

Press Release

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UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE COP 16 / CP-MOP 11 / NP-MOP 5 CALI, COLOMBIA, 21 OCTOBER - 1 NOVEMBER 2024

Victoria, Malaysia – Accelerating responsible forest management across the tropical world

[The Alliance for Responsible Forest Management \(ARFM\)](#) is pleased to announce that we have received accreditation to the upcoming UNCBD COP 16. Coordinated by the [The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership](#), ARFM shall participate in a joint initiative consisting of the [Business for Nature](#), [Business for Social Responsibility](#), [The B Team](#), [Capitals Coalition](#), [The Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership](#), [One Planet Business for Biodiversity](#), [The Science Based Targets Network](#), [The Sustainable Markets Initiative](#), [Textile Exchange](#), [The Union for Ethical Biobased](#), [The World Business Council for Sustainable Development](#), [We Mean Business Coalition](#) and [The World Economic Forum](#).

Global trends indicate natural tropical forests are decreasing, with deforestation, degradation and land-use change amongst the leading causes. Unplanned or uncontrolled timber extraction and logging causes most global forest degradation, followed by fuelwood collection and charcoal production, uncontrolled fire, and livestock grazing. Global market pressures, dietary preferences, and inefficiencies along agricultural value chains drive demand for agricultural and forest products, which drive deforestation and degradation. New approaches to address deforestation and degradation are needed, including improving education in the forest industry, at pace and scale. The creation of a coordinated and integrated educational approach with modular training components addressing the entire forest management cycle can render a long-term contribution to resolve gaps in awareness, best management practices, implementation, improved knowledge and capacity across the tropical world, including at the community level and addressing gender and racial/ethnic balance in forest education and the workforce.

The ARFM invites interested organisations to get in touch with us to arrange discussions on improving capacity development in forestry and environmental stewardship across the tropical south.



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Call to Action

- Promote the implementation of regional-specific best practice material utilising over 30 years of peer-reviewed research and applied knowledge in tropical forest management.
- Foster holistic, continuous, and responsible forest management on the ground by capturing proven, localised best practice approaches for all types and scales of commercial forestry.
- Provide forestry education to the public, civil, private and community sectors, which includes multidisciplinary topics and holistic management of forests, including sustainable yield, silviculture, forest restoration and conservation, community forestry and rights-based approaches, and forest management at the landscape level.
- Support continuing education and extension training to practitioners, certification bodies, auditors, government agencies, civil society, private sector and community forest organisations, including upper management and Directorship.
- Nurture stakeholder engagement and partnerships through the dissemination of information, facilitating networking and fostering collaborative action amongst stakeholders and communities.
- Support international Conventions, Agreements, and commitments through education and training, including the recent decisions at COP 26 to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and safeguard biological diversity in tropical forests, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreed in late 2022 under the Convention for Biodiversity.

Strengthening through Continuous Education

- Strengthening knowledge, education and awareness programmes to promote a better understanding of the relationships between forests, environmental sustainability, governance, and human needs.
- Partnerships and collaborations between education and research centres, governments, NGOs, private sector, international organisations and communities to promote and implement responsible forestry practices effectively.
- Development and implementation of innovative technologies can help improve the efficiency and responsibility of forest management practices.
- Effective policies and regulations to promote responsible practices, corporate governance, environmental services, legality and certification programmes and deforestation-free commodities.
- Collaboration with local and indigenous forest communities to regulate property rights, implement responsible practices and ensure benefits are shared equitably.



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About:

The ARFM fosters holistic, continuous, and responsible forest management on the ground by capturing proven, localised best practice approaches for all types and scales of commercial forestry. We provide forestry education to the private, civil, public and community sectors, applying multidisciplinary topics and holistic management, including sustainable yield, silviculture, forest restoration and conservation, community forestry and rights-based approaches, and forest management at the landscape level. We support continuing education and extension training, including upper management and Directorship, to address local challenges and opportunities linked with current global environmental degradation issues and climate change challenges. We nurture stakeholder engagement and partnerships through the dissemination of information, facilitating networking and fostering collaborative action amongst stakeholders and communities. We support international Conventions, Agreements, and commitments through education and training, including COP 26 to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and safeguard biological diversity, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework under the UNCBD.

End of Press Release



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