



COP28
UAE

PRESS RELEASE

United for Nature: COP28 mobilizes action to protect and restore forests, mangroves, land and ocean

- COP28's Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day saw countries and non-state actors come together in support of nature-based climate action. \$186.6 million of new financing for nature and climate towards forests, mangroves, and the ocean was announced. The commitments made today build on those made during COP28's World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) on 2 December, where \$2.5 billion was mobilized to protect and restore nature.
- A key policy outcome of Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day is a joint statement between the COP28 Presidency and the People's Republic of China, as President of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15). This statement signalled a new commitment for countries to coordinate and simultaneously implement their nature and climate strategies.
- 30 countries have joined the UAE and Indonesia's Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) since COP27 when it was launched.
- 21 countries formally endorsed the Mangrove Breakthrough, securing momentum behind the Mangrove Breakthrough goal of restoring and protecting 15 million hectares of mangroves globally.
- "There is no path to keeping 1.5°C within reach without protecting nature, land and the ocean. We must unite behind nature positive solutions", said H.E. Razan Al Mubarak, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28.

Dubai, 10 December 2023: COP28's Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day saw leaders endorse commitments and pledges of over \$186 million to drive climate action and continue to build momentum to protect and restore nature.

A number of landmark commitments on forests, mangroves, landscape restoration, nature finance and the ocean, were announced reaffirming that near-term action on nature is essential to deliver the goals of the Paris Agreement.

"There is no path to fulfilling the Paris Agreement and keeping 1.5°C within reach without protecting and restoring nature, land, and the ocean. We must work in partnership especially with the indigenous peoples and local communities who steward these critical assets," said H.E Razan Al Mubarak, the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28, "The diverse, incredible turn-out for Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day at COP evidences the support for this dual nature-climate agenda and its centrality to the response to the Global Stocktake. I am delighted that we also have a clear pathway for nature to COP30 in Belém."

Over \$186 million of new financing for nature and climate towards forests, mangroves and the ocean was announced during the Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day. This funding builds on the \$2.5 billion mobilized to protect and restore nature during COP28's World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) on 2 December.

"The COP28 Presidency; the UAE, have demonstrated real action for Nature, one that is backed by significant financial commitments. The journey to 1.5 as we all know, is not possible without nature, and this level of action must be expedited to achieve real progress by COP30," said H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of the Republic of Ghana.

Reversing nature-loss can provide upwards of 30 percent of the mitigation action needed to keep 1.5°C within reach by 2030. Nature also has a crucial role to play in reducing climate-related hazards, such as floods and fires. Nature preservation can also contribute a potential USD \$10 trillion worth of new business opportunities and provide almost 400 million new jobs.

The action at Nature, Land Use and Ocean Day builds upon the commitments by leaders at COP26 to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) that was adopted last year at the 15th Conference of the Parties under the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, with its target to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030. These goals depend on investment in and leadership from indigenous communities, who steward some 80 percent of global biodiversity.

"For thousands of years, our people have been devoted to living in balance and harmony with nature, observing the behavior of the biodiversity that surrounds us, the animals, plant life cycles and water flows," said María Jose Andrade Cerda, an Indigenous woman from the Kichwa community of Serena, Ecuador, who leads economic and community development in the council of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon. "By bringing science and indigenous knowledge together, COP28 has helped remind the world that understanding and respecting the intricate dance between humanity and nature is paramount to our future."

A key policy outcome of Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day is a joint statement between the UAE COP28 Presidency and the Presidency to the 15th Conference of the Parties under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held by the People's Republic of China. The COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People was endorsed by 18 countries who lead 11 biodiversity and climate partnerships across forests, mangroves and the ocean. This signaled a new commitment for countries to coordinate and simultaneously implement their nature and climate plans.

Commitments made today build on those made during COP28's World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) on 2 December, where USD \$2.5 billion was mobilized to protect and restore nature. During WCAS, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28 Ms. Al Mubarak announced that the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will contribute USD \$100 million of new finance for nature-climate projects, with an initial USD \$30 million investment in the Ghanaian government's 'Resilient Ghana' plan. The UAE and Brazil will co-lead a two-year strategic partnership bridging COP28 to COP30.

Following on from WCAS today's announcements include:

- 30 countries have become members of the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC), since COP27, taking the total membership to 37 countries, covering more than 60

percent of the world's mangroves. This is an initiative led by the UAE and Indonesia, driving significant global momentum behind these efforts.

- 21 countries formally endorsed the Mangrove Breakthrough, a collaborative effort between the Global Mangrove Alliance (GMA) and the UN Climate Change High-level Champions that aims to restore and protect 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030 through USD \$4 billion of finance.
- The High-Level Ocean Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, now a group of 18 countries, together representing 50 percent of the world's coastlines and over 45 percent of the world's Exclusive Economic Zones, announced the membership of the Organization of American States, working in collaboration to achieve a 100 percent sustainable ocean economy.
- The Forest Carbon Results and Credits roadmap was launched by 15 governments and outlined a plan to scale investment in forest carbon results and credits, emphasizing the significant potential of Forest Carbon markets to scale payments for climate and environmental services.
- A Joint Statement from 17 countries also called for the use of sustainable wood in construction.
- More than 150 businesses and financial institutions announced plans to set climate and nature targets under the Science-Based Target Network and Science-Based Target International's Forest Land and Agriculture frameworks. Under these frameworks, businesses agree to increase investments in nature-based solutions and to begin assessing, managing and disclosing their nature-related impacts, dependencies, risks, and opportunities through the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) framework.
- Brazilian President Lula da Silva and the COP28 Presidency announced a two-year partnership to mobilize new resources and political support for nature on the road to COP30 in Belém.

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Notes to Editors COP28 UAE:

- COP28 UAE is taking place at Expo City Dubai from November 30-December 12, 2023. The Conference is expected to convene over 70,000 participants, including heads of state, governments, government officials, international industry leaders, private sector representatives, academics, experts, youth, and non-state actors.
- As mandated by the Paris Climate Agreement, COP28 UAE will deliver the first ever Global Stocktake – a comprehensive evaluation of progress against climate goals and response to gaps.
- The UAE will facilitate a process for all parties to agree upon a clear roadmap to accelerate progress through a pragmatic global energy transition and a “leave no one behind” approach to inclusive climate action.
- The list of countries and partnerships who have endorsed the COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People can be found [here](#).
- As the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) convenes every two years, COP28 represents a key moment to hold a one-year Stocktake of progress in implementing the commitments made in Montreal. The world must deliver at least USD \$20 billion per year in international nature finance to the developing world by 2025 to meet these commitments.
- The Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) consists of global targets to be achieved by 2030 and beyond to safeguard and sustainably use biodiversity. The GBF established goals for 30 percent conservation of land, sea and inland waters,

30 percent restoration of degraded ecosystems, halving the introduction of invasive species, and USD \$500 billion per year reduction in harmful subsidies.

- Further information regarding the Nature Positive for Climate Call to Action can be found [here](#).
- The 21 Mangrove Breakthrough countries are as follows: Belgium, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Gambia, Germany, Jamaica, Liberia, Mozambique, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.
- The 30 countries who have become members of the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) include: Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, France, Germany, Jamaica, Korea, Kuwait, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Sierra Leone, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Venezuela. Additionally, the GCC Secretariat has become a member.
- The 15 countries who launched the Scaling Investment in Forest Carbon Results and Credits: A Roadmap are the Commonwealth of Australia, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of Ghana, Republic of Guyana, Republic of France, Republic of Fiji, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Nigeria, Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Peru, Republic of Singapore, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- The Initiative for Greening Construction with Sustainable Wood can be found [here](#).
- The USD \$186.6million announced today includes:
 - USD \$90 million funding pledged by Norway marking a 30 percent increase in the budget of its international climate and forest initiative (NICFI) for 2024.
 - £72.5 million (USD \$91million) announced by the UK in new programmes from its flagship Blue Planet Fund,
 - USD \$2million funding for the Mangrove Breakthrough Secretariat,
 - USD\$ 2.3 million from the Government of Norway and the Bezos Earth Fund to support broad, inclusive, and interfora informal work on Digital Sequencing Information.
 - Grants of USD \$1.3 million to support the preparing of two coastal management and mangrove conservation protects on Dominica and Mozambique.