

New Analysis Highlights 1% of UK International Climate Funding Could Help Protect Rainforests

Giving 1% of the UK's climate finance directly to people who live in rainforests is the most cost-effective way to protect forests and stop the climate crisis.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- According to climate change charity, Cool Earth, this simple solution could save as much as 33 million tonnes of carbon from being released into the atmosphere each year.

It is an idea that the charity put to Government officials and environmentalists this week during an event led by Tony Juniper MBE, Lord Deben and Baroness Natalie Bennett.

Matthew Owen, Director of Cool Earth said, "We're asking for £115 million(1) just 1% of the UK's climate finance funds to go straight to rainforest communities, the people who have

been protecting tropical forests for thousands of years. With this small shift, we could keep 33 million tonnes of carbon locked in the ground, year on year. This method is cheap, it's proven, and it works."

According to the World Resource Institute, Indigenous Peoples and local communities hold or manage 54% of the world's remaining forests. As of 2020 there are 1.13 billion hectares of intact forests in the world. 610 million hectares of this is looked after by Indigenous peoples or local communities.(2)

**COOL
EARTH**



Erika, teesh artisan, collecting huayruros seeds

Cool Earth has been demonstrating this model for 17 years with rainforest communities in Peru, Congo Basin and Papua New Guinea. Ensuring that 99% of the 2.1 million acres of rainforest it covers is intact. With the added bonus of providing Indigenous communities with economic security and autonomy.

Environmentalist and Chair of Cool Earth Tony Juniper CBE adds.

“Empowering people who live in the forests can have a greater impact at a much lower cost than carbon offsetting or market based initiatives(3). What was clear in this morning's gathering was that this kind of cost effective approach would not only help prevent deforestation and contribute to meeting the climate crisis, but that spending 1% of climate money in this way would also address a wider-range of the Sustainable Development Goals and continue to cement UK leadership on the global stage.”

“We would not only ensure the survival of vital ecosystems at an extremely low cost but also strengthen the livelihoods and rights of those who are at the forefront of the climate crisis. I'd call it the bargain of the century.”

“With the window for climate action closing rapidly, the UK Government must embrace new and cost-effective approaches to climate finance. By doing so, we can achieve meaningful climate stabilisation and adaptation.”

Cool Earth urges MPs to back the 1% initiative and act swiftly to ensure that the UK's climate finance commitments deliver real, lasting impact for both people and the planet.

To find out more about Cool Earth visit <https://www.coolearth.org/>



Urakuza community and the amazon rainforest



Lord Deben, Tony Juniper, Matthew Owen and Cool Earth in Westminster calling for 1% of climate finance to go to people who live in rainforests

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References:

1. The last government's commitment to £11.6bn of climate finance - also known as UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) - from 2021/22 to 2025/26 will continue to be honoured. This includes at least £3 billion on nature, from which £1.5 billion will be dedicated to protecting and restoring forests, and £239 million specifically allocated to tropical rainforests, announced at COP29 in Baku (UK Government, 2024).
2. World Research Institute data on how much tropical rainforest is managed by Indigenous peoples and local communities <https://www.wri.org/insights/indigenous-and-local-community-land-rights-protect-biodiversity>
3. 1% briefing, including calculations

Editors notes

- Cool Earth partners with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who live in the rainforest and who have historically been the best at shaping and stewarding these ecosystems.
- Protecting the three largest rainforests in the world is the most scalable and cost-effective solution against the climate crisis.
- Founded in 2007, Cool Earth pioneered an unconditional cash transfer model to support Indigenous peoples and local communities against threats to their lands and rights.
- Supported by a board of trustees led by Dr Tony Juniper CBE and including people such as Gillian Burke, as well as ambassadors such as Johan Rockström, Cool Earth is committed to developing rights-based approaches as essential solutions to the climate crisis.

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