

Input for COP30 Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

Contributors are invited to submit concise inputs on one or more of the following questions:

(a) What are the most critical barriers — whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social — preventing the halting and reversing of deforestation and forest degradation?

- In Indonesian context, economic growth becomes the reason behind the massive nickel down streaming, large expansion of mining and oil palm, and high demand on wood products, which drive deforestation that are difficult to suppress.
- In many developing countries, the development still prioritizes on economic growth to halt poverty through infrastructure development and industrial expansion, where the agenda of short-term forest protection and restoration is often overlooked.
- Food security issue also drives a massive land use change for agricultural purposes, while a more sustainable alternative approach like regenerative agriculture has not been mainstreamed in policy construction.
- Tenurial conflicts, especially those that involve Indigenous People and forest become a significant structural constraint. The recognition of Indigenous Forest requires a complex process, causing area with high cultural, spiritual, and ecological values are vulnerable to be displaced, with relocation often becomes the only compensation.
- Inadequate regulation and law enforcement, especially at regional level, allows illegal mining and logging in conservation area without strict penalties.
- Limited effectivity of reforestation program due to inadequate monitoring and evaluation system, and inadequate accountability of the field implementation.
- On the other side, the development of conservation area as tourist destination often overlooks sustainability principles, therefore potentially sacrificing the intact ecosystem and biodiversity for the sake of infrastructure development.

(b) What potential levers, whether economic, financial, institutional, social or technological, exist for accelerating the implementation of the commitment to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation?

- Community-based Forest conservation by involving Indigenous and local people, especially in protected area, by emphasizing bottom-up approach, which may serve as one of the keys to achieve Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- National development policy, particularly in developing country, shall align with deforestation-free principle, such as prohibiting expansion to intact primary forest and



other important ecosystem, like mangrove, that poses a great role in carbon sequestration

- Rapid utilization of technology to monitor forest cover, such as satellite imagery to monitor land use change and machine learning to predict potential deforestation.
- Shifting decision-making power to a more local level to ensure that restoration projects are compatible with the socio-economic needs of the people who live in that landscape.
- Evaluating the REDD+ programme in a to ensure that the implementation gives real, permanent, and effective impact in reducing carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation, not only focuses on carbon monetization.
- Strengthening the regulation and monitoring of global wood and timber trade, to ensure that both exported and imported wood and timber are free from illegal and unsustainable deforestation practice.
- The use of ecosystem valuation concepts, such as Contingent Valuation Method (CVM) to construct an equitable policy and as a policy evaluation tool that involves forest clearing/deforestation.

(c) What country, regional or sector experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared regarding forest conservation and restoration?

1. Promoting forest conservation by identifying High Conservation Value (HCV) and Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) in mining concession to determine no-go zone and urging to forbid mining expansion to primary forest, to prevent further forest loss and ensure cultural sovereignty for local people around mining concession.

Our organization works at the intersection of forest conservation and extractive industry governance, with a primary focus on identifying High Conservation Values (HCVs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in landscapes targeted for mining development across Indonesia. Our assessments produce spatially explicit go/no-go zone determinations that distinguish areas where mining must be excluded on conservation grounds from those where it may proceed under strict conditions. In documented cases across Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Maluku, these assessments have directly contributed to concession boundary revisions, protecting forest areas that standard environmental impact assessment processes had failed to adequately screen.

Beyond go/no-go determination, we conduct predictive and retrospective analysis of mining impacts on all six HCV categories, integrating geospatial analysis, species distribution analysis, hydrological impact analysis, and community-based social and cultural value mapping to generate evidence for pre-approval negotiations and post-approval compliance monitoring. Our field experience consistently shows that standard permitting processes in Indonesia and the

region underestimate biodiversity significance particularly for critically endangered species, unique forest ecosystems, and community-dependent forest values making independent HCV and KBA assessment an essential safeguard.

We recommend that the UNFCCC encourage Parties to mandate independent HCV and KBA screening as a prerequisite for mining permits in forested landscapes, to establish legally binding no-go zones based on these findings, and to link forest finance mechanisms including REDD+ to verified HCV protection outcomes ensuring that the global push for transition minerals does not inadvertently accelerate the destruction of the forests and ecosystems on which climate resilience depends.

2. Promoting the recognition and integration of cultural and spiritual values alongside ecological science and that doing so demands inclusive, rights-based, bottom-up governance approaches for durable and equitable forest conservation.

Forests are not only ecological systems. they are living landscapes embedded with the cultural memories, spiritual relationships, and collective identities of the communities that have stewarded them for generations. In responds to the UNFCCC Secretariat's call for experiences, best practices, and lessons learned regarding forest conservation and restoration we think that durable and equitable forest conservation requires the recognition and meaningful integration of cultural and spiritual values alongside ecological science and that doing so demands inclusive, rights-based, bottom-up governance approaches. Therefore, we proposed the the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines on the Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature in Protected Areas as one of the tools to an effective forest conservation and restoration.

The IUCN Best Practice Guidelines on the Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature in Protected Areas and World Heritage Sites offer a comprehensive framework for addressing these challenges. As articulated in the guidelines:

“There is a growing need to make conservation practices more inclusive, effective and socially just by accommodating multiple worldviews; by treating natural and cultural heritage as interlinked; and by suggesting ways for engaging and empowering all relevant groups and stakeholders in protected area design, governance and management. The guidelines also assist with creating common ground, resolving conflicts and implementing rights-based approaches that recognise human rights and legal pluralism”

This best practice guideline focuses on bottom-up approach in protected area and World Heritage Site conservation, by involving and accommodating all stakeholders, particularly marginal communities that usually have weaker power in decision making yet are the most impacted. By emphasizing the connection between ecological and cultural value, this guideline classifies 12 thematic groups as steps to achieve conservation goals that are more efficient, inclusive, and sustainable. This approach also gives important lesson that the integration



between local knowledge, spiritual value, and modern science can strengthen conservation output in various contexts, either within nation or specific area.

In Indonesian context, there are some key lessons on the experience in recognizing indigenous people in forest conservation context:

- Formal legal recognition of *adat* (customary) tenure is a necessary but insufficient condition, it must be accompanied by institutional capacity support and conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Processes that exclude or undermine *adat* (customary) authority such as plantation concessions or conservation programs imposed without FPIC, consistently generate conflict and ecological degradation.
- Integration of traditional ecological knowledge with formal conservation science produces more contextually accurate and socially legitimate management plans.

Considering the points above, we respectfully submit the following recommendations for consideration in the Roadmap to COP 30 process and beyond:

- Operationalize FPIC standards in all REDD+ and forest finance mechanisms: Strengthened safeguards must ensure that forest carbon financing does not replicate the exclusions and rights violations of earlier conservation eras.
- Fund community-led forest monitoring and governance systems: Direct financial and technical support for indigenous and community-based forest stewardship, including recognition of sacred grove management as a validated approach to forest conservation.
- Mainstream local and indigenous knowledge into reporting frameworks: Develop mechanisms through which traditional ecological knowledge can be formally incorporated into national forest inventories, monitoring systems, and adaptation planning.

(d) How can forest conservation, sustainable management, and restoration best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development, the rights and knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, and different degrees of forest cover?

Always start the conservation approach at the community or local level, since management and governance strategies are highly dependent on the context of the area. In implementing global or national conservation policy, a clash with Indigenous People is often inevitable. Current policies commonly do not accommodate Indigenous Forest or landscape that is significant to the surrounding communities, which eventually induces conflict. Implementing top-down conservation, like in protected areas that focus on conservation implementation without considering local context, often contradict with local values that potentially



violate human rights. Therefore, community-based conservation becomes crucial in protecting forest ecosystem.

On the other hand, community-based conservation can also be enriched with local community's wisdom who has long lived side by side with nature in a sustainable manner. Therefore, research on biodiversity conservation can be started from existing local knowledge and enriched with scientific methodologies. Involving and accommodating local community in management strategy and decision making in a conservation institution is much needed, particularly as input providers in the implementation of global and national policy at local- or regional-level. With each country varies in forest cover, economic development, and the condition of their Indigenous and local people, the implementation of global and national policy shall involve local community as key role in making forest conservation a success, not only as side supporter.