

Deforestation continues because companies aren't trying

Alex Armstrong

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To: Alex Armstrong <alex@mightyearth.org>

Hi -

A [new assessment](#) just released by Climate Focus has found that an area of tree cover the size of the United Kingdom was lost every year between 2014 and 2018. The assessment suggests that achieving the 2020 New York Declaration on Forests targets is now likely impossible. In response to the new report, **Mighty Earth CEO Glenn Hurowitz** released the following statement:

"Forests are burning in large measure because the big companies that committed to save them are not actually trying to do so. Companies like Ahold Delhaize, McDonald's, and Mars are, despite all their pledges, continuing to do business on a vast scale with the very companies most responsible for this deforestation, such as Cargill and JBS. Not only are these companies directly financing deforestation, they have repeatedly lobbied governments to stop basic environmental protections. Nobody doing business with Cargill and JBS can credibly say they are concerned about deforestation.

"The tragedy of these findings is that they also demonstrate that success is possible. Companies can achieve dramatic progress when they actually make an effort. These same companies have largely, though imperfectly, enforced their no deforestation policies in the palm oil industry, and the results on the ground show it: deforestation for palm oil has declined from 1 million acres a year to 200,000 acres per year. This is, of course, still 200,000 acres of deforestation too many, but it also shows real progress is possible."

Glenn is available for interviews or follow-up questions.

Additional resources:

- [The Companies Behind the Burning of the Amazon](#)
- [Cargill: The Worst Company in the World](#)
- [Chocolate's Dark Secret](#)
- [Photo/Video Assets: Cargill facilities, deforestation photos, recent protests](#)

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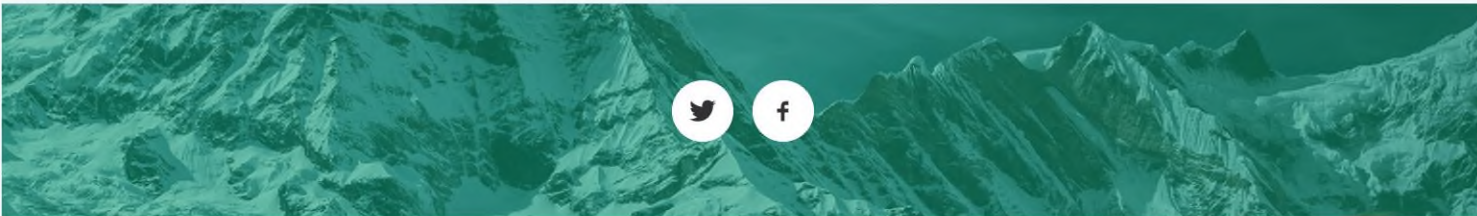
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