



New Joint Action by Norway, U.S. Keeps Forests at Front of Climate Action

15 June 2016 | Oslo, Norway | Forest Trends applauds today's [joint announcement](#) made by the United States and Norway, deepening the commitment of two key global actors to partner more fully in prioritizing forest conservation in the fight against climate change.

Norway has long been the global leader in providing the political will and funding needed to elevate forest conservation within the climate change agenda, and today's announcement signals a move by the U.S. toward deepening the collaboration in support of this agenda.

"Addressing the climate change crisis requires a smart mix of visionary leadership and creative collaboration across the public and private sectors, and this announcement delivers both," said Forest Trends **Founding President and CEO Michael Jenkins**.

"We are especially pleased to see these leading governments express eagerness to help businesses remove deforestation from their supply chains, as the 'big four' agricultural commodities of palm oil, timber and pulp, soy, and cattle are responsible for the largest share of tropical deforestation each year," Jenkins added.

The announcement builds upon the landmark Paris Agreement signed in December and focuses on four key areas of cooperation, all of which are integral components of an aggressive international action plan to reduce forest loss and associated carbon emissions:

- 1) **Enhancing support for monitoring, reporting, and verification of forest cover change**, to ensure the transparency, effectiveness, and environmental integrity of forest conservation efforts;
- 2) **Engaging the resources and influence of the private sector to reduce deforestation in commodity supply chains**, partner with emerging jurisdictional REDD+ programs, and provide payments for verified emissions reductions;
- 3) **Strengthening efforts to fight illegal logging and trade**, recognizing that building markets for legally harvested wood products can improve incentives for sustainable forest management;
- 4) **Aligning global finance with the goals of sustainable forest management**, including public sector development finance and pensions funds, and private sector business investments.

These goals represent a holistic and comprehensive approach to global forest conservation, and build upon the commitments, investments, and progress made by a wide range of global forest conservation initiatives over the past several years.

"We applaud Norway and the U.S. for keeping forests front and center on the global climate agenda at a critical moment, reminding the world that the goals of the Paris Agreement cannot be achieved without conserving and sustainably managing our planet's carbon-trapping forests," said **Kerstin Canby, Director of the Forest Policy, Trade, and Finance** program at Forest Trends. "The U.S. and Norway understand that strengthening efforts to fight illegal logging and trade are essential to reduce global deforestation."

To learn more on company commitments to reduce deforestation, read the [new report](#) from Forest Trends' *Supply Change* project.

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Forest Trends is a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve forests and other ecosystems through the creation and wide adoption of a broad range of environmental finance, markets and other payment and incentive mechanisms. Forest Trends works to support each of the objectives laid out by Norway and the U.S. through our family of initiatives:

REDDX: *A project that tracks public and private forest finance in major REDD+ countries.*

Forest Policy, Trade, and Finance: *Supporting the transformation toward legal and sustainable markets for timber and agricultural commodities.*

Public-Private Co-Finance Initiative: *Creating mechanisms that increase the amount of public and private capital for practices that reduce emissions from forests, agriculture, and other land uses.*

Communities Initiative: *Strengthening local communities' capacity to secure their rights, manage and conserve their forests, and improve their livelihoods.*

Ecosystem Marketplace: *A global platform for transparent information on forest finance and markets.*

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