



G7 | G20
TRACK 2
DIALOGUE

Fact Sheet

Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use

About GDFLU

The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GDFLU) was launched at the November 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26). A total of 143 nations signed the declaration, accounting for over 90% of the world's forests. This effort aimed to 'halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting inclusive rural transformation' (UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021).





Three Key Facts on Deforestation:



Deforestation and forest degradation cause 50% of land sector emissions.



Brazil had the highest primary loss of tropical rainforest in 2021.



Climate tipping points could trigger a forest 'dieback,' releasing large amounts of carbon and further accelerating global warming.

Three Key Demands:



Provide more information about the initiative's process, measurement, and development.



Ensure clear operationalisation of sub-targets, including time schedules and binding commitments.



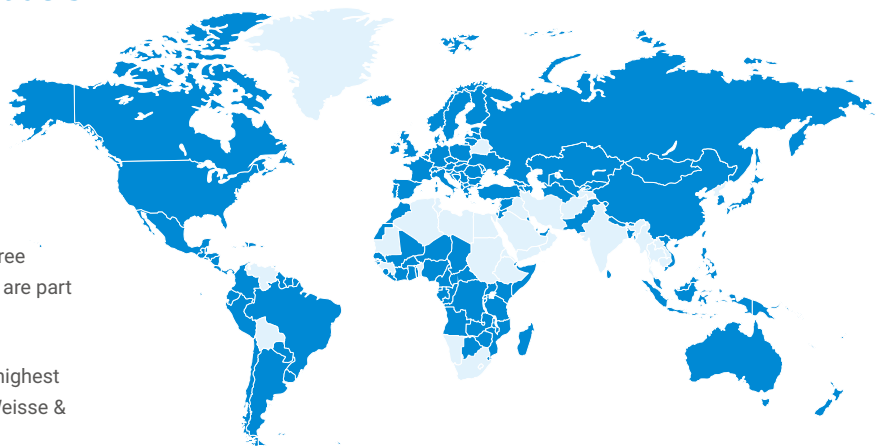
Provide a compatible and transparent review mechanism to track the initiative's progress.

Members of Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Landuse

■ Membership

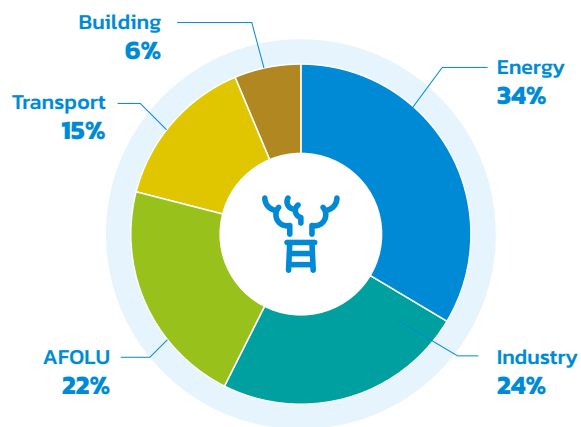
Of the 15 countries with the greatest tree coverage decreases, all except Bolivia are part of the pledge.

Brazil was by far the country with the highest tropical primary forest loss in 2021 (Weisse & Goldman 2022).



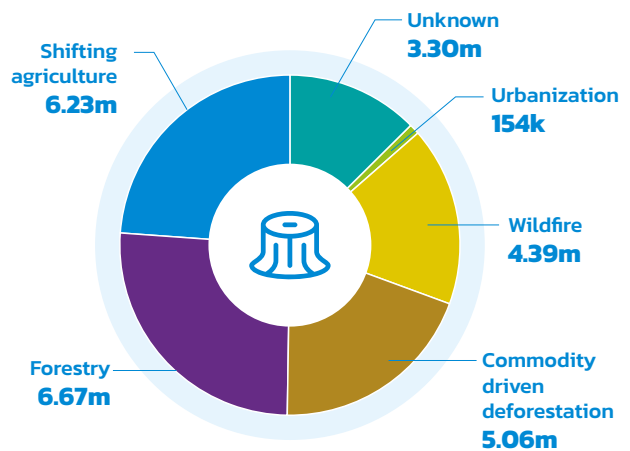


Sectoral Greenhouse Gas Emissions in 2019



Source: Quelle: IPCC (2022)

Drivers for tree cover loss (in ha)



Source: Global Forest Watch (2020)

The land and forest sector is, together with the industry sector, the second-largest source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions after the energy sector. Deforestation and forest degradation account for 50% of land sector emissions (International Union for Conservation of Nature 2021).

Forestry (unsustainable forest management), agriculture (agricultural commodities such as soy, beef, palm oil, and timber production) and commodity-driven deforestation are the main drivers of tree loss. They are collectively responsible for 9.2 billion tonnes GHG (WWF 2020).

Since 1990, absolute GHG emissions from agriculture, forestry, and other land use increased, but the share compared with other sectors decreased (IPCC Working Group II 2022).



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Forests as cause and solution of climate change

Forests act as both a cause of and solution for GHG. For example, the Amazon rainforest now emits more CO₂ than it can absorb (Carrington 2021). However, forests absorb 2.6 billion tons of CO₂ every year, making them an essential solution for climate change (International Union for Conservation of Nature 2021). Scientists worry that climate tipping points could trigger a forest 'dieback' that would transform the rainforest into grassland or savannah. This would release large amounts of carbon and further accelerate global warming (McSweeney 2020).



MATRIX

MEMBERS	<i>Membership</i>	143 nations
	<i>Relevant actors</i>	Russia, Canada, Brazil, and the United States, which collectively have 50% of the world's forests, are part of the initiative. India, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia are the only G20 countries absent from the declaration.
	<i>Institutional status</i>	Unknown
TARGETS	<i>Main goal</i>	'Halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting inclusive rural transformation' (UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021).
	<i>Assessment of targets</i>	The initiative has a clear vision and objective, but there are no concrete measurements. It is also unclear how the objectives will be achieved and what resources are available.
	<i>Additionality</i>	It is unclear to what extent the commitments are additional to Nationally Determined Contributions.
	<i>Clarity of targets/loopholes</i>	All objectives are vague, and it is unclear which measurements are planned—no further institutionalisation.
	<i>Paris- compatibility</i>	Unknown
REDUCTION POTENTIAL	<i>GHG-reduction potential</i>	Climate Action Tracker estimates the declaration could lead to 1.1 GtCO ₂ of emissions reduction by 2030 (Gidden et al. 2021).
TRANSPARENCY	<i>Participation procedures for stakeholders</i>	Unknown
	<i>Availability of review mechanisms</i>	Unknown
	<i>Transparent monitoring and reporting procedures</i>	Unknown



Demands/Requirements

For the Initiative

- Provide more information about the process, measurements, and development.
- Have clear operationalisation of sub-targets, including time schedules and binding commitments.
- Provide a compatible and transparent review mechanism to track the initiative's progress.

For G7/G20

- Commit to preventing forest loss and implementing binding targets and clear measurements.
- Increase protected areas and apply legal commitments to support natural forests.

GDFLU in G7/G20



About the fact sheet series

Initiatives and so-called climate clubs can potentially close the 2030 ambition gap and more quickly implement climate action. Only a small amount of research exists for assessing their impact, accountability, transparency, and implementation. In this fact sheet series, to enhance transparency, we assessed three different climate initiatives launched at COP26.



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G7 | G20 Track 2 Project is a channel to allow 'trickle-down / bottom-up' dialogues between civil society and governments to discuss climate change policies in the context of G20. Our partner CSOs in each country represent the global south countries in these dialogues.

Fact sheet initiator :



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