



The Global Forest Finance Pledge

2023 Progress Report

January 2025

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Executive Summary

The Global Forest Finance Pledge (GFFP) of 2021 is a collective public finance commitment made by 12 public donors in support of countries committed to tackling the causes of deforestation. This third annual report from the GFFP donors provides an update on progress from January to December 2023, including aggregate spending data and further information on how funds are being used.

Since the start of the pledge, donors have provided USD 10 billion in funding forest-related activities, making steady progress towards achieving the 2025 ambition of USD 13 billion.

It is well understood that public finance, from domestic and foreign governments, is one of several sources of funding needed to support action to achieve the 2030 goal to halt and reverse deforestation and land degradation. In addition to the direct impact of public funding, the demonstrated commitment at the scale of the GFFP sends a strong signal of government policy direction and support, which is expected to leverage other sources of finance, some of which are illustrated in this report through case studies.





Introduction

The historic Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use, announced at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), pledged to end and reverse forest loss by 2030. Aligning to this goal, the Global Forest Finance Pledge (GFFP) of COP26 represented the largest ever multilateral public finance commitment dedicated to protecting, restoring and sustainably managing forests worldwide to deliver on the Paris Agreement. GFFP donors Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, the European Commission (on behalf of the EU), Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, the UK and the USA initially collectively pledged USD 12 billion of climate finance over 5 years towards forest-related activities.

The pledge is neither a new fund nor does it have a central allocation mechanism; each donor decides how

they allocate their contributions. Donors are dedicated to ensuring that GFFP finance flow figures are publicly available and as such have published a collective progress report each year since its inception. In the first two years of the five-year pledge, 47% (nearly half) of the total commitment was allocated or disbursed towards forest-related projects and programmes. On 7 November 2022, at COP27, Germany announced a further 1 billion Euro contribution towards the pledge.

For this third pledge year, donors have once again voluntarily reported on their collective contributions in the interests of transparency and accountability. To honor the increased commitment from Germany, this current report reflects the revised USD 13 billion goal.¹

¹ Based on the exchange rate on 7 November 2022, Germany's extra 1 billion Euros account for an additional USD 999,300,489.66.

Methodology

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

The 12 GFFP donors worked collectively to compile information on forest-related finance in 2023² and to 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 determined using a robust and conservative estimate of proportion for forest-related activities;³ for multi-year initiatives, annual proportional shares were calculated, where relevant. It is at the individual donor's discretion to choose which programmes contribute to the pledge - country inputs are therefore taken as provided.⁴

The information and data provided are often compiled manually from several sources and are partly based on quantitative and qualitative categorisations. Therefore, the information and data provided should be considered best available estimates.

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.⁵ To enable comparison, public donor contributions were converted to USD using the OECD annual average exchange rate.⁶

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.

² 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.

³ For the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 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 from the GCF and GEF.

⁴ Where donors have identified specific corrections required to 2022 data, the adjustments have been made in this year's report.

⁵ 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 9 donors reported as disbursements, 2 donors reported funds as commitments, and 1 as mixed.

⁶ <https://data.oecd.org/conversion/exchange-rates.htm>. 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 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

The Congo Basin Pledge⁷ and the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge⁸ were also announced at COP26. Despite overlaps, each is distinct, with support from different types of donors (Table 1). Some donor funding reported under the GFFP also contributes to the objectives of the other two pledges. As such, it may be reported under all three pledges.

For each pledge, donors have voluntarily reported on their progress towards meeting their respective contributions. For these reasons, pledges should not be aggregated or compared.

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

	Public donors	Philanthropic donors	Amount pledged at COP26
Global Forest Finance Pledge	12	--	\$ 12bn
Congo Basin Pledge	11	1	\$ 1.5bn
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge	5	20	\$ 1.7bn



Malaysia © Eutah Mizushima

⁷ 12 donors (11 governments and 1 philanthropist) announced the Congo Basin Pledge, a landmark collective pledge of at least USD 1.5 billion over 2021-2025 to support Congo Basin forests and peatlands, the world’s largest carbon sink and a region that is historically underfunded.

⁸ 22 funders, including governments and private philanthropic organisations, announced a USD 1.7 billion pledge in support of advancing Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ (IP and LC) forest tenure rights in tropical forest countries, a recognition of the important role IP and LC play in protecting forests and nature.

Global Forest Finance Pledge – progress to date

In the three years since the start of the GFFP (from 2021 to the end of 2023), donors have provided USD 10.02 billion in funding towards forest-related activities, equivalent to 77% of the USD 13 billion total commitment. In 2023 specifically, donors provided USD 4.34 billion, a marked improvement from previous years. (Figure 1).

Similar to results from the previous two years, GFFP contributions are mostly directed towards actions that support forest restoration and/or sustainable management or activities that cover more than one primary theme (Figure 2) with most funds delivered as grants (Figure 3).

Figure 1. Progress towards the USD 13 billion GFFP pledge commitment, 2021-2023, in USD

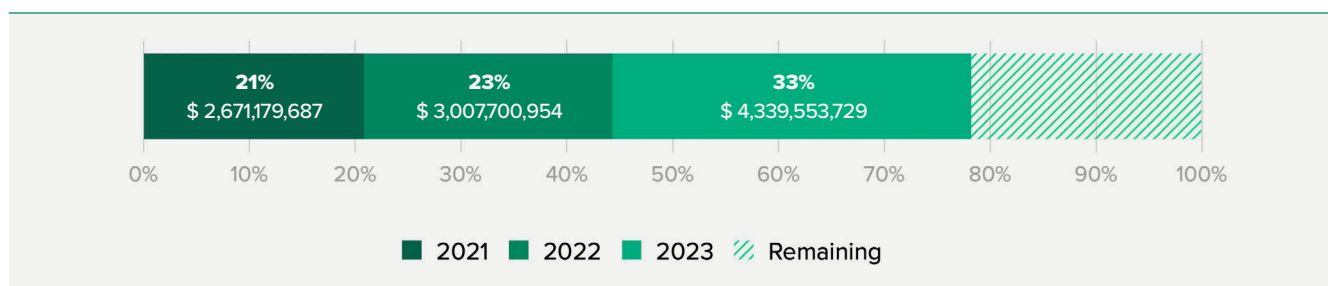
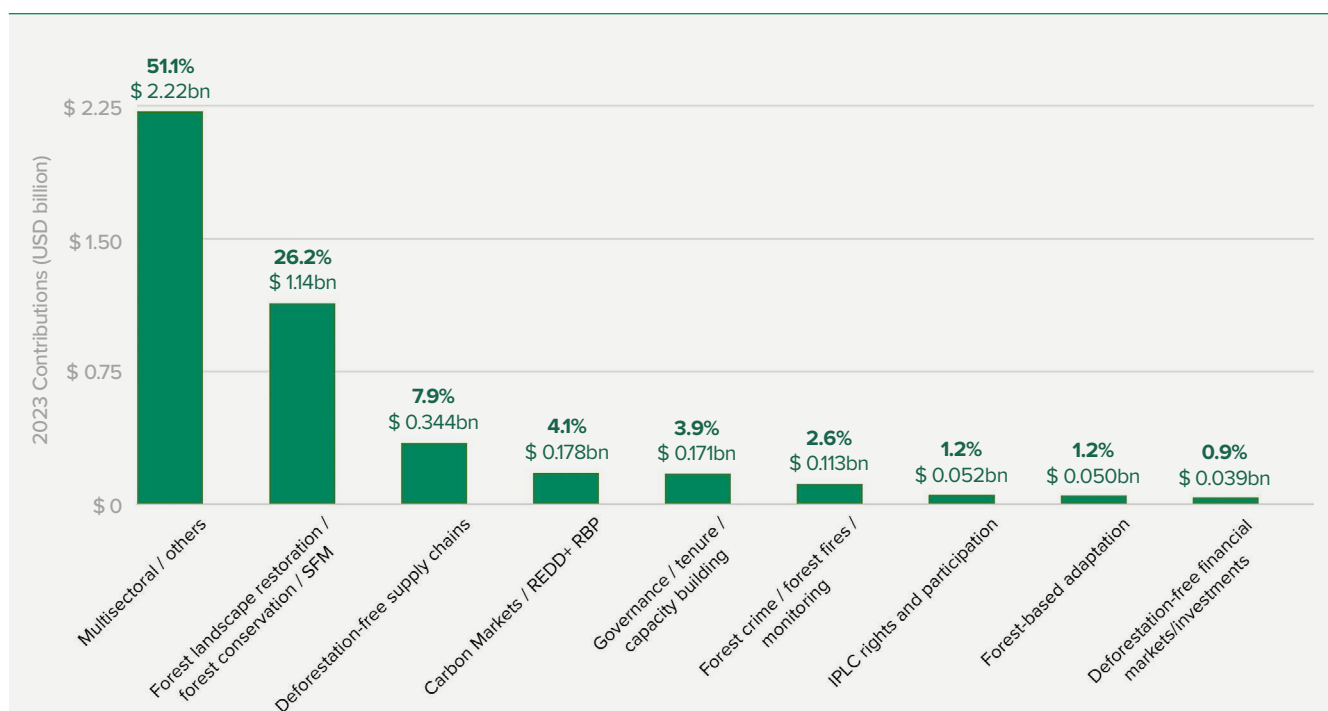
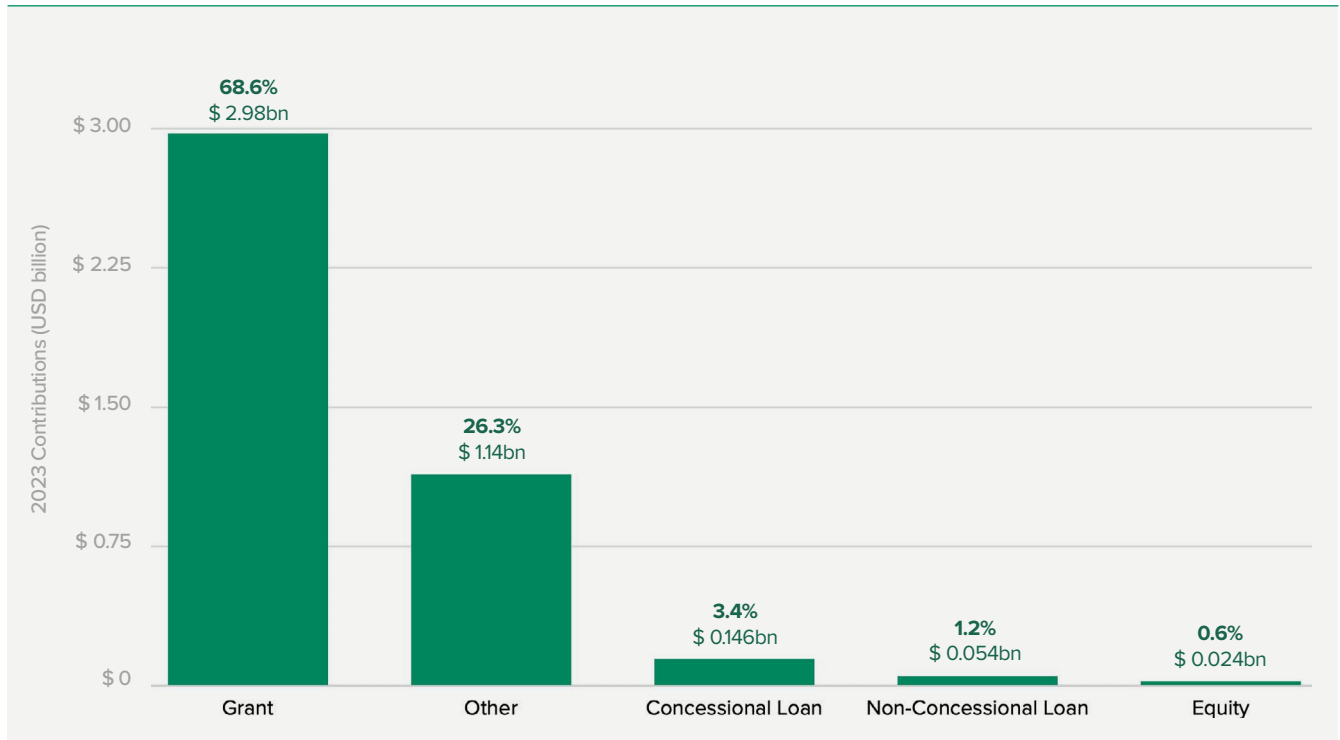


Figure 2. GFFP contributions by primary thematic areas, 2023



Note: If donors considered a programme to primarily cover more than one theme, 'multisectoral/other' was chosen. Breakdown in activities should be regarded as illustrative, as many programmes cover several thematic areas at the same time.

Figure 3. Distribution of GFFP contributions by finance mechanism in 2023

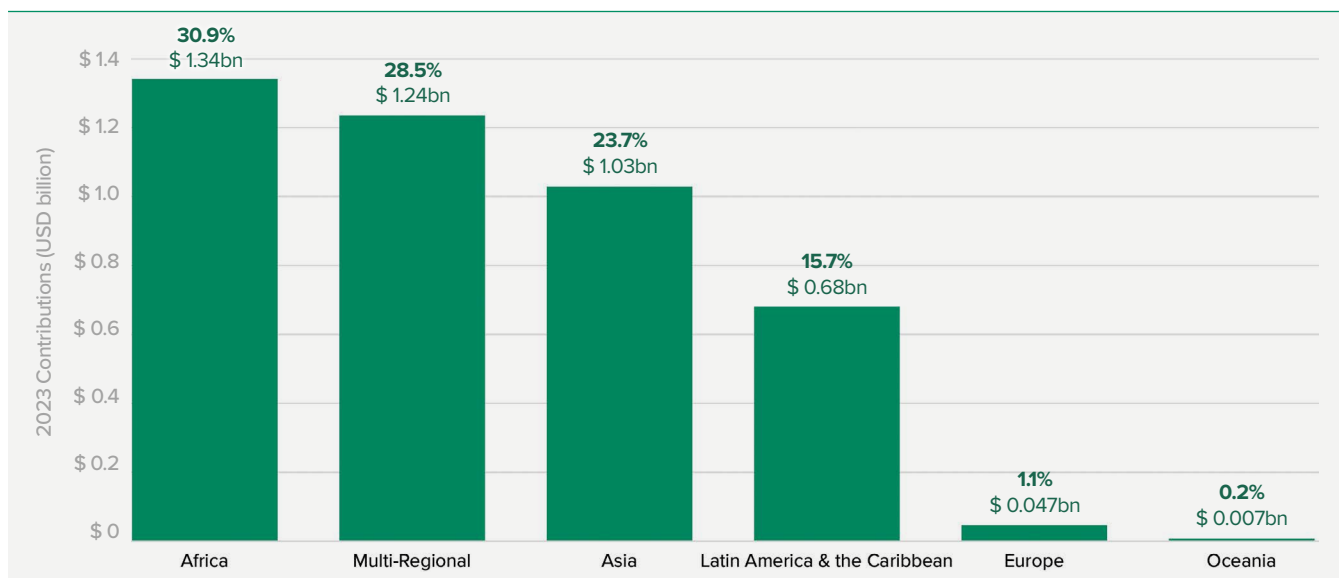


In terms of geographical allocation of contributions, Africa was the main recipient region, although many programmes and projects cover more than one geographic region (Figure 4).

The 2023 donor returns indicate that 7% (USD 308 million) of GFFP contributions are also reported as

Congo Basin Pledge contributions. While an accurate calculation of the overlap with the Forest Tenure Pledge was not possible due to different methodologies used by some donors, it is estimated that around 4% (USD 186 million) of GFFP contributions are also Forest Tenure Pledge contributions.

Figure 4. Share of pledge contributions 2023, by recipient region





Case studies

Provided below are just a few examples of the ways in which GFFP contributions are having a positive impact on the ground.

Strengthening sustainable and productive forest landscapes in Colombia

Colombia is amongst the most megadiverse countries in the world and contains more than 50% natural forest land cover. However, a significant percentage of its forest has been lost due to deforestation. To help tackle this, the second phase of ProBosques started in November 2023 and aims to strengthen sustainable and integrative forest management processes in the natural forests. It is active in the departments of Meta, Guaviare and Caquetá of the

Colombian Amazon region. The programme runs until October 2026, and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, in cooperation with the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible) and on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The project works at the local, regional and national level to implement policies and strategies for sustainable forest management (SFM); to promote value chains and services that originate from environmentally friendly and integrative forest management; and to strengthen coordination and capacity to act between the main decision-makers involved. To achieve this, the project has created tools such as the online



COLOMBIA

Canangucha fruits in the hands of a producer

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COLOMBIA

*Carpenters from the
Asoefa Association*

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platform, ExpoBosques, which links important national actors of SFM to improve cooperation and knowledge generation and exchange.

So far, 24 SFM relevant collaboration agreements have been signed, with more to come.

To strengthen cooperation, the ProBosques II programme builds on consultations and exchanges with local communities, relevant governmental stakeholders at the national and regional level, as well as with the private sector. Such exchanges resulted in 2023 in an agreement with Fedemaderas, the national association of the wood processing industry, to explore ways to foster a more sustainable wood sector. Furthermore, a strategy for a national forest extension service has been developed with national authorities with planned implementation in 2025, focusing on gender-sensitivity. In Caquetá, a community forest management plan for more than 10,000 hectares has been developed, to be authorised in 2025.

Protocols which define the sustainable use of forest products (e.g. Cacay nut, Acai and Canangucha fruit) have been created in cooperation with local and national authorities, helping to establish their value chains and resulting in discussions with producer

organisations and the local private sector to launch public-private partnerships. This supports the diversification in value chains of Amazonian products and the technical capabilities of the organisations involved, especially for women and young people.

The project is leveraging private investments through cooperation agreements with national and international enterprises and their associations. One example is the 'Wild Cacay Project' with the Colombian enterprise CaryO. The enterprise is sourcing the Cacay nut out of natural forests in Miraflores in Guaviare and provides an alternative income opportunity to livestock and agricultural production and an incentive to keep natural forests intact. In Caquetá, ProBosques II cooperates with a consortium consisting of the Brazilian cosmetics producer Natura and the local companies PurAmazonia and Agrosolidaria to promote a productive restoration of secondary forests. ProBosques II supports the communities in improving the quality of their harvest and to comply with the standards of sustainable forest management practices

Further information

[ProBosques – Donde los bosques son territorio de vida](#)

Scaling-up nature-based leadership platforms for climate resilience, restoring degraded forest landscapes and biodiversity

On 12 December 2022, as it welcomed the world to the COP15 biodiversity conference in Montréal, Canada announced an investment of Can\$18.7 million over four years in support of scaling-up nature-based leadership platforms.

Through the proven partnerships of the International Model Forest Network (IMFN), IMFN Climate will assist 'Model Forests' in at least 10 Official Development Assistance-eligible countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. From January 2023 to March 2026, IMFN Climate aims to reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration from forest/lands through:

1. Place-based (on-the-ground) investments in nature-based solutions through forest and landscape restoration;
2. Strengthened gender equity in sustainable forest and land management; and

3. Knowledge for development in forest and natural resource management education.

The broader four-year investment in the IMFN supports developing countries in their transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient, nature-positive and inclusive sustainable development, and builds on Natural Resources Canada's successful delivery of RESTAURacción: Wildfire Restoration in Latin America. In its first three months, the IMFN Climate initiative had invested Can\$316,365 in a regional project to train the next generation of forest leaders. This project was developed by the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in Costa Rica, which hosts the Latin American Model Forest Network. This initial investment awarded seven scholarships for professional Master's degrees to students from five Latin American countries. Once trained, these individual agents of change will return to their countries, landscapes and homes to advance professional careers with improved knowledge and capacities to develop and implement nature-based climate solutions. Over half (57%) of the scholarship recipients are women.



BRAZIL

Visit to the Mata Atlântica Model Forest

© RLABM

The national Brazilian Model Forest Network – made up of Brazil’s six Model Forests – was also consolidated after support from IMFN Climate brought this community of actors together to develop and establish strong participatory and inclusive governance models for their collaborative work.

In 2023, additional projects began to take shape in forest and natural resource management education and on-the-ground investments in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Among many results, over the next year alone, these investments in Model Forests will bring a total of 244 hectares under rehabilitation using approaches that integrate gender equity and leverage nature-based climate solutions.

Further information

[International Model Forest Network \(IMFN\) Climate](#) (available in English, French and Spanish)

[2023 IMFN Climate Key Achievements Report](#)

[Canadian Government press release on its commitment to support the International Model Forest Network](#)

[Forest Network \(RBFM\)](#) (video available in Portuguese only)

[Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center \(CATIE\) online news on the Brazilian Model Forest Network meeting](#)

[CATIE online news on the IMFN Climate initiative](#)

Unlocking finance towards deforestation-free, sustainable agriculture and land use

The rapid expansion of agricultural production continues to be among the most powerful drivers of environmental degradation. As more land is brought under cultivation and production becomes increasingly industrialised, deforestation, habitat loss, greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts increase. Ultimately, this degradation threatens agricultural production itself, with stagnating yields and loss of livelihoods for many, especially smallholder farmers.



This challenge led an ambitious partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Rabobank for forest protection and sustainable agriculture. Announced in 2017, at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development in Mexico City, its aim is to unlock at least USD 1 billion in finance towards deforestation-free, sustainable agriculture and land use.

The AGR13 Fund was established as a result of this partnership. The AGR13 Fund has the mission to mobilise USD 1 billion of public and private finance to accelerate forest protection and reforestation and the implementation of sustainable agricultural solutions, whilst improving farmers’ livelihoods. Projects financed through the AGR13 Fund should lead to at least one of the two following main impacts: (i) forest protection and reforestation and (ii) sustainable land use and at portfolio level contribute to improved rural livelihoods. AGR13 provides partial risk guarantees and credit enhancement instruments to partner financial institutions, next to technical assistance through IDH.

As of the end of 2023, the Fund had 12 active deals, with its portfolio value increasing from USD 32 million in 2022 to USD 62 million in 2023, marking a 94% year-on-year growth. The Fund was successful in closing transactions in Latin America and Africa.

Since its inception, the Fund has mobilised over USD 200 million from commercial banks to support sustainable practices across 75,000 hectares, reducing CO2 emissions by 233,000 metric tons. It has conserved 100,000 hectares of tropical forests, launched community-led projects benefiting thousands of farmers and provided USD 1.9 million in technical assistance to equip farmers with sustainable practice resources and knowledge.

It has also mobilised additional investment: on behalf of Global Environment Facility (GEF) the Conservation International Foundation (CIF) joined the Fund as a senior equity provider, while Rabobank participates with a USD 50 million term loan facility. Additionally, the Fund received a first loss facility commitment from the Swiss government. The Fund is currently negotiating with the EU Commission for a junior equity investment, which can further attract potential future private investors.

Free access to high-resolution satellite images to reduce and reverse tropical forest loss

Historically, access to high resolution satellite data has been expensive and available only to a few actors. This is why NICFI decided to grant free access to high-resolution satellite images of the tropics to anyone, anywhere, in pursuit of its goal to reduce and reverse tropical forest loss.

The NICFI Satellite Data Program covers all the tropical forest regions of the world. The majority of images are streamed in key tropical forest countries like Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Indonesia.

So far, the NICFI Satellite Data Program has more than 31,000 registered users from 158 countries around the world, using data from 97 tropical countries. In addition, many more are accessing the data through other platforms, such as Google Earth and the Global Forest Watch.

Forest country governments are using the satellite data to discover, validate and quickly respond to changes in the forest cover, including fires. They also use the data



PERU

Betty Rubio, Indigenous specialist in technology transfer for the Napo watershed in Peru, working with the regional federation, ORPIO, and local organisation, FECONAMNCUA, in projects supported by Rainforest Foundation US (RFUS)

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to understand and respond to drivers of deforestation, improve planning and management, and strengthen their capacity to investigate and prosecute activities related to illegal deforestation. The data is also used by civil society, indigenous peoples, academia, media and the private sector.

Results include:

The National Forestry Commission of Mexico reports that the imagery provided by the NICFI programme has been crucial for the development, implementation, operation and continuous improvements of a deforestation early warning system.

The state of Michoacán, Mexico, has developed an early warning system that detects illegalities in deforestation. The system uses AI to report to the National Commission for Protected Areas for follow-up. This allows for efficient, system-generated reporting and reduces the risks that would otherwise be taken by environmental activists when reporting on illegal deforestation.

The National Sustainable Development Fund of Mozambique is using the scenes-level data to validate deforestation events and improve forest area change estimation and mapping.

Amazon Conservation has used the NICFI data for rapid and high-resolution detection of deforestation in protected areas of the Colombian, Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon.

The Rainforest Foundation US facilitates training in the use of NICFI Satellite Data Program data to five Indigenous organisations and 33 Amazonian native people from Kichwa, Shipibo and Ticuna communities in the Peruvian Amazon. Community patrols use the basemaps on their smartphones to plan patrols to validate early deforestation alerts.

New satellite images recently led to revealing that the destruction caused by illegal gold mining in the Yanomami Indigenous Territory in Brazil is three times more than previously reported. The data shows how the devastation has a direct impact on one out of every three Yanomami villages.

The next phase of the programme is planned to mobilise additional funding from the Bezos Earth Fund.

Further information

[NICFI Program - Satellite Imagery and Monitoring | Planet](#)

[COP28/Dubai: NICFI and Bezos Earth Fund to provide free satellite images – Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative](#)

[NICFI prolongs public access to high resolution rainforest satellite images – Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative](#)

[New Satellite Images Reveal Even More Destructive Mining in the Yanomami Indigenous Territory | Pulitzer Center](#)

[The New Threat to Brazil's Forests: Chemicals - The New York Times](#)

Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in Brazil

The REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) Early Movers Programme (REM) is designed to reward pioneers in forest conservation and climate protection by providing results-based payments to countries or subnational jurisdictions upon verified emission reductions from deforestation. Funding is reinvested at a state level to strengthen forest governance and at a local level to support Indigenous People and local communities. Germany, Norway and the UK contribute to the REM programme with implementation in Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.

In Brazil, as part of this programme, the Muxirum Quilombola project supports the institutional and organisational capacities of Quilombola communities in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, with a focus on supporting traditional agriculture. The project ran from 2020 to 2024, with its main objectives being to ensure communities are empowered politically, socially, culturally and economically, with a focus on Quilombola women and youth. The project focused on the strengthening of economic, organisational, productive and commercial activities of Quilombola products with the sustainable management of biodiversity and valuing the social and cultural heritage of Quilombola products, strengthening Quilombola communities in Mato Grosso.

As a result, the Muxirum Quilombola project is promoting a significant transformation in the Quilombola Community of Mata Cavalo, in Nossa Senhora do Livramento, Mato Grosso. The acquisition of a tractor expanded the sugarcane cultivation area, doubling production in some farms and benefiting other crops such as cassava and corn. The tractor is maintained locally and provides technical support for more than 40 farms.

Through technical assistance and funding, the project aimed to strengthen traditional agriculture and included the construction of a community factory for processing sliced bananas and babassu oil. Muxirum Quilombola has benefitted more than 500 Quilombola families, promoting sustainable land management, environmental preservation and income generation.

Further information

[REM programme, Mato Grosso](#)

[Instagram link to Mato Grosso programme](#)



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Local products made with support from the REM programme, including cassava and cumbaru

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BRAZIL

Women in Quilombola harvesting crops for local sales

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The Global Forest Finance Pledge supporters

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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

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United States of America

Further information

[Pledge announcement at COP26](#)

[GFFP Progress report 2021](#)

[GFFP Progress report 2022](#)

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