

Key points

Recognising that nationally led, locally connected country platforms that integrate development, climate and nature action are essential for delivering on global commitments, we urge Parties at COP30 to adopt nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms that embed locally led climate and nature action through collaborative delivery mechanisms.

To build trust and confidence, these platforms should embrace radical transparency and two-way accountability, publicly sharing fund flows and impacts.

We urge funders, multilateral development banks and development partners to work with developing countries to design and implement platforms that align with self-determined national and local priorities, streamline their processes and support effective, equitable national and local institutions.

Bridging climate and nature: the next generation of country platforms

Over half of global gross domestic product (GDP) depends on nature, yet significant finance gaps hinder biodiversity and climate resilience, especially in developing nations. Country platforms offer a strategic solution to align public and private finance for development, climate and nature priorities. But despite some successes, few of these nationally led, locally connected mechanisms integrate locally led action on climate, nature and people; and complex funder procedures, limited local access, a lack of equity safeguards and short planning horizons remain a problem. The 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) presents an opportunity to harmonise funder support, enhance transparency and embed local equity in a new generation of nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms that get behind national and local plans, budgets and investment strategies for development, climate and nature.

Over 50% of global GDP — US\$44 trillion — depends on nature and its services. And without immediate action, around US\$58 trillion is exposed to significant risk from nature loss. The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) calls on Parties to mobilise US\$200 billion annually by 2030 for biodiversity and increase international flows to at least US\$30 billion per year.¹ But developing countries face a persistent finance gap of several hundred billion dollars per year for nature and adaptation as funds are delivered through fragmented, small-scaled, siloed projects with high transaction costs, duplicative procedures and funder-driven priorities.²

The Climate and Development Ministerial, the Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group, multilateral development banks (MDBs), Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance, the Group of Twenty (G20) working groups, and multiple research and

nongovernmental organisations have called for stronger support for country platforms as programmatic mechanisms that can align finance behind national and local priorities and plans. The Least Developed Countries Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) emphasises the need for country platforms to be tailored to national contexts, to be established with business-unusual approaches, to support capabilities for the long term and to enable peer learning.³ At COP28, leaders urged funders and MDBs to double down on these platforms, emphasising robust pipelines across energy, forests, biodiversity, water and adaptation. The Seville–Belém vision for adaptation and resilience further argues that platforms must be co-created with local actors and centred on the locally led adaptation (LLA) principles.⁴ Adding to this is the growing momentum behind the Principles for Inclusive Nature Action,⁵ which emphasise the

Nature-positive outcomes need both sustained investment and time

importance of funding sources working to complement each other for greater impact for nature and people.

COP30 in Belém presents a crucial moment for emphasising the design and implementation of country platforms that integrate climate and nature priorities and align national investment systems with the GBF and Paris Agreement, laying a good foundation for delivering stronger commitments and action through to the climate COP31 and biodiversity COP17 in 2026.

With conflict, economic instability and other geopolitical factors hindering cooperation and effective action, higher public concessional investment in climate and nature is likely to be a challenge. In this context, it is more important than ever to be as strategic and efficient as possible. Nature can sequester one-third of the emission reductions needed; it is also often the cheapest and most flexible adaptation option. At a landscape level, effectively operating ecosystems can increase carbon sinks and massively ameliorate climate impacts. Bringing climate, nature and development objectives into one place also allows countries to deal with trade-offs, synergies and sequencing issues to create coherent pathways for societies to thrive with nature in a liveable climate.

What are country platforms?

Country platforms are nationally owned coordination frameworks that unite development, climate and biodiversity agendas by aligning public and private finance at national and international levels with country-led, locally connected plans and priorities. The first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement underscored the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergistic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in the broader context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the vital importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action. And at COP28 and COP29, governments agreed that country platforms are central to aligning climate finance behind national priorities.

Popularised through the Just Energy Transition Partnerships, and with a long history in Ethiopia, Micronesia, Rwanda, Seychelles and other nations, the concept has evolved to support adaptation and development finance, offering a mechanism for countries to align multiple funding sources behind one programmatic strategy. Country platforms aim to channel finance directly to ministries, subnational governments, civil

society organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises, and local ecosystem stewards. But to date, they are mostly confined to energy transitions and mitigation, and seldom address nature, biodiversity or LLA.

What are nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms?

Building on this model, nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms embed biodiversity and ecosystem goals directly into their architecture and investment planning, extending the logic of climate-oriented country platforms to embrace the full climate–nature–development nexus. To be effective, they should be grounded in the LLA principles and the Principles for Inclusive Nature Action, which call for devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level, addressing structural inequalities, providing predictable and accessible finance for local actors and investing in local capabilities, and emphasise gender-responsive, rights-based and locally-led approaches to biodiversity action. In practical terms, nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms:

- Align national climate and nature finance needs and strategies into a single programmatic framework, while mobilising a diverse mix of mechanisms to support them through a cohesive and coordinated investment approach
- Establish finance windows for Indigenous Peoples (IPs), local communities (LCs) and subnational governments who directly manage ecosystems
- Embed nature-positive investment products — such as biodiversity credits, payments for ecosystem services and resilience-linked bonds — alongside climate instruments
- Institute robust safeguards in investment planning to enhance alignment and ensure climate and nature goals reinforce, rather than undermine, each other, and
- Track outcomes through a combined climate–nature monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework, reporting greenhouse gas, resilience and ecosystem indicators.

Although they differ by national context, all nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms aim to concentrate scarce institutional capacity through a single country-owned system, mainstream biodiversity and adaptation into fiscal planning, ensure IPs and LCs are central to governance and benefit flows, and adopt a long-term, programmatic approach. This is vital for biodiversity and climate goals, as nature-positive outcomes need both sustained investment and time. Crucially, they help achieve

policy coherence across ministries, aligning incentives and fiscal measures to phase out harmful subsidies and promote nature-positive action. Typically, these platforms combine grants, payments and ecological fiscal transfers with concessional loans, guarantees and innovative instruments such as project finance for permanence, biodiversity bonds and debt swaps to mobilise capital while ensuring local benefits.⁶

By tackling fragmentation, scaling integrated finance and ensuring resources support both national and local priorities, nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms offer a practical pathway to simultaneously achieve climate and nature goals while also maximising sustainable development outcomes for people and ecosystems.

Evidence from practice

The platforms outlined here illustrate elements of nature-inclusive design,^{7,8} and show how country platforms can mobilise substantial finance and experiment with innovative instruments.

Brazil's **Amazon Fund** pools payments from funders for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and fostering conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+). It then channels grants to public agencies, civil society and research institutions to prevent deforestation. It has mobilised over US\$1.2 billion and relies on satellite monitoring to verify results, but remains sensitive to political cycles.⁹

The **Indonesia Environment Fund (BPDH)** operates as a national financing entity, pooling REDD+ and domestic revenues for biodiversity, peatland and pollution control programmes. It offers flexible disbursement mechanisms but is still developing subnational access windows.¹⁰

The **Rwanda Green Fund** blends grants, concessional loans and digital revenue links. It supports green small and medium-sized enterprises and nature-based solutions but needs stronger risk-sharing mechanisms to crowd in private investment.¹¹

The **Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust** and **Barbados Blue Bonds for Ocean Conservation** illustrate how debt conversions and sovereign blue bonds can capitalise national trust funds for marine conservation and blue economy priorities. Recent debt-for-nature conversions in Seychelles, Belize, Barbados, Gabon, The Bahamas and Ecuador are collectively projected to generate around US\$1 billion for conservation and climate outcomes, improving management across roughly 240 million hectares of ecosystems.¹²

The **Enduring Earth** collaboration in Gabon, Namibia and Mongolia implements project finance for permanence models, which develop long-term agreements between governments, communities and partners to secure sustained financing for conservation outcomes.¹³

Innovative instruments such as **Natural Asset Insurance** and **Blue Carbon Resilience Credits** are being explored as mechanisms that value and monetise ecosystem resilience, linking insurance and carbon markets to post-disaster restoration finance.¹⁴

IPs and LCs are also developing regenerative economy models that connect cultural heritage, sustainable livelihoods and direct access to finance. One such example is Brazil's **Restoration and Bioeconomy Finance Coalition**.¹⁵

Key challenges and lessons learned

But these platforms still face challenges, including:

- 1. Fragmented finance and funder rigidity:** many countries still receive climate and biodiversity finance through separate projects and funds with different rules and reporting requirements. Funders and MDBs need to harmonise procedures and agree on programmatic support packages and match their pledged commitments with timely or consistent disbursements to support implementation and planning.
- 2. Weak diagnostics and spatial planning:** country platforms need access to robust diagnostics — such as spatial assessments, ecosystem valuations and climate–nature risk mapping — to identify priority areas, guide project pipelines and financing roadmaps, underpin coherent investment planning and target resources appropriately.
- 3. Limited local access:** lessons from least developed countries (LDCs) initiatives highlight the importance of strengthening national systems, devolving funds to the local level and embedding LLA.¹⁶ Platforms frequently lack dedicated windows for IPs, LCs and civil society organisations, and fiduciary requirements are often too heavy for local organisations. Simplified application procedures, capacity support and ringfenced funding are essential.
- 4. Risk of greenwashing:** platforms can oversell impact if monitoring focuses on inputs rather than outcomes. So, as well as finance leveraged, it is important to track ecosystems (hectares restored, species, carbon), pressures (deforestation, pollution) and local benefits (income and resilience).

5. Debt sustainability and risk management: nature bonds and debt conversion can provide long-term finance but must be aligned with countries' debt sustainability analyses and incorporate foreign exchange hedging, credit guarantees and parametric insurance catastrophe wrappers to reduce additional risk.

6. Political economy and capacity: platforms often rely on high-level champions and can falter if leadership changes. Embedding platforms in legislation and budget systems and investing in institutional capacity (delivery units and MEL teams) increases resilience.

Policy asks for COP30 and beyond

COP30 provides a pivotal moment to accelerate nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms and we urge policymakers, funders, governments, communities and those shaping the COP30 Action Agenda to collaborate to ensure they bring together national plans, budgets and investment strategies for development, climate and nature under coherent, programmatic, country-owned systems.

In particular, we urge **Parties to adopt nature- and climate-inclusive country platforms as a core COP30 action**, recognising that nationally led platforms with integrated climate and nature action are essential for delivering GBF and Paris Agreement commitments. To **enhance radical transparency and learning**, these platforms must go beyond basic reporting to openly share fund flows, allocations, beneficiaries and outcomes with both funders and citizens. To build trust and funder confidence, recipients should publish fund and impact data through public dashboards and participatory monitoring systems, while funders reciprocate with transparent reporting of their climate and nature finance commitments, disbursements and results. Regional peer networks can strengthen South–South and North–South learning by exchanging practical lessons on governance, transparency and results tracking.

To **secure continuity beyond COP30**, we ask Parties to deliver a roadmap to embed nature- and climate-inclusive country platform commitments into future and upcoming climate

and biodiversity negotiations at COP31 and COP17. This could include: guaranteeing that COP30 decisions on country platforms are translated into COP31 modalities; strengthening alignment with COP17 by incorporating GBF finance targets, nature credit architectures or platform-based biodiversity mechanisms into the COP30 outcome package; and leveraging the 'Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T' from COP29 as a connective thread across the COP cycle, ensuring that adaptation, mitigation and nature finance jointly progress.

Finally, we urge the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility, MDBs and other development partners to support the design and implementation of country platforms **in partnership with LDCs and Small Island Developing States**, ensuring full alignment with national priorities. **Within each country, this should involve a whole-of-government approach — with a prominent role for finance ministries — to harmonise funder procedures and provide programmatic support.** Funders should align their financing rules with national systems, co-finance pipelines rather than isolated projects and establish quick-start funds and de-risking facilities to crowd in private capital. To **ensure local access and equity**, they can set minimum funding shares for local governments, IPs and LCs, and women and youth, provide fiduciary on-ramps and capacity support, and uphold free prior and informed consent and LLA principles in all platform programmes. To **invest in institutional capacity**, funders and partners should support national governments to create delivery units and project preparation facilities inside ministries and national development banks to strengthen pipelines and track results, with budget support to finance MEL systems and participatory monitoring.

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The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive.

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FIND OUT MORE

Read more about the realities of country platforms for LDCs and SIDS, and ways to make them more effective, inclusive and transformative, at www.iied.org/22630g

Notes

¹ Convention on Biological Diversity, Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Target 19, www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/19. Accessed 15 October 2025. / ² Likhachova, I, Dill, H and Phillips, B (2024) Rules of the road: measuring impact of biodiversity finance, World Bank, 10 October. / ³ LIFE-AR (2025) LDC global and national platforms: transforming the climate finance landscape. / ⁴ Bartlett, C and Mugumbe Koojo, S (2025) From Seville to Belém: reimagining country platforms for adaptation finance, IIED, 21 August; IIED, Principles for locally led adaptation, www.iied.org/principles-for-locally-led-adaptation. Accessed 15 October 2025. / ⁵ IIED, Principles for inclusive nature action, www.iied.org/principles-for-inclusive-nature-action. Accessed 15 October 2025. / ⁶ Gilmour, A, Tanaka, J and Colenbrander, S (2024) Designing and governing country platforms: what role for the MDBs? ODI; Robinson, M and Larsen, G (2025) Financing country platforms. WRI. / ⁷ See note 6. / ⁸ World Bank Group (2022) Scaling up finance for nature: nature and development brief; TNC (2025) The playbook for climate finance: investing in a thriving planet. / ⁹ Amazon Fund, www.amazonfund.gov.br / ¹⁰ Mafira, T, Mecca, BM and Muluk, S (2020) Indonesia Environment Fund: bridging the financing gap in environmental programs. CPI. / ¹¹ Rwanda Green Fund, www.greenfund.rw / ¹² Seychelles Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust, www.seyccat.org; Jenkins, M (2023) Barbados has committed to protect up to 30% of its massive marine space, The Nature Conservancy, 25 August. / ¹³ Enduring Earth, www.enduringearth.org / ¹⁴ The Nature Conservancy (2025) Insuring nature to ensure a resilient future, 16 April; Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance, Capturing the value of coastal wetlands through blue carbon resilience credits, www.oceanriskalliance.org/project/capturing-the-value-of-coastal-wetlands-through-blue-carbon-resilience-credits. Accessed 15 October 2025. / ¹⁵ Brazil Restoration and Bioeconomy Finance Coalition, www.brbcf.org / ¹⁶ Gul, M, Holland, E, Hassan, A and Upson, L (2025) The realities of country platforms for LDCs and SIDS: ten key lessons. IIED, London.

