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Forests for Climate

Greenpeace's solution to protect tropical forests, and fight the climate crisis

Protecting the world's remaining tropical forests is a key part of the solution to tackling the climate crisis. Tropical forests, the "lungs of the earth" are giant carbon stores. When they are destroyed through logging or burning, this carbon is released into the atmosphere.

Tropical deforestation is responsible for about 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, more than the entire international transport sector. Forest destruction in Indonesia and Brazil make these countries the third and fourth highest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions in the world.

Greenpeace has the solution. **Forests for Climate** is a landmark proposal for an international funding mechanism to protect tropical forests. It is estimated that halving emissions from deforestation will cost US\$10-15 billion per year. **Forests for Climate** has the potential to raise these funds, and more.

If countries commit to **Forests for Climate**, we can achieve win-win-win benefits for climate, biodiversity, and local communities and forest peoples.

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Forests for Climate offers the solution. Now we need the political will to make it a reality.

How Forests for Climate works

Forests for Climate is designed to become a crucial part of the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol agreements on climate change in 2012. Because the climate emergency requires urgent action, countries that commit to Forests for Climate could make funding available to protect forests as early as 2009.

Industrialised nations would be able to meet a proportion of their overall emissions reduction targets through the purchase of cost-effective "tropical deforestation units." This "tropical deforestation commitment" would be **additional** to deeper cuts in their domestic energy and industrial emissions.

A minimum mandatory commitment would ensure a steady and significant stream of funds. The billions raised would then be used to help developing countries protect their tropical forests.

Forests for Climate recognises that carbon markets are important tools in climate protection. The cheaper tropical deforestation units would therefore not be directly exchangeable in the markets. This avoids the risk of them bringing down the price of carbon, and reducing incentives to invest in clean and renewable energy technologies.

Win for Forests and Climate

Tackling tropical deforestation would save an incredible one-fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions, and give our planet a fighting chance against dangerous climate change.

Forests for Climate would be able to provide funds to the greatest number of countries with tropical forests. Tailored funding programmes, with varying reporting standards, would allow **Forests for Climate** to apply to nations as diverse as Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Indonesia.

Countries that are able to more reliably and accurately report on their emission reductions would receive a higher rate of return on funding. This provides a strong incentive for developing countries to continually improve their forest protection programmes.

By ensuring that tropical forest countries take on national commitments, **Forests for Climate** protects against "leakage" - forest destruction moving from one area of a country to another. Because so many countries can participate in **Forests for Climate**, it protects against leakage across international borders.



Win for Biodiversity

Tropical forests are essential to life itself; they keep climate in check, regulate water flow, and maintain the healthy ecosystems on which humanity depends. Orangutans, elephants, tigers, and jaguars all make their homes in tropical forests which contain half of all life on earth.

Protection of biodiversity lies at the core of **Forests for Climate**. The proposal prioritises protection of intact and other important natural forests, such as peatland forests. These store significant amounts of carbon, and are much more likely to cope with the impacts of climate change.



Win for Indigenous Peoples

Up to 150 million indigenous people live in ancient forests worldwide. All too often they have been sidelined or subject to human rights abuses by those intruding in their forests.

Indigenous peoples need to have their futures secured so they can remain guardians of the forest. **Forests for Climate** would fully recognise and respect their rights, and directly engage local peoples in the development and implementation of this process.



The World is Waiting:

Developing countries around the world are asking for funding to help stop the destruction of tropical forests. What's been missing is an internationally agreed plan to help these countries protect their forests.

Forests for Climate is that plan.

For more information on **Forests for Climate** please contact:

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