



FACTSHEET

APRIL 2026

Copyright Credit © Philippe T. / WWF

WHY THE TFFF MATTERS NOW

Tropical forests are globally critical – but finance for keeping them standing remains far below what is needed. The Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) offers an innovative, immediately deployable opportunity to unlock unprecedented levels of forest finance for countries with tropical forests. Swift engagement now will enable countries to benefit from significant future payouts and reinforce their leadership in global forest stewardship.

The TFFF could be a game changer for national governments' capacity to maintain and recover their forest cover. Under the TFFF, countries are rewarded based on the amount of eligible forest they maintain, with a target payment rate of US \$4 for every hectare that remains standing. So, for example, a country with 100 million hectares of standing forest could receive up to US \$400 million each year, which, in some countries, would be larger than the environment ministry's annual budget. Unlike grants, these are sovereign, flexible, non-reimbursable payments made directly to national treasuries (with a minimum of 20% channelled directly to Indigenous Peoples and local communities).

WHY THE TFFF IS RELEVANT FOR SURINAME

Suriname's tropical forests are a strategic national asset – for economic and climate stability, biodiversity, livelihoods, and long-term development. The TFFF offers the prospect of predictable, long-term sovereign finance for the continued existence of Suriname's forests.

By turning standing forests into a durable fiscal asset, the TFFF will help maintain forest cover while simultaneously helping the economy and development.

The TFFF rewards continued protection, not only avoided future loss. This corrects a long-standing imbalance in forest finance for high-forest, low-deforestation countries.

Participation in the TFFF preserves national sovereignty. Countries retain discretion over how payments are used, within agreed safeguards, including a minimum share directed to Indigenous Peoples and local communities — allowing funds to align with national priorities, institutions, and cultural contexts.

Early engagement with the TFFF would help Suriname secure sustained forest finance, lead in global forest stewardship, and shape key operational choices as the TFFF moves toward implementation.

THE SIZE OF THE PRIZE: POTENTIAL PAYOUTS FOR SURINAME

Suriname holds 13.4-13.5 million hectares of eligible standing tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forest. At the TFFF's indicative base rate of US \$4 per hectare and projected discounts (see below), this translates into a potential annual payment of approximately US \$42-46 million.¹

For comparison, potential TFFF payments are large relative to existing international forest finance. For example, average annual bilateral overseas development assistance (ODA) to support biodiversity objectives in Suriname is about US \$2 million per year.²

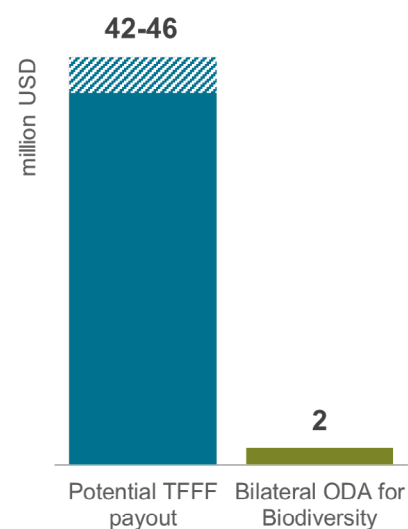
Across all eligible countries, TFFF payments could roughly double or triple the current global volume of international non-reimbursable finance for forests.³ In this context, it is the expected total payout at the national level – not the per-hectare rate – that makes the incentive meaningful.

THE TFFF: WHAT IT IS AND HOW IT WORKS

The TFFF is a global, permanent mechanism that will provide annual payments to countries for maintaining standing tropical forests. Its structure is like an endowment: sponsor government capital helps mobilize additional private investment; assets are invested in diversified portfolios; and returns fund payments to eligible countries. Once fully capitalized at US \$125 billion, the TFFF is expected to generate US \$3–4 billion in forest payments per year.⁴

Payments are based on verified hectares of standing tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forest at year-end, at a base rate of ~US \$4 per hectare. Payments will be reduced based on performance: each hectare deforested reduces payments by the equivalent of 100 or 200 hectares (depending on the annual deforestation rate), and degradation deductions apply using fire scars as a proxy (each degraded hectare counts as 35 hectares). Yet even in years of poor performance, countries will never face repayment obligations; funds flow only in one direction and are spent by countries at their discretion. If performance deductions apply or eligibility criteria are not met, payments are reduced accordingly or suspended rather than clawed back. Verification of country performance relies on satellite monitoring; countries can use their own systems (if these meet agreed standards) or third-party systems.

POTENTIAL ANNUAL PAYMENTS FROM THE TFFF VS. BILATERAL “BIODIVERSITY” ODA FOR SURINAME



¹ Figures are calculated using data from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) on Tropical Moist Forests (TMF) for forest cover and loss, and MODIS data on burned areas. Forest cover loss was calculated from 2021-2024. The estimates assume payouts of US \$4 per hectare, which would require (near) full capitalization of the TFFF at US \$125 billion. Eligibility criteria from Concept 3.1 are used to calculate potential payout, with simplified deductions applied (the requirement for declining year-on-year deforestation is not applied). All figures are indicative and illustrative, not guarantees. Final payments depend on country eligibility, verified forest cover, annual performance, and the performance of the TFFF's investment portfolio. Figures using tree cover or forest data from other sources, just as Global Forest Watch (GFW), may differ due to methodological differences.

² 2023-2024 average annual bilateral ODA flow for Biodiversity (Rio Marker 100/40). In many countries, ODA budgets are currently being downsized, affecting flows to some tropical forest countries. The TFFF, on the other hand, provides predictable and stable long-term finance.

³ Estimate from TFFF Concept note 3.1. <https://tfff.earth/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/TFFF-Concept-Note-3.1.pdf>

⁴ However, with an anticipated US \$10 billion in sovereign investments by the end of 2026, the financial model can become operational, generating returns and payouts for tropical forest countries ahead of 2030.

HOW TFFF COMPLEMENTS EXISTING FOREST FINANCE

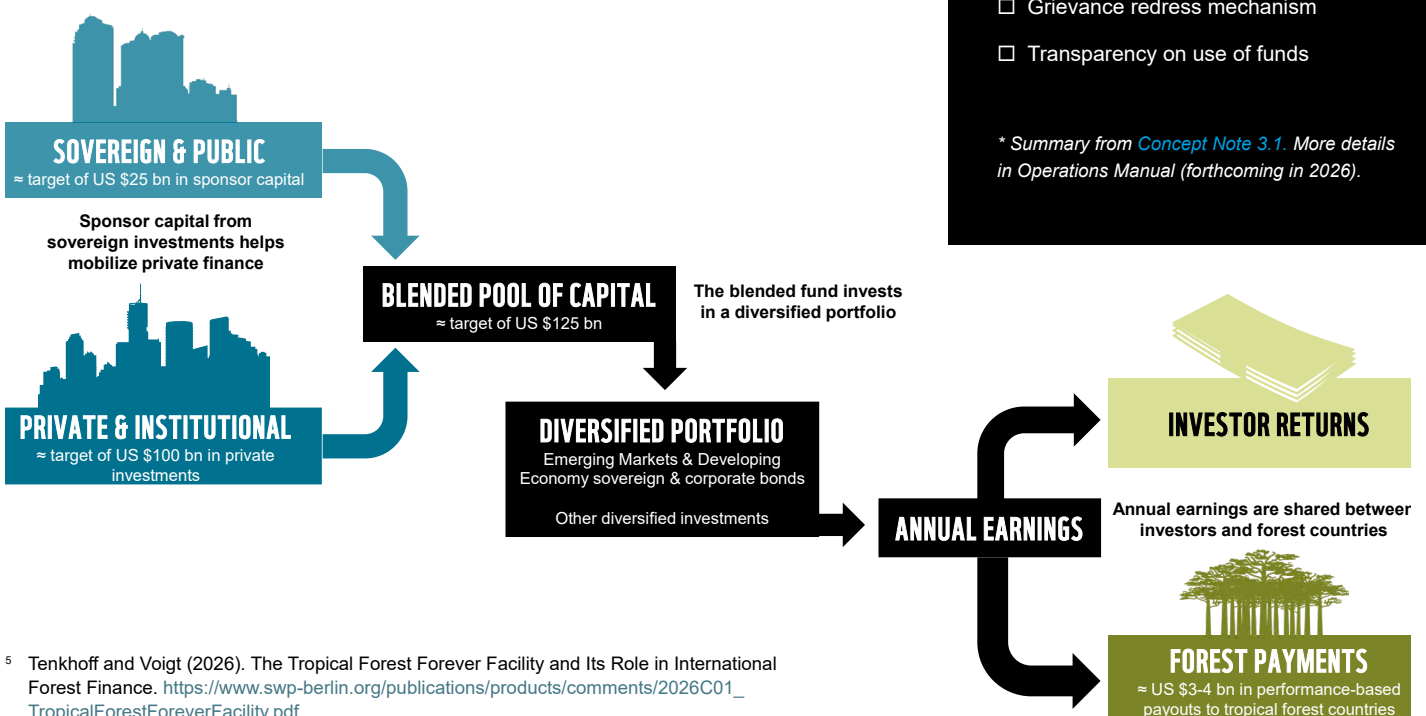
The TFFF does not replace or compete with REDD+, bilateral grants, or other forest finance. It fills a different slot: long-term, area-based payments for standing forest, independent of carbon markets.⁵

The complementarity is intentional: REDD+ rewards avoided emissions (tCO₂e); the TFFF rewards standing forest. Because the metrics differ, both mechanisms can support the same country without double-counting or double-payment.⁶ As deforestation falls and REDD+ payments decline commensurately, the TFFF can provide more permanent funding to sustain conservation.

The TFFF also sits alongside existing national, bilateral, and regional mechanisms already active in Suriname (e.g., results-based partnerships, GEF programmes, and any REDD+ architecture). The TFFF adds a layer of sovereign, predictable, long-term revenue tied to the entire national forest estate.

HOW THE TFFF TURNS CAPITAL INVESTMENTS INTO FOREST PAYMENTS

Note: Illustrative structure based on TFFF Concept Note 3.1



ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements are straightforward and must be met when the money is distributed by the Facility. If there are gaps, countries can submit time-bound action plans to close them. Endorsement is voluntary, phased, and country-led.

Requirements include:

- ☐ Tropical or sub-tropical moist forest extent; deforestation rates must be less than 0.5% (3-yr avg., declining)
- ☐ Transparent and reliable forest monitoring (national or third party)
- ☐ Public financial management (to receive and allocate funds)
- ☐ Dedicated governance structures and direct finance pathway established for channelling ≥20% to Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- ☐ Forest Payment plan in place with payments supplementing, not substituting, existing public forest spending
- ☐ Grievance redress mechanism
- ☐ Transparency on use of funds

* Summary from [Concept Note 3.1](#). More details in *Operations Manual* (forthcoming in 2026).

⁵ Tenkhoff and Voigt (2026). The Tropical Forest Forever Facility and Its Role in International Forest Finance. https://www.swp-berlin.org/publications/products/comments/2026C01_TropicalForestForeverFacility.pdf

⁶ Aquino and Espejo (2025). Financing Forests: Complementarities Between TFFF and Jurisdictional REDD+. https://www.ecosystemmarketplace.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/TFFF-REDD-Complementarities_VFinal_16-September.pdf

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Misconception	Response
"This is an Amazon-only fund"	74+ tropical forest countries across three basins are potentially eligible.
"This is just another REDD+ mechanism"	TFFF and REDD+ track different metrics (hectares vs. tCO ₂ e) and cover different activities. There is no double-counting – they are designed to complement each other.
"Countries with low deforestation won't benefit"	Low deforestation countries stand to benefit the most (minimal deductions). The TFFF's design corrects past under-rewarding of high-forest, low-deforestation countries.
"Paying US \$4/ha can't stop deforestation"	Yes, US \$4/ha does not change farm-level economics. It can, however, change incentives at the sovereign level. A government risks losing significant annual sovereign payouts if deforestation increases.
"This is paying for forests that would have survived anyway"	This is by design: broad coverage creates a fiscal stake large enough to influence government decisions.
"This competes with bilateral donors or other forest funding"	TFFF capital comes from a different pool of funding: one-time sovereign investments and financial markets, not annual ODA/bilateral grants. This means there is no competition for the same money.

ACCESSING THE TFFF AFTER ENDORSEMENT

Endorsing the TFFF carries no binding commitment and no financial obligation – it opens a structured dialogue.

Support is available. The TFFF Country Access Platform (being developed by UNDP, WWF and partners) will provide eligibility diagnostics, technical assistance, and matchmaking with technical partners, building on existing readiness investments (e.g., GEF and bilateral support).

WWF stands ready to support governments in assessing eligibility, identifying gaps and direct support, and connecting countries with the right partners – with country ownership central throughout and no obligation to proceed beyond endorsement.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

For countries with significant forest assets, the TFFF offers something that has been largely absent from the global forest finance landscape: a permanent, predictable, sovereign-level fiscal incentive for forest stewardship.

Participation is flexible, technical support is available, and payments complement existing efforts.

Early engagement in 2026 gives Suriname the opportunity to shape how the TFFF is operationalized, ensure national priorities are reflected in access pathways and governance arrangements, and position itself to receive payments as the fund becomes fully operational.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

together possible. panda.org

WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.

WWF, 28 rue Mauverney, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111

CH-550.0.128.920-7