

# Analysis: executive summary

Measuring progress to zero deforestation

November 2015



Identifying, assessing and tracking the key players who can eliminate deforestation from global supply chains.

**About the Forest 500:**

The Forest 500 is the world's first rainforest rating agency. It identifies and ranks the most influential companies, investors and governments in the race towards a deforestation-free global economy.

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**About the Global Canopy Programme:** The Global Canopy Programme (GCP) is a tropical forest think tank working to demonstrate the scientific, political and business case for safeguarding forests as natural capital. The Global Canopy Programme (GCP) is a tropical forest

that underpins water, food, energy, health and climate security for all. GCP works through its international networks – of forest communities, science experts, policymakers, and finance and corporate leaders – to gather evidence, spark insight, and catalyse action to halt forest loss and improve human livelihoods dependent on forests.

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In November 2015, the Forest 500 published its second annual rankings. The results show that while some of the most influential companies, investors and governments in the race towards a deforestation-free global economy are taking action, many still need to formulate, improve or implement policies to this end.

## Companies

While there has been some improvement in the corporate sector, a number of companies have yet to put in place strong commitments. The average total score of companies is now 30, compared to 26 out of 100 in 2014. The 2015 results saw 31 companies (12% of powerbrokers) improve their Forest 500 score, with five companies moving up two points. Two companies, McDonalds and Bunge, introduced zero net deforestation policies across all commodities. Yet only 8% of companies have a zero or zero net commitment in place across all forest risk commodities. Moreover, 12% of companies continue to have no policies in place across any of their commodity supply chains.

## Investors and Lenders

The investment community continues to lag behind on tackling deforestation in their lending and investments. The average score of investors changed from 8 to 14 out of 100 in 2015. 18 investors improved their score by one or more points, with three improving by two points – ATP, Columbia Threadneedle Investments, and Ontario Teachers Pension Plan. In 2015, BNP Paribas became the first investor to make a zero net commitment that covers all lending in agricultural commodities. However, no other investors have zero or zero net policies across all agricultural commodities; nearly a third continue to have no policies in place that apply to their investments and lending in agricultural commodities.

## Jurisdictions

### Forest Jurisdictions

No significant progress was found among forest jurisdictions, with the average score changing from 44 to 48 out of 100 in 2015. Colombia, Peru and Brazil continue to lead in terms of the most developed deforestation policies, best deforestation track record and highest scores for governance indicators. No new zero or zero net deforestation policies were established. Liberia remains the only jurisdiction with a nationwide zero deforestation policy. Peru is the only jurisdiction with a zero net deforestation commitment (for primary forest); Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay have made regionally specific zero deforestation commitments; and Brazil's soy moratorium is the only commodity specific commitment.

### Subnational Jurisdictions

Subnational jurisdictions also saw little progress, with Para (Brazil), Caquetá (Colombia) and Central Kalimantan (Indonesia) scoring the highest. The average score changed from 39 to 40 out of 100 in 2015. No new zero or zero net deforestation policy commitments were formulated. Only three subnational jurisdictions have zero net policies (Para), regional policies on forest loss (Caquetá for the Amazon), or commodity specific deforestation policies (Central Kalimantan for palm oil).

### Trading Jurisdictions

The average score of trading jurisdictions changed from 44 to 47 out of 100, demonstrating the lack of notable progress made by these governments. Germany, the Netherlands and the USA continue to lead in terms of the strongest policies tackling tropical deforestation, the best track record of action and the highest governance scores. Japan was the only jurisdiction to improve its score from three to four points out of five, but this was due to a slight decrease in the nation's biocapacity deficit and an increase in its governance ratings, rather than a new policy tackling tropical deforestation.

For more information visit: [www.forest500.org](http://www.forest500.org)

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