

JOIN FOREST ALLIES

**A Unique Collaboration to
Preserve Forests and Biodiversity**



JANUARY 2022



There are many global commitments, pledges, and coalitions out there. While these ambitions are a great first step, promises alone cannot stop deforestation and forest degradation. We must support them with local action.

This is where Forest Allies comes in: We are committed to finding solutions that benefit forests and the people whose livelihoods depend upon them.

Forest Allies is a community of practice focused on protecting, restoring, and enabling responsible management of tropical forests.

Together, we build and foster partnerships to work beyond individual supply chains and engage and support local communities in critical tropical forest landscapes. The Forest Allies offerings are rooted in the Rainforest Alliance's 30-plus years of experience working collaboratively to fight deforestation. We invite your company to join our Forest Allies community of practice to have a greater impact on forests within—and beyond—your supply chain.



Photo: Giuseppe Cipriani



GLOBAL PLATFORM

Halting deforestation and forest degradation and mitigating the climate crisis require bold and urgent action.

In fact, natural climate solutions like rebuilding tropical forest landscapes could help us achieve up to 37 percent of the emissions reductions needed to limit global heating to 1.5 degrees. Yet today's sustainability toolkit lacks a holistic and collaborative way for businesses and forest communities to enact long-term, systemic change. By working together in unique partnerships to protect and restore forests, we go beyond individual supply chains for real climate, economic, and community resilience.

Effective solutions require diverse perspectives and inclusive discussions. Through the Forest Allies community of practice, we can help your company:

1. **Invest** in forest conservation and restoration beyond your operations
2. **Recognize** Indigenous Peoples and local communities as effective forest stewards and future business partners
3. **Collaborate** with a range of stakeholders to leverage the impact of your investment

Forest Allies brings together companies, regional civil society organizations, and forest communities to form powerful partnerships. The community of practice convenes twice a year to exchange knowledge, best practices, and proven solutions for shared challenges.

Unlike other initiatives, Forest Allies provides its members with a portfolio of projects; support in supply chain accountability; and space for collaboration with a variety of stakeholders (e.g. communities, donors, peers from other sectors, and local civil society). Alongside the goals of our company partners, our approach prioritizes the needs of the forest communities we work with to offer a comprehensive forest strategy.



The Forest Allies community of practice convenes its diverse membership to solve the pressing issues affecting forests today at global, regional, and local scales.

So, what are our methods?

1. Creating Two-Way Channels for Communication

It is instrumental to our efforts that we increase the visibility of forest communities as effective ecosystem stewards. By placing forest communities at the heart of our approach, we seek to open channels of communication between markets and producers.

Over the last decade, we have seen a flurry of deforestation-free supply chain commitments and policies from companies. And while we support continued action within supply chains, we also recognize that these commitments have done little to address the systemic drivers of forest degradation and deforestation or create transformative impacts for the people living in and relying on forests. Furthermore, only 1.7 percent of climate finance is reaching the farmers and forest communities who occupy more than half of the world's forests.

A different approach is necessary. By connecting our market partners directly with forest communities, we aim to increase awareness, build knowledge, and develop solutions together that address the root causes of deforestation. The result will be collective action that goes much deeper than individual efforts.

2. Implementing Integrated Community Forest Management

Forest Allies supports the Rainforest Alliance's integrated community forest management approach by contributing to a pool of capital in support of community forest enterprises, and by fostering mutual respect, trust, and a shared vision between forest communities and markets.



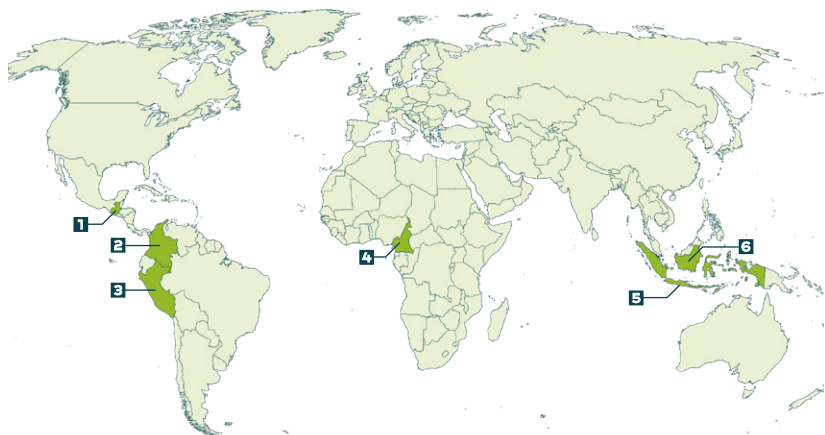
Our Methods

In 2021, we invested in six projects in critical landscapes supported by our extensive local field staff. These projects directly impact a combined total of 339,000 hectares and benefit the livelihoods of some 7,400 local people. Our portfolio will prioritize long-term engagement for lasting transformation, while also building upon quick and easy wins. We plan to scale our commitments significantly over the next five years.

3. Evidence-Based Thought Leadership and Advocacy

To support our efforts across our project portfolio, we have developed a participatory monitoring, evaluation, and learning system with support from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). We designed this system not only to provide reporting on outcomes within our projects, but also as a useful tool for forest communities in planning and decision-making. The data we gather will inform a process of continuous improvement in our interventions and activities. It will also inform the solutions that our community of practice seek to co-create and test. Furthermore, the data will provide a powerful foundation for evidence-based thought leadership and collective advocacy efforts.

2021 Project Portfolio & Activities



1 Guatemala: Testing Productive Restoration • **2 Colombia:** Chiribiquete National Park Buffer Zone Restoration, Guaviare • **3 Peru:** Indigenous Economies Project • **4 Cameroon:** Non-Timber Forest Products in the Mintom Landscape • **5 Indonesia:** Smallholder Timber Project, Java • **6 Indonesia:** An Indonesian Archipelago Approach, West Kalimantan



Photo: Sergio Izquierdo

Forest Allies Community of Practice 2030 Ambition

Through the Forest Allies model, we plan to contribute significant, measurable impacts towards forest and climate solutions, as a result of the investments made by our community of practice members.

We will translate major global commitments into real-life outcomes for people and nature at multiple scales.

Short-term five-year targets:

- US \$15 million co-funding at least US \$60 million
- Five million hectares of managed, restored, and protected forests
- Three million tons of carbon emissions reduced
- 15,000 livelihoods supported

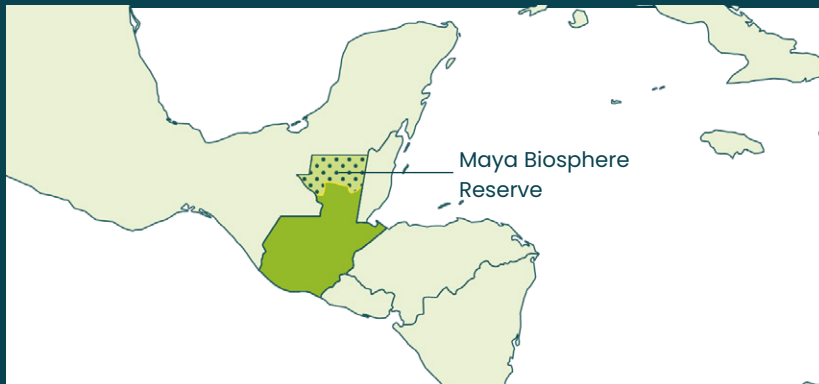
Benefits of Forest Allies membership

In summary, the benefits of Forest Allies membership include:

- Scaled impact through our alliance, enabling your investment to go further
- Stronger business resilience against climate risks through investment in critical forest landscapes
- Improved brand equity through value-based leadership and storytelling
- Access to powerful, data-driven claims
- Space to create and pilot innovations for future opportunities in growth and profitability



PROJECT CASE STUDY: PRODUCTIVE RESTORATION IN GUATEMALA



Our work in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve is an inspiring example of community forestry in action. As the largest protected area in Central America, it is also a critical carbon sink.

For more than twenty years, nine community concessions (so called because the Guatemalan government "conceded" the right to use the forest sustainably) have maintained a near-zero deforestation rate—that's twelve times less than adjacent areas of the reserve—while creating regenerative, local economies.

These communities are responsible for a net forest gain equaling 695 American football fields, as well as abundant jaguar populations and flourishing biodiversity. Meanwhile, narcotrafficking and cattle ranching have been ravaging other areas of the reserve.

Our Forest Allies 2021 investment in this project is to support restoration of ecological integrity and to improve human well-being in the buffer zone surrounding the Maya Biosphere Reserve. We aimed to:

- Pilot and test a productive restoration approach.
- Improve natural processes of forest regeneration to maintain the ecosystem of the buffer zone in the long-term.
- Define the forest management needs in the short-, medium-, and long-term to provide local families with the resources they need, while restoring and protecting the forest.

Forest Allies contributed by filling a critical funding gap; funding the production of 35,000 seedlings and 100 hectares of restoration supporting 30 farmers; and was leveraged against co-funding from two local municipalities, enabling an additional 60 hectares of restoration. In 2022 and 2023, we plan to scale up our investment and apply our learnings across the other locations in our project portfolio.



Photo: Sergio Izquierdo

Contact Us

To turn your forest commitments into real and meaningful action around the globe, join Forest Allies today.

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