

## **UK Submission to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030.**

The UK welcomes Brazil's leadership in developing a COP30 Presidency Roadmap on halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030. We support the Presidency's intent to move from commitments to practical delivery of the forest goal set out in the Global Stocktake, and we value the opportunity to contribute.

### **1. Overarching Principles**

In our view, the Roadmap could add most value by shifting from the *what* to the *how*: focusing attention on a small number of high-impact actions ("big bets" or critical points of intervention) to deliver the 2030 goal and setting out – through a limited number of clear, actionable policy options – what it would take for different actors to deliver them in practice at the national and international levels. The following principles may help the roadmap to do this:

*Short, strategic and centred on implementation.*

The Roadmap should be practical, setting out a short list of recommended policy interventions that would make the greatest difference to delivering the 2030 goal and enduring transition to a forest-positive economy, alongside credible routes to delivery, with a clear sense of the audiences needed to drive change.

*Developed in a way that builds political ownership and momentum*

It should be developed through an inclusive process that enables countries, IPLCs, civil society and private sector stakeholders to shape the recommendations and take ownership of them. This could include leveraging existing platforms such as the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership to build political consensus around a shared action plan – including by opening meaningful consultation on content at key moments in 2026 (London Climate Action Week, UN Forum on Forests, COFO etc.) – and using the UNFCCC Action Agenda to help translate the Roadmap's priorities into action by stakeholders, building momentum ahead of and beyond COP31.

*Inclusiveness and a just transition.*

The Roadmap should be relevant to tropical, temperate and boreal forests, recognising national circumstances. It should also address under-recognised regions, including the Congo Basin, prioritise meaningful IPLC engagement, and support fair, locally grounded transitions.

*Grounded in the best available science.*

The Roadmap should reflect the best evidence on forests, climate, biodiversity, hydrology, and tipping-point risk, alongside social science on governance and incentives that shape land use decisions. This should include the findings of the IPCC (including recent Assessment Reports and Special Reports relevant to AFOLU and land use change). It should be honest about current trajectories, drivers and impacts of deforestation and forest degradation, and it should support a global forest-sector transition in line with the Paris Agreement.

*A compelling narrative that speaks beyond environment ministries.*

The Roadmap should work to embed awareness of the risk of forest loss beyond environment ministries, including for finance, agriculture and security. It can do so by highlighting forests' roles in climate, food and water security, resilience, growth and public health, and with reference to case studies.

*Coherent with existing initiatives.*

It should build on, signpost and leverage existing frameworks and institutions – including the UNFCCC Global Stocktake, Mitigation Work Programme and Action Agenda, as well as the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030 and the Global Forest Goals, UNFF, COFO and forest initiatives such as FCLP – providing a clearer through-line between existing forest-related aims and institutions whilst avoiding adding new reporting burdens. Where helpful, we feel that it could help to practically realise synergies across the Rio Conventions and show how recommendations can support national frameworks and delivery pathways (E.g. Brazil's Forest Code).

## **2. UK Priority Areas and 'Big Bets'**

The Presidency could focus the Roadmap on a small number of critical intervention points that can unlock the greatest progress at pace. The priorities below reflect the UK view of where these could be drawn from and should be framed as clearly and measurably as possible, helping to signal the kinds of system-level shifts that would materially change incentives and outcomes by 2030.

### **i. Governance, tenure, rule of law and emerging threats**

The roadmap could identify critical actions to strengthen the conditions for forest protection by supporting IPLC tenure security, improving enforcement, traceability and cooperation to tackle environmental crime, and reducing catastrophic fire risk. The Roadmap could help here by setting out ways governments and partners might strengthen rights and enforcement in politically durable ways that reduce illegality and land speculation – e.g. through pathways for full land tenure recognition and direct-access to finance for IPLCs, joined-up enforcement supported by timely monitoring and transparency, and integrated fire management that reflects escalating climate feedback risks. Progress across these areas by 2030 would help deliver clearer rights, stronger governance, and reduced risk to forest landscapes and the people that depend on them.

### **ii. Scaling finance from all sources**

A central objective of the Roadmap should be to help progress efforts to scale finance from all sources at the pace needed to deliver the 2030 forest goal. Building on the [Forest Finance Roadmap](#) developed by Brazil with the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership in 2025, the Presidency could use the Roadmap to focus attention on practical steps to deliver the priority pathways identified.

These include, for example, scaling high-integrity forest carbon markets, progressing mechanisms like the Tropical Forests Forever Facility, supporting the growth of a sustainable forest bioeconomy and green value chains that support forests and sustainable livelihoods, and efforts toward repurposing environmentally harmful financial flows. Taken together, progress across these pathways would help create predictable demand and stable finance mechanisms that channel significant capital for forests and address perverse incentives that drive deforestation over sustainable stewardship. To help address this, the Roadmap could set out ways governments and partners might move from commitment to implementation across these pathways – for example through national guidance for jurisdictional crediting, common standards, fiscal/sovereign instruments that reward forest performance, and greater use of concessional and blended finance to de-risk private investment at scale.

### **iii. Forest-positive trade, procurement and bioeconomy (demand-side reform)**

The Roadmap could encourage market signals that support forest protection, including forest-positive procurement and sourcing standards and stronger sustainable bioeconomy value chains that generate local economic opportunities whilst protecting nature. This focuses on the demand side: the rules, incentives and signals that buyers, financiers and procurers send through markets. To drive change on this priority, the Roadmap could set out ways governments and market actors might make forest-positive procurement the default in major markets, in ways that work for producer countries and small businesses – for example, through public procurement guidance, buyer coalitions, due diligence measures, and disclosure and traceability systems with joined-up deforestation-risk monitoring and transition support. By 2030, this would support a shift towards major buyers adopting forest-positive sourcing and producer-region enterprises being better able to access capital.

**iv. Land-use transitions and restoration at scale (supply-side reform)**

The Roadmap could focus on how farmers, countries and jurisdictions can be supported to shift away from forest loss and towards more sustainable land-use over time. This is about enabling delivery on the ground, so that producers can realistically respond to forest-positive signals from markets and policy. To do this, the Roadmap could set out ways governments and partners might support practical transition pathways in priority landscapes – for example by combining advice, services and finance which incentivise farmers to adopt produce-protect models, regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and restoration. This could include addressing up-front costs and income risks, supporting climate-resilient approaches, and linking jurisdiction-level restoration plans to sources of finance. Taken together, this could support tangible progress by 2030 on avoided deforestation, regenerative production and restoration.

**v. Embed forests’ value beyond environment ministries – including for security and growth.**

Forests are vital for climate, food and economic security, but this is not widely understood by the public, politicians or government departments beyond environment ministries. The Roadmap provides an opportunity to highlight new evidence on forests’ role for wider public policy priorities and sectoral interests and consequently work to shift political and financial incentives. It could for instance send key messages on the security implications of forest loss (see for example the recent UK Government [report](#)), the value of forests for watersheds, agricultural production and food security, and the importance of forests for public health, including for deforestation as a contributing factor in levels of heat-related mortality and as a landscape-level driver of disease. The Roadmap could set out ways in which governments could embed the value of forest ecosystem services in national accounting and decision-making, and integrate forests into national climate, adaptation and disaster-risk plans (including NDCs and NBSAPs) and into land-use and agricultural planning, supported by forest–water modelling and practical indicators. Taken together, this would support a shift by 2030 towards forests being systematically factored into decisions on agriculture, water, food security, public health and resilience across governments.

**3. Developing and Operationalising the Roadmap Through Existing Processes**

The Roadmap will be able to deliver impact if there is strong buy-in from high ambition partners. It will therefore be important the process of developing to roadmap helps to build that buy-in and identifies how to work with existing partnerships and institutions in order to accelerate implementation. Options include:

- Work with the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership to support Roadmap development and implement key recommendations with a focus on forest finance and IPLCs;
- Work with the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue to take forward recommendations on forest-positive trade and land-use
- Use the Action Agenda to mobilise business and civil society behind the Roadmap;
- Use 2026 moments strategically, including UNFF, UNFCCC SBSTA and London Climate Week (June), the UN General Assembly (September), and FAO's Committee on Forestry (October);
- Where appropriate, join up with UNFCCC delivery architecture, including the Global Implementation Accelerator, so forest-related bottlenecks can be addressed through wider climate and sectoral processes;
- Work with COP31, COP32 and future Presidencies as appropriate to keep forests central to the UNFCCC agenda, including ensuring that the process of development and outputs from the roadmap should be clearly aligned with the UNFCCC process (including the Global Stocktake), with further discussion required on how the roadmaps should be considered at COP31 and future sessions.

To maximise the impact of these collaborations, it will be important that a preliminary set of recommendations is put forward to be tested with different government and non-government stakeholders.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The UK welcomes Brazil's leadership and offers these suggestions in support of a Roadmap that is concise, science-based and focused on the actions that can make the greatest difference. By centring forests in food, water and economic stability; scaling high-integrity finance; strengthening governance and tenure; promoting forest-positive trade; and supporting land-use transitions, the Presidency can help deliver a practical Roadmap that drives progress through COP31 and towards the 2030 goal.