

1. Title/Heading

The Global Forest Project led by Canada.

2. Context and Rationale

"Forests are a major, requisite front of action in the global fight against catastrophic climate change - thanks to their unparalleled capacity to absorb and store carbon. Stopping deforestation and restoring damaged forests could provide up to 30% of the climate solution." UN's IPCC, 2018.

Some countries have a wealth of forest potential with accessible land for forest hosting and a climate conducive to growing forests, such as Canada. Many countries have extraordinary financial wealth with capacity to fund forest planting and management costs. Other countries have human skills and resources to contribute. Wealthy countries who are the largest contributors to global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions should carry the greatest responsibility for contributions to climate action.

3. An Overview of the Contribution

The Global Forest Project ("GFP") is a Canadian led initiative, arising from the Young Champions for Nature Summit, Montreal, 2019 to create a global government partnership through the United Nations ("UN") to plant BILLIONS OF TREES.

The GFP is a transformational initiative to demonstrate global co-operation in climate action. Canada and other high forest potential countries are invited to join together to contribute land to host the GFP. Foreign countries with the least forest potential due to incompatible climate, and in particular those with the highest GHG emissions, are invited to fund the cost of the GFP's tree planting and forest management.

All Paris Agreement signatories are invited to participate in the GFP through forest hosting, financial contribution or the supply of human talent including project management and research.

The proposed minimum forest host commitment per participating government is 10 million trees. The proposed minimum funding commitment per participating government is \$US 10 million. The GFP can be characterized as a 10 million x 10 million concept to plant BILLIONS OF TREES.

In Canada, the Ontario Government has recently reversed a commitment to plant 50 million trees. Forests Ontario has planted 30 million trees on behalf of Ontario. With a proven track record in tree planting and forest management, Forests Ontario is well positioned to lead Canada in its forest hosting commitment to the GFP (see <https://www.forestsontario.ca>).

4. How the contribution leverages living natural systems as a solution to avert climate change?

Forests support life and natural systems in all forms. As a proven carbon sink, trees are a solution to avert climate change.

5.How might the contribution support both climate, mitigation and adaptation as well as other important co-benefits and social, economic and environmental outcomes in coming years?

Forests are fundamental to the realization of the 8 SDG's highlighted as outlined below:

SDG1 - tree planting = employment

SDG2 - tree planting = wages for food and food supply from fruit and nut trees

SDG6 - forests filter air and water

SDG12 - tree canopy cools the planet resulting in lower fossil fuel consumption

SDG13 - forests are a highly effective and proven carbon sink

SDG14 - forests reduce the ocean acidity through carbon reduction and lower temperatures

SDG15 - forests are fundamental for animal and plant survival and biodiversity

SDG16 - the GFP promotes global partnership in addressing the injustice of poor, low GHG emitting countries under the greatest threat of survival as a consequence of the wealth driven activity of the high GHG emitting countries

6.Which Countries and Organisations are involved in the contribution?

UN

Proposed Forest Hosts: Canada and countries with high forest potential including Russia, Brazil, United States, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia and Australia in addition to other countries who have experienced significant deforestation with high forest re-growth potential.

Proposed Forest Funders: Countries with highest GHG emissions, in order, China, United States, European Union, India, Russia, Japan, Brazil, Indonesia, Canada and Iran. Countries with low forest potential, high GHG emissions countries e.g. desert oil countries.

Signatories to the Paris

Agreement: Wealthy countries can sponsor poor countries for a \$US 10 million financial contribution, much like a scholarship system in schools. This financial sponsorship will build bridges between wealthy high emission GHG countries and poor, climate change threatened low emission GHG countries.

7. How have stakeholders (for example local communities, youth and indigenous peoples, where applicable) been consulted in developing the contribution?

The GFP concept has been proposed in brief by youth to the representatives for the Canadian Minister for Environment and Climate Change, to Dr. David Nabarro and to Forests Ontario.

8. Where can the contribution be put into action?

Across Canada through tree planting authorities such as Forests Ontario.

GFP hosts see #6 above.

9. How the contribution will be delivered? How will different stakeholders be engaged in its implementation? What are the potential transformational impacts?

Delivery model is local tree planting authorities. e.g. Forests Ontario

Stakeholder funding engagement model is monetary contributions to UN Global Forest Project Fund ("UNGFPF"). Quarterly reporting metrics and mapping to stakeholders.

Transformational impacts see #5/#6 above.

10. Is this initiative contributing to other Climate Action Workstreams?

Yes including climate finance, resilience and adaptation, youth and citizen mobilization, social and political drivers and mitigation strategy.

11. How does this contribution build upon examples of experience to date? How does the contribution link with different ongoing initiatives?

Forests Ontario has successfully overseen the planting of 30 million trees under the 50 million tree program.

The GFP links with all ongoing global government supported tree planting initiatives.

12. What are the mechanisms for funding (with specific emphasis on potential for partnerships)?

See #6/#9 above.

13. What are the means of stewardship, metrics for monitoring?

Tree planting authorities such as Forests Ontario currently embed stewardship, metrics and monitoring in their forest management practices.

14. What is the communication strategy?

GFP call to action at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019.

15. What are the details of proponents (indicating the degree of commitment among the countries and organizations that are named)?

Forests Ontario is committed to sourcing funding for 20 million trees to complete their 50 million tree program.

Canadian government and global government commitments to be determined.