

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADVANCE NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AT UNFCCC COP 28

Twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 28)

Fifth Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties of the Paris Agreement (CMA 5)

Fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 59)

Fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 59)

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At UNFCCC COP 28, countries must find agreement to deliver accelerated action to limit global warming to 1.5-degrees Celsius, which requires urgent, transformational efforts that harness the full potential of nature-based solutions¹ to mitigate, adapt to, and address climate change. At the mid-year conference (SB 58), countries advanced important technical discussions related to the Global Stocktake process, ocean-climate action, the rules for international cooperation through market and non-market mechanisms (Article 6), and a framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation; however, they struggled to find common ground on several key issues, such as mobilizing the necessary financial resources for climate action and developing the new joint work on agriculture and food security. Since then, the [Global Stocktake Synthesis Report](#) has given a clear directive for countries to come to COP 28 ready to work together on a transformational action agenda. Global progress on both climate action ambition and implementation is not on track, and the window of opportunity to meet its goals – and to secure a livable and sustainable future for all - is rapidly closing. All countries must do more, faster.

Achieving this speed and scale means countries will have to build political will and find areas of compromise on several landmark issues at COP 28, including the Global Stocktake outcome, the Global Goal on Adaptation framework, the rules, modalities and procedures of the Article 6 mechanisms, and operationalization of the Loss and Damage funding arrangements and fund. Countries should ensure that their discussions in Dubai are underpinned by the need to shift business-as-usual practices, phase out fossil fuels, and redirect incentives toward nature-positive economies that deliver meaningful outcomes for nature, biodiversity, people, and the climate.

In this brief, Conservation International proposes detailed policy recommendations to advance critical issues related to nature-based solutions and inclusive, rights-based climate action within seven key topics at COP 28:

- The Global Stocktake
- Cooperative mechanisms under the Paris Agreement (Article 6)
- Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security
- Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
- Ocean-Climate Nexus
- Glasgow–Sharm El-Sheikh work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation
- Loss and Damage Funding Arrangements and Fund

¹ Per [Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res. 5](#), nature-based solutions are defined as “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits.”

Recommendations Summary

Ensure the Global Stocktake (GST) outcome fully reflects the critical role of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation, low-carbon agriculture, and inclusive, rights-based approaches in realizing the goals of the Paris Agreement. The outcome should:

- Galvanize ambitious climate action with specific recommendations needed to reach global climate and biodiversity goals by halting and reversing nature loss by 2030, while rapidly phasing out fossil fuels.
- Encourage Parties to include specific targets, policies, measures, and actions within national climate plans that deploy nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to mitigate, adapt to, and avert, minimize, and address loss and damage from climate change, ensuring alignment with scenarios for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 °C and an adequate adaptation response.
- Strongly urge Parties to dramatically scale annual domestic and international financing for Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector climate action and call for the elimination, phase out, or reform of incentives that are harmful to natural ecosystems and low-carbon AFOLU sector management, including subsidies, in a proportionate, just, fair, and effective and equitable way.
- Recognize the integral role that Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth, and ethnic minorities play in successful, locally led nature-based climate action, and request Parties to implement rights-based approaches and apply environmental and social safeguards to climate action efforts across all sectors.

Increase efficiency of delivering climate goals and finance through cooperative mechanisms.

- Negotiations should focus on major outstanding issues for the operationalization of Article 6 and ensure the work programme on emissions avoidance maintains a narrow scope in line with its mandate and does not undermine the role of nature-based solutions.
- To incentivize ambitious mitigation action, all approaches under Article 6 should accelerate nature-based solutions with rigorous environmental and social integrity and broad inclusion of countries and stakeholders. For this purpose, Parties should encourage nature-based removals and avoid imposing any requirements that could inappropriately discourage their use under the Article 6.4 mechanism.
- Parties should engage Indigenous peoples and local communities in discussions on the linkages between Article 6 operationalization and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

Effectively structure the new Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA) to accelerate nature-positive climate action in the agriculture sector.

- Ensure the SJWA workshop topics enable the pivot to accelerating implementation by focusing on how countries, via a nationally determined approach and with the support of the UNFCCC, will *collectively* work over the long-term to unlock ambitious climate action in agriculture, ensure food security, and achieve the agreed objectives from COP 27.
- Develop the modalities of the SJWA workshops to give significant time for informal interventions and back-and-forth dialogue from Parties and non-Party stakeholders and ensure that each workshop includes a variety of voices.

Recommendations Summary

Strengthen the functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) to ensure inclusive and effective participation in climate policy processes and benefit-sharing.

- Consistently apply the LCIPP side-by-side collaborative model between Parties and Indigenous peoples and implement LCIPP [recommendations](#) on the engagement and input of Indigenous peoples and local communities across UNFCCC processes.
- Ensure the full operationalization of LCIPP functions through the implementation of the second three-year workplan and promote spaces for its representatives to participate and contribute to relevant negotiation agenda items, including the Article 6.8 work programme, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and Loss and Damage.
- Increase meaningful engagement of governments in the LCIPP activities, especially in those aimed at improving the participation of Indigenous peoples and local communities in national climate policy planning and financing.

Continue building and enhancing urgent action on the ocean–climate nexus.

- Call for increased technical and scientific support, knowledge exchange, and financing to include coastal and marine nature-based solutions in updated Nationally Determined Contributions, such as via the Global Stocktake, Ocean and Climate Change Dialogues and the Nairobi Work Programme’s Thematic Expert Group on Oceans, among others.
- Increase and mobilize finance flows for coastal and marine nature-based solutions within negotiations and processes related to climate finance.
- Support synergies for ocean–climate action across international policy processes, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the 2030 Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals.

Integrate nature and climate vulnerable people in the Global Goal on Adaptation framework.

- Set an overarching target that centers around nature, people, and livelihoods; for example: “By 2030, reduce vulnerability and enhance long-term climate resilience and adaptive capacity of 100% of the population or areas most vulnerable to climate change in each country (reducing impacts on people, supporting livelihoods, and preserving land, freshwater, and ocean ecosystems)”.
- Establish detailed targets that complement other global frameworks, include nature-based solutions (as part of crosscutting considerations or themes), and are defined following each step of the adaptation policy cycle.

Enable the new funding arrangements and fund for addressing Loss and Damage (L&D) to channel financing to nature-based solutions.

- Effectively channel financing to non-economic losses and include a strong focus on responses through nature-based solutions.
- Prioritize funding to solutions that build climate resilience over time and recognize that nature-based climate action can increase the efficacy of future solutions for addressing losses and damage.
- Ensure that developing countries will receive adequate support for the readiness and capacity-building needed to quickly access L&D finance and implement solutions to address loss and damage while building resilience.

The Global Stocktake

SBI Agenda item 8

SBSTA Agenda item 5

CMA Agenda item 4

Relevant UN Document Links: [SB 58 Conclusions](#); [SB 58 Informal Note](#); [Summary Report of the 3rd Technical Dialogue](#); [Synthesis Report on the Technical Dialogue](#); [Synthesis Report on Views on the elements for the Consideration of Outputs](#)

As a key part of the Paris Agreement’s ambition cycle, the first Global Stocktake (GST) can be a powerful propeller toward the transformative action needed by 2030 if executed well. At COP 28, the GST will culminate with recommendations to ‘course-correct’ toward meeting the Paris Agreement goals through enhanced national climate commitments and international cooperation. These recommendations should be based on the technical assessment of collective progress – summarized within the GST Synthesis Report – which as expected shows that progress is off-track across all dimensions of climate action. **To produce a robust and effective Global Stocktake, the outcomes must highlight the essential role of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based adaptation, low-carbon agriculture, and inclusive, rights-based approaches in ambitious climate action – as well as recommended actions for how to implement and incentivize them.**

Nature-based solutions (NbS) in terrestrial, coastal, and marine areas are critical tools to accelerate the transition to a nature-positive, net zero future, which provide climate adaptation benefits and drive positive impact at scale to conserve biodiversity and improve livelihoods.² **We will not reach our global climate and biodiversity goals without halting and reversing nature loss by 2030, while rapidly phasing out fossil fuels.** Notably, emissions from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry must reach net zero *more quickly than any other sector* – by or shortly after 2030.³ Moreover, delayed action will reduce the capacity of NbS to enhance the resilience of ecosystems and communities and to avert and minimize loss and damage, with some ecosystems already reaching their hard and soft limits for adaptation.⁴ In short, **the majority of NbS implementation must take place before the second GST, and this first GST is the best opportunity to guide the course corrections and acceleration needed to keep the 1.5°C goal alive.**

Conservation International recommends the GST Outcome include specific guidelines to galvanize nature-based climate action across the following thematic areas:

Crosscutting considerations:

- Welcome the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty; and call on Parties to increase synergistic actions to address the climate, biodiversity, and ocean crises, especially by implementing and scaling nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.
- Stress the need for effective and equitable conservation of approximately 30% to 50% of Earth’s land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near-natural ecosystems, to maintain the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale.⁵
- Recognize the integral role that Indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth, and ethnic minorities play in successful, locally led nature-based climate action, especially for avoiding maladaptation.

² IUCN. (2020) [Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions. A user-friendly framework for the verification, design and scaling up of NbS](#). First edition. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

³ IPCC. (2023) [Synthesis Report of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report \(AR6\)](#) – Longer Report. See *Figure 4.1*

⁴ IPCC. (2023) [Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report](#). Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, H. Lee and J. Romero (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, pp. 1-34, doi: 10.59327/IPCC/AR6-9789291691647.001. See *para. A.3*

⁵ Aligned with [Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

Mitigation:

- Stress that reaching net zero emissions requires halting deforestation and protecting natural terrestrial and ocean-based sinks, restoring deforested and degraded lands, sustainably managing land, and shifting agricultural and food systems to low-carbon models by 2030.
- Call on Parties to halt and reverse deforestation and degradation by 2030 and to address large-scale commodity-driven deforestation and degradation by strengthening national policies, securing land tenure, and increasing action by governments, financial institutions, and companies.
- Urge Parties to improve low-carbon agricultural practices and intensify sustainable agriculture without further land expansion and implement demand-side measures, such as shifting to sustainable healthy diets and reducing food loss and waste, to reduce emissions, conserve and enhance carbon sinks, halt deforestation and free up land for reforestation and ecosystem restoration.
- Call upon Parties to enhance and protect vital natural carbon sinks and irrecoverable⁶, high carbon ecosystems, such as old-growth forests and blue carbon ecosystems – through implementing and scaling nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches in a just and inclusive manner.

Adaptation, including Loss & Damage:

- Recognize good practice for adaptation action includes advancing ecosystem-based adaptation, which extends across hazards and sectors, and urge Parties to scale and accelerate locally led adaptation approaches, building on best available science and local knowledge systems, to achieve transformative ecosystem-based adaptation action to advance climate resilient development, sustainable livelihoods, human security, and ecological integrity.
- Encourage Parties to consider nature-based and hybrid coastal infrastructure solutions to enhance coastal adaptation and resilience, which optimize co-benefits such as flood control, enhanced water quality, biodiversity benefits, human resilience, and wellbeing.
- Call upon Parties to enhance efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches that reduce and respond to increasing impacts, particularly for those who are least prepared for change and least able to recover from disasters.

Means of Implementation:

- Call upon Parties to identify incentives harmful for natural ecosystems and low-carbon AFOLU sector management by 2025 and eliminate, phase out or reform harmful incentives, including subsidies, in a proportionate, just, fair, and effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion dollars per year by 2030.⁷
- Strongly urge Parties to at least quadruple annual domestic and international financing for AFOLU sector climate action by 2025, with a view to increasing annual finance flows by at least 10 times by 2030, through both traditional and innovative mechanisms, such as results-based payments for REDD+, Article 6 cooperative mechanisms, high-integrity carbon markets and carbon pricing, debt for nature swaps, and green bonds, among others.
- Encourage Parties to enhance capacity-building based on Indigenous and other traditional knowledge systems as effective solutions to climate adaptation and mitigation.

International Cooperation:

- Call on Parties and the international community to align global financial flows with halting the destruction and degradation of nature, such as through disclosure and due diligence regulations⁸ and phasing down

⁶ As defined in Goldstein, A., et al. (2020) Protecting irrecoverable carbon in Earth's ecosystems. *Nature Climate Change*, 10(4), 287–295. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-020-0738-8>

⁷ As aligned with [Target 18 of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

⁸ As aligned with [Target 15 of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#)

harmful subsidies, and to fund and scale existing political ambition to drive enhanced implementation of nature-based solutions.

- Call on Parties and the international community to bridge gaps in Indigenous peoples and local communities' access to climate finance and scale up the proportion of funding accessible directly to Indigenous peoples and local communities, while ensuring coherence with national policy frameworks and accountability mechanisms.
- Reaffirm the need to urgently scale the delivery of finance, coherent policy approaches, and capacity building to developing country Parties in line with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement to slow, halt, and reverse forest cover and carbon loss.
- Encourage urgent international cooperation to create enabling conditions in developing country Parties to implement cooperative mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and ensure the transparency and environmental integrity of market and non-market mechanisms.

Guidance and Way forward:

- Request all Parties to communicate new, enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs), and long-term low-emissions development strategies (LT-LEDS) informed by the GST; and encourage Parties to include specific targets, policies, measures, and actions within national climate plans that deploy nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to mitigate, adapt to, and avert, minimize, and address loss and damage from climate change, ensuring alignment with scenarios for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 °C and an adequate adaptation response.
- Encourage Parties to maximize alignment between their NDCs, NAPs, LT-LEDS and their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to capitalize on the synergies, minimize tradeoffs, and deliver an integrated approach to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.
- Request Parties to implement rights-based approaches and apply environmental and social safeguards to climate action efforts across all sectors, as integral elements of successful adaptation and mitigation action in critical ecosystems, landscapes, and seascapes to ensure they protect biodiversity and drive a just transition.

See Conservation International's full recommendations for the Global Stocktake outcome [here](#).

Cooperative Mechanisms under the Paris Agreement

SBSTA Agenda items 13(a), (b), (c)

CMA Agenda items 14(a), (b), (c)

Relevant UN Document Links: [Article 6.2 – SB 58 Conclusions](#); [Article 6.2 – SB 58 Informal Note](#); [Article 6.4 – SB 58 Conclusions](#); [Article 6.4 – SB 58 Informal Note](#); [Article 6.8 – SB 58 Conclusions](#)

Article 6 of the Paris Agreement establishes a broad framework for voluntary cooperation among Parties in delivering climate action. It sets out three mechanisms through which Parties may interact: 1) bilateral or regional cooperative approaches via internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs); 2) a centrally governed UNFCCC mechanism to contribute to mitigation and support sustainable development; and 3) non-market approaches.⁹ **Encouraging the transfer of high-quality emission reductions and removals generated in all sectors, including the land sector, can drive needed flows of finance to climate actions, cost-effectively addressing both sources and sinks, and generate opportunities for overall increased ambition.**

Since the main Article 6 rules were decided at COP 26, countries have been working to define the outstanding details for implementation of each cooperative approach. As this technical work is completed, Parties must ensure

⁹ Paris Agreement, Article 6, Paragraphs 2, 4, and 8, respectively.

that **nature-based solutions are prioritized under market and non-market approaches to secure financial flows to these critical climate solutions**; for this purpose, Conservation International recommends that:

- **Parties focus on priority outstanding items to fully operationalize Article 6 and ensure the work programmes on emission avoidance under Article 6.2 and Article 6.4 are limited to the scope within their mandate.** Two work programmes in relation to “emission avoidance” were established at COP 26 and further work was undertaken in the lead up to COP 28. This term has not been officially defined by the UNFCCC and is generally understood to refer to a scenario where there is no current emissions source, but a mitigation intervention is needed to avoid or prevent the release of stored carbon stock. Even though it has been used informally by some to refer to a broad array of mitigation activities, in the Article 6 context, “emission avoidance” has a very specific meaning as described above. **The work programmes on emission avoidance should be limited to this scope, ensuring not to discuss any activities that reduce emissions or enhance removals, nor to reopen areas already agreed at COP 26.**
- **Nature-based removals are encouraged under Article 6.4.** Nature-based removals are especially important climate solutions in the near term, providing mitigation co-benefits by reducing biodiversity loss, increasing water security, and providing livelihoods to forest-dependent communities. These types of removals have also been widely tested and monitored; moreover, existing systems can ensure that any risk of reversals is addressed (e.g., using buffer pools). At COP 26, Parties requested the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body (A6.4 SB) to prepare recommendations on activities involving removals. Having advanced this work over the past year, the CMA will aim to approve these recommendations in Dubai. **Parties should only adopt recommendations that support the use of nature-based removals and avoid imposing any requirements that could unduly or disproportionately discourage their use under the Article 6.4 mechanism.** *For more information, see [Conservation International's Technical Note: Understanding the risk of reversals in nature-based removals](#).*
- **Under the Article 6.8 work programme on the framework for non-market approaches, Parties should continue to work to deliver clear pathways for non-market cooperation through nature-based mitigation and adaptation approaches.**
- Parties and non-state actors should **proactively engage Indigenous peoples and local community representatives in discussions on the linkages between Article 6 operationalization and the work of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform**, including the establishment of an independent grievance mechanism under Article 6.4, equitable inclusion of Indigenous peoples and local communities in benefit sharing mechanisms resulting from Article 6 implementation, advancing land tenure rights, and identifying relevant criteria for defining, monitoring and reporting non-market approaches under Article 6.8 which are inclusive of nature-based solutions led by Indigenous peoples and local communities.

As cooperative mechanisms under Article 6 become fully operational and countries move toward using them, there is a growing need to accelerate financial and technical support to developing countries for capacity building, readiness and creating enabling conditions for effective implementation. Parties should consider how to provide this support to ensure equitable participation in Article 6 cooperative mechanisms, as well as deliver opportunities for increased ambition during NDC implementation.

Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security

SBI Agenda item 11

SBSTA Agenda item 10

Relevant UN Document Links: [SB 58 Conclusions](#); [SB 58 Informal Note](#)

At COP 27, Parties established the four-year Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security (SJWA) to implement key outcomes from the now-concluded Koronivia Joint Work

on Agriculture and previous activities addressing issues related to agriculture. The SJWA aims to strengthen work on agriculture under the UNFCCC and enhance collaboration among bodies and actors within and outside of the UNFCCC to scale up action and support for the solutions identified during earlier workshops.

Analysis from Conservation International shows that countries must double the use of climate-smart agricultural management *every year* through 2026 to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030, while protecting and restoring natural ecosystems and the services they provide for agriculture.¹⁰ This transformation in agriculture also carries multiple co-benefits: increased biodiversity, soil health, clean air and water, human health and wellbeing, rural jobs, environmental justice, and resilience to climate change.

Parties were unable to agree upon how to operationalize the SJWA at the mid-year negotiations, though some elements of a workplan were advanced. **They must focus on finding a compromise approach to ensure the discussions at COP 28 effectively structure the new SJWA be a crucial accelerator for the unprecedented scale of needed climate action on agriculture and food security.** To achieve this, Conservation International recommends:

- **Parties ensure the SJWA workshop topics enable the pivot to accelerating implementation by focusing on how countries, via a nationally determined approach and with the support of the UNFCCC, will collectively work over the long-term to unlock ambitious climate action in agriculture, ensure food security, and achieve the agreed objectives from COP 27.** While there is an ongoing need to compile global or regional information on specific technical issues related to agriculture, Parties should request that this work be taken up by institutions outside of SJWA and made available to Parties on an ongoing basis, such as via the new online portal. Workshop topics should include:
 - Improving cross-coordination and public policy coherence at all scales and levels to ensure multiple benefits,
 - Accelerating incentives for climate action in agriculture and addressing challenges related to means of implementation at national, subnational, and local levels, especially through NDCs, NAPs and other integrated planning efforts; and
 - Developing shared principles for climate efforts in agriculture that benefit vulnerable populations — including Indigenous peoples and local communities — boost food security and enhance critical ecosystem services via nature-based solutions, where applicable.
- **Parties should structure the modalities of the SJWA workshops to give significant time for informal interventions and back-and-forth dialogue from Parties and non-Party stakeholders, ensuring that each workshop includes a variety of voices.**

See Conservation International’s full recommendations on the SJWA [here](#).

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

10th Meeting of the Facilitative Working Group

Relevant UN Document Links: [Summary Decisions of the 9th Meeting of the Facilitative Working Group](#); [Vision and Strategy Statement](#)

The Paris Agreement explicitly recognizes the rights of Indigenous peoples (IPs) and local communities (LCs) in the context of climate action. Through the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and its Facilitative Working Group (FWG), Parties and Indigenous peoples work to exchange knowledge and build capacities to strengthen inclusive participation of IPs and LCs, as well as recognize their contributions to addressing climate change. The LCIPP is currently implementing its second, three-year work plan, which stipulates several activities through 2024. At COP 28, the following LCIPP mandated events will take place:

¹⁰ Conservation International, 2022. www.conservation.org/roadmap

Annual Gathering of Knowledge Holders, Annual round-table dialogue on Indigenous Curricula, Multi stakeholder Dialogue, and Annual Youth Round Table.

In addition to these activities, **Party and non-Party stakeholders should aim for the following at COP 28:**

- **Apply the LCIPP side-by-side FWG collaborative model** between Parties and Indigenous peoples to enhance international cooperation in areas where non-Party stakeholder participation is critical to increase climate ambition and meet the Paris Agreement goals. To further strengthen this model, Parties and non-Party stakeholders should also **consistently implement the [FWG's recommendations](#) on the engagement and input of IPs and LCs across UNFCCC processes.**
- Ensure the full **operationalization of LCIPP functions** through the implementation of the second three-year workplan and promote spaces for FWG representatives to participate and contribute to relevant negotiation agenda items, including the Article 6.8 Work Programme, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and Loss and Damage.
- **Increase meaningful engagement of governments in the LCIPP activities**, especially in those aimed at improving the participation of IPs and LCs in national climate policy planning. Parties should collaborate with IPs and LCs to strengthen the connection between local-national and regional-global climate actions of IPs and LCs.
- **Disseminate the results and lessons learned from LCIPP regional exchanges and use them to inform key UNFCCC agenda items** and highlight linkages with other UN conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Strengthen the **inclusive and effective participation of IPs and LCs** in the development and implementation of NDCs, NAPs, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and climate policies, via knowledge exchange, strengthening capacity for engagement, climate policy and actions. Parties can replicate the good practices of the LCIPP by bringing together IPs and LCs to collaborate on these processes at the national level.

Ocean–Climate Nexus

Relevant UN Document Links: [Informal Summary Report: 2023 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue](#)

At COP 27, Parties were encouraged to consider ocean-based action in their national climate goals and implementation, signaling the growing recognition from Parties of the essential role of coastal and marine NbS in ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation action. The 2023 annual Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue identified opportunities to fill gaps, build capacity and strengthen ocean-based climate action under the UNFCCC, but numerous opportunities remain to advance this work. Therefore, **at COP 28, Conservation International encourages Parties to:**

- **Scale climate finance and mobilize increased financial flows for coastal and marine nature-based solutions.** In ongoing negotiations related to finance, including the Ad hoc Work Programme on the **New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance**, the Loss & Damage Fund, the Global Stocktake, and **COP guidance for the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility**, countries should ensure that the processes and structures being established enable and support robust financing to coastal and marine NbS. Increased and accelerated climate finance flows to coastal and marine ecosystems are needed through all sources – public and private, market and non-market, including financing programs and projects dedicated to coastal and marine nature-based solutions.
- **Call for increased technical support, knowledge exchange, and financing to advance coastal and marine nature-based solutions, such as blue carbon ecosystems.** Countries with coastal blue carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass, have multiple avenues by which these ecosystems can be included within new and updated NDCs. Parties should call for specific areas of

support they require for the development and implementation of blue carbon commitments, including within the Global Stocktake outcome, future Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue discussions, the Nairobi Work Programme and its Thematic Expert Group on Oceans, ongoing processes and negotiations related to finance (see above), and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, among others. *For more information, also see the Blue Nature Alliance's [Guidelines for Blue Carbon and Nationally Determined Contributions](#)*

- **Support synergies for ocean–climate action across international policy processes.** Shifting from traditionally siloed approaches to integrated approaches across policy processes – including the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the 2030 Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals – can help enhance ambition, accelerate implementation, and deliver high-quality outcomes for coastal and marine ecosystems. *For more information, see the [International Policy Framework for Blue Carbon Ecosystems](#), prepared by Conservation International and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.*

See '[Options for strengthening action on the ocean and coasts under the UNFCCC](#)' for a full list of opportunities to strengthen the inclusion and advancement of coastal and marine nature-based solutions across relevant UNFCCC processes and negotiations.

Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation

SBI Agenda item 12(a)
SBSTA Agenda item 3(a)
CMA Agenda item 8(a)

Relevant UN Document Links: [SB 58 Conclusions](#); [SB 58 Informal Note](#); [Summary Report of 7th workshop](#)

The two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh (GlaSS) work programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) will conclude at COP 28, with the aim to deliver a framework that enhances understanding of the adaptation goal established under the Paris Agreement. The GGA framework will operationalize the adaptation goal in the Paris Agreement by providing strategic direction and enabling the assessment of collective progress on adaptation. More specific and quantitative targets on adaptation can enhance international prioritization and action for addressing the adaptation needs of people and nature in parallel to the temperature or mitigation goal. Over the course of the work programme, Parties have discussed the elements of the framework (purpose, dimensions, themes), overarching targets, shared adaptation priorities, international cooperation, follow-up work, and finance provision. In Dubai, they must bring all these topics together into **a cohesive, ambitious GGA framework that catalyzes adaptation actions and leverages the potential of nature to support the most climate vulnerable communities**. To this end, Conservation International recommends the following at COP 28:

- The GGA framework should set an **overarching target** that centers around **nature, people, and livelihoods**; for example: “By 2030, reduce vulnerability and enhance long-term climate resilience and adaptive capacity of **100% of the population or areas most vulnerable to climate change in each country** (reducing impacts on people, supporting livelihoods, and preserving land, freshwater, and ocean ecosystems)”.
- **Detailed targets** should be climate adaptation-specific, complement other global frameworks, include **nature-based solutions (as part of crosscutting considerations or themes)**, and be defined following each step of the **adaptation policy cycle, as follows**:
 - **Impact and vulnerability and risk assessments**:
Ensure that climate risk assessments integrate the **knowledge of local communities, Indigenous peoples and other climate vulnerable groups that highly depend on nature for their well-being**. These assessments should identify climate change **impacts on biodiversity** and ecosystems as well as **adaptation responses** related to **local ecological knowledge**, uses or traditions.

- **Planning:**
Ensure that all developing countries receive support to develop robust National Adaptation Plans that **harness the full potential of ecosystems to build climate resilience** and (progressively) cover 100% of the population or areas most vulnerable to climate change in each country.
 - **Implementation:**
Include a significant focus on adaptation actions related to **ecosystem-based adaptation**, especially transformative adaptation in the land sector, coastal and marine ecosystems, and locally led adaptation efforts.
 - **M&E and learning:**
Address the need for cohesive national adaptation monitoring and evaluation systems that build upon existing frameworks and inclusive and participatory approaches.
- Reporting on nature-based solutions as a crosscutting consideration or theme should be mandatory, but Parties should be allowed to propose indicators depending on their circumstances (independently of an agreement on standardized global targets).
 - Any future technical work necessary to further refine indicators for each target should be set up through expert working groups or IPCC guidance in an inclusive way that includes IP and LC representatives, practitioners and other key stakeholders that implement nature-based solutions for adaptation.

For more information, see Conservation International’s submissions to the GlaSS workshops: [5th workshop \(transformational adaptation and IPs & LCs\)](#), [7th workshop \(Global Stocktake\)](#) and [8th workshop \(scientific research\)](#).

Loss and Damage Funding Arrangements and Fund

COP Agenda item 8(g)

CMA Agenda item 10(g)

Relevant UN Document Links: [Summary Note on the Fund](#); [Compilation Text: Loss and Damage Fund Terms of Reference](#); [Summary of the 2nd Meeting of the L&D Fund’s Operationalization](#); [Co-Chairs Notes on - Funding Arrangements](#); [Sources of funding](#); [Privileges and immunities of the fund](#); [Scope of the fund, Country ownership, Access, delivery modalities, and triggers](#)

Loss and damage (L&D) refers to the irreversible impacts of human-induced climate change that occur as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt to climate change. The speed and scale of these impacts are increasing globally, as well as increasing the scale of adaptation requirements for both people and ecosystems in highly vulnerable contexts. In some cases, adaptation options are limited, and natural resilience thresholds are at risk of being surpassed. **Nature-based solutions are essential to efforts to avert and minimize loss and damage and in some cases provide alternatives and solutions that help to address loss and damage.**

At COP 27, Parties reached a ground-breaking decision to establish new funding arrangements, as well as a dedicated fund, to assist developing countries to address loss and damage from climate change. As the work to operationalize these funding arrangements has advanced, the multi-layered gaps and challenges to address loss and damage have become evident, reflecting the diversity of distinct national and regional priorities and needs. Existing funding mechanisms have minimal potential to address loss and damage in its current and evolving form. For example, **biodiversity loss, degradation of ecosystem services, and damage to cultural practices are unquantified, inconsistently documented, and difficult to assess. These non-economic losses are increasingly evident and create a burden that is often shouldered by the most vulnerable in society.**

At COP 28, Parties must reach agreement on a range of decisions required to operationalize the new funding arrangements and fund to increase global support to address rising costs of loss and damage. The new fund must attract new and additional financing for loss and damage; however, the new fund alone will not be sufficient to tackle the scale of L&D challenges and existing financing gaps. Complementarity with existing funding

arrangements is essential to better align and scale support to address L&D. To achieve this, Conservation International recommends that the new L&D fund and funding arrangements:

- **Facilitate funding that is fit-for purpose, flexible, new, and additional, from a wide pool of resources**, including public, philanthropy, and the private sector. Funding must entail grant support without increasing debt instruments for developing countries. Finance flows need to be new, additional, and complementary to current financial mechanisms in the climate finance architecture to provide innovative solutions to avert, minimize, and address the impacts of climate change on people and nature.
- **Enable country-level ownership and build upon national modalities of access**, including those that work at the sub-national level, to help facilitate rapid delivery of funding to address disasters and effectively reach climate vulnerable and at-risk communities. The funding arrangements and fund should also enable countries to take a programmatic approach that allows for long-term planning to address slow-onset events along with gender considerations and sustainable development needs, among others.
- **Acknowledge and work in parallel with established modalities under the UN, Accredited Entities, and other relevant mechanisms** under the Convention and COP mandate, such as the Global Shield Initiative. The Warsaw International Mechanism should help design technical support and assistance in prioritizing and redirecting needs through the Santiago Network.
- **Ensure the thematic scope effectively channels financing to non-economic losses, ideally through a dedicated funding window, and includes a strong focus on responses through nature-based solutions**, such as leveraging local ecological knowledge and leadership, preserving natural cultural heritage, and biodiversity or nature restoration.
- **Support improved understanding of losses and damages of biodiversity and ecosystem services, involving scientific and traditional knowledge**. These could be assessed via participatory natural capital valuation, environmental impact assessments, biodiversity, and ecosystem services assessments.
- **Prioritize funding to solutions that build climate resilience over time and recognize that nature-based climate action can increase the efficacy of future solutions for addressing losses and damage**. For example, protecting areas that under climate change will become important habitats for vulnerable species at risk of extinction or areas that have been affected by climate impact but still have ecological and social values (in the original conditions and/or altered condition).
- **Ensure that developing countries will receive adequate support for the readiness and capacity-building needed** to quickly access L&D finance and implement solutions to address loss and damage while building resilience, especially through nature-based solutions.
- **Design various modalities** to examine appropriate fiscal stability, social protection, insurance and de-risking mechanisms, livelihoods protection, and a range of hazards to engage ecosystem restoration through this financing mechanism.
- **Establish a clear mandate for regional and inclusive participation as well as a multi-stakeholder consultation** approach including non-state actors, and a bottom-up approach. This must include addressing vulnerable groups, Indigenous peoples platforms, 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and complement other relevant conventions and platforms to provide fair and equitable funding arrangements.