the forest plan

OUR PLAN TO HELP
END DEFORESTATION

THEFORESTPLAN.EARTH

EVER LAND

Cover Image: Slash and burn is a major driver of deforestation.

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

Forest cover of Mai Ndombe.

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

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A family of impala antelopes *(Aepyceros melampus)* in the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

FOREWORD

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), deforestation is the fourth-largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for five times more emissions than air travel[1]. While about 8% percent of emissions arise from tropical deforestation, avoiding tropical deforestation and restoring the landscape can provide 23% of the cost-effective climate mitigation that is needed in this critical decade before 2030[2]. Forest loss therefore poses both one of the most significant challenges for stabilizing the climate, and one of the greatest opportunities. Yet actions to mitigate deforestation receive only 2% of climate finance and the problem continues to get worse: recent research has shown that emissions from deforestation have doubled in the first two decades of this century[3].

To turn the tide on deforestation, immediate action is needed at an unprecedented scale and speed. As deforestation is fundamentally driven by economic forces, we believe that recognizing the economic value of standing forests for the benefit of forest communities and local governments is the fastest and most effective way to successfully halt it.

That is why we have developed The Forest Plan, built upon the United Nations 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation' mechanism (REDD+), and the pioneering work led by Wildlife Works, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Alliance, and other leading REDD+ project developers around the world.

The plan is Everland's and our project developer partners' response to the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). It is a time-bound action plan that sets forth our shared contribution to ending deforestation, by vastly scaling the resources available to communities and governments to conserve the world's most important and vulnerable forests - before it is too late.

Through The Forest Plan, we aim to create a world where a standing forest is valued more than a felled one, protecting the ecosystems and biodiversity we need most by investing in communities who have been the planet's best guardians for generations.

On behalf of all of us at Everland, who share an unwavering commitment to do all we can towards ending deforestation by 2030, we are proud to present "The Forest Plan".

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GERALD PROLMAN
Chief Executive Officer, Everland

The IUCN Red List Endangered African bush elephant *(Loxodonta africana)* within the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

THE PLAN IN SUMMARY

The Forest Plan is our response to the urgent call, presented at COP26, to end deforestation in the next decade. Through The Forest Plan, we present a clear, evidence-based route to scaling up REDD+ as a critical path to conserve forests and support forest communities.

WHY THE WORLD NEEDS THE FOREST PLAN

Climate change and biodiversity loss are two of the most urgent threats facing life on Earth, with profound implications for future generations. Even with current pledges, the world is on course to 3.2°C warming, which risks irreversible damage[4]. Over 10 million people have already been displaced[5], and many more are at risk. Over one million species are at imminent risk of extinction[6]. We cannot tackle the climate crisis or safeguard life on Earth without ending the rampant deforestation occurring in the world's most critical ecosystems within the next decade.

Whilst the specific agents and drivers of deforestation are variable across places and through time, the problem is fundamentally an economic one[7]. Deforestation frontiers are expanding across the tropics as global demand for commodity crops, timber and minerals continues to rise, and as hundreds of millions of economically disadvantaged people, living in and near the primary tropical forests of the world, seek to meet basic needs. As long as a felled forest offers more perceived value than a standing one, forest loss will continue to prevail.

Achieving a deforestation-free world will require a fundamental transformation of the economic relationship between people and the forest, one where the decision to keep the forest standing becomes a reliably better economic and social choice than cutting it down. The key to that transformation lies in creating compelling new economic value from conservation for stakeholders in threatened forest landscapes.

Despite the pledges to end deforestation by 2030 made at COP26 by over 140 of the world's leaders[8], there is no clear plan to achieve this – one that addresses the direct economic causes of forest loss. The Forest Plan is our science-based response to this global call to action, advancing a scalable solution that can help bring the world leaders' pledges to life.

THIS IS OUR PLAN.

THE PIONEERS

The Forest Plan is based on the now-proven model of REDD+ projects that are community-based and wildlife-centric. But it has taken over a decade of pioneering work by visionary organizations and individuals who took the nascent concept of voluntary REDD+ and brought it to fruition through tireless dedication, creativity, and the power of community engagement collaboration in the face of extreme challenges on the ground and perennial financial insecurity. These are the pioneers behind The Forest Plan.

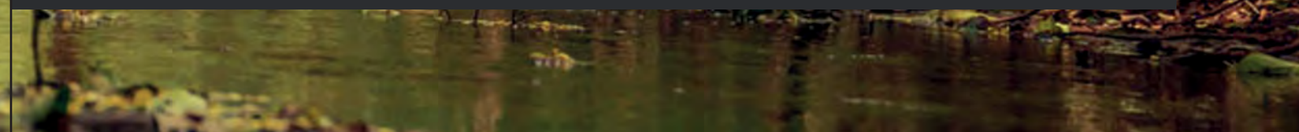
Kasigau Women's Group adding water to seedlings to plant in the Wildlife Works Greenhouse (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

Wildlife Works was founded in 1997 on the principle that the needs of wildlife must be balanced with the need for work for those local communities who share their environment with wildlife. In 2011, Wildlife Works successfully validated and verified the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCB), making it the world's first REDD+ project to achieve verification and issuance of carbon credits. Kasigau was also the world's first VCS REDD+ "mega" project (generating more than 1M tons of emission reductions per year) resulting in the avoidance of over 1.5 million tons of CO_2-e emissions per year for the next 30 years. From these roots, Wildlife Works has expanded to become the worlds' premier high-impact REDD+ developer, with projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Cambodia, and a groundbreaking portfolio of over 20 new REDD+ under development worldwide.

Wildlife Alliance was founded in 1995 with the clear sighted mission to create and strengthen national parks and reserves and implement measures to protect the world's endangered wildlife species. Wildlife Alliance was founded by Dr. Suwanna Gauntlett, who has been a trailblazer in wildlife and forest conservation for decades. Through the development and operation of front-line conservation programs and strategic partnering with high levels of government, Wildlife Alliance is working to address the complex causes of deforestation across numerous landscapes. For almost 20 years, Wildlife Alliance has invested in helping to conserve 1.3M hectares of the Cardamom Mountain rainforest using a well demonstrated and unrivaled 'boots-on-the-ground' model of direct protection and law enforcement alongside direct community engagement activities. Wildlife Alliance's work in Southern Cardamom since 2015 has positioned the organization as an innovator of project-based REDD+. Plans are underway to replicate the success of REDD+ in Southern Cardamom in other highly threatened protected areas within the region.

Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature, with a goal of conserving the world's largest wild places in 14 priority regions, home to more than 50% of the planet's biodiversity. Over the past century, WCS has established long-term conservation presence in the last wild places across the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania, built strong and trusting partnerships, and acquired a depth of knowledge that ensures effective conservation action. WCS has also helped pioneer project-based REDD+, with the Keo Seima REDD+ Project in Cambodia operating for over ten years and the Makira REDD+ Project in Madagascar. In partnership with Everland, WCS is building on these conservation successes to develop a new global portfolio of up to 15 REDD+ projects.



OUR GOAL

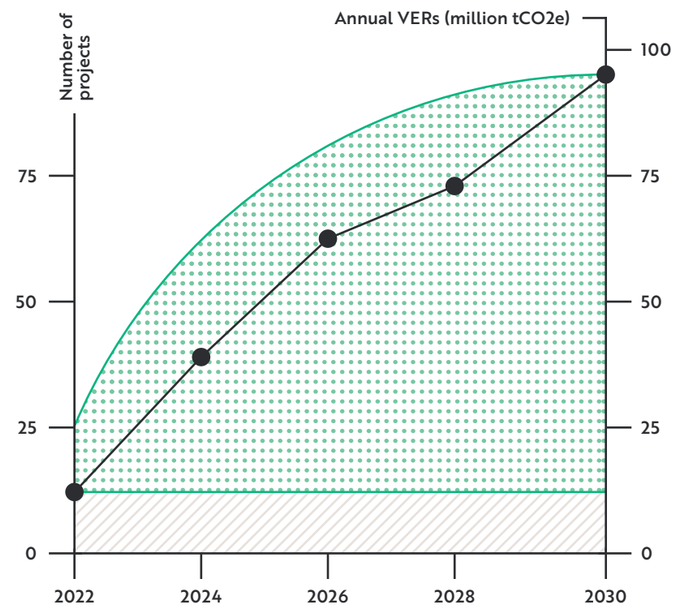
The goal of The Forest Plan is to help the world's leading REDD+ project developers, in partnership with local communities, indigenous peoples, and governments, to vastly scale up the development and successful implementation of voluntary community-based REDD+ programs around the world. We will do this by facilitating the long-term financing for up to 75 community-based REDD+ projects in highly threatened forest landscapes. These projects, through dedicated collaborations between developers, communities, governments and other stakeholders, will generate transformative impacts for communities, biodiversity, and the climate, as we describe in the following sections, and will meaningfully contribute to the commitments made at COP26.

As an example of our ambition, in 2022, in collaboration with Wildlife Works and Hartree Partners, Everland facilitated the largest voluntary carbon finance transaction in history worth over USD$2B in long term contractual commitments for VERs from a portfolio of 20 new voluntary REDD+ projects in critical hot spots across the globe[9]. Through the Forest Plan, the project developers, communities, and governments leading the work on the ground will be positioned to generate 90 million tons of Verified Emission Reductions (VERs) annually and over 800 million tons in total by 2030. If this scale of ambition is matched by others in the project-based REDD+ sector, together we can conserve an area equivalent to approximately 17% of the projected forest loss in key forest nations around the world — making a meaningful impact for forests and biodiversity and benefitting over 10 million people in forest communities who depend on forest resources for all or part of their livelihoods[10].

The scale of ambition described in this Plan reflects what is achievable by one ecosystem of partners, led by leading project developers, such as Wildlife Works, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Wildlife Alliance, on behalf of whom Everland works. Because of this, we are convinced that with a similar level of ambition, matched by unprecedented levels of collaboration, it is actually possible for the world to solve this planetary challenge. Perhaps more than anything else, the goal of The Forest Plan is to illuminate that there is a legitimate, data-driven basis for hope: **we can in fact end deforestation.**

THE FOREST PLAN PORTFOLIO

An outlook of community-based REDD+ projects proposed under The Forest Plan from 2022-2030.



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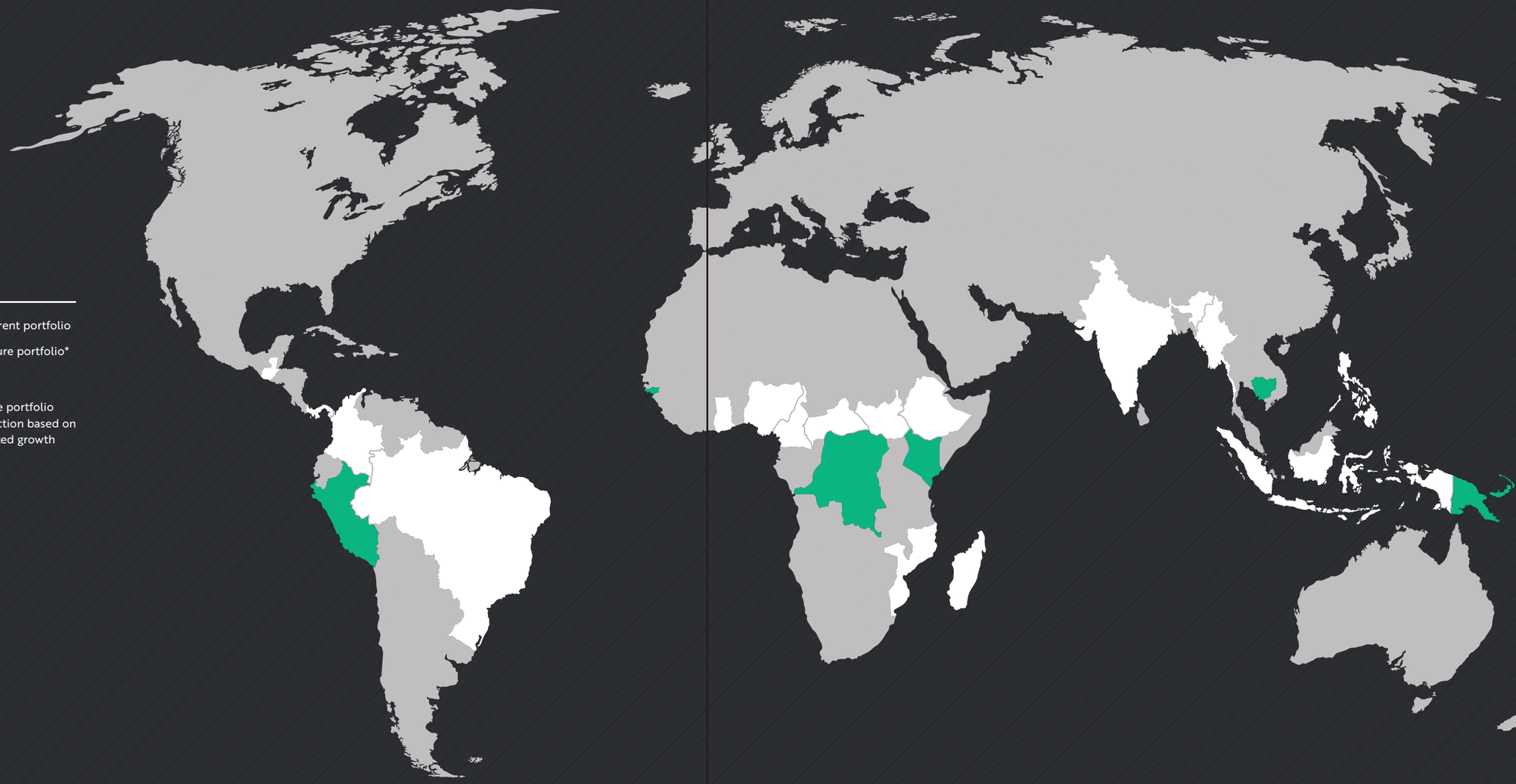
THE GOAL OF THE FOREST PLAN IS TO ILLUMINATE A LEGITIMATE, DATA-DRIVEN BASIS FOR HOPE THAT WE CAN END DEFORESTATION BY 2030.

GROWTH OF THE FOREST PLAN PORTFOLIO OF HIGH-IMPACT REDD+ PROJECTS

An outlook of community-based REDD+ projects proposed under The Forest Plan from 2022-2030.



KEY

- Current portfolio
- Future portfolio*

* Future portfolio projection based on targeted growth

HOW WE WILL GET THERE

The Forest Plan will bring stakeholders together at an unprecedented scale, from the forest floor to the boardroom, in common cause and aligned action to care for Life.

Everland's role is to channel funding from businesses around the world – who seek the highest-impact voluntary actions to benefit the climate and biodiversity – to the people who can achieve the greatest impact for the world's most important forests: Indigenous peoples, forest communities, governments, and world-class conservation enterprises which bring them together in effective multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Project developers supported through The Forest Plan will activate new partnerships with communities to meet their own basic needs, develop vital infrastructure, improve governance, create sustainable livelihoods and chart a path toward prosperity through forest conservation. Through these partnerships, The Forest Plan will also support governments in forest nations to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under their Paris Climate Agreement goals, and to access unprecedented private-sector resources to finance much needed sustainable development in their countries. Businesses will also play a central role in achieving The Forest Plan's critical climate, community, and biodiversity goals, by voluntarily compensating for a portion of their unavoidable and historic emissions.

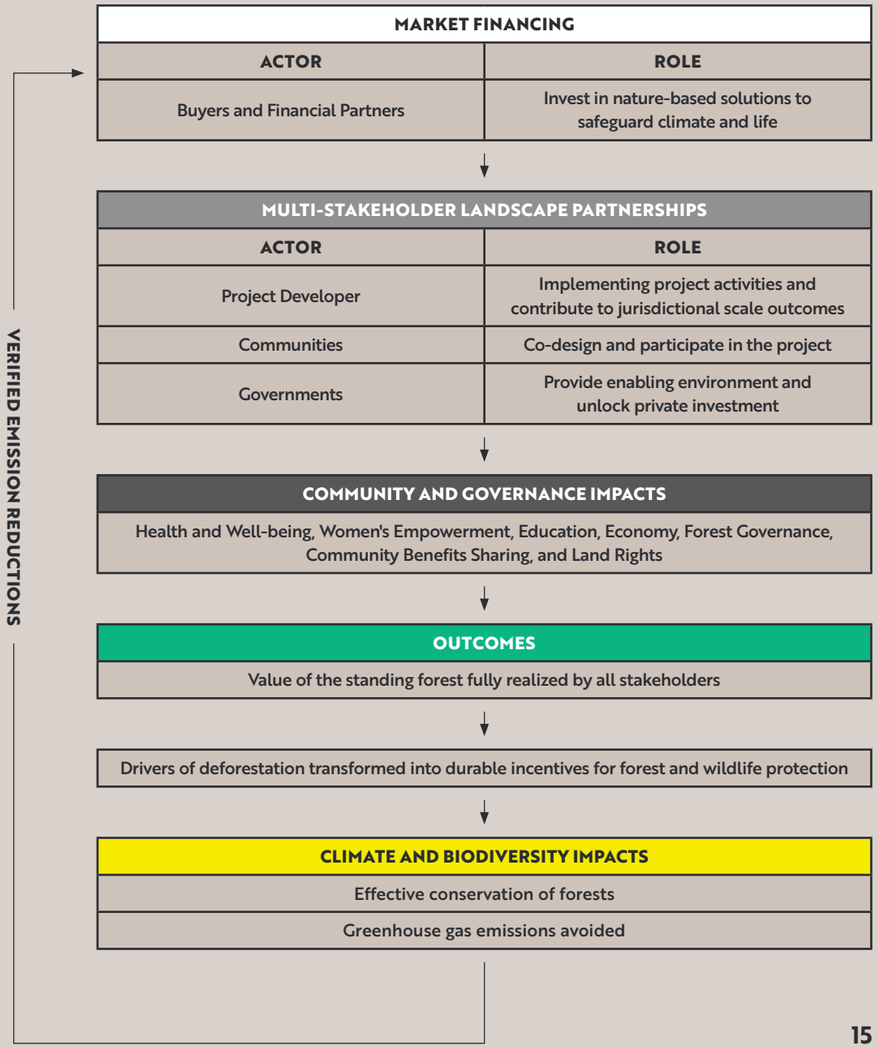
The approach of The Forest Plan is a proven one, based on a model of local, community-based REDD+ initiatives that has been successfully generating VERs for over a decade. Community-based, wildlife-centric, voluntary REDD+ projects led by developers such as Wildlife Works, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Wildlife Alliance and supported by private sector market finance, have already delivered approximately 400 million tons of emissions reductions[11] over this period by directly addressing the drivers of deforestation in highly threatened forest landscapes[12]. CCB verified voluntary REDD+ projects currently registered have also helped provide healthcare to over 600,000 people, improve educational access for nearly 50,000 children, offer alternative livelihood opportunities to over 300,000 people and empower over 160,000 women and girls (Annex 3). These results have been verified through repeated independent third-party audits, based on science-based standards developed through open multi-stakeholder processes.

The Forest Plan is an experience-based plan that focuses on what actually drives forest loss. It seeks to harness that knowledge into an effective response to two urgent planetary challenges – the climate crisis and loss of biodiversity – with the required speed and scale. It is a plan with purpose that has been shaped by respected experts and community leaders from around the world. The Forest Plan is science-based and rooted in a theory of change that sets meaningful targets and goals, with key performance indicators (KPIs) that are transparently monitored and reported upon. A plan that protects nature by creating value from standing forests.

Bringing crucial stakeholders together, we can realize the full value of the world's forests for the communities closest to them, safeguarding the climate for the benefit of all.

THE THEORY OF CHANGE

How The Forest Plan works to halt deforestation by activating financing for world class multi-stakeholder REDD+ landscape partnerships.



OUR CALL FOR ACTION AND COLLABORATION

By mobilizing the biggest voluntary carbon finance intervention in history, the stakeholders of The Forest Plan are joining together to take a powerful step forward to make the COP26 commitment's to end deforestation by 2030 a reality. But we know that the ambitions of The Forest Plan, while far-reaching, are only a part of what must be a much broader, deeply aligned collective effort to end deforestation.

That is why The Forest Plan is not simply an expression of our own plans. It is a call to inspire action on a similarly ambitious scale, and to activate collaboration on a never-before-seen scale to tackle this grand challenge facing humanity and the Earth. Our call for action and collaboration focuses on four areas, which we believe are critical **for maximizing the full potential of voluntary action** toward making a deforestation-free world a reality within this decade:

1. **Expanding high-impact, community-based REDD+ to its full potential.**
2. **Enabling national and jurisdictional REDD+ programs to achieve effective results.**
3. **Prioritizing rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs).**
4. **Facilitating sustainable supply chain initiatives supporting a new paradigm of deforestation free goods.**

In Section 8 of this Plan we provide specific steps for stakeholders within each of these areas.

The IUCN Red List Vulnerable sun bear *(Helarctos malayanus)* in the Southern Cardamom REDD+ project (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Alliance and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

The greenhouse in the Kasigau Corridor was established to enable sustainable agriculture and increase food security.

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

A GLANCE AT OUR 2030 AMBITIONS

INVESTING IN FOREST COMMUNITIES

4.5M

4.5 million people with improved health and wellbeing.

3.5M

3.5 million people experiencing improved economic resiliency.

700K

700,000 children with improved access to education.

1.5M

1.5 million women and girls benefiting from increased support.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

80%

At least 80% of the project portfolio area under land-use or zoning plans that are formally adopted and enforceable.

$300M

At least $300M in carbon revenues distributed annually through direct community benefit sharing mechanisms.

100%

100% of land area occupied by IPLCs have formalized, clear and secure land tenure rights.

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

23M

23 million hectares of forest effectively managed for long-term protection of at least **900 IUCN Red List species.**

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

90M

90 million tons of Verified Emission Reductions generated annually and **800 million tons cumulatively** by 2030.

Lioness *(Panthera leo melanochaita)* within the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

THE FOREST PLAN: HOW IT WORKS

In forest landscapes located in developing countries, the realities are stark. Communities tend to have limited access to resources to meet their basic needs, obtain social services, and develop economic opportunities. Governance structures can be lacking or weak. Existing resource management practices are rarely sustainable. All these circumstances take place within the context of history – with colonization, war, and other conflicts casting long shadows into the present. In this context, people often choose to overexploit the forest or convert it for commodity crops, land speculation and subsistence agriculture, because few compelling alternatives are available.

The long-term goal of REDD+ projects is to address the actual and potential drivers of deforestation by delivering financial proceeds to forest stakeholders for their effective conservation efforts, as described in the Theory of Change. By doing so, REDD+ projects contribute to a number of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as outlined in the following sections and in Annex II. Through REDD+, buyers and financial partners drive resources directly to the ground level by purchasing VERs from REDD+ projects that have been 3rd party verified to high-quality environmental and social standards. The projects – implemented through partnerships between specialized project developers (NGOs and conservation enterprises), governments, and communities in different configurations depending on the country and landscape – deliver transformative impacts for communities and governance. Through those impacts, new value is realized by forest stakeholders, which over time can help transform the drivers of forest loss into durable incentives for forest protection. Project by project, landscape by landscape, The Forest Plan seeks to bring this model to its full potential as quickly as possible by providing long term finance to the world's best consortia of project developers, communities, and governments. This is the core of The Forest Plan.

Project-based REDD+, which has seen significant on the ground experience and refinement over the past decade led by pioneer developers including Wildlife Works, Wildlife Conservation Society, and Wildlife Alliance, has also been subject to some criticisms through its evolution. During this time, Everland has sought to work with the highest-impact projects, ones that conform not only with the strongest third-party standards, including Verra's Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate, Community, and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards, but also with our own rigorous due diligence. We require projects to achieve high levels of impact relative to their theories of change; invest a majority of VER sale proceeds into community, forest, and wildlife activities on the ground; feature world-class management; have strong stakeholder relationships on the ground; and conform with best practices regarding key project design elements – for example free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) with communities.

It is clear that an unprecedented level of field-based learning, collaboration, and continuous improvement will be needed in order to ensure our community of practice can achieve shared impact goals. That is why with guidance and support from the projects Everland represents, we are combining world-class monitoring and evaluation and transparent, open engagement, so all stakeholders dedicated to ending deforestation can join us to make this endeavor the success it needs to be. The progress of the portfolio of projects we represent will be monitored and we will report on each projects impacts and results for communities, biodiversity and the climate, and reporting consistently on their achievements. To support this, The Forest Plan presents an initial set of foundational KPIs that used to track and report on progress. We will build upon these as we continue to engage with stakeholders as part of our accountability and governance efforts.

In the next sections we delve further into what success looks like and how we will evaluate it, in line with each project's unique theory of change.

INVESTING IN FOREST COMMUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

While the community benefits of voluntary carbon projects are often referred to as "co-benefits", in the case of high quality REDD+, community interventions - combined with efforts to improve governance - are the means by which deforestation is reduced and emissions reductions are generated. The mechanism recognizes that Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) are the most knowledgeable and experienced stewards of nature. High quality REDD+ projects bring tangible value to these communities for their forest conservation efforts, by investing a fair share of the financial resources generated through the sale of VERs into the communities and jurisdictions with whom they have partnered.

Though conditions vary in every landscape and community, high-impact REDD+ projects fund activities across **four foundational pillars of community impact: (1) improving food security, access to healthcare, and clean water; (2) fostering prosperity in local communities through job creation, capacity building, and enterprise development; (3) improving education; and (4) improving socio-economic outcomes for women.** At the same time, as described later, projects work to strengthen governance of the forest itself, by direct community revenue sharing and efforts to secure land tenure rights.

Over time, as the dividends from effective conservation translate to meaningful community impacts and sustainable financing for governments, forest conservation can become more attractive to communities than forest conversion. Over the multi-decadal horizon of a REDD+ project, we believe these investments in community impacts can help systematically change the relationship between people and the forest.

Indigenous Bunong community members in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary REDD+ project (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Conservation Society and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PROBLEM:

Limited access to water and healthcare services, as well as chronic food insecurity are fundamental impediments to basic health and wellbeing in forest communities around the world. As nearly 80%[13] of all illnesses in developing countries can be traced back to water and sanitation alone, the spread of disease related to water and sanitation is responsible for over 1.5 million deaths per year worldwide[14]. In some landscapes, medical debt can become an important driver of direct forest loss.

GOAL:

Improve food security, access to healthcare and clean water in local communities.

High-quality REDD+ projects supported through The Forest Plan work toward the implementation of SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation. They utilize proceeds from the sale of VERs to build medical facilities and water infrastructure, train medical staff and provide supplies, co-create sustainable agricultural practices, provide technical assistance and other support to ensure that communities can meet their basic health and wellbeing needs.

KPIs

1. Number of medical facilities built / renovated / equipped.
2. Number of people served in project-supported medical facilities.
3. Number of people with improved access to clean water.
4. Number of water facilities built and/or improved
5. Number of people with access to food security and nutritional programs.
6. Total $ of carbon finance revenue invested in new and/or improved medical, water and food security programs.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

4.5M

4.5 million people with improved health and wellbeing.

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IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY, ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND CLEAN WATER IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

Women have been leading food security initiatives in the Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project (DRC, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project has built new schools across the project zone, supporting thousands of students. (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works)

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

ECONOMY

PROBLEM:

At the foundation of The Forest Plan is the recognition that a lack of economic opportunity and viable alternatives fundamentally drive deforestation and unsustainable use of forest products, as people seek to provide income for their families. Despite progress in poverty reduction throughout past decades, one in five people in developing regions still lives on less than USD$1.90[15] a day and faces the risk of remaining in a poverty trap. Climate change and nature loss further exacerbate the economic vulnerability of these communities[16].

GOAL:

Creating sustainable prosperity in local communities alongside a thriving forest ecosystem.

Project developers partner with forest communities to develop alternative sustainable, long-term revenue streams through project employment, training, enterprise development and access to markets, as an alternative to forest conversion and unsustainable use of forest resources. The projects we support unlock opportunities unique to the local community and ecosystem – for example, through intensified greenhouse ventures and organic clothing factories in the drylands of Kenya, or community-based ecotourism enterprises in Cambodia. This diverts activity from destructive land use and puts control over dignified income back in the hands of forest communities, working toward SDG 1 (No Poverty).

KPIs

1. Number of people directly employed by the project.
2. Number of people directly receiving project funded training on sustainable livelihood opportunities.
3. Number of new SMEs co-developed with communities.
4. Total $ of carbon finance revenue invested in new business / livelihood opportunities for local communities.
5. Total $ income generated for the community from project-supported business / livelihood opportunities.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

3.5M

3.5 million people
experiencing improved economic resiliency.

EDUCATION

PROBLEM:

Education is fundamental for young people to have the chance for a better future. Yet, in developing countries, millions of children do not have basic reading, writing and mathematics skills even if they attend school[17]. Access to high-quality education opportunities is limited for children (especially girls) in forest communities, resulting in few opportunities for improving livelihoods long-term. Without quality education, employment opportunities are limited, and poverty may prevail through to the next generation.

GOAL:

Improving education in local communities.

Projects supported through The Forest Plan leverage proceeds from the sale of VERs to unlock the potential and talent of children in local and Indigenous communities. Projects utilize carbon finance to provide scholarships, build new schools, repair existing schools, train teachers and provide critical supplies, paving the way for a better future as envisioned by SDG 4 (Quality Education).

KPIs

1. Number of students directly benefiting from education facilities built / improved.
2. Number of bursaries / scholarships granted.
3. $ worth of bursaries / scholarships granted.
4. Total $ of carbon finance revenue invested in new and/or improved educational facilities in the project area.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

700K

700,000 children
with improved access to education.

KPIs

1. Number of women directly receiving project funded training on sustainable livelihood opportunities.
2. Percentage of people directly employed by the project that are women.
3. Number of women in community leadership roles as a result of project activities.
4. Percentage of bursaries awarded to girls.
5. Number of girls directly benefiting from education facilities built and/or improved.
6. Number of women with improved access to food security and nutritional programs.
7. Number of women with improved access to healthcare needs.

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

PROBLEM:

Women and girls in many forest communities cannot access the same level of education, career opportunities, or decision-making power as men. They are also often responsible for managing household resources, including the collection of essentials like water and fuel. Women are more vulnerable to the effects of poverty as they are given limited educational and economic opportunities. These factors often leave them marginalized and more exposed to the effects of nature degradation and climate change[18].

GOAL:

Improving the socio-economic outcomes of women in local communities.

This also means there is a huge opportunity to support women as active agents of change toward a future where nature thrives and communities experience better livelihoods. We believe women's empowerment is truly at the heart of building sustainable and equitable economies. Projects supported through The Forest Plan channel revenues from the sale of VERs to provide women with training opportunities and resources to support family planning. They encourage women to participate in project activities and governance, provide inclusive educational opportunities for girls, and support initiatives that increase discretionary time. Through these activities, The Forest Plan will act as a catalyst toward achieving SDG 5 – Gender Equality.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

1.5M

1.5 million women and girls benefiting from increased support.

Women are leading many economic activities, including the eco-tourism initiatives at the Southern Cardamom REDD+ project (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Alliance and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

CASE STUDY

Enhancing crucial infrastructure and access to education in the Kasigau Corridor.

PROJECT DEVELOPER:

Wildlife Works is the world's leading REDD+ program development and management company with 25 years of experience in community-centered biodiversity conservation.

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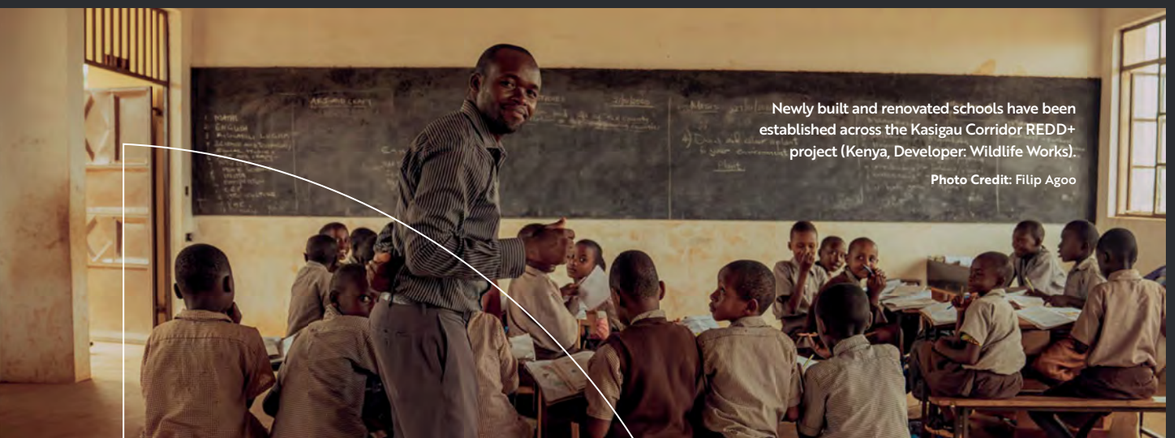
Nestled between Kenya's Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks, the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project protects 200,000 hectares of dryland forest that was in danger of being lost to cattle ranching, poaching, subsistence agriculture, and illegal tree harvesting. The project is a partnership between Wildlife Works, 6,000 landowners who are shareholders in the project, and over 120,000 community members living in the project area.

The project, supported consistently by sales of VERs for over a decade, has been central in enabling the community to make critical infrastructure investments that underpin their wellbeing. Through an innovative, inclusive governance mechanism known as Locational Carbon Committees (LCCs), the community directly determines and allocates funding from VER sales to its priorities. Through this mechanism, VER sales have been used by the community to build and renovate classrooms to provide adequate learning spaces to local students. This allowed it to accommodate social distancing measures during COVID, encouraging the continuity of education through a challenging period. Health and sanitation measures also received special attention, as the project funded the construction of 8 toilet blocks and a hand-washing station in Wangalla Primary school. This not only helped to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, but ultimately enabled the school to meet the government's sanitation requirements and avoid closure.

Through this mechanism, VER sales have been used by the community to fund 26,000 bursaries (51% to girls), investing over $1.2 million USD into their children's future with the support of REDD+ financing.



Newly built and renovated schools have been established across the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

36

36 classrooms renovated.[19]

10

10 new classrooms built.[19]

15

All renovated and constructed classrooms connected with gutters and more than 15 water tanks installed.[19]

8

More than 8 toilet blocks constructed and connected with water.[19]

26,000

Over 26,000 bursaries awarded (51% girls).[19]

$1.2M

Over $1,200,000 USD invested in bursaries.[19]

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

INTRODUCTION

Good governance is a core pillar of all effective collective human endeavors, and forest conservation is no exception. Even with the right economic incentives in place, without good governance the prospects for durable forest conservation in threatened landscapes are dim at best. That is why the projects represented and supported by The Forest Plan invest substantial resources and attention into this vital area of focus, contributing toward SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Seedlings grown in project-supported greenhouses are distributed and planted in degraded areas (Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project, Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

FOREST GOVERNANCE

PROBLEM:

Forest areas in threatened landscapes are often not sustainably managed or well protected against threats of deforestation, forest degradation and poaching. In addition, government policies, resources, will, and capacity are often not adequate to tackle these complex challenges. Communities also often lack the resources, training and capacity to effectively protect their own forest resources.

GOAL:

Sustainable finance from carbon revenue, combined with capacity building and support, incentivizes and enables effective conservation action by governments and communities.

Projects supported through The Forest Plan leverage proceeds from the sale of VERs to provide governments and communities with adequate funding, training, and capacity to strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of threatened forest areas.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

80%

At least 80% of the project portfolio area under land-use or zoning plans that are formally adopted and enforceable.

KPIs

1. Total $ of carbon revenue distributed to governments by projects, through transparent revenue sharing models, to support land-use policy, planning and enforcement.
2. Percentage of project area and number of hectares covered by land-use or zoning plans that are formally adopted and enforceable.
3. Number of patrols conducted and number of hectares covered by patrols.
4. Number of poaching, encroachment and logging incidents avoided because of project enforcement activities (snares or traps removed, arrests, prosecutions, logging items or vehicles seized, animals rescued).

Unarmed rangers at Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project undertaking regular patrols (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

"

THROUGH THE FOREST PLAN, WE AIM TO CREATE A WORLD WHERE A STANDING FOREST IS VALUED MORE THAN A FELLED ONE.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT SHARING

PROBLEM:

Forest communities have inadequate resources to support their aspirations. They often do not have governance structures in place to effectively and inclusively distribute these benefits among members.

GOAL:

Transparent, fair and effective benefit-sharing arrangements are developed to ensure a fair share of carbon revenues benefits local communities.

Forest communities have well-functioning, inclusive, culturally appropriate participatory governance mechanisms to ensure carbon revenues are fairly distributed in alignment with community-determined priorities.

Under The Forest Plan, we only support projects where a fair share of the proceeds from the sale of VERs flows to the community in an equitable and inclusive manner, not discriminating against women or marginalized groups. Projects supported through The Forest Plan must enact inclusive and transparent benefit-sharing models with communities that are based on free, prior, and informed consent efforts undertaken in line with global best practices.

KPIs

1. Total $ and percentage of total carbon revenue distributed through community benefit-sharing mechanisms.
2. Percentage of people engaged in governance processes of community benefit sharing that are women, indigenous peoples, or from marginalized and/or vulnerable groups.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

$300M

At least $300M in carbon revenues distributed annually through direct community benefit-sharing mechanisms.

LAND RIGHTS

PROBLEM:

We know deforestation is lower in areas[20] where Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) have clear collective territorial rights over land and forest resources. 34% of the Earth's irrecoverable carbon lies in lands occupied by IPLCs. Traditional forest communities have been the best guardians of the forest and stewards of the life and the carbon contained in it. Yet, for the critical role that IPLCs play, and must continue to play, they continue to lack tenure rights to land and resources in the forest areas where they live. Without such rights, IPLCs remain perennially vulnerable to encroachment and displacement.

GOAL:

Ensure forest communities' rights to land and resources are fully recognized, and that they have adequate support to prevent illegal land grabbing, poaching and encroachment.

Projects supported through The Forest Plan will leverage proceeds from the sale of VERs to help secure tenure rights to land and forest resources for local community members, and provide financial resources, capacity and support to protect their community lands.

KPIs

1. Number of hectares and % of total land area occupied by IPLCs with clear and secure tenure rights.
2. Number of people with legal recognition of tenure rights.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

100%

100% of land area occupied by IPLCs have formalized, clear and secure land tenure rights.

CASE STUDY

Supporting Indigenous community land titling in Keo Seima.

PROJECT DEVELOPER:

Cambodia's Ministry of Environment (MoE) is a government ministry in charge of the country's environmental protection. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a wildlife conservation organization with a history of success that dates back to 1895. WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature.

-

The Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS) in eastern Cambodia protects one of Cambodia's largest remaining primary forests and plays a vital role for preserving the region's vulnerable wildlife, with more than 950 wild species documented in the project area.

It is also the ancestral home of the Indigenous Bunong people, whose unique culture and beliefs are inseparable from the forest in which they live. The project has partnered with the local Bunong community in an effort to formally secure land and resource tenure. So far, the project has helped the communities within the project area to secure seven Indigenous Community Land Titles (ICTs) and 3 Community Protected Areas (CPA), including the first ICT in a protected area and the first issued to a Bunong community. This effort is ultimately expected to provide land titles for nearly 3,000 Indigenous people within the project area.

A key role has been played by a female Indigenous Commune Chief, Danh Salon, who was democratically elected by her community. She has been leading the work to prevent any private demarcation within the Bunong held land within one of the ICT areas, representing a great success for the community.

7

Indigenous Community Land Titles secured.[21]

3

Community Protected Area Titles secured.[21]

6

6 more Indigenous Community Land Titles under review.

4

4 more Community Protected Area Titles in process.[21]

Local indigenous communities in the Keo Seima REDD+ Project area have lived in harmony with the forest for many generations (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Conservation Society and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

Forests host 80% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity.[22] Biodiversity supports the resilience of nature and humanity to climate change, ensures the provision of food and freshwater, and provides life-saving drugs.

The IUCN Red List Endangered Masai giraffe *(Giraffa camelopardalis tippelskirchi)* in the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

PROBLEM:

However, in reviewing the goals established for the UN Decade on Biodiversity (2011-2020), the United Nations Environment Program's Global Biodiversity Outlook drew the sobering conclusion that none of the globally agreed biodiversity targets have been achieved[23]. The global population of mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles has already shrunk by 68%[24]. Nearly ⅓ of all IUCN assessed species, totaling more than 40,000, are currently threatened with extinction. Deforestation and forest degradation leads to habitat loss through the destruction of pristine forests and wildlife corridors. Given the current trends, we are at imminent risk of driving 1 million more species to extinction within decades.

GOAL:

Support thriving wildlife populations in healthy forest ecosystems.

REDD+ is a solution that not only avoids the release of carbon sequestered in forests but also addresses the wider impacts of deforestation. Everland supports projects where biodiversity is not a fringe concern but a central focus, working toward SDG 15 (Life on Land). Large areas of land cannot be adequately protected without regular patrols, awareness training and demarcation of protected areas. Beyond the enforcement and patrolling addressed under the Governance pillar, projects supported through The Forest Plan use the revenues from carbon finance for wildlife monitoring, the establishment of rescue and rehabilitation centers, community sensitivity training, and other activities to address potential human-wildlife conflict.

KPIs

1. Number of IUCN Red List species under formal protection or other area-based conservation measures.
2. Percentage of project area and number of hectares defined as key biodiversity areas that are under formal protection or other area-based conservation measures.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

23M

23 million hectares of forest effectively managed for long-term protection of at least **900 IUCN Red List species.**

CASE STUDY

Effective forest defense in Southern Cardamom.

PROJECT DEVELOPER:

Cambodia's Ministry of Environment (MoE) is a government ministry in charge of the country's environmental protection. Wildlife Alliance, an international non-profit forest and wildlife conservation organization with experience in cutting-edge conservation programs dating back to 1995.

-

The Cardamom Rainforest Landscape is one of the last unfragmented rainforests remaining in Southeast Asia and is a critical part of the Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot. The area is home to a variety of critical species, of which 64 are on the IUCN Red List, like the Asian Elephant, Giant Ibis, Pangolin, Siamese Crocodile, Clouded Leopard, Gaur, Banteng, Southern Serow, Asiatic Black Bear, Malayan Sun Bear, Pileated Gibbon.

The area has long suffered from a hunting and poaching crisis, alongside habitat destruction due to slash-and-burn agriculture and land speculation. The REDD+ project established an award-winning conservation model centered around effective boots-on-the-ground protection of this highly threatened forest area, combined with community-based ecotourism development and other economic development activities in partnership with local communities. Since 2006, the project has achieved zero poaching of Asian elephants and supported significant recovery of ungulates and carnivore populations. Working toward the recovery of the tiger population, which became extinct in the area prior to its creation, the project has recently built an enclosure facility to help acclimatize newly introduced tigers before releasing them into the wild.

The Southern Cardamom REDD+ project has implemented a direct threat-based approach to protect the forest and safeguard wildlife, featuring a unique boots-on-the-ground law enforcement model (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Alliance and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

35

IUCN Red List species protected.[25]

2,865

Logging / poaching vehicles confiscated.[25]

352

Rangers employed.

5,624

Chainsaws removed.[25]

11

Patrol outposts.

3,058

Live animals rescued.[25]

24,546

Number of patrols.[25]

16,004

Protected area signs installed.[25]

27,721

Logs confiscated.[25]

175,534

Snares removed.[25]

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

INTRODUCTION

At the heart of The Forest Plan is the knowledge that, in order to avert climate disaster, the world has recognized we must end deforestation within this decade. Forests hold vast reserves of 'irrecoverable carbon' – stores of carbon in nature that are vulnerable to release from human activity. If lost, they may not be restored by 2050 — when the world must reach net-zero emissions to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Over 139 billion tons[26] of irrecoverable carbon are held within critical ecosystems that cannot be released if humanity has a realistic chance of averting climate disaster.

The Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project region serves as the region's most important watershed, climate regulator and carbon sink (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Alliance and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

PROBLEM:

The incredible power of forests as carbon sinks, absorbing 30% of CO_2[27] currently emitted through human activity, is only realized in standing forests. In 2019, the world was losing a football pitch of primary forest every 6 seconds[28]. If deforestation were a country, it would rank third in CO_2 output, behind the US and China. Global emissions from forest loss already exceed those of the global transportation sector. At COP26, world leaders signed the Declaration on Forests and Land Use, committing to work to end deforestation by 2030. It is now key to deliver on this pledge through ambitious action.

GOAL:

Contributing to ending deforestation.

Through The Forest Plan, we are helping provide the vast finance needed for project developers, communities, and governments to meet the challenge of keeping forests standing today. Supporting SDG 13 (Climate Action), The Forest Plan will contribute to the mission to end deforestation by scaling REDD+ projects in vulnerable carbon- and biodiversity-rich forests.

KPIs

1. Average conversion rate of natural ecosystems in project area.
2. Annual and total # of tons of VERs.

BY 2030, WE AIM TO SCALE OUR IMPACT TO SEE:

90M

90 million tons of VERS generated annually, with **800 million tons** generated in total by 2030.

CASE STUDY

Safeguarding globally significant carbon stocks in Mai Ndombe.

PROJECT DEVELOPER:

Wildlife Works is the world's leading REDD+ program development and management company with 25 years of experience in community-centered biodiversity conservation.

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The Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project, located in the Congo Basin, protects 300,000 hectares of critical bonobo and forest elephant habitat as well as some of the most important wetlands on the planet.

The project was developed to convert a series of logging concessions into conservation concessions, with developer Wildlife Works using revenues from the sale of VERs to establish sustainable development opportunities for the local community while protecting the area from deforestation. As of December 2020, the Mai Ndombe project has avoided over 35 million tons of verified CO2 emissions over its lifetime.

35,908,885

35,908,885 tons of CO2 avoided over the project's lifetime.

The Mai Ndombe REDD+ project prevented the reinstatement of logging contracts and instead co-developed sustainable initiatives with the local community while protecting an important rainforest and wetland landscape. (DRC, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

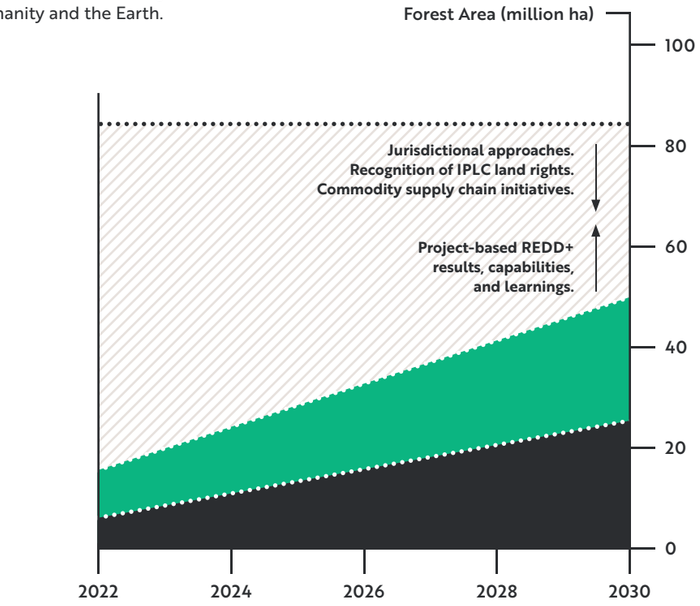
WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER: OUR CALL FOR ACTION AND COLLABORATION

Through the Forest Plan, Everland-supported project developers, communities, and governments who are leading the work on the ground will be positioned to generate 90 million tons of VERs annually and over 800 million tons in total by 2030, by protecting approximately 23 million hectares of threatened forests around the world. By mobilizing the biggest single voluntary carbon finance intervention in history, the stakeholders of The Forest Plan are joining together to take a powerful step to make the commitments made at COP26 a reality.

Yet if deforestation continues within the countries currently housing REDD+ project initiatives at the same rate as over the last two decades, 29% of tropical forests in these countries - 269 million hectares - could be lost by 2030[29]. The ambitions of The Forest Plan, while far-reaching, are only a part of what must be a much broader, deeply aligned collective effort to end deforestation. That is why The Forest Plan is not simply an expression of our own plans. It is a call to inspire action on a similarly ambitious scale, and to activate collaboration on a never-before-seen scale to tackle this grand challenge facing humanity and the Earth.

Our call for action and collaboration seeks to expand upon an unprecedented level of voluntary action that is emerging from the private sector. While the public sector struggles to adopt binding emissions reduction targets and translate these into law and policy at national levels, market actors have stepped forward to save the world's forests and avoid the release of irrecoverable carbon. The clear scientific consensus regarding the need to eliminate deforestation this decade is now being embraced as a market imperative.

The emerging scale of private sector voluntary action offers an unparalleled opportunity, and it is imperative that we harness it fully in the service of safeguarding life on Earth. Our call for action and collaboration focuses on four areas, which we believe are critical for *maximizing the full potential of voluntary action* toward making a deforestation-free world a reality within this decade.



Community members in the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project (Kenya, Developer: Wildlife Works).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

The high rate of deforestation projected to continue in REDD+ countries could be offset if: (1) project-based REDD+ is scaled to its full potential with others in the sector matching The Forest Plan ambitions, (2) projects are developed within nested jurisdictional programs to scale without delay, (3) traditional forest communities rights are recognized and they are rewarded for their stewardship, and (4) avoided deforestation is reflected in the price of commodities to incentivize responsible sourcing.

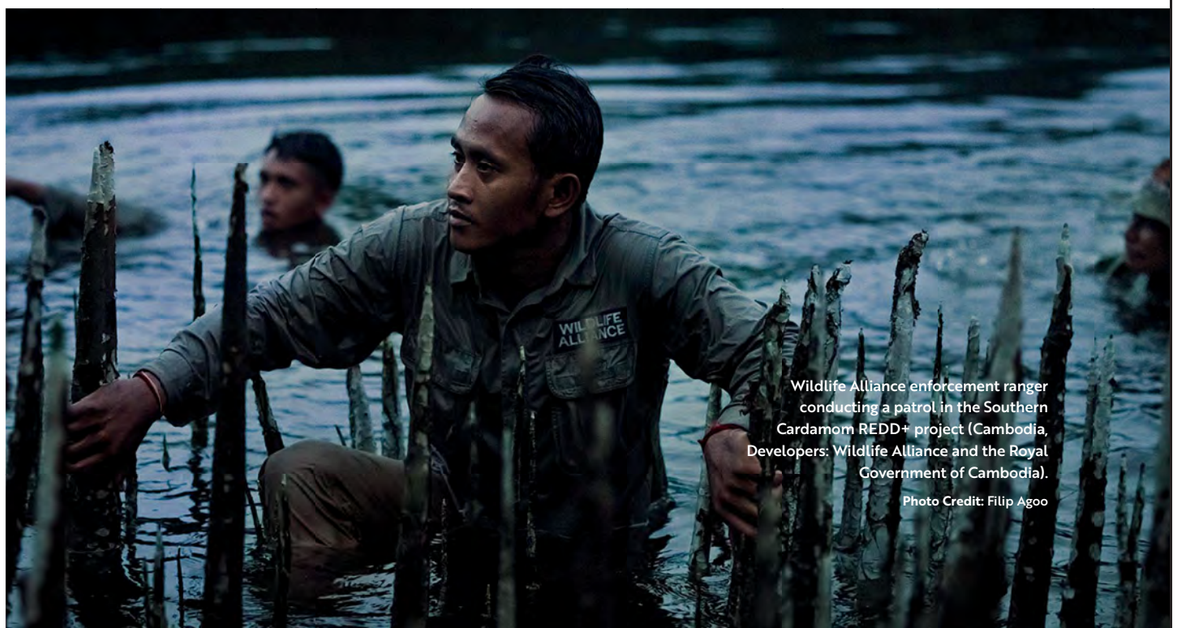
EXPANDING HIGH-IMPACT, COMMUNITY-BASED REDD+ TO ITS FULL POTENTIAL

As discussed throughout this plan, high quality project-based REDD+ is one of the few mechanisms showing meaningful climate mitigation results while benefiting the local community and biodiversity. If the scale of The Forest Plan's ambition is matched by others in the project-based REDD+ sector, together community-based voluntary REDD+ projects can conserve an area equivalent to approximately 17% of the projected forest loss in key forest nations around the world — making a meaningful impact for forests and biodiversity and benefitting over 10 million people in forest communities.[30]

The further expansion of REDD+ depends on continued voluntary support of the market. Let us be clear: there must be no delay in advancing the world's energy system to full decarbonization. Engagement in voluntary action to conserve forests is not a substitute for action to reduce emissions within a company's operations and cannot be used to justify delaying such action. However, whilst we recognize there are criticisms of corporate offsetting, and that REDD+ on the ground must continue to evolve and improve, the energy transition will take decades to achieve, and we are facing an immediate planetary crisis with less than ten years to avert disaster. In this context, we embrace the role of voluntary market action to tackle this critically time-sensitive global challenge.

OUR CALL TO ACTION AND COLLABORATION:

- **Corporations.** Continue to pursue climate strategies based on science, and channel climate and nature-based financial investments into the highest-impact programs — based on demonstrated results.
- **Environmental community.** Engage constructively in helping REDD+ improve, while recognizing its critical role in halting forest loss and the real results it is achieving for communities.



Wildlife Alliance enforcement ranger conducting a patrol in the Southern Cardamom REDD+ project (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Alliance and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

ENABLING NATIONAL AND JURISDICTIONAL REDD+ PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE RESULTS

While The Forest Plan is rooted in a recognition of the role project-based REDD+ must play in catalyzing an end to deforestation, we recognize that sub-national and national jurisdictional programs must also play a catalytic role in achieving scale. We believe nested jurisdictional systems, where projects can be developed within the framework of functional national and sub-national REDD+ programs, offer huge promise and should be developed and rolled out without delay. Among other benefits, this approach aligns the carbon accounting of jurisdictional and project-based REDD+, while taking advantage of the proven effectiveness of project-based efforts to reduce deforestation in threatened landscapes. This helps jurisdictions achieve performance, while attracting private-sector capital for critical up-front investments needed to set the stage for that performance.

At the same time, whilst nationally or regionally supported jurisdictional forest conservation programs are needed to achieve scale, it is also the case that governments in forest-rich countries require significant support to fill critical knowledge and experience gaps in the implementation of large-scale programs. The collective expertise of successful project-based REDD+ initiatives offers a tremendous source of capacity to national and sub-national governments as they build jurisdictional programs to halt deforestation, whether based on REDD+ or other models. From better tools for effective patrolling, community engagement, and new enterprise development, to inclusive benefit sharing models, projects offer a wealth of practical experience – and implementation capacity. This can help governments quickly develop the capabilities they will need to operate effective programs of their own. As local civil society organizations and enterprises are crucial to the implementation of high-quality jurisdictional REDD+ projects, it is equally important to strengthen their capacities. Everland will leverage The Forest Plan platform to help facilitate this kind of capacity building.

OUR CALL TO ACTION AND COLLABORATION:

- **Forest Governments.** Develop nested jurisdictional programs that enable projects to operate and receive payments for the performance they achieve against allocated baselines. Use projects as a strategy to deliver jurisdiction-level results and leverage capabilities and learnings of projects to build implementation capacity at jurisdictional scale.
- **Supporters of jurisdictional REDD+.** Recognize that project-based REDD+ has a critical role in achieving jurisdictional level results and capacity, and incentives and rewards should be directed to communities which are achieving performance. Collaborate with REDD+ Project Developers, Communities, and Governments to support effective integration of projects and jurisdictional programs.

PRIORITIZE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES (IPLCS)

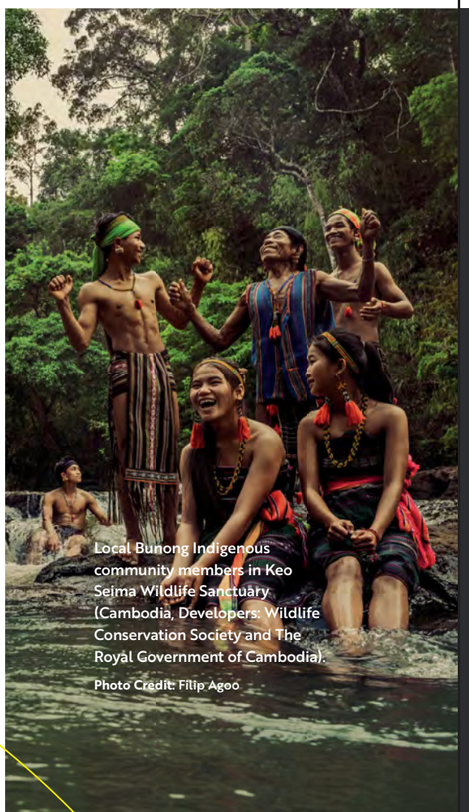
34% of the Earth's irrecoverable carbon lies in lands occupied by IPLCs. Traditional forest communities have been the best guardians of the forest and stewards of the life and carbon contained in it. In the Amazon, deforestation rates in indigenous territories are less than 15% compared to a rate of 76% in territories not inhabited by indigenous people.[31]

Yet, for the critical role IPLCs do play, and must continue to play, they continue to lack tenure rights to land and resources in forest areas where they live. Without such rights, IPLCs remain perennially vulnerable to encroachment and displacement. In addition, precisely because indigenous territories have avoided deforestation and are not considered to be under immediate threat (despite clear and accelerating pressures), they are unable to access climate finance through many programs, including REDD+, as they are currently designed.

To scale forest protection, we need to recognize and invest in these communities. We must develop a new paradigm of equitable partnerships between forest communities and organizations across all sectors of the economy, civil society and government that are committed to driving climate finance directly to IPLCs.

OUR CALL TO ACTION AND COLLABORATION:

- **Standards setters, program developers, and market actors.** Adapt existing, and advance new alternative financing mechanisms tailored to the unique situations of IPLCs, and which recognize the huge role played by IPLCs in safeguarding the climate and life on Earth. Whether through REDD+ or other modalities, all efforts to address deforestation must recognize IPLCs as the most important solution providers in efforts to reshape a global economy that values nature and biodiversity. We endorse initiatives, such as the Peoples' Forest Partnership, that seek to advance this aim with just, practical, and scalable solutions.



Local Bunong Indigenous community members in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Conservation Society and The Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

CONTINUE TO SCALE EFFECTIVE, RESPONSIBLE SOURCING OF DEFORESTATION-FREE COMMODITIES

Commodities such as beef, soy and palm oil remain crucial drivers of forest loss, despite many years of good faith efforts across global value chains to eliminate deforestation from their production. Such efforts include the Tropical Forest Alliance, the New York Declaration on Forests, the Climate and Land Use Alliance, and many others. Lying at the heart of the challenge is the fact that the incentives for sustainable production of these commodities remain uncompelling on the ground. Ultimately, the full value of the standing forest needs to be priced into the value chain, and that value must be transmitted to producers to create the kinds of durable incentives needed to achieve deforestation-free commodities.

OUR CALL TO ACTION AND COLLABORATION:

- **Supply chain actors.** Just as large direct emitters in the fossil fuel industry must transition toward decarbonization, commodity supply chains must also transition toward a world where the full value of natural capital and ecosystem services is reflected in the price of coffee, cocoa, palm oil, beef, and other key deforestation-free commodities. As that transition will take years, in the meantime it is incumbent on commodity supply chains to take responsibility for conserving the remaining standing forests in and around commodity landscapes. Whether through engagement with REDD+, through "insetting" programs, or other modalities, we call on commodity supply chains to expand their scope of activities to include direct forest conservation, and incorporate carbon pricing of forests to drive incentives to producers and communities in associated commodity landscapes.

WE MUST ACCELERATE OUR LEARNING, TOGETHER

The endeavor to end deforestation within this decade is a grand challenge for humanity unlike any other we have faced. Aligning this complex array of places and settings, people and cultures, organizations local to global, and the attendant histories, motivations and drivers is perhaps something never before attempted. While the path to ultimate success is unknown, it must be illuminated by an unprecedented level of learning and adaptation. Practitioners in the field, governments, and market participants must come together in a way we never have before, offering experiences – positive and negative – to one another in a spirit of shared endeavor. We plan to do our part by openly sharing our progress on The Forest Plan, and by inviting stakeholders in our ecosystem together to accelerate our collective capacity to rise to this existential challenge.

"

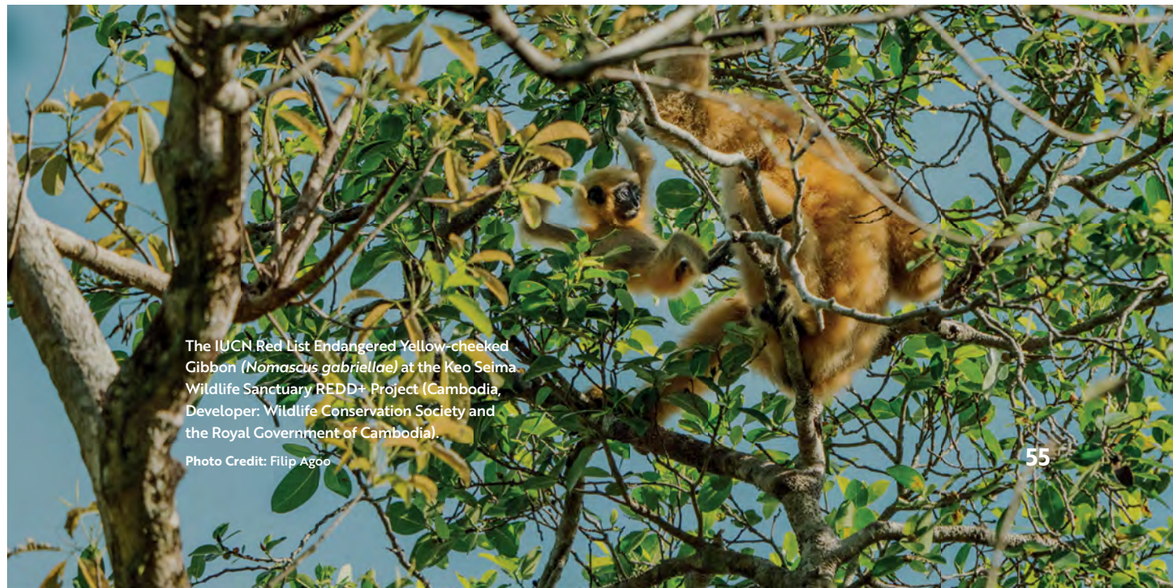
THE FOREST PLAN REPRESENTS THE LARGEST SINGLE VOLUNTARY CARBON FINANCE INTERVENTION IN HISTORY.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

OVERVIEW

The Forest Plan is not just our vision and ambition – it is a set of commitments, a vehicle for action-oriented collaboration, and a valuable governance tool. We will use the Plan to help us stay fully accountable to nature, and other stakeholders, by reaching new levels of adaptive management and reporting capability.

We will follow a yearly reporting cycle, producing a public annual report transparently outlining our progress toward the goals, targets, and KPIs presented herein. This enterprise-level results framework is built on fully integrated logic between what we are trying to achieve, how we aim to achieve it, and how we will measure results. It will mobilize evidence-based reporting and communication of our impact so we can all learn from the experience of REDD+ as it scales, will guide continuous improvement of project activities and inform wider efforts.



The IUCN Red List Endangered Yellow-cheeked Gibbon *(Nomascus gabriellae)* at the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary REDD+ Project (Cambodia, Developer: Wildlife Conservation Society and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

ANNEX I: METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION

Targets for community, wildlife, climate and governance impact were based on calculations of the current impact of community-based REDD+ and estimated future impacts up until 2030. A subset of active REDD+ projects were chosen for the targets: those with CCB Gold Status on the Verra Platform with a monitoring and verification cycle completed within the last 5 years - a total of 43 active projects (area = 7.35M ha).

Metadata for the REDD+ subset was collected from the latest project description, monitoring and verification reports available on the Verra Platform. Basic project data includes project period, start date, monitoring period, project area and tCO2e achieved during project lifetime.

A further subset of projects under development from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and Wildlife Works (WWC) were used for the projection of future new REDD+ projects. These portfolios include a total of 24 projects with a combined area of 10M ha and projected emissions reduction potential of 32M tCO2e/year. An additional portfolio growing to 38M tCO2e/year from 2024 was added as another source of REDD+ projects based on plans with various other developers. Together, these three portfolios, plus a 10% organic growth rate, constitute Everland's future project pipeline. Based on these upcoming new portfolios, Everland's target is to expand the current portfolio size by 6.5x.

-

Everland Future Projects
= WCS Portfolio + WWC Portfolio + Mixed Portfolio + 10% organic growth

-

TARGET-SETTING METHODOLOGY FOR EACH PILLAR

SUPPORTING FOREST COMMUNITIES

TARGET	CCB DATA CATEGORIES
Number of people with improved healthcare access	Water & Health
Number of people experiencing improved livelihoods	Training & Employment
Number of people with improved educational access	Education
Number of women and girls benefiting from increased empowerment	Number of women in all aforementioned categories: water, health, training, employment & education

The total number of people under each target theme represents the achievements thus far during the project lifespan (TCI = Total Current Impact). This was divided by the number of years covering the monitoring periods to get the average annual number of people impacted per theme (AAI = Average Annual Impact).

-

$$AAI = \left(\frac{TCI}{\#\ of\ monitoring\ years} \right)$$

-

This annual average was used to project the number of people who will be impacted from the last monitoring year until 2030 for each of the current projects (FTI = Future Total Impact), assuming the level of impact continues.

-

FTI = AAI x (2030 - monitoring year end)

-

The total future impacts of current projects was added to the impacts achieved during the project lifespan thus far to estimate the cumulative impacts of current REDD+ projects until 2030.

-

Total Impact = FTI + TCI

-

These calculations were used as a basis for the estimates of upcoming portfolios. This annual average was normalized by the project area to calculate the average annual number of people impacted per hectare. The top 15 normalized impacts per theme (number of people / year / ha) was filtered and then averaged to get a rate for future projections (Optimal Impact Rate = OIR).

By utilizing a wider subset to calculate OIR, a more conservative number was derived. This OIR was multiplied by the number of hectares of Future Everland projects to calculate total impact over the project period.

-

Total impact future portfolio = OIR x (total future Everland portfolio project area)

-

This total impact was converted to an annual rate and then multiplied by 8 to cover impact from 2022 - 2030. The total impacts of current and future projects to 2030 were added together to approximate the target impact to 2030 for each theme; each target was rounded down to be conservative.

-

Target = Total impact future portfolio to 2030 + total impact current portfolio to 2030

-

The impact of Everland portfolio projects separated to develop the ultimate goals is outlined in the table below.

CURRENT PROJECTS (TO 2030)	FUTURE PROJECTS (TO 2030)	TARGET TOTAL	ULTIMATE TARGET
301,873	4,168,855	4,500,917	4.5 million people with improved healthcare access
115,786	3,488,492	3,604,278	3.5 million people experiencing improved livelihoods
38,061	657,356	695,417	700,000 people with improved educational access
79,641	1,651,095	1,730,736	1.5 million women & girls benefiting from increased empowerment

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

To estimate the current impact for the climate target, the total number of Verified Emission Reductions (tCO2e) was recorded from each project's latest monitoring and verification reports. The average annual emissions reduction was approximated based on total tCO2e avoided during the latest monitoring and verification cycle divided by coverage years.

-

Average annual tCO2e = total ERs during project lifespan ÷ total coverage years

-

This annual tCO2e value was used to project the ERs from the last monitoring year to 2030.

-

Emissions Reductions to 2030 = average annual tCO2e X (2030 - monitoring end year)

-

This projection was added to the ERs achieved to date to approximate the total ERs the project will achieve by 2030. The ERs of the future portfolio projects were based on estimates provided by the developers up to 2030. The additional Mixed Portfolio (38M tCO2e/year at full capacity) and a 10% organic growth factor was added to each projection to conservatively capture additional REDD+ projects initiated beyond confirmed WCS and WWC portfolios. Total ERs of current and future projects to 2030 were added together to approximate the target impact to 2030 for each theme; each target was rounded down to be conservative. Current and projected growth was divided into the Everland portfolio and external projects.

EVERLAND PROJECTS		**FUTURE PROJECTS**	**CUMULATIVE**	**TARGET**
To MR	MR-2030			
105,486,111	143,816,918	542,057,952	790,938,122	800 million tons of VERs

The ERs from the current non-Everland CCB REDD+ projects are outlined below, with a projected additional annual ERs from 2023 onward based on applying the growth rate of Everland, together cumulating to 1.4 billion tons of VERs by 2030 by the non-Everland Portfolio.

NON- EVERLAND PROJECTS		**FUTURE PROJECTS**	**CUMULATIVE**	**TARGET**
To MR	MR-2030			
239,525,020	308,299,909	820,578,966	1,368,403,895	1.4 billion tons of VERs

Together the targets for Everland and non-Everland projects would result in 2.2 billion tCO2e of ERs by 2030.

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

To estimate the current impact for each of the biodiversity targets, the total project area (forest protected) and IUCN Red List species protected was recorded from the CCB reporting tables available in each project's latest monitoring report.

For the forest protected target, total project area was assumed to be equivalent to forest protected area for each project. Total area was summed for all current projects to get the impact of the active portfolio. Future portfolio to 2030 was based on the future Everland portfolio.

CURRENT PROJECTS	2,174,075
FUTURE PROJECTS	20,352,992
TARGET TOTAL	22,527,067
ULTIMATE TARGET	22.5 million ha of forest protected

The IUCN species protected for each project was reported differently depending on the project in question. In some cases, developers only reported the number of species actively protected (Case 1: e.g. full monitoring, human-wildlife conflict activities, etc.) and others reported all of the IUCN species found within the protected area (Case 2: assuming conservation of the forest equates to conservation of the species therein). For target setting purposes, Case 2 was used as a basis for further calculations.

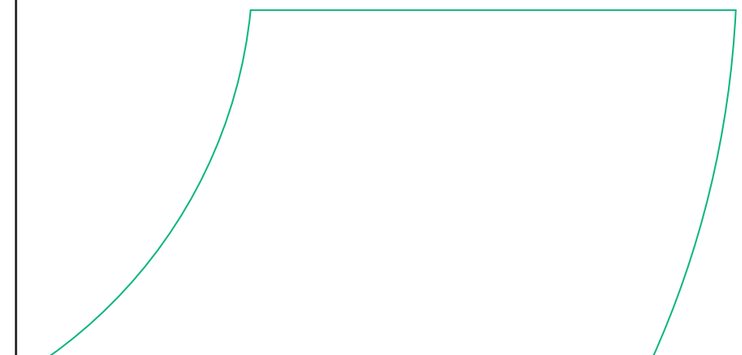
To approximate the total number of species found within REDD+ project areas, IUCN species (mammals, birds and reptiles) were recorded on a country-level. The total number of IUCN species found within REDD+ projects was divided by the total IUCN species within the relevant country to approximate the % of IUCN species found within REDD+ forests. An average of 32% was calculated based on projects reporting using Case 2 methods.

The total number of IUCN species for each country housing Everland's current REDD+ projects was summed (number of countries = 6, number of species = 627) and multiplied by 32% to approximate the IUCN species currently protected by CCB REDD+ projects: 200 species. Similarly for the future IUCN species protected, the number of species for each REDD+ country covered by Everland's future portfolio (15 countries) was multiplied by 32% to approximate the IUCN species that will be protected in the future by CCB REDD+ projects: 703 species.

Current and future IUCN species within REDD+ projects were added together and rounded down to get a conservative target of 900 IUCN species protected.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

To set a target for community revenue sharing, we evaluated revenue sharing models of several REDD+ projects and established a general benchmark based on the diversity of carbon rights / landowner / stakeholder contexts within which REDD+ projects operate globally. This benchmark is set at 20% of VER sale revenue. Based on projected VER generation of 90M tons in 2030 and an assumed carbon price of $20/ton, this equates to $360M annually. Based on this, and applying a contingency of 17%, we set a target of $300M annually.



ANNEX II: UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The pillars of The Forest Plan work in synergy towards the achievement of a number of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They achieve this by:

INVESTING IN FOREST COMMUNITIES

1 - NO POVERTY

At the heart of The Forest Plan is the aim to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities in project areas. Our carbon finance puts control of income in the hands of forest communities through economic activities that work symbiotically with the forest.

5 - GENDER EQUALITY

We acknowledge the importance of empowering women and girls on the journey to greater gender equality. We ensure a portion of carbon finance is allocated to educational support for girls and training and entrepreneurial development for women.

3 - GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

REDD+ projects developed and supported by The Forest Plan sponsor the building, renovation, and equipment of medical facilities local to communities. The key infrastructure and personnel work towards increasing life expectancy and reducing child and maternal mortality.

6 - CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

We make our contribution to securing availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, by directing carbon finance towards water and sanitation infrastructure in project communities. This reduces the exposure of the local population to sanitation-related diseases.

4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

Our commitment to contribute to socioeconomic mobility sees our carbon finance channeled to build or renovate school facilities, provide bursaries to students and train local teaching staff.

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE

16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Strong institutions are key to achieving and maintaining sustainability outcomes. We contribute to SDG 16 by using a portion of carbon finance to build capacity of local decision-makers to strengthen sustainable forest management. We only support projects that share benefits through participatory and inclusive decision-making, as well as work to secure Indigenous land rights.

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

15 - LIFE ON LAND

Projects developed and supported by The Forest Plan are located in ecosystems critical for biodiversity. We channel carbon finance to wildlife monitoring and ranger patrols, the establishment of rescue and rehabilitation centers, community sensitivity training, and other activities to address potential human-wildlife conflict.

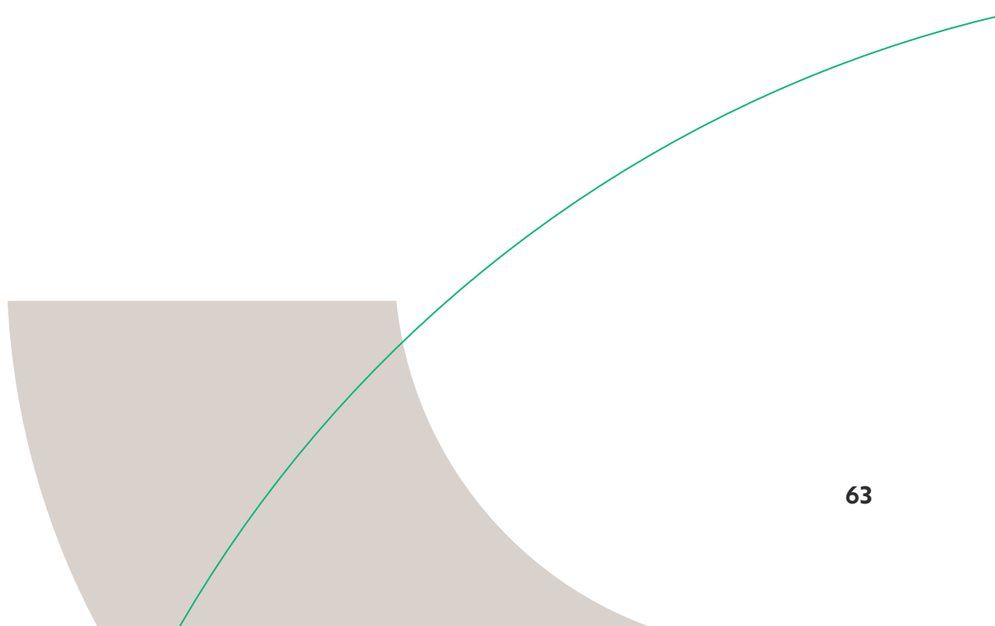
COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE

13 - CLIMATE ACTION

Through ensuring our VERs adhere to high and robust standards, we contribute to keeping forests standing in most critical ecosystems. These forests function as crucial carbon sinks, working to help avoid the worst effects of climate change.

ANNEX III: SUMMARY OF THE COMMUNITY IMPACTS OF CCB-VERIFIED REDD+ PROJECTS

PROJECTS	HEALTHCARE	LIVELIHOODS	EDUCATION	WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT	OVERALL COMMUNITY
Kasigau Phase 1 & 2	211,335.00	3,576.00	12,708.00	4,768.00	232,387.00
Madre de Dios	568.00	1,072.00	300.00	405.00	2,345.00
Chocó-Darién Corridor	0.00	418.00	127.00	242.00	787.00
Kariba	44,500.00	17,748.00	0.00	3,603.00	65,851.00
Biocorridor	0.00	14,485.00	0.00	1,782.00	16,267.00
Purus Project	300.00	210.00	50.00	129.00	689.00
Rio Mandaquari	150.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
Cordillera Azul	0.00	3,929.00	0.00	4,320.00	8,249.00
Russas	460.00	230.00	400.00	354.00	1,444.00
Valparaiso	2,300.00	480.00	600.00	724.00	4,104.00
Jari Amapa	0.00	2,473.00	0.00	903.00	3,376.00
Kulera Landscape	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	75,000.00
Gola	0.00	6,048.00	1,391.00	1,418.00	8,857.00
Evio	0.00	328.00	0.00	65.00	393.00
Bale Mountains	160,866.00	44,556.00	0.00	20,295.00	225,717.00
Shibo Conibo & Cacataibo	0.00	9,797.00	0.00	3,367.00	13,164.00
Envira	65.00	71.00	9.00	30.00	175.00
Acapa Bajo	4,425.00	11,909.00	32.00	2,043.00	18,409.00
Carmen del Darien	0.00	622.00	10.00	305.00	937.00
Siviru-Usaraga	0.00	2,809.00	0.00	47.00	2,856.00
Cajambre	0.00	1,851.00	0.00	620.00	2,471.00
Bajo Calima	0.00	1,199.00	0.00	966.00	2,165.00
Rio Pepe	0.00	1,851.00	1,851.00	620.00	4,322.00
Mutata	0.00	810.00	0.00	546.00	1,356.00
Concosta	0.00	1,059.00	0.00	118.00	1,177.00
Chyulu Hills	23,688.00	566.00	9,467.00	4,849.80	38,570.80
Katingan	1,899.00	5,804.00	411.00	1,709.00	9,823.00
Lacandon	11,636.00	3,917.00	45.00	0.00	15,598.00
Conservation Coast	48,038.00	6,284.00	235.00	17,298.00	71,855.00
Southern Cardamom	84,291.00	25,563.00	4,135.00	12,677.00	124,689.00
Jaguar Corridor	510.00	250.00	0.00	31.00	791.00
Alto Huayabamba	0.00	221.00	0.00	29.00	250.00
Ntakata Mountains	3,016.00	2,583.00	0.00	2,533.00	8,132.00
Makame Savannah	0.00	8,080.00	0.00	1,710.00	9,790.00
Keo Seima	5,540.00	11,799.00	662.00	11,744.00	48,347.00
Tumring	0.00	1,095.00	1,087.00	473.00	2,655.00
Blue Carbon Vida Manglar	0.00	428.00	0.00	0.00	428.00
Alto Mayo	134.00	9,531.00	1,031.00	3,904.00	14,600.00
Rimba Raya	8,571.00	17,792.00	10,908.00	10,069.00	47,340.00
Mai Ndombe	6,612.00	19,174.00	4,632.00	23,405.00	54,054.00
TOTAL TO LAST MONITORING REPORT	**620,723.00**	**306,291.00**	**49,655.00**	**163,102.00**	**1,139,771.00**



REPORT ENDNOTES

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[10] For more information on how these and other figures in the Plan were derived, please see the Methodology section.

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CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY LOSS ARE TWO OF THE MOST URGENT THREATS FACING LIFE ON EARTH.

The IUCN Red List Endangered pileated gibbon *(Hylobates pileatus)* in the Southern Cardamom REDD+ project (Cambodia, Developers: Wildlife Alliance and the Royal Government of Cambodia).

Photo Credit: Filip Agoo

The Forest Plan is Everland's response to the urgent call, presented at COP26, to end deforestation in the next decade. Through The Forest Plan, we present a clear, evidence-based route to scaling up REDD+ as a critical path to conserve forests and support forest communities.

Wildlife Works rangers conducting a monitoring patrol in the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ project (Kenya).
Photo Credit: Filip Agoo