

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

Introduction

[MADANI Berkelanjutan](#) is a non-profit organization acting as a catalyst to strengthen climate justice in Indonesia. We enable dialogue among cross-sector actors, from grassroots communities to policy-makers, to create just, inclusive, and impactful solutions rooted in local realities with global impact. Through this role, MADANI has consistently highlighted that deforestation is closely linked to broader governance, financial, and decision-making processes shaping the management of forests and land.

We applaud the initiative by the COP30 Presidency to develop a roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. This process presents an important opportunity to translate global commitments into more concrete and coordinated actions. To be effective, the roadmap will need to move beyond reaffirming existing pledges and instead outline clear, actionable pathways that address the underlying drivers of deforestation, including policy misalignment, financial incentives, and gaps in implementation.

Indonesia plays a critical role in achieving global deforestation targets. As one of the world's largest tropical forest countries, its policies, financial systems, and governance frameworks significantly influence global emissions from the FOLU sector. Indonesia has made notable commitments, including FOLU Net Sink 2030 to achieve national climate commitment, yet deforestation and forest degradation persist, particularly in peatland ecosystems and areas allocated for large-scale development.

The COP30 roadmap therefore has a key opportunity to support countries in aligning policies, shifting incentives, and strengthening accountability, so that the goal of halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 becomes achievable in practice.

Inputs

1. Critical Barriers to Halting and Reversing Deforestation

The primary barrier to halting and reversing deforestation is an economic misalignment where land conversion remains an economically rational choice under current market structures. In the context of tropical forest nations like Indonesia, the "opportunity cost" of conservation far outweighs the immediate financial returns from global commodities such as palm oil, pulpwood, and mining. This dynamic is reinforced by a global and national financial architecture that continues to provide perverse [subsidies](#) and incentives for land-based expansion, while sustainable finance frameworks have yet to provide price signals strong enough to compete with extractive industries, effectively leaving standing forests undervalued as critical assets.

This economic pressure is compounded by policy incoherence and fragmented governance. While ambitious targets like the FOLU Net Sink 2030 program have been established, their implementation often collides with conflicting national development priorities. Policy silos create a paradox, such as food and energy estate initiatives which overrides forest protection regulations. Furthermore, protective instruments like moratorium still lack the legal permanence required to be fully integrated into statutory spatial planning and development agenda, leaving them vulnerable to shifting political priorities and short-term economic mandates.

Tenure insecurity for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs & LCs) represents a critical sociopolitical barrier at the local level. Despite overwhelming evidence that these communities are the most effective guardians of forest integrity and [biodiversity](#), they face systemic hurdles in securing formal legal recognition of their customary lands. Bureaucratic complexity and slow titling processes weaken community-based forest governance, depriving these primary stakeholders of the legal standing necessary to resist external encroachment and limiting their direct access to climate finance.

Furthermore, a significant accountability and transparency gap persists, hindering effective law enforcement and public oversight. Restricted access to high-resolution, integrated concession and forest data severely constrains the ability of civil society to conduct the independent monitoring necessary to verify forest integrity and validate deforestation.

A significant technical and conceptual barrier is the over-reliance on 'net forest balance' metrics. As demonstrated by Indonesia's experience with and FOLU Net Sink 2030, a net-zero approach to deforestation often masks the irreversible loss of natural forests. Not all forests are equal; the carbon sequestration capacity and biodiversity value of ancient natural forests are vastly superior to those of monoculture plantations or newly restored secondary forests. Therefore, a roadmap that focuses solely on 'net' figures without prioritizing the protection of natural forest integrity fails to account for the qualitative collapse of ecosystems.

Deforestation is a structural byproduct of a development model dependent on land expansion. When forests are viewed as 'land banks' rather than irreplaceable assets, conversion pressures remain high. Halting this trend requires a strategic shift toward a bioeconomy that decouples economic growth from land conversion. Without this systemic transition, forest protection will continue to be compromised by economic mechanisms that prioritize short-term growth over climate resilience.

2. Potential Levers to Accelerate Implementation

To accelerate progress toward halting and reversing deforestation, interventions must shift from incremental adjustments toward transformative levers that realign economic incentives, redistribute governance power, and institutionalize radical accountability.

First, the realignment of financial systems serves and reform of incentive structures as the most potent lever for change. This involves redirecting public finance and domestic subsidies away from land-intensive commodities toward forest protection, ecosystem restoration, and community-led management. Climate finance must not only be scaled up but also restructured to ensure direct access for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs & LCs), by passing traditional bureaucratic

bottlenecks. Implementing performance-based payment mechanisms with rigorous environmental and social safeguards will ensure that financial flows are contingent on verifiable forest conservation outcomes.

Second, legal and institutional mainstreaming is required to bridge the gap between voluntary pledges and enforceable mandates. Accelerating implementation requires institutionalizing “no new and planned deforestation” policies within binding legal frameworks that are integrated into National Development Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This lever ensures that forest protection is not a separate sectoral goal but a foundational requirement for all land-use planning, backed by robust enforcement mechanisms and meaningful sanctions for non-compliance.

Third, securing land tenure and empowering IPs & LCs is a proven, high-impact lever for forest integrity. Strengthening the legal recognition of indigenous territories is not only a matter of social justice but an essential climate strategy; evidence consistently shows that forests managed by communities with secure rights experience significantly lower deforestation rates. Empowering these guardians with technical resources and decision-making authority transforms them from marginalized stakeholders into central actors in forest governance.

Fourth, market transformation through mandatory traceability must eliminate the demand for deforestation-linked products. Voluntary corporate commitments have proven insufficient; therefore, legal requirements for robust due diligence and transparent supply chains are essential. By enforcing strict “zero-deforestation” standards for high-risk commodities entering global and domestic markets, the economic viability of illegal or unsustainable land clearing is effectively neutralized.

Finally, the integration of advanced technology with transparency systems acts as a catalyst for accountability. Open-access, real-time satellite monitoring and the public disclosure of concession data and land-use permits provide the highest form of transparency needed for civil society oversight. However, for this technological lever to be effective, it must be legally linked to an alert mechanism where detected deforestation automatically initiates immediate administrative or legal intervention, ensuring that data leads directly to action.

3. Experiences, Best Practices, and Lessons Learned from Indonesia

Experiences from Indonesia and other forest-rich countries demonstrate that progress in reducing deforestation is possible, but often uneven and difficult to sustain without strong institutional support. Indonesia’s forest moratorium policy (PIPPIB), for example, has shown that targeted policy interventions can contribute to declining deforestation rates, particularly when combined with broader measures such as peatland protection and law enforcement efforts. However, its effectiveness has been limited by its initially temporary nature, regulatory exemptions, and inconsistent enforcement. This highlights a key lesson: moratoriums can be effective, but only when they are made permanent, comprehensive, and fully enforced across sectors.

Efforts to protect and restore peatlands further illustrate the importance of ecosystem-specific approaches. Following the catastrophic 2015 fires, Indonesia’s establishment of the Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM) marked a best practice in safeguarding high-carbon ecosystems.

By focusing on Rewetting, Revegetation, and Revitalization, Indonesia has demonstrated that restoring hydrological functions in peatlands is essential for preventing recurring fires and massive carbon emissions. The lesson here is that peatland protection requires long-term policy consistency to withstand fluctuating economic pressures.

Community-based forest management is a proven strategy, with evidence showing lower deforestation rates in lands managed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Indonesia has made notable progress in issuing more than 8 millions of hectares under social forestry schemes, demonstrating the scalability of this approach. The effectiveness of these schemes is contingent upon providing communities with post-permit support, including technical assistance, market access, and direct climate finance. Secure tenure must be accompanied by economic viability to ensure long-term forest integrity.

In addition, results-based mechanisms such as REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) offer valuable insights into aligning financial incentives with forest conservation outcomes. The operationalization of REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP) provides a blueprint for aligning financial incentives with conservation. Indonesia's successful acquisition of payments from the [Green Climate Fund](#) and the bilateral partnership with Norway underscores the importance of a robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system. A critical lesson learned is that for REDD+ to be equitable, benefit-sharing mechanisms must be transparent and ensure that funds reach the local actors and indigenous groups who are the primary guardians of the forest.

Corporate zero-deforestation commitments (NDPE) have contributed to increased awareness and shifts in industry practices, particularly in global commodity supply chains. However, their impact remains limited by their largely voluntary nature, weak enforcement, and persistent gaps in traceability, especially at the level of indirect suppliers and smallholders. This points to a clear lesson: voluntary approaches alone are insufficient and must be complemented by mandatory, enforceable regulatory frameworks to drive systemic change.

4. Reflecting Diverse Realities and Ensuring Equity

A global roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation must embrace "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities" (CBDR), reflecting the diverse socio-economic realities of nations while maintaining a non-negotiable level of climate ambition.

First, differentiation must not compromise the integrity of critical ecosystems. While countries are at various stages of development, the protection of primary forests and high-carbon ecosystems like peatlands must be a universal priority. For High Forest Low Deforestation (HFLD) nations or regions, international frameworks must provide adequate incentives to maintain forest standing, ensuring that conservation does not become an economic burden. This requires aligning global roadmaps with the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) to identify and protect areas of greatest carbon and biodiversity value across all development contexts.

Second, equity is a functional prerequisite for forest integrity, not just a matter of social justice. Centralizing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs & LCs) in forest governance is essential, as their territories consistently show lower deforestation rates. However, a significant barrier remains the

"finance gap." As noted by the [Rainforest Foundation Norway](#), IPs & LCs receive less than 1% of global climate finance directly. To reflect the rights and knowledge of these guardians, the roadmap must mandate direct-access funding mechanisms that bypass intermediary overheads and bureaucratic hurdles, empowering local agencies.

Third, forest conservation must be integrated into a Just Transition for the land-use sector. In developing nations where economic growth has historically been coupled with commodity-driven land expansion, halting deforestation requires viable economic alternatives. This includes international support for an economic model that is regenerative, investment in value-added sustainable industries, and decoupling GDP from extraction. Without such structural support, forest protection measures risk being perceived as a barrier to national prosperity, undermining long-term political and social buy-in.

Finally, inclusive implementation requires the decentralization of climate finance. Currently, financial flows are heavily concentrated at national levels, often failing to reach subnational governments and community-based actors who operate at the forest frontier. Reflecting diverse realities means simplifying complex application processes and strengthening the "readiness" of local institutions. By enabling direct financing channels for subnational and grassroots actors, the global roadmap can ensure that those with the most direct impact on forest management have the resources necessary to meet 2030 targets.

Furthermore, the roadmap must address the systemic imbalance of global responsibility. Currently, global mitigation targets disproportionately place the burden on tropical forest countries, while the primary drivers of deforestation are often rooted in the high-consumption patterns and commodity demands of developed nations. A true 'shared responsibility' approach is required, which necessitates not only forest protection in the Global South but also transformative shifts in global consumption habits and trade system reforms in the Global North. Without addressing the demand-side drivers and ensuring substantial, non-debt-creating financial flows from major consuming nations to forest countries, the responsibility for climate stability remains inequitably distributed and structurally unsustainable.

Conclusion

Evidence from Indonesia shows that meaningful progress in reducing deforestation and forest degradation can be achieved when policies are effectively implemented, incentives are aligned, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are supported as key actors. At the same time, sustaining these gains remains a challenge without consistent commitment and stronger coherence across sectors, particularly in aligning land-use policies, development priorities, and financial systems.

The COP30 roadmap offers an important opportunity to strengthen the transition from commitment to implementation. Its effectiveness will depend on its ability to support countries in aligning policies, improving governance and enforcement, and directing financial flows toward sustainable land use. A credible roadmap will be one that provides clear and practical guidance, enables coordinated action, and supports sustained progress on the ground toward halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.