



THE CRITICAL ROLE OF POLICIES FOR DEFORESTATION- AND CONVERSION-FREE SUPPLY CHAINS

Background and discussion paper



THE WAY WE FEED, FUEL AND FINANCE OUR SOCIETIES
AND ECONOMIES IS PUSHING NATURE AND THE
SERVICES IT PROVIDES TO THE BRINK.

WE NEED TO STOP CLIMATE BREAKDOWN,
SAFEGUARD OUR PLANET'S REMAINING
NATURAL SPACES, AND MAKE OUR CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION MODELS MORE SUSTAINABLE.
PROTECTING AND RESTORING FORESTS AND
NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS MUST BE AT THE
HEART OF A NEW DEAL FOR
NATURE AND PEOPLE.

Palm oil plantations alongside native forest
on the Ariari River, outside Chiribiquete
National park, Colombia.



INTRODUCTION

Since the [New York Declaration on Forests](#) (NYDF) was adopted in 2014, progress on ending deforestation and restoring forest lands has not lived up to the level of ambition enshrined in its ten goals.¹ Meanwhile, we continue to lose forests, savannahs, grasslands and the wildlife that depend on them at a rapid rate. [Forest-dwelling wildlife populations](#) have shrunk on average by more than half since 1970, and habitat loss and degradation, caused primarily by human activity, is responsible for 60 per cent of all threats to forests and forest species.

Unsustainable agricultural expansion is one of the primary factors behind deforestation, ecosystem conversion and the degradation of some of the world's most valuable forests, grasslands and savannahs, including the lands of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

With the right interventions, especially policy and private sector action, it is possible to reverse the tide of deforestation, ecosystem conversion and degradation. But global and urgent action is required.

World leaders at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 74), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and UN Climate Action Summits 2019, and other relevant fora leading toward 2020, must urgently address this state of emergency for nature and the planet. On both the demand and supply side, the consumption and production of agricultural commodities and products and related supply chains must be free from deforestation, ecosystem degradation and conversion, and human and land rights violations. This must be achieved through concrete policy actions that contribute to the success of international commitments such as the SDGs, the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

We need a New Deal for Nature and People that recognizes the important role and value of forests and natural ecosystems – for biodiversity conservation, for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and for people's lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

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HIGH POLITICAL AMBITION TO CONSERVE FORESTS AND OTHER NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

The IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land recently confirmed that protecting and enhancing forests, grasslands, savannahs, wetlands and all other natural ecosystems is essential if we are to keep global temperature increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius. These ecosystems also account for most of the world's terrestrial biodiversity.² In recent years natural ecosystems have received increasing attention in the international policy arena. This has been translated into high-level targets by governments, civil society and the private sector, including the Amsterdam Declarations, the New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF), SDGs (12 and 15), the CBD (especially Aichi Targets 5,11,14,15), and the Paris Agreement (Article 5). Over 400 large companies have made individual pledges to work toward increased sustainability, with a particular focus on eliminating deforestation from their supply chains.

COMMITMENTS NEED TO QUICKEN, DEEPEN AND BROADEN IN ORDER TO STOP FOREST LOSS AND NATURAL ECOSYSTEM CONVERSION

The current implementation of public and private sector commitments is failing to address the deforestation and destruction of natural ecosystems which continue to disappear at unsustainable rates, due primarily to the expansion of land for agriculture and livestock. Commodity production is responsible for about a quarter of all deforestation and contributes significantly to natural ecosystem conversion.³

Unprecedented forest fires in 2019, driven in large part by deforestation and conversion across the world – including in the Amazon, Pantanal, Chiquitano forest, Central Africa, Russia and Indonesia – demonstrate the need for urgent action. We need to reduce the pressure on natural landscapes if we are to avoid the risk of current and future fires spiraling out of control, in particular in areas that are increasingly vulnerable due to dryness and degradation.⁴

Under the most severe threat of conversion for agriculture production are savannahs and temperate grasslands, which contain one fifth of the total carbon sequestered in terrestrial vegetation and topsoil worldwide. Half of all major savannahs and grasslands, including the Cerrado and North American prairies, have already been lost. Most of what remains is being degraded, and far less than 10 per cent is legally protected.⁵

Overall, an area of tree cover the size of the United Kingdom has been lost on average per year since 2014⁶ with a significant portion consisting of irreplaceable primary forest.⁷ Deforestation remains higher than in previous decades, in particular in the tropical regions that are home to forests and other habitats with high biodiversity and carbon stock.⁸ Even where there are signs of restoration, it takes decades or centuries to regain the ecosystem functions and biodiversity richness of the previous natural forests and other habitat.⁹

PUBLIC POLICIES ARE ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITMENTS

Tackling deforestation and conversion requires concerted action by both public and private actors. The public sector plays an essential and complementary role to private sector efforts to eliminate deforestation and conversion from supply chains. Although companies need to scale and strengthen their efforts, the right enabling environment must be in place. Public policies in both producing and importing countries can create adequate regulations and incentives for producers, consumers and companies to mainstream deforestation- and conversion-free production and supply chains, and determine the (minimum) requirements to reduce the risk of deforestation and non-sustainable production 'leakage' from one supply chain to another. Public policies can also enable a smooth transition for smallholders, and ensure market 'laggards' are incentivized to change, among other actions.

However, efforts by governments are often siloed and face conflicting priorities between perceived environmental conservation and economic growth. For example, from the beginning of 2019 to early September 2019, deforestation in the Amazon increased by 144 per cent against the average of the last 10 years. The increase in deforestation and conversion in

Brazil is linked to a government narrative opposing environmental protection and putting land rights of Indigenous Peoples at risk, and this narrative is being followed by weakening environmental regulations, enforcement and institutions.¹⁰

Furthermore, even when there is political will to protect natural ecosystems, an absence of strong governance and institutional frameworks, complex land tenure regimes, and insufficient enforcement of policies may open up forests, grasslands and savannahs to further risk of conversion.¹¹ Common issues inhibiting enforcement include a lack of coordination, limited resources and lack of capacity building, all of which may be symptomatic of limited priority being attached to implementing environmental laws, and a lack of intent and ambition to protect forests.¹²

Similarly, legal measures that can help address deforestation and conversion, such as the Forest Law in Argentina or Forest Code in Brazil, are limited in effectiveness by low or mixed enforcement.¹³ For example, under the Amazon Soy Moratorium in Brazil voluntary commitments allowed control of soy-related deforestation beyond legal requirements, and at a very large scale (twice the size of Western Europe) deforestation from soy production was curbed in the region. However, loss of native vegetation due to soy remained high in the Cerrado and continued to take place in the Amazon due to cattle ranching.¹⁴

On the demand side, policies can also help avoid the importation of products and commodities for which deforestation and ecosystem

conversion took place. The European Union Renewable Energy Directive (EU-RED) legislation on biofuels defines criteria to help monitor and control how biofuels are produced and imported into Europe. However, a broader scope beyond biofuels is needed to make sure all agricultural and forestry products and commodities are free from deforestation and ecosystem conversion. An additional hurdle to implementing actions to address deforestation and conversion can be found in the differing interpretations around important forest- and natural grasslands-related terms and definitions (see definitions in [EU-RED 2009](#)). This lack of harmonization can make it challenging to develop coherent policies, monitor interventions, and provide targeted support.



AN AREA OF TREE COVER THE SIZE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEEN LOST ON AVERAGE PER YEAR SINCE 2014 WITH A SIGNIFICANT PORTION CONSISTING OF IRREPLACEABLE PRIMARY FOREST.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AROUND FOREST PROTECTION ARE ENCOURAGING BUT MORE CAN BE DONE

Despite limited systemic change to halt deforestation and ecosystem conversion, some countries have made notable efforts to improve governance through stronger laws and effective enforcement. Indonesia has shown significant reduction in the loss of primary forests in the past two years, due in part to intensified measures by the government in the wake of the devastating forest fires of 2015.¹⁵ The government introduced new and enhanced regulations, established a Peatland Restoration Agency, and increased policy priority for fire prevention and law enforcement.¹⁶ Awareness campaigns and preventative measures against the use of fire in land management intensified, as did law enforcement.¹⁷ However, the extent of implementation and the long-term impact of these new measures remains unclear. With Indonesia currently experiencing a drier season and an increasing number of fires, the interventions to date are being put to the test.

There is also evidence that supply chain efforts are encouraging more transparency and accountability within the private sector.¹⁸ For example, the Accountability Framework which launched in June 2019 provides a common set of norms and guidelines for companies and others working to address deforestation, ecosystem conversion and human rights violations. The Framework clarifies good practice for setting,

implementing, monitoring, verifying and reporting on supply chain commitments and their achievement. It fills critical gaps for topics on which clear guidance was lacking and helps improve the level of coherence and alignment among different implementation standards, tools and systems. Use of this guidance should contribute to more coherent corporate progress and better comparability among commitments and actions taken toward implementation.

Collaboration at the jurisdictional level can have positive impacts

In some producer countries and regions, the government, private sector and civil society have turned to jurisdiction or landscape approaches within a geographic region (see **Table 1**). As part of a holistic approach, these have the potential to address challenges that drive deforestation and conversion by consolidating efforts to target all parts of the system including governance, supply chains and communities, and to accelerate progress to ensure deforestation/conversion-free supply chains.¹⁹ In an ideal scenario, governments accelerate progress by providing the institutional frameworks and high-level policies, making finance available, and facilitating effective land planning, decision-making and regulation; financial institutions can provide funds and/or safeguards to their lending

to incentivize best practices that reduce impacts on forests and other natural ecosystems. Jurisdictional approaches allow models for sustainable practice to be tested in a limited area and have the potential to be scaled up to the national level.

Although the number of jurisdictional approaches is growing, the majority are not in the top producing regions of forest-risk commodities.²⁰ Nonetheless, positive impacts on forests are shown in a study of 39 jurisdictions, many of which have made formal commitments to reducing deforestation, cutting emissions, restoring degraded lands, and promoting sustainable economic development and social inclusion. Challenges to the uptake of these approaches include complex land tenure systems, insufficient alignment of public and private sector activities, insufficient technical capacity and finance that hinders the advancement of these initiatives.²¹

Table 1. Examples of jurisdictional initiatives in producer countries

| COUNTRY(IES) AND/OR REGION | RECENT DEVELOPMENTS |
|---|--|
| GHANA, CÔTE D'IVOIRE, COLOMBIA | The Cocoa and Forest Initiative (CFI) is a public-private partnership with the goal to end deforestation from agricultural supply chains. CFI members include Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Colombia and the world's leading cocoa companies. The governments of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire and 33 chocolate and cocoa companies have developed action plans that set out steps to implement their commitments to forest protection and restoration, sustainable cocoa production, farmers' livelihoods, and community engagement and social inclusion. ²² |
| SABAH, MALAYSIA | The palm oil jurisdictional certification initiative brings together the government, private sector, and civil society to achieve 100 per cent RSPO certification of all palm oil from Sabah by 2025. It facilitates consent across a large group of stakeholders and enhances ownership of process outcomes as the governing body, the Jurisdictional Certification Steering Committee (JCSC), consists of representatives of government, companies, smallholder farmers and civil society ²³ Funding for the implementation of this initiative is shared by the government, private sector and civil society. It is expected to strengthen implementation and enforcement of existing laws and regulations. |
| MATO GROSSO, BRAZIL | The Produce, Conserve and Include (PCI) initiative in the state of Mato Grosso, Brazil, sets the target to reduce forest emissions by six gigatons of carbon dioxide over 15 years while ensuring sustained and inclusive economic growth. ²⁴ Other goals include restoring degraded pastures and deforested land, reducing deforestation by 90 per cent, increasing production, and enabling access to markets and finance for smallholders. Over 40 partner organizations have signed up, including companies such as Amaggi, Louis-Dreyfus, Marfrig, JBS and Cargill. |

Member of a smallholder group in Kinabatangan, Sabah holding a palm oil seed.



Several consumer countries are advancing discussions around sustainable commodities

The reduction and elimination of global deforestation and conversion requires policies relating to risk commodities, sustainable food consumption, diets and waste and that also address the public and private finance sector. To date, most interventions on the consumption side have been restricted to soft measures such as awareness raising activities, including labelling schemes linked to certification. This puts responsibility on the individual consumer to choose from numerous labelled products. In the European Union (EU) for example, although initiatives such as the EU Ecoflower label have been helpful, to date they have not been ambitious enough. Neither have they been undertaken on a scale sufficient to trigger the sort of change in consumption behavior necessary to bring a dietary shift toward more sustainable consumption.²⁵ Moreover, labelling is in most cases voluntary and will not achieve the level playing field that more stringent policy measures can provide.

Good examples of legal interventions include regulations by consumer countries such as the EU Timber Regulation and the US Lacey Act which put the onus on importers to prove the legality of the timber that enters the US and the EU respectively. However, these are limited to the timber industry and lack strong implementation. Further effort relating to the consumption side is needed in order to strengthen, revise or complement initiatives already underway. A roadmap on 'Stepping up EU Action against Deforestation and

Forest Degradation' was published at the end of 2018. This roadmap opens the door for regulatory measures and partnerships between producer and consumer countries, business and civil society to address deforestation and forest degradation in the EU's commodity supply chains. The roadmap was followed in July 2019 by the publication of 'Stepping up EU Action to protect and restore the world's forests' which sets out a number of measures in five areas of action: reducing the EU's consumption footprint on land, working in partnership with producer countries, strengthening international cooperation, redirecting finance to support more sustainable land-use practices, and supporting better availability and quality of information on forests and supply chains. The publication addresses action for the policy, market and finance sectors in producer and consumer countries.

Signs of more regulatory action by importing countries and regions have been seen only recently. In 2019 – ten years after it emerged – the European Union Renewable Energy Directive, which sets out sustainability criteria for biofuels, mandated that the directive should be transposed into national law by member states.²⁶ EU-RED is the only legally binding instrument with a focus on grasslands. In addition, there is new legislation in France requiring due diligence for companies to avoid environmental damage in their supply chains,²⁷ and California passed a Deforestation-Free Procurement Act. It requires all companies contracting with the State government in the provision of tropical deforestation-risk commodities like cattle, palm oil, soy, paper/pulp, rubber and timber

to demonstrate deforestation-free supply chains.²⁸

It is also worth noting that concerns around supply chains are beginning to go beyond the environment, to include mandatory due diligence around human- and land rights. The Senate in the Netherlands recently adopted a child labor due diligence law which requires companies selling goods and services to Dutch consumers to identify, prevent and address child labor in their supply chains.²⁹ Similarly, the EU Conflict Minerals regulation, which will come into force in 2021, requires the EU importers of tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold – used in products like phones, cars and jewelry – to comply with, and report on, supply chain due diligence obligations if the minerals originate or potentially originate from conflict-affected and high-risk areas.³⁰

In addition, the Amsterdam Declarations, signed by major European countries in 2015, commit signatories to coordinated demand-side efforts to support 100 per cent sustainable palm oil on the European market by 2020 as well as deforestation-free agricultural supply chains. The efforts of countries to implement actions toward this voluntary declaration vary (see **Table 2**), but clear leaders have emerged. France, for example, has made great strides and even adopted a national strategy to end imports of non-sustainable forest commodities.

Table 2. Actions taken by country signatories toward the Amsterdam Declaration

| COUNTRY | RECENT DEVELOPMENTS |
|----------------|---|
| FRANCE | In 2018, France adopted a national strategy aimed at ending imports of non-sustainable agriculture commodities linked to deforestation by 2030. The strategy covers all relevant stakeholders and integrates deforestation measures into public policy and trade agreements with export countries, providing policy coherence across commodities. However, it does not include any legislative measures and lacks specific targets, deadlines and financial resources. |
| UNITED KINGDOM | In 2012, a UK Statement on Sustainable Production of Palm Oil was published. A roundtable was also established, including companies which cover over 80 per cent of UK palm oil imports. In 2018, a Sustainable Soy Working Group was formally launched. UK chocolate companies have also been very active in the Cocoa and Forests Initiative. In 2019 the UK Government launched the Global Resource Initiative in which businesses and environmental groups will, among other things, identify specific measures and policy proposals across a prioritized range of commodities in order to address the UK's imported deforestation and wider environmental footprint ³¹ . |
| NETHERLANDS | The Dutch government does not have a coherent national strategy on deforestation-risk commodities. The IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative, supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims to secure sustainable palm oil production in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Dutch Task Force for Sustainable Palm Oil (DAS-PO) provides a platform to support businesses in sustainable supply chains. Currently, 86 per cent of the domestic Dutch food industry is RSPO certified. |
| GERMANY | In 2012, Germany developed a National Protein Strategy to increase domestic production of soybean and other legumes, with an emphasis in eco-farming, agro-biodiversity and non-GMO soya. As the largest exporter of chocolate products globally, Germany signed the Berlin Declaration which outlines actions towards sustainable cocoa supply chains, and the German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa (GISCO) supports these initiatives. There have also been developments around due diligence, such as the draft law on mandatory human rights due diligence for German companies and their supply chains drafted in February 2019 which mentions specific sectors including agriculture, energy, mining, textile, leather and electronics. |
| DENMARK | There is little evidence of the Danish government's support for reducing imported deforestation; industry actors lead existing initiatives. The Retail Initiative to Further Sustainably Produced Palm Oil supports companies in defining and achieving individual targets in 100 per cent sustainable palm oil. The Danish Agriculture and Food Council has developed six procurement criteria for soya, two of which are related to eliminating illegal deforestation. However, it accepts legal deforestation with little consideration for the level of sustainability. |
| NORWAY | In addition to supporting the private sector in meeting corporate commitments, the Norwegian government actively encourages other EU countries to join both the Amsterdam Declaration and the NYDF. In 2018, Norway's Parliament passed laws banning the import of 'non-sustainable' palm oil for feedstock and biofuels by 2020, with the aim of pushing Malaysia to establish sustainable production strategies. NISPO, a private sector platform of food and feed organizations, has committed to phase out palm oil completely, or only source RSPO certified palm oil by 2018. |
| ITALY | As the most recent country to sign the Amsterdam Declaration, Italy is yet to develop any coordinated government initiatives to support sustainable sourcing of palm oil, soya and cocoa. The Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) has signed an agreement with UNDP to work together in areas of climate change, REDD+ and forest-related sectors such as agriculture and energy, with the goal of enhancing and accelerating sustainable management of forests. |

Interventions in other consumer countries remain nascent. In 2017, 64 companies in China signed the Sustainable Meat Declaration which seeks to avoid land degradation, deforestation and conversion of natural vegetation in the livestock production and feed supply chains. Given China's status as the world's largest importer of soy for livestock feed with growing impact on tropical forests in Latin America, this represents a positive step, but it's too soon to see the Declaration's impact. Supply chain actors like the China National Cereals, Oils and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO), China's largest state-owned commodity processor and trader, are also joining initiatives such as the Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS).³²



WORLD LEADERS NEED TO ACT NOW – OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Forests and savannahs in South America, Central Africa and Indonesia are burning. Irresponsible agricultural and livestock expansion is one of the major causes of both biodiversity loss and the destruction of millions of hectares of natural habitat, including Indigenous Peoples' lands.

World governments have committed to halting deforestation, habitat and biodiversity loss, and ecosystem degradation under various international agreements, including the CBD, the SDGs and the UNFCCC. But many of these commitments have a 2020 deadline which will not be reached. The NYDF also has a deadline for 2020 but the recent five-year assessment shows that “The world is not on track to halve deforestation and restore 150 million hectares of forests by 2020”.³³ Forests, savannahs and grasslands are disappearing at an unprecedented rate. **The expansion of agricultural land** is responsible for an estimated 80 per cent of forest loss in tropical and subtropical regions, and the threat of **conversion of natural habitats** for agriculture production is most severe in **savannahs** and **grasslands**.

Addressing the global challenge of deforestation and ecosystem destruction requires strong political will. It also requires policy actions on both the demand and supply sides, including the creation of a level playing field and fair competition for companies, mitigation of environmental and social risks, and the provision of long-term clarity to all stakeholders by defining common rules and methodologies.

We need urgent action on trade, on financial flows and on governance relating to the production and consumption of *all* agricultural and forest products and related supply chains. We need a paradigm shift to save what is left of our planet for the future.

The run up to 2020 is a critical moment for world leaders to step up and demonstrate their leadership and political will to address this human-made crisis. It's the time for world leaders to take action to halt biodiversity loss and put nature back on a path to recovery for people and the planet.

WE THEREFORE CALL ON GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN THE RUN-UP TO 2020, TO COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- 1. ANALYZE THE IMPACT OF DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION ON FORESTS AND OTHER NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS** and develop appropriate (including both voluntary and mandatory) measures to address this impact, combining incentives for more sustainable products with legal baselines that rule out products derived from deforestation or natural ecosystem conversion and degradation.
- 2. ELIMINATE DEFORESTATION AND NATURAL ECOSYSTEM CONVERSION FROM ALL SUPPLY CHAINS;** this must go beyond the food sector and include commodities for feed, energy, fiber such as wood and paper products, and agricultural raw material used for the bio-economy sector that can negatively impact natural habitats including forests, grasslands and freshwater ecosystems. Actions should draw from and be aligned with the guidance of the [Accountability Framework Initiative](#).
- 3. IMPLEMENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS THAT SAFEGUARD AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, INVESTMENT AND TRADE,** for example deforestation, ecosystem conversion and degradation, and the abuse of human rights, especially the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities enshrined in internationally agreed conventions and declarations. Ensure restoration and remediation of negative environmental and social impacts linked to past land clearance.
- 4. SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT NATIONAL TRACEABILITY AND VERIFICATION SYSTEMS** for agricultural and forest commodities and products, and for related supply chains, to ensure that imports and sourcing policies are not associated with deforestation, conversion and ecosystem degradation, and do not indirectly drive land use change.
- 5. SUPPORT CONSUMER INFORMATION AND AWARENESS** on the role and impact of consumption on land and promote consumption of products and commodities that are free of deforestation and ecosystem conversion.
- 6. PROVIDE AND SCALE UP TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT** for sustainable agricultural production focusing on agro-ecological approaches and forest management, including support for smallholders.

The following policies and measures are necessary to complement the actions above:

REFORM TRADE POLICIES, INTRODUCE NEW POLICIES AND DUE DILIGENCE

- **Assess the impact of trade agreements** on deforestation, ecosystem conversion and human rights violation.
- **Reform agriculture, food and trade policies:** Trade agreements must include environmental and social safeguards that exclude and mitigate risk related to deforestation, ecosystem conversion and degradation as well as human rights violations. These agreements must be accompanied by strict enforcement measures.
- **Reform WTO trade rules** more clearly to affirm the legality of trade restrictions designed to protect the environment and human rights.
- **Develop a set of generic sustainability criteria** to eliminate deforestation, ecosystem conversion, degradation and human rights violations from agricultural and forest supply chains. These criteria need to be integrated both into demand and supply side policies with regards to production, trade, imports, finance and related activities.
- **Promote due diligence with respect to deforestation and ecosystem conversion** by operators placing agricultural and forest commodities on global, regional and national markets, and promote public disclosure of due diligence measures taken.

- **Implement public procurement policies** that favor sustainably produced commodities, based on robust sustainability standards and frameworks.

PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE AND TRANSPARENT FINANCE

- **Facilitate responsible public and private finance** for investments that support sustainable agricultural production, such as lowering import duties for commodities complying with sustainable production standards and/or explicitly embracing criteria on deforestation and ecosystem conversion.
- **Ensure full transparency and mandatory disclosure** of financial investments that support the production and processing of forest and other ecosystem risk commodities.
- **Disclose financial investments that support production and processing** of forest and other ecosystem risk commodities.
- **Remove subsidies and other incentives** that promote unsustainable production, investments and trade, including the destruction and fragmentation of intact forest landscapes and conversion of grasslands, savannahs and other natural ecosystems.
- **Redirect finance and subsidies** to support more sustainable land-use practices.

ASSESS AND MONITOR FOOTPRINT

- **Develop (and build on³⁴) effective monitoring and reporting tools** that track the impacts of national and international markets for agriculture and forest products to enhance transparency of investment flows and facilitate access to information on supply chains by public entities, consumers and the private sector.

PROMOTE AND COORDINATE DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN PRODUCER AND CONSUMER COUNTRIES TO ENHANCE INFORMATION SHARING AND COOPERATION

- **Advance bilateral and multi-stakeholder dialogue**, including between major producer and consumer countries to address deforestation, conversion and ecosystem degradation, and develop joint alliances and activities.
- **Establish partnerships** between consumer and producer countries, business and civil society to reduce pressures on forests, grasslands, savannahs and other ecosystems.

DEMONSTRATE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND RAMP UP AMBITION IN CRITICAL INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING UNFCCC, CBD, SDGS

- **Raise the climate ambition in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** by more comprehensively including and quantifying the mitigation and adaptation potential of agriculture, forest and ecosystem conservation and restoration, including REDD+.
- **Integrate appropriate targets and indicators** to address drivers of biodiversity loss, including a target to reduce deforestation and ecosystem conversion from agricultural practices and supply chains in a **CBD post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and SDG 15 targets** expiring in 2020.
- **Make sustainable agriculture part of the sustainable consumption and production agenda (SDG 12)**, promoted and integrated into national development strategies, and ensure that consumers are informed to make the right choices.
- **Encourage greater coherence and coordination between the UN Conventions and SDGs at the international level and enhanced cross-ministerial coordination** and coherence in the implementation of the UN Conventions and SDGs at national level.

- **Accelerate implementation of all international commitments that aim to end deforestation and ecosystem conversion by 2020**, including SDGs, CBD Aichi Targets, the Paris Agreement, and commitments under the NYDF.

SCALE UP AND LEVERAGE FINANCE AND SUPPORT

- **Scale-up international and national development, climate and biodiversity finance** for initiatives and country-led efforts on deforestation and conversion-free agricultural practices and supply chains by paying special attention to smallholders.
- **Provide support to jurisdictions that implement zero-deforestation and zero-conversion policies** and strengthen sustainable forest management and land use planning, governance and law enforcement in all jurisdictions.
- **Provide support to producer countries to restore converted and degraded ecosystems**, including soils, to enhance ecosystem services necessary for the long-term viability of agricultural production, carbon sequestration and habitat for biodiversity.
- **Recognize and incentivize agricultural practices** that promote and integrate ecosystem services and agro-ecological practices which have a regulating (for example, improved soil fertility and water quality) and supporting (species habitat, genetic diversity) effect on nature.

- **Leverage and implement existing corporate commitments** targeting deforestation and conversion, and support implementation and development of new ambitious commitments.



Forest fire at an early stage in the tropical rainforest of Amazonia. Roraima State, Brazil

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NATURE MATTERS

Biodiversity is essential for our health, wellbeing, food and security as well as the stability of economic and political systems worldwide.



THREATS

The biggest drivers of current biodiversity loss are overexploitation and agriculture, both of which are the result of continually increasing human consumption.

AIMING HIGHER

A new global deal for nature and people, with clear, ambitious goals, targets and metrics, is needed to bend the curve of biodiversity loss.



Working to sustain the natural world for people and wildlife

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