



CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE 2024-2030

Indonesia Initiative



GOAL

We support efforts to halt deforestation, and protect and restore Indonesia's forest ecosystems, while respecting Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights, and building a climate-resilient, inclusive, and just restorative economy.

Why Indonesia?

Indonesia has a crucial opportunity to transition to a climate-resilient restorative economy. By pursuing a path of inclusive development, Indonesia can be a powerful global example of how to integrate economic growth, climate action, forest and nature protection and restoration, and justice and rights.

Indonesia's tropical forests are the third largest in the world - rich in biodiversity and resources. Some 37 million people in and around these forests depend directly on forests for their livelihoods. Yet, thousands of communities lack legally recognized land rights and access to forest resources. Challenges in governance and accountability, together with the rapid expansion of mining, timber extraction, and oil palm plantations drive deforestation, creating conflict between companies and communities.

The vast majority of Indonesia's emissions do not come from fossil fuels - instead, they come from the logging, forest clearing, and burning of millions of hectares of forests and peatlands to develop plantations. These land clearing fires contribute to climate change and air pollution - with devastating consequences for people's immediate and long-term health and safety, both in Indonesia and in

neighboring countries. The region is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, famines, floods, drought, and extreme weather. Fires also severely impact Indonesia's economy, which such large-scale forest clearing and resource extraction were meant to support.

A different approach is possible. While deforestation in Indonesia peaked in the 2000s, it has generally declined ever since. According to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the deforestation rate from 2019-2020 decreased by 75%, the lowest rate since 1990. Due to differences in methodology and definitions, other sources suggest a somewhat lower decrease in deforestation. While the specific deforestation rates vary, Indonesia's recent success in decreasing deforestation is widely recognized. Lands that are already deforested can be restored to productive agricultural and forest systems. Peatlands damaged by clearing for plantations can be restored, a key priority for reducing fire in these carbon-rich landscapes. Sustainable and equitable management of forest systems will have lasting economic, social, and cultural benefits and offer a new path forward to a just and climate-resilient world.

The Indonesia Initiative

The Indonesia Initiative focuses on supporting civil society organizations as they work to improve alignment, facilitate access to finance, build wide-ranging networks, increase communications capacity, and increase collaboration.

We support efforts to secure Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land rights and livelihoods, change the financial and political incentives driving land use decisions to favour standing forests, shift financial systems to support a just, restorative economy, and support social movements and collective action. This systemic change can only be achieved with strong support for governance, policy, and accountability; building civil society's collective power; and through meaningful inclusion, including of women, youth movements, religious communities, academics, and the private sector.

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' and local communities' efforts to secure and exercise their collective rights and land tenure, manage their forests, and support their livelihoods.

In Indonesia, as in tropical forests around the world, Indigenous Peoples and local communities lack secure land rights and access to the forest resources supporting their livelihoods and wellbeing. Overlapping land claims within state-controlled areas continue to spark conflict between the private sector and local communities, undermining human rights and safety, and sustainable land management.

In Indonesia, 92% of forest lands are within the 'state forest zone', where no settlement or non-forest use is permitted. In Indonesia's state forest zone, land use is regulated by the Central Government, which licenses company and community concessions. More than 25,000 villages are in and around the state forest zone. And yet a minority of these people—approximately 6,000 groups—have formally recognized limited management over their land. Of the Indigenous lands already independently mapped, only 15% have official recognition.

Formally recognizing Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' land rights represents a tremendous opportunity in Indonesia to enhance local livelihoods and economies, and contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports work to assist local government leaders, policy makers, and officials in recognizing the land rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and to support Indigenous and community leaders in advancing land and resource claims and asserting their rights. Together, these efforts can scale recognition of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights and increase their access to finance, enshrining rights recognition in restorative economic policies, and building strong public and political support for Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights and livelihoods.

WE SUPPORT

Full Rights Recognition

Supporting adoption and implementation of policies at the national and sub-national level guaranteeing Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights and recognizing their lands.

Community Forest Management and Livelihoods

Securing land rights, resource management, and livelihoods through technologies and tools to support independent mapping and management of territories and resources, and the development of entrepreneurial activities.

Direct Funding to Forest Communities

Increasing access to national and international finance, particularly through Indigenous Peoples' and community-led funds.

Regenerative Forest Economies

Supporting the development of restorative economic policies and initiatives that advance Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights and livelihoods.

Public and Political Support

Increasing public support and political will for securing Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights and livelihoods.

Non-market Approaches

Building non-market approaches as contributions to Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forest management and livelihoods.



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.

For Indonesia to succeed in building a climate-resilient, inclusive, and just restorative economy, strong support is needed for policy makers' efforts to develop and implement policies protecting and restoring Indonesia's forest ecosystems, while securing Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights. Support is also needed for aligning and effectively implementing policy and regulatory frameworks across national and subnational levels, including those related to the environment and land use as well as the energy transition, spatial planning, mining, investment, and non-fiscal incentives.

In addition to effective governance and policy, accountability must also be strengthened to ensure laws, regulations and practices are consistent with a just, climate-resilient world. The justice and legal systems must also have capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption, breaches of rights, and conflicts over land use.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports work to enable Indonesia to meet its climate commitments and efforts to build a restorative economy. This includes support for the development and implementation of policies and adoption of laws and regulations consistent with sustainable land use and rights protection. We also support efforts to encourage the active participation of civil society and community-based organizations in informing land use policies, and holding the private sector to account.

WE SUPPORT

Sustainable Land Use and Climate Policies

Advancing policy and regulatory frameworks at the national and sub-national levels aligned with ensuring climate-resilience, Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' rights and well-being, and building a restorative economy.

Climate-Resilient, Inclusive, Just Development

Aligning the national long-term development plan, as well as shorter term and sub-national development planning processes, with the restorative economy and climate resilience agendas and ensuring plans are informed by effective participation of civil society and community-based organizations.

Delivery of National Commitments

Ensuring Indonesia's climate, biodiversity, and sustainable production commitments, made in international agreements and policy processes, are delivered and actively monitored and strengthened through engagement by civil society organizations.

Strong Civil Society

Bolstering legal, political, social support for a strong civil society and active citizen participation.

Protecting Land and Rights Defenders

Strengthening protections for environmental and human rights defenders, including Indigenous Peoples and local community leaders, and stopping criminalization and violence against them.

Increased Accountability

Ensuring the private sector acts on environmental, climate, and rights commitments, including 'No Deforestation, No Peat, and No Exploitation' commitments, and enabling increased transparency, scrutiny, legal enforcement, and social oversight.



Strengthen Movements, Narratives & Collective Action

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

Forest protectors need strong, inclusive movements and effective narratives to bring about the broad collective action necessary for a just and climate-resilient world.

Although there is a growing public awareness of and concern about climate change, efforts to mobilize against deforestation are undercut by sustained attacks on the legitimacy of civil society organizations. Disinformation campaigns and false solutions are promoted by powerful players with interest in maintaining a development model based on large-scale natural resource extraction and exploitation.

Strong support is needed for collaboration across organizations and movements seeking to promote a path toward sustainable, equitable development in Indonesia. Civil society organizations and social and environmental movements must be guaranteed a safe space in which to carry out their work. Civil society organizations should be able to count on sustained investments in their organizations and efforts and access to the resources and connections they need to organize broader collective action.

This support to building robust organizations and strengthening narratives that drive collective action can lead to increased public and political support for development that values Indonesia's natural resources and supports people's rights and livelihoods.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports work to sustain strong civil society movements, mobilize public support with data-based narratives, help civil society organizations advocate for greater accountability and change, and foster the growth of coalitions dedicated to a climate-resilient, inclusive, and just restorative economy.



WE SUPPORT

Increased Collective Action

Supporting diverse civil society movements in effectively driving collective action by building coalitions, communications capacities, collaborations with media and creatives, and the use of new technologies.

Strengthening and Shifting Narratives

Building public support and political will for a just, restorative economy, climate resilience, and Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights through strong evidence-based communications.

Civil Society Advocacy

Supporting civil society efforts to advocate for stronger climate, land use, and forest policies and practices and to hold decision makers to account.

Connected Coalitions

Supporting civil society organizations and social movements in actively contributing to and participating as a cohesive movement with a common agenda for tropical forest conservation in national and international climate and biodiversity governance spaces.



Shift Financial Systems

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.

The development approach of driving economic growth by investing in large-scale land use and natural resource extraction comes at the expense of medium and long-term resilience and sustainability. To achieve a just and climate-resilient world, leaders across all sectors must shift financial systems to prioritize the protection and regeneration of forests and peatlands, the recognition and protection of land rights, and the development of a restorative economy.

Policy makers and officials from relevant ministries and agencies must be supported in their efforts to shift economic incentives away from large-scale drivers of deforestation. Those in the private sector must commit to sustainable land-use investments and practices.

To support these economic transitions, the Climate and Land Use Alliance will support efforts to improve policies and increase investment in the restorative economy, push for greater insight and transparency around investments, support the launch of restorative economic projects at the sub-national level, and shift financial institutions away from investing in unsustainable portfolios.

WE SUPPORT

Improved Fiscal Policy

Supporting financial policy frameworks, regulations, and other mechanisms that drive systemic shifts toward a restorative economy.

Sustainable Investments

Increasing national and international investment and high-quality finance for forest protection and restoration and a restorative economy, including in priority districts.

Finance for Restorative Economies

Increasing availability of national and international finance for civil society organizations, communities, local governments, and entrepreneurs to contribute to building a restorative economy.

Increased Financial Transparency and Oversight

Promoting greater transparency and oversight of national and international investments (including unsustainable extractives, infrastructure, agri-business, and other drivers of deforestation) to mitigate and avoid their negative social and environmental impacts.

Adoption of Restorative Economy

Investing in pilot restorative economy initiatives, supported by strong multi-stakeholder participation, economic narratives, and political leadership.

Shifting Finance

Ensuring banks and other financial institutions shift their financial flows away from extractive, deforestation- and conversion-linked portfolios towards the restorative economy.





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.

The majority of people living in and around Indonesia's state forest zone lack legal access to land and forest resources. These groups face increasing instances of legal and extra-judicial harassment and dispossession as industry seeks land for expansion.

Plantations, which lower water levels and damage ecological integrity in Indonesia's carbon-rich tropical peatlands, increase the frequency and severity of forest fires. Meanwhile, mining poses an increasingly alarming threat to Indonesian forests as other drivers decline and mining of transition minerals expands.

Even so, there is an opportunity to make significant strides for Indonesia's forests and the people who call them home. Though approximately one-quarter of the state forest zone (30 million hectares) is currently deforested—comprising farms, secondary scrub, and grassland—this area has the potential to be restored to productive agro-forests and tropical forest systems, subject to the resolution of longstanding land rights issues.

Significant work is underway to protect intact forests and peatlands from expansion of industrial concessions, logging, and other drivers of degradation and deforestation. To restore areas already damaged, forests and peatlands with high social, economic, and environmental potential for restoration are being prioritized. Going forward, community-led sustainable land use innovations and investment can stabilize forest frontiers and incentivize restorative land use.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports efforts to remove extraction and exploitation from supply chains, support transitions toward restorative economies, ensure industry adheres to strong safeguards, help set the standard for a just energy transition, and foster high-integrity in carbon markets.

WE SUPPORT

Deforestation- and Conflict-Free Supply Chains

Advancing efforts to remove deforestation, peatland conversion, and rights violations from supply chains and industries, including from the production of key agricultural commodities and transition minerals.

Economies Supporting Well-Being and Forest Health

Ensuring increased human well-being and ecological integrity by advancing economic opportunities and coordinating stakeholders to increase access to funding and to domestic and regional markets.

Restorative Economies

Support regional and local governments' and leaders' efforts to develop restorative economies and climate resilience, including through development, spatial, and investment planning.

Strong Safeguards

Promoting land-based industries' adoption and adherence to robust social and environmental safeguards and responsiveness to local community oversight and input regarding their operations, to keep industries accountable to high standards, particularly when operating in and around Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' territories.

High Integrity in Forest Carbon Markets

Ensuring domestic and international forest carbon market initiatives and transactions operate with high social and environmental integrity, including by promoting rights recognition and secure access to land, benefits sharing, and real reductions in both fossil fuel use and land use emissions.

Best Practices

Enabling information about and examples of good practices to be shared for building restorative economic approaches to land use and the energy transition.



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