

Proteus Partners update: Nature @UNFCCC COP30

The 30th Conference of the Parties (COP 30) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place in Belém, Brazil from 10th to 22nd November 2025. The Belém Package, incorporating 29 decisions, was adopted by the 195 participating Parties on the 22nd of November.

COP30 took place 10 years after the Paris Agreement, so Parties were due to publish their 5-yearly updates to their nationally determined contributions (NDCs). NDCs represent each country's strategy to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Under the Paris Agreement, Parties agreed to increase their ambition with each successive NDC update, and to reach net zero by 2050. At the start of COP30, 108 of the 195 participating Parties had provided updated NDCs, rising to over 120 countries at the start of December. In the [Emissions Gap Report](#), UNEP warns that the latest NDC updates are not sufficient to reach the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global warming to less than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Analysis of NDC implementation in the [2025 Biennial Transparency Report](#) suggests that warming could reach 3°C, with national emissions not being reduced even to the levels targeted in NDCs.

This document provides a summary of headlines from COP30, followed by an overview of outcomes specifically relevant to nature.

COP30 headlines

Agreements were reached on the following issues:

- Countries agreed that adaptation funding should be tripled by 2035. This new agreement pushes the timeline for reaching the suggested goal of \$120bn/ year back by 5 years, and the target is not binding. Additionally, this new target is significantly less than the Independent High Level Expert Group on Climate Finance's recommendation of \$1.3 tn/year for adaptation and climate investments in developing countries. However, it does set a clear expectation that the resources available for developing countries to respond to the changing climate should be significantly increased.
- A process was adopted to develop a just transition mechanism, that will outline how the transition away from fossil fuel/high-carbon economies can take place fairly and protect the rights of all people. This would include consideration of the rights of workers, women, Indigenous Peoples and other vulnerable groups. Agreement was not reached on specific means of implementation, so the final text does not specify how the development of the JTM will be funded.

There was progress on shortlisting the indicators to monitor progress on the Global Goal on Adaptation, although the indicators will need further refinements, with addition of further indicators in future COPs. A common framework of indicators will help Parties to measure progress and create a mechanism to support finance mobilisation towards adaptation. The 59 adopted indicators cover a broad array of topics, including finance, capacity building, water, agriculture, health, gender and human rights.

References to fossil fuels in the final COP30 text were limited to a call to accelerate implementation of the United Arab Emirates consensus, that had called for a transition "away from fossil fuels". In response to disappointment from the majority of Parties over the lack of references to fossil fuels in the final COP30 text, a 'coalition of the willing' of over 80 countries (spearheaded by Brazil and including the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Colombia, Kenya and Pacific Island States) have committed to launch a voluntary roadmap to outline how to transition away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner.

Information integrity was included in the COP agenda for the first time, with the launch of a Declaration on Information Integrity on Climate Change. This was launched by the Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Changes, which seeks to mobilise governments, private sector actors and researchers to address climate misinformation.

Commented [SR1]: NDCs are not only limited to climate mitigation they also include adaptation measures, which I think it is worth mentioning because the emphasis on these have increased through the years, and would be relevant for businesses in terms of nature-related risks and opportunities

Commented [SR2]: We can put a link to the report here

Commented [SR3]: Since we have exceeded this twice already, it might be better to mention the projection from the cumulative NDCs which is basically around 2.8-3 degrees, so way beyond the Paris agreement target

Commented [SR4R3]: It might be also worth mentioning the BTR report, which shows that trends from emissions are far from being reduced despite what the projections of the NDCs say. Also worth mentioning that the NDC implementation is dependent on resources and technology transfer and this has not materialise at the scale and pace needed

Commented [SR5R3]: We are talking about 2 different things here that need to be untangled:

- The Synthesis report of BTRs indicates that emissions have not gone down. Notably, LULF emissions have gone up [2025 Synthesis Report of Biennial Transparency Reports | UNFCCC](#)
- The Emissions Gap report shows that even considering all the NDCs together emissions are only likely coming down to 2.8 - 3 C and this is if all are implemented as they are planned, which is likely not going to be the case because many need funding support

So it all depends on what do you think Proteus partners will be interested in... I would guess they will be interested in both

Commented [SR6]: See my comment below

Commented [SR7]: I agree with this, but the initial deadline was 2030, so it was pushed back. Also, the overall request is 1.3tn/year according to the independent high-level expert group on Climate finance. This is not just for adaptation but for climate investments in developing countries and this is the goal developing countries are pushing for within the Baku to Belém roadmap which is still the ambition

Commented [SR8]: Also it is about having a mechanism that can support the channelling of finance towards adaptation

Commented [SR9]: Please spell this out

Commented [SR10]: Do you want to add the link here?

Commented [SR11R10]: An perhaps mention, key Parties that will be involved?

Commented [NA12]: isn't this being spearheaded by Brazil as the CoP presidency? (same as the deforestation roadmap below). If so then useful to mention this.

Commented [SR13]: I think you need to provide a bit of context about this, and mention some of the Parties involved

Nature at COP30

Nature featured strongly at COP30, across agenda items, side events and conversations between delegates. There was interest from many Parties on strengthening mentions of synergies between carbon and nature in the text, reflecting the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. [Analysis](#) of the most recent NDCs suggests that more countries are including references to nature, compared to the previous 2021 updates.

Rainforests and deforestation

COP30's location in the Amazon was chosen to encourage delegates to focus on the important role of forests in meeting climate targets. A roadmap to halt and reverse deforestation was initially included in the draft Belém package but not in the final agreed text. However, Brazil and others will continue to work on a deforestation roadmap to be presented at COP31.

Parties also renewed COP26 pledges to mobilize funds to protect the Congo Basin Forests as part of the final package. Further funding for forest protection will also be available through the new [Tropical Forest Forever Facility](#), launched by Brazil immediately before COP30 with an initial funding target of \$125bn, with \$25bn of that to come from government investments. So far governments, including Brazil, Indonesia, France, Germany and Norway have pledged a total of approximately \$6.7bn. The Facility is an innovative global fund aiming to support long-term conservation of tropical forests, through a combination of public, private and philanthropic funds. It is set out to reward forest preservation, providing incentives to counter-act those driving from deforestation.

Increased recognition and funding for Indigenous and traditional lands

Over 2,500 Indigenous Peoples participated in COP30. The rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities was emphasized in several of the agreed texts, including for the just transition mechanism. Ahead of COP30, a number of countries joined the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment, pledging to recognize 160 million hectares of Indigenous and other traditional lands by 2030. Brazil itself will protect at least 59 million hectares. This is the first global commitment to increasing recognition of land tenure, an important driver of nature conservation. Funding was also pledged to support Indigenous Peoples and local communities to recognize and secure their tenure rights, including through the Forest and Land Tenure Pledge and the [Tropical Forest Forever Fund](#) mentioned above.

Oceans

A new Ocean-related Implementation Task Force was announced at COP30, seeking to increase the adoption of marine solutions in updated NDCs. For example, countries are encouraged to set targets to increase their marine protected area coverage. The new task force builds on the pre-existing 'Blue NDC Challenge', a move from consensus-building to implementation.

Agriculture and food systems

A new initiative was announced by Brazil, to help accelerate investment into climate-resilient agriculture. The Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net-Zero Land Degradation (RAIZ) seeks to mobilize resources and support technology sharing, to restore degraded agricultural lands. The Belém Declaration on Hunger, Poverty and Human-centred Climate Action highlighted the unequal distribution of hunger, poverty and food insecurity as a result of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss. This declaration is intended to emphasize the importance of including social and biodiversity protection mechanisms within NDCs.

Commented [EG14]: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/cop30-key-outcomes-for-food-forests-land-and-nature-at-the-un-climate-talks-in-belem/>

Commented [SR15]: It might be useful to mention the Action Agenda that is an space the COP30 Presidency "revived" to highlight and encourage contributions to all actors. Here there was an initiative launch [Synergies Collaboration Platform | Aligning efforts for climate, biodiversity, land and people](#)

There is also a whole stream of work on synergies [Stewarding Forests, Oceans, and Biodiversity](#)

Commented [SR16R15]: Might be interesting for businesses to contribute to

Commented [SR17]: and mitigation as well

Commented [SR18]: Also, this is much more about the synergies at the MEA level is how this should be trickling down at the national level, and perhaps encouraging Proteus partners to look at how they are approaching both topics, and if there are any synergies that can be enhanced.

The topic of nature being a key factor on business climate resilience, so I think we have an opportunity to include this framing here more explicitly.

Commented [SR19]: It might be useful to say something a bit about the context

Commented [EG20]: <https://nature4climate.org/nature-gains-ground-in-2035-ndcs-but-implementation-remains-an-if/>

Commented [SR21]: and others, worth mentioning.

Also worth mentioning some of the progress on Art 6? although not clear if it will include forests at the end

Commented [SR22]: [What is the Tropical Forest Forever Facility? | World Resources Institute](#)

Commented [SR23]: What does this means exactly?

Commented [SR24]: which is an important driver of nature conservation right?

Commented [SR25]: It is better not to use acronyms, but why to include them in the first place?

Commented [SR26]: CAn we plug the GBF here?

Commented [EG27]: <https://ocean-climate.org/en/cop30-wins-losses-and-what-comes-next-for-the-ocean/>

Commented [EG28]: <https://globalallianceagainsthungerandpoverty.org/new/board-of-champions-global-alliance-establishes-its-support-mechanism-and-reviews-progress-against-hunger-and-poverty/>

Commented [EG29R28]: <https://cop30.br/en/news-about-cop30/leaders-sign-declaration-on-hunger-poverty-and-people-centered-climate-action>

Looking ahead: COP31 and the ‘triple COP year’

COP31 is expected to be held in Türkiye in November 2026. Both Australia and Türkiye had wanted to host COP31, with Australia planning to do so alongside Pacific Island countries and highlight the climate vulnerability of low-lying island nations. As a compromise, a split-hosting arrangement has been agreed, with the conference taking place in Türkiye but Australia taking on the role of ‘President of Negotiations’, shaping the agenda and priorities for COP31. A pre-COP meeting will be held in the Pacific Islands.

2026 will be a ‘triple COP year’, with CBD COP17 (in Yerevan, Armenia) and UNCCD COP17 (in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia). At the sidelines of COP30, a joint statement was issued by previous, current and future COP presidents recognizing the interconnected nature of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. The signatories resolve to work towards a shared workplan for 2026, recognizing the importance of synergies in implementing the three Rio Conventions.

Partners looking to engage further with global nature policy can consider:

- Reviewing NBSAPs, NDCs and National Adaptation Plans for countries relevant to their business operations (including value chains) and considering opportunities to engage with delivery of national targets on biodiversity and climate and embrace synergies in climate and nature action
- Engaging with the [COP30 Action Agenda](#), a voluntary framework setting out priority actions for all actors to contribute to the implementation of negotiated COP pledges and agreements
- Attending the Nature Action Dialogues in May 2026, which will seek to accelerate private sector action at the nexus of biodiversity, climate and water, by convening corporate leaders, nature experts and practitioners
- Investigating the resources under the Policy & Regulation section of the Proteus website and considering how to apply insights in their businesses

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Commented [SR30]: Would it be useful to mention that technical meetings will be also take place, and the main topics expected for the agenda of COP31 and these meetings as well?

Commented [EG31]: <https://www.iisd.org/articles/insight/cop-30-outcome-what-it-means-and-whats-next>