

September 14, 2018

His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Secretariat Building
405 E 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

We, the undersigned organizations, embrace the challenge—issued by the Global Climate Action Summit—to take action to secure, by 2030, achievement of 30 percent of the Paris Agreement goals from natural climate solutions in the forests, food and land sector.

Though creating a global clean energy economy remains vital, research shows that avoiding dangerous climate change will prove nearly impossible without enhanced use of natural climate solutions, include stopping deforestation, promoting forest restoration, conserving and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems, developing climate-smart agriculture, making healthier dietary choices and pursuing other common-sense decisions relating to forests, food and lands.

Currently, the land sector emits a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions globally—around 10–12 billion tons of CO₂ equivalent per year. That is nearly double the total emissions from all cars, trucks, trains, planes and ships in the world and just shy of total global emissions from the electricity sector. Fortunately, research also shows that stronger action in the land sector could deliver up to, and possibly over, 30% of emission reductions needed by 2030 to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, while lifting a billion people out of poverty, creating 80 million jobs and adding an additional \$2.3 trillion in productive growth to the global economy. Natural climate solutions are affordable, feasible and globally scalable, provided that governments lead the way.

Unfortunately, governments appear to have forgotten this. Natural climate solutions currently comprise less than 1% of the climate policy conversation and receive under 3% of public funding for climate action. While 77% of 165 governments that have announced ‘Nationally Determined Contributions’ to curb greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement recognize the role of the land sector, only 30% have quantified that role. This must change.

Today, we call for action and commit to doing our part. We call on all governments to:

- Review and revise their current and planned contributions, domestically and internationally, to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement in order to ensure that they

unlock the full potential of natural climate solutions in the forests, food and land sector, which collectively can deliver 30% of the climate solutions needed by 2030.

- Include in future contributions to climate action measurable, quantified targets for natural climate solutions.
- Undertake an assessment of collective progress towards achieving the Forest, Food and Land Challenge, as part of the Paris Agreement's periodic 'global stocktake'.
- Set and enforce policies that protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and environmental defenders who are on the front lines of habitat loss.

Sincerely,

American Forests

Avoided Deforestation Partners

Climate Focus

Conservation International

Environmental Defense Fund

Forest Trends

George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication

Nature4Climate

Rainforest Alliance

SystemIQ

The Nature Conservancy

Trust for Public Land

United Nations Foundation

World Resources Institute

Wildlife Conservation Society

World Wildlife Fund