

New York Declaration on Forests Assessment Report- Fifth Anniversary Quotes Bank

Jo House, Reader in Environmental Science and Policy at the University of Bristol commented:

“Deforestation, mostly for agriculture, contributes around a third of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. At the same time, forests naturally take up around a third of anthropogenic CO2 emissions. This natural sink service provided by forests is at risk from the dual compounding threats of further deforestation and future climate change.

The continued loss of primary forests, at ever-increasing rates, despite their incalculable value and irreplaceability is both shocking and tragic.

It is too easy, and unhelpful, to lay individual blame for forest loss. As researchers, policy makers, practitioners, businesses and consumers, we must recognize the role of all human actions in this relationship and incentivize both individual responsibility and collective action.

We must formally acknowledge and support those communities that are already playing a vital role in sustainably managing forests, and have been doing so for hundreds of years.

Preserve remaining forests and biodiversity under the rapidly growing demand for timber, agricultural commodities, and restoration requires a clear understanding of opportunities and challenges, and the associated benefits and trade-offs of existing land uses and of planned mitigation and adaptation actions.

The NYDF Progress Assessments brings together current research and data on all aspects of deforestation and the conservation and restoration of forests, to allow a comprehensive view on the state of global forests as an evidence base for sound policy making.”

Eszter Wainwright-Déri, Forestry Technical Advisor, Zoological Society of London commented:

“Forestry companies must recognise their responsibility in ensuring the climate crisis does not continue. Halting deforestation and restoring tropical forests for example, could provide up to 30% of the mitigation required to help meet the Paris Agreement – this cannot be achieved while zero-deforestation commitments continue to be dishonoured.”

Alain Frechette, Director, Strategic Analysis and Global Engagement, Rights and Resources Initiative commented:

“One of the largest untapped solutions to both preventing deforestation and restoring degraded forests is recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. To date, they have often been treated as potential beneficiaries of efforts to save the forests—but not as partners, leaders, or drivers of the changes our world needs to survive. We’ve lost touch with how to respect and nourish the forests that provides for us and act as a vital bulwark against climate change. Indigenous Peoples and local communities can help us regain that understanding—because if we lose this struggle, we lose everything else.”

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Jean-François Bastin, Ecologist and Geographer, ETH Zürich commented:

“Until only very recently, information about where we could restore forests just wasn’t available. But with satellite imagery and other technological advancements, we can now pinpoint exactly where reforestation is possible. But scientists can only provide the raw data. It’s up to governments and others who have made reforestation pledges to translate science into action on the ground. With the right policies in place, we can begin to realize the climate and other benefits of reviving lost forests.”
