

The Pew Charitable Trusts Submission to the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030 | March 30, 2026

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030 (“the Roadmap”), with the aim of advancing the implementation of paragraphs 33 and 34 of the outcome of the first global stocktake (GST1). Here, whilst noting the broader context of the Roadmap and the importance of the range of forest ecosystems within its scope, Pew’s submission is focused on offering insights and recommendations for action-oriented guidance that is inclusive of mangrove conservation.

Mangroves, classified and managed by many countries as forests, are vital ecosystems for inclusion in the Roadmap, as they capture and store large amounts of “blue carbon” in their biomass and coastal sediments, in addition to their recognized coastal adaptation benefits. They are one of only three marine ecosystems (alongside seagrasses and saltmarshes) currently recognized by IPCC methodologies for the measurable contribution they can make to countries’ mitigation strategies, with an increasing number of countries including mangroves in their climate strategies for both mitigation and adaptation values.

Mangroves also are some of the most threatened ecosystems on the planet. They are a great example of not only what nature provides for people and climate, but of the benefits being lost through nature’s degradation. According to a [2024 analysis by the International Union for Conservation of Nature](#), more than half of the world’s mangrove ecosystems are at risk of collapse because of deforestation, development, and pollution (IUCN, 2024). Climate change-induced storms and sea-level rise threaten a third of all mangrove ecosystems (IUCN, 2024).

In particular, Pew would like to highlight for Presidency consideration perspectives on critical barriers, levers for accelerating implementation, and lessons learned from mangrove conservation work with our government and in-country partners:

Recommendations for the Roadmap: Pew recommends for inclusion in the Roadmap the following actions to address barriers and catalyze mangrove conservation through strengthening enabling conditions for data, policy, and institutional coordination:

Include Commitments to Halt and Reverse Mangrove Loss in NDCs: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the main implementation mechanism of the Paris Agreement and their role as a policy lever should be captured within the Roadmap. Mangrove conservation, restoration, and sustainable management are nature-based solutions to climate change, and such actions can be included as area-based and time-bound commitments within countries’ NDCs. Several countries have committed to halt and reverse mangrove loss in their NDCs, including:

- **Costa Rica (2020 NDC):** Halt or reverse the net loss of coastal wetlands by 2030 by addressing the main causes of deforestation and degradation that threaten their health and vitality.
- **Belize (2021 NDC):** By partnering with local communities, private landowners and other key stakeholders, halt and reverse mangrove loss by 2025 (additional mangrove measures included in the 2025 NDC).
- **Jamaica (2025 NDC):** Develop and implement a no-net-loss policy for forests and coastal wetlands by 2035.

Strengthen Institutional Coordination: Mangrove forests border the land and sea, meaning that management responsibilities can fall within any combination of forestry, fisheries, climate change, coastal zone, and tourism departments. Frequently, the lack of formal institutional coordination is a structural driver of mangrove mismanagement and loss. However, several countries have formalized institutional coordination mechanisms to address jurisdictional overlaps for mangroves. For example, **Costa Rica** formalized institutional coordination through a Blue Carbon Technical Board which oversees coordination and implementation of the country's goals to conserve, sustainably manage, and finance mangroves and

other blue carbon ecosystems. **Honduras** also has a National Biological Monitoring Board and a Wetland Technical Committee which enhance institutional coordination for mangrove monitoring and management. The Roadmap should encourage countries to establish formal institutional coordination mechanisms for mangrove forest management.

Strengthen Data Baselines: Baseline data, particularly on habitat extent, historic loss, and carbon stock, is necessary to measure mangrove loss and recovery, to inform effective management, and to deploy sustainable financing. Pew is proud to have partnered with research institutions and governments agencies in **Belize, Panama, and Jamaica** to develop comprehensive mangrove carbon stock assessments in line with IPCC guidance. These carbon stock assessments have informed and helped achieve each country's NDC goals for mangroves and are now informing the selection and deployment of sustainable finance mechanisms. The Roadmap should encourage countries to identify and fill data gaps necessary for the improved management of mangrove forests.

Clarify Land Tenure: In many countries, mangrove land tenure is unclear, making management and enforcement difficult. Land tenure analyses can be undertaken to disentangle ownership questions and reduce rates of mangrove loss. For example, a land tenure analysis in **Belize** will help inform management decisions and support the mangrove protection and restoration as well as carbon mitigation goals in the country's NDC. The mangrove land tenure analysis is anticipated to be completed by April 2026 and could enable the government to engage with private landowners and public stakeholders to foster sustainable and climate-smart development approaches around and within mangroves.

Integrate Mangroves into Forest Finance: Mangrove forests provide a bridge between blue and green finance. They strengthen climate resilience, provide habitat, support tourism and fisheries economies, and sequester and store, on average, up to four times more carbon than terrestrial tropical forests (Donato et al., 2011). As such, mangrove forests can be built into many different types of sustainable financing mechanisms. The Roadmap should encourage financial stakeholders to recognize mangrove forests within financing mechanisms for forests.

The Tropical Forest Forever Facility and mangrove conservation: The Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) was launched at the UNFCCC COP30 in Brazil with the aim of supporting the long-term conservation of tropical forests at scale by raising substantial and permanent funding from public and private sources. While the TFFF is not established as a financial mechanism under the UNFCCC framework, it is intended to contribute directly to the objectives of the Convention, whilst complementing mechanisms such as the GEF and REDD+. Of consequence for accelerating mangrove conservation efforts, accession requirements to the TFFF for eligible Tropical Forest Countries specify that countries can expand their proposed biome-based TFFF eligibility area—featuring their tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forest (TSMBF)—to include adjacent areas of mangrove forest. The TFFF is therefore emerging as a potential financial lever to support Tropical Forest Countries seeking results-based financial support for the conservation and restoration of their TSMBF-contiguous mangroves.

Conclusion: Rapidly deploying institutional and financing mechanisms, such as those outlined for mangroves in this submission, will be required to deliver on the ambition of the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030. It is Pew's hope that an effective Roadmap will offer action-oriented guidance, in particular on accessing finance, to Parties on these levers and thus support realizing the full potential of nature and ecosystems in achieving the Paris Agreement temperature goal within this decade.

References

IUCN. 2024. The IUCN Red List of Mangrove Ecosystems. <https://iucn.org/node/33749/red-list-mangrove-ecosystems>

Donato, D., Kauffman, J., Murdiyarto, D. et al. Mangroves among the most carbon-rich forests in the tropics. *Nature Geosci* 4, 293–297 (2011). <https://doi.org/10.1038/ngeo1123>