



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

**The Rt Hon. Baroness Chapman of
Darlington**

Minister of State for International
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Sarah Champion MP
Chair, International Development Committee
House of Commons
London
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4 March 2026

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter of 25 February, on behalf of the International Development Committee, regarding the Congo Basin and the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF). I welcome the engagement you have with diplomatic representatives in London and for the Committee's continued focus on these issues.

As you note, the Government's recent Nature Security Assessment highlighted the significant risks that climate change, biodiversity loss and the collapse of critical ecosystems such as the Congo Basin pose to global and national security. Action to protect and restore forests is one of the most cost-effective ways to scale climate action, with cascading benefits for water and food security, resilience, nature protection and sustainable economic growth. Protecting forests is therefore not only an environmental imperative, but a strategic investment in long-term security and prosperity at home and abroad.

The UK has a strong record of leadership on global forest protection. At COP26 back in 2021, the UK Government forged agreement amongst 140 countries to commit to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030. Alongside eleven other international partners we also launched the Congo Basin Pledge, recognising the global significance of the region and collectively committing to provide \$1.5 billion for its protection by 2025. This commitment has been exceeded, with the Pledge's contributors collectively providing over \$1.9 billion between 2021 and 2024. Most of the UK's contribution has been provided through the Central Africa Forest Initiative (CAFI), a UN trust fund with a total fund capitalisation of over \$1 billion, of which the UK is the current Chair. The UK has invested £51.8 million in CAFI.

The UK also played a pivotal role in forging agreement on the Belém Call to Action at COP30 in Brazil last November. This is the successor to the 2021 Congo Basin Pledge and aims to galvanise greater attention and support for the region as well as mobilising more finance for protecting and restoring the forests. The Government will continue to prioritise the Congo Basin's forests, as we do in the new Africa Approach, which I launched on 15 December 2025.

The UK supports the TFFF and views it as an important innovation in forest finance. We are proud to have played a part in its development, providing catalytic technical assistance as well as diplomatic support. We have also invested in the World Bank trust fund that will operationalise the Facility and in the innovative monitoring programme AIM4Forests, which will provide technical assistance to support the delivery of TFFF.

We have not ruled out a future UK investment in TFFF and will continue to explore all the options. We will also support efforts to mobilise private finance for TFFF, including by leveraging the strength of the City of London, to support the Facility's success.

I am travelling to the Democratic Republic of Congo in early March and look forward to learning more about the region and its forests. Ruth Davis, the UK's Special Representative for Nature, was in Cameroon and Gabon at the end of February meeting Forest Ministers and visiting initiatives, with a focus on driving economic growth while protecting natural resources.

Thank you again for your continued attention to these important issues.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Chapman', written in a cursive style.

The Rt Hon. Baroness Chapman of Darlington
Minister for International Development and Africa