

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

FCLP

The Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership



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SUMMARY 2024

Natural Forest Manyara Region in Tanzania © Ramadhani Kimosa

At UNFCCC COP26, over 145 world leaders, representing 91% of the global forest cover, committed to “halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, whilst delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation” through the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land-Use.

The Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership (FCLP) was launched by world leaders at COP27 as a high-ambition, action-oriented group of governments focused on implementing the Glasgow Leaders Declaration. In 2023, this 2030 forest goal was accepted by the parties to the UNFCCC in the global stocktake under the UAE Consensus at COP28.

This second annual report of the FCLP reflects on progress in 2024, under the inaugural FCLP co-chairs Ghana and the United States.

Through their leadership, the FCLP evolved from a set of countries with a common ambition to an organisation with strong foundations, a core set of Secretariat staff, and an agreed governance structure and strategy.

New York Climate Week, CBD COP16 in Cali and UNFCCC COP29 in Baku have provided opportunities for members to showcase ongoing work. Notably the FCLP hosted the only leader level event on forests in 2024.

This report highlights progress across FCLP workstreams, led by members, which seek to tackle some of the most critical challenges. These include supporting land tenure recognition for Indigenous Peoples’, and local communities; strengthening forest carbon market infrastructure; promoting good practice in regards to the use of sustainable timber in construction; supporting the use of debt-related financial instruments as a key tool to increase investment in nature; and, increasing collaboration and support amongst technical, financial and political partners to support the implementation of national deforestation targets and strategies.

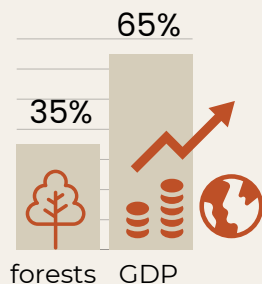
In 2025, the FCLP looks forward to being hosted by UNOPs, and taking forward the collective vision and plans of the FCLP members under the new co-chairs Guyana and the United Kingdom.

2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Guapi-Cauca, Colombia. © Juan Fernando Betrancourt, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

33 Members

accounting for



Renewed commitment to increase forest finance

through results-based payments and high-integrity carbon markets, supported by 15 members.

7 ministerial dialogues

advanced action on debt, tenure rights, and integrating forests into NDCs and NBSAPs.



Media reach expanded:

- 6 News published
- 3 Event summaries
- 49 LinkedIn posts
- 79% Follower growth (2,425 in total).



Commitment underway to scale up **global recognition of forest tenure rights** by COP30, with 12 members driving the effort.



Hosted the only leader-level event on forests in 2024.



Convened government officials 29 times virtually and 6 times in person to further ambition on forests



Completed a **governance review**, setting new principles for FCLP operations.



Adopted a **refreshed strategy to drive action** and measurable impact.



INTRODUCTION

In its second year, the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership solidified its role as a catalyst for international action, driving new commitments and sustaining high-level engagement to keep forests at the heart of global climate solutions.

The FCLP is a voluntary, country-led effort that brings together, and coordinates action amongst high ambition countries who are committed to halting and reversing forest loss by 2030. FCLP's members (32 countries and the EU) represent around 35% of the global forest cover and over 65% of GDP.

The FCLP uniquely bridges a diversity 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.

Members collaborate and take actions at global and national levels that substantially contribute toward the GLD goals in a way that enables agility and action outside of formal negotiations.

The FCLP focuses on creating high impact coalitions of the willing, for members to move at scale and with pace on their priority agendas.

As an inclusive, transparent, and participatory space for countries with high ambition for forest and climate action, country members are encouraged to mobilize their efforts and pursue outcomes without necessarily requiring consensus from all members.

The FCLP focusses on four strategic priorities: (1) High-level political attention on forests and climate, (2) Policy action areas, (3) National action, and (4) Demonstrating impact.

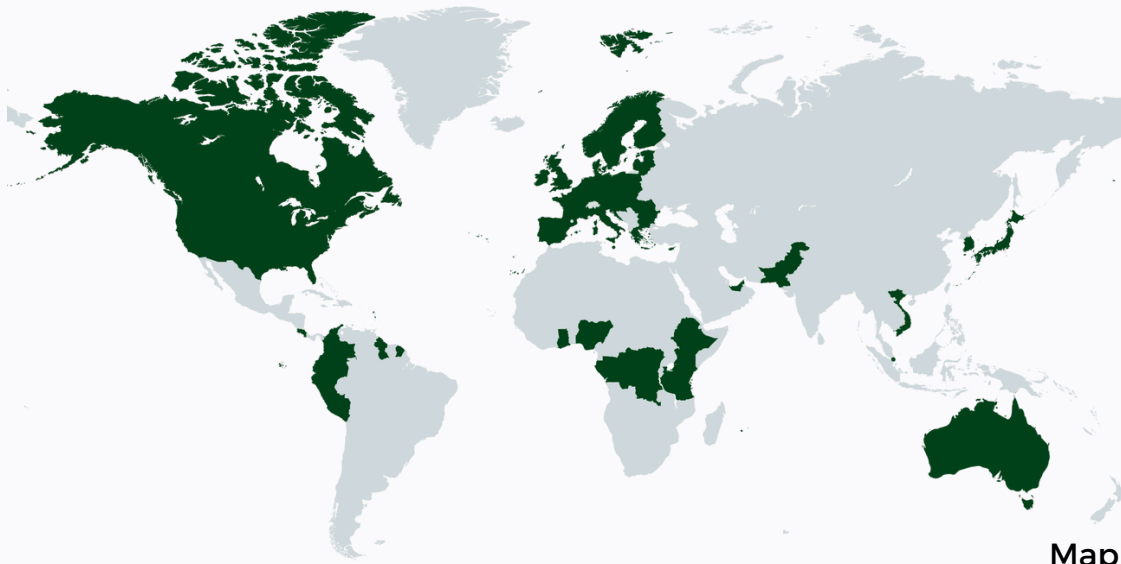
Strategic Pillars

High level political attention
on forests and climate

Policy action areas

National Action

Demonstrating impact



Map of FCLP Members

FCLP Members 2024

- Commonwealth of Australia
- Canada
- Kingdom of Belgium
- Republic of Colombia
- Republic of Congo
- Republic of Costa Rica
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Kingdom of Denmark
- Republic of Ecuador
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- European Union
- Republic of Fiji
- Republic of Finland
- French Republic
- Gabon
- Federal Republic of Germany
- Republic of Ghana
- Republic of Guyana
- Japan
- Republic of Kenya
- Republic of Korea
- Kingdom of Netherlands
- Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Kingdom of Norway
- Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Republic of Peru
- Republic of Singapore
- Kingdom of Sweden
- United Republic of Tanzania
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United Arab Emirates
- United States of America
- Vietnam

The Partnership is governed by a Steering Committee of ministers headed up by two co-chairs, and supported by a Secretariat. In 2024 the Steering Committee comprised 10 governments: Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Norway, UK and USA, and was co-chaired by Ghana and the USA.

TRANSITION OF CO-CHAIRS

2022 - 2024: Ghana & USA



2024 - 2026: Guyana & United Kingdom



Pillar 1: High-level political attention on forests and climate

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. The GLD target of “halting and reversing deforestation by 2030” was emphasised in the COP28 UAE Consensus at the end of 2023, moving a collective, voluntary, target into the formal process of updating NDCs. During 2024, through the work of many FCLP member countries, forests remained high on the global climate agenda. There was also an opportunity for the FCLP member countries to act politically together to influence global agendas. In 2024, the FCLP did this primarily through:

Delivering regular opportunities for leaders to engage with the issue of forests in the international arena:

Beyond the Ministerial events led across each workstream which are

outlined between pages 10 to 25, the FCLP provided critical platforms at COP29 and COP16 to hold leaders to account for commitments made, and to platform examples of good practice across and progress across in pursuit of the 2030 goal.

At UNFCCC COP29, the FCLP hosted the sole leader-level event on forests in 2024.

The high-level event on [‘Leaders Protecting Forests for Climate, Lives and Livelihoods’](#) took place between the UN Convention on Biodiversity Conference 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CBD COP16) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (UNCCD COP16).

This event provided an opportunity to highlight the role of forests and nature in countries’ efforts to achieve

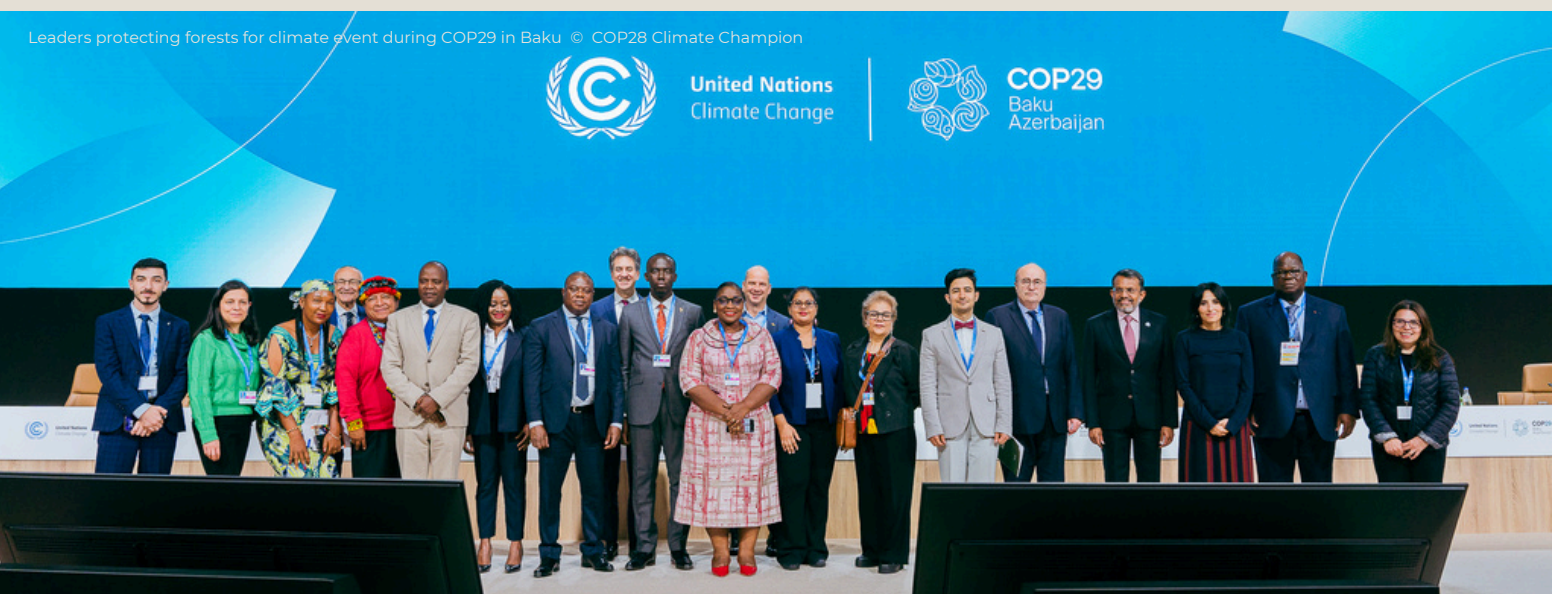
Leaders protecting forests for climate event during COP29 in Baku © COP28 Climate Champion



United Nations
Climate Change



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan



their goals and targets under the three Rio Conventions and to set the stage for expected outcomes at COP30. Leader keynote speeches were delivered by H.E. Nana Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana; H.E. Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil; H.E. Luis Gilberto Murillo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia; and H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, COP28 Presidency, UAE. Ministerial panels included representation from the UK, Norway, Singapore, Côte d'Ivoire, USA and the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC).

At CBD COP16, the FCLP convened ministers in partnership with the Government of Colombia. Ministers outlined how they planned to use forest targets to integrate national plans on climate and biodiversity, as well as outlining different sources of financing for forests. Notably, this event provided a platform for the announcement of the Gabon Partnership for Forest Ecosystems, Nature and Climate (see p.25).

The event was moderated by Lord Zac Goldsmith, Bezos Earth Foundation, with keynote speeches from Susana Muhamad, [then] Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development and H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion, COP28 Presidency, UAE; and high-level attendance from France, Gabon, Germany, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, UK, the World Bank, The Nature Conservancy, Green Climate Fund, Inter American Development Bank, Nature Finance and the World Wildlife Fund. ([Press release, 28 October 2024](#))

In addition to convening decision makers, in 2024, the FCLP also:

Engaged proactively with UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD COP Presidencies

to highlight the importance of delivering on the GLD target, including through collective member action, bilateral engagement and strategic engagement by the Secretariat.



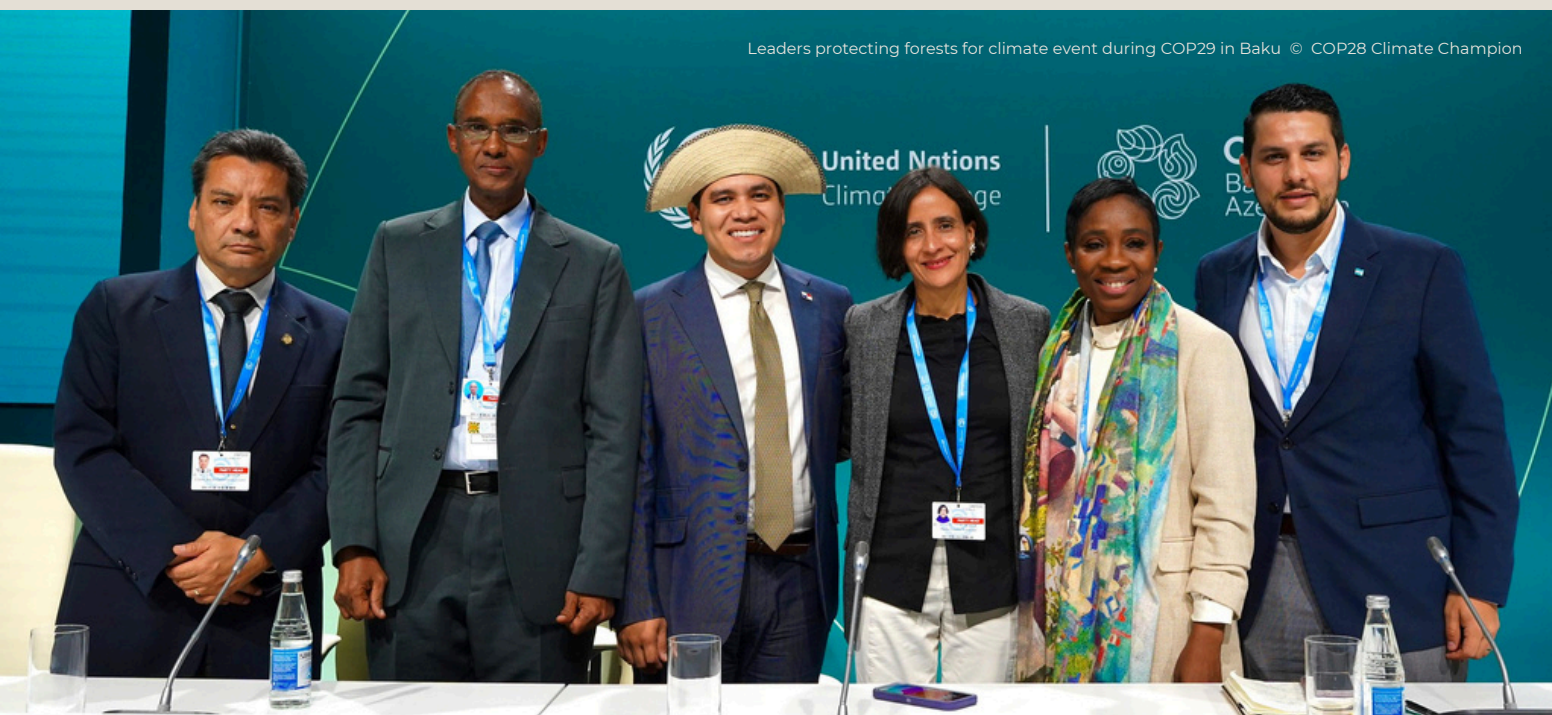
H.E. Razan Al Mubarak at COP29 in Baku © COP28 Climate Champion



Politically advocated for joint priorities, including through political statements and bilateral engagement by FCLP member countries, building on shared ministerial engagement lines developed by the Secretariat. In 2024, 15 members issued a political statement reaffirming their commitment to increasing forest finance through results-based payments and high-integrity carbon markets.

Identified political champions and built partnerships with key non-state actors to further the work of the FCLP, the specifics of which are included under Pillar 2 and Pillar 3 activities (p.8, p.23).

Commissioned authoritative external reports to move priorities forward, learning from model examples used by other high ambition coalitions, working with The Forest Declaration Assessment Partners to develop a [2030 Vision for Forests](#) which was released by partners in 2025.



Pillar 2: Policy Action Areas

FCLP members have committed to work jointly to accelerate and scale policies focused on six action areas, which cover some of the critical systemic shifts needed to deliver on the 2030 target. The work is led by members and facilitated by the Secretariat. FCLP members participate in at least one of the following action areas. The agreed areas for action are as follows:



**INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION ON THE
SUSTAINABLE FOREST AND LAND USE ECONOMY**



**MOBILISING PUBLIC AND DONOR FINANCE TO
SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION**



SHIFTING THE PRIVATE FINANCE SYSTEM



**SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' AND LOCAL
COMMUNITIES' INITIATIVES**



**STRENGTHENING AND SCALING CARBON
MARKETS FOR FORESTS**



**BUILDING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND
INCENTIVES TO PRESERVE HIGH-INTEGRITY
FORESTS**



International collaboration on the sustainable forest and land use economy

Workstream: Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood

Co-leads: Canada, France, Kenya

Context: With a genuinely sustainable approach, the use of wood in construction can offer a win-win solution to the converging crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and urbanization and can help governments to meet their GLD and net zero commitments. It also presents an opportunity to stimulate innovation, enhance economic competitiveness, and grow a greener workforce, based upon a commitment to the application of sustainable forest management practices and a just transition along the whole supply chain.

A growing number of governments globally are recognising the value of using sustainably sourced wood and other bio-based materials in construction to meet their environmental, social and economic needs, including the collective goal of halting and reversing forest degradation and deforestation. This interest was highlighted in 2023 at COP28, when 17 members of the FCLP announced the formation of a [coalition](#) of governments to advance the use of sustainable wood and biobased materials in construction. The early impact of this coalition was its contribution to the Declaration of Chaillot, from the first Global Summit on Buildings and Climate, which established a set of priorities for climate action within the building and construction sector. The FCLP initiative's impact will continue to grow through its links with broader and related processes and ambitions, using international cooperation to advance a resilient and sustainable bioeconomy by advancing policies and best practices related to building with wood.

Priorities 2024: Advancing public policy for forest-positive buildings. Members recognised that an initial baseline of the state of policy in wood in construction was required in the first instance, in order to identify policy gaps, opportunities and best practice.



Therefore, the government of France, through the French technological institute FCBA (L'Institut Technologique Forêt Cellulose Bois-Construction Ameublement), developed an in-depth wood in construction country review of 8 key countries, with a focus on the built environment end of the supply chain. To complement this work, the FCLP commissioned a policy scan across the whole supply chain of all 17 coalition members. These studies will serve as a resource for governments to address opportunities to build and/or influence the conditions that enable the sustainable and efficient production and use of wood and other bio-based materials in construction.





FCLP study tour participants visit Prince George Community Forest, B.C. © FCLP

Sharing knowledge and experiences. In October 2024, the Canadian Forest Service welcomed fellow FCLP members to British Columbia to learn firsthand how sustainable forest management and building with wood is practiced in Canada and to provide the opportunity to share and apply these learnings to greening construction policies and projects in their respective countries. The 'Forest to Frame' study tour incorporated the Indigenous bioeconomy, processing and manufacturing, the regulatory environment and skills and construction

as focus themes. It was attended by senior government representatives from Costa Rica, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Pakistan and Tanzania, in addition to the Climate Smart Forest Economy Program. The tour contributed to advancing dialogue, new collaboration, and has directly influenced decisions regarding Kenya's and Costa Rica's recent building code updates.



The Hive, a pioneering 10-storey tall wood office building, Vancouver, B.C. © FCLP



FCLP study tour participants © FCLP

Building alliances and promoting the use of sustainable wood in construction. The FCLP recognises its value in providing a leader-level platform for promoting and supporting existing initiatives and of working with non-government partners to responsibly accelerate action and scale up impact in line with the goals of the FCLP coalition. Some examples include:

- In 2024, the FCLP engaged closely with the UNEP Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global-ABC), contributing to the broader Buildings Breakthrough¹ agenda. The first Global Forum on Buildings and Climate in Paris (March 2024), hosted by the Government of France and UNEP Global-ABC, was a critical opportunity to ensure the recognition and integration of the FCLP's initiative into the broader agenda. The FCLP, with Built by Nature, co-hosted a public-facing session on Accelerating the Use of Wood and Bio-based Materials to Decarbonise Buildings with speakers from leading businesses, governments and NGOs.



FCLP members and partners at the Global Forum on Buildings and Climate in Paris © FCLP



- FCLP members participated in the FAO WoodforGlobe high-level event in Rome, where they demonstrated leadership in action and tangible progress on a Ministerial “Call to Action” from the XV World Forest Congress in Seoul, Korea in 2022.
- In the margins of New York Climate Week, September 2024, the FCLP co-convened non-government and government stakeholders to discuss the development of a common set of guiding principles for responsible timber construction.

Ambitions: The Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood workstream will continue to focus its efforts on mobilizing members and its network of non-government partners to increase the pace and scale of policy action and enhance communications to showcase such policy actions.

[1] On 6 December 2023, the Buildings Breakthrough was officially launched at COP28 UAE, as part of the Breakthrough Agenda. The Buildings Breakthrough target is that “near-zero emission and resilient buildings are the new normal by 2030”. The Buildings Breakthrough is co-led by France (Ministry for Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion) and the Kingdom of Morocco (Ministry of National Territory Planning, Land Planning, Housing and City Policy), and coordinated under the umbrella of the UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).



Mobilising public and donor finance to support implementation

Workstream: Debt-related Financial Instruments for Nature and Forests

Co-leads: Colombia, USA (2024)

Context: Many countries, particularly those with vulnerable economies, face high debt burdens that limit their ability to invest in climate action and nature conservation. This lack of investment further degrades natural resources and exacerbates climate change, leading to more frequent and severe environmental shocks. These shocks, in turn, force countries to borrow even more for disaster recovery, trapping them in a vicious cycle of debt and environmental degradation. Addressing the interconnected challenges of debt, nature, and climate are essential to break this cycle and scale up finance needed to deliver on the GLD.

2024 Priorities: In 2024, FCLP members established a working group to prioritise scaling action on debt, nature and climate with the aim to discuss the use of innovative financial instruments, including debt, linked to forest and nature outcomes (e.g. green bonds, sustainability-linked bonds and debt

conversions), with an ultimate objective of scaling finance and fiscal space for countries to deliver on their climate and nature commitments. The group began by focussing on the following outcomes:

Increasing high level recognition of the potential of debt-related financial instruments to support investment in forests.

Members recognised the need to raise awareness of the potential of debt-related financial instruments to support forest conservation and restoration. As a result, the former Senior Adviser to the U.S. President for International Climate Policy, John Podesta, and Colombian Environment Minister Susana Muhamad, convened Credit Rating Agencies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and Governments at the IMF/World Bank (WB) meetings.



High-level roundtable on "Private Financing of Public Debt for Climate and Nature" at the NYCW © Wilder García

Outcomes of these discussions included institutions agreeing to prioritise capacity building tools for governments to navigate these complex financial tools, a common understanding that increased credit enhancement tools which are better tailored to individual countries are needed. Establishing global best practices in governance, transparency, and fund usage is critical to ensuring transaction credibility, with standardized standardising global best practices through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) aligned with countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) will boost investor confidence, and that there is a need to communicate the value of better innovative financing solutions to financial markets and key institutions.

Supporting information sharing to interested members to support use of debt instruments for nature.

At the 2024 Spring Meetings, the FCLP Secretariat also organised a technical-level deep dive with MDBs, creditors, experts and sovereigns. The discussion acknowledged the complexity of these instruments some



technical elements need to be addressed to scale action including 1) Standardization: of best practices and KPIs to ensure transparency and effectiveness. Participants doubled down on the need for technical assistance on this matter; and 2) Debt ratings: Concerns were raised as to how these swaps might negatively impact a country's credit rating.

In response to some of these concerns, the FCLP Secretariat organized a series of expert-led technical webinars featuring specialists from The International Institute for Environment and Development, Potomac, The Nature Conservancy, and Nature Finance. These sessions showcased insightful case studies from countries such as Ecuador, Brazil, and Belize, fostering a rich exchange of knowledge and experiences.

The discussions provided a valuable platform to address key questions regarding the range of financial instruments available, their suitability

under varying fiscal and environmental conditions, and the practical steps governments can take to begin designing and planning such initiatives. Participants gained a deeper understanding of critical aspects, including the development and application of KPIs and metrics to monitor outcomes, as well as the challenges and limitations associated with incorporating nature and forest elements into financial mechanisms.

Finally, at the 2024 IMF/ WB Annual Meetings, the FCLP Secretariat supported convening the academic and think tank community, development banks, asset managers and CRAs to share insights on the best ways to incorporate nature and climate into sovereign risk assessments with a focus on the IMF's Debt Sustainability Analysis.

Ambition: Moving forward, this workstream will capitalise on the growing momentum of this area by leveraging the FCLP's political leadership to position the interconnected triple crisis of



sovereign debt, nature loss and climate change at the highest-level. Technically, this group will aim to continue convening key actors, credit rating agencies, investors, multilateral development banks, development finance institutions, and ministerial representatives from economy and environment ministries to support technical progress on innovative performance-based financial structure for sovereigns. The group will seek to collaborate with ongoing international processes like the Global Expert Review and support implementation of key recommendations.



Shifting the private finance system

Co-leads: n/a

Purpose of Action Area: 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 recently begun to permeate the mainstream of the finance sector.

This will include the need for strong policy and regulatory frameworks and the need for key financial institutions to recognise deforestation-risks and the value of nature. Whilst FCLP members are engaged individually on this vital work, there is no active FCLP working group yet. Members remain open to opportunities where intergovernmental action could support impact in this area.

To deliver on the 2030 GLD target, it will be essential that private finance is incentivised to shift away from investments in nature-damaging activities and towards investment in the nature-positive transition.

Article 6 of the Glasgow Leaders's Declaration committed 146 governments to

“Facilitate the alignment of financial flows with international goals to reverse forest loss and degradation, while ensuring robust policies and systems are in place to accelerate the transition to an economy that is resilient and advances forest, sustainable land use, biodiversity and climate goals”.

”





Supporting Indigenous Peoples', and local communities' initiatives

Workstream: Platform to support Indigenous Peoples', and local communities in forest climate action

Co-leads: Norway and Peru

Context: Deforestation rates on Indigenous lands were between 17% and 26% lower on average compared to unprotected tropical forests globally. With territories covering over 50% of the Earth's terrestrial surface, Indigenous Peoples', and local communities play a critical role in protecting tropical forests and preserving vital ecosystems. However, only 11% of the land Indigenous Peoples' conserve is recognised as theirs which means that an additional estimated 1,375 million hectares of land remains unrecognised. Nearly all land investments affect rural communities and without secure rights, conflict and dispute can risk slowing investment, displacing people, and preventing those communities from acting in their critical roles as guardians of the forest.

2024 Priorities: In September 2023, Norway and Peru convened a multi-stakeholder workshop to discuss how organisations can better work together to support Indigenous Peoples' globally. A critical ask from Indigenous leaders was to create a permanent and regular space, away from the negotiations, where governments, donors, NGOs and Indigenous representatives can come together to discuss shared challenges and potential solutions. The Platform to support Indigenous Peoples', and local communities in Forest Climate Action was therefore launched comprising governments, national and global Indigenous leader representatives, and participants of the Forest Tenure Funders Group.



Empowering IPLCs through forest climate finance at NYCW © Ford Foundation



Road to the Amazon Summit, Amazon Technical Scientific Meeting Leticia, Amazonas-Colombia © Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Colombia

Ambition: In collaboration with a group of experts a shared vision and governance for this Platform has been developed with initial meetings taking place and agreement on future priorities. Participants have agreed that the Platform will focus on the following two outcomes where attention will be focussed in 2025:

1) Global Ambition: Between 2024 and 2030, the Platform has regularly contributed to increased high-level political attention on IP, and Ic issues. Specifically, participants will work together to deliver an inter-governmental commitment on land tenure recognition.

2) National Ambition: By 2030, the Platform has supported at least 6 tropical forest countries to advance policies, to redirect finance and/or to develop more inclusive climate governance at the national level. This includes technical sessions on key common issues and providing spaces to support specific policy development.



The FCLP has continued to support bringing together indigenous leaders with political decision-makers through 2024, including through:

1) Ministerial Roundtable at CBD COP16 (Participants: APIB, BEF, Brazil, Christensen Fund, Colombia, GATC Norway, Peru, RRI) which focused on COP30 priorities, the importance of a renewed global funding pledge and how donors should engage Indigenous leaders and tropical forest countries in its development, and the need for a connection between funding and political commitments in country.

2) The Global Alliance for Territorial Communities were represented at the FCLP Leaders' Summit event at COP29 where Balkisou Buba reflected on the importance of the Platform to support the continued need for more action, and who called on governments to make a binding commitment to expand land tenure rights globally.



3) A workshop at New York Climate Week which brought together governments, philanthropies and Indigenous leaders to discuss climate finance and the possibility of a renewed financial pledge at COP30.





Strengthening and scaling carbon markets for forests

Co-leads: Ghana, Guyana, UK

Context: Finance for forest carbon (both market and non-market-based approaches) is one of the most mature instruments available to scale finance for forests and help close the \$130 billion annual gap in forest finance. It is also one of the cheapest and most accessible mitigation options if the world is to get on track to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Over the last couple of years, the FCLP has served as a forum for informal discussions – on forest carbon results and credits, where key stakeholders, including technical experts, senior leaders (including political leaders) can come together to better understand each other's positions and consider how they can build consensus and practical solutions to the challenges in the sector. This process has been led by Ghana, Guyana and the UK.

2024 Priorities: Bring the issue of forest carbon finance to the top of the political agenda at all levels. Through the FCLP, Ministers have come together at both COP28 and COP29 to outline a shared vision for Forest Carbon Markets. A key outcome in 2023 was the launch of the [Roadmap to scale investment in forest carbon results and credits](#). Fifteen members identified seven priority themes and actions to help address barriers to the supply and demand of this market.

Members built on this at COP29, launching a [Political Statement calling for accelerated forest carbon payments to protect forests and achieve climate goals](#) underscoring that private sector demand for high-quality, jurisdictional forest credits must increase to match the growing pipeline of high-integrity credits anticipated from forest nations.



Ministerial event on carbon markets at COP29 in Baku © FCLP



Roselyn Fosuah Adjel at COP29 in Baku © FCLP

To demonstrate their support to continued investment in results-based payments for countries fulfilling their REDD+ objectives, members committed to:

- **Foster demand for high-integrity** credits by de-risking private sector participation and highlighting progress in REDD+ programs.
- **Build robust regulatory frameworks** in forest countries to ensure the integrity of carbon transactions and support REDD+ implementation.
- **Promote stakeholder inclusion** by prioritizing Indigenous Peoples and local communities as partners and ensuring their participation is based on free, prior, and informed consent.
- **Champion pricing** for forest carbon credits that values the social and environmental benefits of forests, incorporates costs of high-integrity program development and facilitates fair revenue-sharing with local communities.

In doing so, members published actions they have taken to support each of the four priorities above already demonstrating delivery on the COP28 roadmap.

Build mutual understanding of forest carbon through Results-based payments and carbon markets.

Through regular working group meetings and an in-person workshop in Bonn which brought together 16 countries, members discussed different perspectives and shared challenges on issues including trust, pricing, regulatory incentives, bureaucratic inefficiencies and access to existing finance.

Ambitions: Looking ahead to 2025, the working group is planning to build on these outcomes and discussions, to demonstrate market opportunities, with a particular focus on demand, pricing, and supply mechanisms for forest carbon credits, and identify where interventions from political leadership can uniquely drive change at the scale of the GLD commitment. A strong focus will also be placed on peer-to-peer exchanges between members to unlock enabling conditions to match supply and demand for forest carbon credits.





Amazon Forest in Brazil © Bruno Cecim - Ag Pará



Partnerships and incentives for preserving high integrity forests

Co-leads: n/a

Purpose of the Action Area: 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 mechanisms for financing 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 the scale to ensure the essential services provided by high-integrity forests are preserved and increased. This is why the FCLP agreed at COP27 to prioritise the acceleration of partnerships and incentives for preserving high integrity forests.

Whilst FCLP members are engaged individually on this vital work, there is no active FCLP working group yet. Members remain open to opportunities where intergovernmental action could support impact in this area.

Separately, FCLP Members have been engaging with the development phase of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF), an innovative funding mechanism proposed that seeks to provide long term, reliable support for standing forests. A virtual briefing was held by the TFFF Secretariat with FCLP members in October 2024, at which over 70 participants from 25 member governments attended. Since that briefing, members have requested further information and an understanding of how they can actively participate in the development of the TFFF.

Pillar 3: National Action

By joining the FCLP, Members have committed to work to deliver on the GLD 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. Members have worked collectively to develop the FCLP model in a way that best supports their national ambitions. In 2024, the work focused primarily on the development and delivery of Country Packages for Forests, Climate, and Nature. Additionally, discussions with FCLP members, including conversations with representatives from Global South country representatives, centered on defining the scope of the work to be carried out under this pillar.

Country Packages for Forests, Climate and Nature

Co-Leads: Singapore and USA (2024)

Country packages for forests, climate, and nature were first developed under the FCLP in 2023 as a groundbreaking new approach to support countries in achieving their ambitious forest and climate goals. Country packages bring together governments, the private sector, philanthropy and multilateral institutions to help fill critical gaps in implementation, and - crucially - are led by the tropical forest country itself.

At the end of 2023 at COP28 in Dubai, initial country packages were announced in four countries (Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Congo), with Colombia presenting its vision for future work. In parallel, the government of France, Conservation International, the Moore Foundation, and the Walton Foundation launched the [Seed Fund](#) to support country package efforts in a range of countries.

Country Packages



Country Packages have been launched for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Congo, Colombia and Gabon.

A year since launching, the model has generated significant interest, and engagement from potential partners is high – the pace of progress may be more determined by different aspects within the host country such as capacity or politics.



Mangrove Restoration in the Indus Delta in Pakistan © Sindh Forest Department, Pakistan



Amazon Forest in Brazil. © Bruno Cecim – Ag.Pará

Colombia: Colombia shared its Country Vision and Platform for Climate Action, which promotes sustainable and orderly reindustrialization around water, the conservation of strategic ecosystems, the reduction of GHG emissions, and the restoration of ecosystems in harmony with nature. This innovative model consolidates Colombia's position as a leader in the transition towards a green and resilient economy. This vision aligns industry with the protection of ecosystems and the well-being of communities. It unites Colombia's commitments to climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. This strategy is aligned with its NDC and NBSAP, integrating actions that seek decarbonization and the recovery and sustainable use of the country's strategic ecosystems, such as the Amazon, the páramos, and the tropical dry forests. Colombia is currently launching a partnership platform that aims to involve diverse partners to support the implementation of its vision.

The Democratic Republic of Congo: The People, Forest and Nature Partnership for the New Climate Economy for the Congo Basin, launched at COP28 in 2023, focuses on conservation and management of DRC's high-value forests, peatlands, and key biodiversity areas; expanding investments in the new climate economy,

and establishing frameworks to access high-integrity international carbon markets. Initial support for this package has been identified, and additional partners are welcome.

Gabon: Announced at the Convention on Biological Diversity COP16 in 2024, Gabon's Partnership for Forest Ecosystems, Nature and Climate focuses on supporting and expanding protected areas and conservation to cover 30% of land and marine areas; investing in



Leaders protecting forests event at CBD COP16 in Cali © ecologie_gouv

sustainable forest management, supply chains, and valuing natural capital; enhancing scientific knowledge on carbon sinks and biodiversity; and combating nature crimes including illegal timber trafficking, fishing and mining. Partners are welcome to join the effort.

Ghana: The Resilient Ghana package launched at COP28 focuses on advancing nature-based industrialisation and sustainable rural development; building an inclusive green economy; and scaling climate ambition. Resilient Ghana is under implementation with support from partners including technical assistance, investments in enterprises, and carbon credit offtake agreements; additional partners are welcome.

Papua New Guinea: The PNG country package released at COP28 focuses on scaling up protected areas and conservation to cover 30% of land and marine areas; improving forest management, value chains, and governance of the forest sector; reinforcing long-term finance opportunities; supporting research and education; and monitoring. Initial implementation is underway with partners, and additional partners are welcome.



The Republic of Congo: The ROC Country Package announced at COP28 focuses on supporting and expanding the protected areas network to cover 30% of terrestrial and marine areas; supporting the National Afforestation and Reforestation Program; enhancing scientific knowledge on carbon sinks and biodiversity; and environmental education. Implementation with partner support has begun, and additional partners are welcome.



Showcasing the rich biodiversity conserved through sustainable forestry and watershed management in cross river State. © Nigeria REDD+ Programme, Department of Forestry, in the Federal Ministry of Environment

Throughout 2024, the FCLP has supported country package efforts at a global level, including by convening interested partners to discuss and build support for the concept throughout the year. The FCLP also provided support to help advance discussions in several FCLP member countries.

In 2024, the FCLP has supported the country package process by:

- Providing a high-level platform for leaders to demonstrate progress, including for the Gabon country package announcement at the FCLP ministerial event “Leaders protecting forests to meet global Biodiversity and Climate goals” at COP16 in Cali, Colombia in October 2024 ([Linkedin post](#)).
- Providing a working-level platform for information exchange between hosts, donors and partners through regular International Working Group meetings, including a strategy-focused Package Advisory Group meetings

- Engaging with and informing countries interested in establishing a country package, including the development of guidance documents
- Providing communications (website, Linkedins, support material)
- Hire of in-country support to support in-country coordination
- Coordinating, convening and facilitation of meetings, on behalf of host countries

National Strategy Support

Further discussions are underway amongst members to decide how the FCLP is best placed to support national ambition in addition to the work on Country Packages in 2025.



Promoting gender inclusion in Nigeria's National Forest Inventory in support of the REDD+ Programme © Nigeria REDD+ Programme, Department of Forestry, in the Federal Ministry of Environment



Forest Inventory in Cross River Forest in Nigeria © Nigeria REDD+ Programme, Department of Forestry, in the Federal Ministry of Environment

Pillar 4: Demonstrating Impact

Many pledges and commitments have been made by governments and partners on forests in recent years, including the GLD, financial pledges by donors, philanthropy and private sector, and public and private coalitions. 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.

In 2024, the FCLP has played an important role in enhancing how members have demonstrated accountability for their commitments, while avoiding duplication and confusion with existing reporting obligations, most notably in its leadership on the publication of the [Global Forest Finance Pledge \(GFFP\) annual progress report](#)^[3], at the request of its donors. In parallel, the FCLP ensured alignment in coordination and communications between this report and those of the other COP26 forest-related pledges - the Congo Basin Pledge^[4], and the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest

Tenure Pledge^[5]. Despite overlaps in spending, each commitment is distinct, with support from different types of donors.

In Quarter 4 of 2024, at COP29, progress on spending was highlighted as part of the FCLP's high-level event on 'Leaders Protecting Forests for Climate, Lives and Livelihoods' in Baku. All pledge donor groups are making significant progress on their five-year commitments. In their first three years: for GFFP, donors have provided USD 10 billion of the USD 13 billion commitment ([GFFP report 2023](#)); the Forest Tenure Funders Group disbursed nearly USD 1.34 billion of the USD 1.7 billion to support Indigenous Peoples and local communities in securing land tenure and promoting forest guardianship in tropical regions ([Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge report 2023/4](#)); and the Congo Basin Pledge donors collectively have exceeded the USD 1.5 billion commitment, with total allocations at end 2023 at USD 1.8 billion ([Congo Basin Pledge report 2023](#)).

[3] The Global Forest Finance Pledge marked the largest public finance commitment for forests, with 11 governments and the European Union joining forces to protect, restore, and sustainably manage forests worldwide. The GFFP supports ambitious partnerships addressing deforestation's root causes while promoting sustainable opportunities for local communities. At COP26, donors collectively pledged USD 12 billion of climate finance over 5 years towards forest-related activities; at COP27 this figure was increased to USD 13 billion.

[4] 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.

[5] 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.

The Forest Declaration Assessment (FDA) annually publishes rigorously researched and peer-reviewed progress assessment reports on the state of global forests. Ahead of its most recent [2024 publication](#) FDA Partners consulted with FCLP members to seek their input. The FCLP have also been working closely with FDA Partners to help inform strategic technical assessments of global priorities in the context of the 2030 target.

In addition, the FCLP has agreed to continue producing the FCLP Annual Report, aiming to enhance transparency of its operations and communicate progress of the Partnership, as well as increasing the understanding of the role and purpose of the FCLP within the wider landscape.

FCLP OPERATIONS

Inírida, Guainía, Colombia ©Juan Fernando Betancour, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia

Financial contributions

The FCLP received direct financial contributions from 5 governments (Canada, Germany, Norway, USA, UK) in 2024, totalling USD 2.8 million. The UK and Germany governments also provided in-kind people resourcing contributions to the FCLP Secretariat.

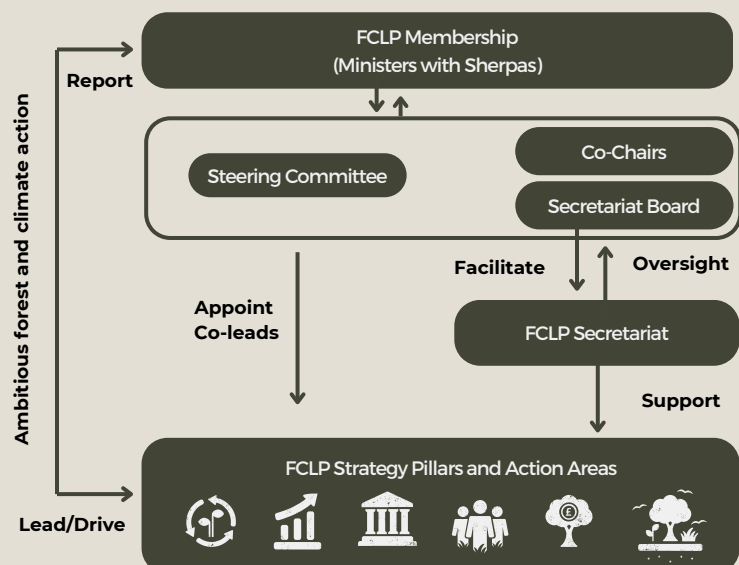
Since its launch at COP27, UNDP has acted as the interim financial manager of the FCLP Secretariat, to the end of 2024. The FCLP Steering Committee has subsequently approved UNOPS as the longer-term host of the FCLP Secretariat, starting from 1 January 2025.

The strategy session considered a revised overall FCLP strategic framework, focusing on refining the purpose and objectives of the FCLP, the collective opportunities and challenges, and generating impactful outcomes. The resultant revised strategic framework was agreed by the members and adopted in June 2024. In service to this new framework, the FCLP Secretariat subsequently produced a communications strategy and member engagement strategy to further support its members and the goals of the FCLP.

Strategic and governance review

In Quarter 1 of 2024, in response to feedback from the all-member Ministerial at COP28, the FCLP Steering Committee undertook an exercise to revise its strategy and governance arrangements. They met in Bogota, Colombia, in March 2024 for a 2-day workshop to reflect on progress and refresh thinking.

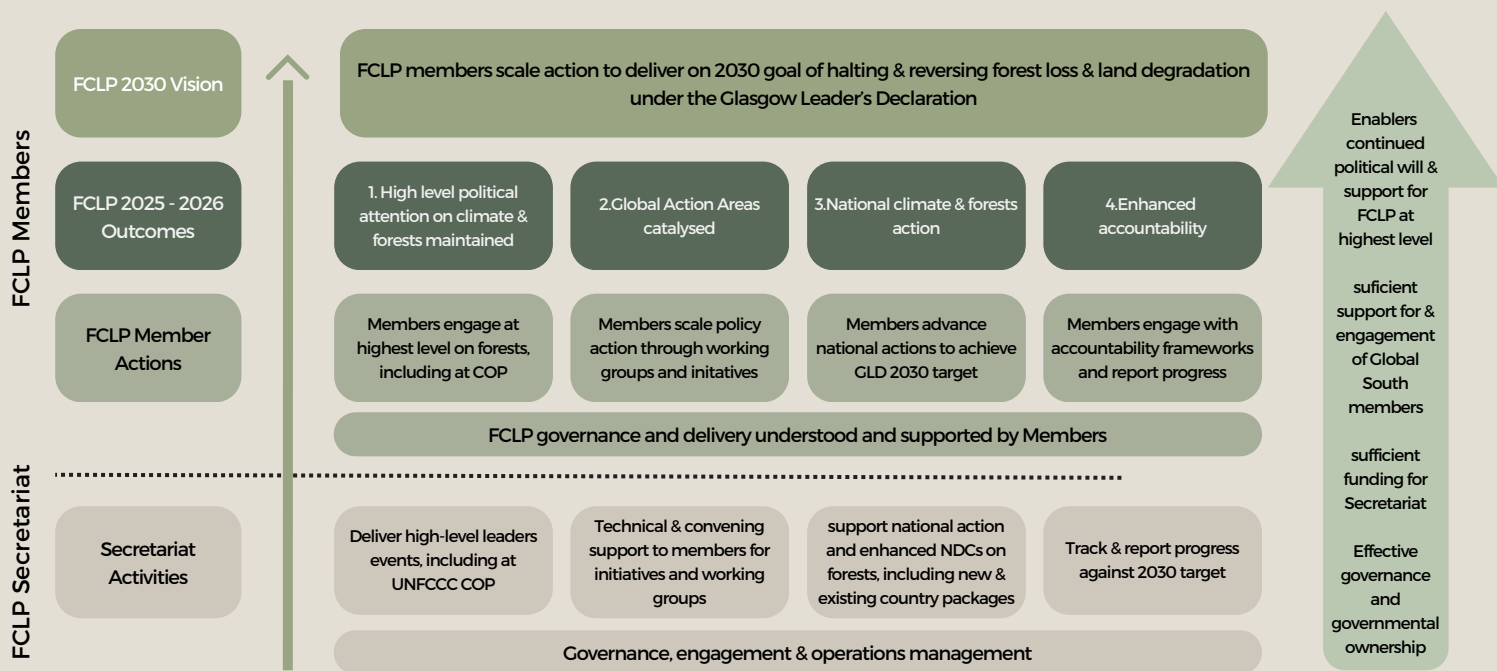
FCLP governance structure



The Steering Committee also considered FCLP governance arrangements to increase impact and deliver results in response to the development of initiatives and expansion of the FCLP work.

Clarity has been provided on the roles and responsibilities of the different decision-making bodies within the FCLP, the decision-making process, budget and operations, and Secretariat accountability.

FCLP high level strategy 2024 - 2025



FCLP Secretariat

At the end of 2024, the FCLP Secretariat comprised the following staff:

- Co-Directors: 2.0 FTE (including 1.0 FTE in-kind contribution from UK government)
- Policy leads: 2.0 FTE
- Policy managers: 2.0 FTE (including 1.0 FTE in-kind contribution from UK government)
- Engagement lead: 1.0 FTE
- Events lead: 1.0 FTE
- Administrative support: 1.0 FTE
- Communications support (including in-kind contribution from German government): 0.25 FTE





IMPRINT

Sac Hill Plantation, Tanzania, Eucalyptus canopy © Forest Management, Forest Agency
Service under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania

Published by

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As at

June 2025

FCLP is responsible for the publication.

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Photo Credit

As indicated in the captions