



About the Forest Carbon Initiative

Forest Carbon Initiative Fact Sheet

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Avoiding dangerous climate change will depend on keeping the average increase in global temperatures well below 2°C — doing so requires global emissions of greenhouse gases to be reduced by at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. It is estimated that deforestation currently contributes up to 20% of these global greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, any attempt to address global climate change must take into account the significant role forests play in combating climate change. WWF's Forest Carbon Initiative aims to make the role of forests in mitigating climate change a central part of the global climate solution. Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) can have many benefits for our climate, forests, biodiversity and people.

The Forest Carbon Initiative brings together WWF's longstanding efforts on conservation, climate change and sustainable development. In close coordination with our local offices and programs around the world, we're working to advance support for an agreed global policy framework for REDD and efforts to implement REDD on the ground.



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THE GOAL

WWF's Forest Carbon Initiative seeks no net greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 2020.

- By 2012, REDD is included in a transparent, fair, scientifically sound, ambitious and feasible way in the post-2012 climate treaty.
- By 2012, six to eight key countries have national or important subnational strategies in place to reduce deforestation and implement REDD that include effective institutional and governance capacity, as well as policy frameworks.
- By 2013, three to four major new funding sources — including market and non-market — have been established to support REDD activities.
- By 2020, WWF's Forest Carbon Initiative activities contribute reductions in annual greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and support the conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance and improvement of livelihoods for local communities and Indigenous Peoples.



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Our immediate priorities are for REDD to be included in the post-2012 UN climate agreement, with commitments from developed countries to provide financial and technical support for REDD. As a necessary complement to the international framework, we need action by governments, civil society and the private sector to make meaningful progress towards establishing mechanisms for implementing REDD at the national level. This includes both 'REDD Readiness' and early action projects.

WWF's work on Forest Carbon focuses resources on addressing key challenges and making REDD a working reality in the post-2012 global climate treaty. The Forest Carbon Initiative also addresses the need to turn theory into practice. Working with WWF offices in key forested countries, we are identifying and supporting country-level implementation through building capacity, testing approaches and implementing activities to achieve national REDD programmes. These will be used as case studies to provide insight on the feasibility, opportunities and challenges of implementing REDD at the national and sub-national level.

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WWF's Forest Carbon Initiative is convening thought leaders from across countries and sectors to advance the dialogue on critical issues, such as financing mechanisms and implementation challenges, to achieve not just climate benefits, but broader benefits for biodiversity and the people who depend upon forests for their livelihoods.



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