



WORLD BANK/WWF ALLIANCE FOR FOREST CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABLE USE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. When was the Alliance formed and for what reasons?

Formed in 1998, the World Bank/WWF Alliance for Forest Conservation & Sustainable Use (Alliance) was born of a shared recognition by the Bank and WWF of the scale, complexity and urgency of the crisis threatening forests worldwide. The two organizations forged an alliance so that their collective strengths could more effectively address the challenges posed by the high rates of forest loss and degradation for both conservation and the livelihoods and well being of the rural poor.

Through the Alliance, WWF and the World Bank are crafting solutions that provide a direct response to forest threats such as illegal logging, unsustainable logging, and rampant agricultural conversion. WWF and the Bank have helped the government of Brazil initiate an initiative that has established over 8 million hectares of new forest protected areas such as national parks and motivated partners to help establish a gigantic trust fund to effectively manage these protected areas forever. A summit among the leaders of Congo Basin countries, envisioned by WWF, the World Bank, and partners, has resulted in extraordinary cross-border cooperation on forest conservation and responsible management. A US State Department initiative of US \$53 million to promote forest conservation in the Congo Basin, and 3.5 million hectares of new protected areas, have been established since the first summit in 1999.

2. Why is the Alliance being renewed?

In December 2005, the Memorandum of Understanding that gave the Alliance its original mandate will expire. In assessing the future of the Alliance, partners and stakeholders from WWF and the World Bank, environmental organizations, development agencies, funders and others were consulted. Many saw the Alliance's articulation of specific forest conservation and management targets as a major contribution to the international dialogue on forests that should be continued and expanded. Many also commented that the Alliance partners had an obligation to continue to work both to support the major initiatives that the Alliance had helped to launch and to address the unfinished business of promoting more effective forest management on a more extensive scale.

Acting on this advice, the World Bank's James Wolfensohn and WWF's Dr. Claude Martin have agreed to continue the Alliance until 2010, with a new goal and expanded targets. The Alliance will be focused on:

- Consolidating forest protected area systems
- Accelerating progress toward sustainable forest management
- Securing forest ecosystem functions within sustainable landscapes
- Empowering forest-dependent communities & enhancing livelihoods
- Catalyzing sustainable action-based partnerships

3. What did the first phase of the Alliance (1998-2005) achieve?

The Alliance initially set out to achieve the following three targets by the year 2005:

- 50 million hectares (124 million acres) of new forest protected areas: More than 47 million ha of new forest protected areas have been established with support from the Alliance partners. It is likely that the original target of 50 million ha will be met by the end of 2005 (and possibly exceeded) given existing commitments for further new forest protected areas.
- 50 million hectares of existing reserves brought under effective protection: The total portfolio of the Alliance partners – either individually or collectively – directed at improving the management effectiveness of existing protected areas covers about 70 million ha. More than 40 million ha of these areas have been assessed to determine how effectively these areas are being managed using a common methodology developed with the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and adopted by the GEF.
- 200 million hectares (495 million acres) of the world's production forests under independently certified sustainable management: 22 million ha of forests in Bank client countries have been certified under systems that clearly meet the principles and criteria for certification systems adopted by the Alliance partners in 1998. While this represents only 10% of the original target of 200 million ha by the year 2005, the growth in the area of certified forest in recent years has been exponential and prospects are promising for significant expansion of the area under independent certification in several forest countries.

4. What is the overarching goal for Alliance II?

The goal of the Alliance is to achieve a 10% reduction in the rate of global deforestation by 2010. This is the first step toward achieving zero-net deforestation by 2020, and going beyond this, to increase forest cover and quality beyond that which existed in 2000, by 2050.

5. What are the new targets for Alliance II?

This goal is supported by three targets for 2010 that consolidate and extend the original Alliance targets :

- **25 million ha of new forest protected areas established**, giving priority to closing gaps in representation within the world's most outstanding, least represented and highly threatened forest ecoregions;
- **75 million ha of existing forest protected areas under demonstrably improving management** that achieves better conservation and development outcomes; and
- **300 million ha of forest outside of core strict protected areas under improved forest management**, to be achieved through a combination of independent forest certification, stepwise approaches to improved forest governance and management, community based forest management, and restoration of degraded forest lands.

6. What role did the Alliance play in the Amazon Region Protected Areas (ARPA) program achieve?

The ARPA program is a partnership between the Government of Brazil, GEF and the Alliance partners (The Bank and WWF) that plans to secure 28 million ha of the Brazilian Amazon (an area comparable to that of Spain) in various types of protected areas. It is the largest tropical forest conservation initiative in history. Nine million ha of new strict protected areas have already been established under the program and an additional nine million ha of Extractive Reserves are expected to have been created under the program by May 2005.

7. What role did the Alliance play in the Congo Basin Partnership?

The Alliance played a key role in facilitating the 1999 Heads of State Summit on Forests in Yaoundé. The Yaoundé Process is now an important component of the broader Congo Basin Forest Partnership. The Partnership's goals complement those of the Alliance and propose a regional network of up to 10 million ha of effectively managed parks and protected areas, and up to 20 million ha of effectively managed forest concessions across the six Congo Basin countries.

8. How has the Alliance helped the Bank?

The Alliance has added value to Bank operations and policy dialogue in numerous client countries across Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe. The Alliance also had a fundamental influence on the development and adoption in October 2002 of the Bank's revised Forest Strategy and Operational Policy (OP 4.36), including its emphasis on independent, transparent, performance-based certification and protecting critical forest areas.

9. How has the Alliance helped WWF?

WWF has long maintained targets to protect, manage, and restore the world's forests. Revised in 2004, WWF's forest management target now explicitly recognizes a stepwise approach to improving forest management that includes combating illegal logging, incremental improvements in forest management, the importance of community forest management and the potential for non-timber forest resources and environmental services. WWF's forest restoration target explicitly recognizes the linkages between restoring forest landscapes and the enhancement of local livelihoods and the contributions this can make to improved forest governance.