



Australian Government

Australia's submission to the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

April 2026

Australia welcomes the COP30 President initiative to develop a *Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030* (Forest Roadmap). We recognise Brazil's consultative approach in inviting submission to inform development of the Forest Roadmap. This submission is provided in Australia's national capacity.

Forests and sustainable forest management play a key role in global emissions reductions, support a significant proportion of global biodiversity and provide sustainable livelihoods, industries and renewable forest products. This is why Australia is committed to, and is working with, over 140 countries to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

We support efforts to elevate the nature-climate nexus in the UNFCCC. In this context, we welcome Brazil's continued leadership on global forest stewardship and focus at COP30 to elevate ambition and drive coordinated international action across climate and biodiversity goals. Australia's commitment to the 2030 forest goals spans our forest accounting and reporting system, and a range of policy levers and mechanisms to conserve, restore, and sustainably manage forests. These measures are further detailed in this submission, highlighting the relevance of domestic forest and policy circumstances, providing potential case studies for the Forest Roadmap, and promoting knowledge exchange between countries.

The Forest Roadmap has the potential to align, amplify and accelerate the actions of Parties and global actors towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. As further detailed in this submission, the Forest Roadmap could:

- consider a variety of solutions that can be brought to bear on the wide range of domestic contexts and diverse forest ecosystems,
- draw on the best available science and practices, including from Indigenous Peoples and forest conservation, restoration and management programs,
- work to bolster political support and mobilise implementation of existing forest commitments, and
- outline practical pathways to reaching the 2030 goals.

Australia extends our appreciation to Brazil for the opportunity to contribute to the Forest Roadmap, and we welcome the opportunity for further input in the future.

1. Domestic Context

1.1 Sustainable Forest Management

Australia recognises the need to maintain and conserve forests for their biodiversity, carbon and ecological benefits. This is alongside the need for and benefits of sustainably sourced forest products, including from Australia's plantation and native forest systems.

Australia is committed to ecologically sustainable forest management, to maintain the full value of environmental, economic and social outcomes for forests. Sustainable forest management acknowledges that sustainable use, economic and social benefits and conservation outcomes can co-exist and be mutually reinforcing when managed appropriately. In Australia, forests are highly adapted to disturbance, such as fire, and sustainable forest management practices reflect this.

Australia has a well-established institutional framework to support the sustainable management of forests. During the decade to 2020, Australia recorded an increase in forested area of 4.4 million hectares – the second largest increase in area of any country recorded in that period according to the FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment¹.

1.2 Forest Accounting and Reporting

Australia has a robust forest accounting and reporting system. Net forest area losses and gains in Australia are reported through National Inventory Reports². Reporting includes data on natural expansion of forest, clearing of forest, regrowth of recently cleared forest, re-clearing of regrowth forest, changes in commercial forest plantations and new environmental plantings.

1.3 Contributing to Net Zero

Australia's Nationally Determined Contribution³ emphasises the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. Our Net Zero Plan and Agriculture and Land Sector Plan⁴ set out our strategy for land-based carbon abatement, including through sustainable agriculture and forestry practices and reforestation. They recognise the role of land-based abatement, particularly reforestation, to help Australia reach net zero emissions in 2050.

¹ [FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment](#)

² [National Inventory Reports](#)

³ Australia's [Nationally Determined Contribution](#)

⁴ Australia's [Net Zero Plan & Agriculture and Land Sector Plan](#)

2. Domestic policy mechanisms

Australia uses a diverse range of levers and mechanisms to conserve and sustainably manage forest, including regulation, market mechanisms, protected area systems and investment programs.

2.1 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

The national legal protection against forest clearing in Australia comes from the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*⁵. The EPBC Act applies to forests when protected threatened species or ecological communities are present on the land being considered for clearing, or when clearing is likely to have a significant impact on the values of protected heritage areas. The national government can assess land clearing activities that impact these protected species and communities – this provides a strong mechanism to regulate large-scale clearing. While the EPBC Act sets the overarching national framework, individual state and territory governments administer their own forest management and land-use frameworks, including day to day management of land management activities and clearing of native vegetation.

2.2 Nature Repair Market and Australian Carbon Credit Unit schemes

Our Nature Repair Market (NRM) and Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme (ACCU)⁶ incentivise landholders to restore and protect land and biodiversity and reduce emissions at the same time. The NRM incentivises actions to restore and protect the environment, by NRM participants earning biodiversity certificates for delivering verified improvements to or protection of Australian biodiversity. The ACCU Scheme incentivises voluntary action to sequester carbon and avoid emissions that would have otherwise been released into the atmosphere, including through reforestation projects; ACCU participants can earn one ACCU for every tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂-e) emissions their project stores or avoids.

Landholders can register NRM projects and ACCU Scheme projects on the same site, with the potential to earn both a biodiversity certificate and ACCUs, where eligibility requirements are met. The first project using this approach was registered in August 2025 to restore native forest. This project was registered under the NRM Replanting native forest and woodland ecosystems method⁷ and also under the ACCU Scheme, using the reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method⁸. The replanting of this site aims to improve biodiversity and ecological connectivity, making it eligible for a biodiversity certificate; as the plantings grow and absorb carbon from the atmosphere the project will become eligible to earn ACCUs.

⁵ [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#)

⁶ [Nature Repair Market & Australian Carbon Credit Unit \(ACCU\) Scheme](#)

⁷ [Replanting native forest and woodland ecosystems method](#)

⁸ [Reforestation by environmental or mallee plantings FullCAM method](#)

2.3 Indigenous Protected Areas

Australia protects and manages forest through our National Reserve System (NRS)⁹, which protects 26% of Australia's native forest area. More than half of the NRS is made up of Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs)¹⁰, which are areas of land, including forest, and sea that Australian Indigenous Peoples (Traditional Owners) manage for biodiversity conservation with funding support from the Australian Government. IPAs deliver environmental, cultural, social and economic benefits to Indigenous Peoples through delivery of self-determined management plans which are formally recognised by the Australian Government.

The Umpila IPA, in the north-east of Australia, encompasses a diverse landscape of rainforest, lowland savannah woodlands, wetlands and coastal littoral landscapes. This IPA covers some of the largest surviving lowland rainforests and one of the best examples of riverine rainforest in Australia. Umpila Traditional Owners are committed to delivering on their cultural obligations to Country, protecting land from weeds, pests, and unauthorised access, alongside reinvigorating language, protecting, and mapping sacred sites, and passing on knowledge and culture.

2.4 Natural Heritage Trust

Australia actively invests in projects with the aim of protecting and restoring landscapes, including forests. The Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)¹¹ is Australia's main investment platform that delivers actions to protect and restore Australia's natural environment and support sustainable agriculture. The NHT supports activities such as restoring native vegetation, protecting habitat, controlling invasive species, managing threats, and improving land management practices across a wide variety of ecosystems, including forests.

Under the current phase of the NHT, the Australian Government is investing \$1.1 billion to improve biodiversity outcomes and strengthen the condition of land, water and ecosystems across the country, including forests and forested landscapes. These investments are contributing to Australia's progress towards the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

⁹ [National Reserve System](#)

¹⁰ [Indigenous Protected Areas](#)

¹¹ [Natural Heritage Trust](#)

3. Suggestions for the Forest Roadmap

3.1 Variety of solutions across the wide range of domestic contexts and diverse forest ecosystems

The Forest Roadmap could identify some of the most effective and proven ways to support implementation across different domestic contexts (such as different scales, forest types, capacities and development contexts; see 1). Recognising that certain levers and mechanisms may apply differently, or not at all, across different domestic contexts is important for supporting effective place-based action and for the Forest Roadmap to become a truly global product.

For instance, the Forest Roadmap could consider implementation across the range of forest types, including temperate and boreal forests, and the threats, drivers, and levers that apply to these forest types. Further, in many regions and contexts - such as temperate forests - forest degradation is a greater concern than deforestation. Noting the lack of internationally agreed definition of 'forest degradation', we suggest the Forest Roadmap provide due consideration of threats to forest integrity and responses to addressing them in a manner consistent with broad interpretations of forest degradation.

3.2 The best available science and practices

The Forest Roadmap should be evidence-based and grounded in the best available science and practices, with sufficient breadth and flexibility to reflect different domestic contexts (see 3.1). Australia views the best available science and practices as appropriately and respectfully including the knowledges, practices and sciences of Indigenous Peoples (see 2.3 as an example).

To create consistency and avoid duplication of effort, we recommend the Forest Roadmap draw upon existing internationally-agreed resources¹²; definitions¹³; and criteria, indicators and metrics¹⁴.

3.3 Mobilise around existing commitments

Renewed political momentum and calls to action to deliver on existing global forest commitments will be key to achieving the primary objective of the Forest Roadmap – meeting the 2030 timeline to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation.

We see the Forest Roadmap delivering value by presenting a streamlined forest landscape for participant countries: identifying successful existing processes, mechanisms and fora, finding opportunities for alignment, and enhanced implementation of known solutions.

Identifying existing partners and initiatives may make it easier for participant countries and other actors to translate existing political momentum, including as resulting from the work on the Forest Roadmap, into action within the short timeframe to 2030.

¹² Including United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests, relevant UN resolutions (e.g. UNEA-7 Resolution UNEP/EA.7/Res.7, UNEA-5.2 Resolution UNEP/EA.5/Res.5, UNGA Resolution A/RES/78/320) and lessons learned from the UNREDD+ Programme.

¹³ For instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) definition of deforestation.

¹⁴ Such as the Montréal Process Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Temperate and Boreal Forests

3.4 A map to 2030

We suggest early communication of the intended development, release process and timeframes for the Forest Roadmap to allow participant countries to capitalise on its momentum, and to support related domestic actions.

The Forest Roadmap could set out updated ‘mapping’ of global progress towards the 2030 goals so far, with indication of progress which could be achieved through increased implementation of known solutions.

The evidence base and momentum generated in the development of such a mapping activity within the Forest Roadmap can support continued progress and momentum in countries toward meeting the 2030 goals.