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Lima-Paris Action Agenda

PRESS RELEASE

Partnerships, Progress to Protect & Restore Forest

Global Leaders from Governments, Private Sector, Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Join to Address Pressing Issues

Innovative Efforts to Eliminate Natural Deforestation and Forest Degradation in a Few Decades Strengthens Communities, Improves Livelihoods and Feeds the World

Paris, 1 December 2015 - Leaders in the global drive to protect and restore forests met on Tuesday to announce a new focus on implementing partnerships with additional resources to ensure healthy forests and the sustainable farming and livelihoods that depend on them.

“Forest countries in partnership with other governments, the private sector and civil society are set for an increased international effort to eliminate natural deforestation and forest degradation in a few decades. The success of the LPAA and its action area on Forests relies on effective synergies between state and non-state actors, between investment and forest management -- all together rallied behind sustainably managed forests as a common goal.” said Peru’s Minister of the Environment Manuel Pulgar-Vidal.

Approximately one billion people depend directly on forests for their livelihoods and each year approximately 12 million hectares of forest are destroyed. This forest loss is responsible for roughly 11 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The LPAA initiatives addressing forests are, as for today:

- Protection of 400 million ha of Forests – Global coalition of **Indigenous Peoples**
- Zero deforestation Commitments from commodity producers and traders
- New York Declaration on Forests – halting the loss of forests
- Lima Challenge
- Landscape Restoration initiative

Yesterday, heads of Government from major forest countries and partner countries also joined together to endorse forests as a key climate solution. Sixteen countries recommitted to provide

strong, collective and urgent action to promote equitable rural economic development while slowing, halting and reversing deforestation and massively increasing forest restoration.

As part of this commitment **Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom**, announced a collective aim to provide \$5 billion from 2015 to 2020, if forest countries demonstrate measured, reported and verified emission reductions.

The special event under the Lima-Paris Action Agenda “Focus on Forests” shows how this strong commitment by countries will be complemented and implemented in the coming years. Among the partnerships, commitments and implementation strategies presented are:

National Commitments: Forest countries are developing national and sub-national plans and policies through which they will move from readiness efforts to concrete emission reduction programs, and governments have committed significant resources to incentivize and support action by forest countries to reduce deforestation.

- **Brazil:** Brazil has delivered impressive results in reducing Amazon deforestation over 70 percent in the last decade. Brazil and Norway made a joint announcement to extend their climate and forest partnership until 2020.
- **Colombia:** Colombia announced an ambitious partnership, together with Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom, to implement its vision for green growth, with a particular focus on reducing deforestation in the Amazon region.
- **Paraguay** announced its commitment to recover and protect 1 million ha of forests by 2030 working in partnership with Itaipu Binacional company and international support, with a potential reduction emissions reductions of 200 million tons of CO₂e.
- **Indonesia** is tackling deforestation and forest degradation through improvement on forest governance, transparency, and stakeholder participation.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo** created a REDD+ strategy.
- **Liberia** has a long-standing commitment through the 4C's strategy that integrates community, commercial, conservation and carbon storage services of forest.

Other country-led initiatives include:

- **Landscape Restoration:** Landscape Restoration commitments by national and subnational governments under the Bonn Challenge initiative expects to have a minimum of 5 million hectares under restoration and additional commitments for another 60 million hectares.
- **African and Latin American countries** are making progress on land restoration and the 20x20 initiative (20 million hectares by 2020).
- **Latin American Protected Areas Declaration:** 16 countries have stressed the key role of protected areas for adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change and climate change mitigation. They call for increased international support for the effective and sustainable management of protected areas.

Private Sector Commitments: Ambitious goals have been set out by private sector actors to achieve zero net deforestation on supply chains of agricultural commodities such as palm oil, soy, paper and beef products no later than 2020 and ending natural forest loss by 2030.

- **42 major companies** committed under the We mean Business Coalition to remove commodity driven deforestation from all supply chains by 2020.
- **Members of Consumer Goods Forum** that represents 400 companies and commodity traders are committing to preferentially source commodities from these areas, such as through quantity or pricing guarantees. Commercial banks and private investors are committing to mobilize a specific amount of financing for land sector development in these areas.

Indigenous Peoples and Civil Society: In the Amazon basin, indigenous organizations are building the Indigenous Amazon Fund, promoting the Indigenous REDD+ approach and working on forest projects with the support of the Dedicated Grant Mechanism of the Forest Investment Program (a funding from the World Bank, provides investments in forestry to support countries' development and REDD+ objectives).

- Strengthening credibility of commitments on forest and climate, Civil Society is building a framework of indicators and assessment on progress to end deforestation by 2030 under the New York Declaration of Forest (www.forestdeclaration.org)

ABOUT LPAA

The **Lima-Paris Action Agenda** is a joint undertaking of the Peruvian and French COP presidencies, the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the UNFCCC Secretariat. It aims to strengthen climate action throughout 2015, in Paris in December and well beyond through: mobilizing robust global action towards low carbon and resilient societies; providing enhanced support to existing initiatives, such as those launched during the NY SG Climate summit in September 2014; and mobilizing new partners and providing a platform for the visibility of their actions, commitments and results in the run up to COP21. Learn more at <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/lpaa/about/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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