

PRESS RELEASE

Government of Indonesia and Bezos Earth Fund agree to new partnership

Oslo 25 June 2024 – A memorandum of understanding signed by the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Indonesia and the Bezos Earth Fund was announced at the Oslo Tropical Forest Forum, hosted by the Norwegian Government. This builds on the work done by the Government of Indonesia and its Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030 agenda, as well as commitments under the Paris Agreement, and the new Global Biodiversity Framework.

Indonesia is home to the world's third-largest rainforest, with a variety of endangered wildlife and plants. Under the leadership of President Joko Widodo, the country has achieved the lowest deforestation rate in 20 years.

Senior Bezos Earth Fund Fellow Zac Goldsmith and Dr. Cristián Samper, Managing Director and Leader for Nature Solutions at the Bezos Earth Fund, joined an event to mark the partnership and outline the initiatives that both parties intend to collaborate on, specifically focused on sustainable forest management, the protection and restoration of key biodiversity areas, and expanding the legal recognition of customary forests.

The Government of Indonesia has announced plans to protect an additional 15 million hectares of natural forest, a major part of which is currently designated as production forest¹ across Indonesia, including:

- Expanding the legal recognition of customary (adat) forests to a further 3.5 million hectares.
- Establishing new national parks in key biodiversity areas covering at least 2.5 million hectares.
- Facilitating the development of conservation concession partnerships in logging concessions with the aim of expanding protection to 9 million hectares through multi-purpose permits and revisions of long-term business plans.
- Facilitating policy dialogues to obtain mutual recognition from international partners for Indonesian methodologies through a technical alignment process with the global requirements.

"It is with great excitement that I have signed this Memorandum of Understanding with the Bezos Earth Fund today," said Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya. "Indonesia is hugely proud of its ambitious FOLU Net Sink 2030 plan and our achievements to date, and this MoU will provide a platform to work with a variety of new partners from across the private and philanthropic sectors as well as adat and local communities to jointly address the challenges of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and take tangible actions toward achieving our shared climate goals."

"Indonesia's leadership in forest conservation is pivotal for global biodiversity and climate stability, and we are very pleased with this announcement. We look forward to exploring ways we can help achieve these goals," said Dr. Andrew Steer, President & CEO of the Bezos Earth Fund. "The Bezos Earth Fund is working to advance the Global Biodiversity Framework and Target 3 to protect 30% of the planet by 2030, aiming to protect critical ecosystems and empower local communities."

"Indonesia has done remarkable things in recent years. The country has come very close to breaking the link between palm oil and deforestation and has reduced the latter far more than people realize," said Goldsmith. "The government deserves real credit for what it has done and has signaled their sincere intention to continue tackling climate change and biodiversity loss with this MoU. Alongside partners from the private, philanthropic, and government sectors, I look forward to working with the Government of Indonesia to deliver these ambitious targets."

¹ Production forest" refers to land that has been allocated to different types of forest business licenses. This could include pulp and paper, timber, and palm oil concessions, for example.