

“ForestFlow: Innovative financial, commercial and digital solutions for forest territories in Mesoamerica” (Germany, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and UNDP)

CONCEPT NOTE

Wednesday, 19 November 2025

12:30 – 13:00 (local time)

Forest Pavilion (Blue Zone) | COP-30 | Belém

Background

ForestFlow is a pioneering initiative by UNDP on integrating financial, commercial and digital instruments for forest territories. The Government of Germany, through its International Climate Initiative (IKI), intends to support a pilot programme in Mesoamerica, with a focus in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras. Under a cohesive policy framework (NDCs, NBSAPs, SDGs), the initiative will integrate Payments for Environmental Services (PES), results-based forest incentives (REDD+, carbon finance), green credit, insurance, deforestation-free production and trade (especially coffee & cocoa value chains), and interoperable digital platforms (satellite data, farmer-based apps) to connect the territory, its environmental services and the economic flows. The initiative will put a focus in empowering Indigenous peoples, women and the rural youth, as agents of change, ensuring these instruments recognize and enhance their dual roles of stewards of forests and sustainable managers of farmlands.

Purpose of the Meeting

To reunite the partners for the new ForestFlow initiative and align their ideas, highlighting the innovation potential and the relevance to sustainable territorial development in the region.

Format

A 30-minute partners announcement with brief remarks from the country delegates present at COP30.

Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks – by Mr. Lyes Ferroukhi, Manager of the UNDP Hub for Latin America & the Caribbean: Overview of ForestFlow and its strategic importance. (5 mins)
2. Statements from Participating Governments on their ongoing efforts and ambitions in terms of sustainable land & forest financing: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras (15 minutes)
3. Remarks from the Government of Germany: IKI funding as a catalyst for innovations.
4. Closing Remarks – UNDP (5 min): Next steps and vision for implementation start in 2026.

Expected Outcomes:

- Sharing this new initiative in Mesoamerica, on the occasion of COP30 (the COP of forests and Indigenous peoples) – a press release will be issued afterwards, after due agreement with the parties.
- Policy alignments between the participant countries from Mesoamerica and Germany.
- Information on next steps.

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