



FORESTS OF THE WORLD

Our Impact 2025

Protecting Forests. Empowering People. Delivering Lasting Change.

Forests are the foundation of life on Earth. Yet they continue to disappear at an alarming pace. In 2025, Forests of the World worked alongside Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent communities to address the root causes of deforestation by strengthening governance, securing rights, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Our work is grounded in a clear strategy: protecting forests by enabling those who know them best to lead. This report shows how our strategy is translated into action across biodiversity hotspots in Africa, Latin America, and Denmark.

Our 2025 Impact at a Glance

Our work is rooted in long-term partnerships with Indigenous Peoples and forest-dependent Communities. Together, we contribute to protecting forests, strengthening rights, and supporting local leadership. We focus on forest landscapes where biodiversity is high, risks are urgent, and local leadership can drive lasting change.

2,217,578 hectares of forest conserved

Partnering with **24 civil society organisations** alongside **Indigenous Peoples** and **Forest-dependent Communities**.

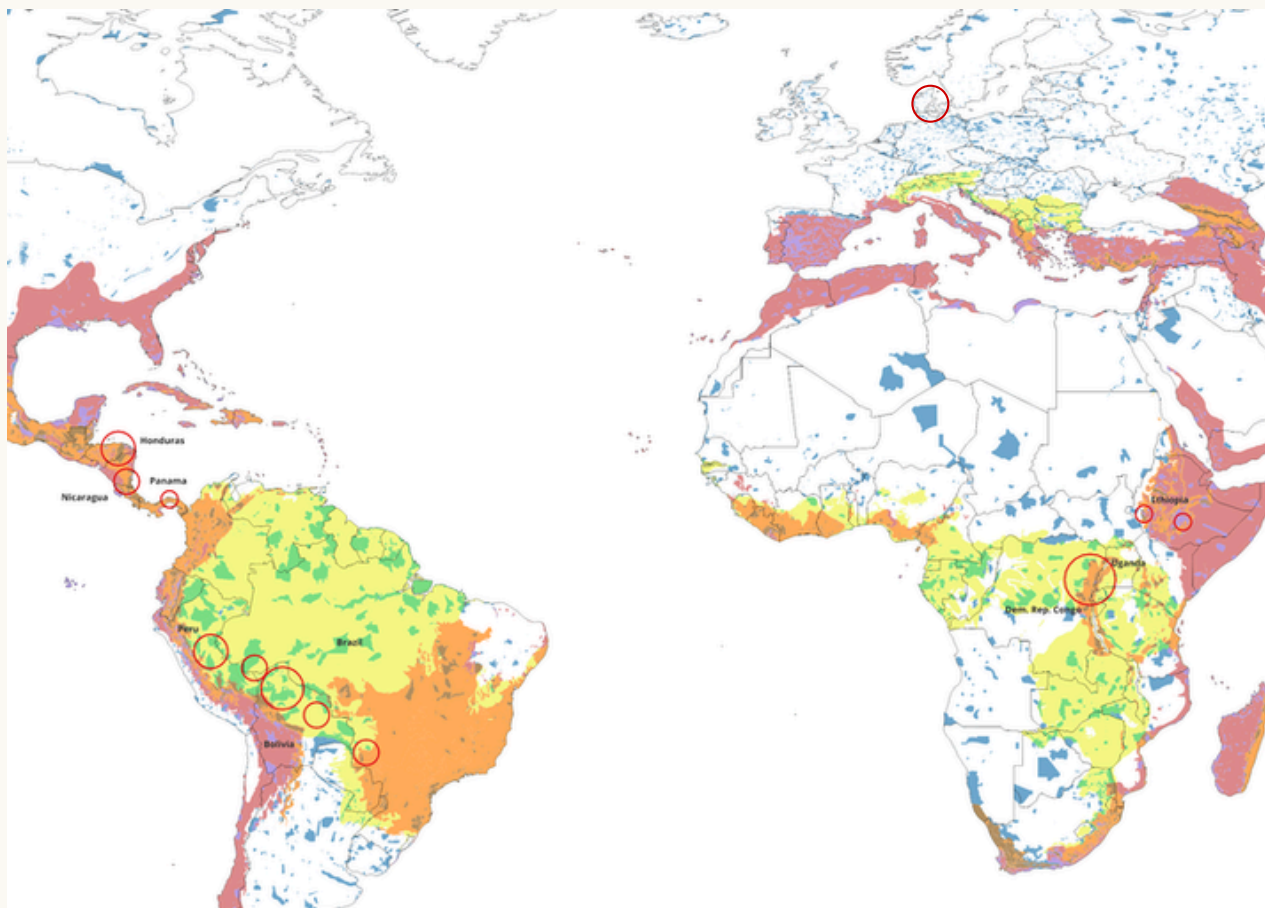
+65,000 people engaged in forest action including **41 volunteers** and **6,382 members**.

We work in **10 countries**: Ethiopia, DRC, Uganda, Bolivia, Brasil, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Nicaragua & Denmark

Across **18 forest landscapes**, we supported conservation, restoration, and community-led forest management.

Where We work

We focus on forest landscapes where biodiversity is high, forest loss is accelerating, and local leadership can drive lasting change. These hotspots, across East Africa, Latin America, and Central America, are places where protecting forests also means defending rights, strengthening livelihoods, and supporting local stewardship.



This map combines three global biodiversity layers: Biodiversity Hotspots, Key Biodiversity Areas, and Species Richness. Sources: Conservation International (Biodiversity Hotspots) and BirdLife International (Key Biodiversity Areas), accessed via Global Forest Watch; IUCN Red List of Threatened Species v2025-2 (Species Richness), accessed via IUCN Red List.

Where we work

Central America

In 2025, shrinking civic space and increasing pressure on land and natural resources posed serious risks to both forests and communities but also underscored the importance of strengthening rights and local leadership.

In Nicaragua, new laws declared borderlands and protected areas state property, putting Indigenous Peoples and local communities at risk of losing their land as mining and cattle ranching expand. At the same time, press freedom has nearly disappeared, and the country has withdrawn from key international bodies. Strengthening rights remains key to protecting both people and forests.

In Honduras, offshore oil exploration continues to raise serious concerns for Indigenous Peoples in La Moskitia. Miskitu, Garífuna, Creole and Pech communities report gaps in prior consultation and limited access to information. Decisions about energy development risk moving forward without full respect for land, sea, and self-determination rights, making rights-based dialogue critical to ensuring more just and sustainable outcomes.

What this shows: Forests stand stronger when the people who depend on them can defend their rights.





Where we work

South America

In 2025, Indigenous communities in South America continued strengthening their role as forest stewards in the face of growing environmental pressures, showing how local leadership drives lasting change.

In Bolivia, Indigenous Chiquitano communities in Monte Verde strengthened their rights and capacity to protect their territory following devastating forest fires. Through community monitoring, volunteer fire brigades, and stronger governance, they are working to secure legal recognition, meaningful consultation, and coordinated action against illegal land invasions, mining, and deforestation.

In Brazil, forest conservation was advanced through the Baru initiative in the Cerrado. By supporting sustainable harvesting and strengthening the value chain through Danida Green Business Partnerships, the initiative links biodiversity protection with income for local families. In partnership with Nøddebazaren, the initiative is creating new market opportunities for responsibly sourced baru nuts, connecting forest conservation with consumers in Denmark. Forests stand stronger when the people who protect them can defend their rights.

What this shows: Forests thrive when people do, and when decisions are made in their favour.

Where we work

East Africa

In 2025, local communities in Uganda and Ethiopia strengthened their role as forest stewards through improved governance, forest monitoring, and sustainable livelihoods, demonstrating how local action can reduce pressure on forests.

In Uganda, communities continued defending their rights and managing forests through Collaborative Forest Management agreements. Strengthened local organisations, monitoring systems, and advocacy networks contributed to reduced illegal activities and greater community engagement in protecting forest landscapes.

In Ethiopia and Uganda, agroforestry initiatives supported farmers in building more resilient livelihoods. By strengthening producer organisations and improving access to markets for products such as coffee, cocoa, and vanilla, the interventions linked income generation with sustainable land use, reducing pressure on surrounding forests. [Read more >>](#)

What this shows: Real change takes time. Lasting change grows from strong local leadership.





Where we work

Denmark

In 2025, Forests of the World worked to connect global forest advocacy with public engagement and policy change in Denmark.

At COP30 in Belém, in the heart of the Amazon, Forest of the World brought the voices and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples into global discussions on forests, biodiversity, and climate finance. Together with partners, we worked to ensure that commitments to halt deforestation translate into real action while highlighting the global responsibility behind forest loss, including the impact of European consumption, and the role of collective action in driving change.

In Denmark, we mobilised public support for wilder forests through our campaign “Reclaim the Forest”. More than 5,900 people signed our petition calling for Denmark’s new forests to prioritise biodiversity over timber production. Through advocacy, public debate, and engagement with decision-makers, we contributed to shaping policies on protected forests, nature national parks, and upcoming biodiversity legislation.

What this shows: Forest conservation depends on us all. From global commitments to national policy and public engagement.

From Strategy to Action

Our approach is built on three core solutions and two enabling forces that together create lasting impact:

Legitimate Governance & Responsible Management

We support forest governance systems that are inclusive, accountable, and recognised as legitimate by local communities.

Strong governance is one of the most effective tools to prevent deforestation.

In 2025, we:

- Strengthened community-led forest monitoring
- Supported inclusive land-use planning
- Restored ecological corridors
- Built capacity in fire prevention and watershed protection

Sustainable Livelihoods

Deforestation is often driven by economic pressure. We supported forest-positive livelihoods that make standing forests more valuable than cleared land.

When people thrive with forests, forests thrive with them.

In 2025, we:

- Promoted agroforestry systems
- Strengthened producer organisations
- Supported sustainable forest-based enterprises
- Facilitated responsible market access

Rights for Forests & Peoples

Forest conservation depends on rights being recognised, respected, and enforced.

When rights are upheld, forests stand. When they are ignored, forests are lost.

In 2025, we:

- Supported territorial rights processes
- Provided legal assistance
- Promoted Free, Prior and Informed Consent
- Strengthened civil society advocacy



Why Indigenous and Local Leadership Matters

Indigenous territories contain some of the world's most biodiverse and best-preserved forests. Supporting Indigenous governance is not only a matter of rights, it is one of the most effective strategies for addressing climate change and biodiversity loss.

Forest-dependent communities play a vital role in managing landscapes sustainably. When their rights, knowledge, and leadership are recognised, forests are more likely to thrive.

Our role is not to lead but to support, strengthen, and stand alongside those who already do.

What Makes Change Last

Empowering Partnerships

We act as facilitators, not implementers. Our partnerships are built on trust, local leadership, and shared accountability.

- Strengthened local organisations
- Invested in long-term collaboration
- Connected local actors to global decision-making spaces

Engaging People

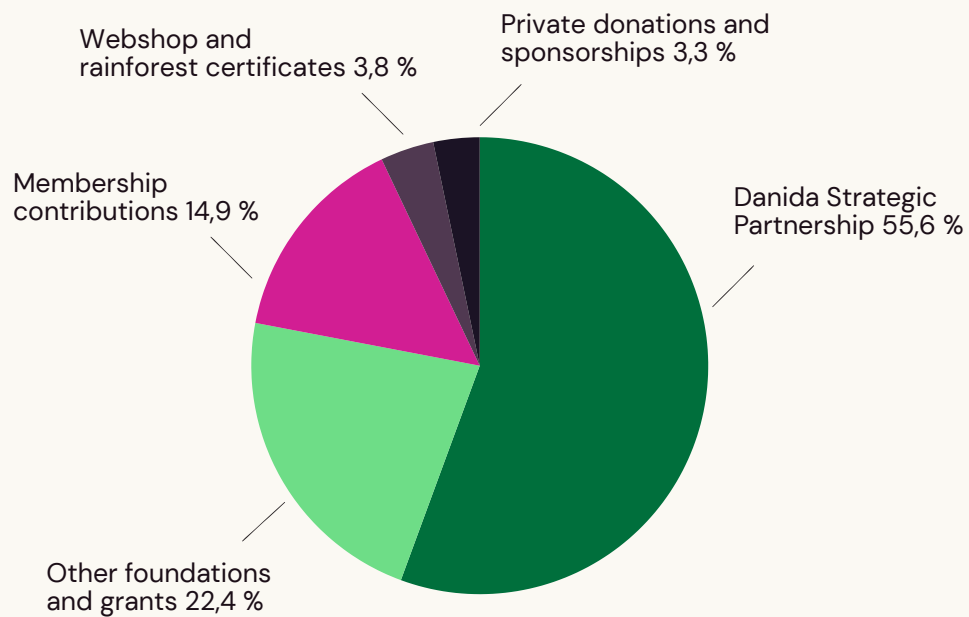
Forest conservation depends on collective action. In Denmark and globally, we:

- Mobilised members and supporters
- Engaged youth and volunteers
- Advocated for policy change
- Created platforms for meaningful action

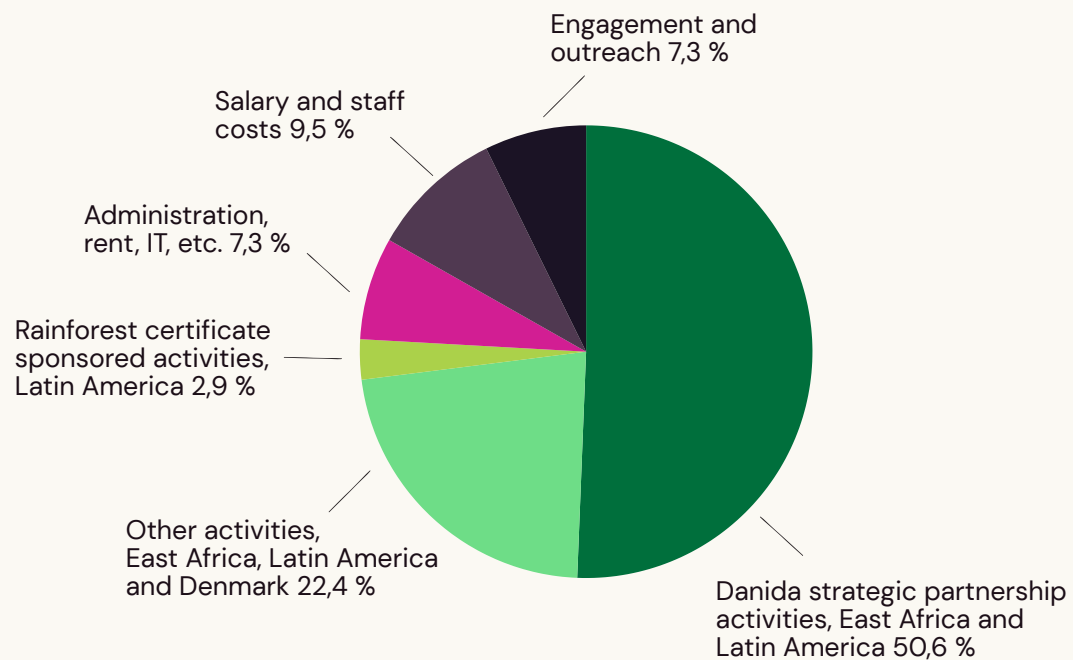


OUR FUNDING IN 2025

How we are funded



How we use our funding



Thank you

15. Juni Fonden
 92-gruppen
 Aage V. Jensens Naturfond
 AFA Decaux
 AgUnity
 Alliancen for en biodiversitetslov
 APCOB
 Biophonia
 CEJIS (Centro de estudios Jurídicos e Investigación Social)
 Climate and Land Use Alliance
 CEPPEC (Centro de Produção Pesquisa e Capacitação do Cerrado)
 Consortium for Climate Change Ethiopia (CCC-E)
 Danida (Danish international development agency)
 Danmarks Vilde Natur
 IMR (Det Danske Institut for Menneskerettigheder)
 ECOA (Ecologia e Ação)
 Erik Kauffeldts Fond
 EWNRA (Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resource Association)
 Europeanævnnet
 European Climate Foundation
 Farm Africa
 Fern (Making Europe Work for People and Forests)
 Ford Foundation
 FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)
 Fundación Geoversity
 Ganefryd
 Globalt Fokus
 GreenSpeak
 Guaruma
 IDAMHO (Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de Honduras)
 JESE (Joint Effort to Save the Environment)
 Lebensbaum
 MOPAWI (Mosquitia Pawisa Agency for the Development of the Honduras Mosquitia)
 More4nature (Horizon program of the European Union)
 NABU (The Nature And Biodiversity Conservation Union)
 Nøddebazaren
 Oak Foundation
 Re:Wild
 Social Vanilla
 Solidarity Uganda
 Stenbroens Træpleje og Anlæg
 Sv. Michelsen Chokolade
 Tarratex Textiles
 Torben & Alice Frimodts Fond
 Ungdomsbureauet, Verdensmål i Hænderne
 Vejle Kommune
 WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society)
 Comité por la Libre Expresión
 Etisk Handel Danmark
 Højskolen for Naturdannelse
 Lærlinge for Bæredygtighed
 Roskilde Tekniske Skole
 Maker
 Madeclear
 Holdet bag Naturens dirigenter
 Dyrenes Beskyttelse
 Gads Forlag
 Fonden af 16. oktober 2018
 AfPEC (Aarhus Universitet)
 ØNSK
 Ivaldi
 Berthu & Co



Read more about
our impact

Forests of the World
Head Office
VOX, Lyngbyvej 100
2100 Copenhagen
Denmark

+45 86 13 52 32