

# Endorsing Entities and Statements of Support

As of 31 March 2021

## Countries

- Republic of Colombia
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Republic of Ghana
- The Netherlands
- Switzerland
- Togolese Republic
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Republic of Zambia

## State Governments

- Edo State Government, Nigeria

## Companies

- Barry Callebaut
- ECOM Agrottrade Limited
- Javara
- Mars Incorporated
- Nestlé
- Olam Cocoa
- SYSTEMIQ
- The Touton Group
- Unilever
- Yara International
- Zurich International

## International Financial and Knowledge Institutions

- Blended Finance Taskforce
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- The Climate Investment Funds

## Non-Governmental Organisations, Associations and Coalitions

- Abibiman Foundation
- Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative
- The African Climate Foundation
- Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)
- Association des Femmes Peules et Peuples Autochtones du Tchad (AFPAT)
- Association of International Research and Development Centres for Agriculture (AIRCA)
- Centre for International Forestry Research-World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF)
- Christian Aid
- Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network
- ClimateWorks Foundation

- Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)
- West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research (CORAF)
- EAT Foundation
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation
- The Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPRAN)
- Food Foundation
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA)
- Food and Land Use Coalition (FOLU)
- Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Global Resilience Partnership
- Global Water Partnership
- Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)
- IDH The Sustainable Trade Initiative
- Indonesian Farmers Society Organization (IFSO)
- The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)
- International Land and Forest Tenure Facility
- IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Planetary Health Alliance (PHA)
- Rainforest Alliance
- Resilience Shift
- The Rights and Resources Institute
- Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)
- Swedish International Agriculture Network Initiative (SIANI)
- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)
- Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA)
- 2030 Water Resources Group
- World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)
- World Cocoa Foundation (WCF)
- World Economic Forum (WEF)
- World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF)

# Statements of Support

Additional supporting statements from endorsing entities will be added on a rolling basis.

## Countries



The **Republic of Ghana** acknowledges the need to increase food security in line with the anticipated increase in global population. At the same time, we are mindful of its negative impacts on our forest resources and ecosystems if not approached carefully. Accordingly, Ghana commits to the JRT Vision Statement and pledges to participate fully with the UK and other Governments to ensure that its objectives are achieved. We acknowledge the cross-cutting nature of the Principles of the Initiative and we will endeavour to use existing national platforms to coordinate efforts across key stakeholders to meet our commitments. The Ministry of Land and Natural Resources is currently implementing programmes and strategies aimed at addressing some of the key principles of the initiative. These include the Modified Taungya Farming System, Collaborative/Participatory Resource Management through the CREMA concept, Innovative Reforms in Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Regimes, and Integrated Land-use planning to incorporate REDD+ in Local Level Development Planning. Ghana is ready to share lessons learned and emerging success stories and to consider up-scaling some of these strategies under the JRT Initiative.



En cohérence avec le plan national de développement (PND 2018 – 2022), le **gouvernement togolais** est résolument engagé dans une dynamique de transformation structurelle de son secteur agricole et aussi du monde rural. Au plus haut niveau de l'Etat, les directives sont données pour la promotion d'un développement inclusif et partagé, basé sur une valorisation durable des ressources naturelles. Ainsi, des mesures et actions, convergentes vers les objectifs de "Just rural transition" sont en cours sur le plan national. Entre autres initiatives, un projet d'aménagement et de valorisation de 500 000 hectares, avec des modes de production durables et innovantes de maîtrise de l'eau, associés à des dispositifs de conservation, de transformation et de distribution est initié. De même, une démarche structurante de conversion à l'agriculture biologique d'ici 2030 vient renforcer les actions préalablement enclenchées pour la promotion de la transition écologique, notamment de l'agroécologie. JRT est donc en pleine cohérence avec la vision nationale pour le développement agricole et rural au Togo dans le domaine de la promotion des chaînes de valeurs agricoles, la mise à disposition de solutions durables performantes et accessibles aux utilisateurs telles que la micro-irrigation et la digitalisation. Nous appelons donc à une collaboration entre les différentes parties prenantes de JRT pour une atteinte des objectifs communs visés.



The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**. Feeding 9bn people by 2030, while halting the degradation of nature, will be one of the defining challenges of our generation. A transformation is needed in the way we use land, protect nature and

produce food. The Just Rural Transition aims to address this challenge and the UK will commit £9.6m to support this initiative over the coming three years. The funding will be used to support reforms to the public policies which influence how we use land; and to mobilise private investment into sustainable land use and nature-based solutions. The UK will share lessons from the reform of domestic of agricultural support and the transition to a new Environmental Land Management Scheme, which rewards land managers for the provision of environmental public goods; and build on the experience of successful programmes and initiatives like Partnerships for Forests and the Tropical Forest Alliance, to scale-up private investment into sustainable land use.



**Switzerland** recognizes the global need to transition towards more sustainable food systems. Redesigning and re-purposing public support to the food and agriculture sector are key components of any roadmap to make this transition happen. As a supporter of the Just Rural Transition initiative, Switzerland is ready to share lessons learned and good practices related to its agricultural policy. In addition, Switzerland introduced recently a constitutional article on food security that emphasizes the need for efficient use and conservation of natural resources in relation to the production and the consumption of food. At international level, Switzerland will share valuable insight from multi-stakeholder partnerships in which it plays an active role, such as the One Planet (10YFP) Sustainable Food Systems Programme and the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, and promote collaboration between such platforms and Just Rural Transition.

## State Governments



The **Edo State Government of Nigeria** has identified the challenges of food insecurity, food quality and the effect of climate change from unsustainable agricultural practices and is pleased to endorse the Just Rural Transition Vision Statement. The State's Agriculture and Food Security Programmes seek to address food insecurity and the quality of food produced for our ever-growing population. The State Government recently carried out a holistic mapping of the State Forest Reserve to support sustainable land use planning. We have also initiated several agricultural initiatives for commercial (mechanized) agricultural production, de-risking the risk factors across the value-chain. The State is also at the final stage of creating a Forestry Commission and an afforestation policy to close the forest frontier in our Forest Reserves. Edo State is a partner of Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) and we have inaugurated the Africa Palm Oil Initiative (TFA2020 APOI) platform in the State. We look forward to implementing the principles of the Just Rural Transition to protect and promote people, planet and prosperity.

## Companies



[Barry Callebaut](#) will support the Just Rural Transition vision and delivery through its plan, Forever Chocolate, to make sustainable chocolate the norm by 2025. By 2025, we aim to lift over 500,000 cocoa farmers out of poverty, eradicate child labour from our supply chain, become carbon and forest positive and source 100% sustainable ingredients in our products. This is why we were one of the first signatories of the Cocoa and Forests Initiative, a multi-stakeholder action plan to end cocoa induced deforestation in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. By joining the JRT, we want to further contribute to building the movement of governments, NGOs and industry to support smallholder farmers and drive a sustainable chocolate supply chain which generates a sustainable income for farmers, protects biodiversity and produces the best tasting chocolate.



[ECOM Agrotrade Limited](#) will work with partners to deliver on the Just Rural Transition vision through our programs and networks. As one of the world's leading cocoa merchants, ECOM Agrotrade Limited has a long-standing commitment to cocoa origins, including in Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana. ECOM has built strong relationships with many cocoa producers and their communities through our networks and programs. Under the Cocoa & Forests Initiative, we have committed, along with the governments of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana and the world's leading cocoa and chocolate companies, to end deforestation and promote forest restoration and protection in the cocoa supply chain. We recognize the potential impact that climate change may have on cocoa productivity and the importance of mitigating it in cocoa growing areas. Accordingly, ECOM supports innovation and research to build resilience among cocoa producers. We embrace the five core principles of the JRT and look forward to working in collaboration towards achieving the JRT vision.



At [Javara](#) we have proven that rural community should not be only targeted as the market/consumers at the bottom of pyramid. Instead, they are the horsepower for the rural economy itself. Through rural entrepreneurship supports, rural communities can produce winning products and services derived from the local food biodiversity unique to their region, and earn their livelihood in the most dignified way, being the master of their own fate. We support the JRT initiative, as any countries can address inequality on welfare if only an orchestrated effort to promote just rural transition is put as the heart of the approach. We are happy to share our business model at Javara Indonesia as well as at Seniman Pangan, school of rural entrepreneurship.



[Mars Incorporated](#) is pleased to endorse the Just Rural Transition vision, recognizing that rural communities are the champions of sustainable economic growth. Mars is already working to advance the JRT through our business practices in a myriad of ways, including adopting science-based targets to cut our greenhouse gas emissions, halt unsustainable water use, and freeze our land

footprint throughout our full value chain. We are integrating sustainability and deforestation-prevention into our procurement processes for key ingredients, such as cocoa and palm oil. We seek to build resilience through our investments in data collection and traceability (for example through our commitment to map our entire cocoa supply chain) and in improving smallholder farmer incomes through the Farmer Income Lab and Livelihoods Fund for Family Farmers. We also recognize the critical role that investing in human rights and social inclusion plays in these efforts.



As the world's largest food and beverage company, [Nestlé](#) will contribute to the transformation of the food system by creating foods produced within our planetary boundaries. Deploying its global resources and industry know-how, Nestlé will make a difference at significant scale. Nestlé commits to achieve zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To this end, it will launch more products that have a better environmental footprint and contribute to a balanced diet; scale up initiatives in its agricultural supply chains to absorb more carbon through natural climate solutions; and by using 100% renewable electricity in its factories, warehouses, logistics and offices. Nestlé will do so by continuing to collaborate with its suppliers, industry peers, civil society and other stakeholders to drive collective action as well as to advocate for government policies that ensure all sectors move faster towards adopting the 1.5°C target.



By 2030, based on our respective capabilities and circumstances, **Olam Cocoa** commits to doing our part to transform the way in which we produce and consume food, and use our land and natural resources. We endorse the JRT vision and will support the initiative in a way which enhances resilient livelihoods and jobs in the rural economy; encourages sustainable food production; promotes good stewardship of land, forests and natural resources; and the protection and restoration of critical ecosystems, rewarding people for the actions they take to protect the environment.



[SYSTEMIQ](#) stands ready to help companies, governments, NGOs and communities that endorse the Just Rural Transition. The company was created in 2016 to drive achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement by transforming three systems: land use, materials and energy. We will advance the Just Rural Transition through our work convening coalitions to collectively raise ambition, shape policy and share knowledge; incubating market solutions to drive impact on the ground and transform business models; and catalysing external funds and our own capital to build more resilient landscapes and livelihoods. Existing projects that are aligned to the Just Rural Transition include our partnership with the Food & Land Use Coalition; support to UK and overseas governments on safeguarding some of the world's most biodiverse environments – from Indonesian peatland forest to the Zambian woodlands and plains; and our work with agribusinesses to integrate sustainable practices that deliver profit, mitigate risk and improve sustainability for those in their supply chains.



[The Touton Group](#) endorses and will actively support the Just Rural Transition vision to transform agri-commodity value chains. Touton commits to accelerating its efforts to increase smallholder farmers' social, economic and environmental resilience. This includes promoting climate smart agriculture, good forest stewardship and the set-up of governance structures to address social and environmental challenges in cocoa, coffee and ingredient sourcing communities. Touton is also investing in innovation and digital tools to support its sustainability ambition, to drive impact and to better respond to farmers' needs. The Group seeks to build and to engage in more inclusive partnerships, and to create more value for all supply-chain actors. By endorsing the JRT, the group aims to go the extra mile in delivering quality services and products to its stakeholders, from farmer to customer.



[Unilever](#) welcomes the launch of the Just Rural Transition Vision Statement. We are working to realise this vision through our approaches to [sustainable sourcing](#), protecting [forests and other natural capital](#), and [transforming global food systems](#). We look forward to working with other members of this movement to find new ways to accelerate progress. Success can only be delivered through partnership approaches that scale action on the ground, supported by the right enabling policy frameworks.



[Yara International](#) serves farmers across the world in building resilience through knowledge, products and services. A global force of 500 million smallholder farmers – with the potential to increase market surplus by 3 to 4 times – could be the key to achieving a world without hunger. Today, many smallholder farmers are food insecure, pursuing highly vulnerable livelihoods. They are chronically exposed to systemic problems in food systems. At the same time, it remains challenging for any company or organization alone to absorb all risks in the pursuit of scale and sustainable change for smallholder farming. Yara endorses the JRT Vision and advocates a collaborative approach across the food system, catalyzing partnerships and holistic action by diverse stakeholders, each with their own specialist skills, to address sections of the value chain, keeping the smallholders in focus.

## International Financial and Knowledge Institutions



The [Blended Finance Taskforce](#) will support its partners from the development finance, investor and philanthropic community who endorse the JRT to mobilise private and public capital for resilient rural and coastal landscapes and sustainable supply chains. Through its ecosystem-building function, thought leadership, informal deal platform and diverse network, the Taskforce commits to support financial innovation to accelerate the transition to a more climate-resilient, inclusive food and land use economy and tackle inefficient capital allocation in

current systems. Building from the findings of “Better Finance, Better Food: Financing the New Food and Land Use Economy”, the Taskforce will look to broker new partnerships between producers, processors, consumers, development and commercial banks, institutional investors, incubators and catalytic philanthropy. It also commits to help these stakeholders to identify solutions to major risks and inefficiencies across value chains that are currently deterring investment, especially in emerging markets.



The \$8 billion [Climate Investment Funds \(CIF\)](#) stands ready to develop programs with others who endorse the Just rural Transition to deliver on the vision. CIF is one of the largest multilateral climate funds in the world, accelerating the transition to a low-carbon and resilient future across 72 developing countries, in line with the JRT. Since 2009, CIF has partnered with development, business, government, and local organizations to mobilize \$53 billion in support of renewable energy development, more resilient communities, and healthier forests. Globally, this financing is supporting over 36 million hectares of sustainable forests and the climate resilience of 45 million people. In early 2020, CIF Trust Fund Committees will consider a proposal to establish a Sustainable Landscapes Program which would utilize CIF’s unique multi-MDB business model to inject scaled concessional capital into integrated landscape solutions that improve the conditions of rural communities and conserve the natural capital that underpins their livelihoods.



The [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#) wishes to express its endorsement of the vision articulated in the Just Rural Transition (JRT) and is committed to translating it from vision to reality. Progress in eliminating world hunger needs to be reinforced and scaled up. The challenges presented by climate change require urgent action. Natural resources must be conserved, used and managed sustainably. By establishing an ambitious common vision, bringing a diverse range of stakeholders together, and defining concrete principles of engagement, the JRT represents a promising means to kick start a renewed push to eliminate hunger and promote rural transformation in a sustainable, inclusive way. IFAD’s new Rural Resilience Programme (2RP) aimed at alleviating the climate change drivers of food insecurity, irregular migration and land degradation is fully aligned with JRT’s vision and can leverage the policy and investment space created through JRT to fulfil the shared objectives. We welcome the leadership of the UK Government around the Just Rural Transition and join these efforts to foster inclusive and sustainable rural development.

## Non-Governmental Organisations, Associations, and Coalitions



[Abibiman Foundation](#) endorses the Just Rural Transition and commits to collaborate in engaging and empowering citizens on development issues at a grassroots level; promote understanding of the dynamics of sustainable development across environmental, social, economic and political dimensions; highlight the impacts of policies and practices on sustainable development and on standards of living. We will also work to develop advocacy-based campaigns and projects for grassroots mobilization on issues of the SDGs, Climate Change, Land, Agriculture, Food, Energy, Biodiversity and Environment; provide training for youth associations, women groups and farmers in sustainable farming methods, high value agricultural processing and alternative livelihood empowerment training; and engage with government and its bodies on policy influencing and advocacy and programming and decision making as the grassroots representation of communities which are directly or indirectly affected by these policy actions and interventions.



[Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative](#) (AAA Initiative) believe a mutually beneficial partnership can be developed to reach more African countries and by targeting concrete projects (CSAIP's) that will contribute to the achievement of common objectives: Prioritize investment to help local communities and vulnerable populations build resilience and mobilize capital and knowledge and Align food production, national food guidelines, agriculture and the use of land, forests and water with sustainable development and climate objectives. The CSAIP's are developed with the goal of driving more investments towards identified national climate smart agriculture technologies prioritized by countries. AAA Initiative has grown the number of African countries that have become "AAA Countries" to 37, forming a significant representation of the 54 countries found on the continent. AAA Initiative has been able to generate a continent-wide mandate via political commitment through endorsements and pronouncements from African-wide institutions. AAA and JRT work with joint partners such as CGIAR, Global Resilience Partnership, AGRA, World Bank, etc.



The African Climate Foundation (ACF) is a newly founded re-granting foundation established on 1 April 2020. The ACF is in the throes of developing its Africa strategy and programme. We have quickly identified land-use change, forest protection, eco-system restoration, re-generative agriculture and food security of strategic importance not only to ourselves but Africa as a whole. Africa has the land and means to play a pioneering role in envisaging a new type of land-use and agricultural system. The ACF endorses the vision and objectives of the JRT. The JRT complements the ACF's work on Just Energy Transitions and is eager to be part of this growing and collaborative initiative. We look forward to working with the JRT and contribute to the success of this new endeavour. The ACF also hopes to draw on the JRT network to find innovative ways to scale regenerative agriculture programmes on the continent.



The [Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa \(AGRA\)](#) endorses the JRT vision statement. In doing so, it commits itself to the use of the principles in driving partnerships and coalitions, and to developing with others pathways in which the JRT vision statement can add value to efforts to transform African agriculture, and to build resilience amongst African farmers. To this end, AGRA will: support African leadership in changing approaches to food and agriculture, with a view to building rural prosperity and livelihoods; support the policy action coalition through practical and deep connections with African governments and partners, with a view to introducing and implementing policies across the agricultural landscape, and reforming inefficient and harmful subsidies, in accordance with national priorities and government direction; look for opportunities to develop value chains and investment opportunities in an entrepreneurial and sustainable manner, particularly with SMEs; and embed resilience and adaption throughout AGRA's programmes, and drive new investment in African agriculture.



[Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions \(APAARI\)](#) will support its partners and other investors who endorse the JRT to mobilize private and public capital into sustainable and resilient rural landscapes and supply chains. APAARI is committed to invest its resources to deliver the transformational shift to climate resilient agriculture. Through its mission of strengthening agri-food research and innovation system for sustainable agricultural development in Asia and the Pacific and by using its network of 82 members, APAARI would enhance its activities on managing natural resources, risk mitigation, inclusive development encompassing pro-poor value chain and addressing related policies. APAARI endorses the JRT Leadership Group to assess progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the JRT Vision Statement.

[Association des Femmes Peules et Peuples Autochtones du Tchad \(AFPAT\)](#) endorse this initiative and commit to support this implementation by involving indigenous peoples and local communities that will be in all areas of actions (particularly in the Sahel) to ensure their full and effective participation, respect for their rights, and the contributions of their traditional knowledge through free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). We promote facilitation and communication with these communities, especially with respect to land tenure, land management and restorations, as well as food security and sovereignty.



The [Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture \(AIRCA\)](#) fully endorses the JRT initiatives. The need to tackle malnutrition beyond calories, create novel employment and income opportunities for women and youth, and build resilient agricultural systems and societies, needs to be urgently addressed. AIRCA has the skillsets to address complex challenges through complementary expertise, partnerships and global networks, and we work across all spheres of agriculture and rural development, including land systems change, biodiversity conservation, and natural resources management. We are ready to join hands with JRT in sharing resources, expertise and evidence

to help JRT to achieve their goal of delivering the transformative shift to climate resilient, sustainable food production, land-use and eco-systems – A goal which also supports AIRCA’s vision of diverse climate resilient food systems that support livelihoods, health and nutrition.



CIFOR-ICRAF supports and endorses the vision and aspirations of Just Rural Transition. In its seven goals and five principles, we hear a strong resonance with our own mission, vision and strategy. Our mission, honed over the past 40+ years, has been to deliver evidence-based solutions, technologies and advisory services. Core to our unique way of delivering transformative research into development, are our partnerships in the over 40 countries we work in. Together, we are responding actively and strongly to the global recognition that forests and trees help combat climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. We know that forests and trees help to assure food, nutrition and energy security. Conserving forests, planting, growing and managing trees, maintaining the health of the soils and the land generate benefits that can flow equitably to rural livelihoods. Helping to create decent jobs for men, women and young people are critical elements of our strategy. As we continue to generate evidence and use our experience to unlock the potential of trees and forests, we will be delighted to partner with Just Rural Transition to help deliver what we recognize and endorse as our common vision and goals for a resilient and sustainable future. Trees are truly titanic, intergenerational giants that connect heaven and Earth, carrying our futures in their leaves, limbs and roots. Now, together, we can harness their contribution to a Just Rural Transition.



[Christian Aid](#) works with local partners across the Global South to empower rural communities dependent on agriculture and natural resources through initiatives to strengthen their resilience, enhance their sustainability, diversify their enterprises and increase their access to fair markets. A key part of this has been to facilitate locally-led actions to accelerate the transition to agroecology and associated approaches, now made more urgent by climate change. In this respect, Christian Aid seeks to support the vision and principles of JRT, bringing the expertise and experience of its programmes and partners to this essential global transformation.



[Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network](#) (CSAYN) recognizes youth as a key stakeholder in unleashing the power of agriculture to enhance progress in sustainable rural livelihood. The JRT Vision is very important for us and aligns with our mandate which is to promote climate-smart practices, actively engage youth and Persons Living With Disabilities in catalyzing meaningful engagements to climate actions and unlocking decent employment opportunities within the agri-food sector. Improving the productivity of food production via the lens of climate adaptation and mitigation is central to our effort in ensuring a more secure world for all people and the planet. CSAYN strongly declares her full support and endorsement for the Just Rural Transition Vision Statement, we commit to mainstreaming the JRT agenda across the entire CSAYN members countries in

view to build greater momentum and bring young people at the forefront in leading this process.



[CGIAR](#) works to advance agricultural research and innovation for the global South. Agriculture offers a major solution to grand planetary challenges – notably the tightly interlinked challenges of hunger (SDG2) and climate change (SDG13). CGIAR has a vital role to play with partners to transform agri-food and land systems in the face of the climate emergency, to empower and benefit low-income producers and consumers who are most at risk. Recognizing that the need for a global partnership to transform food systems while restoring our environment has never been greater, CGIAR supports the JRT initiative as a key knowledge partner. CGIAR’s Business Plan represents a transformational moment, with all CGIAR’s partners and stakeholders committing to working in an increasingly aligned and far more strategic manner – fit for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and equipped to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.



The prosperity of the people, communities, and countries of West and Central Africa is inextricably linked to food production systems that are sensitive to the dwindling natural resources, soil degradation, and the changing climate. In its new strategic direction, [CORAF](#) has committed to sustainable food production approaches that have limited effects on the ecosystem. This is what the JRT is all about and merits our support. Our urgency to contribute to the food and nutrition security of the 414 million in our region is mirrored by the JRT ambition to get 3.5 billion globally to benefit from more sustainable and climate-resilient approaches to crop production. As we mobilize our constituencies to devise the adequate and innovative solutions to feed the swelling population, we shall do so in a way that reflects our joint vision.



[EAT](#) fully endorses the need for a Just Rural Transition. Science shows that food production is a leading driver of environmental change, the number one victim of that change, and most importantly the leading opportunity to shift to healthy and sustainable food systems. Farmers and farming families are fundamental to creating health and sustainable foods, yet increasing demands—for production of healthy food, carbon storage, clean water, and protection of habitat for biodiversity—create significant, unaccounted pressure on them. EAT recognizes the need to value farmer contributions and is committed to supporting a Just Rural Transition through its knowledge generation, engagement and events. We’re proud to be partnering with Food and Land Use Coalition and the Potsdam Climate Institute in a new science commission focused on Valuing Food in the Anthropocene, and to support the work of the CGIAR’s program on Water Land and Ecosystems in the forthcoming “Rural Transformation Commission” – both of which aim to provide the evidence base for an equitable, healthy, and sustainable food system transformation.

The [Ellen MacArthur Foundation](#). The global food system is unhealthy. It is highly wasteful, relies on finite resources, contributes to climate change, and harms natural ecosystems — the need for change has never been greater. To ensure a

future in which we can feed growing populations while avoiding environmental destruction, systemic change is needed. A healthy food system, underpinned by circular economy principles of designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems, would be fit for the 21st century and beyond. In order for such a system redesign to take place, we need to collaborate at an unprecedented level and embrace regenerative agriculture, while circulating organic waste to fuel a thriving bioeconomy. The Just Rural Transition Vision Statement sets out the enormity of the opportunities, as well as the urgency for action.



With its Africa-wide mandate, [FANRPAN](#) commits to provide technical support to governments and partners who endorse the JRT to ensure appropriate food, agriculture and natural resources (FANR) policy processes in support of their national agricultural investment plans (NAIPs). Given the Biennial Review Mechanism that monitors implementation of national commitments to the Malabo Declaration, FANRPAN is strategically positioned to support AGRA and other partners' investments and efforts towards Africa's agriculture transformation. It is FANRPAN's conviction that sustainable transformation of the continent's agriculture and food systems will be built on the bedrock of an enabling policy environment. In support of JRT, whilst delivering its mandate, FANRPAN is dedicated to conducting policy research and analysis aimed at generating evidence for repurposing and reinvesting FANR policies; building the capacity of individuals and institutions; and conducting evidence-based advocacy to influence policy formulation and practice.



The [Food and Land Use Coalition \(FOLU\)](#) stands ready to help countries who endorse the Just Rural Transition Vision Statement by developing knowledge, tools and partnership platforms to help economic and political decision-makers identify and pursue pathways to sustainable food and land use systems. This includes: the work of the FABLE Consortium, which comprises 19 country teams, to develop data and modelling infrastructure to promote ambitious, integrated strategies towards sustainable land-use and food systems; the development of a Food and Land Use Action Tracker to help countries track targets and associated government policies, to help build our collective understanding of how countries can make the shift to sustainable food and land-use systems; and continued engagement around the findings of our new report: Growing Better: Ten Critical Transitions to Transform Food and Land Use.



The [Food Foundation](#) fully endorse the JRT vision and principles and are committed to working to support these. We are a UK based food policy charity with a vision for a sustainable food system which delivers health and wellbeing for all. The Food Foundation's Global Food Systems project wants to see integrated food policies that transform food systems to deliver this, through facilitating multi-stakeholder collaborations and crosscutting partnerships. We are convening three stakeholder groups – city authorities, young people and the private sector - and bringing them together at various events to demonstrate the benefits of cross-cutting collaboration, leadership and action. We take a collaborative approach working with a range of organisations, and the project takes a

multisector approach including but not limited to dietary change, nutrition, food production, climate change, sustainability and food security.



The [Global Environment Facility \(GEF\)](#) endorses the JRT Vision Statement and welcomes the opportunity to collaborate, through GEF programs and projects that support the transformation of key economic systems and help countries tackle major drivers of environmental degradation. We need new ways of thinking and acting to help transform the systems that support how we eat, how we move and how we produce and consume. The GEF was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided **over \$18.1 billion in grants** and **mobilized an additional \$94.2 billion in co-financing** for more than **4500 projects in 170 countries**. Today, the GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.



The [Global Resilience Partnership \(GRP\)](#) The Global Resilience Partnership secretariat will support its partners to engage in JRT as part of an overall transformation of food and agriculture systems for a more resilient future. This includes working with our partner Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) on the initiative: *Resilient Value Chains and Resilient Communities support each other in the face of Climate Change*. This builds on the synergy between the BSR led Climate-Resilient Value Chain Leaders Platform and the Global Resilience Partnership experience of working on resilience projects on the ground.



The [Global Water Partnership \(GWP\)](#) supports the Just Rural Transition's vision and will contribute to policy action and scaling of investments to achieve coordinated land and water management for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development. GWP is a global action network that brings together over 3000 partner organizations worldwide, with active county water partnerships in nearly 70 countries, able to mobilize stakeholders across sectors that care for and need water resources. GWP supports Governments and mobilizes actors for integrated natural resources management, building on multi-stakeholder partnerships. Key areas of focus for GWP contributing to JRT vision include notably: a) calling for and contributing to agricultural policy reforms, incorporating climate resilience and the multiple values of water in decision making, b) mobilizing mandated institutions and stakeholders on the water – energy – food nexus for coordinated management and enhanced investments contributing jointly to water, energy and food security and increased employment, c) facilitating access to climate finance for resilience-building water projects including in rural areas, and d) supporting the uptake of nature-based solutions for resilience and development.



[Green Africa Youth Organization \(GAYO\)](#) work directly with communities and young people providing them with education on climate change, entrepreneurship skills and circular economy product development training. Our work seeks to enhance youth involvement in sustainable community development and putting young people and women at the heart of climate action

- adaptation and mitigation. For the JRT, our goal is to align our work, as stated above, to the objectives of JRT by making youth take leadership in the transition process, especially young people and also women in the informal sector. The majority of our engagement relates to agriculture, land use, and waste management.



[IDH Trade](#) is committed to supporting the Vision Statement for a JRT by working with the public and private sectors, civil society and rural communities to create sustainable commodity value chains. Millions of smallholder farmers in developing countries depend on commodity production for their incomes but unsustainable production methods often lead to landscape degradation or do not provide producers with a living income. IDH will support the JRT vision by working with value chains and commodity companies to promote sustainability, convening government, companies, CSO's and rural communities to target areas for sustainable production while ensuring full stakeholder inclusion, and developing analyses and tools to reduce risks for companies, governments, and communities to invest in more sustainable production practices. In addition, IDH will help strengthen the resilience of farmers, fishers and forest communities, and particularly their women youth, to implement more sustainable production practices and more diversified income sources that enable them to achieve a living income, better nutrition and to better withstand climatic variability.



The [International Institute for Environment and Development \(IIED\)](#) supports Just Rural Transition and its aims. A transformation in the way we produce and consume food and use our land and natural resources is badly needed. IIED is committed to making sure the world's poorest people can develop and thrive while also protecting the environment. Our research, capacity-building and policy advocacy work show how organised groups at the local level can be the drivers of sustainability and thriving local economies, and that it is essential governments and commodity value chains recognise the importance of conserving nature. Just Rural Transition's strong emphasis on equity and social justice lies at the heart of our work with local partners across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Working together is crucial to build resilience, help small-scale producers and businesses thrive, develop ways to protect nature, and amplify local and indigenous people's voices and advance their rights.



There is an urgent need for rural transition to address persistent crises in the world's rural areas. In recent years, political attention has shifted away from rural areas, and in many developing countries, limited rural employment opportunities, poor access to basic services, and worsening environmental degradation continue to contribute to persistent poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. A systemwide transformation is needed to promote just rural transition—not only to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but more broadly, to make rural areas vibrant and healthy places to live and work. [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#) fully endorses the JRT Initiative and is committed to work with other partners and stakeholders to collect and analyze the data, conduct research and communicate evidence-based policy options, investment priorities, and improved accountability mechanism to revitalize and transform rural areas for achieving key SDG goals and for improving rural living space.

The [International Land and Forest Tenure Facility \(ILFTF\)](#) will support the delivery of the Just Rural Transition vision through our work to ensure that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities thrive and expand the sustainable management and protection of their forests and lands across the developing world – for the betterment of themselves and the global society. ILFTF is the first international financial mechanism dedicated to supporting tenure reform implementation led by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. In the next ten years we, together with RRI coalition and other IPLC support groups, aim to increase the area under secure Indigenous Peoples and Local Community tenure by 91 million hectares through financial grants, technical assistance and learning exchanges, attaining the collective goal of securing at least 50% of forests in lower- and middle-income countries by 2030. This will advance the Just Rural Transition by contributing to enhanced local stewardship of natural resources, climate change mitigation, improved local livelihoods and culturally appropriate food systems.



[IUCN](#), International Union for Conservation of Nature s a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations working for a Just World that Values and Conserves Nature. IUCN works with its State and non-State members to develop knowledge and capacity and strengthen policies and investment for sustainable management of production landscapes. This includes strengthening landscape governance, enabling the adoption of agroecological approaches and regenerative agriculture, and strengthening supply chains that enable the restoration of land health and soil biodiversity.



The Planetary Health Alliance (PHA) proudly endorses the Just Rural Transition and its 2030 vision, which aligns strongly with the [PHA's vision](#) of a world where all people thrive by protecting and regenerating Earth's natural systems. Based at the Harvard School of Public Health, the PHA is a transdisciplinary network of 250+ organizations from 50+ countries and thousands of individuals working to understand and address the human health impacts of global environmental change, or planetary health. The Alliance is eager to collaborate with the JRT and fellow endorsers within our primary program areas of research, community-building, education, outreach, and action to transform our food system. The PHA can facilitate collaboration and [resource-sharing](#) across our diverse stakeholders and areas of planetary health research and impact through the [PHA online community on Hylo.com](#), [Planetary Health Annual Meeting](#), [PHA regional hubs](#), and other affinity/working groups. Learn more about our work at [www.planetaryhealthalliance.org](http://www.planetaryhealthalliance.org).



The [Rainforest Alliance](#) will be committing through a number of interventions to support the JRT Statement including: Through the implementation of LandScale an assessment system to measure, verify, and communicate sustainability progress of landscapes to drive investment, sourcing, and action for sustainable landscapes; Through our engagement in the Accountability Framework and our own certification scheme we will help companies accelerate implementation of zero-deforestation and sustainable sourcing and production policies following

global norms and best practices; and will be advocating with governments to ensure an enabling environment that enables producers to implement sustainable practices whilst protecting nature.



The [Resilience Shift](#), supported by the Lloyd’s Register Foundation and Arup, aims to accelerate a shift in terms of how critical infrastructure resilience is delivered in practice. We consider infrastructure in its widest sense, including the ecosystems and societies that are part of the system, and are working across the value chain, considering policy, investment and technical delivery perspectives. Our contribution to the JRT would be related to the wider system within which food production and land use sits, recognising the interdependencies with water, energy and transport and the globally connected nature of the challenge. The need for an integrated and holistic approach to resilience has been confirmed in a lot of our work to date. An important link must be made with the safety of food and the increasing reliance on technology to trace and assure food.



The [Rights and Resources Initiative \(RRI\)](#) is a global coalition that scales-up global ambition and action to secure the land and resource rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities - some 2.5 billion people who customarily manage over half the world’s land, but who’s rights are recognized to far less. RRI collaborates with Indigenous Peoples and local communities, governments and allies to attain the collective goal of securing at least 50% of forests in lower- and middle-income countries by 2030. Research shows that closing this gap represents one of the most promising paths forward to protect vital natural systems, ensure sustainable food production, and mitigate climate change. In support of the JRT, RRI will catalyze new partnerships, raise investments and align international commitments and priorities with emerging national opportunities to accelerate the implementation of initiatives to secure local rights, shifting the global pendulum towards a more sustainable, equitable and climate resilient future for all.



The [Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions \(SACAU\)](#) is committed the Just Rural Transition through our efforts to bring about a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable farming sector that ensures food security and contributes to economic growth in southern Africa. It is critical that the Just Rural Transition is driven at regional, continental and global levels by farmers and rural communities. We will advance the Just Rural Transition through existing efforts, including: policy advocacy on farmer issues; strengthening farmers’ organisations; and providing agriculture-related information to members and stakeholders. We look forward to working with partners and others who have endorsed the Just Rural Transition to build food and land use systems that build the resilience of people and nature.



The [Swedish International Agricultural Network Initiative \(SIANI\)](#) can support JRT by convening relevant dialogues and discussions, promoting social justice in the food security discourse, spreading information about just rural transition and

social justice to our global audiences and fostering partnerships with relevant stakeholders.



The [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(UNSDSN\)](#) applauds and supports the ambition of the Just Rural Transition. We will support the development of long-term pathways towards achieving the ambitious objectives of the JRT. As members of the Food and Land-Use Coalition, we will mobilize the work of the Food, Agriculture, Biodiversity, Land-Use, and Energy Consortium (FABLE), support spatial zoning work with the help of NatureMap, and develop the Food, Environment, Land and Development (FELD) Action Tracker to share lessons on how to design and implement national policies in support of the JRT.



The [Tropical Forest Alliance \(TFA\)](#) endorses the Just Rural Transition and commits to advancing the JRT vision through our efforts to reduce deforestation associated with sourcing of commodities such as palm oil, soy, beef, cocoa and paper and pulp. TFA and its partner countries, companies and civil society organisations recognise smallholder farmers and local communities are an integral part of all forest landscapes where agricultural commodities are grown. We welcome the JRT, which will help to raise ambition and drive action towards delivering sustainable and inclusive rural economic development in these tropical forest countries and landscapes.



The [2030 Water Resources Group \(2030 WRG\)](#) envisions a world with safe water to support the needs of people, ecosystems, and the economy. We aim to contribute to the United Nations' SDGs of ending extreme poverty; growing strong, inclusive, and transformative economies; and protecting our ecosystems. These goals cannot be achieved without water, nor can they be achieved alone. The 2030 WRG endorses the JRT Vision and Principles, recognising that by working together to develop and implement the right strategies, policies, plans, and programs, much more can be achieved and sustained. We will contribute our platforms and networks to the JRT Investment Partnership work, facilitating collective action towards sustainable solutions among government, the private sectors, and civil society in order to achieve water security by 2030.



The [World Business Council for Sustainable Development \(WBCSD\)](#) will seek to actively support JRT through a number of our projects but specifically the Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative which we aim to scale up in several countries in SE and South Asia. Rice is eaten daily by 3.5 billion people, provides 19% of world's calories and supports livelihoods for over 1 billion people. In the meantime, rice production uses 40% of world's irrigation water and is responsible for up to 10% of global methane emissions (and up to 20% of national emissions for some countries). According to the forecast of the industry, rice production would have to increase by 25% by 2050 to meet global demand. The Sustainable Rice Landscapes Initiative (SRLI) brings six public and private partners (WBCSD, UN Environment, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)) together to increase resource use

efficiency and deliver massive GHG emissions reductions and resilient livelihood opportunities. We look forward to supporting this initiative during UN Climate Action Summit and beyond through the SRLI working with our partners and businesses on the ground.



The [World Cocoa Foundation](#) will work to advance the Just Rural Transition by catalyzing public-private action to accelerate cocoa sustainability on behalf of 100+ companies in the cocoa supply chain that we represent. The Just Rural Transition aligns with our aim to help farmers prosper, empower cocoa-growing communities and respect human rights, and conserve the environment. We will help to advance the Just Rural Transition through the Cocoa and Forests Initiative (CFI), a public-private partnership to protect and restore forests, promote sustainable production and farmers' livelihoods, and ensure community engagement and social inclusion.



The [World Economic Forum](#) is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world by bringing together business, government, civil society and other key stakeholders to address critical global issues. We recognize that a burgeoning global population has triggered consumption patterns that push against the environmental limits of our world, while economic and societal changes are fundamentally impacting the fabric of inclusion, equality and opportunities for all. The Forum fully endorses the JRT Vision and believes the JRT Initiative offers the international community the opportunity to transform the food system while addressing the needs of the most vulnerable communities.



[The World Farmers' Organisation \(WFO\)](#) fully supports JRT in the implementation of projects and programmes at the global and national levels by facilitating the direct participation of farmers. WFO will work with its members to ensure successful implementation of JRT actions with the farmers component. WFO members can support JRT in the advocacy work of repositioning the agricultural policies towards farmers-driven, result-oriented approach as well as channelling investments where needed. In rural communities, WFO farmers can be solicited to participate in training and advisory service actions aimed at strengthening the cooperation among the different actors of the food chain, at all levels.



The [World Resources Institute \(WRI\)](#) is delighted to endorse the Just Rural Transition. WRI will work through its network of country offices – including in China, India, Indonesia, Ethiopia, Brazil, Mexico, The Hague, Washington DC and London – to advance the objectives of the Just Rural Transition with governments, companies, and civil society organisations. It will do the same with partner organisations elsewhere, including a number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Institute will also mobilize its researchers and analysts in WRI's Food, Forest and Water teams to carry out policy research and analysis of benefit to the Just Rural Transition, including on issues such as repurposing agri-food support and agricultural subsidies. Finally, the Institute will seek to advance the Just Rural Transition through a number of the coalitions it co-leads, including the Global Commission on Adaptation and the Food and Land Use Coalition.



The [World Wide Fund for Nature \(WWF\)](#) endorses the JRT and is committed to supporting its partners build a future in which people and nature exist in harmony. Through our work with multiple stakeholders, we are committed to supporting the transformation of how food is produced and consumed, reducing loss and waste, and ensuring public and private investment encourages sustainable practices which align human and planetary health. The Living Planet Report has highlighted our food system as the biggest driver of biodiversity loss and a primary cause of climate change. Building from our evidence base of environmental impacts and priority areas for action, WWF is committed to the delivery of a New Deal for Nature and People and will convene producers, traders, retailers, policymakers and financiers to develop more just and innovative markets, and unlock resources which will improve livelihoods and conserve nature, reversing the trend of biodiversity loss and limiting climate change.