

Newsletter December 2022



Dear friends and partners,

The year's end can be a time for reflection, for taking stock. From the Forest Declaration Assessment that asked *Are we on track for 2030?* to reviewing the role of food systems in governments' Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, Climate Focus and our partners have sought to do just that. We know that forests and food systems are crucial to people, to biodiversity, and to the global climate. Yet, stocktakes show that the world is not on track to halt deforestation by 2030, is not transforming food systems to reduce emissions and meet demand, and is not fulfilling financial commitments to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Despite these sad findings, assessments also show that achieving climate and environmental targets is possible when governments justly enforce their mandates, companies engage in bold and collaborative action, and civil society initiatives are empowered to innovate and lead.

There is immense potential in building capacity among governments to develop nature-based solutions for the climate that engage private sector investment and meet sustainable development needs. Pledges are in place—such as the [agreement at COP27](#) to provide loss and damage funding for vulnerable countries and the COP26 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration—and the fulfillment of these is crucial to addressing the climate crisis. Climate Focus and our partners are working on the development of policy and civil society standards are emerging that hold governments and companies accountable for fulfilling climate commitments.

Every action, innovation, and investment towards climate goals matters. We wish you a peaceful season of reflection and anticipate ongoing collaboration in the new year!

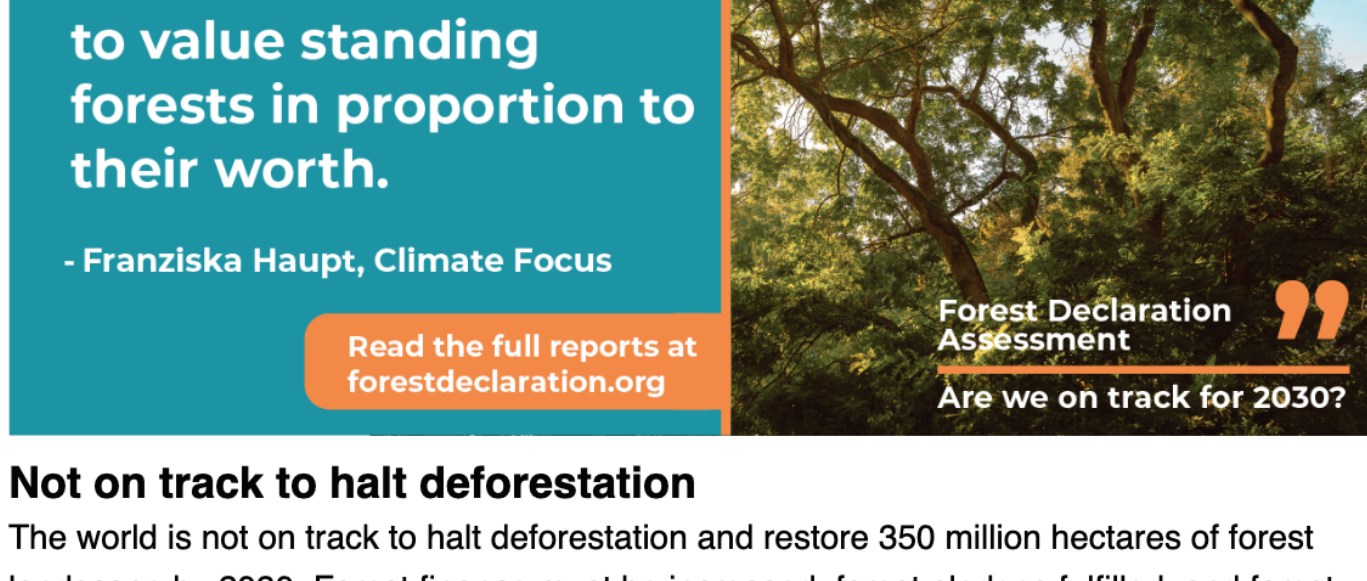
- The Climate Focus Team

CLIMATE FOCUS AT COP27

We had the opportunity to share some of our insights and collaborate with partners in person at COP27:

- [Sharing best practices and lessons learned from capacity building for Article 6 implementation](#)
- [Launch event of the Article 6 Implementation Partnership by the Japanese Ministry of Environment](#)
- West African Alliance: Roundtable with Heads of States and/or Heads of Delegations of West African countries
- [Unlocking and Scaling Climate Solutions in Food Systems](#): An Assessment of NDCs for Food Systems Transformation in the WWF Pavilion
- Koronivia's future series: Integration of Food Loss and Waste in Koronivia's future – learnings from the ground, sharing benefits and exploring opportunities in the Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas Pavilion
- "Unlocking multi-stakeholder collaboration for transformative agrifood systems through NDCs and NAPs" at the Food and Agriculture Pavilion
- Art 6 & VCMs for clean cooking (session with Modern Energy Cooking Services)
- [Forest climate mitigation until 2030: Tracking progress, informing action](#)
- [The Forest Declaration Assessment 2022: Tracking progress on policy action to achieve 2030 forest goals](#)
- [Dealing with military and conflict related emissions under the UNFCCC](#)

FOREST DECLARATION ASSESSMENT



Not on track to halt deforestation

The world is not on track to halt deforestation and restore 350 million hectares of forest landscape by 2030. Forest finance must be increased, forest pledges fulfilled, and forest governance strengthened. There are exceptions though: tropical Asia – led by Indonesia and Malaysia – is on track to meet 2030 forest goals, as reported in the 2022 Global Forest Declaration Assessment: Are we on track for 2030?. Progress on forest targets results from effective government mandates, collaborative company action, and innovative grassroots efforts. Indigenous peoples and local communities are leading activism and forest protection despite significant risks to their wellbeing and lack of support for their efforts.

The Assessment was launched in October as a 4-part series categorized into themes and includes an executive summary.

[Download the entire series](#)

In the news

The Forest Declaration Assessment has been picked up by various publications including: [The Guardian](#), [HuffPost](#), [Nature](#), [Reuters](#), and [The New York Times](#).



Regional Assessment 2022: Tracking progress towards forest goals in the Congo Basin

The first-ever Regional Forest Declaration Assessment focused on the Congo Basin. Deforestation rates have been historically low in the Congo Basin, but deforestation and forest degradation are increasing. The Regional Assessment examined progress on forest goals in the Congo Basin and assessed the efforts of six Congo Basin countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo. Congo Basin countries have legal frameworks to combat deforestation but struggle to reconcile development objectives with commitments to preserve forests. Forest goals are underfinanced, and Indigenous and local communities lack the tenure security that would promote forest conservation. The Regional Assessment will serve as a baseline to track and measure future progress on forest goals in the Congo Basin.

[Download the regional report](#)

UNLOCKING CLIMATE FINANCE: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND CARBON MARKETS



There is ongoing, significant interest among countries in harnessing nature-based solutions (NbS) and carbon markets to access climate finance and advance climate goals. The success of NbS and carbon markets in reducing emissions depends on the capacity, involvement, and support of host countries where these activities take place. However, governments are often overwhelmed by the complexities of climate finance. Climate Focus is collaborating with countries to identify opportunities to access carbon and climate finance, especially through NbS.



Unlocking Nature-based Solutions through Carbon Markets

In Kenya and Colombia, NbS activities have the potential to channel finance from voluntary carbon markets to advance climate change mitigation and adaptation. This series by Climate Focus and the Food and Land Use Coalition enables decision-makers to prioritize NbS activities and deploy investments.

Read the reports on [Kenya](#) and [Colombia](#), and watch for a forthcoming report focused on NbS potential in the United States.

A webinar discussing in-depth the potential of carbon markets in Colombia took place in October in Spanish. [You can watch a full recording of the webinar here.](#)



Stakeholder's Perspectives on Carbon and Climate Finance in West Africa

West African countries have received only 4.4 percent of global climate finance funds since 2006. Significant finance is needed for these countries to achieve their NDCs. New mechanisms under the Paris Agreement could facilitate private sector investment in climate change mitigation for the region. In particular, market mechanisms, de-risked by public climate finance, can mobilize private capital for mitigation activities.

This [scoping study](#) by Climate Focus and the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance identifies barriers and opportunities for climate finance in West Africa.

Carbon markets and climate funding

A survey and report by Climate Focus and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development finds that there is growing appetite among countries and donors to blend finance from carbon markets and public climate funds. Combining these instruments can support environments where carbon markets and private investments in climate change mitigation will thrive, unlocking much needed finance.

[Read the full report](#)

CLIMATE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Food systems contribute one third of global greenhouse gas emissions, but food system transformations receive just three percent of public climate finance. Climate change is also impacting food systems, with extreme weather events reducing crop yields, killing livestock, changing growing seasons, and displacing farmers. Recent reports from Climate Focus assess climate action in food systems. They find that 93 percent of countries mention food systems in their Nationally Determined Contributions, but NDC interventions are not holistic. Aligning public financial flows to food systems with climate commitments offers significant potential to benefit biodiversity, human health, and the climate. Climate Focus also found that food system impacts are most pronounced in Africa. The continent contributes less than three percent of total global emissions but is bearing the brunt negative climate change impacts on food systems and leading the world in planning adaptation for the agriculture sector.

Read our food systems and climate reports:

[Scaling and Accelerating Adaptation in Food Systems in Africa: An Assessment of Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans](#)

[UNLOCKING AND SCALING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS IN FOOD SYSTEMS: An Assessment of Nationally Determined Contributions](#)

[Untapped Opportunities: Climate Financing for Food Systems Transformation](#)

Recent Publications

Climate damage caused by Russia's war in Ukraine

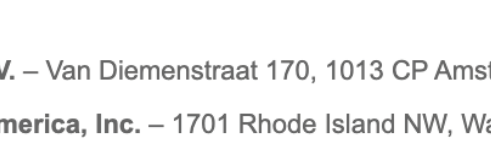
In seven months, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has created a massive humanitarian crisis, destroyed infrastructure, upended civilian livelihoods, and generated at least 100 million tonnes of GHG emissions. This number grows the longer that the war goes on.

Read the report: [Climate damage caused by Russia's war in Ukraine](#)

Sustainable finance and sustainable land use

Can sustainable finance shift the flow of finance from harmful agricultural and logging activities to sustainable land use? Climate & Company, Amigos da Terra, Tropical Forest Alliance and Climate Focus tackle this issue in a new report that assesses policies and regulations in the European Union and Brazil and highlights opportunities for increased coherence across these jurisdictions.

Read the report: [Bridging sustainable finance and sustainable land use initiatives to reduce deforestation: An overview of EU and Brazilian legislation](#)



[Website](#) [Email](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Climate Focus B.V. – Van Diemenstraat 170, 1013 CP Amsterdam, Netherlands

Climate Focus North America, Inc. – 1701 Rhode Island NW, Washington DC 20036, USA

Climate Focus Berlin GmbH – Schwedter Str. 253, 10119 Berlin, Germany

Bogotá Office – Carrera 14, #89-48, Office 305, Bogotá, Colombia