NbS Plan to Accelerate Solutions

October 2025
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Axis: 2. Stewarding Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity
Key objective: A high level assessment of global plans to accelerate NbS and the measures that are needed to be implemented ahead of the 2028 Global Stocktake.
Solution: To bring the NbS community together to identify key barriers and opportunities in the implementation of NbS across 20 critical pathways.
Host initiative: Nature4Climate (Coordination by N4C coalition and IUCN/ ENACT, guided by the UN Climate Champions)
Scope: 20 critical NbS pathways covering **6,019**$MtCO_2e/yr$ mitigation, including actions to deliver NbS for Adaption and Resilience
Geographic: Global
Sectoral: 20+ multi sectoral pathways across different biomes and geographies

We are defining the scope of this PAS using the definition of NbS As defined at the 5th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2), nature-based solutions (NbS) are ***"actions aimed at protecting, conserving, restoring, and sustainably managing 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".***

Alongside being climate solutions NbS contributes significantly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). They play a crucial role in achieving sustainable development by enhancing biodiversity, improving water quality, reducing pollution, combating desertification, and restoring degraded land and soil.

NbS can deliver both climate mitigation and adaptation and delivers resilience by enhancing ecosystem connectivity. For the benefit of biodiversity and human development integrating these shared outcomes into policy and planning. This approach ensures a sustainable balance between human development and nature, highlighting the vital role of NbS in driving environmental resilience and human well-being

NbS for climate pathways in this PAS are grouped into three broad categories delivering climate benefits for Mitigation, adaptation and resilience :

1. Protect

- Avoided Forest and Ecosystem Conversion
- Peatland Protection

- Coastal Wetland Protection
- Grassland and Savannah Protection

These pathways focus on preventing emissions by conserving ecosystems that store large amounts of carbon and deliver ecosystem based adaption and halt biodiversity loss.

2. Manage

- Climate-Smart Forestry
- Forest Plantation Management
- Forest Fire Management
- Improved Cropland Management
- Peatlands' wise use
- Agroforestry
- Grazing Land Management

These involve improving land-use practices to reduce emissions, enhance carbon sequestration, deliver ecosystem based adaption and resilience to climate change for our food systems, pulp, paper and fiber.

3. Restore

- Reforestation
- Wetland Restoration
- Peatland Restoration and Rewetting
- Mangrove Restoration
- Urban Tree Planting

These pathways aim to restore degraded ecosystems to increase their resilience to climate change, increase adaptation and carbon storage while delivering co-benefits like biodiversity gain and water regulation.

🌿 Benefits Overview

Benefits of implementing high-integrity nature-based solutions (NbS) go beyond carbon mitigation and climate adaptation. Co-Benefits we can identify and quantify to support holistic climate action and wider biodiversity and human benefits.

🧬 Biodiversity gain

💧 Water quality and availability improvement

👥 Human well-being increased, improved livelihoods and resilient local economies

🌡️ Climate Adaptation and resilience

⚖️ Social Equity and Human Rights

🧩`Conflict Prevention

Method

The NBS PAS was developed between Sept and Oct 2025 as a subgroup of Axis 2 - Activation Group 6. Efforts to conserve, protect, and restore nature and ecosystems with solutions for climate, biodiversity and desertification. The NbS PAS document was Coordinated by Nature4Climate and IUCN and designed collaboratively as a 'sprint' over four one hour meetings.

The levers assessment has been informed by the results of the 2025 NbS Implementation Dialogues. N4C has focused engagement and facilitated dialogues across four key audience groups in the run-up to COP30: Business and Finance; Regional Government; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; NGOs and IGO. **Appendix 5** contains a summary of these dialogues to gather a collective understanding of the obstacles and opportunities to accelerate the implementation of landscape-scale NbS on the ground.

Table 1 Linkages to other PAS documents.
List of other PAS that should be read in alignment with the NbS Implementation PAS

PAS	Link	Significant points of relevance
AR5: Forest Finance (Climate Champions)		Highlights the underfunding of land use in climate finance, advocating for increased investment in forest conservation, zero-deforestation supply chains, and restoration as natural climate solutions.
AR5: REDD+ and Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UNREDD)	Plan to Accelerate Solution (UNREDD) - Google Docs	Positions REDD+ as a scalable forest-based solution to climate aligning with AR5 by promoting mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity goals through policy, finance, and partnerships. Accelerating efforts to scale jurisdictional REDD+ as a high-integrity approach to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and drive public and private investments Includes the new JREDD Coalition led by FCLP to be launched at COP30

Plan to Accelerate Nature-based Solutions

AR5: Integrating Deforestation into finance decision making (TNC)	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KRWiShuk6_1Vq3Aacx2bmF6wIFmjc_9IagpK0KTO7Rc/edit?tab=t.0	Explores integrating deforestation risks into financial systems, advocating for credible metrics and investor engagement to redirect capital towards forest-positive, NbS-aligned investments.
AR6: Rio Synergies (SCP)	COP30 AA AG6 PAS – Rio Synergies - Google Docs	Promotes unified policy, messaging and strategic engagement across Rio Conventions, enhancing NbS visibility in National Plans and strategies and budgets, and fostering trust in nature as a climate solution.
AR6: Biodiversity adaptation (IUCN)	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bfPjNycsDKhhe049z6Ym0006Jdg5wvk9SVxYpoxiGDw/edit?tab=t.0	Encourages integration of biodiversity targets into NBSAPs and NDCs, reinforcing NbS as a bridge between climate adaptation and biodiversity commitments under the Kunming-Montreal framework.
AR6: Synergistic Landscapes (Ministry of climate change Brazil)	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LyBHz9R097Z_Dkxg3J4il5Jx9Ura14AlRXzsIgCOg7M/edit?tab=t.0	Builds a platform for cooperation between countries, with a special focus on South-South relations, resulting in strategic landscapes for the synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions, based on the promotion of ecological and socio-biocultural corridors for tropical and sub-tropical countries.
AR7: Blue Package (Marrakesh Partnership)	[FOR REVIEW] COP30_AG7_Bl…	NbS is a critical part of the Ocean Breakthrough on Marine Conservation within their PAS. By 2028 mobilize 72bn USD to maintain the integrity of Ocean Ecosystems by protecting at least 30 % of the Ocean
AR8: Restoration (Global Evergreening)		Farmer led restoration as a cost-effective NbS for land restoration, integrating trees into agriculture to enhance carbon capture, food security, and climate resilience.

Levers assessment

Risk-informed decision-making: Medium maturity

Rationale

Risk-informed decision-making for NbS is at a medium level of maturity because while there is growing recognition of the importance of integrating risk metrics, their consistent application across delivery frameworks, policies, and investment criteria remains limited. Capacity gaps, fragmented data systems, science on wider economic and social benefits and insufficient policy coherence hinder full-scale implementation.

To put this on a pathway to High Maturity by 2028 GST decision makers need to further embed risk metrics into shared delivery frameworks for NbS, and governments and the private sector need to integrate risk metrics that are aligned with spatial data provenance protocols to ensure traceability and impact.

- **More governments and private sector actors need strengthened capacity building and data literacy**, including training in risk modelling and climate vulnerability assessments, to build a culture of data-backed decision making for NbS development and implementation.
- **Policymakers must consistently integrate NbS into NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs in a risk** informed manner to ensure aligned implementation and advocate for regulations that require risk-based land use planning. New global research is needed to provide data to help policy makers recognize how NbS can be a driver of jobs, food security, public health, and resilient economies.
- **New Risk-Adjusted Valuation tools that embed risk metrics into investment-readiness criteria.** Businesses and investors need to consistently use valuation tools to quantify ecosystem services and co-benefits, and financial institutions need to universally adopt risk-informed NbS standards.
- **Governments and companies need to fully implement ambitious guidelines (IUCN Global Standard for NbS)** or Standards (such as through FSC certification), regulations and roll out efficient monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) tools and mechanisms to enable fully traceable and transparent agricultural and forest-product supply chains at scale.
- **Governments and nonstate actors must collect information on and more prominently feature and disseminate case studies** where risk-informed planning improves NbS outcomes and benefits for the wider economy.
- **Further strengthen the consensus that inclusive approaches to understanding risk are essential** to incorporating risk into decisions, requiring policy makers to follow the whole of society approach to the implementation of NbS as a critical way to overcoming barriers and providing solutions, especially appropriately priced finance.

- Support efforts by AFi to establish a continuous learning and feedback mechanism to ensure that insights from producer landscapes, intermediary actors, and buyer systems directly inform the practical refinement and adaptation of Accountability Framework initiative consensus-based guidance for deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) supply chains and credible landscape investment.

Technology shifts: Medium maturity

Rationale:
Too much data is inaccessible to decision makers. Too much data still sits in PDF documents that limit the effectiveness of artificial intelligence and machine learning tools to support assessments of collective progress toward the Paris Agreement goals and GST goals on forests and nature. This is especially true for VCM and statutory reporting frameworks that lack spatial data.

To put this on a pathway to High Maturity by 2028 GST we need to build a coherent digital ecosystem to support NbS implementation.

- Donors need a **stronger commitment to promote open access and transparency** for public domain initiatives working for the public good. Traceability, satellite monitoring, and landscape performance systems underpin transparency, but more emphasis needs to be placed on interoperability between different datasets as well as data platforms to improve accessibility for practitioners, producers and intermediary systems.
- **Support for further integration of NbS data platforms**. We need to use aligned KPIs and dashboards to monitor progress across climate, biodiversity, and desertification goals. Better interoperability between digital tools and datasets including clear data taxonomies for NbS data, which is presently housed on various platforms, needs to be more readily available and policy relevant for decisionmakers, i.e., making it easier for them to i) know the data is available and useful ii) making it easy to access and integrate within their systems and iii) easy to understand and apply the data to inform policies. Donors provide support to ensure digital tools like Nature Base, Restor and Land and Carbon Lab into a clearer shared delivery framework for policy and decision makers.
- **Governments and the private sector need to [increase] adoption of spatial data provenance and transparency protocols** with better geotagging data to enable aggregation of NbS data and machine learning insights into trends, continuous flow of data insight drawing from ground level data aligned through to satellite monitoring to enable to inform policy leavers and decision making.
- Governments and investors need to **create more incentives to deploy tech-enabled NbS** through blended finance and private sector engagement to align digital innovation with investment-readiness criteria of on the ground projects.
- **To help to bridge the gaps between grey and green infrastructure** through hybrid solutions. Governments and the private sector to focus on strengthening capacities to enabled deployment of NbS to integrate it into infrastructure decisions, this including scaled

up training for the workforce in MRV, GIS and other digital tools and skills for a ‘nature tech’, modelling, and monitoring systems that can demonstrate effectiveness.

- **Governments need to to develop regulations and voluntary measures to create a level playing field** for tech-enabled NbS, including national regulations for the voluntary carbon markets. Governments should accelerate efforts to fund the implementation of regulations and national plans with clear budget commitments to drive the adoption of tech enabled NbS.
- Governments and the private sector must develop and adopt technology to accelerate rights-based approaches and FPIC compliance
- **Enhance Monitoring and Data Systems** - to better map, integrate and ensure interoperability of digital ecosystems to support implementation tracking, transparency and accountability for commodities. Monitoring and data systems to align with major global and national systems (e.g. FSC, EUDR, TNFD, SBTN, AFi’s Core Principles and jurisdictional approaches). This should create coherence between producer-country implementation and market requirements, supporting clear pathways toward verified deforestation- and conversion-free production.

Knowledge & Capacity building: Medium maturity

Rationale:

Whilst in some areas and countries NbS knowledge and capacity is well developed, there is increasing global awareness of best practices and examples to support high integrity NbS implementation. There are however, critical gaps in basic knowledge, practitioners, and specialization in many parts of the world. There is a fragmented ecosystem of stakeholders across a fragmented landscape of actors—business, finance, regional governments, IPLCs, and NGOs—each facing distinct barriers to implementation. Especially at a national and regional level these gaps need to be bridged but the need for such coordination underscores the current medium maturity.

To move from medium to high maturity by the 2028 Global Stocktake, the following must occur both in developing countries and many other parts of the world.

- **Domestic skills and knowledge capacity must improve .** NbS as a term must become fully embedded or systematised across stakeholder groups. Governments and the private sector must ensure increased access to supporting knowledge and skills infrastructure—such as training programmes, matchmaking platforms, and shared delivery frameworks. .
- **Ongoing development of capacity building initiatives and matchmaking initiatives must be scaled** and progressed from the planning or mobilisation phases. University and formal training must consistently equip practitioners with effective local project management and other skills needed to lead NbS projects. Capacity-building efforts need to be aligned with the three Rio

Conventions and national planning instruments (NDCs, NAPs, NbSAPs). Governments and the private sector need to support efforts to scale matchmaking platforms to connect funders, implementers, and communities.

- **Shared tools and training needs to be developed by capacity and matchmaking organisations** and enabled for localised applications including shared tool kits for landscape-scale planning. Navigation of market regulations, and financing options.Geospatial data literacy to support NbS delivery.
- **Tools and training must become institutionalised -** ensuring that existing global tools can be integrated into national systems and programmes across sectors to become fully operational and universally adopted. These need to be available in local languages with local case studies to facilitate adoption and local leadership. NbS knowledge must be embedded into national curricula and professional development.
- **Local Knowledge must be valued and listened to.** NbS must encompass knowledge that local people and communities have about the land which they know and have relationship with.

Inclusive decision-making governance & design: Low maturity

Rationale:

We are still seeing fragmented governance structures and siloed decision-making. Especially where there is limited institutional capacity and short-term political cycles. We need to see whole of society approaches to reduce deficits and increase in inclusion, recognition, and citizen engagement in the implementation of NDC, NAPs and NBSAPs. These are made worse due to the lack of integrated regulatory frameworks across sectors like biodiversity, water, and climate.

To move to a medium or high maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Governments should adopt governance mechanisms that are inclusive and participatory**, engaging local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and regional actors. This can be achieved by embedding inclusive governance in NbS policy and regulatory design to ensure diverse representation in NbS planning bodies and policy dialogues taking a whole of society approach to implementation,ensuring inclusive, empowering decision-making across pre-, during, and post-process stages. OECD's inclusive governance guidance to reduce exclusion and align with SDG16.
- The co-creation process will build shared understanding between producers, intermediaries, and markets. The approach will prioritize mutual learning and the translation of field insights into market and policy guidance, avoiding top-down imposition and instead reflecting grounded lessons in system-wide frameworks.
- **Governments needed strengthened institutional capacity for coherence and coordination** to build cross-sectoral governance mechanisms that align national, subnational, and international frameworks. Donors must support governments with technical assistance and capacity building, especially in the Global South.

- **Governments must** elevate, recognise and integrate Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IP&LCs) in NbS design and implementation, including financial mechanisms like REDD+ and forest bonds, to ensure IP&LC representation in decision making and provide support for IP and LC leadership of locally led NbS Projects.
- **Governments must improve domestic alignment with global data systems to increase transparency** and help integrate into a digital ecosystem for NbS delivery. Common taxonomies, commitment to best-available data as well as increased knowledge of and use of publicly available databases and data platforms increase inclusion and transparency of decision making.
- **Governments must foster a narrative shift and foment more public engagement** addressing visibility gaps through storytelling, coalition-building, and inclusive communications strategies. Narratives should promote NbS as engines of resilience and equity, not just environmental tools.
- **Governments should leverage learning and accountability tools** by adopting inclusive decision-making checklists and adaptive management frameworks and metrics to help track progress in inclusive governance initiatives. Validation must be grounded in local legitimacy and shared accountability frameworks to ensure that decisions reflect diverse stakeholder perspectives and equitable representation across producer and buyer contexts.

Standards & Taxonomies: Low maturity

Rationale:

Presently NbS decision making suffers from fragmented governance and siloed decision-making due to a lack of integrated frameworks and common definitions across sectors. There has been a limited uptake of existing standards and insufficient alignment with national policy and finance mechanisms.

To move to a medium or high maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Adopt and Operationalise Global Standards -** Promote the use of the **IUCN Global Standard for NbS**, which offers 8 criteria and 28 indicators for assessing effectiveness, sustainability, and equity of NbS interventions.iucn.org, Encourage use of the **IUCN Online Self-Assessment Tool** to guide design, scaling, and verification of NbS projects. iucn.org
- **Develop and Align Taxonomies -** Integrate NbS criteria into **green taxonomies** and sustainability frameworks, as recommended by the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group. g20sfwg.org Ensuring taxonomies reflect high-integrity, nature-positive principles, and are compatible with global standards like those that meet the ISEAL Code of Good Practice.iucnacademy.org
- **Strengthen Policy Coherence and Regulatory Integration -** Align NbS standards with national implementation plans (NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs) and international frameworks (Rio Conventions, Ecological Transformation Plans). map policy commitments and identify gaps and areas where interoperability can be increased.

- **Build Capacity and Technical Support -** Provide governments and practitioners with **technical assistance** to apply standards and develop robust NbS taxonomies. Support the science community in generating evidence for effective NbS laws and practices.

Supply: Low maturity

Rationale:

The NbS supply landscape is still fragmented across geographies and sectors. While there are strong initiatives in countries like Brazil and Indonesia, other regions remain underrepresented. This uneven distribution limits global scalability and coherence to the standards that are being demanded by funders and investors. Many regions lack capacity to design, build, and maintain high integrity NbS programmes especially at a landscape level. Donors increasingly expect short-term results, but NbS outcomes often materialise over medium to long-term horizons and investment in enabling conditions in advance of projects. This mismatch creates pressure to prioritise “low-hanging fruit” over systemic transformation.

To move to a medium or high maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Prioritise Government-Led Landscape Initiatives** Governments play a critical role in enforcement and sustainability. Government-led initiatives ensure long-term viability beyond NGO or corporate involvement. For Soft Commodities, implementation must occur first and foremost in regions of tipping points and selected **critical landscapes across multiple commodities** (e.g., beef, soy, coffee, palm oil, cocoa), addressing real supply-side challenges.
- **The global community must promote and support landscape action, co-investment in transition finance, and improved enabling conditions** for producers to deliver verified outcomes aligned with international standards for markets and non market NbS projects.
- **Strengthen Implementation Frameworks** to bridge ambition and action through shared delivery frameworks, KPIs, and policy coherence. This includes aligning with mechanisms like REDD+, the Tropical Forests Forever Fund, and Brazil’s Ecological Transformation Plan and ensuring appropriate and aligned MRV systems.
- **Expand Market Readiness and Procurement Capacity** As recommended in Integrated Cost benefit analysis for NbS_IISD_2025, conducting market readiness assessments and engaging in early market dialogues will help build contractor capacity and interest. This will ensure a more competitive and capable supply base, improved governance and MRV aligned to international standards. .
- **Move Gray to Green Infrastructure** - To increase NbS supply for infrastructure and resilience, embed NbS in planning, reform procurement, expand workforce training, and strengthen technical guidance. Use cost-benefit analysis to shift mindsets, consolidate data systems, and promote government-led initiatives. These steps enable scalable, credible alternatives to grey infrastructure. The Infrastructure Pathways framework by Arup recommends integrating NbS at every phase of infrastructure projects—from problem definition to design, implementation, and monitoring.

Demand: Low maturity

Rationale:

NbS are often perceived as niche or secondary to engineered solutions. There is a need for clearer, more communicable narratives to justify NbS as mainstream climate and development tools. Current diagnostics are heavily mitigation-focused, with limited visibility on adaptation and co-benefits. This skews demand towards carbon markets and away from broader resilience applications. This is compounded by Donors expectations of rapid results, while NbS outcomes—especially in biodiversity and resilience—take longer to materialise. This creates a mismatch between funding cycles and delivery timelines.

To move to a medium or high maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Strategic Communications to Build Trust** to tackle misinformation, amplify trusted voices, and showcase high-integrity NbS investments. More communications to showcase economic and social Co-Benefits NbS can drive job creation, especially in LMICs, through labour-intensive restoration and sustainable land use. These benefits must be quantified and communicated to policymakers and investors.
- **Mobilise Nature Tech and Innovation -** Nature tech is a growing sector with potential to attract investment and improve monitoring to elevate the sector to increase investor confidence and demand.
- **Continuing work with parties to align with National and Multilateral Targets by** integrating NbS into NDCs, NAPs, and biodiversity plans increases visibility and demand. The N4C coalition will continue to track and amplify these linkages.
- **Leverage Private Sector Momentum -** Demand signals should be aligned and consistent , the initiative must engage key buyers, traders, and financial institutions to validate producer and intermediary insights.
- **Market expectations also must be informed by real conditions and performance evidence from the landscapes**, creating alignment between demand signals and feasible, equitable implementation at origin.
- **Standards aligned with best available science** - Badly designed rules for **Article 6.4** and **SBTi** could reduce demand for NbS by prioritising engineered removals, sidelining adaptation and biodiversity co-benefits. To improve, they must recognise high-integrity NbS and align standards with broader climate and biodiversity science and equity and inclusion goals.

Public/private finance: Low maturity

Rationale:
UNEP's 2023 report shows nature-negative finance flows total nearly $7 trillion annually, dwarfing the ~$200 billion allocated to NbS. Public subsidies for fossil fuels and harmful agriculture alone exceed $1.7 trillion. Private investment in NbS accounts for less than 2% of international climate finance. This is due to: short-term return expectations; lack of investable project pipelines; and perceived risks and unclear revenue models. NDCs often lack clarity and ambition to attract private capital. Without consistent policy frameworks, businesses lack confidence to invest.There is small grants funding projects in some parts of the world but tiny in the big scheme of things and depending on the nature of e.g., grants, tends to be highly competitive specifically focussed on a specific area, time-limited for specific outcomes.

To move to a medium or high level of maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Reform Public Finance Flows -** Implement GBF Target 18 to redirect $500 billion/year from nature-negative subsidies. Align national budgets with biodiversity and climate goals using Natural Capital Accounting (NCA). Integrate trade into the Climate and Nature agenda - to reverse 'negative finance' that is destroying nature.
- **Scale Blended Finance and Guarantees -** Use concessional capital, technical assistance, and guarantees to de-risk investments. Apply lessons from renewable energy to NbS sectors like forestry and agriculture. Including risk-sharing and performance-based models—linking public, philanthropic, and corporate capital toward landscape-level progress.
- **Build Project Pipelines -** Support local capacity to design and implement NbS at scale. Develop regional platforms to match investors with credible projects.
- **Mobilise Finance and Incentives -** Redirect public and private finance toward NbS-aligned activities, including through mechanisms like Voluntary Carbon Markets, REDD+, forest bonds, and the Tropical Forests Forever Fund. Develop credible investment products and biodiversity credit markets to support standardised NbS delivery. g20sfwg.org
- **Mobilise Private Sector Leadership -** Highlight successful models from UNEPFI and TNC. Promote high integrity biodiversity credits, impact investing, and nature-positive disclosures.
- **Improve governance** to ensure finance can flow directly to IP and LC - tenure pledges need to be met - To increase hectares of land titling of IP & LCs
- **Strengthen Monitoring and Transparency -** Tag finance flows with spatial and outcome data to enable AI-driven insights and accountability. **Initiatives should focus on aligning blended finance mechanisms to support producer transitions** and incentivizing verified outcomes.

Six areas of Forest and finance roadmap Unlocking-Forest-Finance_Roadmap_FINAL-1.pdf Forest need 1% of climate finance but deliver 20% of climate mitigation.

Partnerships and collaboration: Medium maturity

Rationale:
Partnerships are fragmentation across sectors and geographies often self organized- While there are strong coalitions (e.g. N4C, Regions4, GATC, WMB, Business for Nature), efforts remain siloed. Many initiatives operate in parallel without shared frameworks, leading to duplication and missed synergies. Partnerships often form around events (e.g. annual COP meetings) or short-term campaigns, but lack mechanisms for sustained long term collaboration, funding, and accountability. There is uneven inclusion of youth, IP and LCs and Local Governments and marginalized groups who don't have the capacity to participate. Despite growing recognition, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and subnational actors are not consistently embedded in decision-making or implementation processes at regional, national or international level partnerships.

To move to a high level of maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Institutionalise Multi-Stakeholder Platforms we need to** formalise partnerships through MoUs, joint work plans, and shared governance structures. Global Coalitions to actively create a living framework to coordinate efforts across sectors and geographies.
- **Elevate IPLC and Local Government Leadership to e**nsure IPLC-led initiatives are prioritised and resourced. Embed local governments in planning and monitoring, especially for landscape-scale NbS. **design tool and training tool kits with local audiences in mind.**
- **Align with Finance and Data Ecosystems -** Link partnerships to NbS finance mechanisms (e.g. JREDD+ Coalition) , To ensure accountability and acceleration of mechanisms.
- **Create Matchmaking and Continuity Mechanisms scale and connect** matchmaking platforms to connect funders, implementers, and policymakers. Increase transparency between initiatives and facilitate contact groups between initiatives secretariat to increase efficiencies in delivery through ongoing dialogues and shared reporting.
- **Showcase Impact and Co-Benefits -** Use strategic communications to highlight successful partnerships and their climate, biodiversity, and social outcomes. Coordinate announcements and storytelling at key geopolitical moments. Convene spaces to enable collaboration and showcasing efforts.
- Increased efforts for replicability and breadth of impact depend on ensuring **system-wide learning across producer, intermediary, and buyer networks,** shared frameworks and common guidance to help foster convergence among standards, finance, data, MRV and project management of landscape initiatives to accelerate progress toward shared outcomes.

Policy & regulatory: Medium maturity

Rationale:

Current policy maturity is uneven: while ambition is rising, implementation lags. The NbS Policy Tracker Report **for 2025 analysed over 1,500 NbS policies across 190 countries—less than 500 have a clear budget attached**. This gap between ambition and action is echoed in the Final NbS Implementation Dialogues Report, which stresses the need for integration of NbS into national strategies, regulations, and budgets.

To move to a high level of low maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Embedding NbS in National Legislation and Budgeting -** Some countries have linked NbS to national budgets and legal frameworks. Governments need to ensure their NbS ambition within the NDCs is captured into national laws and regulations to ensure continuity across political cycles, as highlighted in Scaling up NbS to tackle water related climate risks_OECD_2021. [Scaling up..._OECD_2021] - At the same time initiatives should identify and promote enabling policies that reward credible landscape-level performance.
- To **advance policy coherence and institutional mandates,** policy makers can help to embed NbS into national communications and climate mitigation and adaptation strategies building on NDCs and NAPs.
- **Streamline and harmonize Regulatory Frameworks within and across countries.** Governments in producer and market countries need to strengthen coherence between local land-use regulations, due diligence systems, and global disclosure frameworks
- **Strengthen Monitoring and KPIs -** Globally there is a need for robust KPIs and data systems to track policy effectiveness and guide investment. Spatial tagging and AI-driven policy tracking can support transparent monitoring and reporting.
- **Leverage Global Standards and Frameworks -** The newly launched Second Edition of the IUCN Global Standard for NbS provides clearer guidance and stronger safeguards for policy design and implementation, which should be adopted by all NbS practitioners. [iucn.org] . Governments must align climate efforts with the Global Biodiversity Framework
- **Mobilise Multi-Stakeholder Engagement - it is critical** governments engage the whole of society approaches to co-design policy pathways.

Public opinion: Medium maturity

Rationale:

Global polling evidence shows a consistent support for NbS.[1] Polling is the key metric for tracking NbS popularity in countries. There is a need for more **credible, geographically relevant data** to support advocacy and policy engagement. The lack of robust economic and job creation data for NbS is a barrier to engaging ministries of finance and broader government audiences.

To move to a high maturity ahead of the next Global Stock Take in 2028 the following actions are needed:

- **Strategic Communications and Storytelling** the importance of **clear, consistent, and evidence-based messaging** to build confidence in NbS. Need support for campaigns focused on highlighting **co-benefits**—such as health, jobs, biodiversity, and resilience—not just carbon mitigation. This aligns with findings from N4C Nature-based Economics , which emphasised the need to communicate adaptation and health benefits more effectively. [2]
- **Strategic communication must highlight shared responsibility and success stories from critical landscapes,** supporting informed engagement among consumers, investors, and civil society. This will enhance visibility and public support for deforestation- and conversion-free commitments across markets.
- **Targeted Polling and Data Integration to** expand polling to **new geographies**, especially in Africa and Latin America, where NbS potential is high but data is sparse.Integrate polling results into platforms like NatureBase to show regional support and link it to policy and investment decisions.

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[1] A 2024 poll by The Nature Conservancy across **Brazil, Canada, and the United States** found:

- **94% of US voters** support expanding strategies to protect and restore forests, grasslands, and wetlands.
- **84% of Canadian voters** support NbS once informed about their economic and job creation potential.
- **66% of Brazilians** support public spending on NbS, linking them to quality of life and climate resilience. [nature.org]

A 2025 poll, commissioned by Greenpeace International and conducted by Opinium shows

- **86% of people surveyed in 17 countries across five continents** believe that protecting forests is critical in the fight against climate change, according to the poll.
- **Results also showed that 82% of people** want their governments to take more action on forests, showing overwhelming public support to halt deforestation.

[2] E.g. Beyond Alliance recently released a pilot minidocumentary spotlighting individuals in the American South and the Midwest participating in nature-based carbon removal and methane abatement projects that elevated themes of livelihoods, legacy, and community impact to help broaden the narrative around carbon markets. A second phase of the work is now being scope for Latin America

- **Coalition Building and Media Engagement** Use polling data to inform **coalition outreach** and media campaigns. documentary series to build public awareness and emotional connection to NbS. Engage influencers and trusted voices to amplify messages, especially in countries with low awareness or political resistance.
- **Policy Alignment and Public Budgeting** The Policy Tracker 2024 reveals that only **33% of nature-related policies** have allocated budgets, and just **0.46%** address Indigenous equity. Public support must be matched by visible government action to maintain credibility and momentum

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Expected impact of this plan on the 2030 targets

The **NbS Plan for Accelerated Solutions (PAS)** is being designed as a cornerstone contribution to the **2028 UNFCCC Global Stocktake**, with the explicit goal of elevating nature-based solutions (NbS) as a critical implementation pathway across climate, biodiversity, and desertification tracks. The following interventions will contribute to accelerate the delivery of 2030 targets by addressing key implementation blockers.

NbS PAS will culminate in a **technical submission** to the 2028 stocktake, consolidating insights from dialogues with national governments, IPLCs, regional authorities, private sector actors, NGOs, and IGOs. (Led by N4C coalition). The submission will showcase collective actions, status of the enabling environment and identification of implementation barriers, and propose solutions, forming a practical evidence base for scaling NbS globally towards meeting the 2030 and 2035 targets focusing on:

1. **Alignment with Global Frameworks**
    - The NbS PAS is structured to align with the Rio Conventions with a specific focus on meeting the **Paris Agreement** and the **Kunming-Montreal Framework**, ensuring that NbS acceleration contributes to sustainable development, climate mitigation/adaptation and biodiversity goals.
2. **Data, KPIs, and Monitoring Infrastructure**
    - Report out on status of **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** and monitoring tools which will have been harmonized to track NbS implementation progress. This includes mapping out the updated data ecosystems and identifying any new interoperability challenges.
    - By the next stocktake we hope to have a **shared NbS delivery framework** with measurable impact data, better monitoring of project pipeline and impact data. .
3. **Integration of case studies and initiatives**
    - Stronger evidence base from a diverse set of **case studies and initiatives**, including large-scale JREDD projects and IP and LC-led NbS, to illustrate real-world implementation of NbS on the ground and an aggregation of the climate benefits that can also demonstrate how NbS can be scaled effectively and inclusively.
4. **Policy and Finance Synergies**

- Evidence to demonstrate Improved **policy coherence** across NDCs, NBSAPs, and NAPs, and to support the development of enabling environments for NbS delivery—especially in finance, governance, and data systems.

The PAS is not just a technical exercise—it is also a **diplomatic and advocacy tool**. It is being positioned as a key output of **Activation Group 6** and is closely linked to **NbS Implementation Ministerials** that are intended to:

- Showcase global leadership on NbS.
- Unite governments, businesses, IPLCs, and civil society around practical implementation challenges.
- Drive strategic partnerships and announcements aligned with the **Rio Conventions** and the **2028 Global Stocktake**.

Table 2 From COP30 to 2028 GST Summary of Plans

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Common guidelines for Data Taxonomies for NbS	Guidelines for geospatial platforms to support data interoperability for NbS tracking	Multi stakeholder, collaborative group to co-create and publish new guidelines for data taxonomies and interoperability for NbS	New action	Standards & T…	N4C and The Climate Champions	June 20…	Multi-stakehol…	NbS Data CoLab
Working group to harmonize carbon market regs and legislation	Working across group of Parties to harmonize carbon markets regs	Working group **Needs funding**	New action	Policy & regul…	N4C	Novemb…	National gove…	
Publish Study into the economic and livelihood NbS	Establish a research group into the global economics, livelihoods and wider social benefits of NbS	Research Group **Need funding**	New action	Public opinion	N4C	June 20…	Academic an…	TNC FSC
Develop recommendations	Set up an expert	Connect expert group with	Existing a…	Policy & regul…	WWF	June 20…	Regulators & …	

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
alignment of NBS, NAPs and NBSAPs for agriculture and food sector	group on alignment of policies (e.g. Rio Conventions NDC, NAPs, NBSAPS	other ongoing activities, such as Rio Trio						
Publish paper outline the private sector's vision for the enabling policy conditions that can help host countries unlock VCM investment while advancing their climate and development goals	Conduct country consultation and refine paper draft, publish final paper	Publish policy recommendations and engage in dialogue for host country governments to unlock VCM investment	New action	Policy & regul…	Beyond Alliance	June 20…	National gove…	Beyond Alliance, Emergent, Symbiosis

Context - NbS the scale of the opportunity

Table 3 - NbS pathways, potential and associated targets and initiatives

Pathway 'Protect'	**Potential mitigation / Hectares Globally / Number of people benefited**	**Political Targets**	**Ref**	**Delivery Initiative**
Avoided Forest Conversion Avoidable emissions and biodiversity loss from preventing permanent human conversion of forest to non-forest land uses such as agricultural, urban, or industrial lands.	425 $MtCO_2e$/yr / 9 million hectares of forest per annum	The Global Stocktake (GST) targets aim to achieve a world without deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.	Curtis et al., 2018.	Tropical Forest Alliance
Peatland Protection Avoided emissions of above- and below-ground biomass and soil carbon due to peatland drainage and vegetation loss in tropical, temperate, and boreal peatlands.	443 $MtCO_2e$/yr / 760,000 hectares of peatlands are lost each year 0.5 mio ha per year If drainage is stopped and remaining peatlands protected: This would keep **450-650 gigatonnes of carbon stored**, which represents up to one third of soil carbon (GPA 2022)	Halt the anthropogenic loss of undrained peatland by 2030. The Global Stocktake (GST) calls for the protection, conservation, and restoration of carbon-rich ecosystems—including peatlands—as part of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). However, only 13% of countries currently include peatlands in their NDCs, despite their outsized role in storing soil carbon	Science-based framework for global Targets and Guiding Principles, developed by the Peatland Breakthrough Naturebase (2025, April 15). Avoided Peatland Conversion v3. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org 0.5 mio ha per year referenced from: Science-based framework for global Targets and Guiding Principles, developed by the Peatland Breakthrough, and its sources Global Peatland Assessment (GPA) 2022	Peatland Breakthrough
Coastal Wetland Protection	38 $MtCO_2e$/yr /	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	Naturebase (2025, April 15). Avoided Coastal Wetland	Global Mangrove Breakthrough; Global

Avoided emissions of above-ground biomass and soil carbon due to avoided degradation and/or loss of coastal wetlands (mangroves, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows).		Although 88% of countries are signatories, many have yet to develop national peatland policies or plans. Resolutions such as XIII.12 and XIII.1 call for stronger wetland conservation, including peatlands. State of the World's Mangroves 2022: Doubling the current protected area from 40% to 80% of remaining mangroves coverage (this means a further 6,100,000 ha) would increase the long-term security of: • 9.14gT of CO2 equivalent	Conversion v3. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org State of the Worlds Mangroves 2024: https://www.mangrovealliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/SOWM-2024-HR-1.pdf State of the world's saltmarshes: https://www.wetlands.org/download/12708/?tmstv=1759841828	Mangrove Alliance
Grassland Protection and Restoration voided soil carbon emissions by avoiding the conversion of grasslands (including savannas and shrublands) to cropland.	19 $MtCO_2e/yr$	The UN Convention to Combat Desertification promotes LDN targets, which include avoiding conversion of grasslands as a key strategy. The upcoming International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) in 2026 and UNCCD COP17 in Mongolia are expected to elevate grassland protection on the global agenda Grasslands are increasingly recognised as critical carbon sinks, but they remain underrepresented in many NDCs.	Naturebase (2024, June 6). Avoided Grassland Conversion v2. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org	Global Rangeland Flagship Initiative (to be launched at UNCCD COP 17)
Avoided Shrubland Conversion Avoided emissions by preventing the conversion of native or managed shrublands to croplands.	36 $MtCO_2e/yr$	No Specific target beyond including targets on no primary habitat conversion.	Naturebase (2024, June 6). Avoided Shrubland Conversion v2. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org	

Pathways 'Manage'	**Potential mitigation**	**Targets**	**Ref**	**Delivery initiative**

	/ Hectares Globally / Number of people benefited			
Climate-Smart Forestry Avoided emissions and/or increased sequestration in working forests. Potential management activities could include reduced-impact logging practices, deferred harvest (an intentional reduction in forest harvesting intensity, including cessation of logging on some parcels), enhanced forest regeneration in post-harvest stands and other actions.	490 $MtCO_2e/yr$	Tropical forests	Naturebase (2024, June 6). Climate Smart Forestry v2. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org	Vera Standards" https://verra.org/?s=rilc&swpmfe=5916110af2bd3b2b4d5992f3b0f8059a FSC- https://fsc.org/en/find-the-right-certification-or-licence
Forest Plantation Management Timber plantations are found across the globe, accounting for seven percent of the world's total forest area. Plantations are typically managed on shortened harvest rotation lengths that optimize investment returns rather than longer rotations that would maximize yield for optimal broader economic and environmental benefits. Extending harvest rotation cycles would allow trees to absorb more carbon from the atmosphere while also increasing timber yields in tropical, subtropical, temperate and boreal forests.	266 MtCO2e/yr			FSC- https://fsc.org/en/find-the-right-certification-or-licence
Forest Fire Management	127 MtCO2e/yr			FAO FSC

Prescribed fires in fire-prone temperate forests to reduce emissions of biomass from the historic rate of wildfire losses. Prescribed early-season burns in the savanna to avoid higher emissions from late-season burns. Fire control practices in Amazonian forests to avoid unintended fires that degrade the forest (such as fire breaks at forest edges).				
Improved Cropland Management About 10% of the earth's land area is intensively cultivated to produce crops. Most agricultural soils have lost a large fraction of their original soil carbon, and there is considerable potential to restore this through better management. More efficient use of fertilizers can also have a large impact on global emissions of nitrous oxide, another of the six principal greenhouse gases.	635 $MtCO_2e/yr$			
Agroforestry Additional carbon sequestration in above- and below-ground tree biomass and soil carbon due to integration of trees into croplands at levels that do not reduce crop yields.	Cropland-based Agroforestry : 686 $MtCO_2e/yr$ Savanna-based Agroforestry : 316 $MtCO_2e/yr$		Naturebase (2025, April 15). Cropland-based Agroforestry: Trees in Croplands v3. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org Naturebase (2025, April 15). Savanna-based Agroforestry: Silvopasture v3. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org	Global Evergreening Alliance, FSc-https://fsc.org/en/find-the-right-certification-or-licence
Grazing Land Management When bare soil is exposed between crops, carbon stored in the soil is lost to	Increased Soil Carbon in Grazing Lands : 1,295 $MtCO_2e/yr$		Sanderman, Jonathan; Woolf, Dominic; Lehmann, Johannes; Rivard, Charlotte; Poggio, Laura; Heuvelink, Gerard; Bossio, Deborah, 2020, "Soils Revealed	

the atmosphere. By planting cover crops on croplands that have an off-season fallow period, farmers can expand the length of time that photosynthesis occurs on cropland. Proper livestock management could be applied to nearly one and a half billion head of cattle worldwide. Optimizing the intensity of grazing is an intervention that could apply to 712 million hectares of rangeland worldwide	Animal management could prevent the release of 60 $MtCO_2e$/year. Improved grazing practices could sequester up to 89 $MtCO_2e$/yr.		soil carbon futures", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/HA17D3 Harvard Dataverse, V3; scenario_grass.full_dSOC_Y20.tif	
Avoided Woodfuel Harvest in Forests	8.9 $MtCO_2e$/yr		Accelerating Clean Cooking as a Nature-based Climate Solution	Clean Cooking Alliance

Pathways 'restor'	**Potential mitigation / Hectares Globally / Number of people benefited**	**Targets**	**Ref**	**Delivery Initiative**
Reforestation	2,098 $MtCO_2e$/yr		Fesenmyer, K.A., Poor, E.E., Terasaki Hart, D.E. et al. Addressing critiques refines global estimates of reforestation potential for climate change mitigation. Nat Commun 16, 4572 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-59799-8	Bonn Challenge, AFR100;20x20 Initiative Trillion Trees;
Wetland Restoration (noting that peatlands and mangroves are also wetlands)	The maximum carbon mitigation potential from restoring saltmarshes is 36 million tonnes (Mt) CO2 e per year. With an	53 million ha of inland marshes and swamps or 37 million ha of lakes Saltmarshes also tend to have	Convention on Wetlands. (2025). Global Wetland Outlook 2025: Valuing, conserving, restoring and financing wetlands. Gland, Switzerland: Secretariat of the	Freshwater Challenge

Global Wetland Outlook 2025 suggests that we need to restore at least 123 million ha of wetlands achieve Target 2 of the KM-GBF, for the 11 wetland types evaluated, including inland marshes and swamps, and lakes	estimated 2 million hectares of saltmarshes available for restoration worldwide	lower methane emissions than freshwater wetlands32. Since methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, restoring them may have greater climate cooling impacts.	Convention on Wetlands. https://doi.org/10.69556/GWO-2025-eng State of the World's Saltmarshes: https://www.wetlands.org/download/12708/?tmstv=1759841828	
Peatland Restoration and Rewetting	1GtCO₂e/yr (2 GtCO₂e/yr by 2050 if all peatlands are rewetted – this represents the maximum technical potential. If half were rewetted by 2030, that would equate to roughly 1 Gt, as max technical potential.)	By 2030, at least 30 million hectares of degraded peatlands are being rewetted and restored	Naturebase (2025, April 15). Peatland Restoration Potential v3. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org Science-based framework for global Targets and Guiding Principles, developed by the Peatland Breakthrough, and its sources	Peatland Breakthrough
Mangrove Restoration	43 MtCO₂e/yr This included both mangrove and salt marsh The Global Mangrove Watch shows 8,183 km2 of restorable mangrove areas	Achieving the combined goals for the Mangrove Breakthrough (double protection, halt loss, restore half) has an estimated climate benefit of sequestering over 43.5 million tons of CO² into mangrove biomass and safeguarding or sequestering an additional 189 million tons of CO² in the soil.	Naturebase (2025, April 15). Coastal Wetland Restoration v3. Retrieved from https://naturebase.org	Global Mangrove Alliance,
Urban Tree Planting Urban tree planting is a powerful nature-based solution (NbS) for climate adaptation, particularly in cities facing extreme heat, poor air quality, and stormwater challenges. Cities account for only about three percent of global land area limits its global carbon mitigation impact due to space	fully planting all low-density open space in urban areas could sequester up to **52.5 Mt CO_2 per year**, **UNECE Trees in Cities Challenge**, which has surpassed its original goal by facilitating the planting of over **18.5 million trees**	Studies show that tree canopy can reduce summer air temperatures by up to 10°C), lower mortality and morbidity rates, and cut electricity consumption for cooling. Trees also absorb pollutants like ozone and nitrogen dioxide, intercept particulate matter, and regulate CO_2 through sequestration	Traits of trees for cooling urban heat islands: A meta-analysis - ScienceDirect Current inequality and future potential of US urban tree cover for reducing heat-related health impacts | npj Urban Sustainability	American Forest, TNC

constraints, urban trees deliver substantial local benefits.	in cities worldwide since its launch in 2019. More than **80 cities**			

Developing a Cross-Cutting KPI Framework for NbS

Led by NbS Data CoLabs sessions in Bonn, London and New York mapping of NbS data ecosystem **(Appendix 4)** and defining high level KPIs.

Design Principles:

1. We need to harmonise indicators across the COP30 Activation Groups axes to avoid fragmentation.
2. We need a hierarchical structure to KPIs based on Tier 1 (core KPIs), Tier 2 (contextual metrics), Tier 3 (experimental/emerging).
3. Emphasis on outcome and impact data, with open access where possible.
4. Integration with existing initiatives (TNFD, NPI, Natural Capital Accounting, CBD, IPBES, etc.).

GST Alignment:
All KPIs should be trackable against the Global Stocktake (GST) and feed into the Action Agenda via activation groups. Data Co Lab can work on how this could be increasingly automated with the UNFCCC Nazca platform and Yearbook.

Transparency and Mortality of Tools and data:
Leading a critical review of data and ensuring it is updated - proposed we use the NbS Commitment Tracker process to measure mortality data platforms and the NbS Data CoLab act as a forum to discuss and to monitor progress, gaps and recommend interoperability and digital taxonomy improvements.

Table 4 : Proposed NbS KPIs

Axis 1: Transitioning Energy, Industry & Transport	•**Nature-Transport Integration**: % of transport projects incorporating NbS (e.g. green corridors).
Axis 2: Stewarding Forests, Oceans & Biodiversity	•**Land Restoration**: Hectares of degraded land restored (forests, grasslands, wetlands). •**Species Indices**: Species Protection Index, Habitat Index, Biodiversity Progress Index. •**Protected Areas**: % of land under PA/OECMs, including Indigenous-managed areas. •**Carbon Sequestration**: Rate of carbon uptake in restored ecosystems, survival rates of planted species. •**Coastal Restoration**: % of km² under active coral, mangroves, seagrass and salt marsh restoration. •**Fragmentation Metrics**: Landscape connectivity and patch size distribution. •**Investment Tracking**: Funds mobilised for IPLCs and restoration efforts. •**Uptake or implementation by companies** - Number of companies aligning policies or systems with AFi Framework, and other international recognised reporting standards showing private-sector uptake. •**Uptake by sustainability initiatives, tools, standards, accountability systems, and government policies** - Number of sustainability initiatives, tools, standards, accountability systems, and government policies that have applied or aligned with elements of the Accountability Framework, IUCN Standard, other globally agreed standards and frameworks. **Sustainable Forest Stewardship** Forest Area Certified to FSC FM Certification
Axis 3: Transforming Agriculture & Food Systems	•**Sustainable Practice Adoption**: % of farmers using regenerative/agroforestry practices. •**Soil Health**: Fungal diversity index (SPUN), organic matter content. •**GHG Emissions**: Emissions per hectare from rice and livestock systems. •**Food Systems Diversity**: Consumption of all five food groups per capita.
Axis 4: Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure & Water	•**Water Balance**: Ratio of water extraction to recharge. •**Volumetric Benefit**: Volume of water saved or avoided through NbS. •**Urban Tree Cover**: % of city area under tree canopy (linked to C Trees). •**Advanced Monitoring**: Use of traffic and emissions monitoring to assess NbS impact.
Axis 5: Preserving Thawing Soils (Peatland, Tundra, Permafrost)	•**Carbon Storage**: Annual carbon retained in thawing soil systems. •**Parcel Tracking**: Number of monitored parcels under renewable management. •**Community Habitability**: NbS impact on community resilience in thawing regions.
Axis 6: Enablers & Accelerators (Finance, Tech, Capacity Building)	•**NbS Credit Integrity**: Number of high-integrity NbS credits in the market/pipeline. •**Natural Capital Accounts**: Number of jurisdictions with active accounts (e.g. Kenya, Scotland). •**Geospatial Access**: % of forest communities with real-time satellite data access. •**Community Engagement**: Number of community-science initiatives supported by Data Foundation.

A global consensus on a practical, credible universal set of State of Nature Metrics is currently being built for measuring nature, and will be finalised around March 2026. The NbS Data CoLab will undertake an alignment exercise to ensure the relevant KPI's are aligned with these emerging State of Nature metrics.

COP30 Situation Report

Since 2019 UNSG Climate Action Summit in New York - N4C has been tracking significant NbS initiatives in the NbS Commitment Tracker - ***102*** *of the total* ***179*** *(~57%) commitments tracked had a global focus, and* ***78*** *out of total* ***179*** *had a regional focus: Latin America and Africa were the most popular regions for other initiatives accounting for* ***31*** *(~17%) and 27 (~14%) of all commitments. Asia & Pacific 9 (~4%), MENA 6 (~3%), Europe 3 (2%), North America 2 (1%).*

2025 commitment tracker has identified **26** new commitments since COP29.

- This is a **420%** increase compared to last year's update of the commitment tracker (2024) which found only 5 new joint action commitments made between COP28 and COP29.
- ***50%*** *of all commitments 6-months or older reported on their progress.*
- *This is a slight decrease in overall number of commitments showing progress compared to the last update when 52% of commitments reported their progress. · Of new commitments over* ***~62%*** *(****13 of 21****) have reported their progress.*
- ***14*** *out of the* ***26*** *new commitments,* ***~54%****, make direct references to including or supporting IPLCs.*
- *24% of all tracked commitments make direct references of working with IPLCs.*
- ***10*** *of the* ***26*** *(****38%****) new commitments had a global focus, and* ***16*** *out of the* ***26*** *had a regional focus:* ***9*** *(****~35%****) had goals based in Latin America, 4 (~15%) were focused on Africa, 2 (~7%) in and Asia and only 1 (~3%) were focused on activities in Europe.*

Table 5: New Multi-stakeholder Initiatives and Coalitions to Accelerate Delivery of NbS (Post COP29)

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Peatland Breakthrough **(Appendix 1)**	Scale up peatland conservation, restoration, and wise use	Call to Action, guided by science-based targets, addressing conservation, restoration and	New ac…	Partnership…	Wetlands International on behalf of PB partners	2030 …	Multi-stake…	10 partners (but growing) and 2 Champion Countries by

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
		rewetting, wise use targets; with derived climate targets; as well as means of implementation targets in monitoring and resource mobilization						Sept 2025.
Brazil Restoration and Bioeconomy Finance Coalition	Goal to mobilize at least US$10 billion by 2030	Collectively, these commitments aim to protect or restore 3.65 million hectares of Brazilian forests	New ac…	Public/priv…	Conservation International, BTG	2030 …	Investors a…	
Brazil NbS Investment Collaborative	To mobilize US$5.5 bn in Brazilian NbS projects	C4C identified US$5.5 billion in capital absorption capacity among 22 scalable NbS developers	New ac…	Public/priv…	Capital For Climate	June …	Investors a…	21 investors
Earth Investment Engine	investable pipeline of over $20bn and is driving exponential growth in bioeconomy and NBS investment	Aim to aggregate pipelines, present opportunities with consistent data, and address policy blocks to capital mobilization. This initiative has identified more than $7.7 billion in regenerative agriculture opportunities that are ready for investment.	New ac…	Public/priv…	Capital for Climate / Ambition Loop	Nove…	Investors a…	over 15 local and global actors
Zamba Heritage Initiative	A platform to mobilize commitments,	10 year roadmap to place 10 millions of	New ac…	Standards …	FSC	2035 …	Multi-stake…	14 governments

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
	partnerships and investments to scale up sustainable forest management (SFM) across Africa.	hectares of Africa under certified sustainable forest management						and a coalition spanning 24 countries
Just Resilience Action Platform	The Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP) is a flagship initiative of Regions4, supported by the Scottish Government, designed to direct investment and technical support to territories where climate and biodiversity transformation happens. Global - subnational level. Priority: Global South	It connects subnational initiatives that put people, nature, and justice at the centre of resilience efforts with partners and donors to advance just, nature-based, and community-led resilience solutions, strengthen regional capacity, and amplify local voices in global governance. JRAP will be launched at the Local Leaders Forum in Rio de Janeiro (3-5 Nov 2025)	New ac…	Partnership…	Regions4	2030 …	Local and r…	Regions4 Coalition members
Freshwater Challenge **(Appendix 3)**	Global voluntary Country-led initiative aimed at accelerating, elevating & substantiating the restoration of 300,000 km of degraded rivers and 350 million hectares of degraded wetlands by 2030, as	the targets for freshwater ecosystem restoration and/or protection added to their national strategies - COP30 was the first milestone for the	Existin…	Partnership…	Partners – Wetlands International, WWF, TNC, CI, IUCN, UNEP, UNCCD, Ramsar Secretariat	2030 …	Multi-stake…	including Brazil) and the EU + 4 private companies (GSK, IKEA, RECKITT and EDEKA) part of the FWC

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
	well as conserve intact freshwater ecosystems	countries who joined the FWC and attended the COP28 Ministerial Roundtable On Protection and Restoration of Freshwater Ecosystems. - GEF-FWC $5M USD project to support country-members implementation - FWC Business Supporter Programme to facilitate						Business Supporter Programme + Core Partners + Supporting Partners (IWMI, FAO, Birdlife International, WWT)
Race to Belem	catalyzes corporate investment in the protection of the Brazilian rainforest	Race to Belem is matching $1 for every ton of carbon credit purchased with $1 upfront capital to Brazilian states launching jurisdictional REDD+ (JREDD+) programs.	New ac…	Public/priv…	Silvania	[]	[]	
COP26 Forest Tenure Pledge	Governments and Philanthropies Pledge to Renew and Scale Land and Forest	COP26 Goal Met with US$1.8 Billion Invested in Indigenous and	Existin…	Public/priv…	FCLP	[]	National g…	25 government and

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
	Commitments at COP30	Community Lands as Climate and Forest Pressures Mount - Google Docs						philanthropic donors
AFI Detailed, evidence-based guidance for credible corporate and investor Deforestation and Conversion-free (DCF) claims and for directing finance toward area-level conservation outcomes **(Appendix 2)**	Cross-cutting (Supply, Demand, Policy, Finance)	Connect producer, intermediary, and buyer systems through bottom-up mapping, dialogue, and co-creation to refine practical levers and validation frameworks linking local progress to market recognition	New ac…	Standards …	AFI + WWF	Nove…	Multi-stake…	Producers, IPLCs, AFI Coalition, companies, investors, and policymakers and donors
Mangrove Breakthrough	Mobilize $4 billion USD by 2030 for securing the future of 15 million ha of mangroves globally, through policy, science and partnerships	Launched at COP27 Developing a pipeline of investable projects in different regions Providing technical support to governments on including mangroves in NDCs Developing a global platform to track progress on projects	Existin…	Partnership…	Mangrove Breakthrough hub / GMA	Nove…	Multi-stake…	40 National Governments, GMA, Restor,
RESTOR: The	Enabling the flow of finance to local nature	Restor connects local nature stewards	Existin…	Partnership…	Restor	2030 …	Multi-stake…	Restor, FAO, G20 GLI,

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Global Ecosystem Restoration Movement	projects across the globe.	(currently 250,000+ projects) with funding opportunities and allows them to demonstrate their impact, supported by scientific data.						1t.org, financial institutions, corporations, standard setters & IPLCs
Food Forward Initiative	Increase number of countries integrating food and agriculture in national plans	Launch yearly reports	Existin…	Public opini…	WWF	[]	[]	
Beyond Alliance	Scaling market-based climate action through communications, advocacy, collaboration and education	VCM working group to scale demand-driven action through development of technical resources and policy guidance	New ac…	Knowledge…	Beyond Alliance	Nove…	Large com…	Beyond member companies and partner NGOs

Table 6: Large landscape scale delivery programmes for NbS and/ or Programme scale target by Global Actors new for COP30

Older projects to be found in the database International Database on REDD+ Projects and Programs - Idrecco

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Grupo Peru	JREDD	5 million he jurisdictional REDD	New action	Inclusive de…	ANECAP	Novem…	Youth, Ind…	IP led - ANECAP, Drist,
Tocantins, Brazil	JREDD		New action	Supply	CI, Silvania	[]	Multi-stak…	CI

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
The Amazon Future Fund	6 million hectares of intact contiguous forest in the Ecuadorian Amazon	Partnership is in the last stage of design and early(ish) stage of capitalizing the fund	New action	Public/priva…	Nature and Culture International	[]	Local and …	Local and Regional govt Ecuador - looking for investors
Emerald Edge	132,000 hectares by Indigenous Peoples.	Indigenous-led conservation, NCS implementation – conservation and sustainable management	Existing …	Inclusive de…	TNC, Indigenous First Nations, Alaska Natives and coastal Tribes	[]	Youth, Ind…	Indigenous-led conservation
Pará	JREDD	the State of Pará in developed its Payment for Deforestation Reduction and Forest Conservation, signed agreement with LEAF Coalition for purchase of credits	Existing …	Inclusive de…	LEAF coalition, Indigenous Peoples, TNC	Novem…	Multi-stak…	State of Pará, Indigenous Peoples , quilombola communities, and smallholder farmers, LEAF Coalition
Regenerative Ranching and Agriculture (R2A) landscape scale initiatives	Mesoamerican corridor-chiapas, Cerrado, Gran Chaco, and Colombian plains - 5,100 hectares of agricultural areas with improved productivity; 2.1 million hectares of agricultural areas with improved management	Implementing regenerative ranching and agriculture in 4 key landscapes	Existing …	Supply	TNC and partner orgs	[]	Multi-stak…	research institutions, agricultural companies, local organizations

Table 7 NbS matchmaker and accelerator initiatives

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
NDC- Partnership	Deliver on ambitious, transformational climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and drive sustainable development.	Support implementation of NDCs.	Existing a…	Partnerships …	WRI-UNOPS-UNFCCC	2035 Tar…	National gove…	FSC
NBSAP Accelerator Partnership		Support implementation of NBSAPs	Existing a…	Standards & T…	UNDP-UNEP-CBD	2030 Tar…	National gove…	FSC
ENACT			Existing a…	Knowledge & …	IUCN	2030 Tar…	National gove…	
UNCCD Global Mechanism	Mobilization of financial resources to implement the Convention and address desertification, land degradation and drought.	Support implementation of LDN targets.	Existing a…	Partnerships …	UNCCD	2030 Tar…	National gove…	

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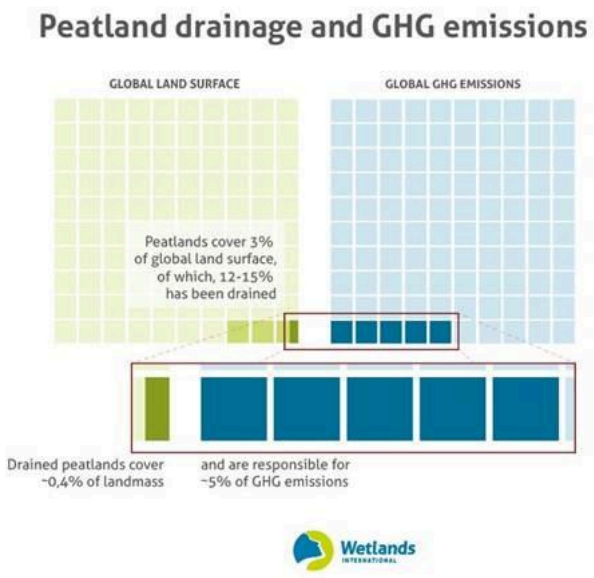
Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
HAC (High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People)	Leading global efforts to conserve and protect at least 30% of the world's land and 30% of the ocean by the year 2030 ("30×30")	Support implementation of target 3 of KM-GBF	Existing a…	Partnerships …	WRI	2030 Tar…	National gove…	
Restor : Funding opportunities for nature restoration projects	Restor supports community members, small landholders, farmers, IPLC to identify funding opportunities for your nature restoration or conservation project	Support implementation of target 2 and target 3 as well as the delivery of the GST 1 outcomes related to tackling deforestation and resilient food systems	Existing a…	Public/private …	RESTOR	2030 Tar…	Small and me…	RESTOR
Mangrove Breakthrough NDC Task Force	Providing technical policy support to government endorsers to include mangrove-positive commitments in NDCs	- 4 policy guiding documents for governments to include mangroves in NDCs - Organization of webinars -	Existing a…	Knowledge & …	Pew and CTT	2030 Tar…	Multi-stakehol…	Pew, CCT, TNC, CI, NDCP, FAO, Rare, WWF

Appendix 1

Additional information of new delivery initiatives for COP30 - Peatland Breakthrough



Why Peatlands **-** Peatlands store up to one-third of the world's soil carbon—double the carbon found in the world's forest biomass—and are the most carbon dense terrestrial ecosystem. Peatlands are Water Engineers in the landscape, enhancing community and ecosystem resilience by regulating water flows, minimizing flood and drought risks, and enhancing water quality. Peatlands are Biodiversity Havens as they provide critical habitats for diverse flora and fauna, including endangered species like orangutans. Peatlands support Sustainable Livelihoods through the provision of food, fibre, income, and shelter.

Peatlands worldwide are at risk. They represent 3% of global landcover and between 12% to 15% of peatlands have been drained, primarily for agriculture and forestry. Land use to grow crops, cattle, or to build a road or infrastructure has traditionally required damaging drainage. This degradation -representing only 0,4% of land surface- has turned peatlands from carbon sinks into major sources of greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to around 5% of all global GHG emissions (see fig. 1) —more than the aviation and shipping sectors combined.

Figure 1. Significance of peatland drainage and GHG emissions

While many tools and techniques for landscape-scale restoration and peatland-friendly management already exist- such as suitable crop types, water-sensitive construction methods, and rewetting approaches- there remains a lack of coordinated, investment-ready project pipelines to implement them at scale. The tools and techniques need to be integrated into policy. Funding remains fragmented and limited. Even in a country that leads peatland restoration by example (Scotland), we see that while the government can provide infrastructure, knowledge and regulations, private financing is crucial to deliver at scale.

The Peatland Breakthrough

To reach the Paris Agreement goals on mitigation and adaptation, drained peatlands must be restored and rewetted to enhance resilience and reduce emissions and the remaining peatland carbon sinks conserved. Hence, stopping further drainage is not sufficient ("turn the tap off"). You need to urgently – and in parallel- restore and rewet peatlands to reduce the warming effect of cumulative CO2 emissions ("open the plughole").

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Achieving this requires mobilizing national and international stakeholders and resources that only a breakthrough can catapult. We need to restore multi-millions of hectares of peatlands annually by 2050 and drive systemic change in land use, including value chains. For years, peatlands have been neglected, but momentum is building now. The Peatland Breakthrough's inclusion of key land-use stakeholders and global perspective is crucial to its success. This is the moment to highlight peatlands as part of the solution for a resilient 1.5°C planet by 2050.

Our vision is to shift (drained) peatlands from a climate liability to a climate ally.

The Peatland Breakthrough aims to unite public and private stakeholders around shared goals to deliver large-scale land-use change to safeguard and restore peatlands worldwide, which includes a pipeline of landscape scale peatland restoration projects. We envision local communities and farmers as stewards of peatlands, gaining sustainable livelihoods whilst protecting the integrity of the peatlands for the benefit of society.

It aims to elevate the importance of peatlands for climate, biodiversity, water, and livelihoods, and to scale up their conservation, restoration, and wise use. It promotes shared, science-based global targets and coordinated action, aiming to align efforts across sectors and regions. By strengthening collaboration, knowledge exchange, and the mobilization of finance, it aims to build capacity for large-scale restoration and land-use transformation, while supporting policies and investment frameworks that deliver lasting benefits for people and nature.

What's Happening Now?

1. **Draft Targets & Principles**

Two expert consultations were held in June 2025 to shape draft science-based targets and principles. These are now being refined through broader input from practitioners and stakeholders across climate, biodiversity, land, and community development sectors. We aim to ensure the targets are science-aligned and practical across contexts.

2. Preparing for launch (first semester 2026)

We plan to launch the Peatland Breakthrough during the first half of 2026. Leading up to this, our goal is to build momentum, increase visibility, and galvanize support from countries, companies, communities, and funders. We will have informative sessions, a CWNY event, an official side event at COP 30, among others to support outreach.

3.Champion Countries

We are actively engaging governments to become Champion Countries. Champion Countries play a key leadership role in the Peatland Breakthrough by integrating peatland priorities into their national climate, biodiversity, and land-use policies, and advocating for global action. They inspire others to join the initiative, share best practices and technical expertise, and help mobilize resources by highlighting the value of peatlands for climate mitigation, biodiversity, and water resilience. Their support is crucial in scaling up efforts and promoting political visibility and ambition for peatland conservation and restoration, as well as wise use. We are looking for 2-3 countries per region. Currently, Peru and Uganda have accepted our invitation to become Champion Countries.

4. Consortium of partners

The Peatland Breakthrough is a global call to action led by Wetlands International, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Greifswald Mire Centre, and the Landscape Finance Lab, developed in close alignment with the Global Peatlands Initiative, and in collaboration with the High-Level Climate Champions Team and the Convention on Wetlands.

Our growing list of supporting partners includes: the Global Environment Centre, RE-PEAT, and The Nature Conservancy.

PB is coordinated by a Steering Group and four expert Working Groups, ensuring strategic direction, technical rigor, inclusiveness, outreach, and a focused approach to resource mobilization

Appendix 2

Additional information of new delivery initiatives for COP30 - AFI Detailed, evidence-based guidance for credible corporate and investor Deforestation and Conversion-free (DCF) claims and for directing finance toward area-level conservation outcomes

Context and problem statement

Soft commodity production and expansion remain a leading cause of deforestation, conversion, biodiversity loss, and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as human rights violations affecting Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and workers. To address these problems, several approaches have been attempted, and more attention is currently focused on achieving farm or plantation-level traceability and product volume compliance for DCF sourcing – for instance, under EUDR. While this is a critical piece of the solution, progress has fallen short and deforestation and habitat conversion rates remain alarmingly high. 2025 is a critical year for DCF with COP30, the EUDR implementation deadline and with many corporate commitments to be 100% DCF by the end of this year. It is time for implementation. It is imperative to push for the implementation of paragraphs 33 and 34 of the Global Stocktake by demonstrating that fully transparent Deforestation- and Conversion-Free (DCF) supply chains are within reach, discussing challenges, opportunities as well as spreading and expanding provenly effective solutions. Also, this approach needs to be complemented by actions and policies at the landscape and supply chain levels, addressing some potential adverse consequences, including the creation of two-tier markets, leakage, market exclusion (especially of vulnerable actors), and conflict between producing country agendas, demand-side policies, and market criteria.

Complementing this product volume-based approach, due diligence and risk mitigation at the scale of sourcing areas (e.g., landscapes, jurisdictions, or the source-sheds of mills or cooperatives) can be scalable and an inclusive way to implement responsible sourcing. Such “area-level systems” can include implementation, monitoring, risk mitigation, governance, and law enforcement mechanisms to safeguard forests and ecosystems while supporting improved productivity, equitable and inclusive development, and rule of law. National and subnational governments in key producing countries (including Brazil, Argentina, Thailand, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Vietnam, Indonesia, Colombia, among others) have recently developed or supported monitoring and verification (MRV) platforms. In parallel, a range of privately operated and supply chain–driven systems have emerged, mapping farms, registering producers, tracking land use changes and yields, and linking land use data directly to production and trade flows. Together, these national, subnational, and private systems form an increasingly interconnected foundation for transparency and traceability across commodity supply chains. These systems are being implemented for most risk commodities: soy, beef, coffee, cocoa, rubber, pulp and paper and palm oil. These approaches may be and generally are comprehensive to all production of most traded products, applicable to all exports as well as internal markets. If implemented effectively, they can help leverage market demand for responsible products to establish and strengthen local systems that yield durable results on the ground. Yet, these jurisdictional MRV systems are being implemented independently and several may greatly benefit from others´experiences, trials and errors. Also, as this is

an emerging field of action from governments, clear criteria and guidance for robust area-level due diligence and risk mitigation systems still need to be further developed on the basis of these concrete examples. This would support companies to establish or ask for proper protocol; for governments to operationalize supply chain due diligence regulations (e.g., the UK Forest Risk Commodity Regulation and the EU CSDDD); and for producing countries and supply chain intermediaries to achieve market recognition for robust area-level systems. These challenges manifest in many different places as pain points for companies seeking to implement responsible supply chains and as barriers to progress on the ground. Examples include:

- Lack of a scalable implementation solutions to address deforestation and human rights risks in contexts where traceability is still very limited, such as the rubber sector;
- Lack of clear pathways for downstream companies (e.g., UK retailers and consumer goods companies) to invest in sustainability at origin when they still lack full traceability , e.g., the case of palm oil derivatives or soy embedded in meat products;
- Weak business case for supply chain companies to invest in area-level initiatives, including due to a lack or incoherence of claims frameworks.

To date, the **Accountability Framework initiative (AFi), with active participation of WWF and other coalition members,** has played a key role in establishing consensus about numerous aspects of deforestation-free and responsible supply chains. This has resulted in broader adoption of strong company sustainability policies, implementation measures, and transparency, in part by enabling companies to act and invest with confidence. The proposed project seeks to apply this proven approach to bring new clarity, consensus, and alignment to the development, use, and recognition of robust due diligence approaches, at the level of global supply chains and of jurisdictions,to support mainstreaming DCF, ethical supply chains. In doing so, it aims to create new synergies between these two realms, which currently remain too siloed from one another.

Objectives and outputs

The project will foster the wide adoption of transparent, deforestation and conversion-free (DCF) supply chains globally, for critical forest and ecosystem-risk commodities, through:

1. The systematic mapping of pilots and proofs of concept of transparent, verified DCF supply chain concrete examples and solutions, including private, sectoral and public/jurisdictional platforms and policies;
2. Extensive exchanges of experience and cross-learning between solutions developed within different geographies and markets for the same commodities, and also developed within the same geographies and markets for different commodities.
3. Promotion of the upscaling, adaptation and adoption by 2028 of these solutions for at least 3 major risk commodities, two key producing landscapes and two large importing markets, mainstreaming DCF supply chains.
4. Develop consensus-based guidelines for effective area-level systems dynamics and respective governance, economic incentives and rule of law grounded in evidence synthesis and broad engagement with actors in commodity-producing, market intermediary, and downstream contexts.

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These actions will build on existing AFi and WWF materials to provide new clarity to supply chain companies on expectations, options, claims and concrete solutions related to investment in supply chain and area-level initiatives and systems. It will then leverage the AFi and its broad civil society Coalition to pilot and promote these guidelines and solutions to help build robust supply chain and area-level systems for commodities such as palm oil, rubber, cocoa, soy, cattle and timber, as well as the recognition of these solutions in supply chain due diligence regulations, market expectations, and standards. This will be achieved in part by leveraging the AFi and WWF's existing channels for uptake of its guidelines into industry and multi-stakeholder standards, accountability mechanisms, finance sector initiatives, and other key spaces. Amongst the key objectives for the implementation of this proposal are:

- Alignment: Bridge ethical, DCF supply chain solutions among markets and with area-level governance and finance through shared metrics and mutual recognition.
- Legitimacy: Ensure that producer-country and local institutions actively participate in success metrics definitions and validation processes.
- Adaptability: Build multiple solutions' toolboxes and a flexible framework to accommodate diverse commodities, trade routes, and governance contexts.
- Acceleration: Create credible, comparable signals that enable markets and investors to recognize and reward verified progress.
- Accountability: Strengthen the evidentiary basis for credible corporate and investor claims, linking financial disclosure to tangible supply chain and area-level impacts.

The AFi and WWF propose a joint initiative (January 2026 – November 2028) under the PAS platform to operationalize this bridge. The initiative will identify and align practical levers emerging from landscape and jurisdictional systems, linking them to credible corporate and investor frameworks for due diligence, transparency, and performance reporting.

Key actions include:

1. Identifying and aligning proven levers of change from key supply chain actors and producer landscapes—governance, monitoring, inclusion, and transparency practices that deliver measurable results.
2. Matching these learnings with intermediary market and buyer expectations to foster two-way adaptation and alignment.
3. Co-developing and piloting a practical 'starter progress scorecard' that reflects feasible progress indicators and aligns them with market and policy needs.
4. Facilitating structured dialogues across commodities, countries, and market systems to ensure that producer realities and consumers´requirements match and inform corporate and investor decisions.
5. Synthesizing and codifying scalable guidance and metrics that enable credible corporate claims, risk-adjusted investments, and measurable supply chain and area-level outcomes.

Phasing and Duration (January 2026 – November 2028)

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The initiative will unfold over three interconnected phases integrating producer, intermediary, and buyer dimensions. Each phase ensures that progress originates from the ground and translates into actionable market and policy alignment.

- **Phase 1 – Mapping and Alignment (Jan–Aug 2026):** Identify and document existing initiatives and governance systems; map alignment gaps and launch intra and inter-commodity dialogues.
- **Phase 2 – Refinement and Co-creation (Sept 2026 – Feb 2027):** Develop and pilot the starter progress scorecard; refine shared levers of change through cross-regional dialogues.
- **Phase 3 – Validation and Guidance (Mar 2027 – Nov 2028):** Validate frameworks across landscapes and markets; consolidate findings into an AFi–WWF Guidance Framework and present results through PAS and COP30 as a model for credible, risk-informed, nature-positive investment.

Expected Outcomes

1. Wide adoption of supply chain and area-level verified DCF solutions, making ethical supply chains to become a new generally adopted baseline requirement in the global soft commodity trade.
2. A validated set of levers and verified DCF indicators linking producer systems with market recognition and finance flows.
3. Definitions and progress parameters for credible and comparable monitoring across landscapes and supply chains.
4. Guidance enabling credible corporate and investor claims, supporting transparent and risk-informed area-level investment
5. Strengthened multi-level feedback loops ensuring continuous learning between producers, intermediaries, and buyers.
6. Greater coherence between responsible sourcing, policy frameworks, and conservation finance mechanisms

AFI Coalition

Steering Group

The Steering Group is the AFi's governing body. It is responsible for taking decisions about the initiative's strategic direction and approving all material within the Accountability Framework.

The Steering Group consists of civil society representatives addressing environmental and human rights issues from both global and tropical country perspectives. The Steering Group strives to take decisions by consensus, according to its Terms of Reference.

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Supporting Partners

Supporting Partners promote use of the Accountability Framework by companies, industry groups, financial institutions, governments, and other key stakeholders. They also contribute practical tools, resources, implementation support, and advocacy for ethical supply chains.

For more information on the AFi Supporting Partners please see the Terms of Reference.

AFI Impact and Influence

Since its launch, the **Accountability Framework initiative (AFi)** has become the leading global reference for deforestation-free and responsible supply chains, driving measurable change across corporate, policy, and finance systems. By the end of 2024, AFi had documented uptake by **351 international companies** across major forest-risk commodities, including **134 in soy, 119 in palm oil, 94 in cattle (beef/leather)**, and **80 in timber, pulp, and paper**. Through its delivery partners and Coalition network, the AFi engaged an additional **64 companies** and indirectly influenced **hundreds more** through alignment with the Science Based Targets initiative's **Forest, Land and Agriculture (FLAG)** guidance — resulting in more than **240 companies adopting Framework-aligned no-deforestation commitments** by 2025.

Beyond the corporate sphere, **129 standards, platforms, and policy processes** — including **CDP, Forest 500, ZSL-SPOTT, WWF's commodity scorecards, and the Global Reporting Initiative** — have integrated AFi's definitions and indicators, while **15 accountability systems** and **14 finance-sector tools** (e.g., PRI, Ceres, Global Canopy's DEFT, and WWF's finance guidance) now use AFi-aligned methodologies. The **Common Methodology**, updated in 2024, underpins reporting for more than **1,600 companies** globally, helping harmonize due diligence and disclosure systems such as CDP Forests. The initiative's **e-learning platform**, launched in 2024, already counts **over 500 active users** with completion rates twice the industry average, and its **delivery partner program** includes **11 advisory firms** upskilled to embed AFi in corporate practices. Together, these efforts have positioned the AFi as a catalytic influence on the enabling environment for responsible commodities — linking corporate disclosure, investor expectations, and policy alignment to measurable forest, land-use, and human-rights outcomes.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

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Since ITS founding in 1961, WWF has been committed to protecting nature and its resources. We understand that nature is our planet's greatest asset, intrinsically linked to human survival — and that it needs our help. Our work to reverse nature loss and conserve biodiversity has never been more urgent.

As the world's leading conservation organization—with offices on six continents and in nearly 100 countries—our global reach includes the world's most critical forests, river systems, wetlands, savannas, and ocean habitats. By conserving these places and supporting sustainable livelihoods within them, we can keep the Earth in balance for people, wildlife, and the planet.

Our efforts combine science and innovation, from cutting-edge technology to rigorous research, and are powered by partnerships at every level. Everywhere we work, WWF and its partners are devoted to securing long-lasting solutions that address nature loss, create resiliency, and benefit generations to come.

This includes working with governments and communities to secure financing for conservation areas, collaborating with local leaders to ensure communities benefit from conservation, and partnering with the private sector to shift businesses and infrastructure development toward greater sustainability.

WWF knows lasting change will only succeed when the needs of people are prioritized in balance with conservation. That's why we center people in our work—especially Indigenous peoples and local communities, whose knowledge and stewardship of their lands and waters leads to smarter, more successful outcomes.

Appendix 3

Additional information of new delivery initiatives for COP30 - Freshwater Challenge

The Freshwater Challenge (FWC) is a voluntary, country-led partnership with the goal to restore 300,000 kilometers of degraded rivers and 350 million hectares of degraded wetlands by 2030, while securing the protection of freshwater ecosystems important for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 53 countries and the European Union have joined the Freshwater Challenge so far.

Context and problem statement

The important role of healthy freshwater ecosystems has been recognized in key international agreements and agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. However, current international approaches to water are not helping countries achieve the targets set out in these global frameworks fast enough. As a result, rivers, lakes and other wetlands are still undervalued and overlooked, and their rapid loss is undermining hard-won development gains and global efforts to tackle the climate and nature crises:

- Rivers and wetlands are the most threatened ecosystems globally;
- Since 1970, 22% of the world's remaining wetlands have been lost;
- Only 1/3rd of large rivers flow freely from source to sea; and
- Freshwater species populations have collapsed by 85% on average since 1970.

The Freshwater Challenge is rooted in Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which commits parties to restore 30% of degraded inland waters and conserve 30% of freshwater ecosystems by 2030, creating a critical milestone for global freshwater ecosystems.

Objectives and commitment

The Challenge's purpose is to accelerate delivery of national plans and strategies to restore and conserve freshwater ecosystems, by supporting and accelerating targeted interventions for rivers, lakes and other wetlands. The Challenge will increase the overall investment into the restoration and conservation of freshwater ecosystems and substantially increase the social and economic returns on those investments.

By doing so, the FWC will support countries to achieve their international commitments on climate, biodiversity, ecosystem protection and restoration, flood and drought resilience, land degradation, Disaster Risk Reduction and SDGs, aligned to their ambitions for sustainable development.

Members (outlined in the image to the left) commit, by the end of 2025, to set and, thereafter, implement, quantifiable targets in their national plans to restore and conserve freshwater ecosystems, thereby supporting national and global commitments by 2030. To ensure transparency, member countries' national commitments will be documented and will be publicly accessible on this website.

Appendix 4

Digital ecosystem mapping for platforms and tools to support NbS implementation

Table 9 : Digital Tools and platforms to support KPIs to monitor the implementation of NbS
Carried out by NbS Data Colab meetings in Bonn and London June 2025 mapping exercise of the digital ecosystem

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Naturebase	Geospatial Evidence base for NbS potential for each of the 20 NbS pathways	a global platform designed to help policymakers, practitioners, and communities identify and implement high-integrity nature-based solutions (NbS) with the highest carbon mitigation impact. It integrates peer-reviewed data, ecosystem benefits, enabling policies, and case studies.	Existing…	Inclusive de…	TNC	Novem…	Multi-stake…	N4C Coalition
Global Forest Watch	Global Forest Watch (GFW) is an online platform that provides data and tools for monitoring forests.	GFW allows anyone to access near real-time information about where and how forests are changing around the world.	Existing…	Risk-inform…	WRI	Novem…	Multi-stake…	

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Land & Carbon Lab		Artificial intelligence and machine learning to synthesize troves of satellite data, we provide decision makers with the information and insights to restore degraded landscapes, protect forests and nature, and produce food and other land-intensive commodities more sustainably.	Existing…	Inclusive de…	WRI and Bezos	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
Restor	Data and action hub for the global network of nature stewards	Connects local communities with funding opportunities and allows them to demonstrate their impact, supported by scientific data.	Existing…	Knowledge …	Restor	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
NbS Policy Tracker	Global database of policies, regulations and budgets at a national level to support NbS	Published annually - policy analysis interface -Policy documents, metadata, country-level summaries	Existing…	Policy & reg…	Arberetica/ N4C	Novem…	National go…	
NbS Commitment Tracker	Annual tracking of NbS supporting initiatives since 2019	Review published annually and assesses ‘mortality’ of initiatives based on a transparency test of online activity	Existing…	Public opinion	N4C	Novem…	Multi-stake…	

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
NbS Case Study Map	Global Map of NbS Case Studies	Ongoing - database with – spatial layers and filters	Existing…	Public opinion	N4C	June 2…	Multi-stake…	
International Database on REDD+ Projects and Programs - Idrecco	Data base of REDD+ project and jurisdictions	Each new project that is added to the ID-RECCO database is characterized across 136 variables for projects and 101 variables for programs including carbon certification status, sources of financing, community-level interventions, and general features of the project.	Existing…	Supply	CIFOR	Novem…	Multi-stake…	CIFOR, Climate Economics Chair at Paris-Dauphine University, CIRAD and IFRI at the University of Michigan
Climate Policy Radar	Policy documents, semantic metadata	High – machine-readable	Existing…	Inclusive de…	CPR	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
FSC Certified Maps	Maps of FSc Certified Areas	Ongoing Database	Existing…	Standards …	FSC	Novem…	Multi-stake…	

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
FSC Risk Hub	Risk Hub, GIS layers for forest governance	Ongoing Database	Existing…	Risk-inform…	FSC	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
FSc Verified Impact	Database for FSC's PES solution	Ongoing Database	Existing…	Public/privat…	FSC	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
CBD Online Reporting Tool	Article 26 of the Convention states that the objective of national reporting is to provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures.	Assists individual Parties or groups of Parties to identify common issues to be addressed, thus facilitating the development of cost-effective and mutually-supportive regional initiatives for implementation.	Existing…	Policy & reg…	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
Food Systems Dashboard	Nutrition, agriculture, climate indicators	food systems data explorer	Existing…	Knowledge …	GAIN, The Columbia Climate School, Cornell University, and FAO	Novem…	Multi-stake…	

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Nature-based Solutions Evidence Platform	The Nature-based Solutions Evidence Platform is an interactive map linking nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation outcomes based on a systematic review of the peer-reviewed literature.	An interactive map and database linking NbS interventions to climate adaptation outcomes. It supports filtering by region, habitat, and intervention type.	Existing…	Inclusive de…	EEA/ University of Oxford	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
Nature-Based Solutions Policy Data Platform	Provides emissions data and vulnerability rankings, linking policy to scientific evidence for NbS effectiveness	Policy links, emissions, vulnerability rankings	Existing…	Policy & reg…	NDCP/ IIED	Novem…	National go…	
Equator Initiative NbS database	Database of over 2000 community led NbS projects	Interactive global map and database of Equator Awards finalists.	Existing…	Inclusive de…	UNDP	Novem…	Youth, Indig…	
Earth Insight	Ecosystem Threat Platform, Closing Window Interactive Map	Earth Insight builds critical transparency tools and momentum for restricting fossil fuel, mining, and other industrial expansion threats to key ecosystems and Indigenous and local communities.	Existing…	Inclusive de… Multi-stakeh…	Earth Insight	Novem…	Multi-stake…	

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Nature Benchmark	The Nature Benchmark tracks and measures how companies are reducing their negative impacts on nature and contributing to the protection and restoration of ecosystems	Nature Benchmark, assessing and ranking 816 companies across more than 20 industries.	Existing…	Risk-inform…	World Benchmarking Alliance	June 2…	Large comp…	
GreenSearch AI	Arboretica uses AI to enhance environmental data discovery and analysis, supporting decision-making in conservation and climate resilience.		Existing…	Inclusive de…	Arboretica	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
SDG Assessment – Regional Biodiversity Project Assessment	BON-in-a-Box is a modular toolkit developed by GEO BON to support countries and regions in assessing biodiversity indicators aligned with SDGs and CBD targets.		Existing…	Inclusive de…	Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)	Novem…	Multi-stake…	

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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
CR2 – Race to Resilience Data Explorer	Scientific data and categorisation tools to the Race to Resilience initiative, focusing on adaptation metrics and bottom-up data.		Existing…	Inclusive de…	Universidad de Chile (CR2)	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
Radboud University – Nature-Climate Cooperative Initiatives Database (N-CID)	N-CID is a database mapping cooperative initiatives that link nature and climate goals, supporting policy and academic research.		Existing…	Policy & reg…	Radboud University, Netherlands.	Novem…	National go…	
Climate TRACE	Climate TRACE uses satellite and AI data to track emissions from over 660 million assets globally, offering granular insights into high-impact mitigation opportunities	Real-Time Emissions Tracking	Existing…	Risk-inform…	Climate TRACE Coalition, co-founded by Al Gore and partners	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
Warming Dashboard	Visualise climate risks and warming trends to	Risk Viewer	Existing…	Risk-inform…	Woodwell Climate	Novem…	Investors a…	

Plan to Accelerate Nature-based Solutions

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
	inform policy and investment decisions.				Research Center			
Forest IQ, Trade Monitoring, CDP, REDD+	Global Canopy offers tools like Forest IQ (risk analysis), Trase (trade monitoring), and supports CDP's forest disclosure platform. It also contributes to REDD+ transparency and accountability.		Existing…	Risk-inform…	Global Canopy	Novem…	Investors a…	
Green Future Project Platform	Geospatial layers, project metadata	High – satellite and GIS interface	Existing…	Technology …	Green Future Project	Novem…	Multi-stake…	
Fulcrum Environmental Data Management		Structured field data, survey inputs	Existing…	Technology …	Fulcrum	Novem…	Multi-stake…	

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
IBAT			Existing…	Technology …	BirdLife, CI, IUCN, UNEP WCMC	2030 T…	Multi-stake…	

Appendix 5 NbS implementation dialogues - Highlights report on barriers and opportunities

Ahead of COP28 in 2023, Nature4Climate (N4C) in collaboration with The Climate Champions, IUCN led a series of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) Implementation Dialogues and report that culminated in a Ministerial led by Colombia and the German Federal Ministry for the Environment at COP28. The aim was to provide a demonstrable evidence base for discussion among parties on the opportunities and barriers faced by non-state actors across the different regions as part of the UNFCCC Global Stocktake. Replicating the 2023 NbS Implementation Dialogues, the COP30 NbS Implementation Dialogues has held meeting and conducted semi structured interviews throughout 2025 to nurture a space of trust for a constructive and honest dialogue across key stakeholder groups to improve collective understanding of the obstacles and opportunities to accelerate the implementation of landscape-scale NbS on the ground. N4C has focused engagement and facilitated dialogues across four key audience groups in the run-up to COP30: Business and Finance; Regional Government; Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; NGOs and IGO. The summary of these outcomes from these discussions is below and has informed the levers assessment.

Summary of Private Sector focus group help on 24th Sept KPMG

The KPMG/N4C Workshop convened a diverse group of 50 private sector stakeholders—builiding on a previous workshop held in London Climate Week - including financial institutions, corporates, NGOs, standard setters, and government representatives—to explore barriers and opportunities for scaling nature-based solutions (NbS).

Discussions were structured around five thematic areas: financial and economic barriers, internal business challenges, technical and operational hurdles, stakeholder engagement, and policy and regulation. Participants highlighted systemic mistrust across the economic value chain, the complexity of nature-related frameworks, and fragmented data as key challenges. However, they also identified promising entry points such as leveraging known commodities like sustainable timber, embedding nature into corporate missions, and using AI to improve risk quantification and data integration.

Internal business dynamics and stakeholder engagement emerged as critical levers for change. Companies struggle to prioritise nature due to unclear metrics and a disconnect between climate and biodiversity narratives. Opportunities lie in combining bottom-up insights from local actors with top-down strategy, framing nature through resilience, and improving storytelling around biodiversity's business relevance. Stakeholder engagement discussions emphasised elevating community voices to board-level decision-making, aligning investor incentives with long-term nature outcomes, and integrating multi-capital accounting to measure impact. Examples from Natura and other organisations showcased how incentive models and regional partnerships can drive inclusive and effective NbS implementation.

Policy and regulation discussions underscored the need for standardisation, public buy-in, and systemic resilience. Participants called for positioning nature as the "new carbon" in business and policy narratives, expanding biodiversity net gain models to other sectors, and integrating nature into risk management and audit processes. The workshop outputs will inform the upcoming São Paulo event with Salesforce, Natura, and Nature4Climate, where businesses are expected to make public NbS commitments. These announcements will feed into ministerial dialogues in Belém, aligning business, policy, and civil society voices ahead of COP and the broader climate and nature agenda.

Summary of NGO focus group held on 22nd Sept

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) face a complex political landscape marked by fragmented governance, short-term political cycles, and limited institutional capacity, which hinder strategic planning and policy coherence. Despite growing global attention, superficial engagement and COP fatigue persist, with governments often lacking clarity on ownership and coordination.

However, opportunities lie in aligning national (and Sub-national) and international policy frameworks, fostering public support, and recognising Indigenous and local contributions. Economically, NbS can be positioned as engines of resilience and growth, especially when linked to sector-wide KPIs, blended finance models, and valuation of ecosystem services. Socially, the invisibility of livelihoods and fragmented narratives weaken advocacy, yet storytelling, data integration, and coalition-building offer pathways to elevate NbS.

Technologically, siloed data systems and limited local capacity constrain impact, but co-developed tools, standardisation, and funder education can unlock scalable, context-relevant solutions. Addressing these gaps holistically is essential to move from ambition to delivery and embed NbS within durable political, economic, and social systems.

Summary of review on NbS implementation by Regions4 - Sept 2025

Political ambition is crucial for enabling Nature-based Solutions (NbS) at regional levels, where leaders can prioritize NbS in plans, budgets, and communication, thus mobilizing resources and partnerships. National plans and international agreements provide essential frameworks that support regional actions by fostering coordination and clear mandates. Regions seek recognition in global negotiations and harmonized governance across climate and biodiversity conventions to ensure their contributions are counted and valued.

Political ambition drives NbS adoption: Regional leaders set priorities that embed NbS in development agendas, creating legitimacy and urgency that mobilize finance and partnerships. Some regions act ahead of national mandates, demonstrating leadership in climate and biodiversity legislation.

National frameworks enable regional action: Strong political commitment at national and global levels creates space for cross-sectoral coordination and clearer mandates, with calls for multilevel governance that integrates regional roles in planning and review processes.

Global negotiation signals desired: Regions seek formal recognition in global biodiversity and climate frameworks, operational adaptation indicators, and durable forums under UN conventions to solidify their role as implementation partners.

National planning requires statutory mandates and finance: Coherent landscape-scale regulations and devolved, directable finance windows are needed to replace fragmented permitting and enable regional access to funds while phasing out harmful subsidies.

Finance access remains a major bottleneck: Less than 17% of global climate finance reaches subnational actors, with significant biodiversity funding gaps. Regions rely on multilateral funds, bilateral cooperation, and national transfers but face challenges including complex access, technical capacity gaps, and scale mismatches.

Innovative regional finance mechanisms: Some regions develop taxing systems and ecosystem-based finance schemes, such as carbon markets and payments for environmental services, demonstrating potential for direct resource mobilization.

Future funding priorities: Dedicated subnational funding windows and initiatives like the Just Resilience Action Platform (JRAP) aim to channel finance and technical assistance directly to regions, supporting shovel-ready NbS projects and peer learning.

Knowledge and capacity gaps: Regions need regionally adapted tools, shared data methodologies, and comprehensive training curricula that integrate social justice and equity to implement NbS effectively. Current efforts include pilot projects and platforms designed to build institutional capacity and facilitate learning.

Summary of Youth4Nature Perspectives on Nature-based Solutions (NbS):

Youth across the globe view political ambition as the driving force behind the success or failure of NbS. Without leaders who champion nature and climate justice, progress stalls due to weak regulations and limited funding. National plans and strategies are equally vital, as they determine whether NbS are integrated into education, land use, and urban planning. Youth demand climate policies that explicitly include biodiversity, livelihoods, and youth leadership, recognising that sustained strategies are key to moving beyond pilot projects.

Global negotiations such as COP, CBD, and UNFCCC are closely watched by youth for meaningful inclusion of NbS, especially in areas like adaptation, finance, and rights-based approaches. They want stronger references to nature in Nationally Determined Contributions and mechanisms that go beyond symbolic commitments. At the national level, youth stress the importance of clear regulations that support community-led NbS, particularly for Indigenous peoples, rural youth, and women. They call for co-created rules that ensure equitable access and benefit sharing.

Funding remains a major challenge, with most youth-led NbS projects relying on small grants or volunteer labour. Youth advocate for blended finance, adaptation funds, and community-based grants with simplified access and capacity support. They face barriers such as lack of collateral, bureaucratic hurdles, and exclusion from national and international funding streams. However, there is optimism around locally led finance, safeguarded carbon markets, and municipal-level schemes that include youth actors.

Youth engagement with NbS is deeply personal, driven by lived experiences of climate impacts like floods, droughts, and food insecurity. They emphasise the importance of trust, transparency, and community ownership, warning against displacement and green grabbing. Access to technology, data, and training is critical, with calls for partnerships that provide GIS tools, Indigenous knowledge, and vocational education. Initiatives like INUKA Afrika in Kenya exemplify how youth-led, locally grounded NbS can scale effectively when supported by knowledge and networks.