



# Central African forests deserve to be in the limelight

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**In the summer of 2016 I joined the Leaders' Summit of the UN Global Compact in New York. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon welcomed us there with the remarkable words: 'There is no Plan B because there is no planet B'.**

Realizing this, thinking about how true these words are and the major global challenges we are facing, we are convinced that we should all work together: governments, private enterprise, civil society, academia. Collaborating in bringing about a better world.

In September 2015 all 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the "Agenda 2030" for achieving a better future for all – laying out a path over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet. At the heart of the "Agenda 2030" are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) which clearly define the world we want, which apply to all nations and leave no one behind. The Sustainable Development Goals provide a powerful aspiration for improving our world. They lay out where we collectively need to go and how to get there.

**ABILITY** We all know the world is changing. The question is: can we influence the way in which this is happening? The UN Global Compact's answer to this question is an emphatic 'Yes!'. That is because we believe in the ability of businesses to make the world a better place, whether dealing with labour, water supply issues, human rights, corruption or climate change. And we are seeing a growing number of businesses making an effort to solve these and other problems. The aim of the UN Global Compact is to bring these organisations together, helping them to share knowledge and combine their strengths. So that, step by step, we can work together to create a better world for future generations.

The Global Compact Network Netherlands embraces the ten UN Guiding Principles and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) as the driving force behind our local network activities. This is further supported by specific



PHOTO DIRK HOL

André van Heemstra: 'We believe in the ability of businesses to make the world a better place.'

## GLOBAL COMPACT

The UN Global Compact is a large network of more than 9,000 companies and over 5,300 non-profit organisations – including non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and civil society organisations (CSO's) – from more than 150 countries. All members are committed to advance ten UN Guiding Principles in four different categories – human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption – and implement these principles in their strategies, management systems and operations. The Netherlands Network of the UN Global Compact (GC NL) is an initiative of Dutch business leaders to advance the contribution of private business to sustainable development.

[www.gcneland.nl](http://www.gcneland.nl)