

2025 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue

Plenary statement submitted by Conservation International on June 10, 2025

Conservation International (CI) thanks the co-facilitators for their leadership in this year's Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue and for the opportunity for Parties and observers to submit written plenary statements. CI's statement focuses on the potential of **coastal nature-based solutions (NbS)**,¹ **including the conservation and restoration of blue carbon habitats**, to support cross-cutting objectives of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity protection.

Regarding Topic 1: Ocean-based measures in NDCs

- This year provides a timely opportunity for Parties to strengthen the integration of ocean-based climate actions in their NDCs, including the conservation and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems for adaptation and mitigation.
- The range of entry points for including coastal ecosystems in NDCs enables all Parties, despite varying degrees of readiness, to develop strong commitments from addressing data gaps and capacity needs to the inclusion of blue carbon habitats in GHG inventories.
- NDC resources developed by CI and partners:
 - [Blue Carbon and Nationally Determined Contributions: Guidelines on Enhanced Action: Second Edition](#)
 - [Seagrass as a Climate Solution: Pathways for Inclusion in NDCs](#)
 - [Guidance for Including Coastal Green-Gray Infrastructure in NDCs](#)

Regarding Topic 2: The ocean under the GGA

- Coastal blue carbon habitats (mangroves, seagrass and salt marsh) and coral reefs play a crucial role in adapting to the impacts of climate change and enhancing resilience for coastal communities. For example, mangroves alone provide annual flood protection benefits of over \$US 65 billion.²
- [CI's Coastal Adaptation Program](#) and [International Blue Carbon Institute](#) support countries in building resilience with coastal nature-based solutions including mangroves, seagrass, salt marsh, and green-gray infrastructure solutions.
- Given their vital importance in enhancing coastal resilience, CI encourages Parties to ensure the inclusion of indicators for coastal NbS within the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience:
 - Countries should call for explicit inclusion of coastal and marine NbS as a cross-cutting element of both thematic and dimensional targets of the UAE Framework to increase coastal resilience and enhance livelihoods.
 - Furthermore, indicators and metrics related to nature should be disaggregated by ecosystems, such as terrestrial, inland water, mountain, marine and coastal ecosystems to ensure actions are targeted based on the specific needs and context of the ecosystem.
 - When possible, align indicators under the GGA ecosystem and biodiversity target (9d) with Global Biodiversity Framework targets, including conserving and managing 30% of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Regarding Topic 3: Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies

- CI encourages Parties to raise and align ambition for coastal NbS across national climate and biodiversity planning, including NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs. As countries update their NDCs this year, there is a key opportunity to align coastal and marine NbS commitments with their biodiversity counterpart, NBSAPs.

¹ Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience, and biodiversity benefits. (UNEA, March 2022 [UNEP/EA.5/Res.5])

² Menéndez, P., Losada, I.J., Torres-Ortega, S. et al. The Global Flood Protection Benefits of Mangroves. *Sci Rep* 10, 4404 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-61136-6>

- The Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue is one space for countries to discuss how they can align these ocean-based measures across Conventions and in national plans, and break silos to maximize the contributions of coastal NbS for climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity. For example, discussions could explore climate-biodiversity linkages in ocean and coastal zones based on the recent Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP in Cali in 2024.
- At the Dialogue, countries can further explore options to enhance ocean-based cooperation and policy coherence to support the implementation of the Rio Conventions, including by engaging productively in negotiations at SB62 towards an ambitious COP30 decision to operationalize countries' priorities for enhancing policy coherence. This includes strengthening of the Rio Conventions Joint Liaison Group (JLG) mandate to facilitate coordination at the international level, and modalities for a joint working group on policy coherence.

Regarding cross-cutting themes: Finance

- Across all themes of this year's Dialogue, participants should consider how to scale climate finance and mobilize increased financial flows for the ocean and coasts under the UNFCCC, including within discussions related to the Standing Committee on Finance, the Loss & Damage Fund, and future finance discussions at COP 30.
- The "Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T" led by Brazil should include finance for critically underfunded NbS, including for vulnerable coastal blue carbon and marine habitats, with the intention to triple nature-based finance by 2030.
- Countries should ensure that UNFCCC processes and structures being established enable and support robust financing for coastal and marine NbS.
- To support countries in considering the diverse suite of financing approaches available for blue carbon ecosystems, including non-carbon market-based approaches, CI and Rare released a policy primer on [non-market approaches for blue carbon habitats](#) at COP 29, and will be releasing a [full report](#) on the same topic in July 2025.

Strong ocean-climate action at COP 30

- Brazil, as the upcoming host of COP 30, along with the Dialogue co-facilitators from Belgium and Fiji, have the full support of Conservation International in ensuring strong ocean-climate action in the COP 30 agenda.