The Global Forest Finance Pledge

2022 Progress Report
December 2023
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Executive summary

The Global Forest Finance Pledge of 2021 is a collective public finance commitment of 12 public donors supporting nations to tackle the causes of deforestation. This second annual report of the GFFP provides an update on progress January-December 2022, including aggregate spend data and further information on how funds are being used. Despite a turbulent global economy in 2022, results suggest a steady trajectory towards achieving the 2025 target.

The Global Forest Finance Pledge sends a strong signal for stepping up commitment to forest conservation, sustainable use and restoration. Strengthening and restoring natural carbon sinks, such as forests, peatlands and wetlands, is crucial to achieving the 2030 goal of stopping deforestation and land degradation and keeping global warming below the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold, and reaching goals under the Global Biodiversity Framework.
Introduction

At the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, governments recognised the importance of forests in meeting the Paris Agreement goals. This recognition culminated in the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forest and Land Use, an agreement signed by over 140 leaders to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development. Under the Global Forest Finance Pledge (GFFP) of 2021, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission (on behalf of the EU), Germany, France, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, UK and US collectively committed USD 12 billion of climate finance 2021-2025 towards forest-related activities. It demonstrated the commitment of donor countries to increase their focus on forest protection and restoration, and so deliver for people, climate and nature.

The GFFP contributions support activities that address the systemic drivers of forest loss, enabling the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of their forests, and in their climate mitigation and adaptation. Enabling the participation of indigenous and local communities is also central to the activities contributing to the pledge. The GFFP comprises an informal grouping of public donors and does not have a central coordinator. The USD 12 billion pledge is not a new fund and there is no central allocation mechanism. Each supporter of this pledge decides how to allocate their contributions.

GFFP donors are committed to providing collective transparency on delivery, and at COP27, the first GFFP Progress Report was published. It showed that in the first year of this 5-year pledge, 22% (over one-fifth) of the USD 12 billion was delivered to forest-related programmes. For this second pledge year (January-December 2022) donors once again voluntarily report on their collective contributions.
Methodology

The collection of data and analysis is consistent with that used for the previous report, to enable direct comparison year on year.

The 12 GFFP donors worked collectively to compile information on forest-related finance in 20221 and prepare this report, including the submission of figures, where available, on total funding amount (in local currency), geography, primary thematic area, and funding instrument. Contribution to multilateral initiatives were included in returns and calculated using a robust and conservative estimate of proportion for forest-related activities;2 for multi-year initiatives, annual proportional shares were calculated. In some instances, the eligibility criteria and definitions do not easily apply, so allocation may involve estimates and judgements.

The methodologies used by GFFP public donors to report their individual finance contributions to the pledge are aligned with their reporting to the OECD and UNFCCC.3 To enable comparison, public donor contributions were converted to USD using the OECD annual average exchange rate.4

Based on a review of submitted data, the report includes information on the following areas:

- Total cumulative contributions, and progress overall;
- Contributions per primary thematic area;
- Contributions per finance instrument; and
- Contributions per region

Where categorisation of contributions has not been provided it is included in the results as ‘undefined’.

The figures are collective only; individual donor breakdowns of the GFFP are not published here.

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1 In line with UNFCCC climate finance reporting practices, some donors have reported on a calendar year basis, while others have reported on a fiscal year basis. For this report, 11 of the 12 donors reported funds in calendar year.
2 For Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) (GCF-1 out to 2024 and GEF-7 out to 2022 respectively) conservative ratios were used to calculate the forest related portion of donor contributions. These ratios were developed based on distribution of past allocations towards forest related activities form the GCF and GEF.
3 In line with UNFCCC and OECD reporting, donors may report either financial commitments or disbursements. Most choose to report either on ‘disbursed’ or ‘committed’ climate finance. For this report, a total of 10 donors reported as disbursements, 2 donors reported funds as commitments.
Exchange rate

The original 2021-2025 commitment from each donor was provided in their respective currencies and converted into USD using the exchange rate at the time of the pledge (December 2021). Donors agreed to report annually in USD, converting from their own currency using the OECD annual average exchange rate\(^5\) in the relevant reporting year. Exchange rates can materially affect the value of reported disbursements and exchange rate fluctuation could risk delivery on the overall pledge commitment.

Links with other pledges

Two further collective forest pledges were made at COP26: the Congo Basin Pledge\(^6\) and the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs & LCs) Forest Tenure Pledge.\(^7\) The GFFP is distinct, but related to both.

The different pledges are supported by different types of donor – governmental as well as private philanthropic organisations. The GFFP only involves governmental donors. The Forest Tenure Pledge and the Congo Basin Pledge include both public donors and philanthropic organisations (Table 1). Public donor funding pledged under the GFFP also contributes to the objectives of the Forest Tenure Pledge and/or the Congo Basin Pledge. As such it may be reported under all three pledges. For each pledge, donors have voluntarily reported on their progress towards meeting their respective contribution. It is for these reasons that pledges cannot be aggregated or compared.

Table 1: Comparison of the three forest pledges announced at COP26.

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>Public donors</th>
<th>Philanthropic donors</th>
<th>Amount pledged at COP26</th>
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<tr>
<td>Global Forest Finance Pledge</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>USD 12 bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo Basin Pledge</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>USD 1.5 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>USD 1.7 bn</td>
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\(^6\) Twelve donors (11 governments and one philanthropist) announced the Congo Basin Pledge, a landmark collective pledge of at least USD 1.5 billion 2021-2025 to support Congo Basin forests and peatlands, the world's largest carbon sink and a region that is historically underfunded.

\(^7\) 22 funders, including governments and private philanthropic organisations, announced a USD 1.7 billion Pledge in support of advancing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs and LCs) forest tenure rights in tropical forest countries, a recognition of the important role IPs and LCs play in protecting forests and nature.
Global Forest Finance Pledge Progress – delivering the USD 12 billion

In 2022, donors provided USD 3 billion towards the USD 12 billion pledge (25% of the total), slightly higher than the figure for 2021. Cumulative contributions towards forest-related activities since 2021 equate to USD 5.68 billion, or 47% of the target (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Progress towards the USD 12 billion GFFP pledge. GFFP contributions to date, in USD.

As per the methodology agreed, the 2022 returns have been calculated using 2022 OECD average annual exchange rates. It is notable that if 2021 exchange rates had been used, this would be equivalent to an additional USD 312 million.
GFFP public donors were also asked to break down their contributions based on the main forest-related focus of the initiative. These categories correspond broadly to the activity areas set out in the pledge statement. Figure 2 provides a breakdown of 2022 pledge contributions per primary thematic area. In 2022, contributions largely focussed on actions to support forest landscape restoration, conservation and/or sustainable management (40%), or were regarded as supporting activities that covered more than one primary theme (multisectoral, 30%); these results mirror those of 2021. The breakdown should be regarded as illustrative, as many programmes cover several thematic areas at the same time.

Figure 2: Breakdown of GFFP contributions in 2022 by primary thematic area. If donors considered a programme to primarily cover more than one theme, ‘multisectoral/others’ was chosen.

9 Categories comprise: Governance / tenure / capacity building; Deforestation-free supply chains; Deforestation-free financial markets / investments; Forest landscape restoration / forest conservation / Sustainable Forest Management; IPLC rights & participation; Forest Crime / Forest Fires / Monitoring; Carbon markets / REDD+ RBP; forest-based adaptation; and Multisectoral / Others
In terms of how the funding was delivered in 2022, grants represented the largest share of contributions (87%), with loans comprising only a very small proportion (4%) of the finance provided (Figure 3).

**Figure 3:** Distribution of GFFP contributions by finance mechanism in 2022.
The largest share of funding was for programmes that went to multiple geographic regions (Figure 4). For those activities that focused on specific regions, initiatives in Africa held the largest share with 35% of pledge contributions in 2022, approximately USD 1 billion. Other regions, including countries in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia were designated USD 418 million and USD 231 million respectively. Unsurprisingly, these results are similar to those of the previous year.

Figure 4: Share of pledge contributions in 2022 by recipient region.

The donor returns indicate that in 2022, 18% (USD 532 million) of GFFP contributions are also Congo Basin Pledge contributions. An accurate calculation of the overlap with the Forest Tenure Pledge was not possible due to different methodologies used by some donors.

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10 This data was acquired through cross-referencing the GFFP data with 2022 data returns for the Congo Basin Pledge and made possible by the consistent methodologies used across all three for collecting, compiling and formatting data.

11 However, through cross-referencing the GFFP data with 2022 data returns for the Forest Tenure Pledge it was estimated that 6% (USD 167 million) of GFFP contributions are also Forest Tenure Pledge contributions.
Case studies

The case studies below provide examples of the kinds of programmes and projects that donors are supporting, illustrating the type of work that is being funded as a result of the finance pledged through GFFP. Importantly, many of the case studies demonstrate how international public finance is used to mobilise additional resources, including from the private sector and domestic sources.

It should be noted that the case studies shared by pledge donors present just a snapshot of far wider portfolios of engagement and support.
Promotion of sustainable business development in the Peruvian Amazon

The Amazon Business Alliance is a platform committed to promoting sustainable economic development in Peru, led by the Government of Canada, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Conservation International. Through the creation and development of bio-businesses that generate income for vulnerable populations, including women and indigenous peoples, the programme aims to reduce forest loss and restore degraded ecosystems in the Peruvian Amazon. By 2027, the project aims to contribute up to 3% of Peru’s GHG emission reduction goal in the agriculture, forestry and other land-use category, to restore 20,000 hectares of forest coverage; to have 60,000 hectares of forest under sustainable management; and to mobilise up to USD 50-100 million of private funds investing in sustainable enterprises, enhancing the livelihoods of more than 10,000 people (including 2,500 women and 3,000 indigenous people in 15 communities).

The programme runs from 2020 to 2027. In 2022, Canada provided over USD 2.38 million and the US provided USD 3 million to the Amazon Business Alliance. In 2022, the Amazon Business Alliance invested in 15 bio-enterprises and promoted the importance of these business models to regional governments and premises. Bio-enterprise project efforts have resulted in better management of natural resources, and so far more than 1,530 hectares of forest cover are being restored through the Amazon Business Alliance project. As one example, Canadian Business ViridisTerra International received funding in 2022 for a first phase of a project to restore 200 hectares of degraded soils and reforest in the region of Ucayali (Figure 5).

Further information on the Alliance and its high-impact projects can be found at https://alianzaempresarialamazonia.pe/
Figure 5: Ambassador of Canada to Peru and Bolivia, Mr. Louis Marcotte, in Campo Verde, Region of Ucayali, Peru, visiting a restoration and reforestation of degraded lands project developed by the Canadian company ViridisTerra with funding from the Amazon Business Alliance.
Reducing emissions from the forest sector in Indonesia

Indonesia has developed a national strategy aiming at negative emissions from the forestry sector by 2030 (= Forestry and other Land Uses / FOLU Net Sink). At the same time, the nation’s economic growth is largely achieved through activities in land-based sectors that drive deforestation. Weak forest governance, management structures and law enforcement at the local level, especially in remote areas, is a significant driver of deforestation and forest degradation throughout the country.

The Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry is working closely with the Forests and Climate Change Programme (FORCLIME) - with provincial and local forest administrations, local NGOs and several universities - to implement the legal, policy and institutional reforms in conservation and sustainable forest management at local, provincial, and national levels. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, FORCLIME is a flagship project for forest conservation and Sustainable Forest Management in Indonesian-German cooperation.

A key feature of FORCLIME support has been the establishment of Forest Management Units (FMUs) at the local level as new and permanent management entities to directly address forest management issues and provide the basis for improved forest governance, planning, forest resources management, monitoring and stakeholder engagement. Since its inception in 2009, FORCLIME has contributed to the achievement of 106 million hectares of forests under management. Within the FORCLIME intervention area, 745,000 hectares of forest are managed according to formally accepted management plans of the FMUs, with 6 FMUs supported in the implementation of gender equality measures.

So far, several regulations have been supported through the project including the Presidential Regulation for the Acceleration of Social Forestry, which aims at accelerating the devolution of access and/or ownership rights on forest land to local and indigenous communities. The national social forestry scheme currently covers 6.3 million hectares and aims to achieve 12.7 million hectares until 2030.

FORCLIME has supported the formation of forest farmer groups while improving market access through training in digital marketing (sale of non-timber forest products via online platforms). It also contributed to the establishment of a centre of excellence for geoinformation systems and remote sensing in Ottow Geissler University West Papua.

Further information can be found at www.forclime.org
Figure 6: Local people in Papua grating sago with traditional tool.

Figure 7: Preparing moringa tea, FMU Banawa Lalundu, Central Sulawesi. 
Photo: Joshua Marundah.
Public and private sector spearhead long-term landscape level funding

To address the biodiversity funding gap, the Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF) was established in December 2020 by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and is a joint initiative between the German, French and Norwegian governments and a range of private funders, philanthropists, NGOs and strategic partners to source significant and sustained funding towards globally significant conservation areas (‘Legacy Landscapes’). By 2030, LLF aims to provide long-term financing to at least 30 landscapes relevant for global biodiversity.

The foundation’s grant programme blends public and private funds to provide long-term, secure financial support to terrestrial protected areas and adjacent areas. Grants are either long-term for 15 years, or are ‘perpetual’, with finance earmarked for 50+ years. The fund finances partnerships between NGOs, indigenous peoples and local communities, and protected area authorities to support efficient management of protected areas and their buffer or adjacent areas. Donors and funders are AFD, BMZ, G&B Moore Foundation, NORAD, Arcadia Fund, R&M Walton Foundation and Wyss Foundation. LLF facilitates sustainable conservation through systematic application of internationally recognized environmental, social, and human rights standards, which include the needs and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. To date, the LLF has four projects in Africa (Angola, Republic of Congo, Zambia and Zimbabwe), two in Asia (Cambodia, Indonesia) and one in South America (Bolivia).

In 2022, LLF signed seven grants valuing USD 15 million for 15 years each, thereby supporting effective conservation of more than 73,000 km². The LLF sites protect an estimated carbon sink of 456 million tonnes and help absorb up to 7.4 million tonnes CO₂eq per year. Discounted by 20% for permanence and displacement risks, all seven projects help to avoid emissions of 3.66 million tonnes CO₂eq per year. It plans to start supporting seven more sites in 2023.

Further information can be found at:
https://legacylandscapes.org/explore/legacy-landscapes/
The 2022 Annual Report is available at:
Local-level support for forest ecosystem restoration

The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) has been ongoing since 2015, working across multiple regions to provide capacity-building opportunities, implementation and technical support for countries working towards achieving ecosystem restoration targets for climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. It has been implemented by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the support of the Korea Forest Service.

One of the main implementation channels of FERI is through direct small-scale co-funding support to developing countries to pilot innovative restoration projects. To date, FERI have provided support for 12 projects, across four continents, which have tested a variety of restoration techniques and from which FERI have compiled and disseminated lessons learned that could be used in similar restoration contexts. These projects represented diverse forest ecosystems and emphasized the significance of community. Through their implementation, these restoration field projects have provided tangible examples of progress made by countries and agencies towards achieving the ecosystem restoration agenda.

FERI has also held seven 5-day capacity building workshops: three in Africa, two in Asia and two in Latin America and the Caribbean. Overall, 167 representatives from 105 countries attended. In addition, 68 people from a diversity of NGOs and government agencies attended the workshops notably 10 representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities and 58 from host governments.

The Massive Open Online Course on Ecosystem Restoration (MOOC) was developed in partnership with UNDP Learning for Nature team. The course attracted 16,849 participants from 193 countries. Participants represented diverse regions including sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Central and Western Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States and Canada.

Finally, FERI has supported the development of the WePlan-Forests tool, elaborated by the Institute for Capacity Exchange in Environmental Decisions (ICEED), which allows tropical forest countries to explore the outcomes of different levels of forest restoration targets for converted forest, in terms of climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation, as well as cost-effectiveness.

Further information can be found at https://www.cbd-feri.org/projects
Results-based support to further reduce deforestation in Indonesia

Indonesia has the third largest preserved tropical forest on the planet. In recent years, deforestation in the country has been at a record low – the lowest in 20 years. Since 2015 alone, deforestation in Indonesia has been reduced by 90 percent.

In October 2022, following an agreement between the governments of Indonesia and Norway, the first results-based contribution from Norway was delivered, based on independently verified emission reductions of 11.2 million tonnes from Indonesia’s reduced deforestation and forest degradation in 2016/2017. This supports Indonesia’s ambition to achieve a net sink target in the Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector in 2030, through further reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, fires, and peat decomposition; and increased carbon sequestration capacity of natural forest and land systems.

The contribution of USD 56 million in 2022 supports Indonesia to strengthen forest protection through improved community participation, sustainable forest management, social forestry, and effective law enforcement. It is managed by the Indonesian Environment Fund, which will channel the USD 56 million to national and sub national government institutions, civil society organizations and community groups. The investment plan will finance projects related to improving forest monitoring, carrying out of forest landscape restorations, community-based restoration and conservation activities, and strengthening law enforcement.

Further information can be found at BPD LH; Contribution Agreement Concluded: Norway Delivers US$ 56 Million In Results-Based Support For Indonesia’s FOLU Net Sink 2030 Climate Goals – NICFI; New bilateral partnership between Indonesia and Norway – NICFI; Deforestation still at a record low in Indonesia – NICFI.
Working Landscapes Programme: promoting the sustainable use of forests and trees for people and climate

The Working Landscapes programme aims to realise 11 million hectares of climate-smart landscapes and support the livelihoods of around 2.15 million men, women and youth. Funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Netherlands and implemented by Tropenbos International, the programme is developing, piloting and scaling across eight partner countries through multistakeholder collaboration, in: Bolivia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Suriname, Uganda, and Viet Nam. The programme runs from 2019 to 2023, and the total funding provided by the Netherlands in 2022 was approximately USD 3.5 million.

As of 2022, the Working Landscape programme has improved climate-smart practices in 8.2 million hectares of tropical forest landscapes, benefitting 140,000 Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Significant achievements include:

- Improvements in inclusive governance and participatory planning in 7.9 million hectares through the adoption of landscape approaches and participatory land use plans, including the integration of indigenous community knowledge in Colombian municipal action plans impacting over 4 million hectares and 11 million people. In total 68,000 men and women have benefitted from inclusive landscape initiatives.

- Restoration or reforestation of 305,000 hectares of land, with 1.2 million hectares under improved agroforestry and community forestry practices by smallholders. In total, 38,000 men and women have adopted climate-smart practices and management. Improvements in environmental and social standards in an area of 590,000 hectares, contributing to the establishment, strengthening and sustainable certification of 230,000 hectares of indigenous sustainable forest management in Bolivia, and development of fire prevention plan for peatland restoration in 120,000 hectares in Indonesia, amongst other landscape achievements. Community forest concession titles covering 440,000 hectares submitted in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), with three already formalised, granting local control to 13,500 people. In total, an estimated 28,000 men and women have benefitted from improved access to forest and tree resources.

- Improved company commitments for commodities such as timber in Bolivia, cocoa in Ghana and DRC, and rubber in Indonesia achieved in a total of 60,000 hectares, involving 23,000 women and men in inclusive business arrangements.

Further information can be found at: [https://www.tropenbos.org/projects/working-landscapes](https://www.tropenbos.org/projects/working-landscapes)
Figure 8: Team evaluating a community forest management plan in Guarayos, Bolivia. Photo: Miguel Manchego.

Figure 9: Monkoxi Indigenous people planting trees as a part of their productive restoration plans, TCO Lomerío, Bolivia. Photo: Miguel Manchego.
Figure 10: Agroforestry plot with a mix of crops near Sinar Kuri village, Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan. Photo: Irpan Lamago.

Figure 11: Youth in Guarayos during training on the use of drones to monitor forests and natural resources, Bolivia. Photo Miguel Manchego.
Promoting sustainable coffee farming, Uganda

Investments in Forests and Sustainable Land Use (IFSLU), funded by the UK government, works with businesses that are committed to using land sustainably, and provides support to develop new business models providing jobs and livelihoods while protecting and restoring forests. Under the umbrella of IFSLU, Partnerships for Forests (P4F) programme provides grant funding and technical assistance to get private investment into sustainable agriculture and forest businesses, creating jobs and livelihoods, while protecting forests. P4F’s projects work across all forest landscape types and entire market systems because there is no one-size-fits all solution to deforestation and forest degradation. Its portfolio primarily consists of Forest Partnerships that span four hotspot regions for deforestation and forest degradation – West and Central Africa, East Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America.

For example, since early 2022, P4F has been working with UGACOF, the Uganda coffee company, to support them to work with smallholder farmers to grow environmentally and socially sustainable coffee for European markets.

UGACOF operates two coffee-washing stations in Southwestern Uganda, on the edges of the Queen Elizabeth National Park which has recently been subject to deforestation. With P4F support, UGACOF has developed a new service delivery model at the coffee washing stations, which provides farmers with training, certification and credit access to produce high-quality coffee and receive premium prices for it. UGACOF is applying tailored recommendations from these studies in the design of its service delivery model in the region, targeting 2,500 households, which includes 10,000 household members, and 500 women at the two coffee-washing stations. P4F funding will help integrate a credit scoring system into UGACOF’s farmer traceability platform, CropIn, and aims to pilot this with at least 50 farmers. This will facilitate subsidized and conditional loans to smallholders based on performance against ecological and sustainability criteria that is recorded in the farmer app. For the UGACOF project, approximately USD 333,000 has been approved and of that around USD 217,000 has been disbursed as of July.

To date (since its inception in 2015) nearly USD 200 million has been provided to the IFSLU programme, which runs until 2024, of which approximately USD 19 million was in 2022. The programme has mobilised over USD 1.2 billion of private investment (against a target of USD 279 million by 2023), bringing 4.5 million hectares of land under sustainable management (against a target of 1.2 million by 2023); reaching over 250,000 beneficiaries (against a target of 80,000 by 2023).

Further information on Partnerships for Forests can be found at: https://partnershipsforforests.com/
Figure 12: Training session on regenerative agriculture and best coffee farm practices conducted by the Head of Sustainability and Agronomy Sjaak De Bloois and supported by the Sustainability Project Manager Aisha Kimuli Naseem.
Figure 13: Senior Agronomist Robert Adomati testing pulp fertilizer on some coffee trees.
Figure 14: A practical session inside the coffee farm during the regenerative agriculture training.
The Global Forest Finance Pledge

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Further information


The Global Forest Finance Pledge Progress Report 2021: