

WWF Living Forests Report: Chapter 3

FORESTS AND CLIMATE: REDD+ AT A CROSSROADS

WWF's *Living Forests Report* has introduced four future scenarios to explore the feasibility and implications of stopping runaway deforestation and degradation of the world's remaining natural forest, and sustaining this until 2050. In this chapter, we look specifically at consequences for the climate and future carbon emissions of the various scenarios.



The key question we ask: Is it possible to feed and fuel the world and at the same time reduce, halt and reverse forest and forest carbon loss by 2020? The short answer is yes, but only if concerted action is taken immediately.

THE LIVING FORESTS MODEL SUGGESTS:

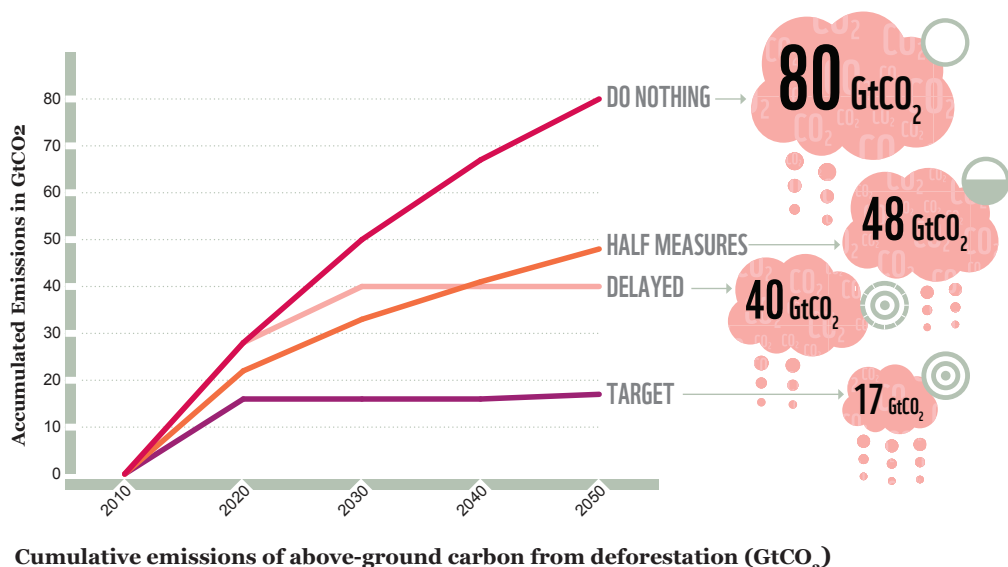
WWF HAS SET A GOAL OF ZERO NET DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (ZNDD) BY 2020. THAT MEANS NO OVERALL LOSS OF FOREST AREA OR FOREST QUALITY. IN THE NEXT DECADE, WE WANT TO SEE THE LOSS OF NATURAL OR SEMI-NATURAL FOREST REDUCED TO NEAR ZERO, DOWN FROM 13 MILLION HECTARES A YEAR.

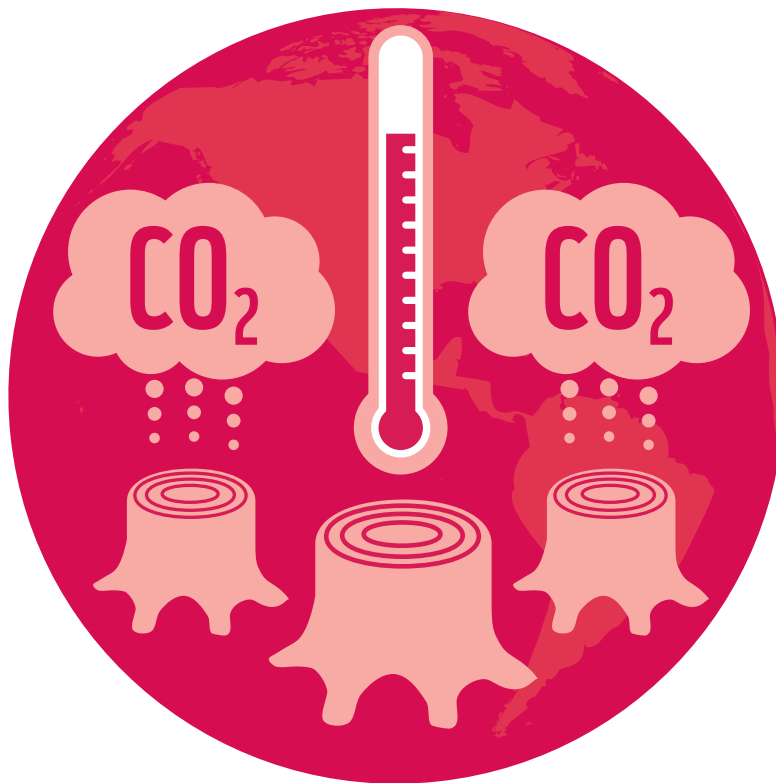
The longer we wait the more forests we lose. WWF proposes zero net deforestation and degradation (ZNDD) by 2020 as a global target. A delay of even one decade in reaching ZNDD would sacrifice another 69 million hectares of forest worldwide. This would make it impossible to reverse the alarming trend of biodiversity loss.

And the more CO₂ is emitted. Delaying ZNDD until 2030 would mean emitting at least an additional 24 GtCO₂ into the atmosphere, not counting losses from forest degradation or the carbon stored below ground. This would make it impossible to halt global warming.

We cannot plant our way out of the problem. The Living Forests Model projects a major expansion of short rotation plantations, but shows that new plantations would not begin to sequester enough carbon to offset emissions from deforestation until more than 30 years from now; in the meantime vast areas of natural forest would be lost and a total of 54 GtCO₂ would be released.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Authoritative overviews such as the Stern Report¹, Eliasch Review² and McKinsey Report³ on the consequences of climate change all agree that delaying action will significantly increase the total cost of mitigation and adaptation.





We must not miss the opportunity of REDD+, but some things are still missing.

An inspiring vision and target: A clear, ambitious and measurable global target for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation is a vital step toward limiting warming to well below 2°C. WWF’s targets for 2020 – ZNDD and no net greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation – provide a framework for countries to formulate ambitious national targets and action. Governments should agree to set a measurable, time-bound global REDD+ target.

REDD+ IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REVERSE THE ONGOING TREND OF FOREST LOSS, AND THE TIME TO INVEST IN REDD+ IS NOW!

New and additional, predictable and adequate funding from multiple sources, now: ZNDD can only be achieved with a major and immediate scaling up of investment to counter the drivers of forest loss. REDD+ is the most feasible vehicle to encourage and channel the necessary public and private finance to this effort. According

to recent analysis by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, new and additional, predictable and adequate finance to achieve ZNDD by 2020 lies in the range of US\$30-53 billion per year, delaying action will greatly increase the long-term costs of coping with climate change.

Unless we act now to halt deforestation, the opportunity to keep global temperature rise below 2°C will be lost forever.

Governments can:

- Halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation in order to promote economic opportunities for the rural poor that are compatible with keeping forests alive
- **Use REDD+ as a major opportunity to address the underlying drivers of deforestation**
- **Use REDD+ to develop clear rights to lands, territory and resources** for indigenous peoples and local communities

The private sector can develop Zero Deforestation and Forest Degradation policies in forestry, agriculture and extractive industry and commodity trade chains, including producers, manufacturers, traders, the financial sector and end users.

Everyone can live within the planet’s sustainable limits. Individuals, businesses and governments need to assess and reduce their ecological footprints.

Read the full report online at panda.org/livingforests.

	<p>Why we are here To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony and nature. www.panda.org/livingforests</p>
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¹ Stern, N. (2006); *Stern Review on The Economics of Climate Change*, HM Treasury, London

² Eliasch, J. (2008); *Climate Change: Financing global forests – the Eliasch Review*, Earthscan, London

³ McKinsey and Company (2009); *Pathways to a low-carbon economy: Version two of the global greenhouse gas abatement cost curve*