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1t.org US Chapter Reporting Framework Guide

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California: Photo courtesy of Max Forster.

Overview of Pledge Accountability

1t.org US Chapter aims to connect, empower, and mobilize a national reforestation community, unleashing their potential to act at an unprecedented scale and speed, to conserve, restore, and grow one trillion trees globally within this decade. **We acknowledge the importance of matching this ambition with accountability that is both consistent and transparent.**

Over the first three years of the 1t.org US Chapter, we have seen tremendous support for forests and trees from U.S. leaders across all sectors. The Chapter has always been committed to tracking progress on pledged activities. In consultation with our pledgers and global restoration experts, we developed a reporting framework that can fully capture the complexity of the pledges with rigor and accountability without being administratively burdensome. We are now asking you to report on the first three years of pledge activities.

Moving forward, each corporation, nonprofit, and government registering a pledge with the US Chapter will be required to submit an annual report covering the prior year's activities. The report will capture the implementation of actions over the prior year, quantify outputs and outcomes, and detail new partners and enhanced areas of focus.

Background on 1t.org and the US Chapter Reporting Structures

1t.org Pledge Implementation Tracking

1t.org was launched by the World Economic Forum in 2020. In 2022, 1t.org globally piloted a survey to track the implementation of private sector multinational pledges. You can [review the 2022 1t.org Pledge Implementation Tracking reports here.](#)

The survey was developed in partnership between 1t.org and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to adapt the [Restoration Barometer](#) for private sector reporting. Pledges registered with both the US and global platforms will continue to use the 1t.org Pledge Implementation Tracking form. You can learn more about the outcomes of this process in a [World Economic Forum blog *How companies are turning forest restoration commitments into action.*](#)



Photo courtesy of the World Economic Forum.



Photo courtesy of 1t.org US / Rayon Richards.

1t.org US Chapter Reporting Framework

Launched in August 2020 as the first regional chapter of 1t.org, the US Chapter is co-led by American Forests and the World Economic Forum. It serves as a multi-stakeholder platform — engaging public, private and civil sectors. To foster cross-sectoral leadership, the US Chapter accepts pledges from U.S. governments, companies, and nonprofits.

The 1t.org US Chapter Secretariat has developed a dedicated 1t.org US Chapter Reporting Framework. The U.S. region-specific framework draws inspiration from the global 1t.org Pledge Implementation Tracking

developed by 1t.org and the IUCN intended for use by relevant multi-national companies. While aligning closely with the global survey, the U.S. framework features slight deviations due to sector and size diversity.

The primary goal of the US Chapter's reporting initiative is to gather comparable data while accommodating the diverse scales of pledged activities. This modification ensures a concise representation of the collective impact generated by the reforestation community within the United States.



Photo courtesy of American Forests / Brittany Washington.



1t.org US Reporting Framework

Our aim is to ensure that the reporting process is both succinct and efficient, drawing on readily accessible information and aligning with emerging reporting and accounting frameworks. The progress reports will provide a concise overview of accomplishments, enabling stakeholders and the wider community to grasp the progress achieved thus far. This will encompass insights into lessons learned and potential avenues for future collaboration.

Within the reporting structure, you will share the fundamental data of your entity's pledge from 2020 to 2022. The *Pledge Ambition* section will serve as the public representation of your pledge, telling your story to the broader audience. This section allows you to narrate your entity's activities in your own words. Under *Pledge Implementation*, we will inquire about specifics such as the number of trees or hectares, along with metrics concerning supporting action activities.

The global goal to conserve, restore and grow one trillion trees by 2030 for people, biodiversity, and planet has many benefits. The *Pledge Indicators* section of the reporting structure captures additional details on the actions and impact of the pledge. Our intention is to summarize the impact of the 1t.org US platform by leveraging established frameworks to allow for convenient data comparison, so this section draws inspiration from the IUCN Restoration Barometer.

We acknowledge that the 1t.org US Chapter pledge reporting framework may not be perfect and there may be areas of improvement in future years. The 1t.org US Secretariat is firmly committed to collaboration and welcomes your feedback on the process as you navigate through the reporting procedure.

1 Pledge Ambition

Tell the story of your entity's pledge and commitment.

2 Pledge Implementation

Provide the data on the actions taken to implement the pledge.

3 Pledge Indicators

Report on *two* indicators of your choosing.

1t.org US Chapter Pledge Report Summary Chart

1 Pledge Ambition

This section will collect **general information and a narrative summary** of your entity's activities. The summary should capture your entity's commitment to contribute to the global goal to conserve, restore and grow one trillion trees by 2030. This section of the report is required for all pledges. We estimate this section to take no more than 20 minutes to complete.

2 Pledge Implementation

(provide data depending your entity's pledge type)

Conserve	Restore	Grow	Supporting Action
Land area under permanent conservation and estimated # of trees conserved .	Land area under restoration and estimated # of trees restored .	# of trees planted and ongoing management activities.	Description of enabling action activities to restoration.

3 Pledge Indicators

(pick two from the following list)

ACTION	Policies	➤ Protocols, internal strategies, or policies for enabling pledged restoration activities
	Funding	➤ Financial support invested for pledged restoration activities
	Monitoring	➤ Restoration monitoring tools and systems utilized
IMPACT	People	➤ Social benefits such as jobs generated/supported or grassroots impact
	Biodiversity	➤ Ecological benefits that support native species or conservation areas
	Planet	➤ Climate benefits and carbon sequestration



1t.org US Summit, 2023. Photo courtesy of 1t.org US and American Forests / Rayon Richards.

The following pages of the report guide will provide you with a comprehensive, step-by-step walkthrough of the full reporting framework. It is important to note that not all sections may align with your specific pledge. This guide is strategically designed to help you navigate through the recommended and required sections. Moreover, the reporting framework affords you the flexibility to select and report on data that is pertinent to your pledge.

If any questions arise, you can [contact the U.S. Chapter Secretariat](mailto:1t@americanforests.org) for assistance at 1t@americanforests.org.

1. Pledge Ambition

Effective storytelling is the cornerstone of building impactful movements. Your narrative matters to us – share the story behind your pledge activities, articulate your organization’s commitment, and underscore the significance of your contribution toward the trillion tree goal.

The ‘Pledge Ambition’ section of the report is **required** for all pledges. We estimate this section to take no more than 20 minutes to complete.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- Describe your progress to date [300 words]**
 - This is your opportunity to craft the narrative of your contribution to the trillion tree goal. Please describe your progress over the reporting period. You should highlight your main achievements and learnings to date, including any relevant key figures or metrics, and challenges/lessons learned.
 - This narrative will be shared publicly and included in the 1t.org US Summary Report.
- All pledges should report on the first three years of progress (January 2020 - December 2022).** *Please indicate if your data does not cover this period.*
- Are you on track to meet your pledge goal?** (This will not be shared publicly. This will provide insight for the 1t.org US Secretariat to assess the overall progress of the community)
 - Yes, we are fully on track.
 - Yes, we are somewhat on track.
 - No, we are not on track.
 - We have insufficient information to assess whether we are on track.

2. Pledge Implementation

This portion of the report provides an opportunity for you to submit the data associated with the implementation of your pledge. The sections you are required to report on depend on the activities your entity committed to with their pledge. There are four categories of pledge implementation.

Based on your pledge, you will fill in the corresponding sections. You may be reporting on more than one activity if your entity's pledge encompasses a variety of strategies. Assuming the data is readily available, we estimate this portion of the report to take approximately 20 minutes per an activity.



Pledge Activities



Conserve

Protecting and maintaining existing, healthy forests and forest landscapes through **permanent conservation**.



Restore

Reforestation by planting trees on land that has been degraded or where trees are unlikely to regenerate naturally, or **assisted natural regeneration** such as removing invasive vegetation.



Grow

Planting and *supporting to maturity* trees in non-forest landscapes such as **urban tree planting**.



Supporting Actions

Actions that enable trees and forest landscapes, such as nursery development, technology tools, technical assistance, markets and financial innovation, and workforce development.



Durango, CO. 2021. Photo courtesy of Jason Houston / American Forests.

Conserve

If your entity has made a conservation pledge, then you should report on the total hectares conserved to-date and the estimated number of trees on the conserved land. We acknowledge that conservation projects do not always progress linearly, and it is possible you have not yet ensured permanent conservation for the landscape your entity is targeting. If this is the case and you do not have any data for your progress report, please complete the narrative portion.

The data you share in this section will not be publicly attributed to your entity. We will aggregate the data for a cumulative 1t.org US platform report. We ask you to report as transparently and accurately as possible to help inform the full implementation impact of the 1t.org US community.

Conservation Pledge Reporting Questions:

- How is your conservation pledge being implemented? [Select all that apply]
 - Conservation through your entity's direct efforts
 - Financial support to the following initiatives and/or on-the-ground conservation partners: [Please list]
 - Other (e.g. technical support, technology solutions): [Please describe]

- Which ecosystem type(s) are you conserving? [Select all that apply]
 - Forest and woodlands
 - Urban areas
 - Coasts and mangroves
 - Other: _____

Conservation Pledge Reporting Questions (continued)

Permanent conservation is defined as securing a forest through acquisition or legal agreement to avoid planned or unplanned deforestation or degradation, and/or ensuring permanent conservation of land.

- Within this reporting period (2020-2023), has your entity conserved forest or tree landscapes?
 - Yes, we have ensured permanent conservation of land.
 - Not yet, our conservation activities are still in progress.

- If you selected yes to the question above, respond to the following:
 - How many hectares are under conservation? [Enter number]

 - What is the level of confidence in the number of hectares conserved above?
 - High confidence:** Spatially explicit records, considered complete and accurate.
 - Moderate confidence:** Spatially explicit records considered moderately complete, or planting records considered mostly accurate.
 - Low confidence:** Sources that do not meet the above confidence levels.

 - What is your estimate of number of trees conserved for the area of land under conservation? [Enter number]

 - Describe your estimate methodologies and means of verification, if any. [200 words]

 - Where did the activities reported take place? [Select from country/state list]

- If you selected no to the question above, respond to the following:
 - Please provide a brief description of your progress to date, expected timeline, and planned geographic location. [200 words]

- If applicable, please provide additional details, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information. [200 words]

Note: If you have links to geospatial data, please provide information under “Action Indicator: Monitoring” in the pledge indicator section.



Paradise and Concow region, CA, 2020. Photo courtesy of Austin Rempel / American Forests.

Restore

If your entity has made a restoration pledge, then you should report on the total hectares restored to date and the estimated number of trees on the restored land. The data you share in this section will not be publicly attributed to your entity. We will aggregate the data for a cumulative 1t.org US platform report. We ask you to report as transparently and accurately as possible to help inform the full implementation impact of the 1t.org US community.

Restoration Pledge Reporting Questions:

- How is your restoration pledge being implemented? [Select all that apply]
 - On-the-ground restoration through your own operations.
 - Financial support to the following initiatives and/or on-the-ground restoration partners: [Please list]
 - Other (e.g. technical support, technology solutions): [Please describe]

- What types of restoration interventions have you undertaken? [Select all that apply]
 - Reforestation** - Planting and/or deliberate seeding of trees on land that has been degraded or where trees are unlikely to regenerate naturally
 - Mangrove restoration** - Establishment or enhancement of mangroves along coastal areas and in estuaries
 - Assisted natural regeneration** - Actions that support natural regeneration without tree planting, such as Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration, forest soil remediation, exotic species control, disease prevention, and wildfire protection
 - Watershed protection and erosion control** - Establishment and enhancement of forests on very steep sloping land, along water courses, in areas that naturally flood and around critical water bodies
 - Agroforestry** - Activities that establish and manage the integration of trees into agricultural landscapes, silvopastoral systems, farming in forests and along forest margins and tree-crop production
 - Other restoration activities** [Please specify]

Restoration Pledge Reporting Questions (continued)

- Were any of the reforestation interventions required by law (such as replanting after harvest in states where this is a legal requirement)? [Yes/No]
- How many hectares are under restoration? [Enter number]
- What is the level of confidence in the number of hectares restored above?
 - High confidence:** Spatially explicit records, considered complete and accurate.
 - Moderate confidence:** Spatially explicit records considered moderately complete, or planting records considered mostly accurate.
 - Low confidence:** Sources that do not meet the above confidence levels.
- What is your estimate of number of trees restored for the area of land under restoration? [Enter number]
- Describe your estimate methodologies and means of verification, if any. [200 words]
- Where did the activities reported take place? [Select from country/state list]
- If applicable, please provide additional details, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information. [200 words]

Note: If you have links to geospatial data, please provide information under “Action Indicator: Monitoring” in the pledge indicator section.



Houston, TX. 2023. Photo courtesy of Trulove Studios / American Forests.

Grow

This pledged category is primarily for urban planning in cities or other developed areas. For a grow pledge, you should report on the total trees planted and where the planting occurred. The data you share in this section will not be publicly attributed to your entity. We will aggregate the data for a cumulative 1t.org US platform report. We ask you to report as transparently and accurately as possible to help inform the full implementation impact of the 1t.org US community.

Grow Pledge Reporting Questions:

- How is your grow pledge being implemented? [Select all that apply]
 - On-the-ground planting through your own operations.
 - Financial support to the following initiatives and/or on-the-ground planting partners: [Please list]
 - Other (e.g. technical support, technology solutions): [Please describe]
- How many trees were planted? [Enter number]
- What is the level of confidence in the number of trees planted above?
 - High confidence:** Spatially explicit records, considered complete and accurate.
 - Moderate confidence:** Spatially explicit records considered moderately complete, or planting records considered mostly accurate.
 - Low confidence:** Sources that do not meet the above confidence levels.
- Describe your ongoing monitoring and care plan for the trees planted, if any. [200 words]
- Where did the activities reported take place? [Select from state/city list]
- If applicable, please provide additional details, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information. [200 words]

Supporting Actions

For reforestation to be done more effectively, efficiently, and at larger scales, we need to create the enabling conditions through various supporting actions. This section allows reporting on the work your entity has undertaken outside of the traditional tree count goal.

Supporting actions could be hard to quantify, so this category will not generate a specific tree count toward the trillion tree goal. Listed below are the supporting actions on the pledge form. Your entity should report on each action that you pledged with a brief description describing your progress to date.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- ❑ Please provide a brief description of each supporting action activity that is part of your pledge commitment. Your summary should include any relevant metrics or lessons learned [100 words each].
- **Sustainable Forestry** - Actions, such as forest certification, that ensure U.S. forests will remain under sustainable management.
- **Avoided Deforestation** - Actions by people in the U.S. and overseas, such as the responsible sourcing of forest projects.
- **Nursery and Seedling Development** - Establish tree nurseries to grow seedlings, and other related activities like seed collection.
- **Data and Technological Tools** - Create data, applications and decision support tools that support the work of many different entities leading 1t.org US activities.
- **Science and Technical Assistance** - Research projects, workshops, and other activities that help all 1t.org US stakeholders to deliver scientifically rigorous work on the ground.
- **Tree Protection through Management** - Forestry actions that will reduce loss of newly planted and existing trees from disease, invasive pests and vegetation, and other sources of tree mortality.
- **Forest Product Markets and Innovation** - Activities that create strong economic incentives for forestland ownership through forest products, such as adoption of mass timber, and therefore create incentive and capacity for landowners to keep forests as forests.
- **Workforce Development** - Activities that help train and build a strong forest workforce that can conduct 1t.org US activities.
- **Environmental Education** - Support for the development of and/or existing educational programs focused on conservation and environmental knowledge, environmental literacy, stewardship, and problem-solving skills for communities and youth.
- **Conservation Finance** - Activities that create opportunities for private capital to support conservation, restoration, and growth activities.
- **Other** - We welcome your support in identifying other actions to support the mission to conserve, restore and grow one trillion trees.

3. Pledge Indicators

We have structured the indicator section by drawing upon established frameworks, notably the IUCN Restoration Barometer, to facilitate straightforward data comparison. This section comprises six segments within the report, each designed to gather data enabling us to assess the actions undertaken by pledge entities and the overall impact we are generating through the 1t.org US platform. Given the varying sizes and types of pledges within the US Chapter, we have designed this section to be adaptable to ensure comprehensive data collection.

In total, there are six indicators available for reporting, and we request that you **select the two indicators that are most pertinent to your specific pledge**. This allows us to focus on the aspects that are most relevant to your commitment within the diverse landscape of pledges in the US Chapter. You may select any combination of two indicators out of the six options.

ACTION INDICATORS	
Policies	➤ Protocols, internal strategies, or policies for enabling pledged restoration activities
Funding	➤ Financial support invested for pledged restoration activities
Monitoring	➤ Restoration monitoring tools and systems utilized

IMPACT INDICATORS	
People	➤ Social benefits such as jobs generated/supported or grassroots impact
Biodiversity	➤ Ecological benefits that support native species or conservation areas
Planet	➤ Climate benefits and carbon sequestration

Action Indicator: Policies

An important first step of the pledge process is developing a roadmap to implementation through policies or procedures that can translate ambition into action. This indicator will inform the 1t.org US Secretariat on how entities are backing their pledge by institutionalizing protocols that support and protect forests and trees. This can include city-level environmental policies or corporate guidelines to guide business practices. We hope by collecting this information, we can share best practices and create pledge-to-pledge learning opportunities.

To provide information for this indicator, entities should report on a minimum of one policy they have implemented within the specified time frame, with the option to report on up to ten such policies.

Examples:

- Corporate procurement policies that prevent deforestation.
- State policies that are supporting the protection of forested areas or the growth of new trees.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- ☑ What policies and strategies are in place to enable, incentivise or implement conservation or restoration?
 - 📄 Please list up to ten relevant policies, and describe how the policy or strategy has enabled or incentivised restoration implementation. [200 words per each policy]
- ☑ If applicable, please provide relevant citations, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information.

Action Indicator: Funding

This indicator will allow us to assess the financial investment of the 1t.org US platform in restoration activities. Please report on the amount *spent* on restoration during the reporting period. If your entity has committed a total sum amount over the decade, only report on what has been spent to-date rather than the promised amount.

If you do not have an exact dollar amount to quantify your investment into your pledged activities, you can submit an estimate and indicate it as low confidence.

Examples:

- ▶ Urban or rural tree planting by local governments.
- ▶ Philanthropic donations to implementation entities.
- ▶ Impact investments and blended capital.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- How much financial support have you spent on your pledged activities? [Amount in USD]
 - What is your level of confidence in the amount reported above?
 - High confidence:** Figures sourced from entity's records, considered complete and accurate.
 - Moderate confidence:** Estimates from records considered moderately complete and mostly accurate.
 - Low confidence:** Estimates that do not meet the above confidence levels.
- How was the financial support used? [Select all that apply.]
 - Financing of implementing partner(s)
 - Carbon finance (including for insetting and/or offsetting)
 - Purchases of inputs (e.g., seeds or saplings)
 - Development or purchase of planning or monitoring tools
 - Capacity building (e.g., awareness or training activities)
 - Donation of materials or technology
 - Policy or technical expertise
 - Staff-time
 - Other: _____
- Describe how the provided financial support contributed toward the development of your pledge activities. [200 words]
- If applicable, please provide relevant citations, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information.

Action Indicator: Monitoring

Measuring and tracking progress is critical to the success of restoration at scale. This section asks for more details on what types of monitoring systems you have put in place to track the implementation of your pledged activities.

If your pledged activities are either conservation or restoration, we encourage you to share how you are monitoring the activities in this section. This will help to inform geospatial reporting requirements that may be implemented in future reporting cycles. We plan to summarize and disseminate some of the best practices from the information shared in this section.

Examples:

- Geospatial monitoring tools such as Restor, Collect Earth, or Trends.Earth.
- Collection of annual reports from funded implementing entities.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- ☑ What monitoring tools, systems, or databases have you used to track your restoration interventions? Please list all relevant monitoring tools and systems. [Enter tool name]
- ☑ Which of the following metrics do systems in the previous question help monitor? Select all that apply.
 - Financial flows to activities
 - Restoration intervention progress
 - Land cover change
 - Land area under restoration
 - People (Social benefits)
 - Biodiversity (Ecological benefits)
 - Planet (Climate benefits)
 - Other: _____
- ☑ Describe how the monitoring tools and systems used have contributed to the tracking of your restoration interventions, including, if available, the expected monitoring period. [200 words]
- ☑ If applicable, please provide relevant citations, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information.

Impact Indicator: People

People and communities are critical to engage in restoration work. There are many benefits to the trillion tree goal, one of which is supporting livelihoods for local communities whether at home or abroad. Many pledges have a workforce component and can use this indicator to quantify that impact.

This indicator provides space to report on the economic benefits to your pledged activities, and direct engagement with mobilizing people.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- What is the number of jobs generated or supported (FTE or working days) in the reporting period? Please disaggregate by job type (new, existing).
- What is the nature of jobs generated or supported? Select all that apply.
 - Seasonal / occasional / casual
 - Long-term
- Which stakeholders have benefited from these jobs? [Select all that apply]
 - Company staff
 - Indigenous peoples and/or local communities
 - Government officials
 - Other:
- How would you classify this data?
 - High confidence:** Estimates come from a credible source (i.e. public records, official documentation or correspondence with donors/implementers) and are considered mostly complete and accurate.
 - Moderate confidence:** Estimates come from a credible source (i.e. public records, official documentation or correspondence with donors/implementers) and are considered partially complete and accurate as some jobs created are likely to have been missed or incorrectly accounted for.
 - Low confidence:** None of the above
- Describe the actions taken to improve the local socio-economic benefits of your restoration interventions. [200 words]
- If applicable, please provide relevant citations, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information.

Impact Indicator: Biodiversity

Forest restoration and conservation are critical to addressing the biodiversity crisis. For this indicator, you can report on the ways your pledged activities benefit biodiversity and nature.

This can include protecting habitats for vulnerable species, the creation of corridors for wildlife, or supporting a *Key Biodiversity Area*.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- What biodiversity impacts have been achieved over the reporting period? [Select all that apply]
 - Preserving or restoring native, threatened, and/or climate-resilient species.
 - Avoiding invasive species.
 - Expanding conservation areas
 - Other: _____
- Describe the methods used to estimate biodiversity impacts from your restoration interventions. [200 words]
- If applicable, please provide relevant citations, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information.

Impact Indicator: Planet

Although nature-based solutions are not going to solve the climate crisis on their own, they can help to mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration. Restoration is one of several nature-based solutions that could provide one-third of the climate mitigation needed this decade to help preserve planetary health.

The climate indicator allows you to report on the carbon sequestration benefits of your entity's pledge. In specific situations, it may be necessary to decrease carbon levels within a forested region to stabilize the existing carbon for long term. If this scenario aligns with your initiatives, you may share this pertinent information in the narrative option within this indicator section.

Pledge Reporting Questions:

- What is the estimated cumulative CO₂e sequestered/reduced over the reporting period? [Enter number]
 - High confidence:** CO₂e sequestration that uses 'high confidence' hectare estimates or tree counts, with removal factors based on published models, peer-reviewed national or sub-nationally specific estimates, that are based on repeated measurements or modelling of the landscape in question.
 - Moderate confidence:** CO₂e sequestration that use a 'high or moderate confidence' hectare estimate or tree count with removal factors that have moderate confidence in accuracy like a nationally or regionally specific estimate supported by documentation and sourced.
 - Low confidence:** Sources that do not meet the above confidence levels.
- Which system did you use to estimate this data? [Please specify]
- If applicable, please provide relevant citations, sources, or hyperlinks to published reports or websites with further information.

Resources

Counting One Trillion Trees: 1t.org Methodology for Use by U.S. Chapter. (2020, June). 1t.org US Chapter. https://us.1t.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/1t.org-US-Chapter_1-TT-Methodology_June-2020.pdf

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