

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS
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ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

REVERSE THE LOSS OF FOREST COVER WORLDWIDE THROUGH SUSTAINABLE FOREST
MANAGEMENT AND INCREASE EFFORTS TO PREVENT FOREST DEGRADATION AND
CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL EFFORT OF ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Simulation: United Nations Forum on Forests

Welcome to WIMUN New York 2026,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the United Nations Forum on Forests in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Forests are often called the lungs of the Earth. They produce oxygen, store carbon, protect water supplies, and are home to more than 80% of life on land. They also help fight climate change and support the livelihoods of millions of people. But today, forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. According to a research conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the world lost 420 million hectares of forest between 1990 and 2020—an area about the size of India!

Why is this happening? Some forests are cleared to make space for farms, cities, roads, and mines. Others are destroyed by illegal logging, wildfires, and the growing impacts of climate change. Moreover, forest degradation, due to wildfires and the worsening effects of climate change, continues to diminish the ability of forest ecosystems to recover.

To respond to this crisis, the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), a Functional Commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was created in 2000. It brings countries together to protect, restore, and sustainably manage forests worldwide.

One of its guiding tools is the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017–2030) which provides a global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and to halt deforestation and forest degradation. The historic agreement on the Strategic Plan was forged at a special session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in January 2017, and subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2017. At the heart of the Strategic Plan are six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be achieved by 2030.

The main focus of this simulation is on Global Forest Goal 1. It has four targets: Target 1.1 Increase forest area by 3 per cent worldwide; Target 1.2 Maintain or increase the total amount of carbon stored in forests worldwide by protecting existing forests from deforestation and degradation, reducing logging, preventing and controlling forest fires; Target 1.3 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and increase new forests on land that has not been forested for a long time; 1.4 Strengthen the resilience of forests to climate change and natural disasters.

At the UNFF's most recent meetings, countries highlighted three main priorities: 1) Using forests as a key tool to fight climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and poverty; 2) Finding new ways to fund and apply science and technology to support sustainable forestry; 3) Strengthening partnerships and information-sharing between governments, institutions, and communities in the forest sector.

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Evaluations of the Global Forest Goals are assessed in the Global Forest Goals Report. Despite some progress, high deforestation rates persist, particularly in tropical regions. Global Forest Goal Target 1.3, for example, which aimed to halt deforestation and increase afforestation and reforestation by 2020, was not met. Although the global rate of net forest loss slowed between 1990 and 2020, deforestation has continued, and recent data shows the world is significantly off track to meet the even more ambitious 2030 goals.

It is important to remember that sustainable forest management isn't just about saving trees—it's about creating a balance between the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development: protecting ecosystems, supporting local communities, and allowing for responsible economic growth. A critical component in achieving this balance involves acknowledging that the future of our planet is dependent, in part, on the future of forests.

Key Points and Main Issues

Forests are essential for biodiversity conservation, carbon storage, and sustainable development. The accelerating loss of forest cover due to deforestation and degradation threatens both local livelihoods and global climate goals, making sustainable forest management a critical lever for environmental, social, and economic resilience.

1. Why Forests Matter

- Forests are vital for life on Earth. They cover about one-third of all land and give us clean air, water, food, and medicine. Forests store large amounts of carbon and help keep our planet's climate stable. They also prevent floods and landslides by protecting soil and water sources.
- More than a billion people depend on forests for their daily needs, such as food, fuel, and shelter. Many Indigenous Peoples live in or near forests and have traditional knowledge that helps protect them. Forests are home to most of the world's land animals and plants, so losing forests means losing countless species.
- Protecting forests is essential to protecting people and nature. Healthy forests help reduce poverty, fight climate change, and support sustainable development.

2. The Challenge: Deforestation and Degradation

- Every year, the world loses millions of hectares of forest. Most of this loss occurs in tropical regions where trees are cut down for farms, cattle, roads, or mining. This process is called deforestation, and it releases carbon dioxide into the air, worsening global warming.
- In some areas, trees remain, but the forest becomes weaker due to overharvesting, logging, or fires. This is called forest degradation. Degraded forests cannot store as much carbon or support as much wildlife.
- Many governments and companies have promised to stop deforestation, but enforcement is often weak. Stronger rules, better monitoring, and public accountability are needed to make sure promises are kept.

3. Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)

- Sustainable Forest Management means using forests in ways that allow them to stay healthy and productive. It balances three goals: protecting the environment, supporting local communities, and providing fair economic opportunities.
- Good management includes careful planning, protecting water and soil, and avoiding overuse. Forest certification systems like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) show when products come from responsibly managed forests.
- Indigenous and local communities often manage forests well because they depend on them for their way of life. Recognizing their land rights and including them in decisions is one of the best ways to protect forests for the long term.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

4. Forests and Climate Change

- Forests help slow climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and storing it in trees and soil. When forests are cleared or burned, this carbon is released back into the atmosphere, making the planet warmer.
- Many countries include forest protection in their national climate plans, called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These plans are part of the Paris Agreement. Some countries have set strong forest targets, but others need clearer goals.
- Carbon pricing and forest carbon credits can help encourage forest protection. Students should consider how these tools can reward countries and communities that keep forests standing and restore damaged land.

5. Financing and Sustainable Forest Economies

- Protecting forests requires funding and planning. Many developing countries need financial support to manage forests and stop illegal logging. International programs like REDD+ pay countries for reducing deforestation and storing carbon.
- Innovative financing combines public and private investment. It can fund local projects that protect forests while supporting community development.
- Sustainable forest economies use resources without destroying them. Products like nuts, fruits, honey, and medicinal plants provide income while keeping trees alive. Eco-tourism also brings jobs and encourages conservation.
- Financial support must reach Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who are often the most effective forest protectors. Fair systems prevent corruption and ensure that forest benefits are shared.

6. Governance and International Cooperation

- Forests cross national borders, so countries must work together. The UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) helps governments share ideas and coordinate global action. It supports the UN Strategic Plan for Forests (2017–2030), which includes six Global Forest Goals. One key goal is to reverse forest loss through sustainable management.
- Regional cooperation is also important. In Central Africa, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership supports joint protection efforts. In Southeast Asia, ASEAN countries work together to reduce illegal logging and forest fires.
- Good forest governance includes everyone. When women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples have a voice in decision-making, forest policies become fairer and more effective.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

7. Monitoring, Data, and Technology

- Tracking forest health helps governments and communities make better decisions. New technologies like satellites, drones, and artificial intelligence can detect illegal logging, forest fires, and land changes in real time.
- Global systems such as Global Forest Watch and FAO SEPAL provide free forest data that anyone can use. Shared information increases transparency and builds trust between countries.
- Local training and technical skills are important. When people can collect and interpret their own data, they can protect forests more effectively.

8. Forest Resilience and Climate Risk Reduction

- Healthy forests protect people from natural disasters. They prevent soil erosion, reduce the effects of floods and droughts, and stabilize weather patterns. Coastal forests, such as mangroves, act as natural barriers against storms and rising seas.
- Climate-smart forestry includes fire prevention, tree planting, and restoration of damaged land. These actions help forests adapt to changing conditions.
- Scientists use risk assessments to identify forests most threatened by drought, heat, or pests. This helps countries target their resources where they are needed most. Strong and healthy forests make communities safer and more resilient.

9. Education, Capacity Building, and Technology Transfer

- Education and training are key to sustainable forest management. Teaching forestry and environmental science in schools builds future leaders and experts.
- Local communities benefit when they learn skills like sustainable harvesting, tree planting, and mapping. These skills help them manage forests responsibly and earn income.
- Many developing countries need technology and training to enforce forest laws and use monitoring tools. Partnerships between countries, known as South–South cooperation, allow them to share experiences and strengthen institutions.
- Building capacity ensures that forest management stays strong even when governments or funding change.

10. Key Questions to Consider

- How can countries stop deforestation while still supporting economic growth?
- Should companies face penalties for causing deforestation?
- How can international funding reach local and Indigenous communities more directly?
- What role should forests play in each country's climate plan?
- How can young people contribute to protecting forests and raising awareness?

State of Finance for Forests 2025 - UNEP report **2025**

Summary: The first State of Finance for Forests (SFF) report: Unlock. Unleash. Realizing forest potential requires tripling investments in forests by 2030 provides a global overview of public and private forest finance in 2023, comparing current flows with the investments needed to realize forests' potential to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. The report finds that forests remain significantly underfunded: annual investment must increase from US\$84 billion in 2023 to US\$300 billion by 2030 and US\$498 billion by 2050, leaving an annual gap of about US\$216 billion.

Forest, Trees, Fires and Climate Change - Note by the Secretariat **2025**

Summary: This note by the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management Secretariat emphasizes the growing intensity and frequency of wildfires driven by climate change, with increasing impacts on forest ecosystems, human settlements, and air quality. It calls for integrated fire management, climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, and enhanced international cooperation to build resilient, fire-adapted forests and communities.

Annotated Provisional Agenda for the Eighty-Second Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry **2024**

Summary: The agenda illustrates the discussions on key forest-related topics, including deforestation-free trade, forest product markets, climate change, boreal and urban forestry, data automation, and inclusive practices in forestry. The session will also review ongoing work programs, finalize the 2026–2029 Integrated Programme of Work, and conduct officer elections, with a focus on enhancing cooperation, data systems, and sustainability across the ECE region.

[How Halting Deforestation Can Help Counter The Climate Crisis](#)

2024

Summary: This story, published by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on 18 July 2024, outlines the accelerating threat of deforestation in the context of climate change and the urgent need for countries to act as they prepare their 2025 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

[REDD+ | UNEP — Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation](#)

2024

Summary: REDD+ is a nature-based climate mitigation mechanism, recognized under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, that seeks to cut greenhouse gas emissions by conserving and sustainably managing forests, reducing deforestation and degradation, and enhancing forest carbon stocks. Forests have the potential to provide up to one-third of the mitigation needed to limit global warming to below 2 °C—over 5 Gt CO₂e annually—if deforestation and degradation are halted. Since 2008, through the UN-REDD Programme (a joint initiative of UNEP, FAO, and UNDP), 65 partner countries have become “REDD+ ready,” supported by more than USD 1 billion to integrate forest protection into their national climate strategies (NDCs).

[Annotated provisional agenda for the joint session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission](#)

2023

Summary: The joint session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the European Forestry Commission held in San Marino in November 2023 focused on biodiversity, forest economics, and sustainable forest management, including global and regional developments, the 2025 Global Forest Resources Assessment, and the mid-term review of the 2021–2025 Integrated Programme of Work. It also addressed urban forestry, boreal forests, inclusive forestry practices, integrated fire management, and strategic planning within FAO and UNECE frameworks.

[Progress in the Global and Regional Forest Resources Assessment Processes - Integrated ECE/FAO/Forest Europe Data Collection on Forests and Forest Management](#)

2021

Summary: The progress and future plans for integrating global and regional forest data collection efforts—specifically between FAO’s Global Forest Resources Assessment and the pan-European reporting process led by ECE, FAO, and Forest Europe—are crucial to understand. The report suggests a fully coordinated data collection system for the 2025 cycle to reduce redundancy, improve data quality, and enhance collaboration, using a shared online platform and standardized formats, with joint support for national correspondents and technical consultations.

[Impact of the Pandemic on Forests and the Forest Sector - Note by the Secretariat](#)

2021

Summary: COVID-19 pandemic disrupted forest management, trade, and livelihoods, especially for forest-dependent communities, while also creating opportunities to integrate sustainable forest practices into recovery efforts. The document calls for stronger global cooperation, investment in forests, and a second assessment to guide long-term resilience and sustainable development.

[United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030 \(UNSPF\) - UNFF Resolution](#)

2017

This global framework was adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2017 to guide international action on forests. It envisions a world where all forests and trees are sustainably managed, supporting the well-being of people and the planet. The Plan outlines six Global Forest Goals and 26 targets to be achieved by 2030, aiming to halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, enhance forest-based benefits, mobilize financing, and strengthen cooperation on forest governance. Closely linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNSPF promotes the vital role of forests in addressing climate change, conserving biodiversity, and supporting sustainable livelihoods worldwide.

Fact Sheet: About REDD+

2016

Summary: This fact sheet introduces REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), explaining how it incentivizes developing countries to reduce carbon emissions in the forest sector. It outlines the five core REDD+ activities: emission reduction from deforestation and degradation, conservation, sustainable forest management, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. The document discusses why REDD+ matters (forests as carbon sinks, biodiversity, ecosystem services) and how it delivers social, environmental, and economic co-benefits to forest communities and nations.

UN-REDD Programme (United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)

2008

Summary: The Women in Politics: 2023 Map by UN Women and the Inter-Parliamentary Union shows that women remain underrepresented in leadership worldwide. As of January 2023, they held only 26.5 percent of parliamentary seats and 22.8 percent of ministerial positions, with just 31 countries led by a woman as head of state or government. Women are more likely to oversee social or equality portfolios, while men dominate finance and defense. The report calls for stronger gender-balance measures to close these gaps.

National Statement from Republic of Korea - UNFF20 General discussion on Item 3, 4 & 6 at CSW69 - Sweden Abroad

2025

Summary: At UNFF20, the Republic of Korea emphasized its commitment to forest restoration, climate resilience, and sustainable management by revising its National Forest Plan to include an 11% forestry-sector contribution to its 2030 NDC and launching new legislation for biodiversity and disaster prevention. Additionally, Korea and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) announced a new initiative —“Unlocking Innovative Financing for Sustainable Forests and Our Future”—to mobilize private and individual investments for forest sustainability through platforms like CAMP and the Friends of Asia and Asian Forests (FAAF).

The State of Canada’s Forests: Annual Report 2024

2025

Summary: Published by the Government of Canada’s Natural Resources department in July 2025, this report provides a comprehensive overview of Canada’s forests and forestry sector. It highlights sustainable forest management achievements as well as challenges including wildfires, climate adaptation needs, and forest carbon dynamics. The report showcases Indigenous-led initiatives, provincial integration of sustainable practices, monitoring systems like the National Forest Carbon Monitoring, and the development of climate-sensitive growth and yield models.

Policy Statements - National Association of State Forests (NASF)

2024

Summary: The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) regularly issues policy statements and resolutions reflecting the collective stance of United States state and territorial foresters on federal legislation and emerging forest-related issues such as carbon markets, biomass energy, forest health, and wildfire management. These documents advocate for science-based forest policy, improved federal land management, credible carbon credit systems, and the expansion of sustainable wood markets.

Brazil's NDC – National Determination to Contribute and Transform

2024

Summary: Brazil's Second Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), submitted in November 2024, reaffirms its commitment to ending illegal deforestation by 2028 and achieving climate neutrality by 2050 through policies like the Forest Code and the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon (PPCDAm). The document outlines integrated strategies for forest restoration, sustainable forest management, and low-carbon agriculture to reduce emissions and enhance Brazil's role in global climate action.

Council Backs New Monitoring Framework to Boost The Sustainable Management of Forests

2025

Summary: In a recent press release, the Council of the European Union outlined its approval of a new forest monitoring framework. The initiative aims to improve sustainable forest management, resilience, and data harmonization across Europe, while reducing administrative burdens. The framework seeks to build a comprehensive forest knowledge base, enhance transparency, and support evidence-based decision-making for EU forest policies.

The European Union and Forests

2025

Summary: This report underscores the European Union's complex approach to forestry, despite the absence of a common EU forestry policy. It details forest statistics, national competencies, environmental and agricultural strategies, funding mechanisms, legislative frameworks, and international commitments, all of which support sustainable forest management, biodiversity, climate action, and the prevention of deforestation both within and outside the EU.

Intervention Notes of Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO)

2024

Summary: At the 2024 FAO Committee on Forestry, AFoCO expressed strong support for advancing the bioeconomy through sustainable forest management, highlighting its 2024–2030 strategy that emphasizes climate-resilient landscapes, green villages, and forest-based value chains. Through initiatives like forest restoration, circular bioeconomy, and disaster risk management, AFoCO aims to improve livelihoods, promote biodiversity, and strengthen forest ecosystem resilience across its 16 Asian member countries.

**Belém Declaration – Amazon Cooperation
Treaty Organization (ACTO)**

2023

Summary: This high-level presidential declaration, agreed upon by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) member states in August 2023, reaffirms regional commitment to ending deforestation, conserving Indigenous-managed forests, and advancing sustainable development in the Amazon Basin. It emphasizes cross-border collaboration, equitable Indigenous participation, and joint strategies for climate mitigation and forest resilience across the eight participating South American nations.

**Joint Statement by the G77 and China on
Sustainable Forest Management**

2018

Summary: Delivered during FAO's COFO24 meeting in July 2018, this joint statement reflects the Group of 77 and China's unified stance on the State of the World's Forests 2018 findings. It highlights the need for forests to be integrated into the broader 2030 Agenda, underscores the interconnections between forest policy and multiple SDGs, and calls for strengthened South–South cooperation, financing, technology transfer, and capacity building to support equitable and sustainable forest management among developing nations.

**Statement of H.E Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma,
Chairperson of the African Union Commission,
on the occasion of Africa Day at the XIV World
Forestry Congress 7 September 2015, Durban
South Africa**

2015

Summary: At the XIV World Forestry Congress in 2015, African Union Chairperson Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma emphasized the crucial role African forests play in climate change mitigation, biodiversity preservation, and sustainable development, highlighting their economic value, vulnerability to deforestation, and importance in Agenda 2063. She called for strengthened governance, regional cooperation, gender inclusion, and international support to sustainably manage Africa's Forest resources, reduce emissions, and build resilient communities.

ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze
Pollution

2002

Summary: This legally binding environmental protocol, enacted by ASEAN member states in 2002, aims to prevent and monitor haze pollution caused by land and forest fires across national borders in Southeast Asia. It establishes coordinated monitoring, prevention, and emergency response mechanisms—including early-warning systems, shared data, and a regional fund—highlighting ASEAN’s commitment to collaborative forest health governance across the region.

[‘We Are Perilously Close To The Point of No Return’: Climate Scientist on Amazon Rainforest’s Future](#)

2025

Summary: This news article, published by The Guardian, features insights from well-known Brazilian climate scientist Carlos Nobre on the escalating threats facing the Amazon rainforest. He warns that the Amazon rainforest is nearing an irreversible tipping point, with 18% already deforested and worsening droughts threatening to turn vast areas into degraded savannah, triggering massive carbon emissions and regional climate collapse. He stresses that immediate reforestation, zero deforestation, and tackling organized environmental crime are essential to preserving biodiversity, food security, and global climate stability.

[Learn More | Rights and Resources Initiative \(RRI\)](#)

2025

Summary: The “Learn More” page presents the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) as a global coalition committed to securing land and resource rights for Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant groups, and local communities. It highlights that while up to 2.5 billion people hold customary land rights, only about 10 % are legally recognized, leaving communities vulnerable to land grabbing and ecological degradation. RRI advances change via research, advocacy, policy reform, strategic funding, and convening diverse actors to support community-driven forest and land governance.

[Transforming forest management through rewilding: Enhancing biodiversity, resilience, and biosphere sustainability under global change](#)

2025

Summary: This article explores how forests face growing threats from climate change and intensive monoculture practices, which threatens their biodiversity, carbon storage, and resilience. It advocates for rewilding-inspired forestry—focused on restoring natural processes, species diversity, and ecosystem complexity—as a transformative, nature-based strategy to complement protected areas and support sustainable forest landscapes in an era marked by human activity in the environment.

Business Failure to Act on Deforestation Puts Everyone at Risk

2025

Summary: This commentary highlights the gap between global deforestation pledges and corporate action. Despite commitments to end deforestation by 2025, only 3% of the 500 most exposed firms meet credible standards for deforestation-free supply chains, according to Forest 500's latest analysis. It warns that political backtracking, weak corporate accountability, and resistance to regulation are putting forests, biodiversity, and climate goals at severe risk—underscoring the urgent need for stronger enforcement and systemic change across industries.

Ending deforestation | Fern

2025

Summary: This page argues that forests are vital carbon sinks, but deforestation releases stored CO₂, destroys biodiversity, and jeopardizes communities relying on forests. It highlights that 80 % of tropical deforestation is driven by converting forests to agricultural land (for beef, soy, palm oil), with logging, mining, and paper/packaging also contributing. According to Fern, ending deforestation requires securing land ownership rights, reducing consumption of forest-risk commodities, and restoring degraded forests with leadership from Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Summary of the Nineteenth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests: 6-10 May 2024

2024

Summary: The UN Forum on Forests document highlights progress and challenges in achieving the Global Forest Goals, particularly Goal 1: reversing forest cover loss through sustainable forest management and restoration. It emphasizes the urgent need for enhanced financing, capacity building, data collection, and international cooperation to address deforestation, forest degradation, and climate change effectively.

5 Ways Sustainable Forestry Can Support Climate Action, Development and Biodiversity

2024

Summary: This bulletin explores how sustainable forestry can serve as a critical climate solution. It argues that sustainable forestry is essential to combating climate change by supporting reforestation, reducing pressure on natural forests, and integrating renewable wood products into the circular bioeconomy. It outlines five key strategies—from reforestation and ecosystem restoration to Indigenous empowerment and sustainable construction—that collectively demonstrate how working forests, if responsibly managed, can deliver both environmental and economic benefits.

Who Really Benefits? How REDD+ Fails Forests and Those Who Protect Them | Global Forest Coalition

2024

Summary: This briefing criticizes REDD+ for reducing complex forest ecosystems to carbon commodities, shifting control over forests toward state and corporate actors while marginalizing Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It documents cases of land grabs, lack of genuine consent, and rights violations, arguing that despite large investments, deforestation continues unchecked. The report calls for climate finance to back community-led conservation rooted in local knowledge and equitable governance, not profit-driven carbon schemes.

The path to avoid the point of no return of tropical forests in the Amazon, Congo and Indonesia

2024

Summary: This declaration, launched during the G20 Social Summit in Rio de Janeiro, is a collective call from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and civil society networks to defend tropical forests in Amazon, Congo, and Indonesia. It emphasizes that real solutions lie in community-led land rights, agroecology, and rejecting carbon markets or other financialization schemes that reduce forests to carbon assets. The document demands governments secure land ownership, limit deforestation-driving industries (like agribusiness and extractive sectors), and protect defenders of forests.

[Land Matters: How Securing Community Land Rights Can Slow Climate Change and Accelerate the Sustainable Development Goals | WRI](#)

2019

Summary: This article argues that granting and formalizing land rights to Indigenous peoples and local communities is a powerful tool in climate mitigation. Secure community tenure leads to lower deforestation rates, promotes sustainable land management, and delivers co-benefits for poverty relief and SDG implementation. The authors call on governments to reform land laws, simplify land-titling procedures, and rebalance power between communities and commercial interests.

[Healthy Forests = Equitable Livelihoods, Inclusive Development and a Resilient Climate](#)

2019

Summary: This briefing emphasizes that forests are crucial not only for climate mitigation but also for the livelihoods of over 300 million forest-dwelling people and 1.6 billion who depend on forest products. It presents evidence that community land rights and local forest monitoring reduce deforestation and improve forest management. The document calls on the European Union and governments to strengthen forest governance, support community's rights to use and own land, and limit illegal logging to stop forest loss.
