



UNFF Clearing House on Forest Financing

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT #6 – SEPTEMBER 2023

This newsletter is a space to share information about recent developments, upcoming opportunities, learning materials, and other updates related to financing for forests. To contribute to future issues, please contact nadine.souto@un.org. [Subscribe](#) to receive future editions of the Quarterly Highlight.

Calling all Quarterly Highlight readers – we want to hear from you! You can help us improve the Clearing House on Forest Financing website by responding to a short questionnaire available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). How often do you use the Clearing House? How useful has it been? What can we do better? Your feedback will allow us to better serve your information needs.

DEVELOPMENTS IN FOREST FINANCING

UN General Assembly High-level Week to ignite bold leadership on SDGs and climate

World leaders will gather at UN Headquarters in New York this month for the annual General Assembly General Debate. The theme for this year is “Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerate action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all”. The [SDG Summit](#) on 18-19 September will target high-level political action on the SDGs, including fundamental shifts in commitment, solidarity, and financing. As part of this effort, the UN development system has proposed a set of high impact initiatives, including the launch of a coalition of countries to drive game-changing economic policy reform for nature and biodiversity and an SDG Stimulus initiative calling for an increase in financing for sustainable development of at least \$500 billion per year. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will convene the [Climate Ambition Summit](#) on 20 September with a call to leaders to present credible, serious, and new climate action and nature-based solutions to respond to the climate crisis. Also on 20 September, the [High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development](#) will seek to reinvigorate international commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in the form of new initiatives to increase the flow of finance into SDG implementation. [Read more.](#)

Global Biodiversity Framework Fund launched at Seventh GEF Assembly

Environmental leaders from 185 countries gathered in Vancouver, Canada, for the Seventh Assembly of the [Global Environment Facility](#) (GEF) held 22-27 August. An important item on the agenda was the ratification of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), a new source of funding to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by COP 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) last year. The GBFF aims to mobilize and accelerate investment from governments, philanthropy, and the private sector in the protection of wild species and ecosystems, including forests, whose health is under threat from wildfires, flooding, extreme weather, and human activity including urban sprawl. Canada and the United Kingdom announced contributions toward the fund’s capitalization in the amount of 200 million Canadian dollars and 10 million pounds, respectively. [Read more.](#)

Amazon countries sign Belem Declaration to advance new common agenda

The Amazon Summit held 8-9 August in Belem, Brazil, brought together the eight member countries of the [Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization \(ACTO\)](#) to discuss the urgent challenge of protecting the Amazon, fighting poverty, and advancing inclusive sustainable development in the region. The meeting culminated with the signing of a high-level declaration to promote cooperation in fighting deforestation, combatting illegal natural resource extraction, and promoting sustainable land use with the aim of preventing a “point of no return” for the Amazon. The [Belem Declaration](#) called for accelerated joint efforts to increase funding and share knowledge on financing for projects, programs and studies, including the establishment a Working Group to evaluate a Financial Mechanism as a means for raising and capitalizing on non-refundable financial resources from various sources. [Read more.](#)

Paris financing summit sought international financial system reform

During the [Summit for a New Global Financing Pact](#), which convened in Paris, France from 22-23 June, leaders converged on a shared ambition to build a more inclusive and resilient financial system to respond to the shared challenges of climate change and sustainable development. The need to mobilize additional sources of low-cost

finance to protect the planet was recognized, including by implementing carbon pricing initiatives that generate revenues for the climate transition while preserving carbon sinks such as forests. The Summit saw the launch of a Call to Action for Paris-aligned Carbon Markets, supported by 31 countries. [Read more.](#)

NEW LEARNING MATERIALS

Aligning financial flows with the Global Biodiversity Framework

This high-level roadmap proposes recommendations for all actors within the financial landscape on integrating the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in their decision-making. [Read more.](#)

Landscape of Climate Finance for Agrifood Systems

This report tracks climate finance going to agrifood systems by sector, geographic destination, financial instrument and source. It is the first comprehensive analysis of climate finance flows to agrifood-related sectors, including forestry, with the aim of better informing decision-makers. [Read more.](#)

Business Handbook on Deforestation

The handbook seeks to help companies integrate considerations on deforestation and forest degradation into their corporate due diligence procedures. [Read more.](#)

Mobilizing Private Sector Financing for Climate and Green Growth in Africa

The 2023 edition of the African Economic Outlook focuses on increasing private finance flows in climate and green growth and highlights transformative policy actions that can be leveraged to accelerate investments, building on opportunities afforded by the abundance of natural resources and biodiversity on the African continent. [Read more.](#)

Find more such materials: [Browse our database on Learning Materials](#)

NEW GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Partnerships for Investment in Forests Case Study Insights

This summary brief provides key insights and recommendations from a series of case studies of innovative investment strategies for directing private capital towards sustainable food systems, forests, and nature. [Read more.](#)

A New Bioeconomy for the Amazon Forest

The report is based on [Forest Trends'](#) two decades of experience partnering with indigenous communities in Brazil's Tupi Mosaic to develop economic enterprises built around sustainable value chains (açai, artisan products, Brazil nuts, and cacao) that promote forest conservation. [Read more.](#)

Securing Sustainable Financing for Conservation Areas

This guide describes the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach to securing the policies, capacity, institutional arrangements and full funding for protected areas and other area-based conservation measures. It captures experiences and lessons learned from projects in Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Peru and Colombia. [Read more.](#)

Find more such materials: [Browse our database on Good Practices and Lessons Learned](#)



UPCOMING FOREST-RELATED FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES

The [Global EbA Fund](#) is accepting proposals for projects with catalytic and innovative potential to create enabling environments for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). Non-public entities are eligible for grants of USD 50,000 to 250,000. Projects can be global, thematic, or targeted to ODA-eligible countries. Projects under the thematic track should focus on Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge in EbA. The deadline for submissions is 15 September 2023. [Read more.](#)

The [Darwin Initiative](#) has open calls for proposals under several of its grant schemes helping to protect biodiversity, the natural environment, and local communities in developing countries. Application deadlines span from 18 September 2023 for projects up to GBP 5 million and 23 October 2023 for innovation, capability, and capacity projects up to GBP 200,000. [Read more.](#)

The [Common Fund for Commodities](#) (CFC) invites applications for up to USD 2 million in loans and other debt instruments. Eligible entities include SMEs, cooperatives, and institutions along the entire commodity value chain in CFC member countries. Projects should demonstrate potential for positive impact on livelihoods dependent on commodities, and can include activities related to agroforestry, biodiversity protection, and deforestation prevention. The deadline for submissions is 1 October 2023. [Read more.](#)

The [Nature for Water Facility](#), an initiative of [The Nature Conservancy](#), issues calls for proposals every six months to provide sponsors of watershed investment programs with technical assistance to reach their technical objectives. Eligible entities include local utilities, government agencies and NGOs. The next application period will open in October 2023 and span 3-4 weeks. [Read more.](#)

The [Rainforest Trust](#) welcomes applications for protected and conserved area creation or expansion. Legally registered NGOs are eligible for grants of varying sizes. Projects must demonstrate support from relevant governments, Indigenous Peoples and/or Local Communities. Concept notes are accepted on a rolling basis, except for awards over USD 250,000 for which the next deadline is 1 November 2023. [Read more.](#)

The [European Outdoor Conservation Association](#) (EOCA) is looking to fund projects which benefit biodiversity in a wild landscape. Non-profit organizations can receive grants up to EUR 30,000 for projects anywhere except the US and Canada. Projects should encourage local stewardship of habitats, alleviate poverty, support ecosystem services, and demonstrate a link to outdoor enthusiasts. Applications will be open from 1-15 December 2023. [Read more.](#)

Find more such opportunities: [Browse our database on Financing Opportunities](#)



ABOUT THE CLEARING HOUSE

The UNFF [Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network](#) (GFFFN) [Clearing House](#) is a one-stop shop for information on forest financing. This web-based platform launched in April 2021 and provides access to more than two hundred data entries on forest financing opportunities, learning materials and good practices. Be sure to check back frequently as the databases are regularly updated.