Tropical Forest Alliance, World Economic Forum

NOTES TO EDITORS

[1] http://forestclimateleaders.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CCS1123938356-001_PN7845451_Charlie-Speller-Forest-Climate-rpt-Accessible-1-1.pdf

[2] <https://emergentclimate.com/costa-rica-and-ghana-agree-landmark-deals-to-supply-forest-carbon-credits-to-leaf-coalition-buyers/>

[3] [Forest Tenure Funders Group](#) (FTFG) annual report

[4] GFFP donor countries: Canada, European Commission on behalf of the European Union, Federal Republic of Germany, French Republic, Japan, Kingdom of Belgium, Kingdom of Denmark, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

[5] GFFP Progress report 2022: https://forestclimateleaders.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/CCS0523480542-001_PN7164575_The-Global-Forest-Finance-Pledge-2022_Web-Accessible.pdf

[6] Congo Basin Pledge Progress report 2022: <https://pfb-cbfp.org/congo-basin-pledge.html>

[7] Coalition includes The Commonwealth of Australia, Canada, Republic of Congo, Republic of Costa Rica, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Finland, Republic of France, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Ghana, Japan, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Korea, Kingdom of Norway, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Kingdom of Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. See press release on announcement [here](#).

[8] Please see [FCLP's media release](#) from 2 December on the DRC, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo, and Ghana's announcement of their country packages.

[9] DRC's media release is available [here](#).

[10] www.forestclimateleaders.org

[11] https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-eu-and-member-states-launch-global-team-europe-initiative-deforestation-free-value-2023-12-09_en

[12] <https://www.nicfi.no/2023/12/02/nicfi-and-bezos-earth-fund-providing-free-satelite-images/>

[13] Santander was the first bank to join the initiative as a signatory in late 2022 and has already invested in two IFACC-aligned mechanisms and worked, alongside Febraban, in the drafting of a sectoral-level protocol to guide the financing of meatpackers in the Amazon:

1. The Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF), a collective blended finance mechanism that brought together 3 European supermarket chains (Tesco, Sainsbury's and Waitrose), an impact fund (Agri3) and two European banks (Santander and Rabobank) to finance around USD 47 million, with a key role in fostering sustainable and DCF soy production in Brazil.
2. A Green bond (CRA) together with Conexsus, Belterra, Gaia and catalytic funds from Fundo Vale and the Good Energies Foundation which has allowed for fostering bioeconomy production for local communities in the Amazon, reaching around 4,500 farmers in the region.
3. Supporting Febraban in drafting a self-regulatory common standard for the financing of meatpackers which was signed by 22 banks in Brazil, setting the stage for further action that contribute to reducing the carbon-intensity of the sector.

About the FCLP

The FCLP is a focused effort of governments with partners committed to delivering on the GLD goal of halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.

FCLP governments are demonstrating delivery on the GLD ambition through (1) maintaining high-level political leadership on forests, land-use, and climate; (2) accelerating and scaling action focussed on six major policy areas, and (3) accountability for commitments made.

The FCLP at COP28

At COP28 in Dubai, one year after its launch, the FCLP will proactively participate in the global dialogue on forest and climate action, showcasing progress and collaboration made over the past year, and highlighting the necessary actions for long-term systemic reforms with tangible examples of national and international efforts, demonstrating a comprehensive pathway forward.

www.forestclimateleaders.org