



**International
Development
Committee**

Wednesday, 25 February 2026

**The Rt Hon Baroness Chapman of Darlington
Minister of State (International Development and Africa) for Foreign,
Commonwealth & Development Office**

**The Rt Hon. Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Department for Energy Security & Net Zero**

[By email]

**Subject: the strategic importance of the Congo Basin and Tropical Forest
Forever Facility**

Dear Baroness Chapman,

I write to convey the Committee's deep concern at the UK Government's continued indecision over contributing to the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).

The Committee recently met with the Embassy of the Republic of Congo and diplomatic representatives of its regional partners - including Ethiopia and Zimbabwe – who have launched the 'Congo Basin Climate Diplomacy Initiative'. This initiative is a new regional and multilateral programme which aims to foster dialogue and partnerships that align environmental diplomacy with inclusive development, sustainable energy and community resilience. In the meeting, the Committee discussed the preservation and sustainable development of the Congo Basin, the persistent lack of funding from the Government, as well as the dire implications that degradation of the Congo Basin will have for the UK's own national interests.

The diplomatic representatives emphasised that the Congo Basin should be a leading priority in the Government's foreign policy and security agenda. They outlined several key steps they would welcome from the Government to address:

- stronger advocacy and practical action from the UK Government to support preservation and sustainable development efforts of African nations;
- the Government's continued leadership in mobilising a larger quantum of funding including through innovative financing solutions, such as the TFFF, at a continental scale; and



International Development Committee

- delivery of the multiple pledges the Government has made to the Congo Basin African nations since COP26 which they state are yet to materialise.

The case for committing funding to the TFFF is now stronger than ever - the Government's recent Nature Security Assessment emphasised the risks that global biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse pose to national security. The assessment identified the Congo Basin as a critical ecosystem - vital not only to global water, food and climate security but also for the UK's own national security and long-term prosperity. Unlike conventional climate financing mechanisms, the TFFF is designed to fund countries that already have relatively low deforestation and provide financial incentive to keep their remaining tropical forests intact. The current TFFF structure would therefore lead to significant finance flows to the world's poorest forest countries including Africa's Congo Basin countries.

In response to this letter, we request that you outline the timeline by which the Government intends to take a decision on whether it will invest in the TFFF; and the sequence of steps the Government plans to undertake to reach a decision.

We hope the UK Government will ultimately invest in the TFFF, to protect the Congo Basin and other critical tropical rainforest ecosystems.

We request a response to this letter by 06 March. As is standard practice, we will be placing this letter and your response in the public domain.

I have also copied this letter to the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development Committee