

**SAVE WILDLIFE • STOP GLOBAL WARMING • STOP DEFORESTATION**



**Support protection for Earth's forests  
in climate change legislation.**



# Deforestation, Global Warming and Wildlife—Firmly Linked

To succeed, policies to combat global warming must address deforestation and forest degradation—activities that produce roughly 20 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions annually, more than all the world’s transportation sources combined. Each year, a swath of tropical forest the size of New York State is destroyed, sending more than 5 billion tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and causing permanent damage to some of the planet’s most cherished places. The continuing destruction of the world’s forests is also threatening the livelihoods and cultures of indigenous peoples and other communities who depend directly on forests for their social and economic well-being, as well as habitat for the many species that call forests home. Without urgent action to halt this destruction, it will be impossible to achieve the atmospheric stabilization targets that scientists recommend.

Fortunately, effective conservation of the world’s forests can be managed at reasonable cost and is compatible with a cost-effective domestic U.S. climate policy. By deploying a market-based approach that credits forest carbon activities that demonstrably reduce emissions or sequester additional carbon, a U.S. policy approach could generate as much as \$10 billion to \$20 billion per year to protect forests and their vast carbon stores, while supporting reforestation and other forms of sequestration and reducing the overall cost of a U.S. cap-and-trade program. Such investments could, for example, protect tens of thousands of square miles of tropical forest in areas such as the Amazon and Indonesia—forests that would otherwise be lost forever—while preserving wildlife, reducing poverty and positioning forested developing countries as partners in the solution to climate change.

Defenders of Wildlife is a member of the Forest Carbon Dialogue (FCD), a multi-stakeholder group working for a comprehensive legislative climate package that includes:

- a strong cap on emissions that protects the long-term viability of natural systems that support us all;
- domestic and international forest carbon activities that reduce or sequester carbon emissions, as part of a balanced approach to crediting forest carbon in U.S. climate legislation that includes direct funding for market readiness and capacity building, but relies on a market oriented approach as the focal point of the program.

For the rest of the FCD’s recommendations, including our preferred statutory language, see: [www.defenders.org/forestcarbondialogue](http://www.defenders.org/forestcarbondialogue)

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For more information about Defenders of Wildlife’s work on avoiding deforestation in U.S. cap-and-trade legislation, please contact:

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