



Coalition for Rainforest Nations



ANNUAL IMPACT STATEMENT 2024

Saloum Delta in Senegal - Photography by Anton Lecock

Platinum
Transparency
2024

Candid.

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Leonardo Massai, Director, Legal
Michael Mitchell, Director, Program Management
Emilio Sempris, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean
Eduardo Reyes, Senior Advisor

Auditors

FreedMaxick
 424 Main Street Suite 800
 Buffalo, NY 14202
 Phone: (716) 847-2651
 Fax: (716) 847-0069
<https://www.freedmaxick.com>

Registered Office

52 Vanderbilt Avenue, 12th floor,
 New York, NY 10017
 Telephone: (646) 448-6870
info@rainforestcoalition.org
www.rainforestcoalition.org

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Participating Countries











Africa

-  Benin
-  Botswana
-  Cameroon
-  Central African Republic
-  Democratic Republic of Congo
-  Equatorial Guinea
-  Eswatini
-  Gabon
-  Ghana
-  Kenya
-  Lesotho
-  Liberia
-  Madagascar
-  Malawi
-  Mali
-  Mozambique
-  Namibia
-  Nigeria
-  Republic of Congo
-  Senegal
-  Sierra Leone
-  South Africa
-  Sudan
-  Uganda
-  Zambia

South America

-  Argentina
-  Bolivia
-  Ecuador
-  Guyana
-  Paraguay
-  Suriname
-  Uruguay

Asia

-  Bangladesh
-  Cambodia
-  China
-  India
-  Lao PDR
-  Malaysia
-  Pakistan
-  Singapore
-  Thailand
-  Vietnam

Caribbean

-  Dominica
-  Dominican Republic
-  Jamaica
-  Saint Lucia

Central America

-  Belize
-  Costa Rica
-  Guatemala
-  Honduras
-  Nicaragua
-  Panamá

Oceania

-  Fiji
-  Papua New Guinea
-  Samoa
-  Solomon Islands
-  Vanuatu



CONTENTS

1
A Message from the Executive Director

2
What We Do

3
Celebrating Our People: Thelma Krug



4
A Year in Review

Multilateral Climate Treaties (COP29, Bonn SB-STA)

National Implementation

Data Collection & Capacity Building

5
Country Focus: Honduras

6
A Message to Donors

7
2025: A Great Year for Donors

Dense montane rainforest - Photography By Madeline Hogan



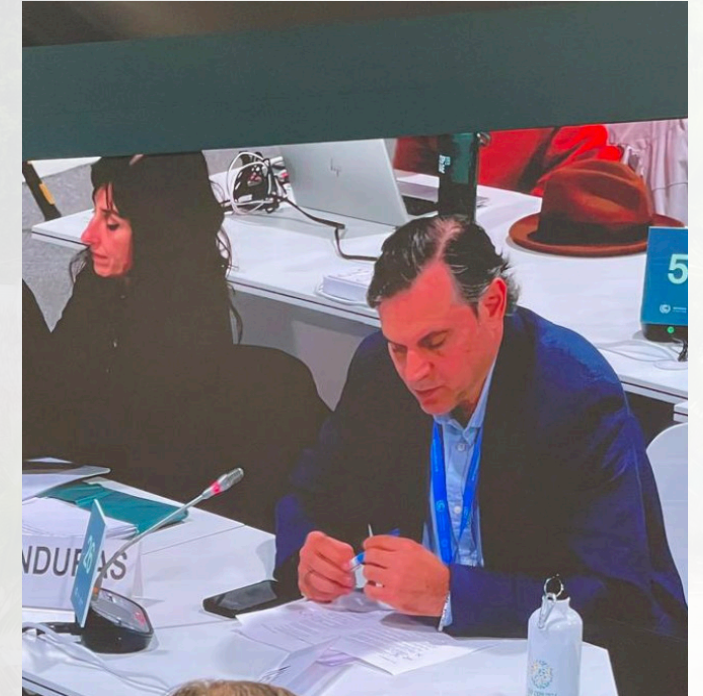
A Message from the Executive Director

This year continued to shatter all previous climate records. In the US alone, there were 27 confirmed weather/climate disaster events, including California's forest fires and Hurricane Milton, with losses exceeding \$1 billion each. While abroad we saw Super Typhoon Yagi, a category 5 super typhoon, hit Southeast Asia in September, causing 844 deaths and \$15.1 billion in damage across the Philippines, China, and Vietnam. In Europe we saw devastating floods in Spain and Hungary and closer to home, wildfires in Mexico and Canada.

Global carbon emissions from fossil fuels reached a record high, according to the Global Carbon Project science team.

Despite the urgent need to cut emissions to slow climate change, there is still "no sign" that the world has reached a peak in fossil CO2 emissions. If current CO2 emissions levels persist, we are looking at the prospect of a 1.7°C future by 2030 accompanied by devastating climate tipping points.

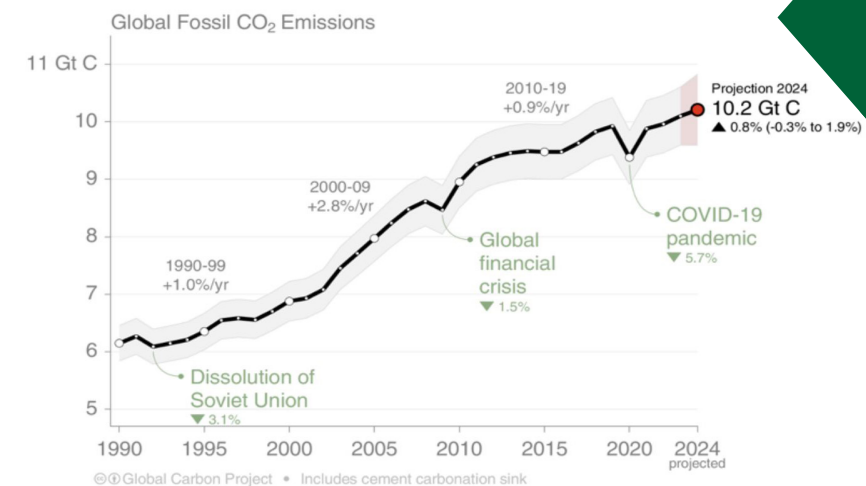
The Paris Agreement is the planet's only hope of slowing the climate emergency. We must drive global decarbonization and reverse deforestation by 2030. One without the other is not enough!



The good news is that renewable energy is expected to overtake coal as the leading power source in 2025 and electric vehicles growth increased 25% in 2024, with China selling more than half of its new cars as electric.

Renewable energy investment outpaced fossil electricity investment by 10 to 1.1 Things are moving the right direction. We just need more and faster. For rainforests, we now have the target of reversing global deforestation and degradation enshrined in the Paris Agreement.

'This year, we continued our capacity-building work with 15 rainforest nations, helping to speed and scale their efforts on the ground to hit this target and submit their results to the UNFCCC.'



◀ Global Fossil CO2 Emissions projection graph for 2024.

A Great Year for Rainforest Nations

At COP29, our strong negotiating presence contributed an historic deal on climate finance for developing countries. Our goal was to mobilize finance to help developing countries to reverse deforestation and transition their economies while adapting to ongoing climate change.

By the end of the summit, all countries had agreed to triple climate finance for developing countries from \$100 to \$300 billion annually by 2035. While this new Collective Quantifiable Goal on climate finance (NCQG) appears meaningful, it is recognized to be insufficient to address the full effect of climate change on our countries. So, our goal for COP30 will be to scale up climate finance from all sources to \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035 with \$0.3 trillion earmarked for saving rainforests.

At the summit in Baku, we also achieved a second historic deal with completion of the UN's new crediting mechanism that can help developing countries receive finance for slowing deforestation by trading their emissions reductions (Article 6). This win took nine years of tough negotiations, but throughout our countries stuck to their guns.

Together we achieved an outcome with high environmental integrity, a verification process which calls for country accountability, incentives for best practices, and finance for national efforts to reverse deforestation. We are confident that this new market finalization will help catalyze financial flows and strategically position us to get funding for our countries – a primary focus of ours in 2025.

Since 2004, CfRN has been championing a leadership role for rainforest nations in UN climate treaties. We created the only globally agreed upon system that can equitably stop and reverse global deforestation by 2030. The Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) framework was originated by our founders and introduced to the UN by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica in 2004.

Over the next twenty years, we supported our countries within the UNFCCC to develop REDD+ into a fully operational system, verified by UN independent reviewers. In 2015, it was enshrined in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. Today, we continue to support our countries in the negotiations to receive climate finance for their conservation efforts through the new UN crediting mechanism in Article 6.

Suriname is now leading on their commitment to taking climate action and equitably transitioning their economy. Late last year, Suriname announced its intention to sell the world's first UN carbon credits under the Paris Agreement, Article 6. The carbon credits, called Internationally Transferable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs), will help developed countries who fail to hit their climate pledges to meet their targets and in return provide climate finance to rainforest nations who have gone beyond their ambitions.

In the summer of 2024, these credits officially become available for purchase on the global market – a very exciting development for Suriname's economy. CfRN supported Suriname's efforts to bring their ITMO credits to market by helping with national regulation and laws, establishing a registry for the credits, bringing in private sector partners for mar-

keting and sales purposes, and providing in-house support with public relations both nationally and internationally.

To help our countries get ready to receive finance from Article 6, we created a national implementation blueprint with Suriname for the sale of their carbon emission reductions.

In 2025, we will be broadening the same efforts to bring carbon credits to market for other countries using the Suriname blueprint.

These countries include Honduras and Belize. Ultimately, this will help our countries transition to sustainable economies. Help us strengthen the voice of rainforest countries under the Paris Agreement and secure climate funding to stop deforestation.



Thank you,
Kevin Conrad
Executive Director,
Coalition for Rainforest Nations



◀ COP29 at Baku. Photography by 3 Matthew Tenbruggencate.

What We Do

Our Impact

We created the only globally agreed upon system that can equitably stop and reverse global deforestation by 2030. The *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+)* framework was originated by our founders and introduced to the UN by Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica in 2004. Over the next twenty years, we supported our countries within the UNFCCC to develop REDD+ into a fully operational system, verified by UN independent reviewers. In 2015, it was enshrined in the Paris Agreement.



Our Mission

The loss of the tropical rainforests exacerbates two of the greatest threats to mankind: the climate emergency and global biodiversity loss – representing 23% of global emissions and 72% of global biodiversity.

Our mission is to help countries halt and reverse global deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 in accordance with the Paris Agreement and with the Global Stocktake (GST) Outcome, COP30 Dubai (2023).

We help rainforest nations take a leadership role in slowing the climate emergency by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon removals at speed and scale. We support them in the context of international climate and biodiversity treaties, which will ultimately allow countries to justly transition to sustainable economies and become net-carbon removers, i.e., removing more emissions than they produce. In achieving this, our countries will protect tens of thousands of endangered species and their habitats for generations to come.

- ◀ Aerial view of a meandering jungle river in the rainforest of the Congo Basin. Odzala National Park, Republic of Congo.
- ▼ Field measurement carried out in Indonesia. Credit Government of Indonesia.

Today, 63 countries are involved and working within REDD+. The UNFCCC REDD+ framework now covers 95% of the world's tropical forests and has reduced 14.4 billion tons of emissions and counting. Through our work, we have helped 13 countries slow deforestation since 2004.

The final phase of the UNFCCC REDD+ framework is to help our countries access climate finance, so that they can continue their work for the planet. For the next five years, our goal is to help 30 developing countries accelerate and scale their ambition to halt and reverse global deforestation by 2030 and deliver net carbon removals of

Our Work

comprises three strategic pillars:

Multilateral Climate Change Negotiations

We help countries prioritize nature-based solutions within international climate treaties. As a Party Group under the Paris Agreement, we support countries to negotiate formal decisions at the annual global climate summit, called the Conference of the Parties (COP) and every June at the meeting of the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies in Germany. This support includes year-round international policy support and daily coordination meetings for policy positioning and proposals. We also liaise with other party blocs and countries, like Brazil, to build a global consensus in supporting the conservation of our last remaining rainforests.



Data Collection/Capacity Building

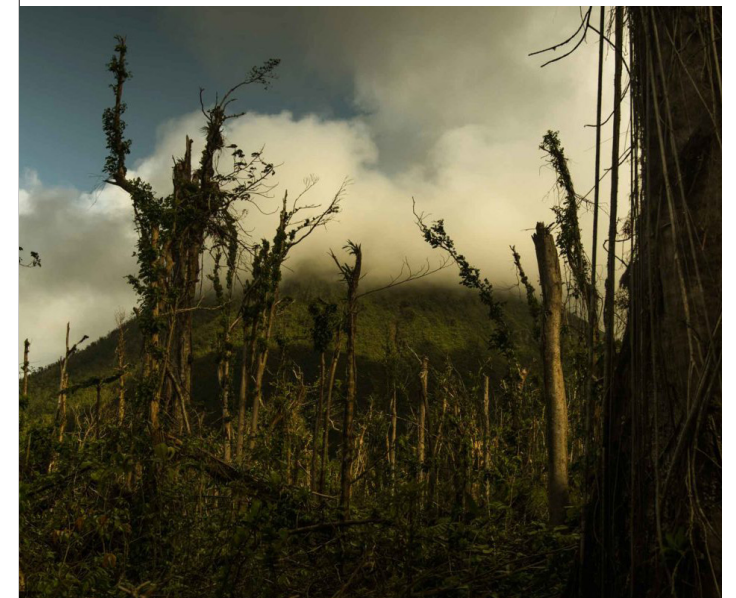
We help countries collect their national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data to report to the UNFCCC. Our aim is to collaboratively empower countries to confidently own and submit their results to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement without need for highly paid, external consultants. We provide essential training and capacity building to help governments develop their knowledge and skills to measure, report, and have verified their rainforest cover and GHG emission reductions. We do this by training national teams to use the latest technology, cost-effective software, and other practices, free of charge.

- ▲ Country meeting with our regional policy director.
- ◀ Federica Bietta, managing director of Cfrn taking part in Article 6.4 negotiations at COP29 Baku
- ▼ Damage to the forests of Dominica following the impact of Category 5 Hurricane Maria.



National Implementation

We support rainforest countries to implement their climate pledges, called Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and to build domestic regulatory frameworks for climate and rainforest action. We help countries put in place the correct legislative and regulatory structures to reduce emissions and increase carbon removals, manage their carbon market, receive finance, and distribute revenues sustainably and equitably. With our partners, we facilitate access to financial markets, so that rainforest nations can sell their emissions reductions, called Internationally Transferable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. By doing this, developing countries can receive much needed revenue for their accomplished results and finance further efforts to halt and reverse deforestation.



Our Results



PHOTOGRAPH BY ISAAC QUESADA

Multilateral Climate Treaties

Under the Kyoto Protocol, rainforests were not recognized as a climate solution, and as a result their contribution was not formally included in the global climate regime. For over a decade, CfRN worked with developing countries to change this situation. In 2015, rainforests were successfully included in Article 5.2 of the Paris Agreement.

In 2024, CfRN's strong negotiating presence at COP29 contributed to both an historic deal on climate finance for developing countries and the completion of Article 6. The Article will provide a new, transparent, UN backed crediting mechanism under the Paris Agreement to finance carbon emission reductions.

“Our goal going into COP29 was to mobilize finance to help developing countries to reverse deforestation and transition their economies while adapting to ongoing climate change. By the end of the summit, all countries had agreed to triple climate finance for developing countries from \$100 to \$300 billion annually by 2035.”

We also helped achieve an historic agreement for private sector engagement with the new market mechanism

under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. CfRN steadfastly advocated for a transparent, UN-backed, authorization process that ensures:

- the environmental integrity of the Paris Agreement,
- a verification process which calls for country accountability,
- incentives for best practices and,
- finance for national efforts to reverse deforestation.

Data Collection / Capacity Building

Between the years 2017 and 2024, we supported 39 rainforest nations to collect, measure, report and have verified their data by the UNFCCC, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) standards. In 2024, we accelerated and scaled our capacity building to support to 14 more countries.



▲ Members of the CfRN team with the national forestry team in Senegal.

National Implementation

Between 2017-2023, we supported the development and adoption of climate change and carbon market legislation and regulation in eight developing countries. We also carried out critical work with Papua New Guinea, Belize, Honduras, Suriname and Gabon to build national carbon registries and financing tools, such as multi-stakeholder climate and biodiversity trust funds.

In 2024, we created a national implementation blueprint with Suriname to help them receive finance under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement for the sale of their carbon reductions. Results-based finance is the final phase of the UNFCCC REDD+ concept that our founders originated in 2004. We will adapt this blueprint to many other rainforest countries in coming years to get them in a position of readiness to receive finance from Article 6. Ultimately, this will help our countries transition to sustainable economies.

To learn more, visit our website.
rainforestcoalition.org



Many of the larger animals of Senegal that used to have a widespread distribution have suffered from loss of habitat.



Celebrating
our People

Thelma
Krug

Thelma Krug works as a senior expert and technical advisor at CfRN. She was the first female vice chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from 2015-2023 and a retired researcher at INPE (Brazil's National Institute for Space Research). We caught up with Thelma to get her thoughts on the climate and rainforest conservation.

1. What is COP? Why is it so critical to CfRN's work?

COP are convened under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a multilateral treaty adopted in 1992. The meetings serve as the formal meetings of the Conference of the Parties - hence the acronym.

COPs are where Parties (governments) assess global efforts to advance the key Paris Agreement aim of limiting global warming to as close as possible to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels. Parties take decisions on ways to cut greenhouse gas emissions and on adapting to the impacts of climate change, on Loss and Damage (which refers to funding for vulnerable countries hit hard by floods, droughts and other climate disasters), and on the means to help countries green their economies and build resilience to climate change (finance, technology and capacity-building).

2. Why are COPs so important? COPs are crucial in the battle against climate change. They see governments come together to measure progress and negotiate the best ways to address climate change, while taking each other's circumstances into account. COPs offer an opportunity to raise the level of attention to the threat of climate change, reflecting the fact that without the private sector, civil society, industry and individuals on board, the world will not be able to adequately tackle the climate crisis. There is no time to lose. We hold a unique position at COP that few nonprofits can claim. As a recognized party group under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, we don't just attend COP – we sit at the negotiation table alongside our countries, helping them unite and speak as one voice for tropical rainforests.

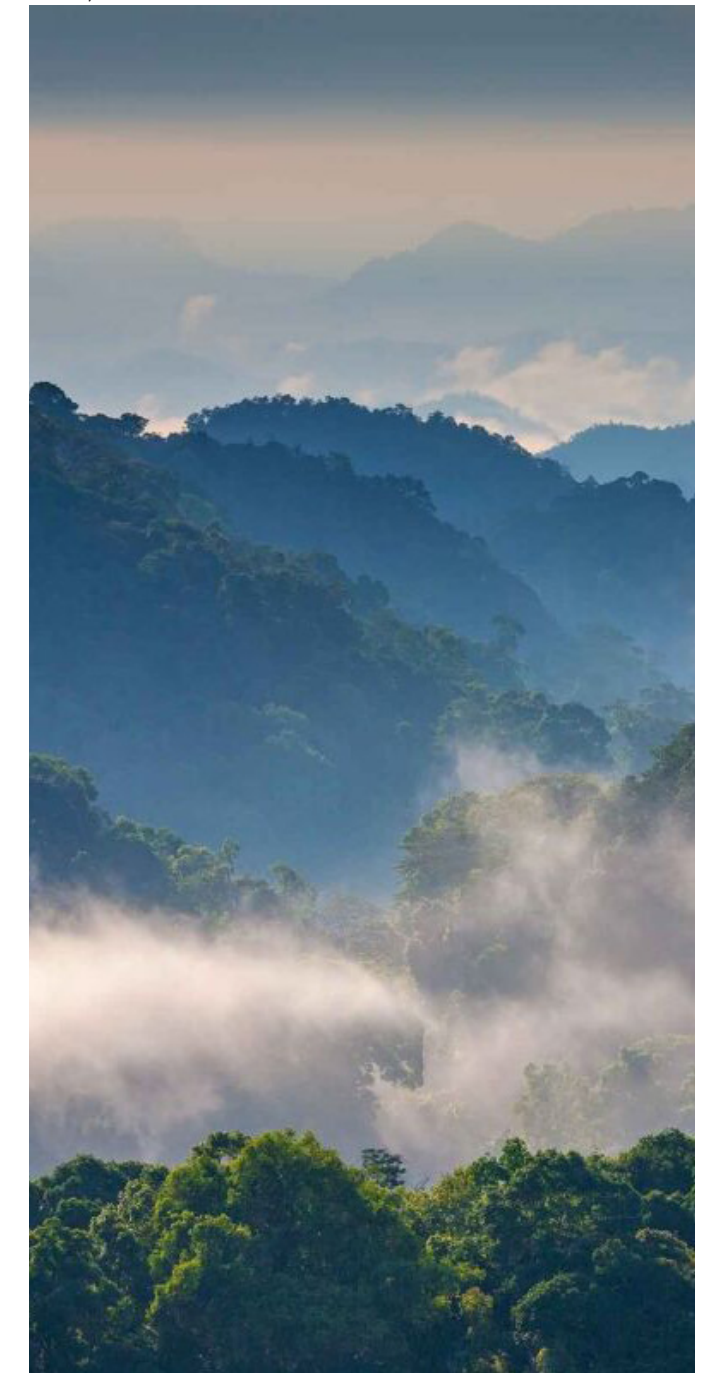
“This gives us a rare and powerful voice in ensuring that rainforest nations secure the climate financing they need to protect their forests, conserve biodiversity, and support their communities.”

So essentially, the coalition allows each country to participate in these convenings. And to engage and capacitate them to be able to understand minimally, at least in the areas of you know, forests and so on.

3. Why is this year's COP so important?

We are at a pivotal moment in global climate policy – with all eyes looking at COP 30 as taking place in Belem, Brazil in November of 2025, where the primary focus will be rainforest conservation. This is an inflection point – we are running out of opportunities to “get it right.” We have proven how critical our rainforests are in the fight against climate change, and we need this financing to be invested in our coalition nations. This COP is about advancing on this mission and making rainforest financing just as much a priority for our coalitions as it is for the rest of the world.

▼ Morning mist over the tropical mountain range in Kaeng Krachan National Park, Thailand.



4. In your opinion how much does the world seem to understand the importance of slowing deforestation now?

At this point, major emissions come from energy – this is nearly 80%. In total, deforestation contributes to 11%. The major emission is a huge problem because Amazonia is not only that ecosystem, but also their home. In forests we are seeing the necessary changes in the other sectors. We understand that they are more difficult, but we also understand that. There are levers that could make a significant impact in the fight against climate change – financing to rainforest nations is one of them.

5. Why do you think that financing for rainforest nations has never taken off?

I believe there is a general fear and distrust about where the funds would be allocated and if they would be spent on what they were intended to be spent on. So if you give the money to the government, there is this suspicion that it's going to be diluted into other things and not necessarily being canalized as we do with the Amazonian fund. To the proper forest. A significant part of his challenge is building trust on these financing projects and making case for the criticality of having the funding flow through the government. It is important that the countries participate in what is being decided in terms of the projects that need to be financed.

6 What would you say our biggest value add and accomplishments have been in relation to staying below 1.5 degree C?

The coalition's capacity building work has been insurmountably critical. Before working with us, many of these countries didn't even know how to estimate their emissions. And furthermore, many countries do not even know where their forests are. They don't have a minimum knowledge of the number of forest land they have in their countries. Now, not only are they counting and tracking their emissions they are reducing their emissions.

“This is true global leadership. The countries in our coalition have collectively reduced 14.40 billion tons of CO2.”

Next up is ensuring that they are compensated for their global contributions. Considering the amount of people, technical people that the coalition has, it's incredible the amount of work that they have already done. The capacity within the country. To deal with their emissions coming from. In particular, you know forest and other uses, how it has been converted to understand, you know, forest has been converted to what? To allow them also then to move into being consistent to 1.5 understand the drivers of deforestation.



▲ Diamond Waterfall in Saint Lucia.
▶ Thelma Krug with Cfrn colleague Jagdish Kishwan at the Cfrn Pavilion.
▼ An elephant interacting with surrounding wildlife at a reserve in Senegal.



7) How does Cfrn work contribute to global efforts to staying below 1.5 degree C?

There are major sources of emissions related to forestry and other land uses and agriculture. So that if you look at the IPCC estimates of the contribution from each one of the energy sectors. So to focusing on what the coalition does it's important because you're addressing the main sources of emissions from those countries. So if they are to help you know to achieve 1.5 or big or pursue a trajectory of emissions that is consistent with 1.5. That is the major part of their economy that they have to be.

Changed or aligned, including reducing deforestation, degradation, fires, which is the main elements that you see associated with the emissions. So when you are providing them with a tool to understand. All that is happening in that realm, you know, my forest is being converted to what and for what is it being abandoned. To fill in, you know what is necessary to do these estimations. On the other hand, it highlights the key elements that they should focus on. Many of these countries have, including, you know, forest inventories.



2024

A Year in Review

In 2024, CfRN supported our partner countries in three strategic focus areas:

- **Multilateral Climate Negotiations**
- **Rainforest Data Collection & Capacity Building**
- **National Implementation**

Learn about the scope of our work in this section.

WORK	DESCRIPTION		SUPPORTED COUNTRIES
Multilateral Climate Treaties (COP29, Bonn SBSTA)	We supported developing countries to defend and reinforce rainforests and climate finance within the Paris Agreement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helping secure an historic agreement on climate finance worth \$300 billion to developing nations at COP29 • securing completion of new market mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement 		All active CfrN countries.
National Implementation	We supported rainforest countries to implement Paris Agreement decisions on rainforests and climate finance in domestic regulatory frameworks by drafting climate and carbon market legislation, and providing registry services for emission reductions.		Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Honduras, Mozambique, and Suriname
Data Collection and Capacity Building	We provided essential training and capacity building to help governments develop their knowledge and skills to measure, report, and have verified their rainforest cover and greenhouse gas emission reductions.	Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support data collection • Capacities to estimate GHG • Quality Assurance • Uncertainties 	Cameroon (1), Gabon (3&4), Solomon Islands (1), Belize (2), Dominica (2), Honduras (2,3), Panama ((1,2,3), Senegal (1,2), and Bhutan (3)
		Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities to report to UNFCCC • Support of Technical Assessment / modified submission • Uncertainties 	Eswatini (2), Belize (1,2), Dominica (1,2), Saint Lucia (1,2), Suriname (1,2) Panama (1), and Senegal (1)
		Biennial Update Report (BUR) / Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities to report to UNFCCC • Capacities training on BUR/BTR 	Gabon, Belize (BTR), Dominica, Saint Lucia, Congo (training), and Honduras (BTR)
		REDD+ Action Plan and/or Strategy Review REDD+ national strategy	Eswatini, Saint Lucia, Dominica, and Bhutan
		Article 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacities training on art. 6 process • National procedure for authorization • Preparation of Initial Report • Setting up National Registry • Support of Technical Expert Review 	DRC (1 &4), Honduras (1,2), Suriname (1,2,3 &5), and Bhutan (1)
		South-South exchanges (Regional meeting for information-sharing) Exchange of experiences across supported countries on reporting to the Paris Agreement	Zero FRL: Eswatini, Suriname, Belize, Dominica, and Saint Lucia

Highlights

Multilateral Climate Change Treaties

At COP29 in Baku, CfRN helped secure an historic agreement on climate finance and a new market mechanism under the Paris Agreement

CfRN's strong negotiating presence at COP29 in Azerbaijan contributed to both an historic deal on climate finance for developing countries and the completion of Article 6. The Article will provide a new, transparent, UN backed mechanism under the Paris Agreement to finance carbon reductions.

CfRN's goal going into COP29 was to mobilize finance to help developing countries to reverse deforestation and transition their economies while adapting to ongoing climate change. By the end of the summit, all countries had agreed to triple climate finance for developing countries from \$100 to \$300 billion annually by 2035.

“While this new Collective Quantifiable Goal on climate finance (NCQG) appears meaningful, it is recognized to be insufficient to address the full effect of climate change on our countries. Our goal for COP30 will be to scale up climate finance from all sources to \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035,”

Kevin Conrad, Executive Director, CfRN.

CfRN also helped achieve an historic agreement for private sector engagement with the new market mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. CfRN steadfastly advocated for a transparent, UN backed, authorization process that ensures:

- the environmental integrity of the Paris Agreement,
- a verification process which calls for country accountability,
- incentives for best practices, and
- finance for national efforts to reverse deforestation.



▲ CfRN countries meeting with the COP20 Presidency in Baku.

▼ CfRN holding a daily country briefing for climate negotiators from our member countries at COP29.



Highlights from Article 6 completion include:

- Clear authorization requirements by the host country to include the cooperative approach, its use, the ITMOs, and entities included, if applicable.
- Clear reporting and sequencing of the ITMOs.
- A clear Article 6 review with identification of any inconsistencies, especially if significant and persistent, to be publicly displayed in the Centralized Accounting and Reporting Platform (CARP) until they are addressed.

Earlier, in June, CfRN attended the Bonn Climate Change Conference to support countries in the ongoing Paris Agreement negotiations around Article 6. The purpose of the mid-year negotiations was to help countries advance decisions made at the previous COP28, Dubai and set the work agenda for the remainder of the year.

Publication Spotlight



How the Paris Agreement brings finance to Rainforest Nations

by Federica Bietta, Managing Director, Coalition for Rainforest Nations

Learn how rainforest nations can use Article 6 to finance rainforest conservation through the sale of Internationally Transferable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs). [Read here.](#)

National Implementation

This year, CfrN supported the governments of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Honduras, Mozambique, and Suriname to comply with various aspects of the Paris Agreement and prepare their countries to sell their emission reductions to the world.

Suriname will be a first mover for the sale of ITMOs under the Paris Agreement's new carbon market (Article 6) once negotiations are completed. This year, CfrN team assisted the country throughout the year with all the necessary Article 6 compliance processes to ready the country for sales in this emerging market. This included the creation of its national registry and other domestic institution frameworks, such as carbon legislation and use of proceeds. Thanks to CfrN's public relations efforts, Suriname received strong top-tier media coverage in USA and Europe to market its ITMOs. Check out the articles in the [FT](#) and [Bloomberg](#).

Marciano Dasai, Minister of Spatial Planning and Environment, Republic of Suriname.

CfrN also introduced Suriname one of its partners, ITMO Ltd to directly take Suriname's ITMO offerings to banks and corporations in USA, Europe and Asia. In 2024, ITMO Ltd spoke with over 60 organizations about Suriname's carbon credits which will most likely come to market in 2025. To learn more about Suriname's efforts, read the [opinion editorial](#) by Marciano Dasai, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning for Suriname.



For **DRC**, CfrN assisted the government in the establishment of the national authority for carbon market (ARM-CA) and related secondary legislation

For **Honduras**, our team assisted the government in the development of the special law on Forest Carbon Transactions and Climate Justice and its consequent secondary regulation. We also help establish the national authorization process for the participation in Article 6 and created a national registry with S&P for the carbon credits. This registry is now linked to CfrN's pilot sales platform – REDD.plus where the public can purchase the carbon credits to offset their carbon footprint. In September, we provided training for the Honduran government team in using the registry.

Finally, for **Mozambique**, we assisted the government in the development of the Mozambique Carbon Market Framework.



Data Collection & Capacity Building



Eswatini

Eswatini submitted its first deforestation and emissions targets to the UNFCCC. In January, Eswatini successfully submitted its first baseline for measuring efforts to slow deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, called a Forest Reference level (FRL), to the United Nations in January. The REDD+ submission follows a year of data gathering by Eswatini climate and forestry teams who collected land use data for the whole country for the years 2000-2022. The CfrN (Coalition for Rainforest Nations) team has been actively supporting since 2023. All land use data was collected using CfrN's Land Use App.

Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland, lies south of South Africa's famous Kruger National Park. It is one of the smallest countries in Africa. Despite this, it boasts many major endangered species, including elephants, giraffes, hippos, buffalo, zebra, and rhinos. It has a spectrum of conservation areas that protect the nation's rich biological diversity. These areas comprise about 5% of the country's land area. The country also has over 2400 species of plants, with many endemic species, making Eswatini globally important for biodiversity conservation. There are sixteen 16 protected areas in the country, including: Malolotja Nature Reserve, Mantenga Nature Reserve, Mlawula Nature Reserve, Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary, and Mkhaya Game Reserve, and Hlane Royal National Park.



▲ CfrN technical expert with the Eswatini forestry.

Land degradation and conversion to other land uses are the major threats to its bush and biodiversity, including plantation agriculture (legal and illegal), bush-clearing, the spread of alien and invasive plants, and unsustainable resource harvesting, and major land fragmentation. Eswatini's engagement with the UNFCCC REDD+ framework is a key component of the country's climate action plan under the Paris Agreement. Despite its contribution

to climate change emissions being miniscule, the country is committed to climate action, and presented its first climate action plan, called a nationally determined contribution (NDC), in October 2021. The forest sector is included with the goal to:

- Strategically plan and manage ecological infrastructure including grasslands, rivers, wetlands, woodlands, and forests including updating and implementing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and ensuring that vulnerable ecosystems are addressed in national adaptation programs.
- Reduce pressures driving biodiversity loss (e.g., deforestation, human settlements) to improve carbon sinks and promote eco-tourism.
- Conduct research, innovation, and knowledge sharing for income generation through use of tree resources and non-timber forest products.

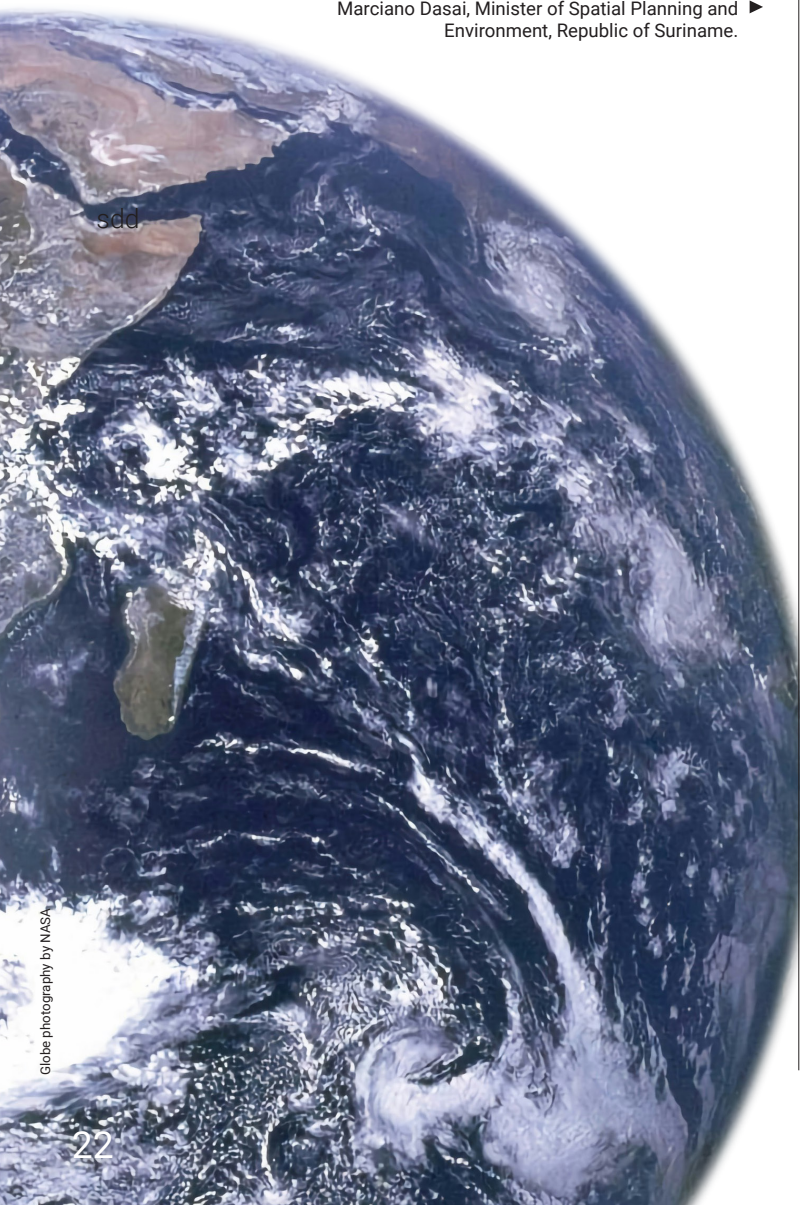


Mlilwane Wildlife Sanctuary in Eswatini. Photography by Reese Braam.

In January, CfrN's technical team went on a mission to the country for in-person workshops to train national experts in UNFCCC REDD+ framework. The team included Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, regional Director and Eloise Guidi in person as well as Javier Fernandez remotely from Costa Rica. The workshops covered UNFCCC REDD+ measuring, reporting and verification, REDD+ strategy, financing, and staffing.

During the trip, Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu also met with permanent secretary, Khangeziwe Mabuza as well as under-secretary, Constance Thulisile Vilakati, and senior forest officer, Wilfred Mbhekeni Nxumalo at the ministry of tourism and environmental affairs.

The UNFCCC assigned two technical experts from the Roster of Experts to do the report's technical assessment. This technical assessment took place between February and December during which Eswatini's team provided clarifications to the reviewers with the support





◀ The quiet mangroves of the Sine Saloum Delta in Senegal. Photography by Anton Lecock.
▼ Red colobus monkeys found in Senegal's forests.



Senegal has four main ecosystems: forest, savanna grassland, freshwater, marine and coastal. It has a wide diversity of plants and animals. However, increases in human activities and weather patterns, including more droughts, are impacting and degrading the natural habitats. This is particularly noticeable with forests, which in the five years to 2010, were being lost at the rate of 100,000 acres (about half the area of San Antonio, Texas) per year.

The country has 188 species of mammals and 674 species of bird. The Niokolo-Koba National Park is a World Heritage Site and large natural protected area in southeastern Senegal near the Guinea-Bissau border. Many of the larger animals of Senegal that used to have a widespread distribution have suffered from loss of habitat, persecution by farmers, and hunting for bushmeat, and are now largely restricted to the national park. The Guinea baboon is one of these, as are the Senegal hartebeest, the western hartebeest, the scimitar oryx, the roan antelope and several species of gazelle.

Habitat degradation has caused populations of western red colobus, elephants, lions, and many other species to decrease heavily. The western subspecies of the giant eland is critically endangered, the only remaining known population being in the Niokolo-Koba National Park. The rapid decline in numbers of this antelope has been attributed to poaching.

“Senegal has made a major commitment on climate change. It submitted an ambitious climate action plan, called a nationally determined contribution (NDC), with an incredibly significant contribution of emissions reductions and removals from the forestry and sector”.

Eloise Guidi,
Technical Expert, CfRN

The NDC-Forestry, structured around the development and sustainable management of forests and land restoration, presents a mitigation potential estimated at 156 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent. However, its implementation requires significant financing.

Senegal is strongly interested in innovative climate finance mechanisms, such as Article 5, and to further strengthen the governance framework for forests and natural resources and to transition to sustainable forest management.

The data collection training was part of Senegal's DEFCCS (Directorate of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Soil Conservation) partnership agreement for technical support for the preparation of the UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism, which was signed with CfRN in 2023. Data collection will continue with CfRN assisting the Senegal Team online.



Senegal kicked off its forest data collection for the UNFCCC in March as part of its engagement with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement.

The CfRN technical team led a five-day workshop from March 11 to 15 with 25 local experts during which 4,084 land use

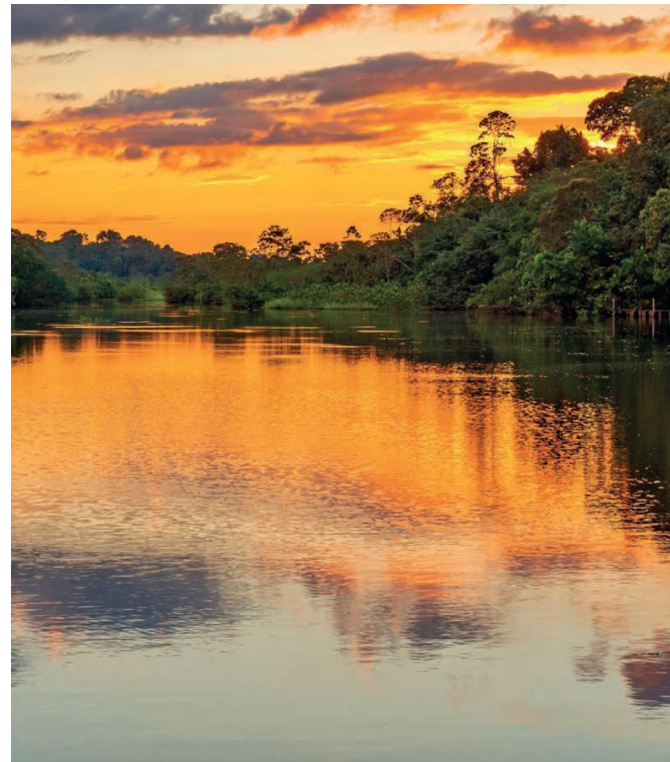
data plots out of 12,278 were collected. The national grid of plots will systematically measure the country's land use and land use changes at a scale of 4 km by 4 km. The country will organize additional days to finalize the data collection.



Suriname

▼ Dusk over a river in Suriname's Amazonia region

In August, CfrN went on mission to Suriname to support data collection. Our technical team conducted a 2-week training course for Suriname's government forestry teams at the Anton de Kom University. The training focused on tracking land use and land use change due to natural and human disturbances, such as fire, logging, hurricanes and pests, using the CfrN Land Assessment App. Further, the Suriname team carried out their Mapathon 2024 to collect all 2023 data for estimates of the GHG Emissions Inventory as well as for the REDD+ results (2022 and 2023). For CfrN, Marcial Arias led the technical support for remote sensing image interpretation and Lucila Balam provided technical support for data collection, following IPCC guidelines. By the end of the two-week training period, Suriname had completed its data collection for 2023, its quality control process, and CfrN had trained Suriname experts in IPCC guidelines and the CfrN Land Use Application.



Dominica

In September, CfrN's policy team paid a visit to Dominica to provide updates to government ministers on the implementation of Article 6, and how it can provide climate finance for Dominica's ongoing conservation efforts under the Paris Agreement. The meetings were attended by the Minister of Environment, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, representatives from the Forestry Department and the focal point of Dominica to the UNFCCC.

Dominica submitted its baseline for measuring efforts to slow deforestation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, called a Forest Reference level (FRL), to the United Nations earlier this year, and is on target to show a decrease in deforestation and emissions.



▲ Eduardo Reyes, Policy Advisor for CfrN speaking with Dominican officials from the environment ministry



Central Africa

In September, CfrN completed its training for young African women to improve their expertise in greenhouse gas accounting and climate change processes under the UN Framework, as part of the US Forest Service program, called the Women Initiative in Central Africa (WICA).

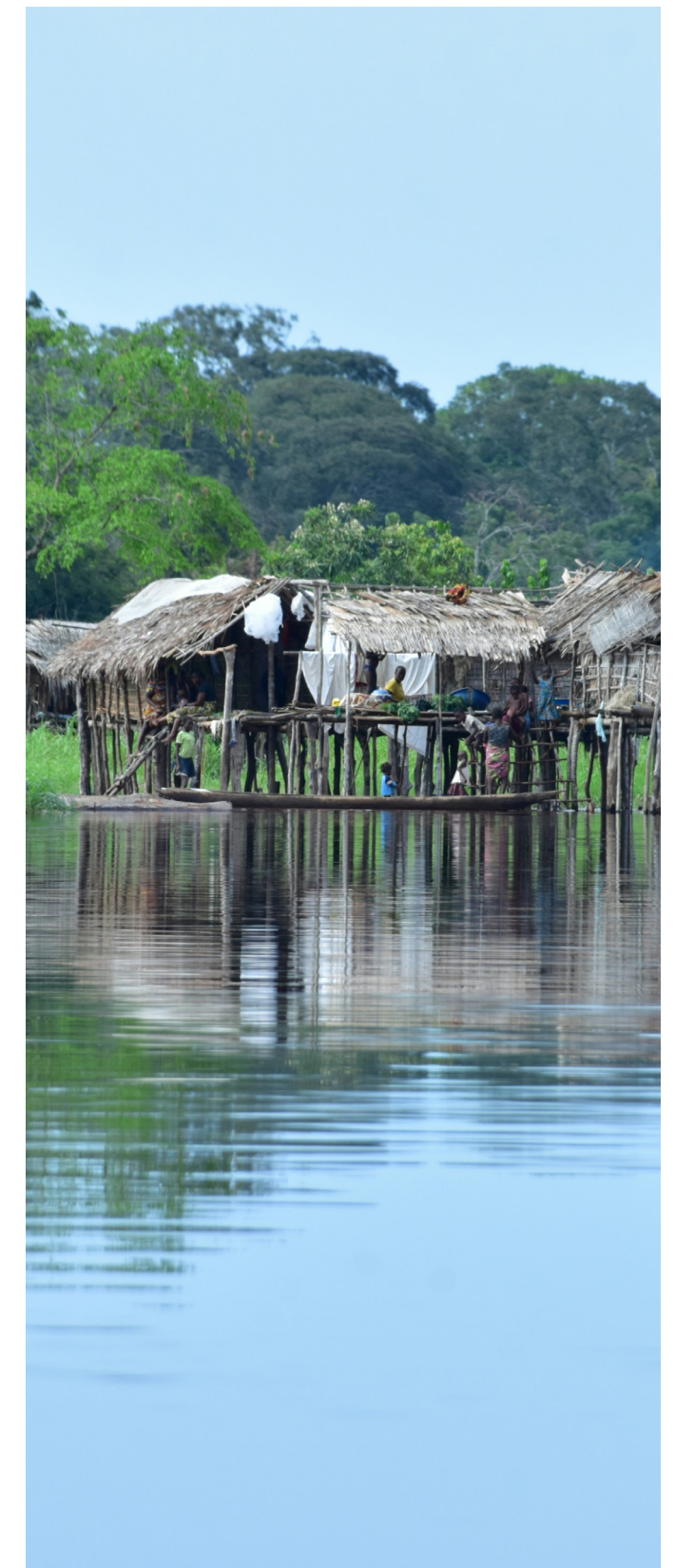
CfrN experts have been supporting the initiative by providing training on greenhouse gas accounting for the Agriculture, Forestry, and other land Use (AFOLU) sector since 2021. Over 50 participants from Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, and the Democratic Republic of Congo attended the online classes. These participants are university students and/or young professionals. The courses aim to provide them with key expertise in greenhouse gas accounting and enhance their understanding of climate change to contribute to their respective countries' efforts on the topic. This year's course organized by CfrN took place between April and September. The first part provided the theoretical framework for preparing a greenhouse gas inventory, following the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines and UNFCCC requirements. The second part focused on practical exercises, allowing participants to test their knowledge and estimate emissions for their countries. 45 participants passed the exam and will receive a certificate of accomplishment from CfrN.



Hilary Nguabo Dassi from Cameroon shares her experience on WICA Training.

"Thanks to CfrN, I am recognized as one of a few young people in Cameroon with experience in UNFCCC climate change negotiations. I participated in CfrN's WICA courses which broadened my political and technical perspective. I found the themes on the Congo Basin, where Cameroon lies, especially relevant, and I intend to put my new expertise into use with my government, the private sector, and municipalities."

▶ Stilt houses on a calm river in the Congo





Country Focus: HONDURAS

Honduras stepped up its rainforest conservation and had verified over 6.5 million tons of emission reduction by UNFCCC in 2024. This year has been an incredible year for Honduras with amazing leadership from their president Xiomara Castro and her government, particularly Lucky Medina, the minister of environment and Malcolm Stufkens, the deputy-minister of environment.

“The president has made sustainability and the conservation of Honduras’ rainforests a strategic priority with the government investing 30% of its national budget in rainforest protection with a view to creating thousands of new jobs for the communities that live in them.”

**Emilio Sempris,
CfRN Regional Director**

In July 2024, we were thrilled to announce that Honduras will be the new CfRN country co-chair and continue to offer great leadership during COP negotiations alongside our other countries.

On impact, Honduras, like Suriname, are leading the way this year with their UNFCCC results. Honduras was awarded for its efforts to slow deforestation between 2016–2020 with verification of 6,796,176 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. The government successfully introduced national measures and policies over the period that helped reduced emissions from deforestation, reduced emissions from forest degradation, conserved forest carbon stocks, sustainably managed forests and enhanced forest carbon stocks.

In 2025, Honduras will be ready to sell its carbon reductions as Internationally Transferrable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) under Article 6 to developed countries or corporations. This is the outcome of several years of submissions to the UN.

CfRN has been integral to Honduras’ successful efforts throughout the period. In March, Honduras submitted its Biennial Update Report with its technical annex which outlined the results. This was followed by its national greenhouse gas inventory for the whole nation. After review from the UN, the country resubmitted a modified technical annex in September against which the UN verified Honduras’s final REDD+ result.

Through in-person missions and online support, CfRN also trained over 50 people of monitoring, measuring, and reporting activities to the UN this year. Honduras has excellent national data sets for monitoring and measuring forests. CfRN supported their teams on sampling techniques, using CfRN’s proprietary Land Use Assessment (LUA) app that utilizes the latest satellite technology. Next year, Honduras will be updating its climate pledge to the Paris Agreement, called a Nationally Determined Contribution.



CfRN’s Data collection training session in Honduras for the forestry division ▶

Leo Massai and Eduardo Reyes, CfRN open the training session ▶

A Message to Donors

As 2024 comes to an end, I find myself reflecting on wins and milestones the Coalition for Rainforest Nations accomplished this past year and most importantly, the partners and supporters like you who helped make it all possible.

For over two decades we have supported sovereign governments in the Caribbean, Central and South America, Africa, India and Asia-Pacific and to slow, stop and reverse deforestation at national level with full engagement from their communities.

CfRN co-created with Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica the globally agreed upon system – the REDD+ framework which was later adopted into the Paris Agreement. This UNFCCC mechanism is the only way we can equitably stop and reverse global deforestation by 2030.

“Today 63 countries have implemented and supported this framework and are working to protect tropical rainforests, all of which cover around 90% of the world’s tropical forests and span an area of **about 1.6 billion hectares**. That’s a lot of land! “

Federica Bietta,
Managing Director, CfRN

You are one of our most valued and generous supporters and have played a critical role in helping CfRN shape this system and advance this critical work. I want to person-

ally extend my gratitude to you. I hope you will consider renewing your generous support to help us advance and accelerate our mission.

We are at a pivotal moment in climate policy, with the need for global leadership – particularly around tropical deforestation – being as critical as it has ever been before in history.

In **2024**, we made great strides in advancing our mission: to halt and reverse global deforestation by 2030 under the Paris Agreement through sovereign government action by rainforest nations, underpinned by public and private climate finance.

In **2025**, we will continue our strong capacity building and technical support. We must also strengthen and scale opportunities to get more funding to our nations, including through this new carbon market – starting with Suriname, followed thereafter by Belize and Honduras, to name a few.

We are committed to seeing that they are paid back for the work they have invested in the global fight to protect tropical rainforests, and in turn our planet.

We thank you again for your unwavering support and for championing us and all the progress we have made together over the years.

Thank you for all you do. I can’t wait to see what the future holds for all of us in 2025.

For 2024 financials, please request at: info@rainforestcoalition.org



▲ Blue-fronted Amazon parrot. Photography by Claire Thibault.



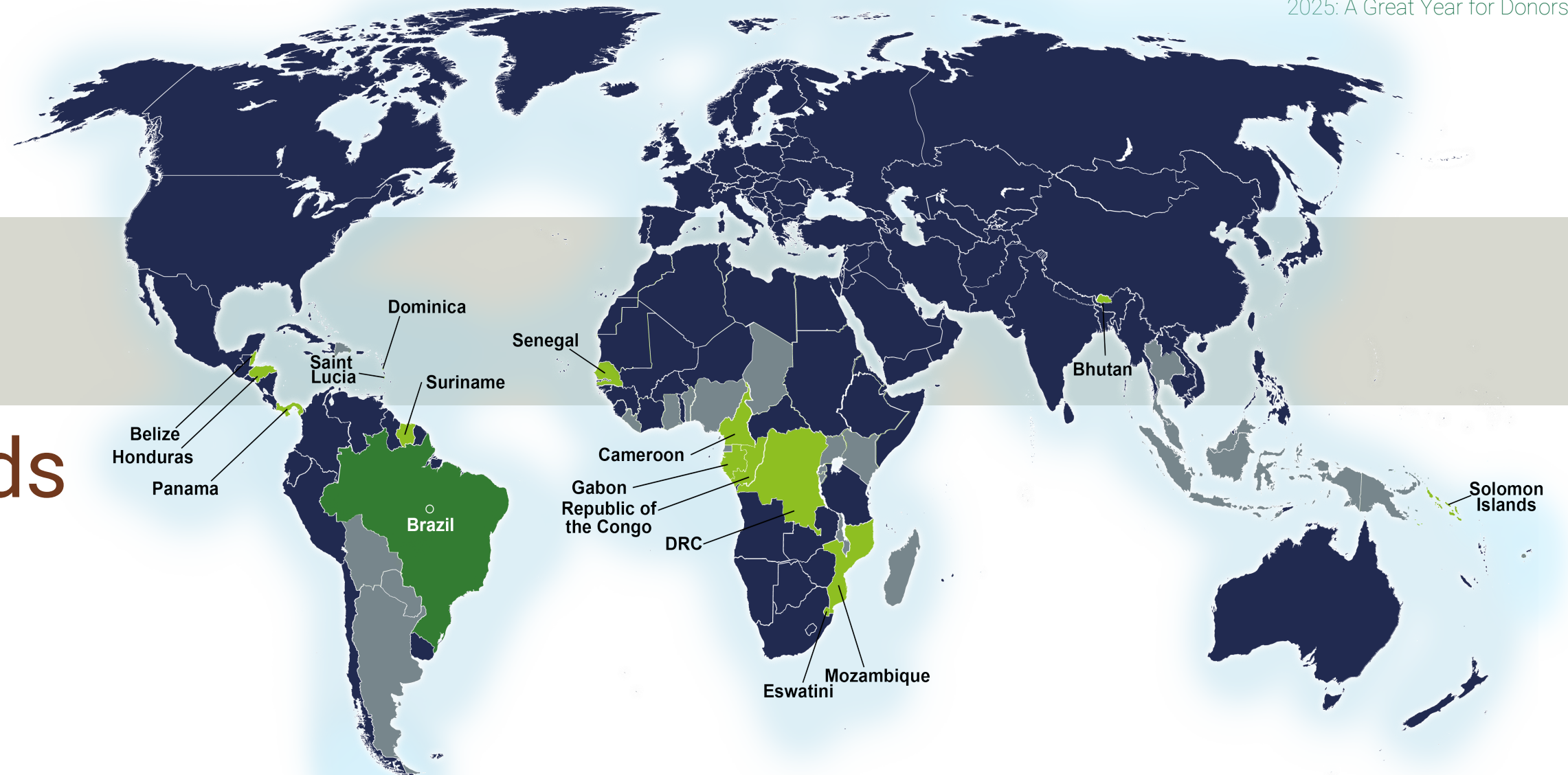
▲ African forest elephant grazing in the dense forest in Gabon at Loango National Park



◀ CfRN training sessions at our NY offices.

2025

Looking towards COP30



Forest in DRC - Photography By Malama Mishitu

Next year, the Conference of the Parties (COP30) will be held in the Amazon, Brazil and will be our last rainforest climate summit this decade. Its location, in the world's biggest rainforest, will be a real awakening for the over 90,000 delegates attending both in terms of the importance of rainforests and the effect of climate on the more disadvantaged. Hopefully, COP30 will send a clear message that the world must act with finance and supportive policies, using the latest science-based targets.

The Brazilian government and CfRN are committed to getting it right. Our goal for COP30 will be to play our part in helping scale up climate finance from all sources to secure \$1.3 trillion annually by 2035. CfRN is working closely with the COP30 Presidency and other partners to build a global finance instrument to help finance the full reversal of tropical deforestation under the Paris Agreement.

With major finance partners, we wish to create a framework to purchase eligible Internationally Transferrable Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs) from Global South sovereigns of highest standard ("triple verification") under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement by corporations and

sovereign governments in the Global North. Potentially, the uptake can be incentivized by sovereign governments via a carbon tax, like the Singapore government's model, with a rainforest country basket as an option to diversify risks. The goal is an official launch at COP30 with formal endorsement by the COP Presidency.

Next year, we will continue to support our first-mover countries, like Suriname, Honduras and Belize to prepare them for private financing for their ITMOs. Our growing technical team will be traveling to Africa, Central America, and Asia to help countries collect data for rainforest protection and for their climate pledges and build capacity to accelerate and scale their rainforest conservation.

In June, we'll be standing shoulder to shoulder with our countries at the annual climate change treaty negotiations in Bonn, making sure that the world is listening.

*Regards,
Federica Bietta,
Managing Director, Coalition for Rainforest Nations*



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