

FCLP Strategic Plan 2024-2025, revised 19 June 2024

Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership

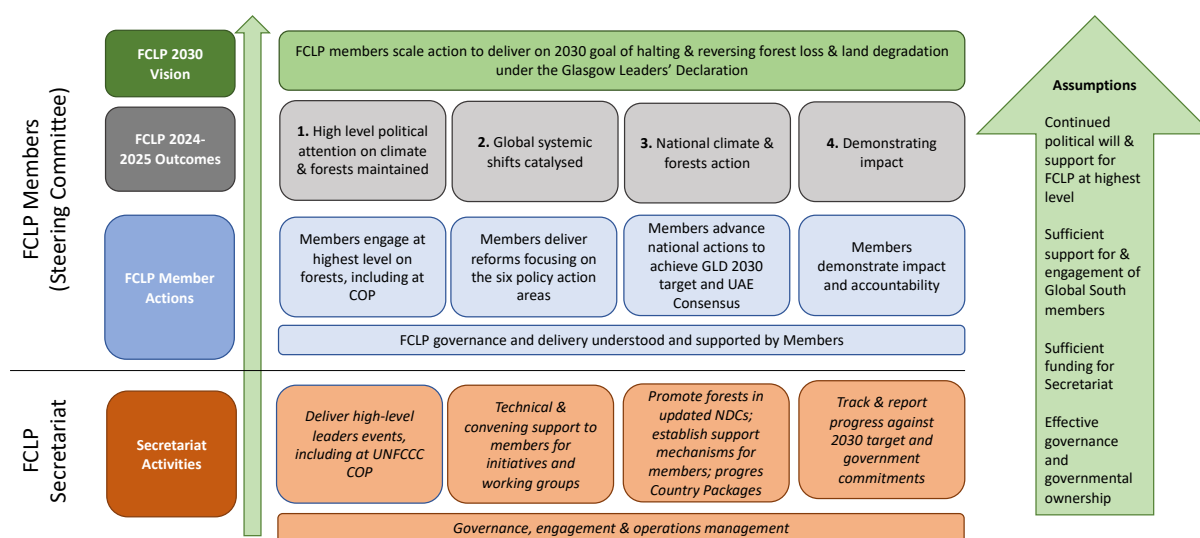
The Forests & Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP) was launched by world leaders at COP27 and aims to accelerate global progress to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation, through a voluntary and focussed partnership of countries that are making a strong contribution to this agenda through national action and international collaboration. The FCLP members have specifically agreed to deliver the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD), which was endorsed by over 140 world leaders at COP26, including the target of halting and reversing forest loss by 2030, which has now been accepted by the parties to the UNFCCC at COP28.

Value-add of the FCLP: The FCLP is a country-led effort that brings together high ambition countries who are committed to halting and reversing forest loss by 2030 to collaborate and take actions at global and national levels that substantively contribute toward the GLD goals and are difficult to create in more formal negotiation contexts. The FCLP uniquely brings together committed countries representative of a range of regions, major forest areas, and centres of commerce and finance to find common solutions to shared challenges, to increase collective ambition, and to align efforts to deliver on the 2030 goal.

Governance: FCLP is governed by a Steering Committee of ministers from 10 countries (Colombia, Costa Rica, DRC, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Norway, UK and USA) co-chaired by Ghana) and USA, and supported by a Secretariat. FCLP's members (31 countries and the EU) comprise 35% of the world's forest estate and over 60% of GDP.

FCLP Strategic Priorities 2024-2025

Overview



Strategy indicators/milestones: The FCLP will develop annual, interim and 2030 indicators or milestones against which to assess progress and inform FCLP prioritisation. This should include the mitigation potential of different policy actions.

Strategic Priority 1. Maintain high-level political attention on forests and climate

Governmental Lead: FCLP Co-Chairs

Through the work of many FCLP member countries and the FCLP, forests remained high on the global climate agenda during 2022 and 2023. The GLD target of “halting and reversing deforestation by 2030” was emphasised in the COP28 UAE Consensus, moving a collective, voluntary, target into the formal process of updating NDCs. Continued, high-level, political leadership by a diverse range of countries is essential to ensure forests remain high on the agenda, and momentum is maintained through to 2030. There is also an opportunity for the FCLP member countries to act politically together to influence global agendas. The FCLP will do this by:

- Hosting high level (leader and ministerial) ambition events, specifically at UNGA, CBD COP16 and UNFCCC COP29 and COP30, continuing the model established originally at UNFCCC COP26 and continued at COP27 and COP28. Event delivery should be informed by a contribute to the broader multi-year FCLP strategy.
- Engaging proactively with UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD COP Presidencies to highlight importance of delivering on the GLD target, including through collective member action, bilateral engagement and strategic engagement byb the Secretariat.
- Maintaining and building collective momentum by all countries who have endorsed the 2030 target, including non-FCLP members, e.g. through a “GLD reunion” or “GLD

stocktake” and demonstrating that countries are delivering on their commitments through their NDCs and actions.

- Designing and delivering a high-level communications strategy to support the FCLP priorities and ensure countries receive political recognition for their achievements and leadership.
- Politically advocating for shared priorities, including through shared political statements and bilateral engagement by FCLP member countries, building on shared ministerial engagement lines developed by the Secretariat.
- Identifying political champions and building partnerships with key non-state actors to further the work of the FCLP.
- Commission authoritative external reports to move priorities forward, learning from model examples used by other high ambition coalitions.

Strategic Priority 2. Policy Action Areas

Governmental Lead: Action Area and Initiative Co-leads

The FCLP members have committed to work jointly to accelerate and scale policies focused on six action areas, which cover the main systemic shifts needed to deliver on the 2030 halt and reverse deforestation target. In 2023, policy working groups and initiatives led by members were formed on REDD+ and carbon markets (Co-leads: Ghana, Guyana and the UK); greening construction and sustainable wood (Co-leads: Canada, France and Kenya); indigenous peoples and local communities (Co-leads: Norway and Peru); and debt and nature (Co-leads: Colombia and USA). Additional proposals were made on high-integrity forests (by Germany), advancing trade for deforestation-free commodities (by Costa Rica) and on forest finance, which should be progressed. Through 2024 and 2025, FCLP members need to translate these policy agendas into action, and to continue to scale the level of policy ambition to deliver the systemic shifts needed. The FCLP will:

- Deliver the main policy initiatives and coalitions announced at COP28, on REDD+ and carbon markets, IPLCs and sustainable wood for construction.
- Initiate policy work on advancing trade for deforestation-free commodities, debt and nature, and forest finance, and other policy areas as appropriate.
- Consider different modalities to progress policy objectives, including working groups and communities of practice, outcome-orientated initiatives and collective agenda-setting efforts, including in partnership with non-state actors.
- Share information with FCLP members and non-members on tools, approaches and best practice, to further leverage action across society.
- Assess the overall level of ambition of the policy work areas, develop clear indicators to assess impact and progress, and consider recommendations to enhance ambition and action to meet the 2030 target.
- Develop branding guidance around what can be identified as an FCLP activity.

Strategic Priority 3. National action

Governmental Lead: to be decided, but Singapore/USA to continue to build global momentum for a re-branded Country Packages approach.

By joining the FCLP Members have committed to work to deliver on the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land-use, including the target of “halting and reversing deforestation by 2030”. At COP28 through the UAE Consensus this target was recognised in a formal UNFCCC decision for the first time. As part of membership of the FCLP, countries’ are expected to demonstrate how they are delivering on these commitments, including through their NDCs and national policies, strategies and actions. Countries’ updated NDCs, due at least 9 to 12 months ahead of COP30 in 2025, should reflect this target and include how members are acting domestically. Over the next two years, the FCLP could maintain political ambition on forests in country NDCs and to exchange information and guidance on approaches. Developing country members of the FCLP have also requested assistance from donors to operationalise or explore new concepts and approaches proposed by FCLP initiatives and for their national action. This could be operationalised by structuring a forum where FCLP members – developing countries and donor countries – consider ideas brought forward by developing country members for support and build connections. Going further, in 2023 the ‘Country Packages’ approach has led to larger scale systemic proposals from developing countries have been supported by ambitious commitments from financial partners (Co-leads: Singapore and USA). Over 2024 and 2025 the FCLP will:

- Build collaborations including with the NDC Partnership, COP28, COP29 and COP30 Presidencies (the Troika) to develop tools and approaches to integrate the “halt and reverse deforestation by 2030” target into the NDC updates.
- Encourage all members to come forward with new and enhanced NDCs that integrate forests and the Glasgow Leaders Declaration objectives and consider linkages between NDCs and NBSAPs under the CBD.
- Develop a concept for a structured forum within the FCLP where developing countries bring forward ideas and proposals for support linked to FCLP strategy delivery and are connected with potential financial partners, donors and tools.
- Prioritise accountability for delivery of the Country Packages committed to at COP28, recognising that these must be host country-led.
- Revise the Country Package concept, approach and name, ensuring that they are country-led, with the Secretariat’s role focused on facilitation, provision of technical support to developing country members on request, communication and information-sharing, and normalising the Country Package governance to follow the norm for any FCLP initiative.
- Continue to build global momentum and support for enhanced national action, including through the global process on Country Packages (under a new name), and support to developing country members with the process.

Strategic Priority 4. Demonstrating impact

Governmental Lead: Nigeria plus others to be identified.

Many pledges and commitments have been made by governments and partners on forests in recent years, including the Glasgow Leaders Declaration, financial pledges by donors, philanthropy and private sector, and public and private coalitions. The significance of the GLD headline target of “halting and reversing forest loss and degradation by 2030” has been increased by its inclusion in the Global Stocktake through the COP28 UAE Consensus. There is a need for governments and partners to demonstrate progress against these commitments and voluntary pledges, and to increase transparency about the action being taken. At the same time, there are concerns about adding additional layers of costly voluntary reporting, when governments and partners already have many international reporting requirements (e.g. to UNFCCC, CBD, FAO, OECD DAC, etc.). A more viable approach might to use the FCLP to advance actions to demonstrate impact and enhance accountability, without designing a new reporting framework. In 2024 and 2025 the FCLP will enhance how members can demonstrate their impact and accountability for their commitments by:

- Publishing an FCLP Progress Report, including reporting on the work of the FCLP, associated policy initiatives and member commitments.
- Developing ideas and approaches whereby members and coalitions can demonstrate their impact and accountability for their commitments.
- Convening information sessions for members on the results of the Forest Declarations Assessment and other civil society accountability reports.
- Partnering with OECD DAC and donor member countries to increase transparency and reporting of donor spending on forests.
- Commission authoritative external reports to assess impact and progress.

FCLP Operational Priorities 2024-2025

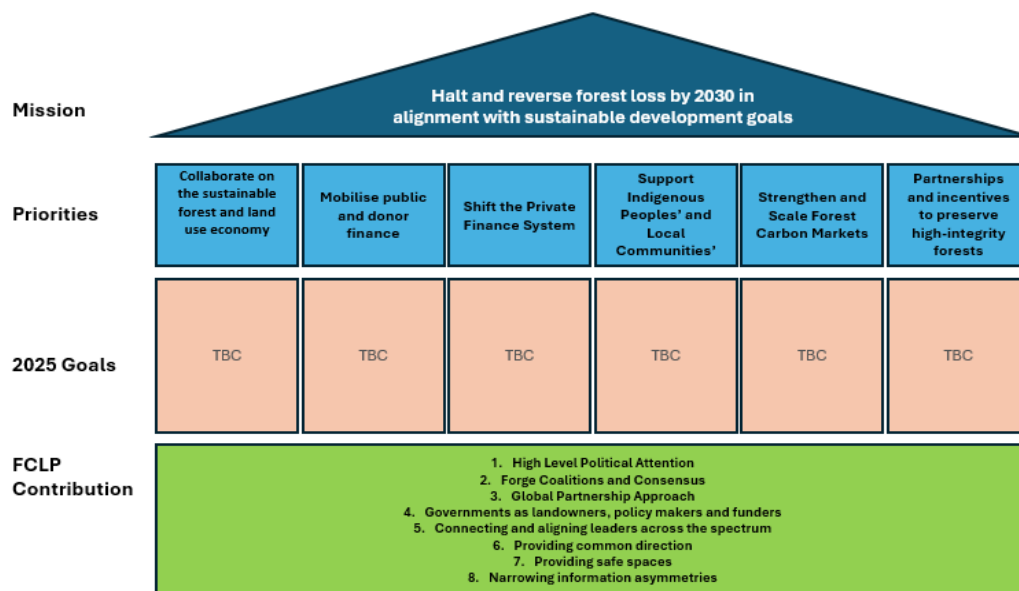
The initial FCLP Governance documents were prepared in 2022 prior to the launch of the partnership, and were approved by the Steering Committee in 2023. Initial feedback from the first year of the FCLP identified the need to further refine these documents to ensure that the governance is fit for purpose, including clarifying the roles and responsibilities of different bodies (Co-Chairs, Steering Committee, Co-leads, Secretariat), clarifying decision-making and transparency. In 2024 and 2025 the FCLP will:

- Ensure FCLP members are engaged and consulted on strategy and governance, and are actively engaged and leading delivery.
- Engage non-members and external stakeholders effectively on strategy design, working groups, initiatives and delivery.
- Communicate clearly and effectively, both internally and externally.
- Update governance and decision-making procedures and ensure these are properly and transparently followed.
- Continue to grow the partnership, promote national ownership and delivery.

- Identify new Co-Chairs, to take over when the mandate of the current Co-Chairs expires (end of 2024).
- Establish a Budget Sub-Committee of the SC for transparency over budget and resource allocation decisions.
- Develop and approve the Secretariat 2024-2025 workplan and staffing.
- Ensure the Secretariat is properly resourced to carry out its functions, including selecting one or more long-term hosts for the Secretariat, and provision of secure and sufficient budget to deliver the Secretariat work plan.

Annex 2. FCLP Policy Action Area Strategy (Strategic Priority 2).

FCLP members have committed to work across six priority areas of action at COP27, which together make up the systemic shifts needed to deliver against the headline target of “halting and reversing forest loss by 2030”. These are:



Action Area 1: International Collaboration on the Sustainable Forest and Land Use Economy

The global food and land use system contributes c. 30% of the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change¹, with conversion of forests for agriculture and ecosystem degradation caused by unsustainable forestry practices leading drivers of environmental damage. Decoupling economic development from deforestation and forest degradation is complex and requires international collaboration by public and private sector actors to invest in and scale more productive, regenerative techniques for commodity production and new approaches to protecting forests and other critical ecosystems. To meet this aim, members have focused on action to advance the **shift towards nature-based and circular bioeconomies** and to advance **global trade for deforestation-free commodities**, to incentivise the protection, sustainable management and restoration of forests and ecosystems and to benefit wider society.

Key Activities and Deliverables through 2024/25:

Initiative: Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood

Leads: Canada, France, Kenya

¹ Crippa, M., Solazzo, E., Guizzardi, D. *et al.* Food systems are responsible for a third of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. *Nat Food* **2**, 198–209 (2021). Accessed online: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-021-00225-9>

Active Members: Australia, Costa Rica, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of the Congo, South Korea, Sweden, UK, USA

Partners: Global ABC, BuiltbyNature, Climate Smart Forest Economy Program, FCBA, PilotProjects, woodPoP,

Key actions and deliverables for 2024:

- Advance work to increase the capacity of forest monitoring systems to facilitate sustainable harvesting of timber for the buildings and construction sector.
- Develop guidance for including wood and bio-based materials in public policy.
- Shift public and private sector perception of wood/bio-based materials in construction.
- Strengthen collaboration and information sharing across sectors to better facilitate sector transformation.
- Produce a global set of principles and safeguards to ensure the right outcomes for forests, climate, biodiversity and livelihoods.

Working Group: Deforestation-Free Commodity Trade

Leads: tbc

Active Members: Costa Rica, France, Kenya, Canada

Partners: FACT Dialogue, BMRC

Key actions and deliverables for 2024:

- Facilitate an intergovernmental dialogue on how governments can work together to promote the development of deforestation-free commodity production.

Action Area 2: Mobilising Public and Donor Finance to Support Implementation

Members have identified the need to mobilise finance, both public and private², and to repurpose harmful subsidies to support green and sustainable forest economies and trade. This includes setting out credible pathways to bridge the \$130 billion annual gap on forest finance³ which draws on all forms of finance; harnessing the power of innovative financing mechanisms like carbon markets, payment for ecosystem services and debt for nature swaps; and redirecting harmful subsidies and other incentives that drive deforestation.

Note: Further proposals pending Steering Committee and member discussions.

Working Group: Debt Instruments and Approaches for Nature

Leads: Colombia, USA

Active Members: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Germany, Kenya, Nigeria, UK

² Please note that no initiatives have been developed focused on shifting the private finance system.

³ WWF Forest Pathways Report, Technical Sections, 2023.

Partners: Taskforce on Credit Enhancement of Sustainability-Linked Sovereign Financing for Nature and Climate, Inter-American Development Bank, The Nature Conservancy.

Key actions and deliverables for 2024:

- High-level dialogue outlining the barriers and challenges to using debt-related financial instruments at scale.
- Informative webinars to showcase best practices and standardisation of different debt-related financial instruments.
- Convening in the margins of global events to identify practical next steps on capacity building, credit enhancement, standardisation and principles.
- Engaging and aligning with critical stakeholders across the ecosystem to ensure shared understanding of the opportunities and challenges of debt-related financial instruments.

Initiative: Country Packages for Forests, Nature and Climate

Leads: Singapore and USA

Active Members: TBC

Partners: Systemiq, Conservation International, International Working Group

Key actions and deliverables for 2024:

- Convene continued international momentum on Country Packages.
- Ensure continued follow-up on Country Packages announced at COP28.

Action Area 3: Shifting the Private Finance System

Financial and economic incentives are stacked against keeping forests standing by a factor of about 40:1. The recognition of climate-related financial risks in the forest and land use sector, as well as the value in investing in nature-based climate solutions has only very recently started to permeate the mainstream of the finance sector (e.g. [GFANZ](#), [Forest Investor Club](#), [Commitment on Eliminating Agricultural Commodity-Driven Deforestation](#), [IFACC](#)), including financial regulators (e.g. [NGFS](#), [Coalition of Finance Ministers](#)). The goal of halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation cannot be achieved without reducing the incentives to do harm and aligning financial portfolios in line with the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration. Evidence currently suggests that most financial institutions have no forest risk policy, zero deforestation policy, and no violence policies covering their lending and investments. In 2022 alone, Forest 500 estimated that private financial institutions provided USD 6.1 trillion to companies most at risk of driving tropical deforestation through agricultural commodity production⁴.

Note: Further proposals pending Steering Committee and member discussions.

⁴ Forest Declaration Assessment, 2023. Summary for policy makers.

Action Area 4: Supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Initiatives

FCLP members have identified the need to reduce deforestation threats in IP and LC territories and accelerating the recognition of IPs and LCs rights to own and manage their lands, territories and resources – realising, and permanently securing those rights. This includes taking an inclusive and rights-based approach to forest conservation, governance and finance, working with IPs and LCs as partners to expand the protection of forest ecosystems in ways that respect their rights, knowledge and livelihoods, and ensuring that local communities have direct access to funding.

Initiative: A Platform to Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Forest Climate Action

Leads: Norway and Peru

Interested Members: Canada, UK, Germany, USA, Ghana, Gabon, DRC, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Norway, Peru.

Partners: Ford Foundation, Climate and Land Use Alliance, Global Alliance of Territorial Communities, Re:wild and The Forest Tenure Funders Group.

Key actions and deliverables for 2024: Implementing the Platform to Support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in Forest Climate Action together with other governments, indigenous leaders and donors that aims to:

1. Permanently position forest tenure rights of IPs and LCs at the highest political level, for example within global activities like UNFCCC, CBD and climate weeks.
2. Enhance collaboration and matchmaking (financial and technical) on the development of new policies and actions that can help to address problems related with IPLC land threats, exclusion, lack of access to land tenure.
3. Create a collaborative space to share lessons learned, capacity building and develop best practices for inclusive governance and capacity building.

Recommendations for the operationalization of the Platform will be made by 27 June.

Action Area 5: Strengthen and scaling carbon markets for forests.

Many of the tropical forest countries that have made important progress over the past decade or more on REDD+ are assessing how to strategically engage in voluntary and compliance carbon markets as a source of finance to reach their forest, climate and sustainable development goals. However, there are several challenges and barriers to the strengthening and scaling of such markets outlined in the FCLP Roadmap published at COP28.⁵ There are ongoing discussions and a lack of consensus on the role of different types of credits and there are different views across the spectrum of interested actors in the market on how to ensure that such markets are high integrity and delivering in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

⁵ [Scaling Investment in Forest Carbon Results and Credits: A Roadmap](#)

Initiative Leads: Ghana, Guyana, UK

Interested Members: Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, Fiji, France, Germany, Kenya, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Congo, Singapore, Tanzania, USA, Vietnam

Partners: None yet

Key actions and deliverables for 2024:

- Develop a shared understanding of the drivers of demand for forest carbon results globally and within different countries.
- Agree a series of joint actions that members can take to tackle the blockers of demand.
- Build technical assistance that is fit for purpose and connect members to enhanced technical assistance and capacity building resources.
- Work in partnership with all interested countries to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing across a wide community.

Action Area 6: Develop partnerships and scale incentives to preserve high-integrity forests.

Forests largely free of significant modification – known as high integrity forests – make up about 40% of remaining forests. It is well acknowledged that these forests perform essential services: carbon sequestration, climate regulation, biodiversity preservation and support to livelihoods. Current finance mechanisms for incentivizing the preservation of the planet’s remaining high-integrity forests are proving insufficient and/or unsustainable for many lower income countries. New forms of incentives that can mobilize public and private sector finance are needed at scale to ensure the essential services provided by high-integrity forests are preserved and increased.

Note: Further proposals pending Steering Committee and member discussions.

Key actions and deliverables for 2024:

- Facilitate an intergovernmental dialogue on how governments can work together to promote incentives to preserve high-integrity forests.

2024 Tentative Calendar of in-person FCLP Meetings

Date	Event + Level	Topic
June 5-6	Sherpa Workshop	Forest Carbon Markets
June 27-28	Sherpa Workshop, Oslo	IPs and LCs Platform
September	Platform meeting, New York	IPs and LCs Platform
October	CBD COP16	All
November	COP29	All
TBC	Study Tour, Canada	Greening Wood in Construction

2024 Tentative Calendar of virtual FCLP Meetings

Date/Frequency	Event + Level	Topic
4-6 Weeks	Working Group Meeting	Forest Carbon Markets

4-6 Weeks	Working Group Meeting	Greening Wood in Construction
May-June	Expert Group meeting	IPs and LCs
June-July	Debt-related financial Instrument webinars	Debt and Nature

2024 Events of relevance

Date	Event
June	SBI/SBSTA, Bonn
June	London Climate Week
June	Oslo Tropical Forest Forum
July	Sustainable Finance Working Group, G20
September	New York Climate Week
October	International Wood Forum, Canada
October	CBD COP16, Colombia
November	UNFCCC COP29, Azerbaijan
November	G20 Summit, Rio
December	UNCCD, Saudi Arabia