

COP27 Summit – Forests and Climate Leaders’ Event Summary

Summary

- The Forests and Climate Leaders’ Partnership was launched on behalf of a group of ambitious countries to drive delivery of the 2030 target to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.
- 16 governments made statements on how they will work towards the 2030 goal. These included Colombia’s announcement of USD \$200 million annually for the next two decades to save the Amazon, Kenya’s plans to restore 10.5 million hectares of degraded forests and rangelands, Ecuador’s plans to increase forested land by 1.4 million hectares by the end of 2023 and Germany’s increase of international climate finance for forests by €1 billion EUR.
- Leaders demonstrated transparency to prior public finance commitments. The Global Forest Finance Pledge released a report outlining that USD \$2.67 billion was contributed to forest-related programmes in developing countries in 2021, 22% of the 5-year commitment made at COP26.
- Private sector leaders including SouthBridge Investments, &Green and Volkswagen made commitments to ensure their operations align with the 2030 goal to halt and reverse forest loss.

At COP26, over 140 world leaders committed to “halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation” in the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD). This was backed by a financial package of \$19.2 billion from public donors, philanthropy and private investors.

Demonstrating delivery on these commitments is crucial to meet the 2030 GLD ambition. At COP27, leaders from governments, companies, the finance sector, and Indigenous Peoples came together at the Forests and Climate Leaders’ Summit to focus on delivery, to share best practice and scale action aligned with the GLD. Headline announcements included:

Political Leadership

The [Forests and Climate Leaders’ Partnership](#) (FCLP) was launched at the Summit on behalf of 26 Governments and the European Commission who together represent a third of the world’s forests and nearly 60% of the world’s GDP. These leaders are committed to maintaining political focus on the objectives of the GLD, to inspiring and fostering ambition and positive action through providing annual high-level political platforms, to being accountable for delivery of pledges made, and to supporting each other and scaling action through collective initiatives. The FCLP will provide a space for governments to innovate, and problem solve together to drive progress towards the 2030 target, and to take stock of current progress. Special Presidential Envoy for

Climate, John Kerry announced that the FCLP will initially be co-chaired by the United States of America and Ghana.

The Summit afforded the opportunity for government, business, civil society and Indigenous community leaders to set out how they are turning the GLD into practical action. This included 14 heads of state or government who spoke and a further 3 heads of delegation who represented their respective governments. For example, President Akufo-Addo of Ghana shared that Ghana's Cocoa Forest Programme recorded its first emissions reductions which account for 972,456 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent and generated a result-based carbon payment of USD \$4.8 million, and Ecuador announced that it will increase forested land by 1.4 million hectares by the end of 2023.

Public Finance

Delivery and Scaling

At COP26, 12 governments collectively committed USD \$12 billion for international forests over 5 years through the [Global Forest Finance Pledge](#). At the Summit, those governments collectively [reported on progress \(pdf, 287 KB\)](#). In calendar year 2021, USD \$2.67 billion was contributed to forest-related programmes in developing countries. This equates to 22% of the original pledge and means that donors are on track to deliver by 2025. For example, the UK Prime Minister announced £65 million for the Climate Investment Fund's "Nature, People and Climate" Programme (NPC). This funding will help to protect forests while supporting the livelihoods of the people who depend on them.

In addition, governments demonstrated that public finance will be scaled to meet the 2030 target. Colombia's President Gustavo Petro announced USD \$200 million annually for the next two decades to save the Amazon, the world's largest rainforest. Chancellor Scholz also announced that Germany will double its international climate finance for forests from €1 billion EUR to €2 billion EUR through to 2025.

The Congo Basin

The Congo Basin is the second largest rainforest in the world and is crucial for the supply of rainfall to the African continent. Heads of State from the Congo Basin addressed the Summit and emphasised their national ambition, their record of delivery and the need for greater support for the region, including:

- President Ali Bongo reiterated Gabon's intent to trade REDD+ credits as a means of increasing the value derived from their forests which cover 88% of the country.
- President Sassou highlighted that the Republic of Congo has created 45,000 hectares of forest since 1970 and is aiming to create 1 million hectares of forest cover through its national programme of reforestation but needs international support to meet these commitments.
- Prime Minister Lukonde highlighted the importance of the Democratic

Republic of Congo's' forests and peatlands to global carbon sequestration efforts.

At COP26, governments and philanthropy collectively pledged USD [\\$1.5 billion to the Congo Basin](#) over 5 years. At the Summit, they [reported \(pdf, 889 KB\)](#) that they had provided [USD \\$508 million](#) support for forests and people in the Congo Basin. The UK Prime Minister also announced delivery of support for forests through development of a new £90 million programme in the Congo Basin.

In addition, Chancellor Scholz of Germany announced that the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) is seeking to mobilise private finance at scale through funding the design of a series of Forest Performance Bonds in Central Africa with the potential to secure co-investment from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) amongst others. The bond would invest in forest positive businesses across the region.

Finally, the [Green fund](#) announced that they are committing up to USD \$10.6 million in addition to USD \$32 million of CAFI funding to invest in sustainable agriculture in the Congo Basin.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

At COP26, governments and philanthropies committed USD \$1.7 billion through the [Indigenous People and Local Communities Forest Tenure Pledge](#). At the Summit, the Prime Minister of Norway reported that USD [\\$321 million of finance](#) had been disbursed by donors in 2021 before leading a minute's silence to pay respect to environmental defenders that had sacrificed their lives in order to protect us all. Representatives from the Global Alliance for Territorial Communities – Marleine Nguie and Levi Sucre – called for the importance of indigenous peoples to be reflected by increased action on the ground.

Restoration in Africa

At the One Planet Summit in April 2021, financial institutions committed USD \$19.6 billion to restore degraded land and forests in Africa, primarily through the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative. Alongside AFR100, the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, GGW initiative is driving investment to restore over 100 million hectares of degraded in land in Africa by 2030. The conservation, management and restoration of land at this scale has the potential to sequester 3 GtCO₂ equivalent.

At the Summit, President Macron of France chaired a session on restoration in Africa, he announced that USD \$2.57 billion of this commitment was spent in 2021, whilst [President von der Leyen](#) reported that the European Commission is on track to overdeliver on its promise to spend EUR 700 million to fund the Great Green Wall.

President Suluhu of Tanzania outlined plans to plant 2 million trees every three years and called for assistance to ensure that Tanzania can benefit

from carbon credits, whilst President Macky Sall of Senegal called on countries to help increase in-country capacity to grow trees and implement agroforestry practices.

President Ruto announced Kenya's tree growing programme will restore 10.5 million hectares of degraded forest and rangelands. The programme will grow 5 billion trees in the next 5 years and an additional 10 billion trees in the 5 years thereafter, generating 200,000 jobs in the process.

The President of the African Development Bank (AFDB) Dr Akinwumi Adesina, the appointed champion of the Great Green Wall, outlined plans for a USD \$20 billion investment in solar technology that will provide Great Green Wall communities with access to electricity and reduce their access on wood for fuel. He called on leaders to offer their support to the Climate Action Window, the concessional arm of the AFDB with an aim of raising USD \$13 billion to restore land, deliver climate resilient technologies and secure access to water.

Dr Frannie Léautier, CEO of Southbridge Investments, announced the development of a major new partnership, The African Forest Funds, with AFR100 and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). This fund will blend USD \$500 million of concessional finance with USD \$1.5 billion in private investment to support local restoration efforts across the continent.

As part of its USD \$2 billion commitment to landscape restoration and improving food systems made at COP26, the Bezos Earth Fund announced USD \$50 million for locally led restoration aligned with AFR100. This new commitment will help restore parts of the Congo Basin and Great Rift Valley.

Accelerating Private Finance for Forests

Progress on COP26 commitments

The Summit held a session on accelerating private finance for forests. Leaders announced progress on delivering against private finance commitments made at COP26:

- The [Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest Finance](#) (LEAF) Coalition announced that it has increased the total amount of finance for the purchase of high-integrity emissions reductions credits to over USD \$1.5 billion, of which USD \$500 million is new and additional. This represents a 100% increase in financial commitments from the private sector since COP26 with Volkswagen Group and H&M Group the latest to make commitments.
- Na Kyung-Won, Special Envoy for Climate for the Republic of Korea announced that Korea will join the LEAF Coalition and outlined its critical role in mobilising forest finance globally. In addition, Minister Manrique announced that Ecuador had become the first forest nation to sign a LEAF memorandum of agreement, which sets out next steps and a clear roadmap for the signing of a binding Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreements by April 2023.
- The Innovative Finance for the Amazon, Cerrado and Chaco (IFACC)

commitments have risen from USD \$3 billion to USD \$4.2 billion, an increase of \$1.2 billion, and the initiative now comprises 13 financial institutions and agribusiness companies.

- The [Forest Investor Club](#), announced at COP26 by the United States Department of State's Office of Global Change has selected the World Business Council for Sustainable Development to play a leading role in the coordination and engagement of members. It will annually disclose progress being made to catalyse investments in forests and nature.
- The Natural Capital Investment Alliance has continued to target a mobilisation of USD \$10 billion towards natural capital themes, with over USD \$1.1 billion committed and a further USD \$6.2 billion raising funds to deploy.

New Commitments of Non-Government Financial Support

At COP26, USD \$7.2 billion of private sector funding was pledged for forest protection and restoration. At the Summit, private sector leaders reported that^[1]:

- FMO, the Dutch entrepreneurial development bank is committing to build a forestry portfolio to at least [EUR €500 million](#) with the ambition to increase it to EUR €1 billion by 2030.
- The establishment of a new collaboration of philanthropic donors, Forests, People, Climate (FPC), was announced. Its aim is to mobilise and deploy significantly increased philanthropic funding in support of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration goal. At the Summit, USD \$400 million over five years in new philanthropic funding was committed to the FPC with a goal of raising another USD \$1.2 billion over the next five years. These new commitments go beyond the USD \$380 million over five years that the thirteen donors currently involved in the collaboration already planned to spend toward the FPC goal.

Systemic Shifts

To support delivery of the long-term systemic shifts required to ensure that all public and private financial flows are aligned to support delivery of the 2030 goal, central banks and ministers of finance highlighted work being undertaken to further understand the significance of nature-loss as part of their wider work to manage the systemic risk of climate change. Central Bank Governors from Chile, Malaysia and Zambia spoke to how they are taking vital steps to better understand nature-related climate risks, ensuring that the protection and restoration of critical ecosystems are properly accounted for in ensuring financial stability and contributing to economic prosperity. Meanwhile Prime Minister Marin of Finland reflected on the work of the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate in this space, and how it is designed to both manage the economic and financial risks of nature loss and to unlock opportunities for investment.

Mark Carney recalled a [Statement on Deforestation Financing from the Co-Chairs and Vice Chair of Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero \(GFANZ\)](#) which urged members of the alliance with USD \$135 trillion in assets under

management, to embed tackling deforestation into their transition planning by developing policies to identify and curtail financing of such activities, and to scale forest positive investment.

Leading financial institutions from Japan to Norway to Brazil are demonstrating that it is possible to do this. Signatories of the [Commitment on Eliminating Commodity-driven Deforestation](#) have been moving forward with implementation as the Finance Sector Deforestation Action (FSDA) initiative. FSDA members have published shared [investor expectations \(pdf, 49.5 KB\)](#) for companies, are stepping up engagement activity and working with policymakers and data providers. New members joining FSDA in 2022 include SouthBridge Group whose CEO, Frannie Léautier, announced that they were the first African financial institution to join the initiative alongside Banco Estado de Chile, London CIV and GAM Investments.

Governments participating in the [Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade \(FACT\) Dialogue](#), represent over 75% of global trade in key commodities that can threaten forests. The [FACT Dialogue Progress Report](#) is a renewal of the commitment of these largest producer and consumer countries to working together to achieve shared goals and promote sustainable development and trader, while protecting forests and other critical ecosystems.

14 of the largest agricultural commodity trading companies managing major global shares on key forest-risk commodities, shared their [joint roadmap](#) for increased supply chain action across the palm oil, soy and cattle sectors.

List of members of the Forest and Climate Leader's Partnership

1. Commonwealth of Australia
2. Canada
3. Republic of Colombia
4. Republic of Congo
5. Republic of Costa Rica
6. Republic of Ecuador
7. European Union
8. Republic of Finland
9. Republic of Fiji
10. French Republic
11. Gabon
12. Federal Republic of Germany
13. Republic of Ghana
14. Republic of Guyana
15. Republic of Indonesia (is especially considering joining the FCLP[\[2\]](#))
16. Japan
17. Republic of Kenya
18. Republic of Korea
19. Kingdom of the Netherlands
20. Federal Republic of Nigeria
21. Kingdom of Norway
22. Islamic Republic of Pakistan

23. Republic of Singapore
 24. Kingdom of Sweden
 25. United Republic of Tanzania
 26. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
 27. United States of America
 28. Vietnam
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[1] NB other new commitments made at the event layered throughout this summary including &Green, SouthBridge Investments, New Joiners to LEAF.

[2] Indonesia is especially considering joining the FCLP and to serve on the Steering Committee. This builds upon the strong platform established by separate MoUs and bilateral climate partnerships between Indonesia and the USA, Norway and UK to support Indonesia's FOLU Net Sink 2030 Operational Plan.

[Solicitor General meets government lawyers in Bristol](#)

News story

The Solicitor thanked them for their vital contributions.



Solicitor General Michael Tomlinson visited the GLD hub in Bristol on Monday to meet lawyers working on some of government's most important legal work. The Solicitor was joined by Mel Nebhrajani CB, Director General of GLD's Employment with Economic Recovery and UK Governance directorate who is a champion for the office at GLD.

Government lawyers work on some of the most high-profile and demanding legal issues of the day. Their work touches on all aspects of everyday life from transport to education. GLD is committed to providing opportunities across

the UK as more jobs are now being moved outside of Westminster.

The Solicitor thanked Bristol colleagues for their hard work supporting the government's legislative agenda and for helping the government to govern well, within the rule of law. As a former barrister on the Western Circuit, he stressed that the vital work taking place in Bristol demonstrates that you don't need to be based in London to have a fulfilling and demanding career in the Civil Service.

Reflecting on the visit, Solicitor General Michael Tomlinson said:

I was thrilled to meet so many of the dedicated government lawyers in Bristol today and to be able to thank them for their work which ensures the government can deliver for UK citizens.

As a barrister who practiced on the western circuit for years before becoming an MP, I know first-hand the incredible work and dedication of lawyers who work outside of London.

The growth of GLD's presence in Bristol is testament to the fact you no longer need to be based in London to have a demanding and fulfilling career in the Civil Service.

Quote from Mel Nebhrajani CB, Director General, Employment with Economic Recovery and UK Governance Directorate:

I was delighted to welcome the Solicitor General on his visit to the Government Legal Department in Bristol. The Solicitor's enthusiasm for colleagues, our work and our growth in Bristol is deeply appreciated and it was so inspiring to connect with our dedicated and talented Bristol-based colleagues.

They work seamlessly with GLD colleagues and clients all across the country on fascinating and diverse work. With the growth of Bristol and Leeds, in addition to London, there has never been a more exciting time to be working in the Government Legal Department.

Quote from Robert Wardell, Deputy Director based in Bristol

It's a really exciting time to be at GLD in Bristol. We have so many new and established colleagues here in three busy and growing offices, doing a very diverse range of vital GLD work. It's also great to have visitors and really pleasing for the teams based here to meet the Solicitor General in person.

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Wales Freeport bidding process closes

Press release

Applications close from bidders interested in setting up a new Freeport in Wales.



Applications have closed from bidders interested in setting up a new Freeport in Wales.

Backed by £26 million in UK Government funding, the Freeport Programme in Wales aims to create jobs, boost the local economy and regenerate surrounding areas.

Three bids have been received from ports around the country. They will be jointly assessed by officials from the UK and Welsh governments and it is expected that the successful site will be announced in early 2023 before becoming operational later in the year.

Secretary of State for Wales David TC Davies said:

It is fantastic to take the next step in delivering a Freeport for Wales. It will bring jobs and prosperity to its surrounding region and provide a huge boost to the Welsh economy.

The UK Government has long been committed to bringing a Freeport to Wales and is delivering on that pledge. The Freeports programme is already returning benefits for businesses and communities elsewhere in the UK and I look forward to seeing similar results for Wales.

Wales has already received more than £165m in levelling up funding from UK Government with more to follow in the coming months. This has gone towards

projects such as transforming Haverfordwest Castle into an attraction ready for all seasons, a facelift for the Queen's Ballroom in Tredegar and giving Llandrindod Wells a new lease of life in the form of affordable, energy efficient homes.

Freeports are special areas within the UK's borders where different economic and customs regulations apply. Freeports are sites centred around one or a combination of air, rail, or seaport, within an encompassing outer boundary. [See more information on Freeports.](#)

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Published 25 November 2022

[12th Conference of the Pacific Community – Minister of State \(Indo-Pacific\) remarks](#)

Chair, Director General, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am delighted to be able to join you a year into the UK's resumed membership of The Pacific Community.

Three months ago my predecessor formally opened the British High Commission in Port Vila.

It is one of 3 new High Commissions we have opened in Pacific Island countries over the last 3 years.

It is concrete evidence of our commitment to enhancing our engagement with the region, and a demonstration of the importance we attach to the whole of the Indo-Pacific.

Our Foreign Secretary recently used his first major overseas speech to reaffirm our 'Tilt' towards the Indo Pacific.

We are expanding our trade and investment relationships, our growing defence partnerships, and our work together to transition to net zero, and continuing our commitment to uphold the international rules-based order.

International solidarity and development are a central pillar of the post-World War II world order.

Which is why the UK supported the WHO COVID-19 Pacific response.

It is why we stand ready to support the Pacific Island Forum's '2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent'.

And why we are working with you as part of the new 'Partners in the Blue Pacific' alliance, to ensure greater coordination behind your priorities.

There is no greater priority for many Pacific Islands than climate change.

You were key allies in delivering the Glasgow Climate Pact at COP26.

And we want to continue working with you to ensure that the world's big economies deliver on their climate pledges.

The UK is taking a lead with our emission reductions and our International Climate Finance commitment.

We are driving global action to tackle barriers that vulnerable small island developing states face in accessing essential finance. The international community must work better together to support your resilience building. For example, we are launching the new jointly developed Principles for Improved Aid Impact in SIDS next month at the Effective Development Cooperation Summit in Geneva.

It is important that the UK and the Pacific also continue to support shared values of human rights, democracy, rule of law and territorial integrity.

Vladimir Putin's attack on Ukraine has pushed up energy and food costs around the globe, and is a direct challenge to the international rules based order that protects us all.

We welcome the condemnation of Putin by countries across the Pacific.

It is right that we all do all that we can to stand against Putin's illegal war and stand with the people of Ukraine.

The Pacific Community does important work for human rights, development, maritime governance, and the environment.

The UK will continue to support that work where we can, and help deliver the Vision for a Blue Pacific Continent.

Together we can help the people and nations of the Pacific respond to the challenges they face.

And secure a resilient, sustainable and prosperous future for all. Thank you.

Statement to the twenty-seventh session of the conference of the States Parties

Director-General, Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to thank Director-General Arias and the Technical Secretariat for all their work in preparing for this Conference. Many thanks as well to our Chairperson, Ambassador Madonsela.

I am very sorry not to be with you in person, but I am required to be in London for important business in Parliament.

In April, we marked the 25th anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention coming into force. During its first quarter century, the OPCW has made enormous strides in ridding the world of chemical weapons.

There is more to come. The UK is a proud contributor to the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology and we are looking forward to its inauguration next year.

With the completion of destruction of declared stockpiles in sight, next year's Review Conference is particularly timely. And there is much still to discuss in order to prepare the ground for the Review Conference.

Mr Chair,

The United Kingdom is not complacent about the challenges ahead. This Organisation remains as relevant as ever and there is much still to do.

The OPCW has an important role to play in helping States Parties build capacity to implement the Convention. The UK is proud to provide a further voluntary contribution of seven hundred thousand pounds this year in support of this aim.

And we call on all States Parties to support the proposed modest budget revision. Whilst recognising the global economic headwinds, we encourage all States Parties to pay their assessed contributions on time and in full. Late payments have a direct and material impact on whether the Technical Secretariat can deliver its planned activities.

Mr Chair,

Despite progress on destruction, serious verification challenges remain.

Unfortunately, a small number of States Parties have broken the rules of the Convention in a blatant and outrageous manner.

Russia's use of Novichok in the United Kingdom in 2018 was horrific. A public

inquiry is on-going into the circumstances of Dawn Sturgess' tragic death. Three Russian nationals have been charged with chemical weapons offences.

The Russian state has also used chemical weapons within their own borders. Alexey Navalny's poisoning with a nerve agent in 2020 was appalling, as was Russia's subsequent attempted cover-up. I call on Russia to provide substantive answers to the questions posed by 45 States Parties under Article IX of the Convention. Russia must account for and give up its chemical weapons programme.

Mr Chair,

The United Kingdom condemns Russia's unjustifiable and illegal invasion of Ukraine.

We have all heard Russian-linked separatist figures making disturbing remarks in Ukraine about supporting chemical weapons use to support war aims. We have all seen Russia's irresponsible attacks near Ukraine's civil chemical facilities. And we have all experienced Russia's malicious disinformation campaigns about chemical weapons. We have seen this pattern of deceitful behaviour in Syria and now we are seeing it in Ukraine. In this context, Russia's war is not something we can ignore here in the OPCW.

Mr Chair,

Syria is another State Party showing disregard for the rules.

The Syrian authorities have undeniably used chemical weapons against their own people on multiple occasions.

The Syrian authorities have not resolved all the glaring omissions in its initial declaration. Thousands of munitions are missing. Hundreds of tonnes of agent are missing.

In 2021, OPCW States signalled their concern and the Syrian regime's response was to limit its cooperation with the OPCW even further. It is a lamentable situation.

Syria must comply with UN Security Council Resolution 2118. Syria must live up to its obligations. Syria must immediately give up its chemical weapons programme in full.

Mr Chair,

In 1997 the convention came into force with the vow to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

25 years on and much has been achieved.

But we know we still have a long way to go.

And that is why we must continue to offer the OPCW our full support and make sure it has the resources it needs to deliver on the goal of a world free of

chemical weapons.

Thank you Mr Chair.