



COP30 FOREST PAVILION:

A Shared Commitment to Our Planet

2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30) 10-21 November 2025, Belém, Brazil

Forest finance and trade

13 November 2025 | 10:00 am-11:45 am

Forest Pavilion, COP-30, Belém do Pará

Lead: UN-REDD Programme

Co-leads: UNFCCC

Contributors: Green Climate Fund, UNCDF, Germany, Costa Rica, Guatemala

Background

Forests are central to climate action, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development. Yet, forest finance remains significantly underfunded and fragmented. And despite their strong interconnection and proximity to forests, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have limited access to international public finance flows for forests. Only US\$ 362 million of international public finance flows to forests was directed to Indigenous Peoples and local community-related projects in 2023. Direct access to finance was even more limited. This situation is often worse for women and youth from indigenous and rural communities. While their roles and knowledge are pivotal in forest conservation, they face disproportionate impacts from forest degradation and structural barriers to land tenure, participation, and access to forest finance.

This side event brings together key stakeholders to explore the current landscape and future pathways for forest finance, with a focus on unlocking results-based payments, enhancing private sector engagement, and supporting Indigenous-led bioeconomy solutions, including by women and youth.

The first session will provide an overview of the status of forest finance globally, identifying gaps and opportunities to scale up investments in a manner that is aligned with climate

and forest goals and supports transparency, fairness and equity. The second session features a high-level discussion on REDD+ results-based payments, drawing lessons from country experiences and exploring their roles as enablers of broader socially inclusive and gender-responsive forest finance strategies. The final session will spotlight innovative approaches to channel private sector finance toward Indigenous-led Forest and bioeconomy initiatives, emphasizing the importance of gender equality, rights, and locally grounded solutions.

Together, these sessions aim to foster dialogue and collaboration across public, private, and Indigenous actors to accelerate forest finance which delivers on global climate and biodiversity commitments while also promoting sustainable, equitable and successful outcomes.

Objectives

1. Present and discuss the findings of two global reports on the state and pathways to scale forest finance
2. Distill lessons from REDD+ RBPS and PES as enablers of socially inclusive and gender-responsive forest finance
3. Explore partnerships between private sector and Indigenous led forests and bioeconomy solutions

Draft agenda

General considerations: All panels with gender balance and global north-south balance

Session 1: Status and Pathways Forward for Forest Finance (40 min)

Moderator: Felipe Guntin (UNEP/UN-REDD Programme) (2 min)

Intro: Felipe Guntin. Speak about forests' role in climate mitigation, resilience, and multiple co-benefits, yet finance remains far below what's needed; session examines how to mobilize and scale high-integrity forest finance through policy reform, private investment, and inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Keynote presentations: What's the state of forest finance? (15 min)

- Tripling investments in forests by 2030: Key findings of the State of Finance for Forests (8 min) - Felipe Guntin
- Key findings of the 2025 Forest Declaration on negative financial flows to forests (6 min) - focus on negative financial flows - Jillian Gladstone

Panel/Fireside chat (20 min)

Felipe introduces the panel, providing an overview of how to unlock forest finance based on the 6-point action in the Forest Finance Roadmap.

- **Bob Kazunga, REDD+ Director, Uganda** - On reforms of international finance systems, sovereign debt, and public forest finance; access to forest finance through REDD+
 - How can sovereign debt instruments and fiscal reforms be structured to unlock predictable forest finance while maintaining macroeconomic stability?
 - What lessons from Uganda suggest how national public finance systems can better integrate REDD+ and channel resources efficiently to forest action on the ground?
- **Tony Lent, Co-founder capital for Climate** - On the role of private finance
 - What structural changes or incentives are needed to make forests a viable asset class for mainstream investors without compromising integrity?
 - As private capital enters the space, how do we balance innovation and speed with the safeguards needed to ensure credibility and equitable benefit-sharing?
- **Jennifer Lasiumbang, ED of Indigenous Peoples of Asia Solidarity Fund** - On role of IPs, ADPs, and LCs and finance for IPs, ADPs, and LCs
 - Redirecting finance toward Indigenous-led conservation often involves trade-offs, between scale, accountability, and autonomy. How can these be navigated without recentralizing control or diluting community leadership?
 - What new financial architectures or governance models are emerging that reconcile donor requirements with the realities of Indigenous territorial management and long-term stewardship?

Close: Felipe (2 min). Summarizes key takeaways: Forest finance must triple and be redirected toward high-integrity, inclusive, and aligned investments. Highlights the Forest Finance Roadmap and emphasizes that partnerships across governments, private sector, and Indigenous Peoples are central to success.

Session 2: Panel: Lessons and the future of REDD+ results-based payments as enablers of forest finance (30 min)

Moderator: Dirk Nemitz (UNFCCC, TBC)

Panelists: Costa Rica, Indonesia

Opening

Dirk Nemitz (6 min): Laying the ground and explaining how the Warsaw Framework has enabled countries to access RBPs, including the latest information on the 2026 REDD+ reference level TA process and implications for accessing GCF and Art. 6.4.

Questions:

Costa Rica- (Gilmar Navarrete, 6 min)

1. *Costa Rica has been a pioneer in implementing results-based payments under REDD+. What have been the key enabling conditions that allowed you to access and effectively use these funds?*
2. *How has REDD+ finance contributed to broader forest governance and gender equality outcomes in Costa Rica, particularly in relation to community engagement and co-benefits for women?*
3. *Looking ahead, what innovations or reforms are needed to sustain and scale results-based payments in Costa Rica's Forest sector?*

Indonesia (Professor Haruni Krisnawati, Advisor to Minister of Forestry, 6 min)

1. *Indonesia has received significant REDD+ results-based payments. What lessons have emerged from your experience in meeting the technical and institutional requirements for accessing these funds?*
2. *How have REDD+ payments influenced national forest and climate policy, and what role do they play in Indonesia's broader climate finance strategy?*
3. *What are Indonesia's priorities for improving the effectiveness and impact of future REDD+ finance, especially in relation to jurisdictional approaches and private sector engagement?*
4. *What are some good practices that Indonesia can share on how its REDD+ payments have helped to support the implementation (e.g. operationalization) of the country's national approach to environmental and social (including gender) safeguards?*

Session 3: Linking private sector finance to Indigenous-led Forest/bioeconomy solutions (35 min)

Moderator: Christina Coc, Maya Leaders Alliance

Panelists:

- Rukka Sombolinggi (F), Secretary General, AMAN, Indonesia (potentially also presenting the Global Indigenous Facility for Trade of the GATC)
- Nina Kantcheva, UNDP, presenting the Forest Guardians Investment Accelerator
- Kawtar Zerouali (F), Global Lead on Nature & Climate, UNCDF to highlight approaches to increasing and localizing nature finance through blended finance mechanisms that de-risk MSMEs in the bioeconomy and foster equitable participation of local and Indigenous communities.
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- 1 panelist representing private sector partners: Natura or IKEA (tbc)