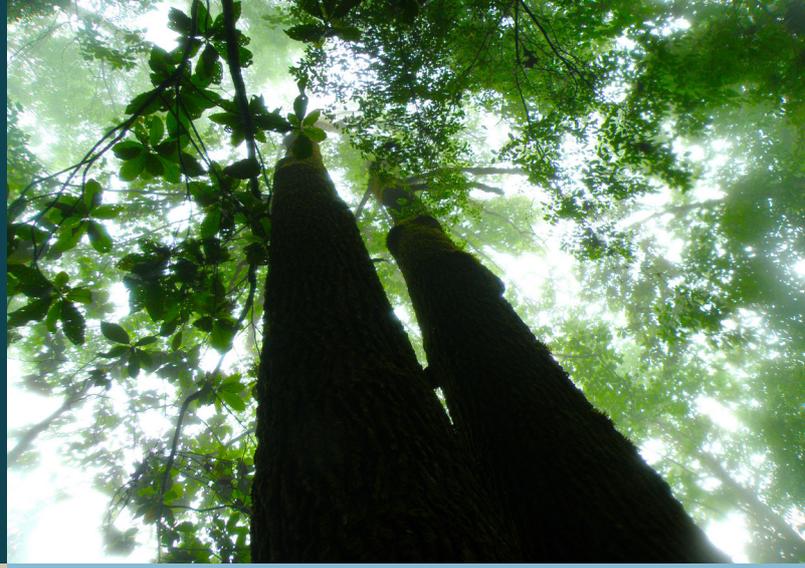


CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION



As the effects of climate change manifest around the world, the need for action grows more urgent. For farmers and forest communities, climate change poses daunting challenges—and disproportionately impacts poor rural communities whose lives depend on the land.

With 35 years of experience in sustainable agriculture and forest management, the Rainforest Alliance helps farmers adapt to climate impacts and build sustainable livelihoods while supporting companies to achieve their decarbonization goals.

Here's how.

HELPING FARMERS ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

As smallholder farmers increasingly face droughts, floods, shorter growing seasons, famine, and economic insecurity due to climate change, it's critical to support them to adapt to these challenges. The Rainforest Alliance helps companies do that by promoting climate-smart, regenerative practices such as agroforestry, integrated soil and pest management, and crop and income diversification. Through our programs farmers learn how to prioritize management and farming activities to address specific, identified climate risks and build resilience to climate change. These practices can improve soil quality, conserve water, protect and restore native vegetation, and are proven to reduce or remove emissions—all while increasing productivity on existing farmland.



MEASURING CARBON FOOTPRINTS

Next to helping farmers adapt to climate change, leading companies should also reduce emissions from their agricultural supply chains. Before they can do this, they need to first understand the carbon footprint of those supply chains. Currently, we're working with several members of our alliance, including Nescafé, Nespresso, and Costa Coffee to measure the carbon footprint of their coffee supply chains across 18 countries, utilizing the Cool Farm Alliance's online calculator. The Rainforest Alliance also supports the development of tools that help measure on-farm greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and carbon removals. Such measurements and tools help us gain a clearer picture of carbon footprints across farms and landscapes and the opportunities for reducing those footprints.

REDUCING AND REMOVING EMISSIONS

Avoiding deforestation and land conversion is one key way companies can reduce emissions. The Accountability Framework (AFi), co-developed by the Rainforest Alliance and other leading social and environmental organizations, has a common set of principles and definitions that provides companies with a clear roadmap and guidance to tackle deforestation, ecosystem conversion, and GHG emissions in agriculture and forestry.

In line with the approach promoted by AFi, the Rainforest Alliance Certification Program is one of the tools that helps companies tackle deforestation in their supply chains. Our certification program prohibits deforestation and the conversion of natural ecosystems. For assurance, we carry out deforestation risk assessments and analyses of farms using geospatial mapping.

The Rainforest Alliance also trains farmers to use tested climate-mitigation practices like the conservation of natural habitats and agroforestry to reduce emissions. These practices not only improve biodiversity and crop quality but also sequester carbon in trees and soil. Studies from Africa and Latin America show that Rainforest Alliance Certified coffee and cocoa farms often have higher forest quality, higher carbon stocks, and lower deforestation and forest degradation than non-certified farms.¹ These impacts have been found both within farming areas and in the wider landscape.

¹ Takahashi & Todo 2017, Hagggar et al. 2017, Fenger et al. 2017, Rueda & Lambin 2013, Rueda et al. 2014, Borg & Selmer 2012, Hardt et al. 2015

COMPENSATING UNAVOIDABLE EMISSIONS THROUGH LANDSCAPE PROJECTS

For the foreseeable future, it's likely that agricultural production will cause some GHG emissions. That means after companies have done all they can to reduce their operational and supply chain emissions compensating for those unavoidable emissions will be crucial. They can do this by investing in landscape carbon projects, especially those related to community forest management.

Our work in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) is an inspiring example of one of these projects. As the largest protected area in Central America, the MBR is also a critical carbon sink. For more than twenty years, with the Rainforest Alliance's support, 10 community concessions (areas where the Guatemalan government "conceded" the right for locals to use the forest sustainably) have maintained a near-zero deforestation rate while creating regenerative, local economies—this is a remarkable feat given that neighboring areas suffer some of the highest deforestation rates in the Americas. These communities are responsible for a net forest gain of 1,088 hectares, as well as abundant jaguar populations and flourishing biodiversity.

Our Forest Allies community of practice connects companies to local communities in critical forest landscapes. It allows them to directly support climate mitigation through community forestry and conservation projects. By investing in landscape carbon projects, companies have the potential to drive valuable finance to the local communities at the forefront of conservation. However, it is essential that carbon projects are designed so that local communities benefit the most and are empowered to improve their livelihoods. That's why the Rainforest Alliance supports the use of standards such as Verra and Gold Standard that help ensure high quality projects and uses tools such as LandScale to monitor holistic sustainability performance at the landscape level.

JOIN OUR ALLIANCE

Are you ready to help farmers adapt to and mitigate climate change while reducing your company's climate impact? **Join our alliance today to get started.**



Photo: Sergio Izquierdo

**RAINFOREST
ALLIANCE**

The Rainforest Alliance is creating a more sustainable world by using social and market forces to protect nature and improve the lives of farmers and forest communities.

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