



© Huw Cordey / naturepl.com / WWF

Policy Brief | September 2025

ENDING DEFORESTATION AND ECOSYSTEM CONVERSION: HOW COP30 CAN DELIVER

WWF envisages a nature package for COP30, composed of elements and tracks that have their own dynamics of discussion that, considered together, could deliver on governance and implementation on synergies between climate and nature¹.

As part of that, **this policy brief outlines how COP30 can deliver to Ending Deforestation and Conversion of Ecosystems**, through a set of formal decisions, Presidency and Action Agenda initiatives that could enhance implementation of Global Stocktake outcomes and private sector commitments, as well as international cooperation initiatives on forests such as the Glasgow Declaration.

1. CONTEXT

The Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU)² sector is key for climate mitigation as it contributes to about a quarter of human-induced global greenhouse gas emissions, while forests and other ecosystems serve as crucial carbon sinks. Nearly half of AFOLU emissions come from deforestation and forest degradation, but protecting and restoring ecosystems like forests, peatlands, and wetlands could mitigate up to **7.3 GtCO₂-eq per year**. Agriculture

offers additional potential of **4.1 GtCO₂-eq per year** through soil carbon management, agroforestry, and improved cultivation and livestock practices. Addressing this sector should be a priority for COP30 in the context of implementing Global Stocktake (GST) results and fostering synergies between the Rio Conventions. WWF proposes that COP30 has a strong focus on forest outcomes, given it is happening in the Amazon and Brazil's leadership on this issue.

¹ See figure in the Annex.

² AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) encompasses a broader category including both "LULUCF" (Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry) and agricultural activities, meaning AFOLU includes all land use related emissions from agriculture alongside those from land use changes and forestry practices covered under LULUCF.

Climate and nature developments since the Paris Agreement

In its Article 5, the Paris Agreement recognizes the importance of taking action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases, including forests. Within the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement, the cover decisions from COP26 and COP27 have recognized the value of nature to keep 1.5°C within reach and for adaptation.

The UAE Consensus from COP28 went even further and emphasized in the outcome of the Global Stocktake: *the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, and conserving other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases while ensuring social and environmental safeguards, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Decision 1/CMA.5, Article 33).*

Similarly, the COP28 decision on establishing the framework for Global Goal on Adaptation, known as the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, has a standalone target on ecosystems and biodiversity (Decision 2/CMA.5). This further demonstrates the very relevant and crucial interlinkage between adaptation and nature-based interventions.

The UAE Consensus also established a 'Mission 1.5', to be carried out by the Troika of Presidencies of the UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil, to create enabling environments for

1.5°C alignment. At the 8th Ministerial on Climate Action (22-23 July 2024, China), the Troika had a discussion on supporting the conservation, protection and restoration of forests.

A host of existing commitments³ already pledge to end deforestation and conversion of ecosystems, most of them with a deadline of 2030. COP30 provides a prime opportunity not only to politically elevate this pledge but also to define next steps for its implementation.

Some existing international commitments that COP30 can build on (in addition to the GST decision quoted above) include:

- **COP26 Glasgow Leaders Declaration on Forest and Land Use (2021):** 145 leaders "commit to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030";
- **UN CBD Global Biodiversity Framework (2022):** "bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030";
- **United for Our Forests Joint Communiqué (2023):** bringing together 18 developing countries that hold more than 62% of the world's tropical forests;
- **UN Forum on Forests 2024 Ministerial Declaration:** "halt deforestation and forest degradation" by 2030.

COP30 in the Amazon: a unique opportunity

COP30 presents a key opportunity to establish an actionable framework for halting and reversing deforestation, integrating food production, commodity supply chains, and Indigenous Peoples and also local communities rights. Given Brazil's leadership on forests and nature, COP30 is expected to strengthen links between climate, forests and biodiversity by expanding commitments to the entire land sector, including new and innovative sources of finance for standing forests The Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF).

As an implementation-focused COP, this could be an opportunity to provide renewed momentum, milestones and a way forward for tracking progress of such commitments. Some processes that can facilitate such outcomes are already in place. The Mitigation Work Programme 5th Dialogue focused on enabling mitigation solutions in the forest sector, drawing on national and regional experience. The COP30 Presidency announced a Presidents circle, including the other Rio Conventions, that could send political signals on climate and nature synergies, highlighting the crucial role of forest ecosystems for climate, biodiversity and people. Forests can also be discussed in the other circles announced by the Presidency: the Peoples' circle, the Ethical Stocktake circle and the Finance Ministers circle.

On the following pages, we will expand on what needs to be done and how to achieve the following outcomes:

- Connecting the synergies discussion, currently focused on improving governance of Rio Conventions for coordinated action, to an implementation-focused agenda through national plans;
- Reinforcing and providing next steps on the Global Stocktake commitment to halt and reverse deforestation and ecosystem conversion by 2030;
- Creating a work programme on climate and nature to foster the implementation of the GST commitments on forests and ecosystems
- Presidential/Action Agenda initiatives on forests to reinforce government and private sector commitments;
- Encouraging countries to adequately consider forests in their NDCs, including a pathway in line with GST paragraphs 33 and 34.

3 <https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/WWF-Forest-Pathways-Report-2023.pdf>

2. WWF PROPOSAL: COP30 Political Signals on Ending Deforestation and Ecosystem Conversion

For WWF, three pillars are needed for COP to effectively deliver on ending deforestation and ecosystem conversion: a political one translated in COP decisions or semi-formal outcomes such as Presidency Summaries or Declarations;

a financial one (the Tropical Forests Forever Facility) and an implementation one (Action Agenda Activation groups; initiatives, a strong thematic day). Below we explain how those pillars can be translated into COP30 outcomes.

Political Pillar: COP30 Negotiations, Presidency Agenda and Leaders' Summit

NEGOTIATED OUTCOMES

Mitigation Work Programme: Key deforestation and conversion free messages from the 5th Global Dialogue and Investment-Focused event on forests in Panama should be included in the Mitigation Work Programme decision.

Just Transition Work Programme: The Just Transition Work Programme draft text from SB62 also mentions *"the connection between just transition pathways and ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, including through the use of ecosystem-based adaptation approaches and nature-based solutions"*. We hope that formulation can be improved and connected to paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Global Stocktake outcome, including "halting and reversing deforestation by 2030". Forests are strongly connected to just transition pathways since most jobs connected to deforestation are informal and unjust. A just transition in the forest sector must also include and provide for forest peoples.

Cover text: In addition, WWF strongly believes it is of utmost importance that forests feature in an eventual COP30 cover text or equivalent.

SEMI-FORMAL OUTCOMES

Since the UAE dialogue will not take place in Belém, WWF recommends that the Presidency conveys one or more roundtables around key GST outcomes/related topics with conclusions/recommendations in a President's Summary that could influence implementation, as per the narrative of COP30 being an "implementation COP". **One of those themes should be forests.** This suggestion can also strengthen the framework around the six axes for the Action Agenda laid out in the Fourth Presidency Letter, as well as contributing to the political response to the ambition gap of NDCs.

NEW PROCESS: A WORK PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE AND NATURE WITH A FOCUS ON IMPLEMENTATION

WWF sympathizes with the concern from negotiators and the Brazilian Presidency that there are already too many agenda items and too many workstreams in negotiations. Our view, however, is that there is an implementation gap for nature-related climate action. We believe that synergies between climate and nature must be integrated in national mitigation and adaptation strategies, targets and objectives and those must be aligned with biodiversity national strategies and plans. Halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 is a key way of delivering on synergies for mitigation and adaptation.

In this sense, WWF suggests the creation of a work programme under the UNFCCC/Paris Agreement negotiations⁴ to take forward the UAE legacy by operationalizing the commitments to conserve ecosystems and halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and the alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework mandated by the Global Stocktake, with a focus on implementation of national plans. This workstream would also aim to connect those plans to the nature-related Action Agenda and Presidency pledges and initiatives.

The logic of delivering on GST outcomes would be to have for each theme an agenda item that would create a workstream with the mandate to develop an action plan. Using this rationale pragmatically, the work program could be an outcome of the synergies discussion under the international cooperation agenda item and/or a Presidential Roundtable recommendation, and its first output can be an action plan to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030. We highlight the work programme is envisaged as a dialogue process to deliver plans with a lifespan of 3-5 years.

PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES AND LEADERS' SUMMIT

Brazil's ability to influence major issues in international forums was on display under the Brazilian presidency of the G20. The Leaders Declaration reaffirms the need to enhance efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, taking into account the social and economic challenges of local communities as well as Indigenous Peoples. Forest outcomes have also been mentioned as a priority in the COP30 Presidency Letters.

To reinforce the leadership of the COP30 Presidency, WWF envisages the following complementary presidential initiatives to be launched at COP30, for example during the Leaders' Summit:

- The Tropical Forests Forever Facility, currently under development by the Brazilian Government and partners and expected to be launched in COP30, as a key means of implementation for halting and reversing deforestation that could also potentially be included in the Baku to Belém 1.3 trillion Roadmap. **The TFFF is the financial pillar for delivering on deforestation and conversion free at COP30.**
- A strong political push on enhancing and implementing forest targets and measures in NDCs to meet the GST commitments and other ones, such as the United for Forests initiative and/or the Belém Declaration. This would be aimed at getting **strong forest components in NDCs** to be matched with forest finance, such as from the above-mentioned TFFF or for the Forest and Climate

⁴ A CBD/UNFCCC Joint Work Programme is supported by many NGOs, including WWF. The work programme we propose under the UNFCCC could be either an additional feature for implementation or a steppingstone towards such a Joint Work Programme.

Leaders' Partnership country packages, involving partners such as Multilateral Development Banks and the NDC Partnership. This could unfold as a "Forest

NDC Challenge" (inspired by the Blue NDC Challenge and described below) as part of the political response to the ambition gap of the aggregated NDCs.

Implementation Pillar: Action Agenda Initiatives on halting and reversing deforestation by 2030

In the context of the Action Agenda, WWF suggests a **Forest Action Day** or series of Forest Action Events in official spaces like the thematic rooms, focused on government and private sector actions, with the following pillars: Forest NDCs; and Deforestation and Conversion-Free supply chains. Aligned with the message from the COP30 Presidency that the focus of COP30 should be on implementation, this day should highlight and reinforce existing commitments including by showcasing progress and outstanding efforts. Private sector actors should demonstrate that it's not only possible, but also that, by achieving deforestation and conversion-free supply chains they are actually reaping benefits in their most important exporting markets, including Europe and China.

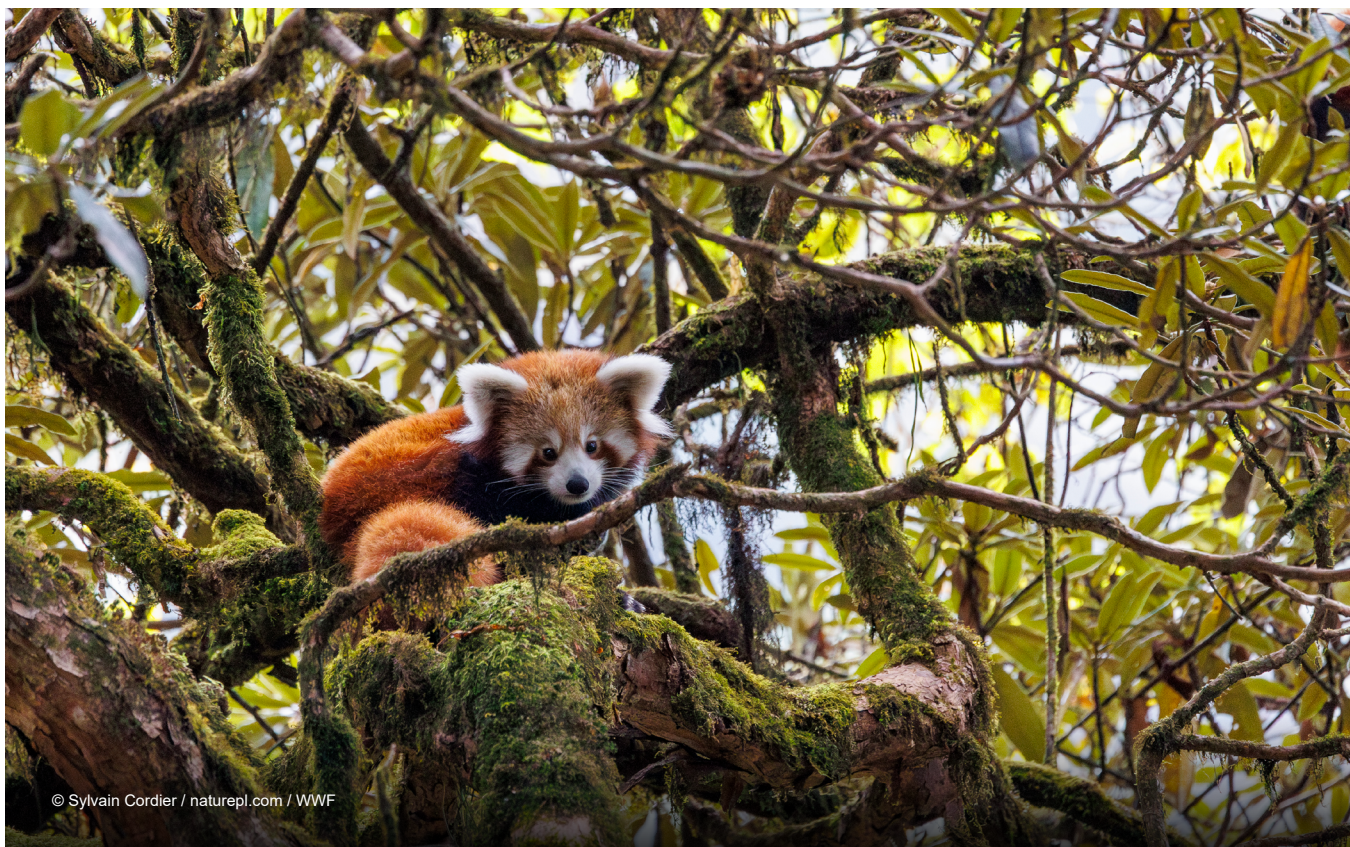
SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR NDCs

- Introducing an **"NDC-Forest Challenge"** that will prominently spotlight forest ambition in NDCs 3.0, aligned with paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Global Stocktake. A group of government representatives from forest-rich or relevant countries would be invited to speak about their plans, motivation, opportunities and challenges and act as champions in this space.
- In line with this a **"NDC Forest & Nature Leadership Forum"** could be launched which would bundle and bring together existing initiatives that aim at better integrating nature and forests in NDCs and their implementation through guidance, capacity building and other support

measures. The Leadership Forum could provide a space to learn, exchange and build partnerships around forests and nature in NDCs.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR DEFORESTATION AND CONVERSION FREE SUPPLY CHAINS

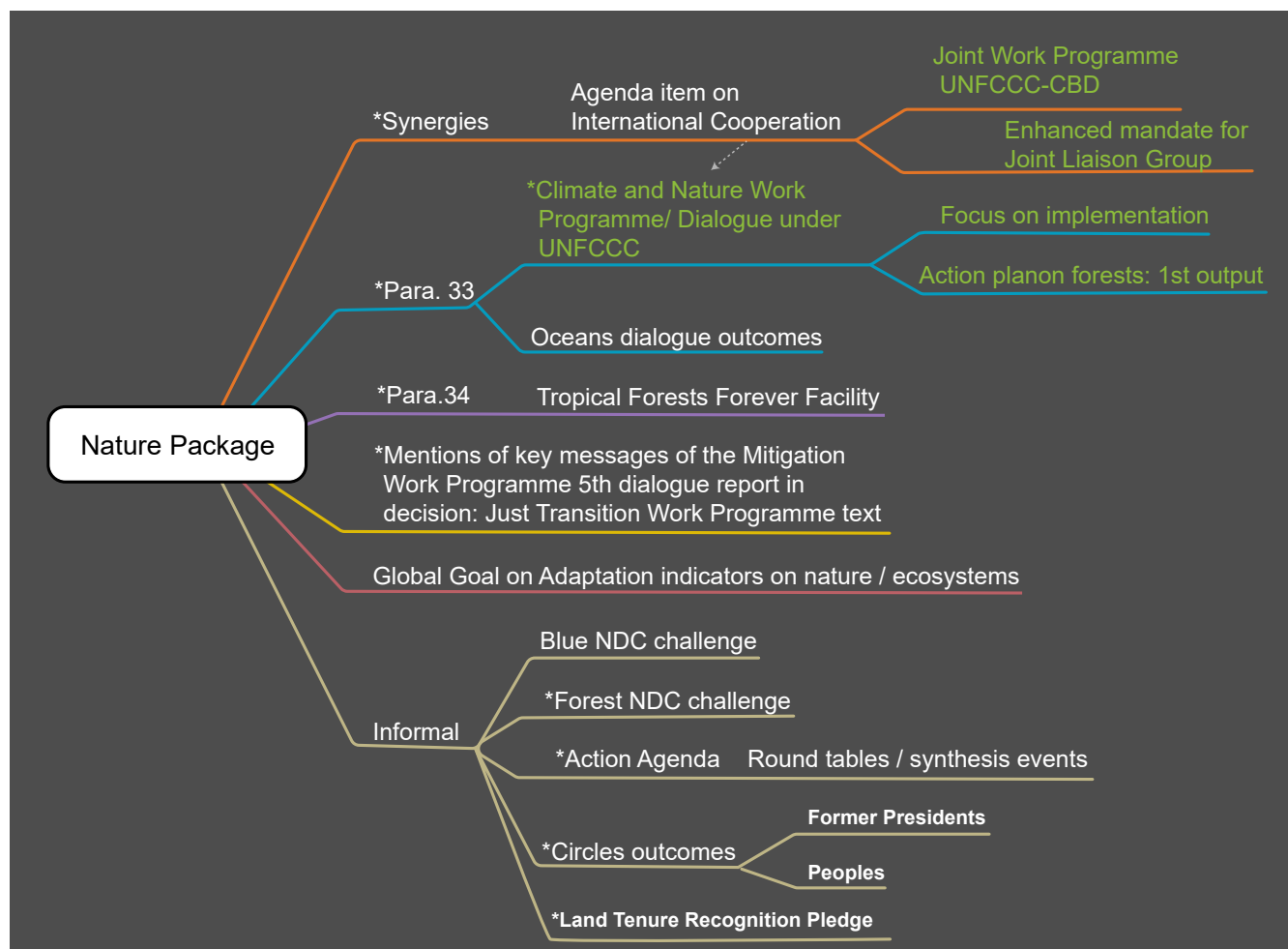
- A session to hold companies accountable for their existing commitments on removing deforestation and conversion from their supply chains (such as the Traders Roadmap agreed to at COP26), presenting the current status of implementation for the three agri-commodities sectors (soy, beef and palm oil).
- A business case session/event that demonstrates and highlights the progress of companies that have been successfully implementing measures to remove deforestation and conversion from their supply chains. These business cases should showcase examples from different actors along the supply chain, including farmers, traders, meat packers, banks and private funds, retailers and buyers from Europe and China, demonstrating not only that achieving zero deforestation is possible at scale, but that it also presents advantages in the mainstream market. Such a session focusing on the feasibility of deforestation and conversion free supply chains would send a strong signal that speeding up implementation of such commitments is possible.



© Sylvain Cordier / naturepl.com / WWF

Annex: A COP30 Package on Nature

WWF envisages a nature package for COP30. The following figure demonstrates the connection between different elements and tracks that have their own dynamics of discussion that, considered together, could deliver on governance and implementation on synergies between climate and nature.



KEY: White text - existing processes | Green text - new items | * - direct relationship to delivering on ending deforestation and ecosystem conversion.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Fernanda de Carvalho
Global Head - Climate and Energy Policy
WWF International

fcarvalho@wwfint.org

Hermine Kleymann,
Global Head - Forests
WWF international

hkleymann@wwfint.org



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

together possible panda.org/climateenergy

© 2025

© 1986 Panda symbol WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund)
® “WWF” is a WWF Registered Trademark. WWF, Avenue du Mont-Bland, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. Tel. +41 22 364 9111. Fax. +41 22 364 0332.

For contact details and further information, visit our international website at panda.org/cop30