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For immediate release

WORLD LEADERS DOUBLE DOWN ON FOREST AND CLIMATE ACTION AT THE START OF COP28

Leaders highlight their commitment to achieving 2030 national and international forest targets

- Governments highlighted their delivery against the 2030 target of halting and reversing forest loss while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.
- Innovative partnerships launched to further scale investment in forest protection and sustainable land use, led by rainforest countries.
- Leaders reaffirmed the importance of forests, with announcements and commitments setting the foundations for increased ambition by COP30, in recognition of the scale of action needed by 2030.

Dubai, 2 December 2023 – **During the World Climate Action Summit and ancillary high-level events convened by COP28 Presidency on 1-2 December, world leaders showcased progress towards achieving the 2030 goal of halting and reversing forest loss, crucial to achieving the 1.5 degrees Celsius target of the Paris Agreement. The announcements demonstrate the high-level commitment to conserving and restoring forests, which remain an underfunded area of climate action, and supporting the livelihoods and sustainable development of the billions of people who live in and depend on them, keeping the targets of the [Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use \(GLD\)](#) at the forefront of the climate agenda.**

At COP26 in Glasgow, 145 world leaders committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation. World Leaders came back again at COP27 to reaffirm this commitment and scale action, launching the [Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership \(FCLP\)](#) with the objective of continuing to focus high-level political attention on forests and climate. Now at COP28, two years since the signing of the GLD at COP26, world leaders have further demonstrated their ongoing commitment to deliver on this vital 2030 goal, and to scale action towards COP30.

Delivering National Plans

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC) announced its innovative “People, Forests and Nature: Partnership for the New Climate Economy (NCE) of the DRC” initiative, with USD 62M in support from public, private and civil society partners [1]. Collaboration focuses on effective conservation, of DRC's high value forests, private investment and accessing high social and environmental integrity carbon markets.

Papua New Guinea and initial international partners [2] revealed a USD 100 million package for programmes, partnerships, and investments aligned with partners’ priorities across five areas, including scaling up protected areas, improving forest management, value chain and governance of forestry sector, reinforcing the long-term sustainable financing opportunities for forests, climate, and biodiversity, and supporting research.

The **Republic of Congo**, along with international partners [3], announced an ambitious vision to protect biodiversity and promote a sustainable economic model. A commitment of USD 50 million has been made to support key initiatives, including strengthening scientific research, expanding protected areas, supporting afforestation and reforestation, and raising awareness about the importance of preserving biodiversity and climate.

The Government of the **Republic of Ghana** and initial international partners [4] announced USD 30M from partners plus an additional USD 50 million transaction from LEAF, for a package of initial programmes, partnerships, and investments aligned with partners’ priorities, capacities, circumstances, and contributions across four thematic areas including: (1) scaling carbon markets, (2) sustainable agriculture and mining, (3) nature-positive timber and restoration, and (4) enabling conditions that support a just transition, strengthened governance and integrated land use planning. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana said: *“There is no 1.5 degrees Celsius without Nature, and Nature does not work in isolation. The Resilient Ghana Package is hence designed to provide a holistic and systematic set of solutions to drive sustainable growth in our forest landscapes. Ghana applauds the FCLP for moving straight into action to deliver on the goals of the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration. With the support of our cherished partners in this Resilient agenda, Resilience we shall deliver to forest communities and their ecosystems.”*

National Ambition

Colombia launched its Vision and Portfolio for Climate Action and Socio-Ecological and Just Energy Transition, focusing on a socio-ecological and just energy transition. The initiative aims to strengthen governance, peace-building, and sustainable development while emphasizing a development vision based on popular economies and biodiversity for the protection of critical ecosystems like the Amazon biome and the Andes.

The UK announced it was meeting the forest commitments made at Glasgow into action on the ground by £576 million new programming, which includes an additional £466 million beyond the £1.5 billion announced in Glasgow. This includes the UK's flagship International Sustainable Forests and Land Use programme, which will use UK climate finance to leverage additional private investment in forests. It also includes an uplift in the UK's contribution to the Amazon Fund and delivering the £90m Congo Basin Forest Action Programme. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak expressed his satisfaction with the progress of the FCLP: *"I am delighted to see Forest and Climate Leaders Partnership, which I co-launched at COP27, work to so actively deliver on our commitments from Glasgow. It is only through collective action that we will be able to deliver on the goal to halt and reverse forest loss by 2030"*.

French President Emmanuel Macron pledged EUR 500M over the next four years to support forests protection efforts and announced the collaborative initiatives of **France** with Papua New Guinea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of Congo, with the launch of the first Country packages for forests, nature, and climate, supported by the operational Seed Fund.

Norway announced USD 100 million to support Indonesia's efforts to reduce deforestation, with Prime Minister Støre recognizing President Jokowi's leadership. This is in addition to the USD 5 billion Norway announced it has disbursed since 2008 to support forests and a commitment to continue this at high levels until at least through 2030. Prime Minister Støre also committed to launching a new phase of its satellite program with Bezos Earth Fund, an initiative that will provide free, high-resolution satellite data on tropical forests every month.

Building Coalitions of Ambition

Vice President Dr Bharrat Jagdeo of the Co-operative Republic of **Guyana**, outlined the importance of working with partners *"to build high quality carbon markets so that forest communities and countries can prosper while keeping nature intact."* Dr Jagdeo highlighted that revenues from forest carbon markets are already funding 500 projects across Indigenous and other communities domestically, demonstrating the real climate and development impacts made possible by carbon finance.

Guyana, Ghana, and the UK have jointly developed a Roadmap for Scaling Investment in Forest Carbon Results and Credits, set to be published on December 9 at COP28. The Roadmap signifies a commitment to increase financial flows through results-based payments and ensure market-based transactions in the forest sector deliver genuine environmental benefits while respecting the rights of Indigenous people and local communities.

The first transactions totalling over \$60M were agreed between Ghana, Costa Rica, and LEAF Coalition buyers. These deals pave the way for much more finance in future [5].

Notes to editors

[1] Partners include United States of America, France, Germany, UK, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, the Bezos Earth Fund, Walton foundation, Conservation international, the Moore Foundation, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, amongst others.

[2] Partners include including the European Union and France through a Team Europe Initiative, Australia, the Global Environment Facility, the Country Package Seed Fund, the Asian development Bank in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

[3] Partners include France, the European Union, the Bezos Earth Fund, the Country Package Seed Fund, with technical support from the WCS, the World Wildlife Fund, and Noé.

[4] Initial partners include the Governments of Canada, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, and non-state actors the Country Package Seed Fund, Degas Ltd, the Forest Data Partnership, It Africa, GenZero, LEAF Coalition, The Omanhene Bean Company, SouthBridge Investments (SBI), and the World Resources Institute (WRI). Please see media release from Ghana here <https://mlnr.gov.gh/index.php/media/>

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

The [Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership](https://www.forestclimateleaders.org) (FCLP) is a focused effort of governments with partners committed to expanding and maintaining high-level political leadership on forests, land-use and climate, to work together to implement climate solutions that reduce forest loss, increase restoration and support sustainable development, and to ensure accountability for the pledges that have been made.

www.forestclimateleaders.org