Together we can Protect Forests and Preserve Land in Brazil

Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 / Together we can Protect Forests and Preserve Land in Brazil

Nearly five years ago, at the United Nations Climate Summit, I signed the New York Declaration on Forests. In doing so, I pledged that Cargill would do our part in slowing, halting and reversing global forest loss, while enhancing food security for all.

It’s a commitment that we continue to stand behind. Since 2014, we’ve developed new policies and action plans, joined coalitions and aligned with thoughtful partners. Together, we are taking action – such as implementing meaningful programs to source cocoa in the Ivory Coast, advance sustainable palm oil practices in Indonesia, and support more sustainable soy production in Brazil.

Yet, despite our collective efforts, industry is poised to fall short of a 2020 goal to eliminate deforestation in key supply chains, including beef, soy and palm oil. That is hard for me to admit – but it is not a reason to stop taking critical action.

Our company, industry and organizations around the world need to do more. We need to move faster. And we need to act together.
Forests and farming must coexist

We must end deforestation in a way that protects forests and native vegetation while simultaneously allowing farmers and communities to prosper. Perhaps nowhere is this currently more critical than in the Cerrado region of Brazil.

The Cerrado is home to millions of people and agriculture is a critical component of the local economy. The region also supports a vast range of plant and animal biodiversity, which must be protected.

Balancing the needs of forests, farmers and communities is a challenge that cannot be solved by any one company alone. Cargill has been focused on creating sustainable supply chains for many years. Our experience has shown us that we are only successful when everyone involved in the supply chain works together.

We’ve also learned that solutions are seldom simple or universal. The changes we’ve implemented in our palm supply chain, for example, will not work in the soy supply chain, where the industry is more fragmented and the farming economics are drastically different.

Solutions require collaborative action

The soy industry in Brazil has many large and small players. If Cargill alone takes action, the same practices that exist today will continue. We believe more must be done. Industry, local communities and governments must find and agree upon a shared solution.

The food and agriculture industry understands the power of innovation to accelerate positive solutions at scale. It’s our shared responsibility to protect the planet and ensure local communities have equal opportunities to thrive.

That’s why Cargill is committing $30 million to accelerate new ideas

And, it’s why I am urgently calling on our competitors, customers and others to join us.

We will convene the best and brightest minds to identify innovative solutions to end deforestation, starting with the soy industry in Brazil. It will take collective action to solve this problem, not merely shift it to another company’s supply chain.

Cargill is a large company, and on our own, we can drive change. Working with others, we can transform our industry. And in doing so, we can create a socially responsible, environmentally sound and economically viable supply chain that works for everyone.

Together we can... and together we will.
Together we can Protect Forests and Preserve Land in Brazil - Tropical Forest Alliance 2020

14/01/2020

Cargill is an active member of the Tropical Forest Alliance Steering Committee and collaborates with governments, civil society and the private sector to accelerate multi-stakeholder action globally.

To learn more or join Cargill in tackling deforestation, visit Cargill.com

About the Author:

**Dave MacLennan**

Chairman and CEO, Cargill

Follow Dave on Twitter @cargill

Recent News Posts

- Announcement: Tropical Forest Alliance Welcomes New Appointments
- Job Announcement: TFA Lead, Strategy & Private Sector Engagement, Southeast Asia
- Tropical Forest Alliance welcomes new senior appointment in China
- Request for Proposal: Roundtable on Green Deal for Europe
- Announcement: Join our Team as TFA Brazil Coordinator

Tweets

Sorry, our stream doesn't seem to be working at the moment, see all of our tweets here: https://twitter.com/ta2020
Contact the TFA 2020 Secretariat via email at tfa2020@weforum.org. Please include details of primary point of contact.

The World Economic Forum provides generous support to Tropical Forest Alliance by hosting it's secretariat at the Forums headquarters in Geneva

Follow us here

2020 © Tropical Forest Alliance 2020.
All rights reserved.
Privacy Policy Statement

Design and build by: Kameleon