Is Indonesia backing on COP26 pledge?

It is difficult to ring-fence the saving of trees for climate action from the developing country’s need for economic growth

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Indonesia was ranked the world’s eighth-largest greenhouse gas emitter by the World Resources Institute, a study before the pandemic. Agriculture, forestry and other land-use make up around half of the emissions.

So when Indonesia joins more than 150 countries in a global commitment to reduce deforestation at last month’s United Nations climate conference, the COP26, it may not have stood out.

The country is one of the world’s biggest emitters, with a government that has seen little success in combating deforestation.

But for the Indonesian government, this is a moment to shift the narrative from a focus on economic development to climate action.

It has been a long road to COP26, where Indonesia has consistently failed to meet its commitments, especially in the “brown” sector, which includes agriculture, forestry and other land-use.

The government has set a target of reducing deforestation by 2020 by 66% compared to 2013 levels, but it has fallen short of that goal. In 2019, deforestation rates were highest in Borneo and Kalimantan, the country’s two largest islands.

Indonesia’s economy is heavily dependent on its natural resources, particularly the forest sector. The government has been under pressure to address deforestation and climate change, which are seen as threats to the country’s economic growth.

In 2018, Indonesia also introduced a new law that allows the government to seize the assets of companies that continue to deforest land. The government has been working with international organizations to develop sustainable land-use practices and to promote reforestation projects.

However, there are many other challenges that the government needs to address in order to meet its COP26 commitments. These include the need to improve law enforcement, increase investment in renewable energy, and promote sustainable land-use practices.

Indonesia’s government has made progress in reducing deforestation, but there is still a long way to go. The country needs to continue to work with international partners to address the challenges of deforestation and climate change, and to ensure that its economic development is sustainable and in line with global climate goals.