

## **Congo Basin Pledge First Annual Report – joint press release**

Alongside the Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forests and Land Use at COP26 in Glasgow, 12 donors also committed to a collective Congo Basin pledge of at least US\$1.5 billion of financing to preserve the Congo Basin forests and peatlands between 2021 and 2025.

The 12 donors of the Congo Basin Pledge have decided to publish a report to increase understanding of their contribution towards the Pledge. This first Annual Progress Report on the Congo Basin Pledge provides an update on donor spend over the period from January to December 2021, the ‘start-up’ year of the five-year Pledge.

Over the course of 2021, the donors have collectively provided over \$508 million towards the Congo Basin Pledge, with just under \$311 million disbursed in the region so far. The report provides more detail on the collective spend, including case studies.

The Pledge recognises the critical role Central Africa’s Congo Basin forests play in the global ecosystem for both climate change and sustainable development. It is the world’s second-largest tropical rainforest and one of the world’s largest carbon sinks.

It is the first pledge to focus exclusively on the Congo Basin’s tropical forests and peatlands, it is a major achievement from COP26 in Glasgow and signifies an important step in the collaboration between donor and Congo Basin countries.

This first Congo basin pledge report is a step towards greater partnership and transparency. It aims to demonstrate donors’ determination to strengthen collaboration in the region with all relevant stakeholders.

We, donors, will work with both individual governments and regional bodies such as the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC) to ensure that the Pledge continues to deliver towards the region’s priorities and objectives to protect the Congo Basin forests and peatlands. We reiterate our call on other donors to significantly increase their support for the protection and sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests.

Supported by:

European Commission on behalf of the European Union

Federal Republic of Germany

French Republic

Japan

Kingdom of Belgium

Kingdom of the Netherlands

Kingdom of Norway

Kingdom of Sweden

Republic of Korea

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United States of America

Bezos Earth Fund