



WWF AFRICA

POSITION PAPER FOR COP30

SHAPING A RESILIENT FUTURE: WWF AFRICA'S CLIMATE MANDATE FOR COP30

November 2025

INTRODUCTION

COP30 in Belém, Brazil, marks a historic milestone: ten years since the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP21 in 2015. This anniversary arrives at a moment when global cooperation on climate action is under severe strain, with the United States as the major player stepping back from commitments. These setbacks carry profound risks for regions like Africa disproportionately impacted by climate change.

COP30 is particularly significant as Parties are expected to submit updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in response to the findings of the first Global Stocktake. For Africa, this is a critical opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to global climate action while advancing its own development priorities.

At the 20th Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Nairobi (July 2025), African Ministers endorsed a unified set of priorities for COP30. These include scaling up climate finance, accelerating adaptation, leveraging critical minerals for a just energy transition, which will all build on the outcomes of COP29 in Baku.

WWF has worked closely with African governments, civil society, and regional institutions to support these priorities. We believe COP30 must deliver on the promise of the Global Mutirão—a collective effort to confront the climate crisis through solidarity, ambition, and equity. For Africa, this COP is not just another negotiation; it is a defining moment to shape a resilient, just, and sustainable future.

WWF COP30 EXPECTATIONS TO HOLD THE LINE ON 1.5-DEGREE

WWF calls for the following outcomes to be captured in COP30 decision text:

- Submission of enhanced NDCs that address the mitigation gap and respond adequately to the Global Stocktake.
- A robust package to end deforestation and ecosystem conversion.
- Commitments to accelerate an equitable and just transition away from fossil fuels, alongside scaled-up renewable energy, efficiency, and universal energy access.
- Stronger global action to build adaptation and resilience in the face of escalating climate disruption.
- A strengthened and better-resourced Action Agenda with instruments capable of closing gaps in mitigation, adaptation, and resilience





AFRICA'S KEY PRIORITIES FOR COP30: THE “BELÉM PACKAGE FOR AFRICA”

Africa is advancing a bold, unified climate agenda anchored in justice, sustainability, and inclusive development. The region will call on countries to deliver on their COP29 commitments to mobilize US\$1.3 trillion annually by 2035—supporting adaptation, loss and damage, and the energy transition. African NDCs are expected to be ambitious and inclusive, aligned with the 1.5°C pathway, integrating nature-based solutions, and promoting just transitions, including the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies and the expansion of universal energy access. It is important to note that Africa has in place the frameworks and initiatives to support the delivery of this package like the African Adaptation Initiative to strengthen collaboration across the continent through high-level dialogues, adaptation action on the ground and addressing the adaptation financing gap, the African NDC Hub, a collaborative platform set up to support African countries in the development and implementation of their NDCs and the African Climate Foundation to support interventions at the nexus of climate change and development to deliver long term socio-economic transformation and inclusive development in Africa.

Key elements of the *Belém Package* should include:

- Recognize the role of nature in climate and this can be through a formal recognition and financing of the Congo Basin Forest as a vital global climate asset, through mechanisms such as the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).
- Reinforcement of Africa's support for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), building on the Brazzaville Declaration (May 2025).
- Advocacy for equitable, high-integrity carbon markets that benefit communities and protect ecosystems.
- Ensuring climate action is effective, fair, and inclusive grounded in climate justice and sustainable development.
- Just transition that is grounded on universal energy access
- Recognition of Africa's special needs and circumstances



Africa is not going to Belem as a mere victim of climate change but as a continent that has its own home-grown solutions to mitigate the impact of climate changes despite being a low emitter of GHG – just about 4% of GHG emitted by Africa.

ACTIONABLE CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate finance remains Africa's foremost priority. While COP29 in Baku delivered the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) tripling annual finance to USD 300 billion by 2035 and committing to mobilizing USD 1.3 trillion annually from all sources, the outcome was widely seen as insufficient.



COP30 must operationalize these commitments into a transparent and need-based finance framework.

Africa calls for:

- An increase in funding for adaptation. While Africa has seen an increase in adaptation finance than in other regions, this is still insignificant considering that Africa needs an estimated US\$ 579 billion for funding in adaptation through 2030.¹
- Finance framed not as aid, but as responsibility and reparation, addressing Africa's receipt of only 1–3% of global climate finance—mostly in debt-creating loans. As much as 51% of climate finance to Africa comes in the form of debt.
- Reform of global financial architecture to reduce borrowing costs and amplify Africa's voice in decision-making.
- An action plan under the Baku–Belém Roadmap to USD 1.3T with clear responsibilities, milestones, and annual targets.
- Fulfillment of the Glasgow pledge to double adaptation finance by 2025, with clear baselines and timelines.
- Adequate, accessible, and predictable financing for the Loss and Damage Response Fund with special provisions for African nations suffering from irreversible climate impacts.

¹ https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/GCA_State-and-Trends-in-Adaptation-2022_Adaptation-Finance-Flows-in-Africa.pdf

Africa must deliver universal energy access to 600 million people while meeting climate goals. The African Common Position on Energy Access and Just Energy Transition and initiatives such as the World Bank and African Development Bank's "Mission 300" highlight the urgency of closing energy poverty gaps in a way that is equitable, resilient, and nature-positive



WWF supports an inclusive, just, and nature-positive energy transition based on:

- Universal electricity and clean cooking access by 2030, prioritizing decentralized renewable solutions.
- Country-driven pathways reflect diverse national contexts.
- Scaled concessional and innovative finance for renewable energy and resilient grids.
- Safeguards for biodiversity and IPLC rights in energy and critical mineral projects.

At COP30, Africa's energy poverty challenge must be placed at the heart of the global climate agenda.



NDCs 3.0 are the first formal response to the Global Stocktake and a chance to correct course toward 1.5°C. It is important to note that the NDCs could be a good mechanism for African countries to highlight their specific challenges and push for the required financial and technical support they would need. Unfortunately, as of the deadline of February 2025 where all countries were supposed to submit their new or updated NDCs, only few African countries did so i.e. Botswana, Eswatini, and Zimbabwe. Recently, a few countries from Africa have submitted their NDCs (eg. Kenya, Nigeria, Liberia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Morocco, Tunisia, São Tomé and Príncipe and Angola²) but the number submitted NDCs from Africa remains well below 50%.



WWF urges:

- An urgent submission of enhanced, ambitious, science-aligned NDCs. It is important to note that by the deadline of September 2025 not many African countries have submitted their NDCs
- Economy-wide mitigation targets, near-term emission cuts, and measurable adaptation goals.
- Just Transition frameworks phasing down fossil fuels, eliminating harmful subsidies, and scaling renewables.
- Integration of NDCs with NBSAPs and the Global Biodiversity Framework, embedding nature-based solutions.
- Finance commitments that are predictable, adequate, and accessible, especially for adaptation and loss and damage.

To be impactful, NDCs must go beyond ambition and demonstrate implementation readiness, rooted in national priorities, backed by finance, and aligned with COP30 decision-making processes.

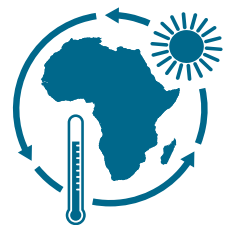


² <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ndc-tracker>

ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE

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As climate impacts intensify across Africa, adaptation remains a priority and necessity for the continent. COP30 should be the turning point where promises are translated into measurable and tangible progress to advance Africa's adaptation agenda. Transformative adaptation should become a cornerstone of global climate action, and COP30 should deliver the necessary decisions and commitments to make this a reality. Hence, WWF calls for: Adoption of clear, context-sensitive indicators and metrics for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) that reflect Africa's realities and guide planning, means of implementation, reporting, and evaluation of adaptation actions, while using the UAE Framework for Global Resilience to guide GST2 in assessing progress toward GGA targets.



- *Submission of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)* by pending African Parties. As of end of September 2025, only 23 African countries have submitted their NAPs (*UNFCCC NAPs Central*), constituting less than 50% of the continent's countries.
- *Inclusive adaptation planning and implementation*, ensuring participation of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth, while incorporating Indigenous knowledge systems, community-based, and ecosystem-based adaptation.
- The “*Baku to Belém Roadmap to US\$1.3 trillion*” to translate into an action plan that addresses targeted needs for climate adaptation” with specific consideration for Africa's special needs and circumstances.
- Accelerate more tangible Nature-based solutions for adaptation interventions, which has gained roots in Africa and requires regional cooperation to support implementation of large scale NbSA interventions.



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Africa faces the dual challenge of feeding a rapidly growing population while building climate resilience in the face of intensifying droughts, floods, and other climate shocks. Over 280 million Africans remain food insecure, and agriculture contributes roughly 23% of the continent's GHG emissions. While acknowledging the progress made in the recognition of food systems in climate negotiations, both at COP28 with the UAE Declaration and the COP29, COP 30 need to be a critical opportunity to translate these commitments into tangible, Africa-led action.



Africa's food systems must simultaneously deliver resilience, nutrition security, and sustainability. COP30 should:

- Operationalize COP28 food systems commitments with national roadmaps, targets, and monitoring.
- Scale finance for climate-smart, nature-positive agriculture with mechanisms that reach smallholders, women, youth, and IPLCs.
- Prioritize community-led agroecology, regenerative farming, and sustainable livestock practices.
- Integrate food systems into NDCs, NAPs, and AU frameworks for holistic climate action.

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NATURE AND CLIMATE - FORESTS AT THE CENTRE

COP30, dubbed the “Forest COP,” must deliver an actionable framework to halt and reverse deforestation. For Africa, this means:

- Recognition of the Congo Basin as a global climate asset, with equitable finance flows.
- Support for Africa-led initiatives such as the Great Green Wall and AFR100.
- Integration of forest targets into African NDCs.
- Greater synergies between climate and biodiversity agendas through nature-based solutions.



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THE CONGO BASIN AS A GLOBAL CLIMATE LIFELINE

The Congo Basin, the world’s second-largest tropical forest, stores 40 Gt of carbon, sustains rich biodiversity, and supports millions of livelihoods. Despite maintaining one of the lowest deforestation rates globally (0.01–0.33%) and delivering 455 MtCO₂e reductions, the region has received only 4% of the USD 117.8B needed by 2030 to fully implement its climate commitments.

Call to Action for Parties:

- Recognize the Congo Basin’s global value.
- Scale up finance, including Payment for Environmental Services (PES).
- Support innovative mechanisms: Congo Basin – High Integrity Forest Finance Initiative (CB – HIFFI³) and Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).
- Back ambitious, time-bound measures to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030.
- Protecting the Congo Basin is essential to achieving global climate and biodiversity goals.

³ The HIFFI is a joint COMIFAC–WWF initiative aimed at reshaping conservation finance to secure long-term, high-integrity funding for the Congo Basin forests. <https://africa.panda.org/?52782/Investing-in-Nature-How-new-finance-initiative-can-protect-the-Congo-Basins-wildlife-and-forest>

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES & LOCAL COMMUNITIES (IP&LCS)

WWF calls for the recognition and protection of IPLC rights in climate frameworks, with:

- Direct access to climate finance.
- Community-led NbS that promote tenure rights.
- Incorporation of traditional knowledge into policy and action.

WWF will continue supporting IPLCs to ensure their rights and livelihoods are central to conservation and climate efforts.

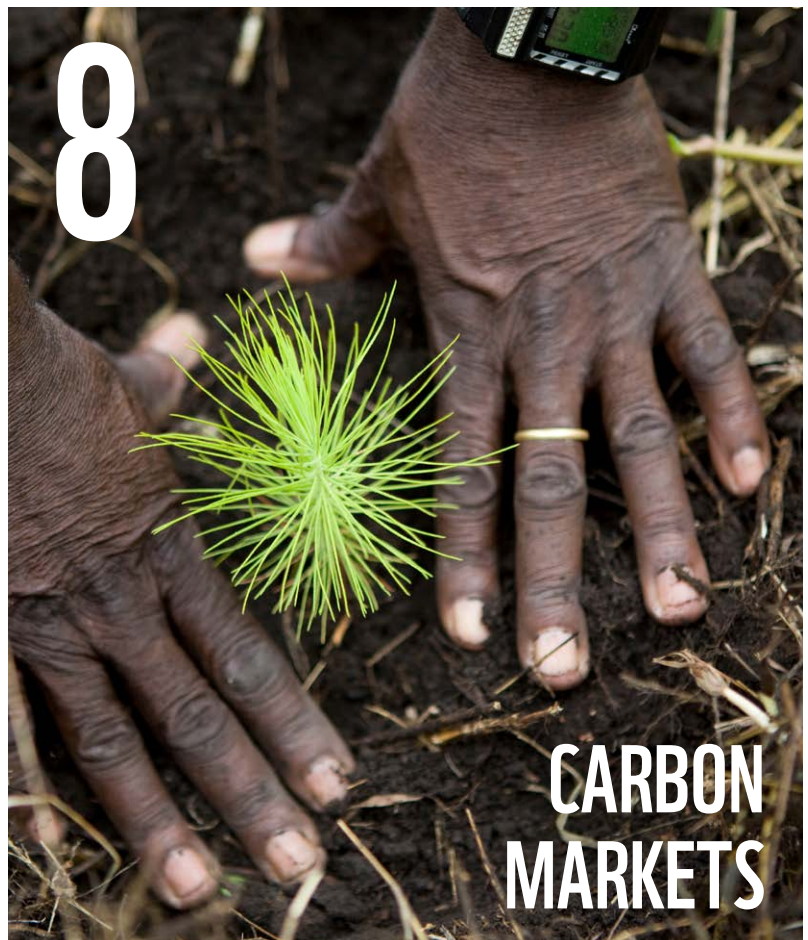
- Scaling up locally led adaptation solutions to meet and escalate the needs of the most vulnerable communities.



For carbon markets to benefit Africa, they must be highly credible and high-integrity, equitable, and transparent. To champion the continent's carbon market agenda, an appreciation of the challenges and opportunities are essential. COP 30 presents an opportunity to address some of these risks

WWF calls for:

- Guaranteed participation and rights protection for IPLCs.
- Credits that represent real, measurable, and permanent reductions or removals.
- Transparent monitoring systems and North-South collaborations to build capacity.
- Standards that balance integrity with accessibility for African stakeholders.



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A photograph showing the silhouettes of several children playing with fishing nets on a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, warm glow that illuminates the scene from behind. The children are in various poses, some holding up the nets, and their shadows are cast on the sand. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

CONCLUSION

COP30 in Belém must be a decisive turning point in global climate action. For Africa, survival, justice, and opportunity are at stake. The Belém Package for Africa outlines a pathway to align ambition with equity—by securing actionable finance, advancing just energy transitions, protecting nature, transforming food systems, and upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Other priorities for Africa at COP30 include integrating health into climate negotiations -recognizing that climate change is already undermining public health across the continent and securing formal recognition of Africa's special needs and circumstances under the Paris Agreement.

This recognition must reflect the continent's historically low emissions, high vulnerability, and the urgent need for justice in the global climate response.

Africa comes to Belém not as a passive participant nor a victim but as a solutions provider—offering forests, renewable energy potential, food system innovations, and community-led resilience as global assets. The world cannot afford half-measures. COP30 must deliver a future that is resilient, just, and sustainable, for Africa and for all.

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