

CHATHAM HOUSE GLOBAL FORUM ON FOREST GOVERNANCE 2021

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT DECADE

Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 July 2021

PURPOSE

The Forum will provide a platform for a diversity of stakeholders (by geography, sector and expertise) to discuss the impacts of forest governance reforms implemented under the FLEGT framework and consider the implications of these for future efforts to tackle climate change & biodiversity loss.

Through these discussions, the Forum seeks to highlight the need to:

- further strengthen forest and land governance as part of efforts to develop and implement effective and equitable solutions to climate change; and
- ensure that all stakeholders – in particular, those for whom forests are integral to their livelihoods and ways of life – have a voice in shaping and implementing such measures.

AUDIENCE

The audience will be composed of policy-makers, experts and practitioners from around the world. Registration is open to all. Details of the event, and registration information, are available [online](#).

DAY ONE

Session 1 | Keynote | 09:00 – 09:40 BST
| Technical Panel | 10:00 – 11:30 BST

International governmental partnerships to promote sustainable production and trade

Format: Key-note session, followed by technical session (presentations followed by Q&A).

International partnerships between consumer and producer countries have been, and will continue to be, an important part of global efforts to help support sustainable land-use and trade, in the forest sector and beyond. This has been a critical element of efforts to tackle illegal logging, including through the FLEGT VPAs, as part of trade agreements and through bilateral MOUs. Looking forward, the EU is considering the establishment of forest partnerships as part of its efforts to tackle deforestation, and the UK government has launched the [FACT dialogue](#) as part of its COP26 preparations to bring together those countries that are committed to shifting global commodity markets towards sustainability.

This session will include a high-level panel, to set out visions for international partnerships aimed at promoting sustainable forest and land use. This will be followed by a technical panel for government representatives to reflect on their experiences of working with international partners to negotiate and implement VPAs. Issues to be considered include: whether trade has provided an incentive for engagement; the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in leveraging political support; the effectiveness of the mechanisms for EU-partner engagement. Drawing on these experiences, panellists will share their views on where next for international partnerships on forests.

Session 2 | 13:00 – 14:30 BST

Visions for 2030 and how these can be achieved

Format: Panel debate.

A panel session to share the perspectives of thought leaders from around the world on how to transition to sustainable use of forests and land, and what outcomes will be needed from COP 26 to achieve this.

Panellists will share their views on what types of development model will best ensure the sustainable and equitable use of forests, and the priorities for governance reform in the forest and land-use sectors that will be needed to implement these.

DAY TWO

Session 3 | 09:00 – 11:00 BST

Due diligence regulations and sustainable trade

*Format: Presentations followed by Q&A.
This session is co-convened with Proforest.*

Import regulations aimed at tackling deforestation in supply chains are under discussion in the EU, UK and US. These represent a major step up in corporate responsibility for deforestation in or linked to supply chains and the intent has broad support. However, questions remain about what “smart mix” of policy measures should be developed, and how the various and sometimes conflicting priorities of different stakeholders in both end-consumer and producer countries can be met. Voluntary supply chain action is in a period of rapid innovation and leading companies, industry groups and other players have developed their own approaches that have begun to see success, especially in the palm and cocoa sectors.

This session will bring together regulators, companies, thought leaders and advocates working on demand side regulation and on voluntary supply chain measures, to consider what mix of policies and tools are likely to be most effective at tackling deforestation for specific commodities and geographies.

Session 4 | 11:30 – 13:00 BST

What space for forests and forest-dependent peoples in future land-use strategies?

Format: Presentations followed by Q&A.

Growing demand for natural resources and land is placing forests under increasing pressure. This raises the question of how competing priorities can and should be balanced: for local and global environmental services (such as water resources, biodiversity, carbon sinks), for the production of goods and commodities for local and global markets; and for the provision of livelihoods and cultural values.

This session will consider how the governments of tropical forest countries are seeking to meet these different priorities, and to reconcile competing demands, as set out in their national development and climate strategies (including NDCs, Long-Term Strategies, etc.). In particular, it will look at what space is being allocated to diverse forests and for rural peoples, and the consultation mechanisms and decision-making processes that have been put in place to support the development and implementation of these strategies.

Session 5 | 14:00 – 15:30 BST**Legal reforms: progress over the last decade & next steps for achieving climate ambitions**

Format: Panel debate.

Processes of legal reform aimed at facilitating sustainable and equitable forest use have been implemented in many forest-rich countries, at times driven by domestic agendas and at times, by international agendas (including FLEGT and REDD, for example). While notable achievements have been seen in many countries, elsewhere legal reforms have been made that risk having a negative impact on forests and forest peoples. This has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, in response to which some countries have been rolling back environmental and social protections in order to boost their economies in the short-term.

This session will consider some of the progress made, focusing in particular on the processes and mechanisms that have been established to implement these reforms, and the resilience of the reforms to reversal. The implications of these will be considered for future reform efforts, in particular, those needed if the SDGs and climate ambitions are to be achieved.