

COP30 - ZSL Position Statement and Policy Recommendations

Driving Integrated Climate and Nature Solutions at UNFCCC COP30

The UNFCCC COP30 meeting, hosted in Belém Brazil, a city at the heart of the Amazon, casts a vital spotlight on nature's key role in tackling the interconnected climate and biodiversity crises. With forests, finance, emissions reduction, and resilience high on the agenda, COP30 presents a critical opportunity to advance integrated solutions that work for climate, nature and people. The Zoological Society of London's (ZSL) priorities, both within and beyond the negotiations, focus on delivering a more just, effective, and joined-up global response to the climate and nature crisis.

Success At COP30 – What is Required?

Climate change will, and is already, having significant impacts on species and ecosystems globally. The latest scientific¹ evidence makes clear that the world is already experiencing tipping points in key Earth systems, including coral reefs, the Greenland and the West Antarctic ice sheets, with the risk of irreversible change growing with every fraction of a degree of warming. These ecosystems depend on urgent action to minimise overshoot above 1.5 °C and the eventual return to 1°C of warming. Ambitious, coordinated policy can work to avoid irreversible impacts and secure a resilient future for climate, nature, and people. COP30 must respond to this reality by advancing mitigation and adaptation efforts that accelerate rapid decarbonisation of energy systems, minimise overshoot above 1.5°C and prioritise Nature-based Solutions. The vital role of nature needs to be represented across the negotiations and political declarations decided upon at COP30 – putting nature at the heart of climate action. COP30 offers a real opportunity to move beyond the current system of siloed, fragmented and ad hoc action across into a new sustained, effective system for cooperation. **Success at COP30 hinges on four key areas:**

1. A Delivery Focused COP - Accelerating action for implementation

The window for effective climate action is narrowing, making it crucial that COP30 focuses on implementation and tangible delivery. All decisions should be geared towards accelerating implementation, closing the gap between existing decarbonisation commitments and the goals of the Paris Agreement, strengthening resilience, and addressing emerging threats.

2. Integrated Approaches for Climate and Nature in the Negotiations

The interconnectedness of climate stability and ecosystem health is undeniable. Climate and nature must be addressed together. All decisions, declarations, and implementation mechanisms should reflect the interdependence of climate and nature. A successful COP30 will abandon fragmented approaches in favour of integrated action that delivers benefits for mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity.

- **Securing Synergies:** Success means securing a formal, permanent negotiation space within the UNFCCC, alongside new institutional arrangements to progress integrated climate and biodiversity action. This moves action beyond fragmented approaches and creates a system for effective cooperation across the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD).
- **Building Resilience:** A critical outcome is the adoption of a robust indicator set for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). The final indicator set must include specific measures on nature's contribution to adaptation and resilience, aligning with other frameworks to reduce reporting burdens and strengthen synergistic action.
- **Operationalising Commitments:** The Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) must provide ambitious recommendations to drive the full and equitable implementation of the 2023 Global Stocktake commitment to *halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems*. These recommendations should recognise the vital role of safeguarding IP&LCs collective rights and highlight the importance of climate and biodiversity synergies in scaling mitigation effectiveness.

3. Mobilising Innovative and Just Finance

The launch of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) will be a significant outcome for the Brazilian Presidency and a landmark opportunity to reshape global forest finance. The TFFF could provide an alternative to short-term aid-based funding through a long-term, investment model that rewards verified forest protection through direct annual payments, alongside 20% of all payments going directly to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LC's). Governments should champion and support the TFFF at COP30 by joining as sponsors and partners. The private sector can also recognise the TFFF as a credible mechanism and indicate interest in investing.

4. Ensure inclusive participation and representation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

COP30 decisions across all agenda items should recognise, respect, and secure Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LC's) rights to safeguard, govern, and manage their traditional lands, seas, territories, and knowledge systems. This includes elevating traditional and local knowledge, bolstering Indigenous and locally led conservation initiatives, ensuring direct access to finance, and integrating IP&LC perspectives, values, and expertise into decision-making processes.

¹ [Global Tipping Points Report 2025](#)

COP30 – ZSL Negotiation Recommendations

ZSL's negotiation recommendations are focused on three key agenda items: Cooperation with International Organizations, The Global Goal on Adaptation and The Mitigation Work Programme.

1. Cooperation With Other International Organizations

Unlocking climate and biodiversity synergies

The Need for Action:

Climate change and biodiversity loss are not separate challenges; they are two sides of the same accelerating crisis and deeply intertwined. A stable climate depends on healthy ecosystems and thriving biodiversity requires climate stability. Yet, global action remains fragmented and siloed. The escalating degradation of vital ecosystems, spanning all aspects of our natural world, from our rainforests to our oceans, profoundly exacerbates climate impacts and undermines resilience. The drivers of this decline, habitat loss, illegal and unsustainable extraction, climate change, pollution, and unchecked overconsumption and production, threaten irreplaceable ecosystems, species, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Against this backdrop, the global community is united by a set of ambitious targets: the UNFCCC's Paris Agreement's 1.5-degree temperature target, the CBD's Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's (KM-GBF) transformative goals and targets, and UNCCD's Land Neutrality Targets. Despite these shared goals, since their inception at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD have largely operated in parallel, embedding silos that lead to missed opportunities for integrated action. This separation has led to inefficiencies, policy contradictions, weakened accountability, and missed chances to build unified solutions. By creating synergies across the Rio Conventions, we can make our collective efforts smarter, faster, and more impactful.

The Growing Momentum and evidence base:

The 2024 [IPBES Nexus Assessment](#) reinforces the need for a synergistic approach, showing that protecting and restoring ecosystems—such as forests, wetlands, and coral reefs—can deliver multiple wins for mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity; with the current siloed approach costing the world \$10-25 trillion annually.

There has also been growing recognition of the need for synergistic action within multilateral negotiations. The [CBD COP16 Decision](#) (Oct 2024) formally recognised the interconnectedness of biodiversity and climate, while the [UNCCD COP16 Decision](#) (Nov 2024) strengthened the need for partnerships with other conventions. The first [Global Stocktake](#) Paris Agreement (2022) highlighted the urgent need for integrated action, and negotiations at UNFCCC SBSTA 62 (June 2025) have begun to lay the groundwork for deliberations on multilateral cooperation, through requesting space for discussion at SB63 in Brazil.

The COP30 Opportunity:

With the Paris Agreement, KM-GBF, and UNCCD, all demanding urgent delivery, COP30 offers a critical opportunity deliver a negotiated decision that can work to shift global action from fragmentation to integration. Previous attempts at voluntary coordination and ad hoc convention cooperation between parties have proven insufficient. Without formal mechanisms to support cooperation between conventions, progress is slow, reporting is duplicative, and countries are pulled between competing obligations across global commitments. Convention level action is therefore critical, creating a permanent "home" for negotiation, policy coherence, implementation support and accountability across the Rio Conventions. At COP30 the UNFCCC has the opportunity to move alongside the CBD and the UNCCD with a decision under the "*Cooperation with other international organizations*" agenda item that clearly signals Parties desire to minimise silos, mobilise synergies, and work together towards meeting the commonly shared goals across the Rio Conventions.

Our Negotiation Recommendations:

Under the **“Cooperation with other international organizations”** agenda item, Parties should agree a decision that facilitates the creation of this “home” for synergies discussions through establishing the “Cooperation with international organizations” as a permanent agenda item and agreeing key areas of potential joint work for enhanced cooperation and policy coherence. This should include:

- **Establish the “Cooperation with other international organizations” agenda item as a permanent agenda item within the UNFCCC dedicated to enabling climate and biodiversity synergies across the Rio Conventions** – This would maintain a permanent and dedicated space for discussions *on Cooperation with Other International Organizations* at every SBSTA session (not only the Bonn Session). This will be critical to enable more substantive work on increasing synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions and other MEAs in subsequent sessions, rather than a one-off negotiation at SB63 and COP30. As such, we urge Parties to maintain a dedicated SBSTA agenda item on *“Cooperation with Other International Organizations”* at every session. Such a long-term mandate would work to deliver on the 2030 implementation timeline of the KM-GBF and UNFCCC decision 1.CMA/5 and the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Framework.
- **Request increased cooperation between Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions**, to further explore options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence.
- **Strengthen the mandate, guidance, and resources of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG)** - The JLG was established in 2001, and is coordinated by the three Secretariats, with the aim *“to enhance coordination between the three conventions and to explore options for further cooperation”*. The JLG could be a useful tool, but is under invested in, lacks a strong mandate, has minimal Party engagement, and has limited resources to scale impact. The JLG could be reformed into a much more effective mechanism, able to play a key role in progressing Rio Convention synergies. **To do this, Parties would need to strengthen the mandate, guidance and resources of the JLG.**
- **Establish an Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG)** under the SBSTA agenda item on *Cooperation With Other International Organizations*. An AHTEG would be a time bound body of one to two years and play the role of developing recommendations to the SBSTA and other relevant UNFCCC bodies on options to enhance international cooperation and policy coherence across the Rio Conventions.
- **Create a formal Joint Work Programme**, between the three Rio Conventions on the overlapping issue area of climate change and biodiversity.

A decision package such as this would establish a mechanism and tool for coordination across the Rio conventions and serve as a central hub for the following key areas:

- **Aligning targets and reporting:** Harmonise climate, biodiversity, and land degradation goals, monitoring frameworks, and reporting cycles to reduce duplication and administrative burdens.
- **Facilitating knowledge sharing and policy coherence:** Enable mutual learning and coordinated policy development for policy coherence across the conventions.
- **Integrating finance and implementation strategies:** Ensure that climate and nature finance, technology, and capacity building and implementation strategies are mutually reinforcing, without reducing financial support to developing countries.
- **Accelerating national planning:** Support countries to harmonise their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, and streamline domestic implementation.
- **Providing guidance to governments:** Help national authorities reduce administrative overheads, prevent policy contradictions, and avoid perverse outcomes in actions to meet commitments under international frameworks.

For more detail on these recommendations including the value for parties in delivering a strong negotiated outcome for under the “Cooperation with international organizations” agenda, [please see our joint NGO consultations submission here.](#)

2. The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Strengthening Global Resilience

Our Negotiation Recommendations:

To enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change, COP30 must finalise and agree upon a strong set of indicators for the GGA's implementation, monitoring, and review.

Finalise a Robust Indicator Set:

- **Adopt the list of indicators developed and proposed by the technical expert group.** The proposed list is a clear response to the mandate from parties and establishes a strong baseline for monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the GGA thematic and dimensional targets.
- **Integrate indicators on nature, biodiversity, Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), and Nature-based Solutions (NbS)** across the indicator set to reflect the essential role of nature in building adaptive capacity and resilience. For example, the Ecosystem based Adaptation indicator within the infrastructure target ([Indicator 9e05](#)), which measures the use of NbS and EbA measures (e.g. green/ blue infrastructure) to manage and reduce climate change impacts in human settlements and infrastructure systems. Overall, Parties should ensure the final list enables effective monitoring of adaptation planning, finance mobilisation, and implementation.
- **Retain all indicators under Target 9(d)**, which measure ecosystem protection, restoration and resilience, alongside the impact of NbS and EbA measures and the role of ecosystem services. Their breadth enables comprehensive assessment of progress towards the target, rather than fragmented focus on specific areas, and should not be narrowed.

Align with Global Frameworks:

- The GGA indicator set must be **actively aligned with other frameworks**, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), to promote coherence, reduce reporting burdens, create efficiency and strengthen synergistic action.
- The **cross-convention alignment** proposed in the current draft is a strength and **should be preserved in the final approved indicator set**.

Strengthen Implementation and Support:

- **Establish a regular reporting cycle for the GGA**, ideally using Biannual Transparency Reports as a mechanism for reporting, and aligning reporting timelines to be in line with the Global Stock Take (GST), and other key frameworks, such as the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- **Advance modalities for the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR)** to decide the next steps for the GGA following COP30, including the expectations for reporting, and regular structured review of the indicator list to keep it in line with the latest science, and the role of experts.
- **Include a process to finalise the technical work of the indicator set**, specifically next steps for resolving any outstanding metadata gaps and the development of any new indicators agreed to ensure the highest level of data readiness. Such work could be concluded via the establishment of a short-term technical work programme within the BAR, or the Adaptation Committee.
- **Progress an agreement on additional resourcing** for national capacity building, technology transfer, strengthening national reporting and data capacity, all essential for the long-term effectiveness and implementation of the GGA. This work could take place under the mandate and scope of the BAR.
- **Establish a new dedicated adaptation finance goal** to replace the COP26 commitment to double adaptation finance by 2025. In addition to finalising the GGA a new global adaptation finance commitment is essential to ensure sufficient funding for the implementation and effective tracking of progress under the GGA. This new goal must not only signal strong political will and shared ambition but also surpass the 2025 finance target, scaling up to meet the magnitude of the challenge ahead.

3. The Mitigation Work Programme (MWP)

Advancing Action on Forest Protection and Restoration

The 2023 COP28 Global Stock Take decision emphasised the importance of countries "*halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems.*" This commitment was a vital step, but without clear, actionable policy and implementation pathways, progress remains off track.

Despite the 2021 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, where 143 countries committed to halting and reversing deforestation, global trends are moving in the wrong direction. In 2024, deforestation of primary tropical forests peaked at 6.7 million hectares², the highest in two decades. COP30 must confront this reality of continued forest loss by strengthening accountability frameworks, scaling ambition, and ensuring that existing pledges are not only reaffirmed but operationalised with clear targets, timelines, and mechanisms to address emerging threats such as fire, drought, and ecosystem collapse.

Our Negotiation Recommendations:

- **Halt and reverse deforestation by 2030:** The Mitigation Work Programme (MWP) must provide ambitious recommendations to drive the full and equitable implementation of the 2023 Global Stocktake commitment to *halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems.* These recommendations should include:
 - The vital role of safeguarding IP&LCs collective rights as an essential foundation for effective forest protection.
 - The importance of climate and biodiversity synergies in scaling mitigation effectiveness.
 - The need to retain and restore high integrity landscapes and biodiversity rich areas for maximising their climate mitigation value and adaptive capacity.
- **Clarify Definitions:** Address the current definition of "forests" within the UNFCCC to differentiate between biodiversity rich ecosystems and heavily degraded or plantation forests, ensuring that perverse economic incentives do not lead to the degradation of high integrity landscapes
- **Strengthen Reporting and Finance:** Outside of the MWP, parties should ensure the COP30 Forests Package includes clear targets, timelines, and robust tracking mechanisms. The package should include details on the public and private finance that must be scaled to address underlying drivers of deforestation, including land conversion, fire, drought, and unsustainable consumption and production.

²WRI - [Fires Drove Record-breaking Tropical Forest Loss in 2024 – May 2025](#)