



# CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE 2024-2030

## Global Initiative



# GOAL

We support efforts to strengthen international and driver economy policies, financial flows, and narratives to halt and reverse forest loss as part of a just and climate-resilient world.

## Why Global?

The world needs thriving tropical forests to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and secure a climate resilient future. Protecting and restoring forests can increase the amount of carbon pollution they absorb – slowing climate change and providing benefits beyond carbon, including a global cooling effect that makes their importance as much as 50% greater than estimates based on the carbon cycle alone, as well as other ecosystem services. For this reason, healthy forest ecosystems are also essential to allow our societies to adapt to the changing climate.

But profound change is needed to realize these benefits and keep Earth's climate within a safe range for people and the diversity of life on the planet. Deforestation, much of it illegal, runs rampant. This widespread destruction robs the planet of much needed carbon-sequestering trees and soil, contributes to irreversible loss of biodiversity, drives conflict and crime in forest landscapes and against land defenders, and violates the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities in tropical forests.

Deforestation and rights violations in forest frontier areas are often rooted in global systems. In order to protect and restore forests at the local level, the economic and political power that incentivizes exploiting forests and people for short-term profit at the expense of long-term resilience and equity must shift.

By supporting improved policies and practices in regions like North America and Europe (so-called "deforestation driver" economies) and improved global financial systems – and by mobilizing broader coalitions supporting that change – the conditions at the global level can favor standing tropical forests. Those vital ecosystems and the people that rely on them should be taken into account in the governance and resource flows from international policy venues, financial institutions, and donors, and governments and corporations in "deforestation driver" economies. This should be done in ways that advance Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples' and local communities' territorial rights and well-being, as well as climate mitigation and resilience. Strong, representative international movements can build public support and political will for a just and climate-resilient world.

# The Global Initiative

The Climate and Land Use Alliance focuses our support at the global level on putting equity at the core of the societal and economic transformations needed to halt and reverse forest loss as part of a just and climate-resilient world. We recognize the complex connections between 'deforestation driver' economies in the Global North and impacts in tropical forests in the Global South, and that healthy forests benefit both people living in and near forests and people far away.

We support those working across local to global scales to shape international and driver economy policies, financial flows, and narratives so that the potential of tropical forests for climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience is realized, while advancing greater social, environmental, and economic good.

## What We Support

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports efforts to:



**Secure Forest Communities' Rights and Livelihoods**



**Advance Governance, Policy & Accountability**



**Strengthen Movements, Narratives & Collective Action**



**Shift Financial Systems**



**Improve Production, Consumption & Trade**



# Secure Forest Communities' Rights & Livelihoods

*Supporting Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' efforts to secure and exercise their collective rights and land tenure, manage their forests, and support their livelihoods.*

Communities with collective territorial rights—Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and other local communities—are the most effective long-term guardians of forests and biodiversity. Their stewardship and regeneration of tropical forest systems is essential for a climate-resilient world. Customary and traditional rights to collective territories should be recognized and secured.

But forest communities face mounting threats and oppression in advocating for their rights. Incentivized by international market demand premised on extractivism—and supported by financial systems that prioritize short-term profit over long-term resilience—local governments, private companies, and criminal networks exploit the tropical forests that local communities call home. When these communities organize against threats to their forests, they are frequently met with intimidation and violence. This enables international finance, production, trade, and consumption to continue to drive deforestation.

Forest communities need support for their efforts to secure their rights to manage their forests. Globally, the pace of rights recognition is too slow. There remain significant political and regulatory barriers to clarifying and securing tenure. Many grassroots Indigenous and community networks from tropical forest regions are working together to increase recognition of the contributions they make to protecting and managing forests—making the case that not only is securing land tenure a human rights issue, but that their management of their lands is a proven approach for halting and reversing forest loss. More funding support channeled to the local level is needed, particularly to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities.

## WE SUPPORT

### Full Rights Recognition

Increasing recognition and full exercise of Indigenous and community tenure rights in tropical forests.

### Investments to Protect and Restore Forests and Secure Rights

Shifting public and private institutions' and investors' investments toward practices that protect forests and forest communities' rights and halt violence and oppression.

### Regenerative Forest Economies

Establishing policies and funding for regenerative economies and development models.

### Direct Funding to Forest Communities

Channeling resources directly to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities through locally-controlled funds.

To secure forest community rights and livelihoods, the Climate and Land Use Alliance supports efforts to increase rights recognition, alter destructive investment practices, improve policies, and channel more resources directly to forest communities.



# Advance Governance, Policy & Accountability

*Supporting effective environmental and social governance and policies while strengthening accountability to ensure equitable and sustainable management of forest resources and a just energy transition.*

Tropical deforestation accounts for the vast majority of deforestation globally. Much of that deforestation is illegal, conducted by private companies or criminal networks that violate the rights of communities by exploiting forest resources and undermining the rule of law. Even legal deforestation occurs under governance and development models deeply rooted in inequity and extractivism.

Global climate policy venues do not fully recognize the importance of forests and forest communities to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. Many countries have made ambitious emissions reduction commitments, but funding for reducing deforestation does not match what's needed to meet many of these targets. What's more, national climate plans often rely on unrealistic goals for planting trees and using bioenergy for heat and fuel. The land use and rights implications of the energy transition must be understood and taken seriously to avoid putting the trajectory to reduce global emissions at risk.

Significant contributions to overall climate mitigation and adaptation and to people's well-being can be made by aligning governance and policies with high-integrity, rights-based approaches to protecting and restoring tropical forest systems. It is also key to ensure the ambition in and accountability to global commitments meets the true scale of needs and responsibilities.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports the development of international policies, programs, and investments that advance good governance, ensure ambitious and accountable commitments to forests and land rights in global, multilateral, and national climate spaces, address the impacts of environmental crime and criminal governance on tropical forest systems, and ensure trade and climate policies halt and reverse forest loss.

## WE SUPPORT

### High Ambition and Integrity Rights-Based Approaches

Establishing high-integrity, rights-based approaches in international climate and biodiversity processes and decisions and ensuring commitments meet the scale of needs and responsibilities.

### Forest Commitments and Resources

Mobilizing ambitious forest and climate commitments in multilateral venues to deliver action and resources.

### Strong National Climate Commitments

Supporting forests and rights in nationally-determined climate commitments and their implementation in tropical forest countries.

### Ending Environmental Crime and Rights Violations

Fighting environmental and related financial crimes, policies, and criminal governance, and eliminating impunity.

### Regeneration and Resilience Policies

Shifting trade and climate policies in 'deforestation driver' economies away from exploitation and toward regeneration and resilience.



# Strengthen Movements, Narratives & Collective Action



## WE SUPPORT

Supporting resilient, inclusive movements, narratives, and collective action on justice and rights, forest protection and regeneration, and climate resilience.

### Capacity for Communications

Supporting strategic communications capacity and healthy media ecosystems.

### Connected Coalitions

Connecting transnational climate justice coalitions to effectively advocate for forests, climate, and rights in international governance spaces.

### Strong Public Support

Increasing International public support for forest, climate justice, biodiversity conservation and land use issues.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports work to strengthen the communications capacities of global and transnational forest protection movements and bring their stories to the global stage—bolstering their ability to coordinate collective action around their efforts and shared demands and to influence key decision-makers to take action for climate justice and rights, biodiversity conservation, and forest protection and restoration.

Advocating for climate justice, land rights, and forest protection has never been more challenging.

Even as land defenders continue to deal with longstanding threats of intimidation, displacement, and violence from state actors, criminal networks, and private companies, they must also learn to manage and counter new digital threats from those seeking to undermine their efforts. Growing misinformation from increasingly diversified media sources and targeted disinformation campaigns and digital attacks, backed by powerful interests and bolstered by unregulated technology, are diverting forest protectors' resources away from their critical work.

In this complex communications landscape, support for connected movements to amplify demands is crucial. New and creative ways of conveying narratives are needed. And a healthy media ecosystem is essential for countering disinformation.

Strong, resilient, and inclusive transnational climate justice coalitions – in particular those led by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, and other local communities, women and youth – must have the resources they need to effectively advocate for forests, climate, and rights to inform policies, programs, and practitioners around the world.



# Shift Financial Systems



## WE SUPPORT

Supporting economic transitions that strengthen equity and transparency, revitalize forest economies, and reverse forest loss, while mobilizing more accessible and effective finance for forests and communities.

### Effective Bilateral and Multilateral Finance

Ensuring bilateral and multilateral finance is coordinated, delivered, and scaled in proportion to obligations, and that key multilateral development bank reforms can reduce pressures on land and more positively align with forests and rights agendas.

### Just Economic Transitions

Supporting economic transitions consistent with international commitments to climate, biodiversity, forests, and human rights, enabled by policy frameworks, public and private finance flows, and financial architecture reforms to shift economies.

### Finance for Forest Communities

Increasing Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' control over and access to nature and climate finance.

### Sustainable Investments

Shifting private finance investments in transparent ways away from companies and activities driving deforestation, conflict, rights-violations, and climate change and toward companies and practices that protect forests and rights.

### Private Finance Transitions

Ensuring International private finance supports just economic transitions, scales regenerative economies, and funds forest protection and restoration, and community management.

### Financial Architecture Reform

Supporting targeted reforms to improve equity, relieve pressures on land, and better finance forests and rights agendas.

Financial systems play a major part in determining whether tropical forests are sustainably conserved and restored, rights are secured and exercised, and equity, well-being, and climate-resilience are advanced.

A major shift is needed in the world from financial systems that destroy forests and violate rights to those that protect intact forest landscapes, regenerate forests, increase agroecological diversity, and support resilience and well-being.

Adequate, effective, and accessible public and private finance is crucial, supported by effective fiscal frameworks.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports work in the Global North and international forums to increase and direct public and private finance for tropical forest protection and climate resilience. One focus of this work is to prompt private financial institutions to shift their portfolio towards sustainable approaches, especially for soft commodities, and to finance regenerative forest economies. Another focus is on systemic financial architecture reform in service of forest and rights agendas, including through agendas related to tax, subsidies, debt, multilateral development banks, and central banks and regulators.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports work in the Global North and international forums to increase and direct public and private finance for tropical forest protection and climate resilience. One focus of this work is to prompt private financial institutions to shift their portfolio towards sustainable approaches, especially for soft commodities, and to finance regenerative forest economies. Another focus is on systemic financial architecture reform in service of forest and rights agendas, including through agendas related to tax, subsidies, debt, multilateral development banks, and central banks and regulators.



# Improve Production, Consumption & Trade

*Supporting shifts in agricultural production, consumption, and trade toward lower-emissions, climate-resilient alternatives that benefit people and the environment, and increasing the sustainability of infrastructure and extractive industries in ways that protect communities and nature.*

To reach a just and climate-resilient world, we need to change how the global economy relates to the tropical forests of the Global South.

Currently, unsustainable demand from the world's food, fuel, and fiber systems drives rapid forest degradation and destruction—at every point from production to consumption. With bioenergy and wood consumption on the rise globally, tropical forests remain vulnerable targets for damaging logging and land clearing operations. Oil and gas companies have interests in vast tracts of land across the tropics, while a majority of mineral projects - increasingly driven by demand for the energy transition - sit on or near Indigenous or traditional community lands.

Real progress in reducing emissions from deforestation will not be possible without eliminating deforestation and rights abuses from forest risk commodity production, trade, consumption, and finance. Consumption habits in driver economies and global production and trade practices must shift to benefit people, forests, and the climate.

Meanwhile, the growth of voluntary and compliance carbon markets is premised on a new and complex commodity, namely carbon. The production and usage of forest carbon has wide-ranging implications for tropical forest governance and particularly for rights-holders.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports work to shift the policies and practices of the world's largest agribusinesses, consumer goods companies, and their financiers, to ensure high integrity in forest carbon markets, and to deliver a just energy transition to protect community rights, forest health, and climate resilience across the supply chains - and ultimately drive the transition to a just and sustainable economy.

## WE SUPPORT

### Deforestation- and Conflict-Free Supply Chains

Removing deforestation and rights violations from beef, leather, soy, palm oil, timber, and pulp and paper supply chains.

### Lower-Emissions Foods

Supporting the transition toward sustainable, healthy, and fair global food systems.

### Just Energy Transition

Protecting forests and rights in a just energy transition that respects community rights, including through responsible extraction, sourcing, and use of transition minerals, and by moving beyond bioenergy.

### High Integrity in Forest Carbon Markets

Ensuring high social and environmental integrity in forest carbon markets, including by promoting rights recognition, benefit sharing, and real reductions in both fossil fuel use and land use emissions.

### Just Value Chains

Ensuring forest product value chains contribute to just and inclusive economies and help support the legal and sustainable management of tropical forest systems.



## Image Credits

Cover:	CIFOR-ICRAF
Page 2-3:	Jhampier Giron M / shutterstock
Page 4-5:	Mokhamad Edliadi / CIFOR
Page 6:	Aris Sanjaya / CIFOR
Page 7:	Michael Padmanaba / CIFOR
Page 8:	Than Pataxo / APIB
Page 9:	Sigit Deni Sasmito / CIFOR
Page 10:	Sirisak_baokaew/ shutterstock

