

# Frequently Asked Questions: A Call for U.S. Leadership on Forests and Climate Protection



## **What is the Call for Leadership?**

The Call for Leadership is the first urgent recommendation to Congress on climate change and tropical forests from a broad spectrum of industry, non-profit and policy leaders. It asks that the United States prioritize ending tropical deforestation in domestic climate change legislation and U.S. climate change foreign policy.

The Call for Leadership stresses the many benefits of forest conservation to climate protection, economic growth, international security, poverty alleviation, local community welfare and biodiversity preservation. The full text can be downloaded at [http://adpartners.org/initiatives\\_action.html](http://adpartners.org/initiatives_action.html)

## **Who has signed on to the Call for Leadership, and why?**

The Call for Leadership has been signed by a wide array of leading organizations and individuals, ranging from Nobel Laureates, elected leaders and corporate CEOs to international conservation groups, poverty and development organizations, policy experts and more. A full list of signatories is available at [http://adpartners.org/initiatives\\_action.html](http://adpartners.org/initiatives_action.html)

## **What does Congress need to do to protect tropical forests in U.S. climate policy?**

Conserving tropical forests is a cost-effective way to combat climate change. Protecting forests can begin today; it does not require new and unproven technologies.

The Call for Leadership signatories ask Congress to take three steps:

1. Take a global leadership role in combating deforestation – both in international agreements and domestically through its own laws;
2. Advance a diverse set of solutions including market and non-market based approaches like enhanced development assistance, improved forest governance and expanded use of both public- and private-sector carbon finance; and
3. Engage a wide range of stakeholders in order to develop sustainable, scalable and equitable solutions that scientists, developing nations, indigenous groups, local communities, civil society, and industry can support.

**Why is tropical deforestation an urgent climate change issue?**

Deforestation accounts for roughly 20% of global climate emissions. Astonishingly, emissions from deforestation are doing more to deepen the climate crisis than all the world's cars, trucks, planes and ships combined. We cannot solve the problem of global climate change if we do not address emissions from deforestation.

**How does deforestation in other countries affect the U.S.?**

Tropical deforestation – which is occurring at a rate of one acre per second – affects more than our climate. It impacts U.S. security by contributing to unrest in developing nations. Tropical forests are often home to indigenous peoples and other unique forest-dwelling communities. The World Bank reports that 90% of the rural poor depend on forests for their food, fuel, water or livelihoods. The degradation of forests can be a driver of violence and armed conflict that displaces local communities and undermines political stability.

**What's next for the Call for Leadership and Avoided Deforestation Partners?**

AD Partners will continue its ongoing work to build support on this issue. This will mean expanding the list of Call for Leadership signatories from all sectors, and joining signatories as they work with Congress to help ensure that U.S. climate legislation protects the world's tropical forests.