Protect faster
Restore stronger
Manage better

March 2022

Co-organized by
Who celebrated the international forest day, on March 21th? While Russia invades Ukraine and the pandemic still puts so many lives at risk across the globe, our attention must not be distracted from the current environmental chaos, which is a planetary emergency, where forests are on the front line.

Targets were clearly set: the objectives of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests as well as those of the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests must be met by 2030. Achieving these goals is critical at a time when forests, as the world’s largest land-based carbon sinks and biodiversity shelters, are being heavily impacted by the twin crises of the anthropocene: the massive biodiversity loss and the accelerating changes in climate, both at the nexus of deforestation and poor restoration. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) provides a window of opportunity to address these complex challenges.

In times when the international community is being affected by war, let’s remember one thing: we all live on the same planet. This is the very spirit of the universally agreed Sustainable Development Goals. SDG #17 is even more specific: we need partnerships to solve these transnational problems. We need to bring together multilateral institutions, national and local governments, large firms and SMEs, NGOs, communities and indigenous peoples as well as academia to advance the Global Forest Goals. From policy innovations to field programs, we need a holistic approach to guide us as quickly as we need, as boldly as we must, to deliver timely and effective solutions.

We firmly believe in partnership outcomes. This collaborative approach is vital and this is why we co-founded the Global Forest Summit in 2021. From 2022 on, every year in March, this global landmark event for forests will convene game-changing actors who combat deforestation, scale-up quality landscape forest restoration, foster sustainable management of forests and secure the adequate funding to take up all these challenges. These are the four goals we need to track and enable between now and 2030. This science-driven, civil-society-led and multi-stakeholder platform is a place to surface innovations, foster collaboration, and strengthen accountability for delivery of forest commitments. It’s a place where we can raise our ambitions, share best practices, wonder about the risks and track results. From the top of international policy makers or corporate leaders to small farmers or NGOs, local indigenous and communities, we need to connect the dots.

Let’s start with the main issue: deforestation. This is a global scourge that is dramatically exacerbating the climate crisis and the collapse of biodiversity - reaching a tipping point where the Amazon could potentially turn from a rainforest into a savannah. As forests account for 30% of our natural absorption capabilities of carbon dioxide and for 80% of terrestrial biodiversity, it’s madness to believe that we could both win any environmental battle and maintain favorable living conditions for future generations without protecting forests. The stakes are high: 10 million hectares were deforested every year between 2015 and 2020, according to FAO. The 2030 UN timeline is clear; but we will not meet the deadline without immediate monitorable actions to halt deforestation.

Global objectives were agreed upon per the 2011 Bonn Challenge to restore 350 million hectares of forest by 2030.

In addition to deforestation, we face the impacts from land degradation. The accelerating ecosystem deterioration calls on us to make efforts to stop degradation per se, as it increasingly fuels our greenhouse gas emissions, and to put restoration on top of the agenda too. This second challenge is not only due to deforestation itself, but also to poor forest management practices and rising natural hazards like droughts that weaken forest resilience. Global objectives were agreed upon per the 2011 Bonn Challenge to restore 350 million hectares of forest by 2030. Currently, international pledges for restoration amount to 210 million hectares. We remain far from the objective and we - again -
miss an accountability process to monitor concrete delivery of these pledges and their quality at the global and regional scale. We need all actors to join forces to accurately monitor, report and verify progress in implementing pledges and achieving these ambitions.

We face the magnitude of the deforestation and forest restoration challenges; but quality solutions are needed to address them accordingly. Since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit the principles of sustainable management for forests have been established. These commitments - enhanced along the road to Rio+30 - enable us to hope for a “significant increase of sustainably managed forest” as per UN Goal Forest Goal #3. We could express this objective as a minimal ratio of 75% of forest areas subject to independent verification of the sustainability of their management. This means reaching 860 million hectares of certified forests by 2030 (processing figures from organizations like FSC, PEFC and SFI). To get to this point, we still have to create economic incentives that foster adoption of these practices. Because in 2022, only 330 million hectares were certified as sustainably managed.

Everyone is aware that money is urgently needed to meet these objectives. None of these challenges can be achieved without major financial resources. The New York Forest Declaration Platform estimates up to $65 billion must be invested every year by 2030 to achieve these Goals. Though we commend the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and the financial pledges made at the UNFCCC COP 26 ($12 billions from the public sector plus $7.2 billions from private funding), we must acknowledge that we are far behind the objectives: since 2010, $2.4 billions² only were invested annually, while UNEP estimates we need to triple investments by 2030. We need a fully-fledged and yearly accountability mechanism as well as mobilization of finance at the scale needed to achieve the objectives.

¹ Revised in 2020 because the intermediate objectives were not reached
² 2021 UNEP State of Finance for Nature
To protect faster, to restore stronger and to manage better our forests is the way forward. The Global Forest Summit came to **four** main conclusions to sustain these efforts.

As geopolitical tensions and health threats risk making us turn a blind eye to the accelerating environmental crises, the Global Forest Goals shall remain our direction by 2030. We are headed to the upcoming World Forest Congress in Seoul, the Stockholm+50 Conference, the UN CBD COP 15 in Kunming, the UN CCD 15 in Abidjan and the COP 27 in Sharm el Sheik: the **2022 Global Forest Summit** paved the way to these major milestones to catalyze ambition and enhance delivery.

**Thomas Friang, Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute, and Stéphane Hallaire, Founder & CEO of Reforest’Action, Co-founders & Co-chairs of the GFS**

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**1 Combatting Deforestation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective 2030</strong></th>
<th>End natural forest loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key initiative</strong></td>
<td>New York Declaration on Forests updated in 2021 (NYDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator as of today</strong></td>
<td>2015-2020 : 10,2 Mha/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual target</strong></td>
<td>- 1 Mha/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monitoring</strong></td>
<td>FAO-FRA (5 years periodicity) remote sensing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2 Enhancing Restoration of Forests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Objective 2030</strong></th>
<th>350 Mha of forest land restored</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key initiative</strong></td>
<td>Bonn Challenge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicator as of today</strong></td>
<td>By 2020, 74 countries have committed to restoring 210 Mha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual target</strong></td>
<td>+ 14 Mha/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monitoring</strong></td>
<td>Bonn Challenge report (2 years periodicity)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fostering Sustainable Management of Forests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 2030</th>
<th>Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests to achieve 860 Mha (75% of world forest)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key initiative</td>
<td>UN Global Forest Goals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Indicator as of today | 330 Mha of forests PEFC-certified  
231,8 Mha FSC-certified                             |
| Annual target | +60 Mha/yr                                                                                       |
| Monitoring     | PEFC  
FSC                                                                                           |

### Financing Forest Policies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective 2030</th>
<th>between USD 405 et 585 billion by 2030</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key initiative</td>
<td>NYDF Assessment Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator as of today</td>
<td>USD 2,4 billion/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual target</td>
<td>USD 45-65 billion/yr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>NYDF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Main ideas

We know there’s no SDGs without forest, and we must protect standing forest ecosystems and ensure their sustainable use.

Dr. Susan Gardner
Director of the UNEP’s Division for Ecosystems

01 Monitoring progress

We need yearly, reliable and accessible data to track progress. International organizations - such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (Forest Resources Assessment) and civil society organizations - such as the World Resources Institute (Global Forest Watch) - already put together detailed and very rich metrics. But we need a yearly monitoring dashboard for forests that enables every actor to have a clear outlook on the situation, completing and boosting the process of national voluntary reviews presented by States at the UN Forum on Forests.

In order to measure progress towards achieving the End Natural Forest Loss by 2030, as per the objectives of the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, we recommend to develop a rolling yearly update of FAO’s FRA 5-year assessment for 1) Global Net Natural Forest Loss, 2) Global Gross Tree Cover Loss, 3) Global Gross Deforestation and 4) Humid Tropical Primary Forest Loss; and to enhance international remote sensing capabilities to ensure ongoing and transparent surveillance of deforestation risks.

In order to measure progress towards the Restoration of 350 million hectares, as per the objectives of the Bonn Challenge Barometer, we recommend to publish a yearly monitoring of effective implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration pledges at global scale and at regional scale.

In order to measure the expected significant increase of forest surface subject to sustainable management, as per the UN Global Forest Goals, we recommend to publish a yearly update on forests under certification for sustainable management at the global scale and at regional scale.

In order to measure financial efforts for forests aiming at $405 to 585 billion by 2030 according to the New York Platform on Forests, we recommend to yearly assess specific financial needs for each forestry activity referred to in the NYDF Assessment Report (combating deforestation, afforestation/reforestation, restoration and sustainable management), and - more importantly - to yearly assess the ratio of effectively mobilized funds VS pledged funds.
Cutting all roots of deforestation

Combating deforestation is vital. It is critical in addressing the climate crisis. Letting deforestation happen prevents us from our best nature-based solution as forests naturally sequester 2.4 billion tons of carbon every year, i.e. a third of all fossil fuel emissions. Letting deforestation continue fuels the climate crisis: between 2018 and 2020, 24% of global gross emissions came from the primary forest loss. This danger is getting more and more harmful: a recent UNEP report found that land use change drives up wildfires up 30% by 2050, while the EU Commission outlines that wildfires represent a risk of drastic reduction of forest surface (-60%).

To End Natural Forest Loss, as per the objectives of the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, we must strengthen legal efforts on sustainable value chains. All G20 Nations, which account for 80% of the global GDP, should adopt anti-deforestation laws with high-standard scrutiny obligations for firms along value chains and sanctions for non-compliance. The G20 should ensure policy coordination to avoid regulatory fragmentation, trade tensions and mismeasurement of impacts on small farmers.

To meet the 2030 target of net-zero deforestation, we must ensure that money flows into the right direction. The Platform of the New York Declaration on Forest recently reported that the amount of private and public finance contributing to deforestation is 40 times higher than sustainable finance. CIFOR estimates that 10% of the global GDP is wasted in land degradation, entailing the loss of 10+ million hectares of tropical forests every year. Therefore, we recommend stopping all environmentally harmful subsidies estimated by OECD at $115 billion per year in agriculture in only 50 countries, up to $520 billion at the global level.

Combating deforestation also requires addressing the deforestation & poverty nexus. Almost 90% of deforestation is due to agriculture as forests are converted into cropland and grassland according to FAO. The 2021 UN Food System Summit indicated how to strike a sustainable balance between agriculture and forest protection: it requires securing a fair share of value to small farmers who exploit the land. Therefore we keep highlighting the role of consumers in driving the market and therefore the importance of labels that foster ethical purchase of sustainable products with robust verification mechanisms of labels.

3 WRI - Global Forest Watch
4 FAO
03 Mainstreaming circular bioeconomy

Numerous macro- and micro-economic studies highlight the importance of an economic paradigm shift towards a circular bioeconomy, creating alternative market conditions. In 2020, the WEF found that $44 trillions of the global supply chain depends either heavily or moderately on biodiversity, mostly on forests and specifically tropical forests. In 2021, the World Bank reported that even a partial loss of ecosystem services would cause a loss of 2.3% of global GDP. This is let alone speaking of the much higher efficiency of nature-based solutions to mitigate and to adapt to the climate crisis.

The shift towards a circular bioeconomy requires high-level mobilization through multi-stakeholder coalitions, in particular of private companies. The COP 26 Presidency highlighted the need to engage with the whole society in order to get these topics "out of the climate bubble". The European Commission outlines partnership strategies with foreign countries for capacity building in combating deforestation through public or private programs.

Beyond mobilization, it requires adapting policy making. As food systems are responsible for 25% to 40% of GreenHouse Gas emissions and 90% of deforestation, transforming agriculture is key. Thus, we commend the FAO initiatives to bring together Forest Ministers with Agriculture Ministers to strike more sustainable balances in land use. We recommend that UNFCCC COP take such a cross-cutting approach in bringing together Environment and Trade Ministers for joint works around combating deforestation; same for Energy Ministers with Forests leaders, as many developing countries rely on wood as a source of energy. Lastly, we commend the initiative of the UN Forum on Forests to engage with the private sector to ensure rapid and ambitious roll out of the UN Strategic Plan for Forests, and we call companies for being part of this new momentum for forests.

Mainstreaming the circular bioeconomy is possible if we raise a generation of reforestation entrepreneurs. They would be the #GenerationRestoration that the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration calls for. These entrepreneurs need to know the basics: i) impact of restoration requires to adopt landscape approaches; ii) restoration is not sustainable unless you rely on multispecies forests; iii) reforestation is even more viable if you look for economic adjunctions such as agrotourism and diversification of outputs. Education is thus pivotal to ensure the transformational change that this "Generation Restoration" could lead. Therefore we recommend UNEP keeps working closelier with companies and civil society organizations to develop such a comprehensive understanding of the key drivers of deforestation and land degradation, on top of their work with governments and sub-national authorities.
04 Investing in forests

The shift towards a circular bioeconomy will not happen at scale if we don’t turn from a project approach to a market approach. Indeed, the Platform of the New York Declaration on Forests estimates the financial needs for forests between $405 to 585 billion by 2030. Despite the fact that we entered the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) era, we are far from the objective: $2.4 billions\(^5\) only were invested in forests’ protection, restoration and sustainable management this year. The 2022 Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use should help gaining momentum to this end and we hope to hear progress at COP 27 in Egypt, 2022.

As for sustainable management of forests, we need to enhance economic rewards for the use of best practices in various forms: fiscal incentives, better access to markets and market premiums.

As for forest protection and restoration, we need to create investment opportunities. The main problem is the under-pricing of our natural capital and its environmental and economic benefits, while investing $1 in forest restoration can generate up to $30 value\(^6\).

The adoption of a rulebook for the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement’s Article 6 at the UNFCCC COP 26 is full of promises to raise the financial means required for forest protection, restoration and sustainable management. But we stress 3 concerns discussed at the Global Forest Summit.

- First we recall carbon offsetting is a partial but necessary solution complementary to the reduction of CO2 emissions which paramounts all actions of mitigation and adaptation, as well as restoration. To address the risk of regulatory fragmentation in developing national carbon markets despite the Glasgow Rulebook, we call for G20 coordination to ensure best carbon market interoperability and thus efficiency. This is critical - not only for forests - as the implementation of more than two thirds of Nationally-Determined Contributions depend on the carbon market prices.

- To ensure best use of the carbon finance for nature, we encourage market participants, as much as they can, to purchase carbon credits from companies with a fully-fledged corporate policy for a reliable path towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

- Last but not least, we recommend that upcoming financial investments are conditioned to the use of best practices for sustainable management of forests and of adaptation protocols, reflecting the already happening impacts on ecosystems of the climate crisis.

\(^5\) 2021 Progress Report on the New York Declaration on Forests - Goal 7
\(^6\) WRI, Roots of Prosperity, The Economics and Finance of Restoring Land, 80 p, 2017
The organizers

Reforest’Action, Leading B-corp for forest protection and restoration

Reforest’Action, a B-Corp certified company, is dedicated to preserving, restoring, and creating forests worldwide in response to the climate emergency and biodiversity loss. Since its establishment in 2010, Reforest’Action has supported over 20 million trees in 42 countries thanks to the participation of 3,000 companies and 300,000 individuals. In 2021, Reforest’Action was recognized as a partner of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. For more information, visit www.reforesetaction.com.

Forest ecosystems are a fantastic nature-based solution that can help tackle the twin crisis of climate and biodiversity we are facing today: let’s put them at the top of our international agendas.

Stéphane Halleux
Founder & CEO of Reforest’Action
Co-founder & Co-chair of the Global Forest Summit

The Open Diplomacy Institute, Think-tank working on global governance of sustainability

The Open Diplomacy Institute is a Paris-based think-tank focusing on global sustainability governance with a non-partisan multi-stakeholder approach. Formed in 2010, it initiated the G20 Engagement Group during France’s G20 presidency in 2019. It operates various programs aimed at protecting future generations, including the Parliamentarians for Peace network and the Sustainable Development Meetings, the most influential French conference on sustainability. For more information, visit www.open-diplomacy.eu.

As we are on the road to Stockholm + 50 this year, we need to remember that, in 1972 already, the international community agreed upon the utmost importance of forests. Let’s keep it up with bold policies and fulfilled promises.

Thomas Friang
Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute
Co-founder & Co-chair of the Global Forest Summit
Advisory Board

H.E. Pierre-Henri Guignard
Ambassador, Special Envoy of France for Tropical Forests and former Secretary-General of the COP 21 Climate

Herbert Lust
Senior Vice President and Managing-Director for Europe of Conservation International

Dr. Musonda Mumba
Director the UNDP’s Rome Center for Sustainable Development, former Chair of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration

Dr. Robert Nasi
Director-General of CIFOR and Managing-Director of CIFOR-ICRAF

Dr. Marc Palahi
Director of the European Forest Institute and Chair of the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance

Dr. Madhu Rao
Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and Senior Advisor of the Wildlife Conservation Society

Rod Taylor
Global Forests Director of the World Resources Institute

Dr. Izabella Teixeira
Co-chair of the International Resources Panel (UNEP), Former Minister of the Environment of Brazil

H.E. Prof. Judi Wakhungu
Ambassador of Kenya to France, Portugal, Serbia and the Holy See, Former Minister of the Environment of Kenya

Sir Robert Watson
Professor Emeritus of the East Anglia University, former Chair of the IPCC and former Chair of the IPBES

Fran Price
Global Forest Practice Lead of WWF
The Opening Panel

Welcome Remarks:
- Stéphane Hallaire
  Founder & President of Reforest’Action

Official Address:
- Dr. Susan Gardner
  Director of UNEP’s Ecosystems Division

Keynote Speech:
- Dr. Jane Goodall
  DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute
  and UN Messenger of Peace

Moderator:
- Thomas Friang
  Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute

SESSION #1
« From New York to Glasgow, keeping forests on top of the agenda until 2030 »

Keynote Speaker:
- Dr. Agnes Kalibata
  President of AGRA, Former UN Secretary-General’s
  Special Envoy for the 2021 Food Systems Summit
  and Former Rwanda’s Minister for Agriculture

Panel discussion:
- Ambassador Nick Bridge
  UK Foreign Secretary’s Special Representative for
  Climate Change
- Dr. Musonda Mumba
  Director of the UNDP’s Rome Center for Sustainable
  Development and former chair of the GPFLR
- Virginijus Sinkevicius
  European Commissioner for the Environment
- Dr. Jonathan Woetzel
  Senior Partner
  Director of the McKinsey Global Institute
- Chris Zink
  Managing Director for Natural Climate Solutions
  Fund at Conservation International

Insight by a Project Leader:
- Zulkifli Nasution
  Funder of Yakopi (Indonesia)

Concluding remarks:
- Dr. Kathy MacKinnon
  Emeritus Chair of the World Commission on
  Protected Areas (IUCN)

Moderator:
- Thomas Friang
  Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute
SPECIAL TALK #1
« The Humanity & Nature Nexus »

Roll out:
- Nicolas Blain
  Director for Institutional Relations of Reforest’Action
- Pr. Laurence Monnoyer-Smith
  Chief Sustainability Officer of CNES
- Dr. Robert Nasi
  Director-general of CIFOR and Managing-Director of CIFOR-ICRA

Moderator:
- Thomas Friang
  Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute

SESSION #2
« On the road to Stockholm + 50, shifting towards circular economies with forests »

Keynote Speaker:
- Pr. Naoko Ishii
  Professor and Executive Vice-president of Tokyo University, Inaugural Director of the Center for Global Commons, Former Chair and CEO of the GEF, Former Japan’s Deputy Vice-minister for Finance

Panel discussion:
- Ester Asin
  Director of WWF’s European Policy Office
- Pr. Edward Barbier
  University Distinguished Professor at Colorado State University, Author of Economics for a fragile planet
- Michel Driessen
  CEO of Verstegen
- Elizabeth Gulugulu
  Global Focal Point of the UNFCCC Youth Major Group (YOUNGO)
- Lynette Thorstensen
  Chair of the Board of Fair Trade International

Insight by a Project Leader:
- Saurav Malhotra
  Co-Founder and Designer of the Rural Futures innovation at the Balipara Foundation (India)

Concluding remarks:
- Sir Robert Watson
  Professor Emeritus at East Anglia University, former Chair of the IPCC and IPBES

Moderator:
- Thomas Friang
  Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute
SPECIAL TALK #2
« The Climate & Forests Nexus »

Introduction:
- Rod Taylor
  Global Forests Director of the World Resources Institute

Discussion between:
- John Kerry
  U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate
- Stéphane Hallaire
  Founder & President of Reforest’Action

Moderator:
- Thomas Friang
  Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute

SESSION #3
« Rio + 30: sustaining best practices, stopping tree planting and getting to forest growing »

Keynote Speaker:
- Adriana Vidal
  Chair of the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration and Senior Advisor at IUCN

Panel discussion:
- Dr. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo
  Director of Secretariat of the UN Forum on Forests and Former Benin’s Minister for the Environment
- Stéphane Hallaire
  Founder & CEO of Reforest’Action
- Kim Carstensen
  Director-General of the Forest Stewardship Council
- Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim
  Founder of AFPAT and SDG Advocate
- Pascal Soriot
  CEO of AstraZeneca

Insight by a Project Leader:
- Anthony Mills
  Chair, C4 Ecosolutions (South Africa)

Concluding remarks:
- Dr. Izabella Teixeira
  Co-chair of the UNEP’s International Resources Panel and former Brazil’s Minister for the Environment

Moderator:
- Thomas Friang
  Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute
Official closing

Keynote Speech:
- José Gregorio Diaz Mirabal
  Coordinator of the Coordination of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

Concluding Discussion:
- Stéphane Hallaire
  Founder & President of Reforest’Action
- Dr. Marc Palahi
  Director of the European Forest Institute and Chair of the Circular Bioeconomy Alliance
- Dr. Tiina Vahanen
  Deputy Director of the Forestry Department of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization

Closing Address:
- H.R.H. Charles
  Prince of Wales

Moderator:
- Thomas Friang
  Founder & CEO of the Open Diplomacy Institute

Thanks to:
Megane Aellen, Clara Beauvoir, Sacha Courtial, Caroline Étienne, Laura-Li Jeannot and Florian Martinez

Director of publication:
Stéphane Hallaire

Editor:
Reforest’Action and Open Diplomacy

Photos:
Aurore Delsoir Photography - Reforest’Action - Istockphotos - Shutterstock

Publication date:
April 2022

Paper from sustainably managed forests