

EMERGENT AND THE INTERSTATE CONSORTIUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGAL AMAZON SIGN MOU TO EXPLORE FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAF COALITION

The LEAF Coalition announced today that the Interstate Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Legal Amazon has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Emergent, the US non-profit that serves as the administrative coordinator for the Coalition, to express mutual interest in future transactions between the states of the Legal Amazon and the LEAF participants.

This follows an announcement earlier in the week, at COP26, that the LEAF Coalition has mobilized \$1 billion USD for countries and states committed to increasing ambition to protect tropical and sub-tropical forests and reduce deforestation. LEAF is a voluntary global coalition bringing together the private sector and governments to provide finance for tropical and subtropical forest conservation commensurate with the scale of the climate change challenge. Reversing deforestation is essential to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and for any pathway to a 1.5-degree future.

The Interstate Consortium was created in 2017 to help develop consensus and coordinate action among the nine Brazilian states that are part of the [Legal Amazon](#). Eight of the nine states presented proposals to LEAF, all of which passed the initial technical assessment panel, and therefore have taken the first step to become eligible for transactions with potential buyers of carbon credits generated from emissions reductions.

All discussions between the Interstate Consortium and Emergent will take into account best practices and compliance requirements consistent with relevant international and national legal frameworks. The MOU is a sign that the Interstate Consortium shares the LEAF Coalition's goal of providing high-quality, jurisdictional REDD+ emissions reductions verified under the ART-TREES standard, which lead to measurable reductions of deforestation in the Legal Amazon.

*"The signing of this MoU with Emergent, on the occasion of the COP-26, represents an important commitment of the Legal Amazon with climate security in the world. The population of the Amazon needs objective steps so that it is possible to maintain and expand the environmental and ecosystem services we perform in the region," said **Flávio Dino, president of the Interstate Consortium of the Legal Amazon and Governor of Maranhão.***

*"We submitted the proposal to the LEAF Coalition and demonstrated our clear commitment to continue with actions to reduce deforestation in the coming years, and especially how we intend to do so. In addition to reducing deforestation, we have identified the actions that are necessary to structure the institutional and legal status towards a robust environmental and climate policy and in line with the transition to a carbon neutral economy. This MoU is a clear demonstration that we have a clear strategy for the Amazon's contribution to climate balance", said **Helder Barbalho, governor of Pará who signed the MOU on behalf of the Interstate Consortium.***

*“We are thrilled to be signing this MOU with the Interstate Consortium today. The Amazon is the largest tropical rainforest in the world, and it is also one of the most threatened. Providing support to the countries and states that are willing and able to help protect it is central to LEAF’s mission,” said **Juliana Santiago, the Managing Director of Funds Management of Emergent and Brazil Lead.** “The purpose of the MOU is to express our shared interest to continue discussions, collaboration and consultations that will allow us to identify opportunities to develop and implement state-level jurisdictional REDD+ proposals in the Legal Amazon,” **Santiago said.***

The Brazilian Amazon, specifically the Legal Amazon, covers 5 million square kilometers, nearly 60% of Brazil’s territory across nine states: Rondônia, Acre, Amazonas, Roraima, Pará, Amapá, Tocantins, Mato Grosso and Maranhão. This area is larger than the European Union (EU) and more than half the size of the contiguous United States. There are around 24 million inhabitants in the Brazilian Amazon, which is home to many peoples, cultures, and languages.

The signing of the MOU comes alongside the announcement that seven new corporate participants - BlackRock, Burberry, EY, Inditex, Intertek, SAP, and Walmart.org - have joined corporate climate leaders Amazon, Airbnb, Bayer, BCG, Delta Air Lines, E.ON, GSK, McKinsey, Nestlé, PwC, Salesforce, and Unilever. What began in April with nine private sector participants, anchored by Amazon, has already more than doubled to 19 in total. Participants in the Coalition must be committed to deep voluntary cuts in their own greenhouse gas emissions in line with science-based targets and consistent with the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement. Their contributions to the LEAF Coalition come in addition to, and not as a substitute for, internal emissions reductions.

*“As a co-founder of The Climate Pledge—a commitment by companies and organizations to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement 10 years early—we know that addressing the global crisis of climate change will take a combination of big, bold measures and everyday actions,” said **Andy Jassy, Amazon CEO.** “Emissions from tropical deforestation and degradation make up over 10% of net human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. I am proud of Amazon’s work over the past six months with the Governments of Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States, and a growing number of other leading companies, to spearhead this important initiative and mobilize \$1 billion to fight tropical deforestation. Together, we can work to create a more beautiful, livable, and breathable planet. We’re encouraged by the coalition’s impressive progress thus far and look forward to lending our continued support.”*

Since the launch of LEAF in April, 23 jurisdictions have passed the initial technical screening process – including the eight Brazilian states – and LEAF buyers have begun to identify those jurisdictions with which they wish to begin transaction discussions.

During the Climate Conference in Glasgow Emergent, on behalf of the LEAF Coalition, has also signed the first letters of intent with Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Nepal and Vietnam to supply emission reduction purchases.

“Since its launch at the White House Leaders Summit on Climate in April, the LEAF Coalition is demonstrating the scale and collaboration needed to fight the climate crisis and make a meaningful contribution to the global effort to achieve net-zero emissions globally by 2050. The Coalition has already exceeded its target for mobilizing government and private-sector resources to support the sort of large-scale action to halt deforestation and begin to restore tropical and subtropical forests. And importantly, all these contributions are in addition to taking urgent action to cut their own emissions.” said **John Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.**

“Both governments and businesses share a huge responsibility, but also a big lever in combatting and mitigating climate change. The LEAF Coalition brings public and private partners together and provides a path for large-scale forest protection that we urgently need to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. That’s why we at Bayer are so committed to this initiative.” said **Werner Baumann, CEO, Bayer.**

Francisca Arara, member of the Global Committee for Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities of the Governors’ Climate and Forests Taskforce cited the importance of LEAF in recognizing the role of indigenous peoples in conserving the forest and tackling climate change.

“Acre has advanced in the development of environmental public policies and in the production of low emissions, generating work and income for thousands of rural, riverine and indigenous producers. We need to expand the development of the bioeconomy. Our State has all the requirements to access resources from the LEAF Coalition. The coming of these investments will allow for the expansion of projects aimed at reducing deforestation and protecting our forests”, said **Gladson Cameli, Governor of Acre.**

“LEAF represents an effective action of forest valorization and low carbon development to reduce deforestation. This mobilization enhances the contribution of the Amazon and Brazil to the global climate balance. In this sense, it is of great importance that states, private initiative, civil society, traditional and indigenous populations strengthen their joint action for the implementation of jurisdictional REDD+ in structuring and sustainable actions for the Amazon,” said **André Guimarães, Executive Director of IPAM.**

“The UK is proud to be part of the LEAF Coalition, which is massively scaling up the finance available to support efforts to stop deforestation, cut global greenhouse gas emissions and put nature on the path to recovery. This Memorandum of Understanding is a welcome sign that the Interstate Consortium for Sustainable Development of the Legal Amazon shares the LEAF Coalition’s goal of achieving measurable reductions of deforestation. It also builds on the fantastic commitment by the Government of Brazil at the World Leaders’ Summit to end and reverse deforestation by 2030, alongside more than 100 other world leaders. We look forward to continuing to work with Brazil at all levels, including through the LEAF Coalition, to help to achieve these goals together,” said **Maggie Charnley, deputy director for UK International Climate Finance - Forests, Land Use and Carbon Markets.**

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