



WWF Submission on Cooperation with other international organizations

September 2025

In response to the [call for submissions](#) by Parties and Observers included in SBSTTA 62 conclusions on agenda item 14, WWF is pleased to submit views on options for Cooperation with other international organizations to be discussed at SBSTTA 63 and COP30.

Key Messages:

Effective and efficient multilateral and national implementation of the Rio Conventions and UNFCCC nature related decisions under UNFCCC, requires stronger policy coherence and coordination. This can be achieved through a decision under the Cooperation agenda that could:

- **Reinforce the mandate and resources of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) and Joint Capacity Building Programme (JCBP)** to ensure effective policy coherence among the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions.
- **Establish a Climate and Nature Work Programme** under the UNFCCC to implement and track nature-related climate decisions within the Convention, such as ending deforestation and scaling up finance by 2030 (Global stocktake decision para 33,34)
- **Call for aligned monitoring and reporting under the Rio Conventions**, that can ease the reporting burden and improve data quality. By aligning **indicators for the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience** (UAE FGCR) with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Monitoring Framework which will be revisited at CBD COP17.
- **Request Parties to align their national plans and strategies** under the UNFCCC (NDCs and NAPs) with those under the CBD (NBSAPs) and UNCCD (LDN Targets).

Complementary actions in non-formal COP spaces could strengthen the synergies and cooperation decisions as:

- **A MoU between Rio Conventions Action Agendas.** Leverage the CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC Action Agendas to strengthen public–private implementation and policy coherence across conventions and sectors.
- **The COP30 Circle of Presidencies could issue a statement reinforcing coherence and delivery through synergies**, informed by non-Party stakeholder contributions from the Rio Conventions Action Agendas.

I. Introduction

Article 7.2(l) of the UNFCCC mandates the COP to “seek and utilize” the cooperation of, and information provided by, competent international organizations and NGOs. This is operationalized through the agenda item 14 on Cooperation with Other International

Organizations, which enables engagement with UN entities, convention secretariats, and intergovernmental bodies to support the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement in an efficient and effective manner.

This agenda has historically provided the formal space for cross-convention coordination, including the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and initiatives such as the Joint Capacity-Building Program. Between 2001 and 2006, Parties even debated alignment options between Conventions, though momentum later waned. The SBSTA 62 decision to re-open and expand this agenda marked a turning point, calling to go “beyond existing collaborations for more inclusiveness”.

Therefore, for the first time in many years, this agenda opens a space with the scope to both, strengthen cooperation among the Rio Conventions and other MEAs and to ensure that nature-related decisions already adopted under the UNFCCC can be implemented more coherently and effectively. Furthermore, aligning other **multiple elements of which are underpinned by the need for a coherent and integrated vision like just transition, adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, capacity-building, the design of financial mechanisms**, as well as different thematic working groups.

At the same time, the current context—enriched by scientific evidence recognizing the critical interlinkages between climate and biodiversity and informed by the advisory opinions of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), the Inter-American Court of Human Rights¹ and the [International Court of Justice](#); which provides authoritative clarification on the legal obligations under international law of States in respect of climate change and encourages all States to strengthen international cooperation and promote the implementation of the legal obligations referenced by the opinion, in line with existing international commitments and obligations. Calls for the immediate, effective, and accelerated implementation of already adopted decisions (see Annex 1, Figure 1: Progress Overview and Opportunities for Advancing Policy Coherence and Efficiency Across Rio Conventions, Source: WWF) —highlights the importance of promoting and reinforcing a synergistic approach among the Conventions.

COP30 Presidency is a tremendous opportunity, as it has included among its objectives the implementation of the GST, including through strengthening synergies among Rio Conventions.

II. Strategic options and potential landing zones to advance climate, biodiversity and land synergies at COP30

Our recommendations highlight feasible and actionable ‘landing zones’ that can be pursued in the short to medium term. We present these landing zones as a cohesive set, since we are considering the formal process but also including non-formal platforms, such as initiatives spearheaded by COP Presidency and the Non-State Actors Agenda. While informal in nature, such spaces can nonetheless mobilize significant political support for cooperation and climate, nature and land synergies.

¹ The Inter-American Court, concluded by declaring that the world is facing a situation of “climate emergency.” It took a significant leap in international law by recognizing that the “right to a healthy environment” is inseparably linked to the “right to a healthy climate.”

Spaces Landing zones	Decisions/ Mechanisms to operationalize the synergies	Recommendations
Negotiations	A decision under Agenda item 14 on Cooperation with other international organizations that includes the following elements.	<p>Recall relevant previous decisions adopted under the UNFCCC, including the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake, and welcome previous relevant decisions under the CBD (decision 16/22) and UNCCD.</p>
		<p>Reinforce the mandate and resources of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) to ensure effective policy coherence among the secretariats of the three Rio Conventions— UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD—and to advance a synergistic, cross-convention agenda. In line with the Terms of Reference and Modus Operandi adopted at the JLG's 12th meeting in 2013, the JLG is tasked with developing technical papers that clarify and elaborate on specific policy and technical issues. These papers could inform new mandates developed by the subsidiary bodies of the three conventions, fulfilling the decisions outlined in UNFCCC decision 13/CP.8., CBD decision VI/20, UNCCD decision 12/COP.6. Potential topics could address the interlinkages between climate and biodiversity finance (guidance, reporting, and safeguards) and cross sectors benefits and trade-offs, improving efficiency and avoiding overlaps.</p> <p>Additionally, as outlined in the JLG's areas of activity, promoting guidance and better coordination among national focal points and stakeholders is crucial, especially as countries implement their NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and Land Neutrality Targets. JLG could host joint consultations and workshops for focal points and key stakeholders and develop cross sectoral capacity building programs, with the Rio Conventions Joint Capacity Building Programme.</p>
		<p>Decide the establishment of a “Climate and Nature Work Programme” under the UNFCCC Why: Implementation and tracking of nature-related climate action under the UNFCCC are fragmented and insufficient; with lack of risk and trade of analysis. There is no dedicated space to operationalize GST mandates related to nature (paras 33, 34, 55) nor to respond to UNCCD and CBD calls (e.g. CBD decision 16/22). A time-bound Work Programme can integrate climate–nature synergies across existing UNFCCC constituted bodies and thematic tracks—without creating new bureaucracy, even more in a time of accelerated implementation. COP30's focus on GST implementation makes this the moment to organize delivery. Aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement GST guidance (33/34/55) by operationalizing actions to halt and reverse ecosystem loss and deforestation by 2030, and by scaling aligned finance. • Address recommendations from the oceans dialogue.

Negotiations	<p>(continue)</p> <p>A decision under Agenda item 14 on Cooperation with other international organizations that includes the following elements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate alignment with the KMGBF and UNCCD Strategic Framework, with a focus on national implementation, developing guidance for mainstreaming and implementing land-use and forest actions (incl. deforestation-/conversion-free supply chains) in NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and LDN targets. • Use and coordinate existing constituted bodies (e.g., PCCB, CGE, transparency and finance bodies) and thematic work (e.g., oceans, mountains, agriculture and food security, forests; capacity-building and MRV/Transparency groups) to integrate climate–nature synergies—not new structures. • Explore better monitoring and reporting mechanisms • Improve/enhance coherence and accountability by linking national plans to the Action Agendas and Presidency initiatives. <p>Process and timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time bound to deliver by next GST- 2028 • Work Programme could be part of the decision on Cooperation with other international organizations, or via a COP30/CMA cover decision; or task SBSTA/SBI to co-lead. <p>See full proposal here.</p> <p>An Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) under the SBSTA agenda item on Cooperation with Other International Organizations, to develop recommendations to the SBSTA and other relevant UNFCCC bodies on options to enhance international cooperation and policy coherence with the Rio Conventions, including through existing or potential new institutional arrangements. The AHTEG could be operational for a time-limited period (e.g. 1-2 years) to deliver on specific tasks to inform SBSTA's work in this area. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing existing cooperative arrangements and relevant UNFCCC processes related to Rio Convention collaboration and implementation. • Identify barriers to effective coordination and implementation among the Rio Conventions, drawing on inputs and consultations with Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including through submissions; and • Identifying and ideating additional opportunities to strengthen policy coherence and address identified barriers, both within existing frameworks and through potential new mechanisms or institutional arrangements, as appropriate. • Facilitating regular exchange and collaboration with the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions to support its mandate and ensure that recommendations and findings from the AHTEG are shared and considered in the work of the JLG. <p>Request Parties to align their national plans and strategies under the UNFCCC (NDCs and NAPs) with those under the CBD (NBSAPs) and UNCCD (LDN targets), recognizing that protecting and restoring ecological integrity is a common imperative of the three Rio Conventions and that all three share a 2030 horizon for the implementation of goals and targets. Including through mainstreaming and scaling up implementation of high integrity Nature based Solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, that place vulnerable populations, including Indigenous Peoples, afro descendants and local communities at the center, ensuring safeguards and human rights are respected.</p>
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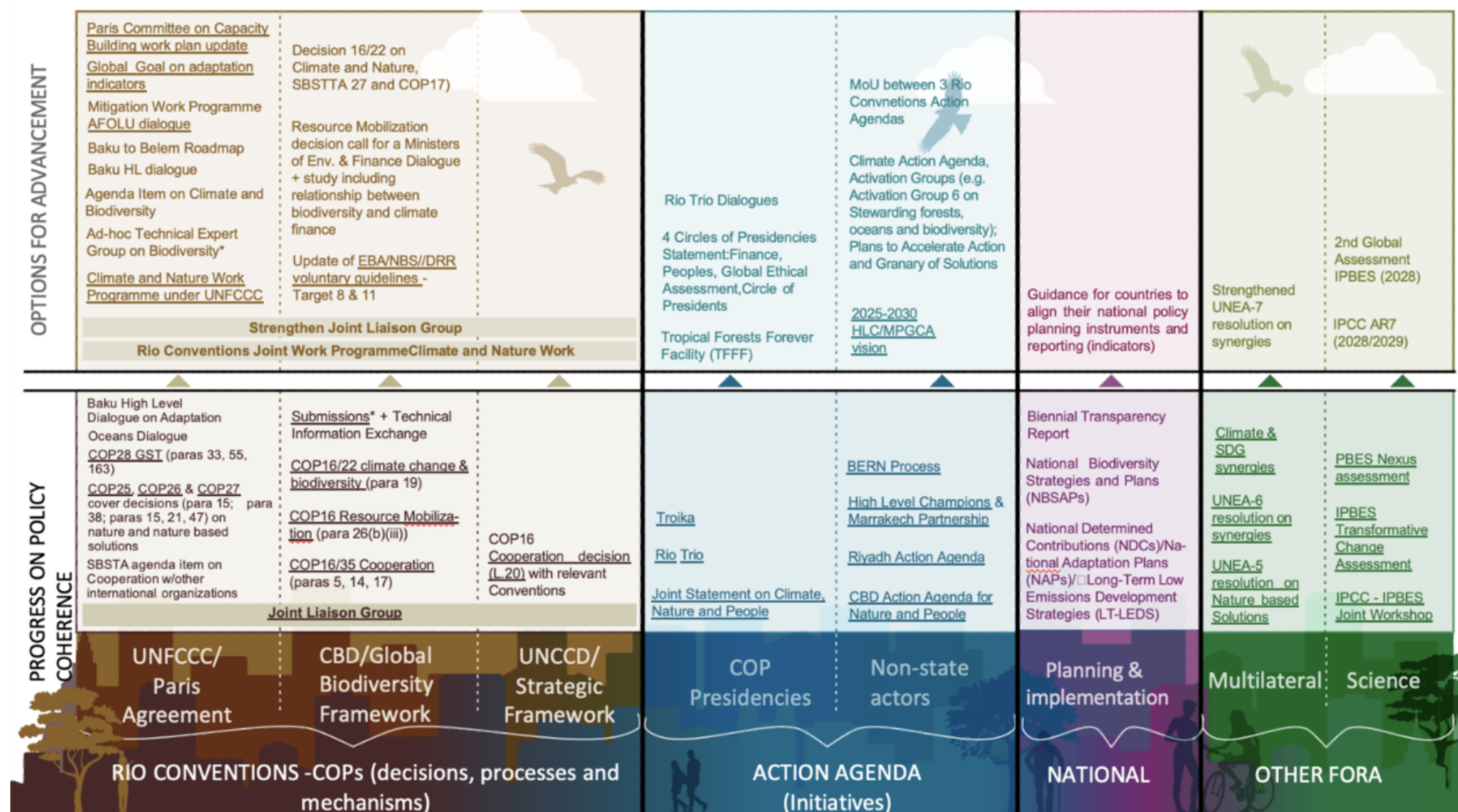
	(continue)	Additionally, while the Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) and CBD National Reports do not explicitly aim to promote synergies between climate and biodiversity , they offer opportunities for alignment. For instance, countries can use the BTR to report on nature-based solutions, such as coastal and marine initiatives, that contribute to both climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. In 2026 Parties to the CBD will present their National Reports on all targets, including target 7 on pollution, target 8 on climate change and target 11 on ecosystem services; this is an opportunity to better align with the BTR. This integrated reporting can highlight co-benefits and foster coherence between climate and biodiversity policies.
	A decision under Agenda item 14 on Cooperation with other international organizations that includes the following elements.	Strengthen the policy-science- local knowledge interface that is critical to enhancing synergies among Rio Conventions.
		Maintain a dedicated space for discussions under the SBSTA agenda item on Cooperation with Other International Organizations , with the aim of having inclusive dialogue and recommending actions to advance cooperation and synergies across the Rio Conventions, as well as other relevant MEAs.
		Other decisions and processes
	Just Transition	Just Transition is currently addressed in the UNFCCC as putting people at the center of the climate debate. The discussion can be broadened to include people and nature, highlighting the role and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. COP 30 presents a key opportunity for that recognition the since Just Transition Work Programme draft text in the Chairs Informal Note from SB62 recognizes “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”. That formulation could be improved by including a mention to synergies. The topic of synergies could also be addressed in one of the future JTWP dialogues.
	Oceans²	Ocean-based solutions could close up to 35% of the 2050 emissions gap while advancing adaptation, biodiversity, and equitable livelihoods. ITLOS’s 2024 Advisory Opinion affirmed that GHG emissions are marine pollution under UNCLOS —requiring reduction, reversal, and control—an interpretation confirmed by the ICJ (July 2025) . Ocean based solutions include conserving and restoring coastal ecosystems (blue NbS) and decarbonizing shipping , delivering cross-cutting benefits. Any technological ocean-climate options (e.g. mCDR) need to apply the precautionary principle and robust risk assessment. The UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue can inform synergy efforts within the UNFCCC and across international organizations— For instance, the 2025 Dialogue covered three focal areas, including ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies. These efforts could be reflected in a potential Climate and Nature Work Program under UNFCCC as mentioned above. The UN Oceans interagency

² **Views on Cooperation with other international organisations.** Submitted by the Blue Marine Foundation and the Ocean & Climate Platform, with the support of International Coral Reef Initiative, Greenpeace International, MedPAN, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Ocean Conservancy, and WWF

		cooperation mechanism can support these efforts by convening all relevant UN agencies working on ocean-based topics and enhancing their collaboration.
	Food Systems	Transforming Food Systems: A Critical Opportunity for Climate, Biodiversity, and Land Adopting a food systems approach promotes integrated, holistic, and long-term solutions across sectors. The UNFCCC can significantly enhance impact by embedding this food systems approach across relevant workstreams and initiatives, such as the Joint Work on Agriculture and Food Security, the Global Goal on Adaptation , and the follow-up to the COP28 Declaration on Food and Agriculture. Additionally, including guidance for integrating these food-systems solutions (e.g. nature-positive food production -such as agroecology-, reducing food loss and waste, and promoting healthy, sustainable diets and nutrition into NDCs/NAPs and aligned national instruments.
	Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)	The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience spans thematic targets—water, food, health, ecosystems, infrastructure/human settlements, poverty/livelihoods, cultural heritage—and the adaptation cycle. Under Decision 2/CMA.5, UAE–Belém Work Programme experts should prioritize indicators for: (b) climate-resilient, equitable food systems; and (d) reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity through ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions—including restoration and conservation—across all ecosystems by 2030. As the GGA decision encourages using indicators from other frameworks to streamline reporting and enhance coherence, UAE–Belém targets/indicators should align with the Kunming to Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). Parties could also integrate GGA indicators into the KMGBF monitoring framework review at CBD COP17 and extend alignment to indicators for voluntary national Land Degradation Neutrality targets —fostering cross-cutting coherence, reducing reporting burdens, and strengthening integration across biodiversity, climate, and land agendas. GGA indicators, expected by COP30, should support coherent monitoring/evaluation at national and international levels and inform 2026 UNFCCC Biennial Transparency Reports and CBD National Reports.
	Finance Principles for the NCQG and B2B Roadmap	Establishment of clear and common guidelines to harmonize financial flows across the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the GBF Fund, and other relevant mechanisms, ensuring coherence and preventing double counting , while at the same time mobilizing innovative, accessible, and additional financial instruments that build on these guidelines and guarantee complementarity across funds.
		Enhanced transparency and accountability of public, private, and multilateral financing through robust monitoring, reporting, and disclosure systems. Promoting financial flows that deliver joint climate and biodiversity co-benefits , with particular emphasis on equitable access for Indigenous Peoples, afro descendants and local communities .

	Potential Cover decision	<p>A new agenda item that brings coherence to climate, biodiversity and land decisions under UNFCCC A dedicated agenda item on climate, biodiversity and land, could strengthen the effectiveness of the UNFCCC process by aligning it more closely with the outcomes and processes of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Desertification (UNCCD). This would help avoid fragmented discussions on the interlinkages and scope of promoting synergies across multiple agenda items within the UNFCCC, while also preventing the overstretching of key technical and political issues that could be more effectively addressed under a single, focused agenda item.</p> <p>Establish a dedicated “Climate and Nature Work Programme” under the UNFCCC. As mentioned above, to operationalize the GST commitments to conserve ecosystems and halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and the alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework, with a focus on implementation including of national plans. This work programme would also aim to connect those plans to the nature-related Action Agenda and Presidency pledges and initiatives.</p>
Presidential Initiatives	Circle of Presidents	Considering that the Circle of Presidencies includes the UNFCCC COP30, CBD COP16, and UNCCD COP16 Presidencies, this could be an opportunity to develop and sign a political declaration or statement that strengthens policy coherence and the development of mandates within each convention by establishing a process to achieve this.
	The Circle of Global Ethical Stocktake	The report or statement by the Ethical Stocktake should raise the ethical values of respect, responsibility, and equity to contribute to a synergistic approach that recognizes the limits of the planet and its resources.
Non- State Actors	Climate Action Agenda Marrakesh Partnership	<p>Non-State Actors Action Agendas collaboration that complements implementation of negotiated decisions.</p> <p>A potential MoU between the three Rio Conventions non-state-actors' agenda should include considerations to develop shared efforts to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote NDCs, NBSAPs, NAPs and LDN targets aligned implementation • Promote sectorial transitions that consider trade-offs and risk between frameworks and cross sector collaboration. • Explore harmonizing monitoring, reporting, and disclosure, by developing interoperability across the three Action Agendas to reduce fragmentation, enhance comparability, and provide a coherent picture of NSA contributions to climate, biodiversity, and land goals. • Explore common campaigns and a common synergetic Work Plan and reporting (e.g. a synergetic yearbook).
		COP30 Presidency to convene a Ministerial High Level Round table discussion on Acceleration Synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions with a focus on implementation at national level and delivering commitments consistent with GST paras 33.34 , 63 and 163. Aligned to the Plans to Accelerate Solutions across Rio Conventions.

Annex 1: Figure on Progress Overview and Opportunities for Advancing Policy Coherence and Efficiency Across Rio Conventions. Source: WWF



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