

COP28

THEMATIC DAY SUMMARY:

Dec 9: Nature, Land Use, and Oceans





The data is clear, nature is crucial across all pillars of the Paris Agreement. It is already the largest carbon sink, capturing more than 50% of anthropogenic emissions, and it can help us achieve 30% of the carbon removals needed by 2030. But if no action is taken, on-going nature degradation will worsen the impact of climate change with catastrophic consequences on ecosystems. COP28 Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day demonstrated the political leadership required to deliver action on climate and nature in an integrated manner. The day focused on scaling robust solutions to protect, restore, and effectively manage natural ecosystems. It also addressed drivers of nature loss, the key role played by Indigenous Peoples and the need to work with communities to ensure resilient lives and livelihoods.

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Innovative nature financing plans for large-scale forest protection and restoration projects announced on Dec. 2, including those by High-Level Champions, were further detailed. These partnerships, totaling more than \$2.5 billion for forests and nature, exemplified a collaborative resolve to protect these critical ecosystems.
- The mangrove conservation initiative stood as another hallmark, featuring announcements from governments and non-state actors to deliver on the Mangrove Breakthrough and protect and restore 15 million hectares of mangroves by 2030. This global collective effort for mangrove is propelled by 30 new memberships for the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC), and supported by the UAE through the newly established Mohamed bin Zayed International Mangrove Research Center and the creation of the New International Mangrove Research Center that will be based in Indonesia.
- In addition, 21 countries endorsed the science-based Mangrove Breakthrough target.
- 18 countries announced they would align their national climate and biodiversity planning frameworks under an umbrella coalition composed of 11 key partnerships and alliances, aimed at fostering a cohesive approach towards climate action and biodiversity preservation.



GLOBAL STOCKTAKE RESPONSE:

Over 1,400 signatories from across business, finance, philanthropy, politics, academia and civil society have called for all Parties to deliver a 1.5°C-aligned outcome reflecting nature's critical role in closing the gap to 2030, in response to the Global Stocktake. The statement highlights that "the signals of transformation and opportunity across sectors and society are all around us. At the same time, the climate emergency is biting harder than ever." The day marked a critical acceleration in the implementation of both the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework, drawing a throughline from COP28 to CBD COP16 in 2024 and COP30 in 2025, and keeping the world on track to deliver critical progress on the nature and climate agendas by 2030.



NATURE, LAND USE AND OCEAN

Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day at COP28 delivered a transformative step-change to accelerate integrated climate and nature solutions. Countries came together at COP28 to present a course-correct delivery of the Paris Agreement in response to the Global Stocktake, by resoundingly stating that there is no Paris without nature. Nature is a critical lever in the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals, and we must and can scale action on nature by 2030 to achieve success on climate. COP28 seized the critical opportunity presented to decisively signal the need and opportunity for delivering climate goals through action on nature. Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day mobilized a groundswell of action to turbocharge the delivery of the Paris Agreement, The Glasgow Leaders' Declaration and the Global Biodiversity Framework, to cement nature's central role in climate action.

KEY MOMENTS

- **The COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People** by the COP28 and CBD COP15 Presidencies was launched with 18 countries committing to implementing an integrated approach for climate and nature action in their national plans and strategies.
- Under the Joint Statement, 11 key country-led partnerships and alliances agreed to a multi-year program of collaboration between UNFCCC and CBD COPs to **support countries implement nature and climate action in an integrated manner.**
- Five countries released a land **restoration roadmap**: Environment ministers from five countries, along with global non-state actors, unveiled a roadmap to accelerate land restoration and climate action, underscoring a potent collaborative effort to restore one billion hectares worldwide by COP30 in 2025.
- The Mangrove Alliance for Climate and the Mangrove Breakthrough announced a formal partnership: The conservation and restoration of 15 million hectares of mangroves by the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) saw membership increased by 30 countries from five at COP27. The UAE supported these efforts by providing access to innovative financial and technical solutions through the world's first Mohamed bin Zayed International Mangrove Research Center.
- The Global Mangrove Alliance and the High-Level Champions mobilized 21 countries to support and the **science-based Mangrove Breakthrough target** of protecting 15 million hectares of mangroves and to mobilize \$4 billion of finance by 2030.
- The Global Forest Finance Pledge (GFFP) report revealed that more than \$3 billion has been spent on protecting forests in 2023.
- Non-state actors and governments took stock of global land restoration implementation efforts, celebrating the achievements of flagship initiatives under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration platform. Together, these 10 flagships aim to restore more than 60 million hectares and create more than 13 million jobs by 2030.

- Over 150 businesses and financial institutions advanced the Nature Positive for Climate Action call to action through the adoption of science-based targets for nature, science-based targets with FLAG Guidance, and the Task Force on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework. Some of these organizations are also including nature in their transition plans, addressing deforestation risk and increasing investments in credible nature-based solutions.
- Race to Zero's latest Progress Report showed that nature protection and restoration has become embedded into key drivers of our economies. Through the Nature Positive for Climate Action campaign, a myriad of Race to Zero members are integrating nature into climate transition plans.
- Governments and businesses acted to save and recover coral reefs on a global scale. 50 governments and more than 50 non-state actors announced their support for Coral Reef Breakthrough, including through committing new capital to Global Fund for Coral Reef. They are delivery partners of the Race to Resilience Campaign, and the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda ocean systems.
- The Global Fund for Coral Reefs Investment added \$20 to \$100 million of new investment commitments to its \$50 million of funding available as of 2023 towards the Coral Reef Breakthrough goals.
- The Urban Nature Program, the largest coalition of actors committed to advancing nature-positive development in regions and cities, announced it would provide financial and technical assistance to integrate nature in urban areas and increase investment in nature-based solutions in cities across an initial 20 lighthouse cities.
- The 2030 Shipping Breakthrough and 2030 Ocean Breakthroughs launched new marine biodiversity indicators, setting out milestones and goals to assess, reduce and avoid impacts on the marine biodiversity and ecosystems to achieve a nature-positive maritime sector.
- The Government of Norway and the Bezos Earth Fund announced funding to support broad, inclusive, informal work on digital sequencing information until COP 16. For 2024: NOK 10 million from Bezos Earth Fund and NOK 15 million from Norway were announced.
- Norway announced a 30% increase in the budget of its international climate and forest initiative (NICFI) for 2024, exceeding its Glasgow pledge. NICFI has disbursed more than \$5 billion in grants so far to help preserve tropical forests.
- The UK announced £72.5 million in new programs from its flagship Blue Planet Fund.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- In line with the Nature, Land Use and Ocean thematic, programming on the **Technology and Innovation Hub Stage** focused on the role of technology in countering the impact of climate change on nature and various ecosystems. It also explored the need to enable and empower indigenous and at-risk communities to continue safeguarding the environment.
- The City of Dire Dawa and Nedamco Africa unveiled Cutting-Edge Water Management Platform Initiative.
- **High-Level Event on Artificial Intelligence for Climate Action:** This high-level event hosted by the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism in collaboration with COP28 provided a space for policy discussion, awareness raising, and exchange of knowledge and experience on opportunities and challenges of climate solutions powered by AI. The event featured a presentation by the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism on the #AI4ClimateAction initiative, and the launch of the AI Innovation Grand Challenge.
- Singapore signed a carbon credits deal with Papua New Guinea: Singapore's first carbon credits implementation agreement with Papua New Guinea set out a legally binding framework and processes for generating and transferring the credits.
- **COP Connect by AGRA:** Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa hosted the last in the series of COP Connect events, on the theme of "Unlocking Investments for Youth-Driven Innovation Towards Climate-Smart Sustainable Food Systems".





COP28UAE