

Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land-use

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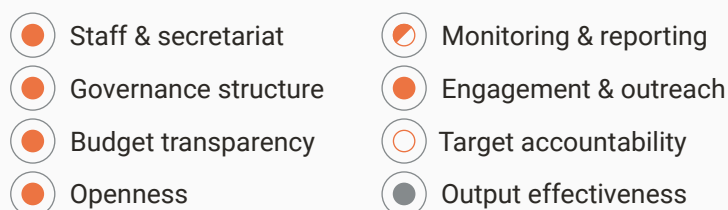
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Disclaimer

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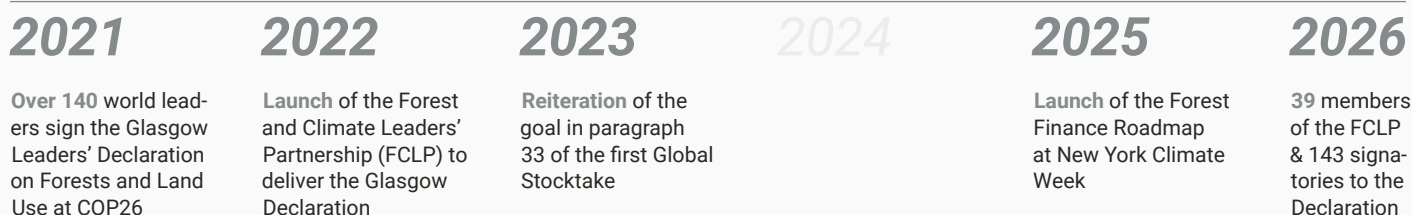
Commitment: Signatories are to conserve forests and other terrestrial ecosystems and accelerate their restoration. They pledge to **halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030**. Efforts to implement the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use are being coordinated by the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership (FCLP), which has fewer members than the Declaration has signatories.

Institutional robustness

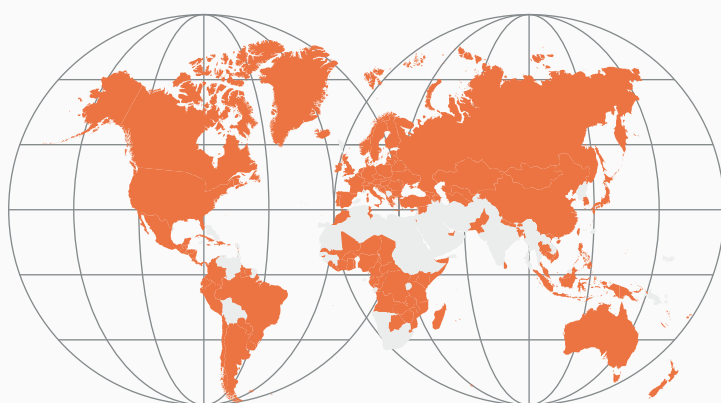


Legend: ● High ● Medium ○ Low ● No data

Key moments



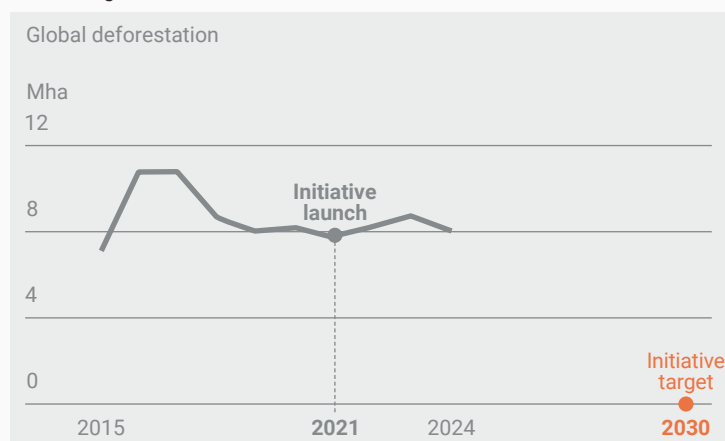
Signatories



143 national governments and the European Union

Global progress

Takeaway: Global deforestation levels today are the same as they were in 2021 when the initiative was launched. With only four years left, a significant change of direction is needed.



Study

Abatement potential

Roelfsema et al. (2026)	Impact of Glasgow Declaration on deforestation emissions: A reduction of 0.03 GtCO₂e/yr below current policies for signatories and of 0.13 GtCO₂e/yr for global implementation in 2030. The impact is comparatively small due to risks related to relocating cropland expansion.
Kuramochi et al. (2024)	Impact of aligning the sector with net zero: 1.07 GtCO₂e/yr for all signatories and 1.14 GtCO₂e/yr globally by 2030.
Chu et al. (2023)	Avoided loss (difference in carbon sink capacity between best-case declaration goal and worst-case BAU): 42 GtCO₂e cumulatively between 2020 and 2030.
Gasser et al. (2022)	End gross forest loss in signatories: source to sink transition before 2030 and -2 GtCO₂/yr after 2030. End net forest loss in signatories: source to sink transition around 2050; net emissions reduce by half compared with BAU to 2 GtCO₂/yr .
Zhu et al. (2022)	Cumulative reduction potential when implemented fully: 123 GtCO₂ between 2021 and 2050 relative to BAU (76-91% below BAU).
Climate Action Tracker (2021)	Additional reductions compared to 'pledges and targets' scenario: 1.1 GtCO₂/yr for all signatories (likely impact) and 2-3 GtCO₂/yr as a maximum global potential (potential impact) in 2030.

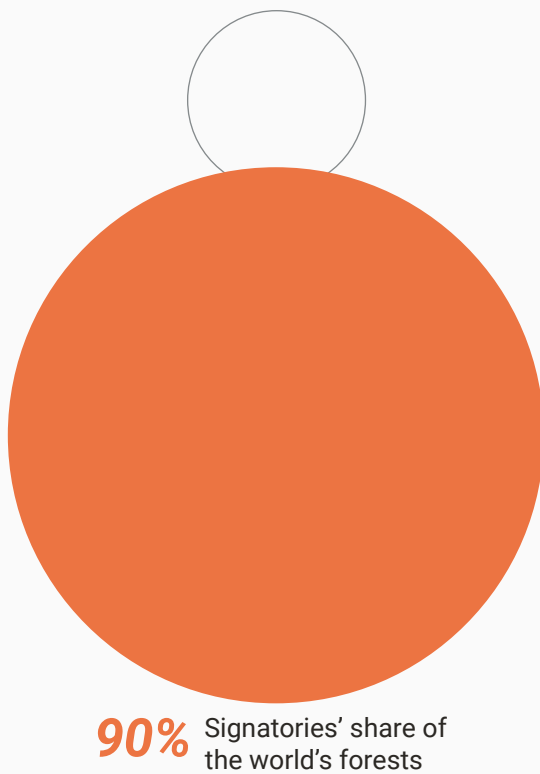
Ambition

Takeaway: There is no clear relationship between government effectiveness, tree cover loss, and pledge participation.



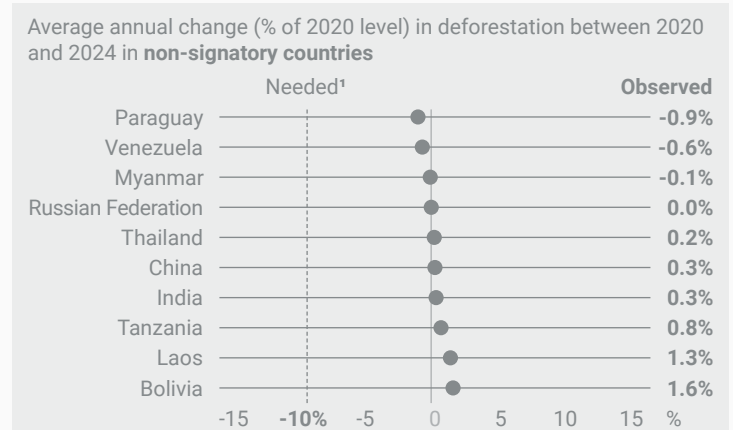
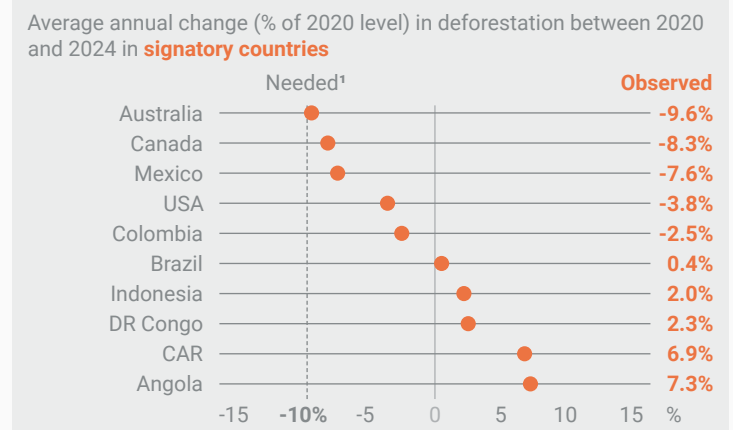
Significance

Takeaway: Signatories collectively account for the vast majority (90%) of the world's forests. This provides a solid foundation for effective mitigation, given that 7-11% of global GHG emissions stem from deforestation. However, this potential will remain unrealised unless signatories translate their commitment to the global target into concrete, enforceable policies.



Country-specific progress since initiative launch

Takeaway: Signatory and non-signatory countries exhibit distinctly different patterns. Several signatory countries have significantly reduced deforestation, while a smaller number have notably increased it. Non-signatory countries have seen little change.



¹ The required annual reduction describes the average linear decline needed globally to reach the target. Non-signatory countries have no formal targets; the benchmark instead reflects the reduction they would need to achieve to be in line with the pledge. Individual countries may show higher and lower reduction rates.

Case study: Indonesia

Already a signatory to the 2014 New York Declaration on Forests, pledging to halve natural forest loss by 2020, Indonesia also became a signatory to the Glasgow Declaration. The LULUCF sector accounts for nearly half of the country's GHG emissions, with agricultural and commodity-driven land conversion acting as the largest driver of deforestation. Following COP26, government officials' statements exemplified the inherent uncertainties in the definition and measurement of the target. One official called the commitment 'unfair' and clarified that Indonesia would focus on sustainable forest management and aim for no net loss by 2030 rather than enforcing a complete stop to deforestation.

Primary forest loss peaked in 2016 and then gradually declined until 2021, largely due to policy intervention. However, it has increased again since then and the country is currently not on track to meet the target. Indonesia is not a member of the FCLP.

Related initiatives: [Bonn Challenge](#); [Central African Forests Initiative](#); [Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force](#); [Great Green Wall for Sahara and the Sahel Initiative](#); [The New York Declaration on Forests](#)

Related GST effort area: (Paragraph 33) Conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems [...], including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030

Key takeaways

- 01** The Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use was the third global initiative of its kind, following the Bonn Challenge of 2011 and the New York Declaration on Forests of 2014, which had similar targets. Its goals were later reiterated as one of the key GST goals, which elevated their importance.
- 02** The implementing partnership (FCLP) has a high institutional robustness, with a transparent governance structure and budget. The pledge has over 140 signatories from national governments, representing approximately 90% of the world's forests.
- 03** Global deforestation has remained largely unchanged over the past eight years, leaving the world well off track to achieve the target of zero deforestation by 2030.
- 04** While some signatory countries have successfully reduced deforestation, others are experiencing increasing rates. These trends appear to be significantly influenced by the policies and governments in place.
- 05** It is clear that the target will not be achieved without a step change in action, even though the target is surrounded by ambiguity and is interpreted inconsistently across countries. One example of this is the question of net or gross forest loss. Results are also sensitive to the choice of baselines and assessment metrics, for example due to significant year-on-year fluctuations or different data operationalisation approaches.

Case study: Colombia

When Colombia signed the Glasgow Declaration, President Duque seized the opportunity to announce that 30% of the country's land would be turned into a protected area by 2023, aiming to triple the size of its national parks. This target was not reached. Some saw this announcement as a positive signal of the government's willingness to step up its efforts. However, others were sceptical, citing the lack of park management plans and national-level policies, as well as ongoing deforestation activities within the existing parks.

While Colombia's 2030 NDC, submitted in 2020, sets a deforestation target of 50,000 ha/yr for 2030, the target set out in its 2022-2026 National Development Plan is weaker still. While the agriculture and forestry sector is an important source of GHG emissions, contributing over 50%, the NDC relies too heavily on this sector for emission reductions. This risks delaying mitigation elsewhere and putting additional stress on a sector already under pressure due to armed conflict, land disputes and illegal mining. Since 2022, under President Petro, Colombia has achieved a significant reduction in deforestation.

Sources:

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