



FORESTS

Why forests matter

Contribution to global GHG mitigation

- If properly managed, forest and land-use sector can transform from emission sources to carbon sinks
- Forests provide cost-effective options for carbon removal that can be deployed at scale

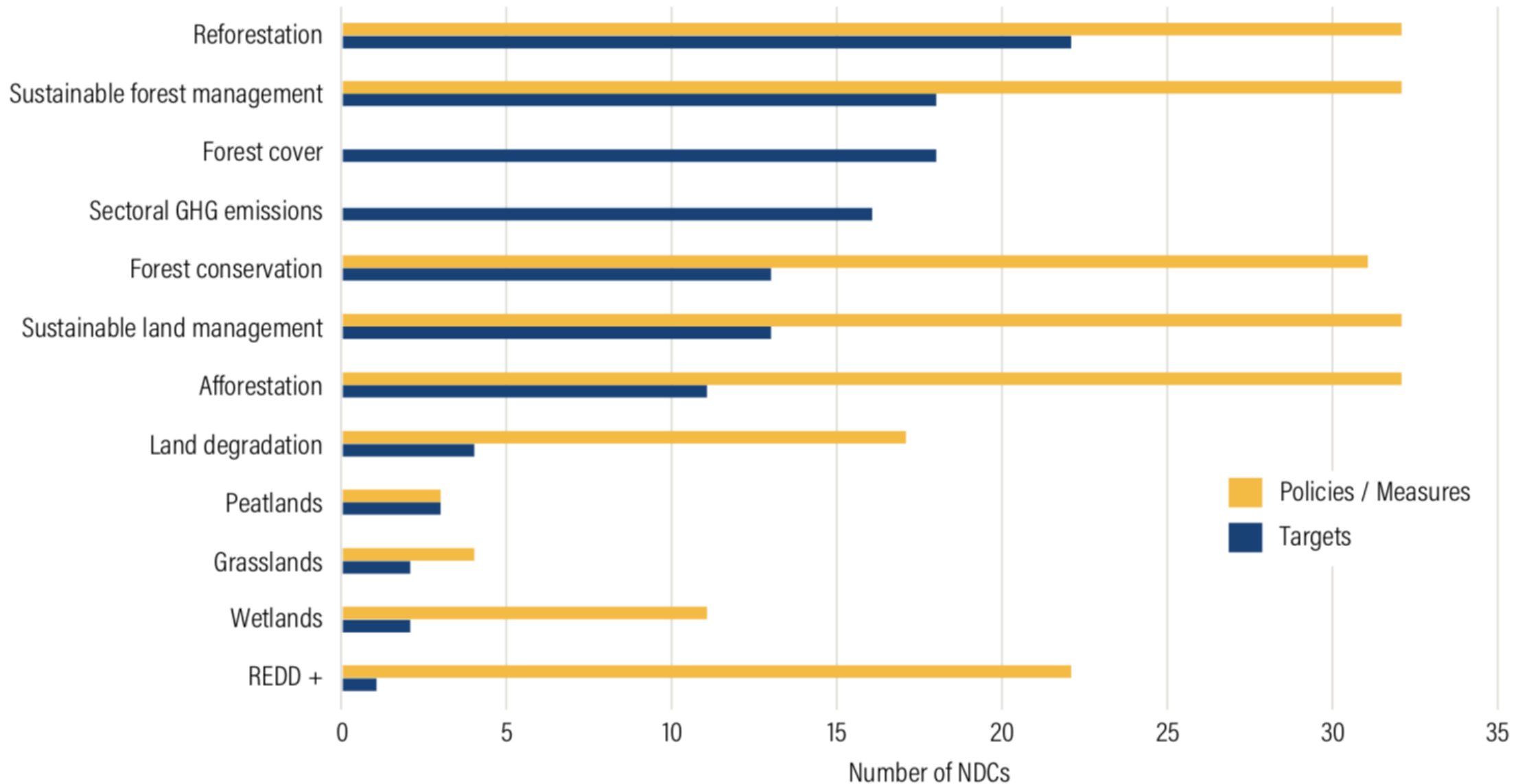
Contribution to adaptation

- Forests can help countries and communities adapt to climate change through their ecosystem services
- Forests can mitigate impacts of floods, droughts, heat waves, tidal surges, etc. worsening under climate change

Benefits to local communities

- Forest-based solutions offer local communities a range of benefits directly linked with many SDGs, such as ending poverty (SDG1), achieving food security (SDG2), and ensuring water availability (SDG6)

Forests in the current NDCs



Key opportunities in forests



Reducing deforestation and forest degradation, particularly conserving primary forests, offers significant low-cost mitigation opportunities along with adaptation and sustainable development benefits.



Reforestation and restoration offer the biggest GHG mitigation potential in the sector with up to 10 Gt CO₂e per year globally by 2030.



Mangroves and peatland forests are carbon-rich forests that can store 2-3 times more carbon per area than upland forests but have attracted less attention in current NDCs.

Strengthening forest sector commitments

- Strengthen or add an economy-wide GHG target to reflect more ambitious abatement options in the forest and land-use sector
- Strengthen or add an ambitious GHG target for the forest and land-use sector; for example,
 - tons of CO₂e net emissions reduction from forest and land-use sector relative to base year
 - tons of CO₂e removal through reforestation of a set number of hectares
- Expand the scope of targets to include additional forest types (e.g., mangroves and peatlands), type of solutions (e.g. agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems) and/or geographical areas
- Strengthen or add non-GHG targets addressing the forest and land-use sector; for example,
 - Total area under legal protection, sustainable forest management or land tenure for indigenous people
 - Reduction in total area of deforestation
 - Total area to be reforested or afforested
- Strengthen or add key policies and actions that underpin GHG and non-GHG targets