

TROPICAL FOREST CHAMPIONS¹

Making it easy and safe for companies and investors to partner with tropical forest states and regions that are striving for forest-, community- and climate-smart development



THE OPPORTUNITY AND THE CHALLENGE

Tropical forest governments are poised to make major contributions to climate change solutions by slowing the loss and speeding the recovery of tropical forests². They won't realize their potential without a rapid escalation in the number of partnerships³ they have with companies and investors.

A SOLUTION

Tropical Forest Champions (TFC) is a system for registering⁴, tracking, incentivizing, and facilitating partnerships with tropical forest states and regions that are on the pathway to sustainable development. It helps jurisdictions become safe havens⁵ for companies and investors to do business in, providing an urgently needed complement to the strategies that make it risky to do business in regions where deforestation is taking place. It helps governments and their partners share the progress they are making, creating mechanisms for celebrating and rewarding this progress. It helps governments, companies and investors who share a commitment to sustainable development find each other and collaborate.

HOW DOES IT WORK FOR GOVERNMENTS?

Governments that are striving to become tropical forest champions or to continue their progress as tropical forest champions can register online at any time, sharing their goals, their actions, and their results, advertising the types of partnerships with companies and investors they are seeking and letting potential partners know how to engage. To register, governments need a formal commitment to tropical forests. To remain, governments must demonstrate that they are taking action and, eventually, achieving results⁶. (See diagram)

HOW DOES IT WORK FOR COMPANIES AND INVESTORS?

Companies and investors that are striving to become—or remain—tropical forest champions can register their pledges, their partnerships, and the new partnerships they are seeking.

A FOCUS ON MUTUAL, TANGIBLE BENEFITS

TFC is based on the core assumption that forest-, community- and climate-smart development can be achieved through collaborations between the governments of tropical forest jurisdictions and the businesses (local, national, international) and investors that are poised to help them. The essential ingredients of these collaborations include mutual respect and tangible benefits to all partners.

NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR CURRENT STRATEGIES

TFC is designed to increase the success of the many initiatives⁷ underway to slow the loss and speed the recovery of tropical forests. It grows out of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force dialogue on "Agricultural production and tropical deforestation" which culminated in the "Call for Collaboration from Tropical Forest Government Leaders".

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER GOVERNANCE

TFC will be governed by a global steering committee comprised of representatives of tropical forest governments, companies, finance institutions, farmers and NGOs that provides broad representation of tropical forest regions and initiatives and oversees TFC implementation. Regional TFC systems will be tailor-made to support multi-jurisdictional processes, such as "Public-Private Coalition for Low-Emission Rural Development of the Peruvian Amazon".

1 Translated: Campeões de Florestas Tropicais, Campeones del Bosque Tropical, Juara Hutan Tropis

2 Existing formal government commitments extended to 2030 could provide 10% or more of the emissions reductions needed to avoid 1.5degC warming.

Source: Stickler et al. 2018. State of Jurisdictional Sustainability: Summary for Policymakers & Practitioners.

3 Of 39 tropical forest jurisdictions recently studied, only 5 had partnerships with companies for tropical forests. Stickler et al. 2018.

4 beta version available April 15

5 Discussions are underway with campaigning NGOs to recognize and respect Tropical Forest Champion jurisdictions as safe havens for companies and investors to collaborate.

6 The rules for becoming and remaining a Tropical Forest Champion are under development. To move from "Commitment" to "Actions", for example, a jurisdiction could complete 3 of the 9 elements of low-emission development (Stickler et al. 2018).

7 For example, the TFA2020, the New York Declaration on Forests, RSPO Jurisdictional Certification approach, the Commodities/Jurisdictions process, the Accountability Framework initiative, IDH "Verified Sourcing Areas", the Sustainable Landscape Rating Tool (SLRT), and many more.



SUPPORT FROM



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TROPICAL FOREST CHAMPIONS




RECOGNITION

BENEFITS

PARTNERSHIP


INVESTMENT