



Greenpeace presents

# Forests for Climate

GREENPEACE

Protecting the World's Forests and Climate

Protecting ancient forests is vital to tackle climate change, preserve global biodiversity, and protect the livelihoods of millions of forest peoples.

Tropical forest destruction is responsible for about one fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions, more than from the world's entire transport sector.

To prevent dangerous climate change, we need a global effort to end forest destruction, as well as a revolution in the ways we produce and use energy.

# Greenpeace has the solution

**Front Cover Image**  
**24/10/06 Democratic Republic of the Congo**  
A small boat is guided through the swamps around Lake Tumba (Lac Tumba), where local people catch fish with dams and traps. Approximately 40 million people in the DRC depend on the rainforest for their basic needs, such as medicine, food or shelter.  
©Greenpeace/P Reynaers

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**4/10/07 Indonesia**  
A fisherman surveys the scene of a recent forest fire along the Kapuas River.  
©Greenpeace/  
N Behring-Chisolm



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SAVE THE PARADISE FORESTS

**9/3/06 Papua New Guinea**

Boundary marking forest areas in Papua New Guinea. At the request of locals, Greenpeace set up the Global Forest Rescue Station (GFRS) to help indigenous people protect their homeland. Part of a community solutions programme, the project gives local people more control over their land.

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## Forests for Climate

**Forests for Climate**<sup>1</sup> is a landmark proposal for an international funding mechanism to protect tropical forests. The mechanism would become part of the second phase of the Kyoto (post-2012) agreement on climate change. If countries commit to **Forests for Climate**, funding to protect tropical forests could become available as soon as 2009. It is estimated that halving emissions from deforestation will cost US \$10-15 billion per year.<sup>2</sup>

**Forests for Climate** has the potential to raise these funds, and more.

<sup>1</sup> For more details on the forests for climate proposal, see the Tropical Deforestation Emission Reduction Mechanism (TDERM): A Discussion Paper at [www.greenpeace.org/forestsforclimate](http://www.greenpeace.org/forestsforclimate)

<sup>2</sup> Climate Change, Ethics and the Economics of the Global Deal, Sir Nicholas Stern, 30 November 2007, comments delivered at the 2007 Annual Public Lecture of the Royal Economic Society.

## How it works

Industrialised countries that commit to doing their fair share in reducing energy and industrial emissions would be allowed to meet a portion of their overall commitments through the purchase of cost effective “tropical deforestation units.” A major benefit for industrialised countries is that the units would act as hard currency for compliance purposes, since the mechanism would be responsible for delivering verifiable emission reductions.

Developing countries with tropical forests that choose to participate in **Forests for Climate** would make commitments to protecting their forests consistent with the UNFCCC “common but differentiated responsibilities.” In exchange, developing countries would have the opportunity to receive funding for capacity-building efforts and for national-level reductions in deforestation emissions. Countries that reliably and accurately report emission reductions would receive a greater return for their services. This would provide a strong incentive for developing countries to continually improve their forest protection programmes.



**29/10/07 Indonesia**

Greenpeace activists and local volunteers at the Forest Defenders Camp in Indonesia. They are building dams on peatland canals to stop palm oil companies draining them.

©Greenpeace/O Budhi



**23/11/05 Democratic Republic of the Congo**  
A female orphan chimpanzee. Chimpanzee populations in DRC are threatened due to destruction of their habitats, and illegal poaching.  
©Greenpeace/JK Gjerstad

## The Forests for Climate Advantage

### Immediate and Reliable Funding

**Forests for Climate** would require industrialised countries to make a minimum contribution, a “tropical deforestation commitment.” This would ensure a significant and steady stream of funds to protect tropical forests in developing countries. Industrialised countries could choose to purchase additional units up to a certain cap. This limit would safeguard against countries using this opportunity as an excuse to do nothing about energy and industrial emissions at home.

**Forests for Climate** could make billions of euros available for capacity building and emission reduction activities through a forward sale (or auction) of emission allowances in 2009. This commitment would give developing countries an incentive to stop deforesting now, well before the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol begins in 2013. The climate emergency requires urgent action. **Forests for Climate** would provide it.

## Global Coverage: Open to the Widest Range of Countries with Tropical Forests

**Forests for Climate** is open to the greatest number of countries possible and is adaptable to the different needs and capabilities of those countries – nations as diverse as Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Indonesia.

**Forests for Climate** would achieve this by applying a “portfolio performance approach,” with funding programmes and reporting standards tailored to different regions or countries.

Efforts to include tropical forests in the carbon markets would risk excluding critical countries with low deforestation rates (such as the Congo Basin nations), as well as countries unable to meet the market’s strict monitoring and verification requirements. **Forests for Climate** would avoid this, and provide funding to countries with varying capacities, including those with high and low deforestation rates.

### 15/3/05 Amazon

The Greenpeace Cessna Caravan float plane is an important tool in protecting the Amazon. The aircraft helps to monitor illegal logging, deforestation, fires and environmental destruction in the Amazon.

©Greenpeace/E Harrison





28/2/06 Amazon

Enawene-Nawe Indians on their fishing grounds near Juina, in the Amazon. Loggers and farmers are threatening their subsistence, even burning their campground. Paulo Adario from Greenpeace talks to the locals.

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## Protects Biodiversity and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Protection of biodiversity lies at the core of **Forests for Climate**, which prioritises intact and other important natural forests (such as peatland forests) in efforts to halt deforestation. Tropical forests cover just 7 per cent of the Earth's land surface, yet contain nearly half of all life on Earth. These forests also regulate water cycles, which provide drinking water and rain to local communities. **Forests for Climate** would value both carbon and biodiversity, and would not subsidise the expansion of industrial logging, agri-business and other destructive practices into intact forests.

The millions of indigenous people who live in and off the forests need to have their futures secured so that they can remain guardians of the forests.

**Forests for Climate** would recognise The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and fully respect the land, resource use and ownership rights of these peoples. Local indigenous people would be directly engaged in the development and implementation of the mechanism.

## Protects Against “Leakage”

**Forests for Climate** would protect against “leakage” – forest destruction stopped in one area, moving to another. Project and sub-national approaches to reducing deforestation risk merely shifting the destruction. **Forests for Climate** would require national-level reductions in emissions to prevent deforestation from shifting from one part of a country to another. Because the mechanism would provide the greatest number of tropical forest countries access to financing, the risk of international leakage is also greatly reduced. This will ensure that the mechanism delivers real benefits for climate and biodiversity.

24/8/05 Argentina

Veteran Greenpeace activist and author, Rex Weyler with Greenpeace activists dressed as jaguars in the Argentinean rainforest. They are using motorbikes and two helicopters to document forest destruction.

©Greenpeace/J Pantoja



## Protects the Stability of Carbon Markets

Carbon markets are significant tools in the fight against climate change and must remain stable to be effective. Under **Forests for Climate**, the price of deforestation reduction units would be linked to that of other units traded in carbon markets (or generated through an auction), but the deforestation units would not be directly and openly exchanged in the markets. If cheap deforestation reduction credits were fully fungible with other carbon units, there is a real risk they could “flood” or otherwise destabilise the markets. This could bring down the price of carbon, reducing incentives to invest in clean and renewable energy technologies.

Tropical forests are not only threatened by logging companies and agri-businesses, but by climate change itself. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has identified increases in disturbances (such as droughts, insects and fire) as climate related threats which could become catastrophic if they cross critical thresholds.

Thus, efforts to end tropical deforestation must not only address destructive land use activities, but also recognise the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the energy and industrial sectors.

**Forests for Climate** takes this approach.

<sup>9</sup> IPCC 2007. Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Chapter 4.



**22/2/06 Papua New Guinea**

Greenpeace volunteer Richard Brenton and men from the Catfish clan work together to install solar panels at the Global Forest Rescue Station on Lake Murray, Papua New Guinea. The GFRS was launched after locals asked Greenpeace to help.

©Greenpeace/N Behring-Chisholm



### 8/8/05 Amazon

View of forest fire from a flight between Sinop and the Parque das Castanheiras in the Brazilian Amazon

©Greenpeace/J Novis

## The World is Waiting

At the UNFCCC conference in Bali, December 2007, the international community recognised the need to address emissions from deforestation and degradation for the first time. But with an area of tropical forest the size of a football pitch being destroyed every 2 seconds, there is still much more to be done.

Around the world developing countries with tropical forests are asking for funding to help them stop the destruction of their forests. What's been missing is an internationally agreed plan to help these countries protect their forests.

**Forests for Climate** offers the solution. Now we need the political will to make it a reality.

Greenpeace believes it is possible to keep the worst impacts of climate change - such as extreme weather events, water crises and increased hunger - from putting millions more people at risk. In order to stop dangerous climate change, global mean temperature rise must be kept as far below 2°C as possible, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this we need a revolution in the ways we use and produce energy, and an end to deforestation worldwide. Governments must make the necessary commitments at national and international levels to give our planet a fighting chance against climate change.

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