

Submission to UN Climate Change

COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030

Submitted to: UN Climate Change (UNFCCC Secretariat)

Regarding: COP30 Presidency Call for Submissions

Date: 03/03/2026

I. Introduction

We welcome the COP30 Presidency's Call for Submissions on the Roadmap for Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030. Forests are indispensable to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, safeguarding biodiversity, protecting water systems, and sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people.

Halting and reversing forest loss by 2030 is both a climate imperative and a development priority. We commend the Presidency for advancing a structured roadmap process to translate political commitments into actionable, measurable, and equitable outcomes.

II. Guiding Principles

We recommend that the Roadmap be anchored in the following principles:

1. Alignment with the 1.5°C Goal

The Roadmap should reflect the urgency identified by climate science: halting deforestation this decade is essential to maintaining the 1.5°C pathway. Forest conservation and restoration must complement rapid fossil fuel emissions reductions.

2. Respect for Rights and Inclusive Governance

Forest protection efforts must respect and promote:

- The rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)
- Gender equality and intergenerational equity
- Transparent and participatory land-use planning

Evidence consistently demonstrates that Indigenous-managed lands often experience lower deforestation rates, underscoring the importance of secure land tenure and inclusive governance.

3. Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

Developed countries should lead through:

- Increased and predictable finance for forest conservation and restoration
- Results-based payments for emissions reductions
- Support for capacity-building and forest governance systems
- Responsible consumption and supply chain reforms

Developing countries should receive adequate, accessible, and grant-based support to implement forest protection policies aligned with national circumstances.

4. Environmental Integrity and Permanence

The Roadmap should prioritize:

- Avoided deforestation before afforestation
- Protection of primary and intact forests
- Strong safeguards to prevent leakage and non-permanence
- Transparent monitoring, reporting, and verification systems

III. Recommended Structural Elements

A. National Policy Alignment

The Roadmap should encourage Parties to:

- Integrate forest targets into updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- Align forest strategies with National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
- Develop or strengthen national forest monitoring systems
- Establish time-bound action plans to halt deforestation by 2030

B. Finance and Incentives

A credible roadmap requires scaled-up finance, including:

- Results-based finance under REDD+ frameworks
- Direct access mechanisms for Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Blended finance approaches to de-risk sustainable land-use investments
- Redirecting subsidies away from drivers of deforestation

Predictable long-term finance is critical to ensuring permanence and policy continuity.

C. Addressing Drivers of Deforestation

The Roadmap should promote action on direct and underlying drivers, including:

- Agricultural expansion and commodity production
- Illegal logging and weak governance
- Infrastructure expansion without environmental safeguards
- Unsustainable consumption patterns

Measures may include sustainable agricultural intensification, traceable supply chains, and corporate deforestation-free commitments.

D. Restoration and Regeneration

Reversing forest degradation requires:

- Ecological restoration of degraded lands
- Support for agroforestry and sustainable forest management
- Community-led reforestation initiatives
- Protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Restoration efforts must prioritize native species and ecosystem integrity.

E. Transparency and Accountability

The Roadmap should include:

- Regular progress assessments linked to the Global Stocktake
- Strengthened forest monitoring using satellite and community-based systems
- Public reporting of deforestation rates and restoration progress
- Clear metrics for social and ecological outcomes

IV. Institutional Coherence

We encourage coherence between the Roadmap and existing UNFCCC processes and initiatives, including:

- The Warsaw Framework for REDD+
- The Global Stocktake
- The Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation
- Biodiversity-related frameworks and sustainable development goals

Enhanced coordination across climate, biodiversity, and development agendas will maximize impact and avoid fragmentation.

V. Enabling Conditions

To achieve 2030 objectives, enabling conditions must include:

- Strong governance and anti-corruption measures
- Legal clarity on land tenure
- Capacity-building at subnational and local levels
- Support for sustainable rural livelihoods
- Policy coherence across agriculture, trade, finance, and infrastructure

VI. Conclusion

Halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 is achievable if supported by adequate finance, inclusive governance, environmental integrity, and strong political will. A clear and actionable Roadmap can catalyse transformative change, strengthen resilience, and contribute significantly to achieving the Paris Agreement goals.

We stand ready to contribute further technical expertise and constructive engagement in the continued development of this Roadmap.

Respectfully submitted,

Linus Gerald
Executive Director
Nyanza Smart Agriculture and Climate Change Initiative
+254712594051 nysac.kenya@gmail.com