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ROADMAP ON HALTING AND REVERSING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION BY 2030

**Submission from the Brazilian Confederation of
Agriculture and Livestock (CNA)**



INTRODUCTION

The Global Stocktake (GST) goal to tackle deforestation and forest degradation up to 2030 (paragraphs 33 and 34 of Decision 1/CMA.5) should be managed based on a systemic approach, addressing the several triggers that causes deforestation and forest degradation, creating value to the forests as a lever to foster conservation and enabling an ambitious finance agenda that considers carbon and biodiversity assets associated with forests and other types of native vegetation.

In Brazil, more than 220 million hectares of forest are located inside rural properties (SFB, 2026). According to current legislation, 29% of Brazilian territory is designated for the preservation of native vegetation within farms (EMBRAPA, 2025). Approximately one-quarter of world's forests are under the responsibility of rural producers (FAO, 2025). This means farmers play a pivotal role in halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation; however, their contributions and challenges are often underestimated in negotiations, and climate finance flows rarely support farmers in forest conservation initiatives that they lead.

The Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock (CNA), which represents more than 5 million farmers across all sectors, recognizes that tackling deforestation is a complex challenge that requires coordinated action by all Parties to the Paris Agreement. In this contribution, we expect to provide a farmer-centered approach to this complex issue, and we trust that some of the suggestions can be incorporated into the Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030.



CRITICAL BARRIERS

Most of the critical barriers preventing the halting and reversing of deforestation and forest degradation are rooted in illegal activities. Land grabbing, illegal mining, drug and arms trafficking, and illegal logging practices create a complex scenario that requires multiple approaches to ensure effective law enforcement. Beyond enforcement challenges, the incorrect valuation of forests and their ecosystem services, coupled with the lack of funding for conservation measures, further undermines the potential for forest conservation beyond legal requirements.

The full implementation of nationally determined command-and-control policies is indispensable to halt illegal deforestation and associated crimes, and the multilateral framework must respect each country's right to determine its appropriate level of conservation, in light of national circumstances and respective capabilities. Nevertheless, implementation remains a costly task, placing a burden on both governing institutions and those who must comply with the legislation, such as farmers, indigenous peoples, and traditional communities.

Monitoring of native vegetation and land use is essential to implement these policies and has advanced significantly in recent decades, particularly through the use of satellites and digital tools. However, it still faces significant structural challenges that limit its effectiveness in preventing and reversing deforestation and forest degradation. One of the main challenges is distinguishing between legal and illegal deforestation: although systems can detect vegetation removal with high precision, determining whether a given land-use change complies with environmental legislation is not always possible automatically, as it requires integration with land-use databases and environmental permits. A further critical challenge is the detection of forest degradation, which includes processes such as selective logging, low-intensity burning, and fragmentation. These phenomena are more difficult to identify via satellite than clear-cutting, requiring more sophisticated technologies, higher image frequency, and field validation.

In light of the above, the Roadmap must create an environment conducive to the implementation of national legislation, grounded in cooperation, technology transfer, and the international recognition that every country has the right to balance development with the use, management, and protection of its natural resources. At the same time, multilateralism should enable the implementation of measures that encourage forest conservation beyond what is required at the national level, without, however, imposing new costly obligations on vulnerable countries or communities. This can be achieved through mechanisms that promote economic incentives for conservation, as already reflected in Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the TFFF, and the REDD+ agenda.

These initiatives, however, still provide insufficient incentives for farmers, who are rarely included in the design of these mechanisms yet bear the costs of preserving forests on their rural properties. Stronger farmer participation in the creation and implementation of these mechanisms would better reflect their needs and enhance their capacity to prevent deforestation and forest degradation beyond the legally mandated requirements.

Large-scale forest restoration presents additional barriers, including technical limitations, such as the availability of native seedlings, knowledge of techniques adapted to different biomes, and effective monitoring of restored areas. In some regions, limited technical assistance and restricted access to sustainable production technologies compound these challenges, while high restoration costs and a shortage of long-term, low-cost financing further hinder the adoption of sustainable practices.

Finally, climate change itself poses a threat to forest conservation. Shifting weather patterns, droughts, floods, and rising temperatures challenge agricultural productivity worldwide, jeopardizing global food security and the livelihoods of millions of farmers, while increasing the pressure on land to ensure food production, creating yet another challenge to halting and reversing deforestation.

POTENTIAL LEVERS

Since forests are unevenly distributed across the globe yet provide ecosystem services that benefit the entire climate system, multilateral arrangements and initiatives should help distribute the burden of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation among countries. The challenge is to implement approaches that raise global levels of forest conservation while respecting the sovereignty and national capacities of forest-rich countries. The Paris Agreement has paved the way for the creation of various initiatives to reduce deforestation; however, these often fail to consider the dynamics of the agricultural sector or lack strategies tailored to farmers, thereby hindering access to climate finance. The following sections suggest refinements and expansions to current mechanisms with a view to achieving a higher degree of forest protection.

i. Capacity building and technical cooperation

The agricultural sector encompasses a wide range of systems, activities, and technologies, and it must be recognized that implementing climate action in the sector requires tools tailored to local conditions. Investing in technologies that increase agricultural productivity is one of the most cost-effective strategies to halt deforestation. By enabling farmers to increase output on existing agricultural land, productivity gains reduce the pressure to expand into forested areas while supporting food security and rural livelihoods.

This is the rationale behind the Brazilian Plan for Adaptation and Low Carbon Emission in Agriculture (ABC+ Plan), which rests on three pillars: i) an Integrated Landscape Approach, ii) synergy of adaptation and mitigation strategies, and iii) adoption and maintenance of Sustainable Systems, Practices, Products, and Production Processes. Although the technologies fostered by the ABC Plan are tailored to the Brazilian biomes and the realities of tropical agriculture, international cooperation can leverage the implementation their implementation, where appropriate, among other developing and least developed countries.

Degraded land restoration for agriculture and forest restoration are key examples of actions that can contribute to halting deforestation while promoting productive land use. In Brazil, the ABC+ Plan aims to restore up to 30 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, with the Climate Plan proposing an additional 5 million hectares by 2035. The RAIZ - Resilient Agriculture Investment for net Zero land degradation, launched at COP30, can serve as an international lever to transform degraded land into productive land and reduce the pressure for the opening of new areas beyond Brazil.

International cooperation can also foster the development and implementation of enhanced monitoring systems. The lack of standardized and up-to-date data covering all territories hinders comparative analyses between biomes and countries, a full understanding of land-use dynamics in each region, and the development of integrated approaches. While it is crucial that each country retains full control over its own data, the release of aggregated data at the global scale supports the development of new strategies to prevent deforestation and forest degradation. The Roadmap should therefore encourage developed countries to pursue cooperative strategies that strengthen the capacity of developing countries and LDCs to implement their national monitoring systems.

ii. REDD+, TFFF, and results-based finance

Under the Results-based payments (RBP) from REDD+, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) increased its RBP rate from US\$ 5 to US\$ 8 per tonne of carbon equivalent (tCO₂e), marking a modest improvement in compensation. However, this rate still does not adequately compete with the economic incentives associated with alternative land uses, highlighting a persistent gap in the financial architecture for forest conservation.

The Tropical Forest Forever Facility, despite introducing an innovative mechanism to reward countries for their preservation efforts, needs to improve its strategies for channeling resources to those who implement climate action on the ground. For farmers in particular, the conservation of native vegetation on rural properties remains inadequately rewarded: national strategies for results-based payments lack sufficient resources and do not prioritize climate action in agri-food systems. As a result, farmers bear the costs of maintaining native vegetation without being adequately compensated for conserving beyond legally required levels.



iii. Carbon markets and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement offers a strategic foundation for international collaboration on forests and land use. Article 6.2 facilitates cooperative approaches that can drive sustainable agricultural practices and forest conservation and restoration, including through technology transfer to developing countries. The Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) under Article 6.4 should integrate forest carbon credits and nature-based solutions to further enhance climate action under this framework.

Scaling up the results generated by Article 6 requires the development and approval of methodologies that recognise agriculture, forestry, and other land-based solutions as integral components of climate action, while prioritising farmers' rights, the well-being of rural communities, and food security objectives. Such approaches should avoid the displacement of agricultural land and ensure that design choices related to permanence and compliance remain proportionate and workable for the agricultural sector. The integration of national carbon markets can further raise the level of ambition, provided that integration frameworks respect national realities and avoid a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards the role of domestically developed technologies on the path to decarbonization.

The financial agenda should therefore position carbon markets, grounded in high standards of environmental integrity, as a key lever for amplifying forest conservation and restoration, complementing and going beyond the traditional REDD+ and RBP approaches that have so far failed to reach rural communities.

iv. NCQG and the US\$ 1,3 trillion goal

Expanding the financial resources that value standing forests and support conservation and restoration is essential, as the implementation of these actions is directly linked to the availability of adequate funding. The new phase of climate finance under the UNFCCC, inaugurated with the new, collective and quantified goal (NCQG) and the US\$ 1,3 trillion goal from multiple sources and all countries, and the US\$ 300 billion coming from developed countries positions forests as a key priority alongside a broader set of climate actions.

Leveraging innovative financial instruments such as blended finance, guarantees, catalytic equity facilities, and green bonds can significantly boost both the volume and effectiveness of climate finance available for forest conservation and restoration. To achieve maximum impact, it is crucial to closely align the Deforestation Roadmap with the Baku-Belém Roadmap to 1.3T, as both initiatives, supported by the COP30 Presidency, are designed to function as complementary frameworks that mutually reinforce their objectives across the broader climate agenda.

An additional challenge concerns forests that could be legally converted. The opportunity cost of forested land eligible for conversion should be at least partially offset by the recognized value of standing forests — an important issue that the Roadmap could help advance within the NCQG and the Baku-Belém process. In specific cases where national legislation authorizes the conversion of native vegetation, disregarding these rules in pursuit of a broader zero-deforestation goal does not guarantee that the goal will be achieved. The Roadmap should therefore include payments for avoided legal deforestation as a major component of the climate finance agenda, establishing strict safeguards that strengthen the conservation of these areas and ensure that standing forests are properly valued.

v. Trade and Supply Chains

In a world where international trade distances consumers from the emissions associated with the production of the goods they consume, the multilateral system must develop strategies to reduce global deforestation while considering the environmental laws of producing countries as well as issues of climate justice and differentiated responsibilities.

The imposition of unilateral trade measures that do not take into account cases where national legislation permits land conversion shifts additional costs and responsibilities onto exporting countries, thereby perpetuating a historical imbalance in the climate regime.

Nevertheless, exporting and importing countries must engage in cooperative efforts to develop appropriate tools to prevent illegal deforestation linked to international value chains. Furthermore, international trade can also benefit from the valuation of avoided deforestation or from easier access to markets as a means of compensating for conservation efforts that go beyond legal requirements.

The Roadmap should encourage continued dialogue on climate and trade, enabling the development of new strategies grounded in the multilateral framework.



COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

In Brazil, it is possible to identify, at the property level, the areas designated for production and conservation in accordance with the guidelines of the Brazilian Forest Code, current legislation that resulted from more than a decade of debate, becoming a global benchmark for sustainability policies and creating a database for environmental and economic planning.

Farmers are key players in this process, as they are responsible for reporting all information regarding their properties. Currently, the official database of the Rural Environmental Registry System (SICAR) contains 8,182,128 registered rural properties, covering a total area of 718,742,430.72 hectares. according to the data presented, which has not yet been properly vetted by state government authorities, there would be 217,877,842.54 hectares of legal reserve (Art. 3, III, and Art. 12 of Law 12,651/2012) – an area for environmental conservation and the balanced use of natural resources, to conserve ecological processes, protect biodiversity, and serve as a refuge for fauna and flora located within the properties – and 29,262,998.17 hectares of permanent preservation area (Art. 3, II, and Art. 4 of Law 12.651/2012) – protected area, whether or not covered by native vegetation, with the environmental function of preserving water resources, the landscape, geological stability, and biodiversity; facilitating the gene flow of fauna and flora; protecting the soil; and ensuring the well-being of human populations.

Data from SICAR reveal that nearly 100% of the country's rural properties are already registered, and more than 58% of them have joined the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA). These figures demonstrate rural producers' strong commitment to environmental regularization and compliance with the requirements of the Forest Code.

With the effective implementation of the Forest Code, it will be possible to control land use and vegetation clearance on private lands, making it possible to distinguish between legal and illegal conversion. The new Climate Plan, approved in early 2026, establishes a mitigation strategy focused on controlling deforestation in private areas, presenting the challenge of assigning value to forests as a tool to prevent legal deforestation, based on financial instruments, the carbon market, and payments for environmental services.

Another best practice is the establishment of economic instruments, such as Environmental Reserve Quotas (CRA), where 1 quota equals 1 hectare of conserved vegetation, allowing for the offsetting of Legal Reserve deficits through areas with a surplus of native vegetation. This mechanism creates a market for environmental assets, contributing to the valuation of standing forests and expanding opportunities for large-scale conservation and reducing the conversion of new areas.



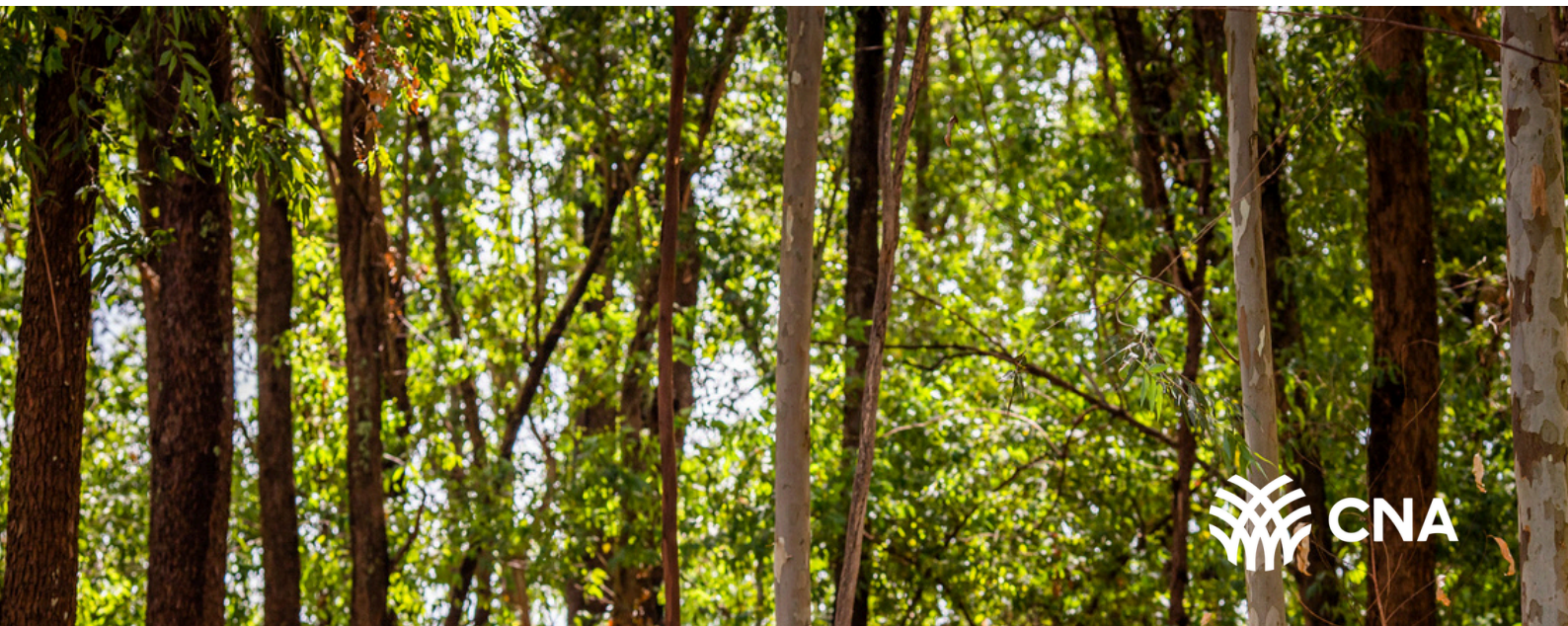
ADDRESSING DIVERSE REALITIES

Addressing the goal of halting deforestation requires acknowledging the diverse and complex challenges associated with forest loss. A one-size-fits-all approach risks overlooking the profound differences between countries at distinct stages of development. Forest-rich countries with lower GDP levels face realities that are fundamentally different from those of developed nations that have already converted large portions of their native vegetation. The Roadmap must therefore avoid treating all countries equally and instead adopt differentiated approaches that reflect each country's forest cover, development stage, and national circumstances.

This differentiation must also account for the ecological diversity of the world's forests. Tropical, boreal, and temperate forests have distinct dynamics, carbon stocks, biodiversity profiles, and socioeconomic roles. Global targets and monitoring frameworks calibrated primarily around one type of ecosystem may fail to capture the full complexity of forest loss and degradation in other biomes. The Roadmap should therefore promote biome-sensitive approaches that recognize these differences and support tailored conservation, management, and restoration strategies accordingly.

At the same time, progress at the multilateral level demands a systemic understanding of the causes of native vegetation loss, to expand the range of actions that effectively strengthen forest conservation. As previously discussed, multiple and complementary approaches can be deployed to halt and reverse deforestation and forest

To this end, the Roadmap should emphasize the need to support countries in implementing monitoring systems, enforcing environmental regulations, and combating organized crime, while also providing targeted support to farmers, who produce food and conserve forests. It should further promote carbon markets and other financial instruments that enable the valuation of standing forests, creating the conditions necessary to halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation.





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To inquire about this subject, please contact amanda.roza@cna.org.br or nelson.filho@cna.org.br