MEDIA ADVISORY - FOREST ROADMAP LAUNCH

Nature4Climate policy experts react to the launch of the global forest roadmap

Coalition policy experts welcome the delivery of a major COP30 promise and call on the world to turn it into action to end deforestation and ecosystem degradation by 2030

Policy experts from the Nature4Climate coalition share their reactions to today's launch of the COP30 Presidency's Roadmap to Halt and Reverse Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030. The coalition celebrates the delivery of what was a big promise from the COP30 Presidency. But the work doesn't stop here. The world now has the challenge of taking the roadmap forward and making sure it is a useful tool for delivering on the promise to end deforestation and ecosystem degradation before 2030.

Quotes:

Lucy Almond, Chair, Nature4Climate, said:
"Delivering this roadmap is a real milestone, and the COP30 Presidency should be celebrated for keeping its promise. But a roadmap only matters if it is used. Governments, companies, and communities now need to put their weight behind it, so that it becomes the tool that helps us end deforestation and ecosystem degradation before 2030. The commitments are on the table. What we need now is speed."

Cathy Yitong Li, Global Climate & Energy Policy Lead, BirdLife International, said:
"In this year of triple COPs under the Rio Conventions, the Forest Roadmap offers a critical opportunity to get us back on track towards achieving our shared 2030 forest goals, which are fundamental to tackling climate change, halting nature loss and supporting livelihoods. To realise this ambition, governments must translate the roadmap into national implementation, mobilise political momentum, and work collectively to ensure its continuity."

Damian Fleming, Senior Director, Forests, WWF International, said:
"The Forest Roadmap gets many of the fundamentals right: governance, enforcement, rights, finance, and the need to tackle degradation as well as deforestation. The challenge now is speed. With 2030 only a few years away, implementation cannot remain voluntary in spirit and fragmented in practice.

"Countries now need to use it to turbocharge action for results on the ground. Deforestation- and conversion-free supply chains and governance must be at the centre of action and incorporate the rights, voices and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and those of local communities."

Christine Dragisic, Managing Director for Global Policy at National Audubon Society said:
"*The release of the Forests Roadmap is a major milestone.* But *the world doesn't need another plan that sits on a shelf. We need governments, businesses, and investors to put this roadmap to work. Forests are one of our greatest allies in fighting climate change. Conserving and restoring forests also means protecting the birds and habitats that depend on them, supporting Indigenous*

Peoples and local communities, and strengthening economies. The opportunity is clear. Now we need action to match the ambition."

Coenraad Krijger, CEO, Wetlands International, said:
"We welcome the COP30 Presidency's Forest Roadmap and its recognition of peatlands and mangroves as essential to global forest action. Protecting and restoring these ecosystems is critical for climate mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, water security and biodiversity. The next step is to translate this recognition into action, with policies and finance that support the functioning of entire landscapes, including the water systems that sustain them."

Chetan Kumar, Global Head, Forest and Grasslands Team, IUCN, said:
"IUCN welcomes the COP30 Presidency's Forest Roadmap and its recognition that halting and reversing forest loss requires more than addressing deforestation alone. Protecting primary and other high-integrity forests, tackling degradation, strengthening sustainable forest management and restoring degraded landscapes must be pursued together. The Roadmap provides an opportunity to connect these priorities across national policies, institutions and financing mechanisms, while recognising the different ecological and social realities of forest landscapes. Its success will depend on whether these integrated approaches can sustain healthy, resilient forests and the benefits they provide to people and nature."

Tom Skirrow, CEO at Tree Aid, said:
"Tree Aid welcomes the Forest Roadmap and congratulates the COP30 Presidency on delivering this important commitment. Crucially, however, the roadmap does not tell us anything we do not already know. It reflects decades of evidence, experience and advocacy from Indigenous Peoples, local communities, practitioners and policymakers around the world on what is needed to halt and reverse forest loss.

"The real test is whether we can now move from evidence and ambition to action at the scale and speed required. We are encouraged to see the roadmap recognise the vital role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Across Africa's drylands, we see every day that when communities have secure rights, a meaningful voice in decision-making, and the resources to manage their natural assets, they protect, restore and sustainably use trees and forests in ways that strengthen both livelihoods and resilience.

"If we are serious about meeting the 2030 goal, communities must be treated not simply as beneficiaries of forest action, but as its leaders. Empowering local people to control, protect and restore their land and natural resources is not one solution among many; it is fundamental to achieving lasting change."

Anand Punja, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Forest Stewardship Council International (FSC International), said:
"The release of the Forest Roadmap is a major achievement and innovation amid the current challenges facing the multilateral system. We need all parts of society now to use this roadmap to deliver for forests on the ground. FSC particularly welcomes the recognition of sustainable forest management as a key lever in halting and reversing forest loss, alongside conservation and restoration measures. Protecting forests means delivering outcomes for the integrity of the ecosystem, the people who steward them, and the livelihoods and economies they support. FSC is

ready to play a leading role in supporting countries, businesses, civil society organizations and Indigenous Peoples to implement the roadmap in forests across the world."

Erin Matson, Lead Consultant at Climate Focus and Program Director of the Forest Declaration Assessment, said:
"The Brazilian COP30 Presidency's delivery of the Forest Roadmap is a welcome act of leadership at a time when the world needs it. It shows progress is possible within this decade. Its attention to forest crime that crosses borders recognises that deeper governance challenges must be addressed. Now it's up to all of us to sustain the momentum the Roadmap built, tackle those underlying barriers, and build durable progress for forests and people."

***Lina Barrera**, Conservation International Senior Vice President of Policy and Incentives, said:*

"The Forest Roadmap takes a results-oriented approach by highlighting the different pathways to meet the 2030 goal. The roadmap makes the high-impact national policies and priorities for international cooperation on forest action clear - and with forest finance needing to more than triple by 2030 - the task is to make money flow into these solutions. The roadmap stresses that all forms of finance will be necessary moving forward. In particular, the role of forests in carbon markets must be assured and strengthened and finance must align with incentives and build demand for nature-positive outcomes. Critically, resources must also flow directly to Indigenous peoples and local communities who steward our most carbon-dense and biodiverse regions. Looking ahead, the task now is to use the roadmap and generate the money needed to make a real difference on the ground."