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GLF
Biodiversity
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Conference

For forests' sake: transforming extractive industries and infrastructure to achieve NYDF Goal 3

One
World
One
Health

28.29
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White paper

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Photo by Nanang Sujana/CIFOR

Background

The problem

Currently, large-scale infrastructure projects are planned or under development across many critical forest regions. This infrastructure is opening new areas for mining, oil and gas drilling and export, and population migration – all likely to result in new forest disturbances. At the same time, global demand for metals, minerals, and energy is increasing, putting forests and forest communities under pressure from extractive industry development. All these activities also contribute to forest fragmentation, which reduces the quality of forest habitats for wildlife, decreases the forest's capacity to store carbon, and increases the likelihood of zoonotic disease emergence, among other negative impacts. The global community faces an urgent challenge in aligning economic systems with the 1.5°C climate target of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) is a non-binding international agreement that aims to halt natural forest loss by 2030, contributing to global climate and biodiversity goals as well as the SDGs. The NYDF is composed of ten ambitious and complementary goals (Box 1). Goal 3 – to significantly reduce deforestation derived from economic sectors like mining, other extractive industries, and infrastructure by 2020 – is one of the focal points of the 2020 NYDF Progress Assessment report, to be published in November 2020. In order to assess progress toward Goal 3, the report outlines four strategies (Figure 1) that would contribute to its achievement, if pursued by governments, companies, grassroots movements, the financial sector and international donors.

Authoring Organizations:

NEW YORK DECLARATION ON FORESTS
PROGRESS ASSESSMENT

New York Declaration on Forests
GLOBAL PLATFORM

The strategies to further progress towards NYDF Goal 3 outlined in the assessment report target the underlying fragilities of our global economic system, which COVID-19 has exposed and exacerbated. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in global poverty for the first time in more than two decades, even as governments around the world roll back environmental regulations under the guise of boosting economic recovery, threatening global, national, and sub-national forest goals. Vulnerable populations like Indigenous communities continue to be disproportionately harmed by these choices. Addressing this threat will require massive shifts toward transparency and accountability in infrastructure planning and natural resource extraction; recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities through government and civil society interventions; and transforming our economic and financial systems away from over-consumption and toward valuing intact forests.

Description of GLF Session

The GLF Biodiversity session, "For forests' sake: Transforming extractive industries and infrastructure to achieve NYDF Goal 3," is hosted by the NYDF Assessment Partners, which tracks global progress towards the goals, and the NYDF Global Platform, which supports their achievement, This session heightens awareness of the compounding threats to forests from large-scale infrastructure development and natural resource extraction, and the relative lack of transparency and accountability in these sectors.

Box 1. The ten goals of the NYDF

Goal 1
At least halve the rate of loss of natural forests globally by 2020 and strive to end natural forest loss by 2030.

Goal 2
Support and help meet the private-sector goal of eliminating deforestation from the production of agricultural commodities such as palm oil, soy, paper, and beef products by no later than 2020, recognizing that many companies have even more ambitious targets.

Goal 3
Significantly reduce deforestation derived from other economic sectors by 2020.

Goal 4
Support alternatives to deforestation driven by basic needs (such as subsistence farming and reliance on woodfuel for energy) in ways that alleviate poverty and promote sustainable and equitable development.

Goal 5
Restore 150 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2020 and significantly increase the rate of global restoration thereafter, which would restore at least an additional 200 million hectares by 2030.

Goal 6
Include ambitious, quantitative forest conservation and restoration targets for 2030 in the post-2015 global development framework, as part of new international sustainable development goals.

Goal 7
Agree in 2015 to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation as part of a post-2020 global climate agreement, in accordance with internationally agreed rules and consistent with the goal of not exceeding 2 degrees Celsius warming.

Goal 8
Provide support for the development and implementation of strategies to reduce forest emissions.

Goal 9
Reward countries and jurisdictions that, by taking action, reduce forest emissions – particularly through public policies to scale-up payments for verified emission reductions and private-sector sourcing of commodities.

Goal 10
Strengthen forest governance, transparency, and the rule of law, while also empowering communities and recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples, especially those pertaining to their lands and resources.

Strategy 1

Embrace alternative development pathways that reduce over-exploitation, inefficient production, and excessive consumption of resources

Strategy 2

Align macro-economic and strategic planning with forest goals

Strategy 3

Apply the 'mitigation hierarchy' to effectively reduce forest impacts from infrastructure projects and extractive industrues

Strategy 4

Apply the PRIME Framework to promote sustainable alternatives to deforestation linked to poverty

Figure 1. A quartet of strategies for progress in achieving NYDF Goals 3 and 4

An expert panel reflects on the shortfalls in achieving Goal 3 thus far, the barriers to progress faced by different actors, and lessons learned from actions and policies to address the issue. The session also previews key findings from November's 2020 NYDF progress assessment

The discussion will highlight the need to safeguard rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; to build incentives for responsible investment and sourcing; and to reshape the NYDF and international commitments to accelerate change.

Expert panelists address the following key questions:

1. How can transparency and accountability in natural resource extraction and infrastructure development facilitate the conservation and sustainable use of forests landscapes and rights of their resident communities?

2. How can governments, companies, and investors be compelled to adhere to existing policies and safeguards, intended to protect forests and respect the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, when it comes to development planning?

3. Can consumer-side incentives help internalize the true cost of mining and infrastructure development and spur a transformation toward responsible practices and equitable distribution of benefits?

4. What are the key transformations needed in our financial and economic systems that are crucial to preserve forests and biodiversity, combat climate change and achieve the SDGs?

5. How can the NYDF and other declarations and commitments be reshaped to facilitate radical transformation, as we seek to halt a disastrous global collapse of ecosystems?

Photo by Mokhamad Edliadi/CIFOR

Related resources and background reading:

- New York Declaration on Forests text
- 2020 NYDF Progress Assessment Report on Goals 3 & 4 to be released November 2020 at forestdeclaration.org. Follow @NYDFAssessment and @NYDF_Platform on Twitter for updates
- New research from WRI and RAISG: Undermining Rights: Indigenous Lands and Mining in the Amazon
- New research by Chatham House: Mining's Impacts on Forests
- The Power of Forest-Smart Mining in Climate Mitigation, Resilience and Adaptation by Estelle Levin-Nally

Speakers:

- **Estelle Levin-Nally:** Founder and Director, Levin Sources, presenter and moderator
- **Erin D. Matson:** Senior Consultant, Climate Focus, presenter
- **Pippa Howard:** Director of Extractives and Development Infrastructure, Fauna & Flora International, panelist
- **Laura George:** Advocacy and Rights Coordinator, Amerindian Peoples Association, panelist
- **Diego Moreno:** Director of Environmental Control of the Ministry of Environment and Water, Government of Ecuador, panelist
- **Vinamra Mathur:** Regional Director for Asia-Pacific, Youth4Nature, panelist
- **Marcela Bocchetto:** Manager Biodiversity and Climate Change, Anglo American, panelist

Participating organizations

GLF Biodiversity Digital Conference 2020 would not be possible without the support and participation of the following hosts, partners and organizations. For a full list of everyone involved, please visit: **events.globallandscapesforum.org/biodiversity-2020/partners**

Global Landscapes Forum

The **Global Landscapes Forum** (GLF) is the world's largest knowledge-led platform on integrated land use, dedicated to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Climate Agreement. The Forum takes a holistic approach to create sustainable landscapes that are productive, prosperous, equitable and resilient and considers five cohesive themes of food and livelihood, landscape restoration, rights, finance and measuring progress. It is led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), in collaboration with its co-founders UN Environment Programme and the World Bank and Charter Members.

Charter Members: CIAT, CIFOR, CIRAD, Climate Focus, Conservation International, Crop Trust, EcoAgriculture Partners, EFI, Evergreen Agriculture, FSC, GEF, GIZ, ICIMOD, IFOAM - Organics International, ILRI, INBAR, IPMG, IUFRO, Rainforest Alliance, Rare, RRI, SAN, UN Environment Programme, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovation, part of Wageningen Research, WFO, World Agroforestry, World Bank Group, WRI, WWF International, Youth in Landscapes Initiative.

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