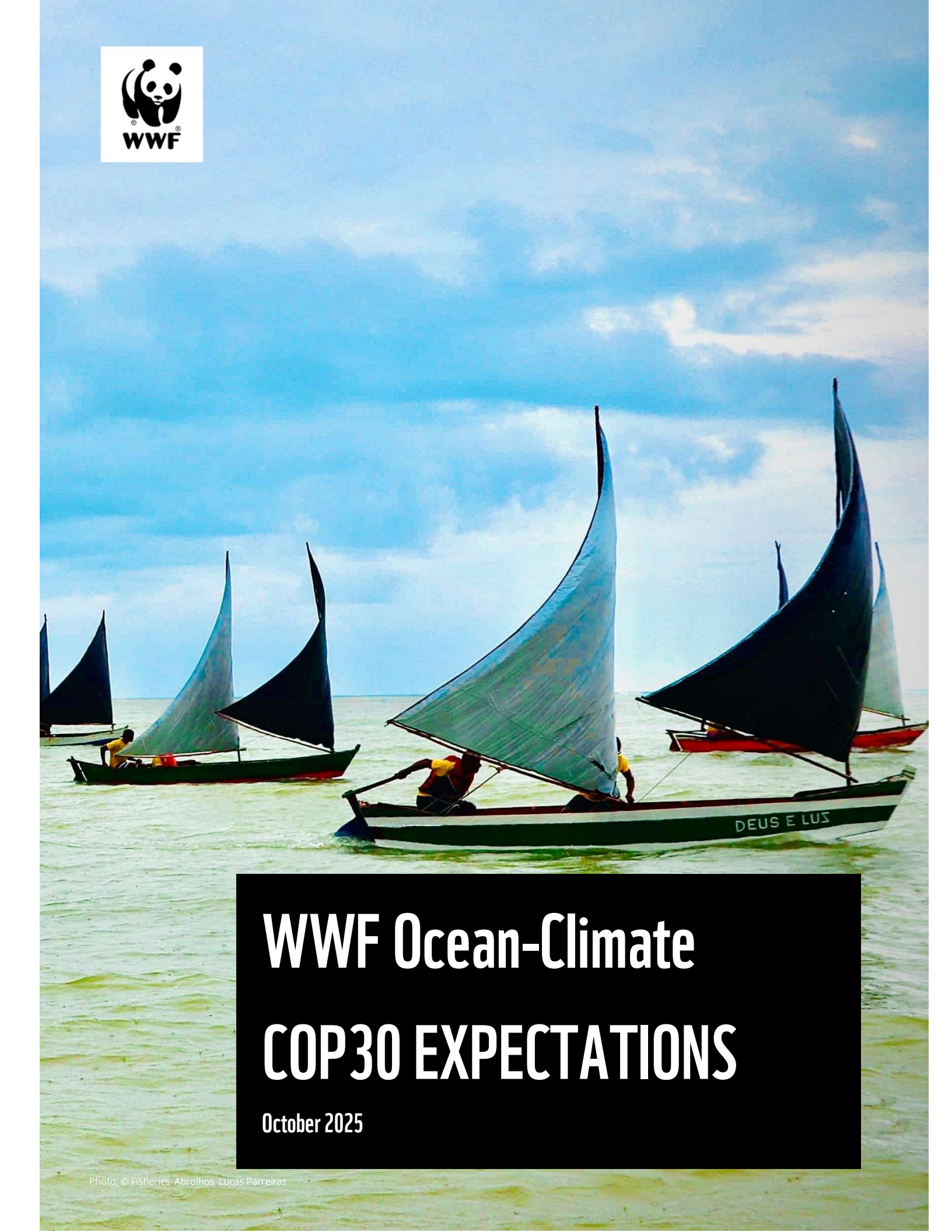


A photograph of several traditional wooden sailboats with large, dark sails sailing on a calm, greenish-blue sea under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The boat in the foreground has the text "DEUS E LUS" written on its side.

WWF Ocean-Climate COP30 EXPECTATIONS

October 2025

Oceans at the Heart of Climate Action: WWF Ocean-Climate expectations for COP30

Belém COP30 marks a defining moment to embed the ocean at the core of global climate ambition — linking mitigation, adaptation, finance, biodiversity, and justice. The ocean regulates Earth's climate and supports billions of livelihoods, yet it is under mounting threat from warming, acidification, deoxygenation and rising seas. [COP30 must deliver outcomes that both protect ocean ecosystems and unlock their potential to help achieve the Paris Agreement goals.](#) The Brazilian Presidency's vision for COP30 — connecting land, forest, and ocean systems — offers an unprecedented opportunity to make the ocean a pillar of global climate policy. To seize this opportunity, it is essential to support the implementation of the Ocean Breakthroughs, the COP30 Action Agenda, its Blue Package, and the Belém Call for Ocean Action.

WWF's overarching expectations for COP30 can be found [here](#).

WWF's key asks on Ocean-Climate for COP30:

- Embed the ocean across COP30 outcomes — recognizing it as integral to mitigation, adaptation, finance, and just transition.
- Deliver ocean-enhanced NDCs and NAPs that integrate blue carbon, coastal resilience, sustainable fisheries, and ocean decarbonization, with a COP30-mandated task force tracking progress annually to ensure commitments advance toward implementation.
- Establish an ocean pillar within a COP30 Nature Package to halt and reverse the loss of marine and coastal ecosystems by 2030.
- Commit predictable and accessible finance for ocean-based adaptation and resilience, particularly for SIDS, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.
- Advance an equitable, just transition from offshore fossil fuels toward nature-positive renewable energy and sustainable blue economies.
- Respond to the accelerating risk of reaching global tipping points - including vital ocean-related systems such as coral reefs, ocean circulation, and polar ice melt.
- Strengthen cooperation across the Rio Conventions and the High Seas Treaty to integrate ocean, climate, and biodiversity agendas.
- Support implementation of the Ocean Breakthroughs through the COP30 Action Agenda and Belém Call for Ocean Action.
- To sustain momentum after COP30, a multi-year Ocean-Climate Roadmap under the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue should be developed.

The Ocean-Climate Nexus

The ocean and its ecosystems absorb over 90% of excess heat and a quarter of global CO₂ emissions, buffering humanity from the worst climate impacts, including through coastal protection. However, escalating marine heatwaves, coral bleaching, sea-level rise and acidification threaten ecosystems and coastal communities alike. The 2025 Global Tipping Points Report warns of potential collapse of coral reefs, disruption of ocean circulation, and polar ice loss — all amplifying global risks. [COP30 must strengthen the link between ocean protection and climate action](#). Belém, situated at the meeting of the Amazon, mangroves and the Atlantic Ocean, symbolizes the interconnectedness of forest, freshwater and marine systems that must underpin climate policy.

Ocean-Enhanced National Climate Plans (NDCs and NAPs)

COP30 is the moment to see how the Paris Agreement's ambition cycle is being delivered. [Parties should submit NDCs 3.0 and NAPs that integrate ocean-based mitigation and adaptation, with commitments to:](#)

- Protect and restore mangroves, seagrasses, saltmarshes, kelp forests and coral reefs as high-integrity blue carbon ecosystems that are also essential for climate adaptation.
- Expand socio-environmentally responsible offshore renewable energy, ensuring biodiversity safeguards and community benefits.
- Decarbonize shipping and phase out offshore oil and gas exploration and exploitation.
- Strengthen coastal resilience, fisheries management, and early-warning systems for marine heatwaves and acidification.
- Align plans with the UAE–Belém Work Programme for the Global Goal on Adaptation.
- Developed countries should back these efforts through finance, technology transfer and capacity-building under the Baku–Belém Roadmap to 1.3T, ensuring fair access for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and SIDS.
- Parties should commit to transparent reporting of ocean measures in NDCs and NAPs, supported by the Blue NDC Challenge and a Blue NDC Task Force to facilitate implementation and track progress annually.
- At the World Leaders Summit and the Ministerial Dialogue on Ocean in NDCs, Parties should commit to scale ocean action and finance, signal commitments to the Blue NDC Challenge, and demonstrate leadership on implementing ocean-based solutions.

Mitigation – Ocean as a Climate Solution

Mitigation remains the first line of defence. COP30 must close the gap between current pledges and 1.5°C pathways while recognizing ocean ecosystems as essential to success.

[The COP30 outcomes should:](#)

- Commit to an equitable phase-out of offshore fossil fuel production and consumption, enabling a just transition to renewable energy.
- Apply a mitigation and conservation hierarchy prioritizing emissions reduction, ecosystem protection, and social safeguards.
- Recognize that ocean-based carbon removal and storage approaches require scientific oversight, robust risk assessments and adherence to the precautionary principle.
- Request the IPCC to expand its inventory guidelines to cover additional blue carbon ecosystems such as kelp forests and biogenic reefs.
- Promote inclusion of ocean actions — blue carbon protection, restoration, sustainable fisheries, and shipping decarbonization — in all future mitigation dialogues and guidance.
- From COP30 onward, national plans and technical dialogues should operationalize these measures, with the Presidency convening cooperation platforms and mobilizing finance for ocean mitigation.

Adaptation – Strengthening Coastal and Ocean Resilience

Healthy marine and coastal ecosystems are vital for climate resilience, providing protection from storms and supporting food security. Yet adaptation is lagging behind escalating risks. [COP30 should:](#)

- Adopt robust ocean-related Global Goal on Adaptation indicators that track key marine and ecosystems (i.e. mangroves, seagrasses, saltmarshes, coral reefs), account for cumulative stressors on biodiversity (e.g. pollution, fisheries), incorporate coastal and community resilience, and break down data by ecosystem type, region, and knowledge system where possible.
- Relaunch and strengthen the Thematic Expert Group on Oceans under the Nairobi Work Programme, ensuring strong participation from SIDS and Indigenous Peoples.
- Integrate ocean priorities into the Baku–Belém Adaptation Roadmap, ensuring alignment with finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building.
- Facilitate coordination between NAPs and biodiversity strategies, incorporating traditional and local knowledge into adaptation planning.

- Promote cross-ministerial collaboration and data sharing to make ocean resilience a measurable, financed component of the global adaptation agenda.

Ocean Finance for Developing Countries

Ocean-based solutions remain chronically underfunded despite their proven effectiveness. COP30 must integrate ocean priorities into the Baku–Belém Finance Roadmap to 1.3T, ensuring predictable and equitable support. [Parties should:](#)

- Create dedicated blue finance windows under the Green Climate Fund and Adaptation Fund to support restoration, sustainable fisheries and coastal protection.
- Redirect harmful subsidies toward nature-positive, community-led ocean solutions.
- Ensure finance reaches SIDS and vulnerable coastal nations directly, with transparent reporting aligned with the Standing Committee on Finance.
- Link UNFCCC finance mechanisms to new instruments such as the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles and the One Ocean Finance Facility launched at UNOC3.
- By 2026, Parties should report on blue finance delivery, feeding progress into the SCF Forum on “Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and Ocean.”

Nature Package – including an Ocean Pillar

Marine ecosystems should be embedded within a COP30 Nature Package alongside forests. [WWF calls for:](#)

- A global goal to halt and reverse marine and coastal ecosystem loss by 2030, in line with the ‘30x30’ target.
- Integration of marine ecosystems into NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs.
- Stronger cooperation between the UNFCCC, CBD, and BBNJ processes to advance joint ocean–climate solutions.
- Launch of a Joint Work Programme on the Biodiversity–Climate Nexus among the Rio Conventions.
- The Presidency can demonstrate leadership by ensuring that national climate and biodiversity commitments are coherent, mutually reinforcing, and ocean-inclusive.

Justice for Coastal and Indigenous Communities

Ocean-specific Coastal and Indigenous communities are at the forefront of ocean stewardship but face systemic barriers to finance and decision-making. [COP30 should:](#)

- Guarantee meaningful participation and decision-making authority for coastal communities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in climate interventions.

- Prioritize coastal communities and locally led adaptation—alongside increased financing for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)—within the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)
- Ensure finance mechanisms are inclusive, gender-responsive, and rights-based, with direct access to adaptation and blue finance.
- Uphold Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and secure tenure rights as a foundation for locally led adaptation.
- Report annually on community-led ocean action through the LCIPP and Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue.
- Embedding justice ensures that ocean protection supports both human rights and climate resilience.

The COP30 Action Agenda and Ocean Breakthroughs

The Brazilian Presidency’s Action Agenda and the ‘mutirão’ approach offer a platform for implementation beyond negotiations. The [‘Blue Package to Accelerate Ocean-based Climate Solutions’ within the Action Agenda](#), building on the Ocean Breakthroughs, mobilizes governments, civil society, and finance to accelerate progress on marine conservation, offshore renewables, sustainable food, coastal tourism and shipping decarbonization. This package should showcase how ocean enhanced NDCs and NAPs, progress on harmful subsidy reform, and empowerment of coastal communities — can advance ocean action that is visible, ambitious and accountable by the next Global Stocktake (2028). [We support efforts by the High-Level Champions and the COP30 Presidency to use COP30 as a platform to showcase the Blue Package under the Marrakech Partnership and to launch a Belém Call for Ocean Action on Ocean Day.](#)

From Belém to Implementation

To sustain momentum after COP30, [WWF calls for a multi-year Ocean–Climate Roadmap under the Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue](#) to track the integration of ocean priorities across UNFCCC processes and negotiations – including, mitigation, adaptation, finance, transparency, and a just transition. This roadmap should align with the Global Stocktake and future NDC submissions to identify gaps and ensure continuity, coherence, and accountability for ocean action. Annual progress snapshots should assess delivery of Belém commitments and inform the next ambition cycle. This roadmap could ensure continuity and keep ocean and coastal communities at the centre of global climate action.

COP30 must be remembered as the moment the world placed the ocean at the heart of climate action — securing a resilient future for people and nature alike.

Our mission is to
stop the degradation
of the planet's natural
environment and to
build a future in which humans
live in harmony with nature.

Photo: © Abrolhos Marco Antonio Teixeira WWF-Brasil



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

together possible.

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For further information contact:

Pauli Merriman, Head of Oceans Policy, WWF International
pmerriman@wwfint.org

Fernanda de Carvalho, Head of Climate & Energy Policy, WWF International
fcarvalho@wwfint.org

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Tel. +41 22 364 9111. Fax. +41 22 364 0332. Website: www.panda.org/oceans

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