Igarapé Institute Contributions to the Belém Mission to 1.5

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The Igarapé Institute welcomes the opportunity to submit inputs to the Belém Mission to 1.5 (Mission 1.5). At a moment when implementation has become a central test of the Paris Agreement, Mission 1.5 offers an important space to identify high-impact opportunities, barriers, and solutions to support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), strengthen international cooperation, and help keep 1.5°C within reach. Drawing on its work at the intersection of climate, nature, and security, the Igarapé Institute offers this contribution with a particular focus on the role of forests in accelerating progress toward the 1.5°C goal.

This submission is organized in two parts. The first makes the case for why forests should be recognized as a central pillar of the Belém Mission to 1.5. The second offers considerations on how the COP30 Presidency's Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030 (Forest Roadmap) can serve as a timely opportunity to advance the first Global Stocktake's call to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 in support of Mission 1.5, helping translate political recognition into a more coherent implementation pathway.

Forests as a central pillar of the Belém Mission to 1.5

The Belém Mission to 1.5 is being launched at a moment when implementation has become the defining test of the Paris Agreement. As recognized in the *Global Mutirão Decision*, Parties need to go further and faster in achieving deep, rapid, and sustained emissions reductions, while also strengthening adaptation and resilience.[1] In this context, a strategy focused only on the energy transition will be insufficient and more costly.[2] Accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels remains essential, but keeping 1.5°C within reach also requires a credible pathway to halt and reverse deforestation and to scale up forest-based and blue-carbon nature-based solutions.[3]

The importance of forests in limiting global warming and preserving life on Earth is not new. The need to keep forests standing for the benefit of humanity has long been understood through both traditional territorial wisdom and scientific research. In the multilateral climate regime, the responsibility of countries to protect their forests was already reflected in the founding document of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in 1992. Since then, this agenda has been reinforced at several key moments, including the Kyoto Protocol, in 1997, the Marrakesh Accords, in 2001, the Bali Action Plan, in 2007, the Paris Agreement, in 2015, the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, in 2021, the first Global Stocktake (GST), in 2023, as well as regional

[1] COP30 Presidency (2025). COP30 approves the Belém Package.
[2] Soterroni et al. (2023). Nature-based solutions are critical for putting Brazil on track towards net-zero emissions by 2050.
[3] Igarapé Institute (2025). Rescuing Mission 1.5°C.

efforts such as the Belém Declaration, in 2023,[4] leading up to the central role of forests at the first UN Climate Conference held in the Amazon, in Belém, in 2025.

Despite this evolution and recognition, forests remain insufficiently integrated into the core implementation architecture of the Paris Agreement. Deforestation and land-use change account for roughly 13% of global CO_2 emissions,[5] and their climate impacts are immediate: once a forest is cleared, decades of stored carbon are rapidly released. This makes conserving standing forests, first and foremost, one of the most effective ways to deliver both mitigation and adaptation benefits. Furthermore, protecting and restoring forests, mangroves, wetlands, and other ecosystems can generate measurable climate benefits within years, while also supporting biodiversity, water security, food systems, local climate regulation, and the resilience of communities living in forest territories.[6] For forest-rich countries such as Brazil, Bolivia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, deforestation remains one of the dominant sources of national emissions, in some cases accounting for as much as 40%,[7] making forest protection inseparable from NDC delivery.[8]

Forests should therefore be understood not as a secondary or parallel agenda, but as part of the core implementation challenge of the Paris Agreement. Emissions reductions from fossil fuels and forest-related mitigation are mutually reinforcing. A credible 1.5°C pathway depends on both: reducing the pressure created by fossil emissions and strengthening the natural systems that store carbon, regulate climate, and sustain livelihoods. Mission 1.5 offers an opportunity to reflect this integrated approach in its identification of high-impact action areas, barriers, and solutions.

Advancing the first Global Stocktake's call for enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030

Achieving the goal of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 should be treated as one of the concrete implementation priorities of the Belém Mission to 1.5. Recognized in the first GST, this objective now requires a clearer pathway for delivery. In this context, the Forest Roadmap offers a timely opportunity to translate that recognition into a more coordinated implementation agenda.

As currently envisioned, the Forest Roadmap is a COP30 Presidency-led initiative to be delivered by COP31 in Antalya. Although it does not have a negotiated mandate within the UNFCCC, it has mobilized significant interest. Backed by about 90 countries at COP30, it has gathered formal inputs representing 141 Parties – responsible for over 65% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – along with more than 150 contributions from civil society,[9] Indigenous Peoples' organizations, international organizations, and the private

[4] Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (2023). Belém Declaration. Though outside the UNFCCC process, its commitments were later reflected in the outcome of the first Global Stocktake at COP28.
[5] IPCC (2022). Chapter 7: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (AFOLU). In: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Working Group III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC.
[6] UNEP (2025). High-risk forests, high-value returns: A co-benefits assessment for decision-makers.
[7] SIRENE (2022). Emissões de GEE por setor.
[8] Our World in Data. CO_2 emissions from fossil fuels and land-use change.
[9] Among civil society contributions, see Igarapé Institute (2026). Igarapé Institute Contributions to the COP 30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030. Submission to the UNFCCC.

sector.[10] This political momentum could be used to strengthen coordination, continuity, and implementation across the global forest agenda.

There is a real opportunity for the Roadmap to help move this agenda from political recognition to practical delivery. If designed as a collaborative, implementation-oriented platform rather than a standalone document,[11] it could help align existing forest-related initiatives across and beyond the United Nations; connect mitigation, adaptation, and finance; support countries in developing national and regional pathways to halt and reverse deforestation; and link global discussions with territorial realities.

Three considerations are especially relevant for positioning this agenda within Mission 1.5.

First, the first GST's call for enhanced efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 should be clearly connected to Mission 1.5 and to the broader implementation cycle of the Paris Agreement. Anchoring the Forest Roadmap in Mission 1.5 implementation work could help maintain momentum on forests and ensure that they are treated as part of climate planning and delivery, rather than as a separate environmental agenda.

Second, delivering on this objective will require addressing the structural barriers that continue to drive forest loss. Deforestation is not only an environmental policy challenge. In many forest territories, it is also connected to governance gaps, unclear land tenure, environmental crime, illicit financial flows, weak enforcement, and the limited traceability of forest-risk commodity supply chains.[12] These barriers directly affect the ability of countries to implement their NDCs, strengthen adaptation, and attract responsible investment. For that reason, finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building efforts under Mission 1.5 could usefully incorporate governance and financial integrity dimensions, including stronger environmental enforcement, supply-chain transparency, and cooperation against transnational environmental crime.

Third, delivering on this objective will also require forest finance at a scale, quality, and predictability consistent with the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal and the urgency of keeping 1.5°C within reach. Nature-based Solutions currently receive approximately USD 133 billion per year globally,[13] a fraction of what is needed and of what continues to flow toward activities that degrade ecosystems. Closing this gap will require increasing finance, improving incentives, and aligning financial flows with standing forests. This includes redirecting harmful subsidies, strengthening multilateral development bank support for forest-compatible investments, scaling high-integrity nature finance, and advancing instruments such as the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF),[14] thematic

[10] Igarapé Institute (2026). Towards a Roadmap to Zero Deforestation: Inputs and Considerations. Global Futures Bulletin.
[11] Igarapé Institute (2026). Towards a Roadmap to Zero Deforestation: Inputs and Considerations. Global Futures Bulletin.
[12] Igarapé Institute (2025). Markets and Forest
[13] Climate Policy Initiative (2024). Toolbox on Financing Nature-Based Solutions.
[14] Igarapé Institute (2024). Tropical Forests Mechanism: A New Approach for Funding Forest Conservation.

bonds,[15] and high-integrity nature credit markets.[16] The Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T is an important complementary framework,[17] and stronger alignment between climate finance, forest protection, and Mission 1.5 would help improve coherence across these agendas.

Conclusion

The months leading up to COP31 offer an important window to position the goal of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, as recognized in the first GST, as a concrete implementation priority within Mission 1.5. Turning this recognition into delivery will require stronger coordination, adequate and predictable finance, and clearer links between global climate commitments and national, regional, and territorial implementation.

In this context, the COP30 Forest Roadmap can help advance the forest dimension of Mission 1.5. It can provide a shared reference point for implementation, cooperation, and investment. It can also help bridge global commitments with regional and national action, including through regional roadmaps, national zero-deforestation pathways, and cross-country learning among forest countries across tropical, temperate, and boreal forests.[18]

Together with the transition away from fossil fuels, protecting and restoring forests are essential components of a credible pathway to keep 1.5°C within reach.[19] Positioning efforts to halt and reverse deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 as part of the Belém Mission to 1.5, supported by the Forest Roadmap as a collaborative, implementation-oriented platform, would help connect global ambition with delivery, align actors and finance, and strengthen the role of forests in NDC and NAP implementation.

About Igarapé Institute

The Igarapé Institute is an independent think-and-do tank that conducts research, develops solutions, and establishes partnerships to influence public and corporate policies and practices, addressing key challenges related to security, nature, and climate in Brazil and worldwide. Igarapé is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Rio de Janeiro, operating at both local and global levels. The Igarapé Institute holds United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status since 2016 and observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 2022.

[15] Inter-American Development Bank (2025). IDB and World Bank Launch New Amazonia Bond Issuance Program.
[16] IAPB (2024). Biodiversity Credit Framework.
[17] Igarapé Institute (2025). BB1.3T: Igarape Institute. Submission to the UNFCCC.
[18] Igarapé Institute (2026). Towards a Roadmap to Zero Deforestation: Turning a COP30 Presidency Initiative into a Global Forest Platform. Global Futures Bulletin.
[19] Planetary Science Pavilion (2025). Scientists statement on state of COP30 Negotiations.