



BirdLife International Position for UNFCCC COP29

A critical year for advancing climate-nature synergies

Wildfires, droughts, floods and storms around the world are increasingly raising the alarm regarding the devastating impacts of climate change on the ecosystems and economy which underpin our livelihoods and all lives on earth. We urgently need to mobilise greater ambition and action to combat climate change, including through equitable multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Taking place between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP16 and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP16, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP29 presents a unique opportunity to foster synergies across multilateral agreements and integrate nature across UNFCCC processes.

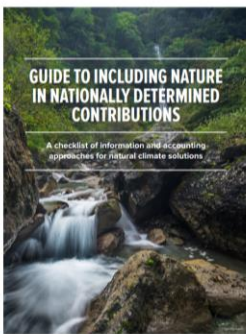
5 KEY ASKS

- **Nationally Determined Contributions:** BirdLife urges Parties to reflect their highest, 1.5°C-aligned ambition, include targets on nature, and ensure synergies with relevant national planning, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.
- **Rio Conventions synergies:** we call on Parties to build on progress made at CBD COP16, to establish a concrete mechanism for synergistic work across Rio Conventions, in the form of a Joint Work Programme.
- **Nature-safe energy transition:** we encourage greater emphasis on a nature-safe energy transition in the Just Transition Work Programme, Mitigation Work Programme and Technology Mechanism, including fostering collaborations with relevant bodies, such as the Energy Task Force of the Convention on Migratory Species.
- **Finance:** we urge the New Collective Quantified Goal to include a nature sub-goal and build synergies with relevant goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- **Towards COP30:** we call on the Presidencies and all stakeholders to keep nature at the heart of climate action, building on progress made at COP28.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

The current NDCs are projected to result in a 2.5-2.9°C temperature rise, far from meeting the Paris Agreement goal. The updated NDCs due in February 2025 must be 1.5°C aligned, informed by the best available science, and recognise nature's critical role.

Parties have the valuable opportunity, within and outside of negotiations, to take forward relevant Global Stocktake outcomes, **integrate targets on nature**, and **explore synergies** with relevant national planning, including National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Long Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Land Degradation Neutrality targets (LDNs).



Civil society stakeholders bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in NDC design and implementation. We encourage national and local governments to collaborate with civil society organisations and rightsholders, as well as utilise the Guide for Including Nature in NDCs (2nd edition), co-authored by BirdLife International and members of the Nature4Climate coalition.

Rio Conventions synergies

In this triple COP year, Parties have the unique opportunity to advance synergies between Rio Conventions, building on the unprecedented momentum and previous COP decisions.

The recent CBD COP16 decision on Biodiversity and Climate *'requests the Executive Secretary to*

invite Parties, observers and other stakeholders, to submit by May 2025 their views on options for enhanced policy coherence, including a potential joint work programme of the Rio conventions'.

The COP28 decision on the global stocktake highlighted *'the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergetic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss'*.

We are pleased to see various Parties calling for strengthened climate-nature-land synergies. The EU *'calls for closer and enhanced cooperation and the strengthening of synergies'* between the Paris Agreement, Global Biodiversity Framework, and LDNs, and the Bern III Conference proposed twelve actions on cooperation among conventions.

We call on Parties to establish a concrete mechanism of collaboration between Rio Conventions, in the form of a **Joint Work Programme**, to enable the triple crises to be tackled synergistically and efficiently.

We encourage further multi-stakeholder collaborations across governments, intergovernmental organisations, the private sector, civil society organisations and other stakeholders, including utilising existing initiatives like the Climate-Nature Coordination Platform.

Mainstream nature across UNFCCC processes

Among various COP decisions, the COP28 decision on the global stocktake emphasised *'the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems towards achieving the Paris Agreement'*.

BirdLife welcomes the progress on the climate-nature nexus made under the Technology Executive Committee, Nairobi Work Programme, Standing Committee on Finance, Adaptation Committee, and more, from publishing reports to hosting forums, and encourages all UNFCCC processes and constituted bodies to further explore the climate-nature nexus in their work, in particular, establishing an **Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group** to fully operationalise the Paris Agreement Article 5.

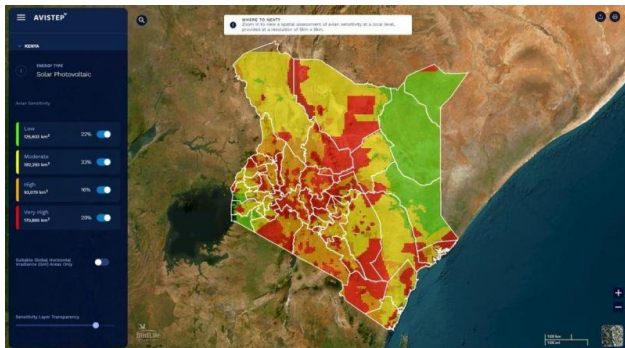
Nature-safe energy transition

A just, rapid, equitable and sustainable energy transition is vital for climate, nature and people. This requires the phase out of all fossil fuels, including oil and gas.

We call on Parties, the private sector, and relevant stakeholders to ensure rapid implementation of the renewable energy pledges made at COP28, to triple global renewable energy capacity and double the rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030.

The energy transition must be just for people and nature, incorporating social and biodiversity safeguards. If not planned and operated responsibly, including through spatial planning with nature sensitivity mapping, energy infrastructure development can pose significant threats to biodiversity.

Parties have the opportunity to **integrate nature considerations into areas of work under the UNFCCC** relevant to energy, including the Just Transition Work Programme, Mitigation Work Programme and Technology Mechanism. We encourage Parties to adopt the key messages of the UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee report 'Climate Technologies for Agrifood Systems Transformation'.



We encourage all stakeholders to **foster collaborations** with relevant coalitions and bodies, such as the Energy Task Force of the Convention on Migratory Species. We further encourage Parties, businesses, and development agencies, to utilise tools like AVISTEP in energy infrastructure planning.

Finance

With all eyes at this COP on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG), BirdLife urges the NCQG to be designed synergistically with relevant **goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework**, in particular Goal D and Targets 8, 18, and 19.

The NCQG must fulfil the obligations of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement adopted under the Convention. It must be new, additional, adequate, predictable, needs-based, grant-based, rights-responsive, and concessional public climate finance, provided by developed countries to developing countries.

We call on the NCQG to include a **sub-goal on nature**, including delivering the COP28 decision on the global stocktake, which '*notes the need for enhanced support and investment, including through financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, for efforts towards halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030 in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in accordance with Article 5 of the Paris Agreement*'.

Adaptation & Loss and Damage

The current adaptation finance is too little, too slow. Even if the doubling adaptation finance commitment adopted in the COP26 decision is achieved, it would only reduce the adaptation finance gap by ~5%. We urge Parties to meet commitments made and further bridge the gap.

As the Global Goal on Adaptation indicators are being shaped, including ones on ecosystems, experts have the unique opportunity to build synergies with and **utilise existing work** of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for the **Global Biodiversity Framework**.

COP29 must also scale up new and additional public finance to address loss and damage, and fully operationalise the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.



Article 6

The COP28 decision on Article 6.8 recalls the Paris Agreement on the *'importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity'*.

We join IUCN in urging Parties to ensure environmental and ecosystem integrity in the operationalisation of Article 6, and to maintain strong ecological and social safeguards, particularly in the use of any nature-based sinks and removals.

Justice and equity

Climate change exacerbates inequality. We continue to advocate for all policies and implementation to be **just, equitable and rights-based**, noting the critical role of youth, women and gender, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

COP29 must ensure an ambitious renewal of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme and its gender action plan.

All COP decisions must be rooted in the best available science, including the 6th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and conclusions of the joint workshop between IPCC and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

Towards COP30

BirdLife urges the COP29 and COP30 Presidencies, Parties and all stakeholders to **keep nature at the heart of climate action**, including through channels like the Rio Trio initiative, building on the progress made at COP28, including the [Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People](#).

We encourage the COP30 Presidency and Parties to utilise the opportunity to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and champion **synergies with key multilateral conferences** taking place in 2025, including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP15, quadrennial IUCN World Conservation Congress and United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7).

With Brazil hosting the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP15 in early 2026, and both the CBD COP17 and UNCCD COP17 taking place in 2026, we encourage Parties to advance synergies in multilateral policy and national coordination.

We will continue to mobilise our 123 national NGO Partners across the BirdLife Partnership and join forces with key allies including the Climate Action Network, Nature4Climate, IUCN and more.