

CIFOR-ICRAF COP30 Calls to Action

2024 marked the first year in which global temperatures exceeded the 1.5 °C threshold set by the Paris Agreement. Extreme weather and related disasters are no longer exceptional; they have become part of our daily reality. Rising heat, drought and fires are already impacting millions of lives and livelihoods, while pushing some of the world's largest forest carbon sinks toward becoming net carbon sources.

Trees and forests are essential to our planet's future - indispensable allies against climate change, biodiversity loss and food insecurity. Soil health also stands out as one of the most powerful, overlooked climate solutions—linking

adaptation and mitigation through nature-based approaches that restore ecosystems, boost productivity, and store carbon.

To meet our global goals for climate, nature, and sustainable development, we must stop forest loss and invest in sustainable management. But that alone is not enough. Real change means transforming the systems that drive how we produce, consume, and finance development—aligning climate ambition with fair economic models, scaling up nature-based solutions like agroforestry, and empowering the communities who live in and depend on forests every day.

Calls to Action

CIFOR ICRAF calls on policymakers, investors, organizations and communities to unite behind science-based, locally led forest protection and agroforestry efforts that secure livelihoods, food, and climate resilience.

1. Protect

Conserve the world's remaining intact and near-intact forests as critical carbon sinks and biodiversity reservoirs.

To do this, science, policy, investment, and local knowledge must work together to advance sustainable forest protection and agroforestry and management to strengthen livelihoods, food security, and climate resilience. CIFOR-ICRAF provides the evidence and experience for scaling restoration, agroforestry, and sustainable landscape management initiatives that are ecologically sound, socially inclusive and context-specific.

2. Restore

Embrace an integrated approach that supports restoration for entire landscapes across all ecosystems.

Restoration goes far beyond forests. It is about reviving the full mosaic of life from forests and farms to rangelands, wetlands, and coasts where people, nature, and climate intersect. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration calls on us to restore all ecosystems: forests (including mangroves and peatlands), farmlands, grasslands, freshwater systems, and savannahs. Only by restoring entire landscapes across all ecosystems with integrated approaches can we build a future that is both productive and resilient.

3. Adapt

Support and invest in locally led, nature-based solutions that build resilience to climate impacts

As the world moves beyond 1.5°C of warming, adaptation and resilience have never been more urgent. The reality is clear: climate action must work for the people and places most affected by change. Adaptation only succeeds when it fits the landscape—and the lives within it. The COP30 Presidency has placed adaptation at the heart of the agenda, emphasizing the need to strengthen local resilience and safeguard livelihoods.

4. Invest

Mobilize finance for integrated solutions supporting whole landscapes.

CIFOR-ICRAF is building pathways to reconnect finance with nature. We are designing models that balance returns with regeneration, bridge science

with investment, and empower those on the frontlines of restoration. We need to work together to rethink risk, extend investment timelines, and measure success by both impact and resilience. This must be done with transparency, equity, and accountability ensuring that resources reach the landscapes and communities that sustain our planet. Join the call to transform how we value nature to see standing forests not as untapped potential, but as the foundation of true prosperity.

5. Engage

Recognize, resource, and stand with Indigenous Peoples and local communities as essential stewards of the world's forest landscapes.

Indigenous Peoples and local communities are central to implementing and sustaining climate solutions. These communities have been leading the way for generations, protecting some of the most carbon- and biodiversity-rich ecosystems on Earth. When communities thrive, forests and the planet thrive with them. Secure their rights, strengthen their voice, and invest directly in their stewardship to deliver lasting climate, nature, and livelihood gains.

Focus Areas



Forests as climate change mitigation

The science is clear: there is no path to climate stability without trees and forests. CIFOR-ICRAF puts emphasis on conservation, sustainable management and effective restoration of forests, protection of wetlands, and a focus on soil health, as key nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change. Blue Carbon initiatives are also critical to this discussion, harnessing the potential of coastal and marine ecosystems to capture and store carbon. Recognizing that Indigenous Peoples are the best custodians of biodiversity and intact forest landscapes, we advocate for Indigenous-led conservation approaches that include fair and equitable payments for forest services. The cross-sectoral integration of forest conservation with sustainable land-use practices is highlighted across CIFOR-ICRAF's work.



Robust climate policy and finance

CIFOR-ICRAF research shows that investing in forests, trees, and agroforestry delivers multiple returns: carbon storage, biodiversity protection, resilient food systems, and sustainable livelihoods. At COP30, countries will decide on new approaches to finance and carbon markets. In this context, aligning finance and policy with this evidence—transparently and equitably—is essential to turn commitments into

impact. We must align climate policy and finance with the scale of the crisis: channel sufficient resources transparently and equitably into forests, agroforestry, and landscape restoration to deliver climate action, biodiversity gains, and resilient livelihoods.

CIFOR-ICRAF welcomes the COP30 Presidency's unprecedented engagement with civil society through 32 Activation Groups, the Granary of Solutions, and the Plans to Accelerate initiative. This inclusive model opens the door for science, policy, and communities to come together around shared goals.



Agroforestry and communities

Agroforestry is climate action in practice: restoring landscapes, securing food systems and upholding Indigenous rights. CIFOR-ICRAF calls on governments, financiers, and communities to scale up agroforestry systems that restore degraded land, enhance food and nutrition security, diversify livelihoods, and build resilience—while storing carbon and protecting biodiversity. At COP 30, CIFOR-ICRAF will showcase successful “right tree, right place, right purpose” approaches from Africa and Latin America which demonstrate the positive climate impacts of restoring degraded lands, improving smallholder livelihoods and sequestering carbon through tree–crop systems.



Connecting nature science to nature action

Science alone cannot solve the climate and biodiversity crises—it must move from research papers to real landscapes. CIFOR-ICRAF bridges that gap, connecting the best of landscape science with the people, policies, and investments that drive change on the ground. Through convening, matchmaking, incubating, and advising, we ensure that knowledge translates into tangible impact—from smallholder farms to global policy frameworks.

As a strategic partner, CIFOR-ICRAF helps link sectors and communities that do not always work together, creating new synergies between restoration and finance, between food systems and forests, between innovation and inclusion. By connecting nature science to nature action, we turn evidence into outcomes—advancing solutions that are locally grounded, globally relevant, and urgently needed.



CIFOR-ICRAF's plan for COP30

CIFOR-ICRAF's strategy for COP30 centres on our role as an honest broker of science-based knowledge, fostering partnerships and raising funds to support our work on climate resilience and sustainable land use.

Science and knowledge brokerage

CIFOR-ICRAF will engage all stakeholders through more than 28 official side events focusing on transparent climate monitoring and sustainable agriculture. Another side event features Forests, Finance & Fairness. The aim is to contribute actionable knowledge, supported by CIFOR-ICRAF's expertise on forests, agroforestry and climate adaptation.

Partnerships

CIFOR-ICRAF will prioritize the strengthening and building of new partnerships with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to advance regional and global climate goals. COP30 provides a unique platform to strengthen such collaborations, particularly in Latin America.

Mobilizing finance for impact

At COP30, CIFOR-ICRAF will engage donors, investors and funding partners to channel resources toward climate action in the Global South. Priority areas for donor support include advancing policies and practices for forest conservation and sustainable management, conservation of biodiversity, accelerating resilient and sustainable agriculture, and strengthening climate resilience in landscapes and societies on the frontlines of change.

Our experts



Daniel Murdiyarso
Principal Scientist,
CIFOR-ICRAF



Vincent Gitz
Regional Director for
Latin America
CIFOR-ICRAF



Beria Leimona
Theme Leader for Climate
change, energy and low-
carbon development (CCE)



Leigh Winowiecki
Global Research Leader,
Soil and Land Health
Co-lead, CA4SH



Kamal C. Prawiranegara
Director, Global
Landscapes Forum,
CIFOR-ICRAF



Marcelo Cunha
Secretariat Lead of the
Forest, Agriculture and
Commodity Trade (FACT)



Chris Martius
Senior Advisor, Climate
change, energy
and low-carbon
development (CCE).



Saulo Souza
Agroforestry Researcher

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The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) harnesses the power of trees, forests and agroforestry landscapes to address the most pressing global challenges of our time – biodiversity loss, climate change, food security, livelihoods and inequity. CIFOR and ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers.

Learn more at
<https://www.cifor-icraf.org/event/cifor-icraf-at-unfccc-cop30-belem/>

Media enquiries
media@cifor-icraf.org

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