COP 30 Presidency Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

Input from Emergent, Coordinator of the LEAF Coalition

March 2026

It is our pleasure to provide our feedback below, which we hope will support the development of the roadmap.

(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?

1. Finance

The most critical barrier to preventing and reversing deforestation and degradation is lack of finance for standing forests. Forests are currently worth more dead than alive as the only way to exploit them economically is clearance for agriculture, logging or extractive industries.

A stream of finance is need at scale to change these perverse economic incentives and encourage forest governments and their peoples to build sustainable economies based on healthy standing forests.

2. Government Capability and Capacity

Many forest governments currently lack the institutional capability and capacity to enact forest preservation and restoration programs. Targeted technical assistance and upfront financial support are needed to address these issues and enable forest countries to put effective programs into place.

3. Stakeholder Capacity and Engagement

Many of the key stakeholder groups on the front line in fight against deforestation, such as Indigenous Peoples, also lack the capacity, knowledge and governance structures to participate fully in forest protection programs, including consultations on benefits sharing. Again, support and technical assistance is required to ensure that these groups can fully participate in programs, including consultations to shape benefits sharing plans.

(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?

Jurisdictional REDD+ programs (JREDD+) provide an opportunity for forest governments to generate revenues at scale from forest protection programs, as such they have the potential to play a key role in roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation, as they support governments to achieve long term revenues and build sustainable economies based on healthy forests. The Forest Finance Roadmap, launched by 33 governments at New York Climate Week, 2025, estimated that JREDD+ could contribute up to $6 billion in funding each year to support forest protection programs.

As well as providing scale, JREDD+ puts control in the hands of forest governments and brings into play levers that only governments can use, including policy and regulation, effective law enforcement and the introduction of the rights incentives to landowners and rights holders to keep forest standing.

JREDD+ programs, produce credits that are independently verified and validated to meet the high integrity criteria of standards such as ART TREES, which has been awarded ICVCMs Core Carbon Principles. As such JREDD+ stands for high integrity and can help build trust among corporate buyers.

JREDD+ standards such as ART TREES also ensure, strong social safeguards, built on the Cancun Safeguards, ensuring the full participation, consultation and sharing of benefits with stakeholders such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The game changing potential of JREDD+ to support forest governments and people in tackling deforestation and degradation means it should be a key element of the roadmap.

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

More than 15 countries and states have now successfully navigated all phases of the JREDD+ mechanism under the Paris Agreement and unlocked results-based payments from donor governments. These payments rewards comprehensive, integrated public policy and local community efforts that have reduced and reversed deforestation on landscape scales.

Funding for JREDD+ programs is now starting to come in from the private sector too. The LEAF Coalition raise over $1 billion in financial commitments from the public and private sectors, encouraging 27 forest governments to submit eligible proposal to supply credits and receive finance. To date, six governments, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Nepal and the Brazilian State of Pará have now signed agreements with Emergent and the LEAF Coalition to receive over $330 million in finance through the sale of high integrity carbon credits.

These countries and partners have developed the expertise and knowledge to help the other 40+ currently developing JREDD+ programs to access climate finance before 2030. And many of the systems established e.g. in terms of social safeguards, MRV and benefit sharing also provide building blocks for complementary initiatives and sources of finance, such as the TFFF, to harness.

Processes for ensuring effective sharing of the lessons learned to help less advanced countries accelerate towards credit issuance and sustainable revenues should form part of the roadmap.

(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?

No two countries are the same, causes of deforestation and degradation will differ, as will the solutions. JREDD+ has to potential to reflect and manage the diverse realities across many countries by putting governments and communities in control, letting them design the systems and programs that will tackle forest loss and degradation and the processes for consultation and benefits sharing to ensure that the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and recognised and respected.

JREDD programs also offer countries with varying degrees of forest cover to benefit from protecting their forests with crediting pathways for emissions reductions (forest preservation), removals (restoration) as well as an option for High Forest Low Deforestation countries to access revenues for keeping their forests standing.