

Ministerial roundtable on enhancing ambition and cooperation on nature for climate action at UNFCCC COP28

COP28 Open Letter for Enhanced Ambition on Nature for Climate Action

by Ministers [and Heads of Delegation] and organizations to the International Community

We, the countries and organizations identified below, recognize, and affirm:

1. The intricate interdependence between our planet's climate system and the biodiversity it nurtures.
2. The imminent risk of surpassing adaptive capacities for both human and natural systems that is posed by the rise in global temperatures, every increment of a degree matters, which heightens the frequency of severe weather events.
3. The critical role of Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, as referenced in 1/CP.27, to deliver adaptation to climate change and mitigation and enhancing international cooperation for climate action.
4. The central role of the first Global Stocktake (GST) as the beginning of a process to continuously assess collective efforts to address the impacts of climate change and propose concrete solutions to raise ambition and effectively implement the purpose and long term goals of the Paris Agreement.
5. The importance of the GST to send strong signals for increased ambition, to include clear recommendations needed to facilitate cooperation for systemic transformation including on the role of nature and biodiversity in addressing the climate emergency in order to inform Parties when updating their NDCs.
6. The importance of means of implementation and the significant finance gap for nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches and the urgent need to align financial flows to enable the transformations required to deliver the Paris Agreement goals particularly for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
7. The existence of the opportunity of synergies as Parties update their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in response to the commitments of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and update their National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to deliver the Paris Agreement goals.

Understanding the importance of the first GST as a milestone in the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the messages that Parties should deliver to the world about the role of nature and biodiversity to address the climate emergency, We, the countries, and organizations identified below, call for the outcomes of GST to:

1. Support combating land degradation, reversal of biodiversity loss, restoration of ecosystems, avoidance of the worst impacts of climate change and fostering climate-resilient development, enhancing international cooperation between Parties, stakeholders and across multilateral environmental conventions.
2. Inviting to work together on the implementation of Nature-based Solutions and/or Ecosystem-based Approaches regarding national strategies to accelerate the transition to nature-positive economies and reverse biodiversity loss.

3. Promote energy transition models and strategies that respect and do not harm nature and biodiversity.
4. Promote the direct engagement and participation of Indigenous People and Local Communities and integrate Indigenous and other traditional knowledge systems into climate action frameworks and national instruments, as appropriate.
5. Urge international cooperation and support from developed countries to create enabling conditions in developing countries to facilitate joint delivery of biodiversity and climate targets, including technical assistance to implement Nature-based Solutions and/or Ecosystem-based Approaches.
6. Strengthen resource mobilisation from all sources and capacity building to decipher and act on the intricate interplay between climate and biodiversity and urgently scale access to finance, coherent policy approaches, and capacity building to developing countries.
7. Include a strong call for scaling up Nature-based Solutions and/or Ecosystem-based Approaches to conserve sustainably use and restore ecosystems, as one of the central features in the outputs of the first Global Stocktake in response to science requirements and as opportunity to include Nature-based Solutions and/or Ecosystem-based Approaches to mitigate, adapt to, and avert, minimise, and address loss and damage from climate change.
8. Enhance national climate instruments such as NDCs, NAPs and LTS, in a nationally determined manner, considering collective action pathways towards reversing forest loss, degradation of land and nature through effective ecosystem restoration and effectively conserving and equitably governing at least 30% of the Earth's land, freshwater, and ocean by 2030, recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
9. Establish a follow-up process to assess how Parties, as well as other stakeholders, are taking the outcomes from the GST into account to communicate new commitments and enhance the current ones to ensure that they are fair, ambitious and in line with what is required according to science, as well as to strengthen the implementation of action and required support.
10. Assess options for better integration of the climate and biodiversity agendas, including consideration for establishing further joint work primarily under existing agenda items on Climate and Biodiversity between UNFCCC and CBD to better integrate the mitigation and adaptation potential of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches and close the gaps identified in the Global Stocktake technical assessment, use more effectively the synergies between the Rio Conventions and enhance international cooperation.