CDP
DISCLOSURE INSIGHT ACTION

BRIEFING PAPER

Progress by regional governments
New York Declaration on Forests Goal 3

February 2021

ABOUT THIS BRIEFING PAPER

The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) is an international pledge to halt global deforestation. In November 2020, the NYDF Assessment Partners published the Goal 3 and 4 Progress Report, *Balancing Forests and Development: Addressing infrastructure and extractive industries, promoting sustainable livelihoods.* Following the report, this briefing paper outlines the key findings collected through CDP's forest module of the States and Regions questionnaire, which contributed to the 2020 progress assessment of the NYDF Goal 3.

MINING & INFRASTRUCTURE AS DRIVERS OF FOREST LOSS

From construction to utilization to decommissioning, infrastructure is directly responsible for between 9 and 17 % of tropical and subtropical deforestation.[1] Infrastructure development plans often fail to fully account for ecosystem impacts and the pace of large-scale infrastructure projects is increasing. Oil and natural gas extraction sites tend to overlap with areas rich in biodiversity and mining is now the fourth-largest driver of forest loss, contributing to about 7% of global forest loss.[2]

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1   Hosonuma, N., Herold, M., Sy, V. D., Fries, R. S. D., Brockhaus, M. & Verchot, L., et al. An assessment of deforestation and forest degradation drivers in developing countries. Environ. Res. Lett., 7, 044009. https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/7/4/044009 (2012).
2   Ibid

CDP'S STATES AND REGIONS FOREST MODULE

Regional governments have a significant role to play in regulating mining and infrastructure-related activities to minimize their impacts on forests. To showcase the work of regional governments, CDP has introduced the forest module as part of its States and Regions Questionnaire, which collects data on how regional governments are addressing deforestation and forest degradation. The forest module is organized into three main sections:

Current state

The main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the jurisdiction of the regional government.

Forest policy and implementation

The regional government's framework for managing deforestation and forest degradation through policy, targets and management plans

Forest risks, impacts and opportunities

The regional government's procedures to assess deforestation and forest degradation risks and impacts

KEY FINDINGS

Impacts of deforestation and forest degradation resulting from mining and infrastructure

Insights from the disclosed data indicate that some of the regional governments are already taking action to address the impacts of mining and infrastructure on forests. The most reported impact associated with deforestation and/or forest degradation resulting from mining and/or infrastructure was increased greenhouse gas emissions. The actions taken by governments to manage this impact include encouraging integrated land-use planning and management, adoption of afforestation strategies and enforcing forest policies and regulations.

20%
20%
60%

- Displacement of indigenous populations
- Disruption of sources of livelihoods
- Increased greenhouse gas emissions
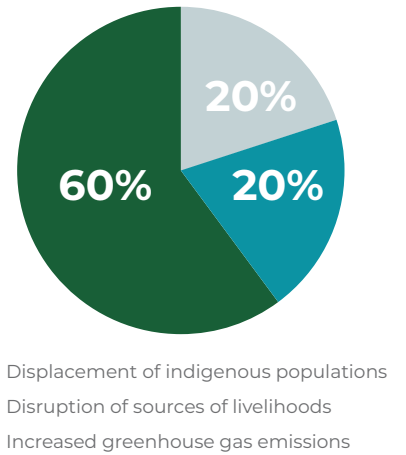
	% of governments with forest policies	% of governments with forest management plans	% of governments that carried out risk assessment
MINING	50	22	17
INFRASTRUCTURE	73	45	36
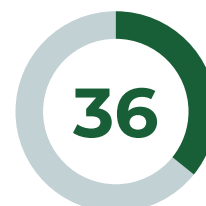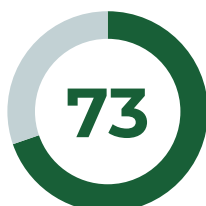
Forests offer governments immense value through providing livelihoods and health benefits for their citizens, sustaining water resources, and helping to combat climate change. Overall, progress towards reducing deforestation driven by infrastructure and mining is slow and states and regions need to do more to translate policy into action and minimize their impact on forests. While it is promising that 50% and 73% of reporting governments have forest policies to address mining and infrastructure, respectively, operational forest management plans and risk assessments are lacking. The CDP forests module within the States and Regions Questionnaire will continue to collect data on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in order to increase the transparency and accountability of governments and showcase the actions they are taking to protect and restore the world's forests.
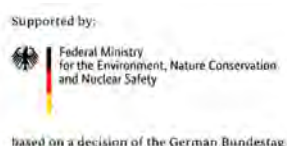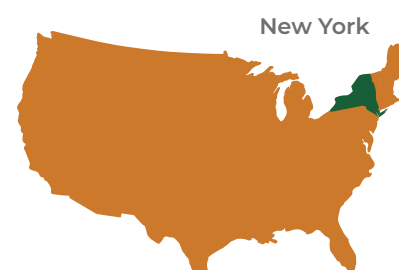
CASE STUDY ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ACTION ON MINING

Deforestation and/or forest degradation is a significant problem in Piura Region, Peru, which has recorded an alarming rate of deforestation of nearly 20,000 Ha/year between 1990-2015. Mining was reported as a current driver of this trend and has led to the displacement of indigenous populations. To combat this, Piura Region introduced a forest-related policy in 2015, which addresses mining, agriculture, animal colonization and fuelwood as drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation. The policy recognises the role of indigenous peoples and community forest management in conserving the forest ecosystem and feasibility studies are underway to implement afforestation, reforestation and soil conservation in the Chira Piura Basin. The region has also published a forest management plan and has implemented actions such as encouraging integrated land-use planning and management.

Piura Region

CASE STUDY ON REGIONAL GOVERNMENT ACTION ON INFRASTRUCTURE

New York State reported that between 2012-2017, the main driver of deforestation was the development of infrastructure and conversion of land for agricultural purposes. The state has adopted several policies to address deforestation, forest degradation and the conversion of natural habitats, including the State Forest Action Plan, Article XIV of the New York Constitution, the State Wildlife Action Plan, and the Open Space Conservation Plan. The State Forest Action Plan focuses on infrastructure as a driver of deforestation and/or forest degradation and assesses the risks as part of a strategic environmental assessment. The plan considers a range of issues, including legal frameworks, prices and demand trends of forest commodities, impacts on water security and socio-economic factors and the impacts of climate change to set out long-term, coordinated strategies to help the forestry community refine how it invests resources.

New York