

1. Rationale

a. Context from a territorial perspective, including all stakeholders of local and regional communities

World forests are critical to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) are responsible for nearly a quarter (24%) of all anthropogenic GHG emissions. About half of that derives from deforestation and forest degradation, the other half from agricultural activities including livestock farming. Over the past 50 years, about half the world's original forest cover has been lost. Halting forest loss is a key part of fighting climate change. Forests are vital to people and the planet. Deforestation mainly occurs in tropical rainforests which are home to the greatest diversity of life on Earth, with up to 80% of the world's known species found in them and over 1 billion of the world's people relying upon them for their livelihoods.

Local communities and indigenous peoples (IPs) contribute significantly to the maintenance and sustainable management of forests and ecosystems. They depend on forests, fisheries and wildlife for their livelihoods but are also their stewards. Over generations, many have developed knowledge and practices to sustainably use and protect natural resources. IPs and local communities have legal or official rights to at least 513 million hectares of forests, which store about 37 billion tons of carbon.¹ Millions of forest dependent IPs and communities are also conserving forest lands outside of protected areas. Protecting the vast amount of carbon stored in the forests of indigenous and protected lands is critical to the stability of the global climate as well as to the cultural identity of forest-dwelling peoples and the health of ecosystems. Safeguarding IPs' and local communities' rights to forests is an important part of recognizing their role to protect forests' natural resources.

The role of IPs was echoed in the Pope Encyclical's of June 2015, call to "respect the rights of peoples and cultures, and to appreciate that the development of a social group presupposes an historical process which takes place within a cultural context and demands the constant and active involvement of local people *from within their proper culture* ».

Forests, especially tropical forests are under enormous pressures. Rapidly growing urban populations and consumption put increasing strain on the environmental services upon which cities and their communities rely. Common drivers of deforestation and severe forest degradation are agriculture, unsustainable forest management, mining, infrastructure projects and increased fire incidence and intensity. Infrastructure development can have large indirect effect through opening up forests to settlers and agriculture.

While local use and governance have an important effect on deforestation, consumption especially by industrialized countries of international commodities (such as soy, timber, palm oil, pulp and paper etc.) is one of the most important indirect drivers of deforestation. Of the portion which is traded internationally, the EU imports and consumes 36% of crops and livestock products associated with deforestation in the countries of origin. Additionally this consumption can lead to illegal deforestation, in 2012 the EU imported EUR 6 billion of soy, beef, leather and palm oil that originated from illegally cleared forest land in the tropics – almost a quarter of the total world trade in illegally sourced agricultural commodities.

Deforestation and forest degradation are also vastly driven by illegal and irresponsible logging. According to INTERPOL, illegal logging accounts for 50-90% of all forestry activities in key producer tropical forests, such as those of the Amazon Basin, Central Africa and Southeast Asia, and 15-30% of all wood traded globally. Trade in illegally harvested timber is highly lucrative and estimated to be worth between USD \$30 and USD \$100 billion annually. In response, many countries such as the

¹ <http://www.wri.org/securingrights>

U.S. and members of the E.U. have banned the import of timber whose legal harvest cannot be verified through the U.S. Lacey Act and the EU Timber Trade Regulation and the Forest Law and Environmental Governance (FLEGT) Action Plan.

2. Good Practices: Innovative practices of territorial stakeholders, including a focus on governance issue

Non-state actors, especially IPs, and subnational initiatives (on the way to national) play a big role in forest protection as well as advancing REDD+. Below are snapshots of good examples.

a) Amazon

(aa) Amazon Indigenous REDD (RIA)

The Coordination of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) was created in Lima, Peru in March 1984. COICA is comprised of nine organizations that come from the nine countries of the Amazon Basin. COICA is a territorial organization based on ancestral principles. COICA focuses on self-determination of IPs, respecting human rights of its members, coordinating the actions of its members on an international level, and fostering mutual collaboration between indigenous peoples in the region. COICA is currently developing their indigenous Proposal for REDD+ in the Amazon (RIA), which follows a holistic approach based on indigenous peoples' Life Plans.

(bb) North- South Collaboration

Partnership of the City of Rostock with Indigenous people of the Amazon

Climate Alliance member Rostock (DE) has a direct partnership with Amakaeri municipal protected area, located in Madre de Dios, Peru, a biodiversity hotspot. Amakaeri, a region of 400,000 hectares, has been responsibly administered by the indigenous Harakbutt people for centuries. In recent years, however, the area's natural resources (gold, oil and wood), have attracted companies and leading to devastating conflicts. Estimates show that as of 2009, some 18,000 hectares of forest had been cleared and another 150,000 had been damaged. With the support of the City of Rostock, the indigenous population in the Amakaeri is working to demarcate this protected area to halt the intrusion of lumber companies, gold seekers and settlers as well as to oversee of social and environmental standards in the region.

(cc) Participatory REDD+ in Madre de Dios

The Government of Madre de Dios in Peru has chosen to incorporate REDD+ as a means to achieve green development. Participatory REDD+ implementation has helped to strengthen the regional government, to improve environmental governance, and to review land planning, climate change strategy and development plans. The participatory REDD+ process in Madre de Dios, despite long, has helped to improve environmental governance, institutional arrangements and stakeholder's participation under the leadership of the regional government with a strong involvement of indigenous leaders.

b) Indonesia

At the national level, AMAN (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara, the national federation of indigenous peoples' organizations in Indonesia) is working for the recognition of indigenous peoples' rights over their lands. In 2014 the Constitutional Court of Indonesia recognized that indigenous peoples have the rights over lands, territories and resources including customary forests that are not part of State forests. This is a major step in recognizing indigenous peoples' rights. AMAN is currently working at registering the indigenous territories as defined by them.

In Indonesia, WWF is working in Kutai Barat and other regions to establish sub-national model that demonstrates effective involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in decision making and equitable benefit sharing. WWF is working with communities in mapping their territories as well as in building strong participatory practices in planning and community development activities. The work of AMAN and WWF are complimentary to help community level find recognition in national level policies.

c) Mai-Ndombe, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

The subnational REDD+ program focuses on Mai-Ndombe and Plateaux districts (the New Province of Mai-Ndombe), a region on the front lines of deforestation and degradation in the Congo Basin given its proximity to the rapidly growing city of Kinshasa. It includes one of the world's largest Ramsar site as well as critical habitat of the endangered bonobo (*Pan paniscus*) – endemic to DRC. The current Mai-Ndombe region is home to more than 1.5 million inhabitants and is part of a continuous landscape extending over 7.8 million hectares into the DRC. It is covered with tropical forests and gallery forests (forest growing along a watercourse in a region otherwise devoid of trees). The Mai-Ndombe Province would encompass 12.3 million hectares, including nine million hectares of tropical forest. The DRC is currently developing the Emission Reduction Program Document (ERP) after its ERPIN was accepted by the FCPF's Carbon Fund in 2014.

**d) The importance of temperate forests for global climate change action:
Lübeck forest**

The Lübeck forest example highlights the importance the linkages between ecological structures and processes, and associated economic values and benefits for social systems. It demonstrates that management based on ecological integrity provided greater economic benefits than a management plan based on economic benefits and improved efficiency. Specifically, forest management experience in Lübeck shows that large-diameter and old trees are crucial for maintaining biomass accumulation, carbon sequestration, structural heterogeneity, forest biodiversity and forest integrity.

e) EU Robinwood plus project:

INTERREG IVC programme, the European cooperation mini-programme 'Robinwood Plus' associates five partner regions from four Member States: Liguria and Calabria in Italy, Hargita in Romania, Kainuu in Finland and Limousin in France. The main aim of the project, launched in 2010, was to promote and develop multifunctional forestry to stimulate and improve rural economy and communities, in line with the EU Forestry Action Plan and sustainable development policies. To achieve this objective, project activities and exchanges of experience were held with 20 local beneficiaries -like regional Parks, local Administrations, Universities, Research institutes, Development Agencies and Consortia. Five "sub-projects" were implemented in the field of environmental education, forest planning and managing, local wood marketing and non-wood products, biodiversity and biomass and sustainable tourism in forest areas.

3. Qualitative and quantitative forest-related commitments under way.

a) International (quantified) forest commitments under way

UNFCCC Parties have recognized the role of the forests and land sector to help meet their targets. Since 2007, focus has been placed on incentives and actions to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancing forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The adoption of the "Warsaw Framework for REDD+" at the COP19 in 2013, represented a major milestone. The continued momentum of the forest and climate agenda has been supported by major national commitments, by both developed and developing countries, to REDD+ initiatives – including the establishment of multilateral programmes and bilateral agreements. In a post-2020 agreement, a similar, broad consideration of the land sector in economy-wide targets (or national contributions) is expected for countries in a position to do so. The development of

systems, capacities and concrete actions in countries continues to move forward the forest and land sector agenda, in particular on the road to the 21st UNFCCC Climate Conference in Paris, in December 2015.

Building on the success of the UN Climate Summit in September 2014, the governments of Peru and France are working together under the **Lima-Paris Action Agenda**, which includes an agenda for forests. The Lima-Paris Action Agenda on Forests has identified key priorities and provides a useful framework to achieve impactful results.

aa) A snapshot of declared Commitments:

i. [The New York Declaration on Forests](#)

The Declaration was endorsed by 21 developing countries, 15 developed countries, 50 of the world's biggest companies, 16 indigenous organizations and 61 civil society organizations (including WWF and COICA). The signatories committed to reducing the rate of loss of natural forests globally by at least 50% by 2020 and striving to end natural forest loss by 2030. The Declaration also included a commitment to restore hundreds of millions of hectares of forested land. The fulfillment of these commitments would be a significant contribution in the collective effort to limit global temperature rise to 2°C, equivalent to reducing carbon emissions between 4.5bn and 8.8bn tons per year by 2030.

Under the NY Declaration on Forests, Indigenous Peoples from across the globe pledge to protect 400 million hectares of forests, in the Amazon, Central America, the Congo Basin and Indonesia. This represents an area twice the size of Indonesia, which stores more than 85 Gt of CO₂. They put forward three priorities: (i) progress on customary land rights for indigenous peoples, (ii) free prior informed consent for all decisions that affect them, and (iii) access to a fair share of climate finance.

Furthermore, a great number of **Corporate Commitments have been taken in support of the New York Declaration**. 20 global food companies have committed to deforestation-free sourcing policies for their palm oil. Commitments for zero-deforestation palm oil grew to about 60 per cent last year, with the potential to reduce 400 million to 450 million tons of CO₂ emissions annually by 2020. The Consumer Goods Forum—a coalition of 400 companies, called upon governments to pass a legally binding climate deal in Paris in 2015 that includes REDD+, including large-scale payments to countries that reduce deforestation.

[The Lima Challenge](#)

At COP20 (Lima, 2014), 14 countries came together under the leadership of Colombia to challenge developed countries under the NY Forests Declaration to achieve greater forest-based emissions reductions, pledging to quantify additional ambition to be achieved with international support.

[The Bonn Challenge](#)

The goal of the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020 was extended by the NY Forests Declaration to at least an additional 200 million hectares by 2030.

Supporting these initiatives is thus the best resource to create momentum towards the COP 21 in Paris - especially towards [closing the Gigatonne Gap by 2020](#).

b) Other commitments initiated by Climate Alliance and its Partners

With the aim of preserving rainforests and protecting of global climate, Climate Alliance Austria entered into an alliance with the FOIRN (Federation of the Indigenous People of Rio Negro) in the 90s to support educational establishments and businesses of the indigenous people.

Climate Alliance members have committed to remove deforestation and destructive exploitation from their public procurement chains through two resolutions Luzern (1998) and General Assembly (2009). All 1700 member cities and communities are encouraged to formulate 75% of ecologically and socially sustainable tenders by 2012, 90% by 2015 and 100% by 2020.

4. Proposed Amendments or Inclusion in the Paris Agreement

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A LYON DECLARATION ON FORESTS

1. *Considering* that a quarter of human-caused global emissions come from the forest and land sector, we call on national governments engaged in the UNFCCC negotiations to ensure that the role of the forest and land sector is fully recognized in the new climate agreement, using a simple, flexible and transparent approach, which at the same time promotes high ambition and environmental integrity of the emissions reductions.
2. *Reiterating* our collective commitments under the **New York Declaration on Forests**, we encourage more countries, companies, local-level actors, indigenous leaders and civil society to endorse the Declaration and to do their part to achieve its outcomes in partnership, including by ensuring that strong, large-scale economic incentives are in place commensurate with the size of the challenge.
3. Recognizing holistic approaches to forests beyond carbon, we call for nature-based, local and inclusive solutions to implement mitigation, adaption and ecosystems conservation actions.
4. *Recognizing* the key role of non-state actors, including local communities, indigenous peoples, local government and private sector in governing and implementing mitigation action in the forest and land use sectors, the new international climate regime must provide a framework that encourages states and non-state and local actors to support closing the “gigatonne gap” before 2020.
4. *Recognizing* coalitions of non-state actors will have to consolidate to give substance to the Action Agenda in the run-up to COP21 and beyond and to promote an ambitious agreement in Paris.
5. *Noting* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other related texts on human rights and rights of indigenous people, we call on national governments, with the support of the international community, to commit to legal recognition of the right and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples over their traditional territories.
6. *Recognizing* the limits to access climate finance for indigenous peoples, we call to build global climate finance mechanisms on the principles of equity, direct access and management and impact-based approach for IPs, as put forward by organizations like COICA.
7. *Recognizing* the existing barriers to investment in sustainable forest landscape activities and enterprises, we call on the national governments and international institutions to promote and support the enabling conditions necessary for an inclusive approach for state, non-state and local actors.
8. *Recognizing* the international drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, including the impact of consumer demand and trade in illegal timber, we commit to supporting public policy and regulation to address these drivers.