

# FORESTS IN FOCUS

**CHAPTER 1:**

**THE DECLARATION**



NEW YORK  
DECLARATION  
ON FORESTS



IMAGINE THE WORLD YOU WANT TO LIVE IN...

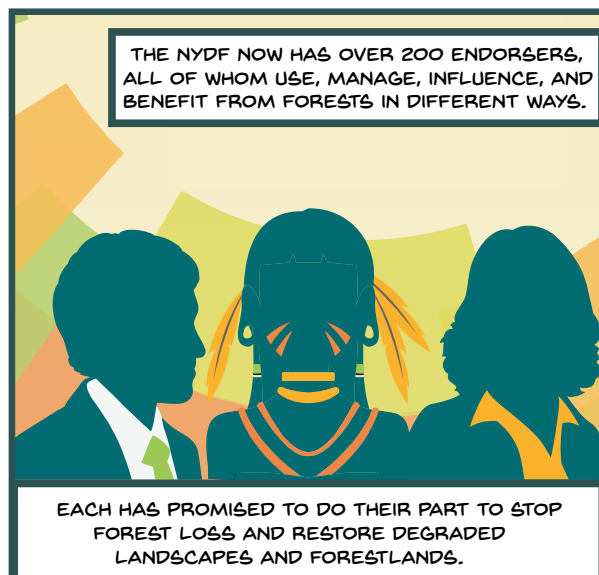
...WHERE HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND CITIES THRIVE AMONG RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS. THE NATURAL WORLD IS NURTURED FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL LIVING CREATURES AND TO SAFEGUARD THE CLIMATE.

IT'S A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE AND LAND ARE PARTNERS. WHERE PEOPLE AND FORESTS GROW TOGETHER.



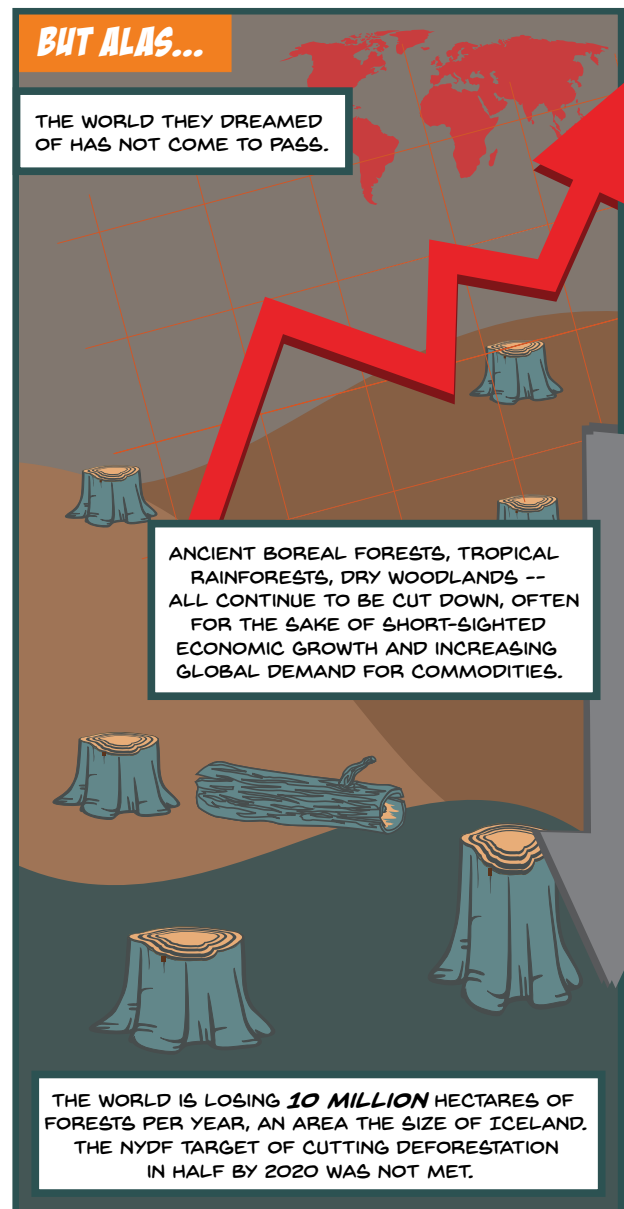
IN 2014, GOVERNMENTS, COMPANIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' GROUPS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY DECLARED THEY WANTED TO MAKE THAT WORLD A REALITY.

IN NEW YORK, THEY LAID OUT TEN INTERRELATED GOALS -- THE NEW YORK DECLARATION ON FORESTS (NYDF) -- THAT, IF ACHIEVED, WOULD ENSURE A PROSPEROUS AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.



THE NYDF NOW HAS OVER 200 ENDORSERS, ALL OF WHOM USE, MANAGE, INFLUENCE, AND BENEFIT FROM FORESTS IN DIFFERENT WAYS.

EACH HAS PROMISED TO DO THEIR PART TO STOP FOREST LOSS AND RESTORE DEGRADED LANDSCAPES AND FORESTLANDS.



BUT ALAS...

THE WORLD THEY DREAMED OF HAS NOT COME TO PASS.

ANCIENT BOREAL FORESTS, TROPICAL RAINFORESTS, DRY WOODLANDS -- ALL CONTINUE TO BE CUT DOWN, OFTEN FOR THE SAKE OF SHORT-SIGHTED ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INCREASING GLOBAL DEMAND FOR COMMODITIES.

THE WORLD IS LOSING **10 MILLION** HECTARES OF FORESTS PER YEAR, AN AREA THE SIZE OF ICELAND. THE NYDF TARGET OF CUTTING DEFORESTATION IN HALF BY 2020 WAS NOT MET.

## WHY ARE WE NOT ON TRACK ?

THE REASONS ARE MANY --

-- BUT MUCH OF IT IS DUE TO THE DIFFERENCE IN WHAT WE SAY WE WANT TO DO (CONSERVE AND RESTORE FORESTS) AND WHAT WE ACTUALLY DO (INVEST IN THEIR DESTRUCTION).

MANY COUNTRIES RELY ON LARGE-SCALE INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMODITY AGRICULTURE, AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TO DRIVE THEIR ECONOMIES, NOT ACCOUNTING FOR THE IMPACTS ON FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES.

NEARLY 20% OF TROPICAL INTACT FOREST LANDSCAPES OVERLAP WITH MINING, OIL, AND GAS CONCESSIONS.

JUST SEVEN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES -- CATTLE, PALM OIL, SOY, COCOA, RUBBER, COFFEE, AND WOOD FIBER -- DRIVE MORE THAN HALF OF TREE COVER LOSS.

AND ALMOST 2/3 OF THE TOP 150 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS -- WHO CHANNEL TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO HIGH FOREST-RISK COMPANIES -- HAVE NO DEFORESTATION POLICIES IN PLACE.

AT THE SAME TIME, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES CONTINUE TO BE DISPLACED AND DISREGARDED, DESPITE THE FACT THEY ARE THE BEST STEWARDS OF FOREST LANDS.

## BUT THERE ARE SIGNS OF PROGRESS...

PARIS AGREEMENT

MOST COUNTRIES WHO HAVE UPDATED THEIR PLEDGES UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT RECOGNIZE FORESTS AS A CLIMATE SOLUTION.

GOVERNMENTS HAVE COMMITTED AN AVERAGE OF US\$2.4 BILLION PER YEAR FOR FOREST-BASED CLIMATE MITIGATION.

DOZENS OF COUNTRIES HAVE MADE PROGRESS ON REDD+ PROGRAMS, AND HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL FLOW TO COUNTRIES THAT ARE REDUCING DEFORESTATION.

MANY AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES HAVE MADE COMMITMENTS TO REMOVE DEFORESTATION FROM THEIR SUPPLY CHAINS.

CONSUMER MARKETS LIKE THE EU, U.S. UK, AND CHINA ARE ADOPTING DEMAND-SIDE MEASURES TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE (ILLEGAL) DEFORESTATION FROM COMMODITIES THEY IMPORT.

**THE WAY FORWARD MUST START NOW.**

THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE HARDER IT BECOMES TO CREATE THE WORLD WE WANT...

**...BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE!**

TO SECURE THE VISION OF THE WORLD WE WANT, WE NEED TO REDUCE THE RATE OF DEFORESTATION BY OVER ONE MILLION HECTARES PER YEAR. SUCH A CHANGE WOULD BE UNPRECEDENTED -- BUT WE CAN AND **MUST** DO IT.

**HOW?** WE NEED A NEW BUSINESS AS USUAL. ONE THAT PLACES NATURE AND FORESTS AT THE FOREFRONT.

WE NEED TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS THAT KEEP INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FROM MANAGING THEIR ANCESTRAL TERRITORIES AND PLAYING A KEY ROLE IN DECISION-MAKING.

WE **MUST EMBRACE COLLABORATION** WITHIN AND ACROSS SECTORS TO ADDRESS THEIR IMPACTS ON FORESTS AND COMMUNITIES.

FORESTS ARE A CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION THAT IS READY TO DEPLOY, NOW, AT SCALE. WE HAVE TO PUT THE RIGHT RULES IN PLACE AND DEVELOP FRAMEWORKS THAT ACCOUNT FOR FORESTS' VALUE.

TO GET OUT OF THIS SPIRAL OF DESTRUCTION, GOVERNMENTS MUST EMBRACE ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS THAT ACCOUNT FOR THE VALUE OF FORESTS AND URGENTLY WORK TO IMPROVE APPLICATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE FOREST-PROTECTIVE POLICIES ALREADY IN PLACE.

GOVERNMENTS, COMPANIES, AND THE FINANCE SECTOR NEED TO DRASTICALLY INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN THEIR DECISION-MAKING. *WITHOUT TRANSPARENCY, THERE CAN BE NO ACCOUNTABILITY.*

WE KNOW WHAT WE MUST DO TO MEET THE NYDF GOALS. WE'RE ON OUR WAY, BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.

**LET'S GET THERE TOGETHER.**



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