

New York Declaration on Forests Assessment Report: Goals 3&4: Additional Quotes

Quotes and Press Contacts from:

- [CIFOR Scientists](#)
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CIFOR Scientists

[Arild Angelsen](#), Senior Associate, [Center for International Forestry Research](#) (CIFOR), Professor of economics, [Norwegian University of Life Sciences](#) (NMBU), said:

"The lack of transparency and third-party verification around many – if not most – large companies involved in the deforestation value chain is staggering. In many cases we see more openness by government, although that too is far from ideal."

"The lack of progress on the ground suggests that many private sector pledges aren't much more than lip service and greenwashing."

"The proper analysis of forest impact – a Forest Impact Analysis – for large infrastructure projects remains a major challenge. The overwhelming importance of new infrastructure, and roadmaps in particular, to properly evaluate the fate of forests should make this a top public policy priority."

[Anne Larson](#) Principal Scientist and Team Leader: Equity, Gender, Justice & Tenure, [Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry](#) (CIFOR-ICRAF), said:

"There is still a fundamental disconnect between what governments and companies think development has to look like and the kind of investments and actions that are needed for healthy livelihoods and a healthy planet."

"Securing rights and supporting sustainable livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and other local communities would go a long way toward reducing deforestation, but this

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requires vision and leadership, as well as bold action against those who continue to invade Indigenous lands and threaten and murder rights and environmental defenders.”

[Robert Nasi](#) Director General, [Center for International Forestry Research](#) (CIFOR), Managing Director, [Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry](#) (CIFOR-ICRAF), Acting Director of Science, [Center for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry](#) (CIFOR-ICRAF), said:

“This is a salutary reminder that we are living in a dreamworld of pledges, but a reality of little progress, lack of transparency, vested interests and short termism. Alas reality will always catch us up.”

WWF

Fran Price, WWF Global Forest Practice Leader, said:

“Nature is signaling the failure of core systems that sustain human well-being. This assessment confirms that despite the global community’s expectations of significant progress by 2020 on ending deforestation, there is a long way to go. We urgently need to redouble our efforts to meet NYDF’s goals, and the assessment provides a helpful reference of both wins and shortfalls to be addressed.”

Yiaku Laikipiak Trust

Jennifer Koinante, Executive Director, Yiaku Laikipiak Trust, said:

“As indigenous people with the native role as custodians of our Mukogodo forests, we face a lot of challenges and limitations to safeguard the ancient status and biodiversity of nature in the name gazettement and development plans by the Kenya ministry environment and Kenya Forest service. As an organisation, Yiaku Laikipiak Trust, representing the Yiaku indigenous people from Mukogodo, Kenya, we concur with the report and agree that more stringent measures should be put in place mostly by our governments to protect the ever shrinking ecosystems and biodiversity of our forests. Climate change is at an almost irreversible stage and its impacts are well visible world wide. Our forests prove to supply the largest percentage of oxygen in the atmosphere as conglomerates and manufacturers continue to pollute the air. Drastic measures have to be put in place if planet earth is to continue inhabiting life.”

Levin Sources

Estelle Levin-Nally, Founder and CEO, Levin Sources, said:

“Mining currently causes a significant proportion of deforestation – up to 7% in the tropics and subtropics for instance. But it doesn’t have to be this way. The New York Declaration on Forests can help spur the sector towards forest-smart mining, which is why Levin Sources became signatories in April 2019. This Assessment Report of goals 3 & 4 presents an undeniable case for extractives infrastructure companies and organisations supporting artisanal and small-scale miners to dedicate greater resources to forest protection. As a sector, we need to take full responsibility for our contribution to the destruction and degradation of forests and forest communities, and the related impacts on biodiversity, climate change, human rights, and ecosystem services. At Levin Sources, we encourage all mining and minerals companies who are interested in doing more for forests to engage with the NYDF, sign up to the goals, and get on with protecting forests.”

CDP

Morgan Gillespy, Global Director, Forests, said:

“The 2020 NYDF Goal 3 & 4 Progress Assessment report is a stark reminder that more work urgently needs to be done across all economic sectors if a forests positive future is to be achieved.

Mining is the fourth largest driver of forest loss globally. Rising metal and mineral prices, increasing scarcity of some metal deposits and an increased demand due to growth in renewables is putting further pressure on forests at a time when they need to be preserved if we are to achieve global climate goals, curb biodiversity loss and manage pandemic risk.

With some signs of progress - more than three quarters of companies assessed by CDP for the 2020 NYDF Goal 3 Progress Assessment have made a biodiversity-related commitment – more work needs to be done - only about a third disclosed biodiversity offsetting projects with details and SMART targets remaining scarce.

Forests offer governments immense value through providing livelihoods and health benefits for their citizens, sustaining water resources, and helping to combat climate change. It is hugely exciting to see that over 70% of the state and regional governments (73%) analysed by CDP for the 2020 NYDF Goal 3 Progress Assessment report policies to address deforestation from mining and infrastructure. However, most of these state and regional governments did not report having forest management plans that address deforestation from mining and infrastructure (78% and 55% respectively). A critical step in protecting and restoring our forests.

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To keep benefitting from forests in the long-term, extractive companies must step up their game by improving transparency and applying the 'mitigation hierarchy' to effectively minimize their impacts on forests and governments need to put policies into action, specifically via the implementation of management plans that protect forests. Together we can halt deforestation."

Chatham House

Alison Hoare, Senior Research Fellow, said:

"The solutions to deforestation driven by extractive industries and infrastructure are available, but they are still not being implemented at scale. This will remain the case unless the full environmental impacts of these sectors are integrated into the decision-making of investors and consumers. In turn, this would help to open up space for governments to consult with their national stakeholders and to properly consider all options for land-use."

"Improved transparency related to forest impacts will be key to changing the practices of mining companies and to influencing the decisions of investors. To this end, companies should be required to report on the full range of their forest impacts – including both direct and indirect impacts."

"As highlighted in a recent [Chatham House report](#) into how mining can be aligned with climate and biodiversity goals, companies need to shift from single issue reporting to integrated assessments of climate change, forest and biodiversity impacts of mining. Further, they need to incorporate indirect forest impacts, such as those relating to infrastructure, in their reports."

Thiago H. K. Uehara, Researcher, said:

"The Covid-19 and global environmental crises have epitomised how we have failed in guaranteeing wellbeing for nature – human and non-human nature. Offshoring damages, backing-up meagre legislation and diluting principles of sustainability became the norm in the aftermath of imperialism. We need to reassess our relationship with certain elites – holders of power, land and grant-making processes – if we are serious about breaking down the relations that produce deforestation."

"Sustainable livelihoods and lifestyles require the appreciation of limits, sufficiency, geographical equity and trans-frontier solidarity. In a Chatham House Report to be released November 2020, 'Public Procurement for Sustainable Development: a framework', we highlight robust principles that should be used in trade and public procurement policies from now on, in the Global South and in the Global North, which will certainly contribute to the NYDF goals."

"It is a good time to bring sustainable livelihoods and lifestyles frameworks back to the forefront of the development agenda. Solidarity and equity principles for

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sustainable development should be in its core, rather than further commodification of forests and people as resources.”

Global Canopy

Niki Mardas, Executive Director, said:

“We are entering a new era of transparency for the global trade driving deforestation, whether linked to agricultural commodities or to environmentally harmful mining operations. There is also growing transparency around the financing of these operations. Even indirect lending and investment that was previously unseen, is now open to more scrutiny, increasing pressure on the finance sector to clean up its act. Banks and investors that don’t take a proactive stance on these issues are opening themselves up to the growing risks associated with the climate and nature crisis.”

Conservation International

Shyla Raghav, Vice President, Climate Change, said:

Goal 3: “Large-scale infrastructure projects and mining activities that don’t maintain functioning forests are a threat to the livelihoods and resilience of local communities, and the stability of the global climate. It is critical that investments in natural climate solutions that conserve forests and help prevent deforestation be considered in this work. Local communities are often meaningfully involved in the development of these projects so that economic benefits are equitably shared and negative impacts on ecosystems are minimized. Such meaningful community engagement will help ensure that more forests are kept standing, which will contribute to resilient livelihoods for people in local communities and help stabilize our global climate.”

Goal 4: “Developing economic alternatives to deforestation is an indispensable element of solving the climate crisis. We know that the most successful and lasting climate actions are those that truly benefit people and their communities. This report illustrates the importance of making communities active agents in solving the climate crisis rather than serving solely as recipients of finance.”

WRI

Fred Stolle, Deputy Director of Forests, said:

“While pledges coming from countries and companies suggest we understand the importance of restoration for climate, biodiversity and rural development, the implementation we’ve seen is far too little. If we’re serious about achieving the NYDF goal of restoring 350 million hectares, the next 10 years will be critical. We must double down our efforts, including investing more in innovative forest monitoring to fully understand how and where we’re making progress on growing trees.”

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David Gibbs, Global Forest Watch Research Associate, said:

“No matter how you look at it, we’ve failed to halve forest loss and associated greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. If we want to get on track to meet our 2030 target, reliable and transparent monitoring is absolutely essential.”

NWF

Press contact:

- [David Burns](#)