



Tropical Forest Alliance 2020

The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020) is a public-private partnership with the goal of reducing the tropical deforestation associated with key global commodities, such as soy, beef, palm oil, and pulp and paper.

The Alliance was born out of discussions between the US Government and the Consumer Goods Forum before, and during, the Rio + 20 Conference. It will achieve its goal via voluntary actions. TFA 2020 complements and supports the Obama Administration's broader development and climate objectives, and seeks to deliver solutions that spur economic growth and enhance food security.

The United States has consistently worked to promote the conservation of tropical forests by advancing innovative and cooperative development approaches; diverse technical expertise and services; and diplomatic leadership. Many in the private sector are also engaged in global efforts to reduce tropical deforestation. In 2010, the Consumer Goods Forum made a commitment to "mobilize resources...to help achieve zero net deforestation by 2020."

While the current membership of TFA 2020 consists of the founding partners -- the United States Government (USG) and the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) -- the Alliance is open to new members, including producer and consumer countries, private sector companies and civil society organizations that agree to undertake specific actions to address commodity-driven tropical deforestation.

Cross-Cutting Objectives

TFA 2020 will coordinate and mobilize actions by governments, the private sector and civil society to reduce the tropical deforestation associated with key commodity supply chains. The United States and other partner countries, companies, and civil society organizations will work together to:

- Improve planning and management related to tropical forest conservation, agricultural land use, and land tenure.
- Share best practices for tropical forest and ecosystem conservation and commodity production, including working with smallholder farmers and other producers on sustainable agricultural intensification and promoting the use of degraded lands and reforestation.
- Provide expertise and knowledge that would assist with the development of commodity and processed-commodity markets that promote the conservation of tropical forests.
- Improve monitoring of tropical deforestation and forest degradation to measure progress.

Guiding Principles

TFA 2020 will:

- Focus on and prioritize reducing tropical deforestation.
- Be comprised of members representing a broad coalition of stakeholders.
- Require that Members endorse the goals of the Alliance, and identify particular areas of interest related to commodity-driven tropical deforestation and agree to undertake specific actions to address commodity-driven tropical deforestation.
- Recognize the authority of national and domestic regulatory systems for land and forest management.
- Recognize that the type of information and actions needed to reduce tropical deforestation associated with supply chains will vary depending on the region, products involved, national conservation laws, farming regulations, and economic development goals, and thus should be flexibly designed to suit each specific context.
- Emphasize the importance of country ownership and responsibility, tackling the drivers of tropical deforestation using a range of different tools that are appropriate to achieving each member's goals.
- Maximize the cost-effectiveness of “deforestation-free” production, including for small holders.

TFA 2020 will not be a regulatory body. Although individual members may choose to be involved in the following activities in their own right, the Alliance as an entity will not:

- Regulate purchases or supply chains.
- Create or endorse specific certification standards or verification services.
- Create any legally binding obligations.
- Seek to create new/additional definitions for deforestation or sustainability.



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