Key Messages for UNFCCC COP31

ENACT Partnership Secretariat

November 2026

Introduction

These key messages have been prepared by the ENACT Partnership Secretariat to support partners and stakeholders in advancing nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate change in UNFCCC COP31 discussions and outcomes.

Building on ENACT Partnership reports and the outcomes of key high-level events and technical dialogues, these messages are intended to support strengthened collective engagement on critical topics related to NbS during UNFCCC COP31.

COP31 Context and Relevance for NbS

COP31 will take place in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9 to 20 November 2026, at an important stage in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Framed by the COP31 Presidency as both an "Implementation COP" and a "COP of the Future", the conference will focus on translating existing commitments into tangible and measurable progress, guided by the principles of Dialogue, Consensus, and Action. The Presidency has emphasised strengthening international cooperation, accelerating adaptation and resilience, scaling up climate finance and investment, and supporting the implementation of national climate commitments, including NDCs and NAPs[1]. These priorities provide an opportunity to advance nature-based solutions (NbS) as practical approaches that can contribute to climate resilience, mitigation and broader socio-economic objectives.

NbS have gained increased recognition within the UNFCCC process as approaches that can contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation while supporting biodiversity conservation, ecosystem resilience and human well-being. The outcome of the first Global Stocktake[2] encourages the implementation of integrated, multisectoral solutions, including NbS and ecosystem-based approaches. Similarly, the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience establishes a thematic target on reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and NbS, including through the management, enhancement, restoration and conservation of ecosystems[3]. These decisions provide an important policy foundation for advancing NbS as part of national climate commitments and adaptation priorities.

[1] UNFCCC (2026). Joint Letter from the COP31 President-Designate and President of Negotiations
[2] Decision 1/CMA.5, paragraph 55
[3] Decision 2/CMA.5, paragraph 9(d)

However, growing policy recognition has not necessarily translated into coordinated implementation. As references to NbS across national policy instruments are not always accompanied by clear implementation arrangements, measurable targets or adequate financing. Therefore, strengthening the connections between national climate and biodiversity policies, institutional coordination, and monitoring systems remains crucial for translating these commitments into concrete actions and measurable outcomes[4].

Financing also remains a significant challenge. According to UNEP's State of Finance for Nature 2026, global investment in NbS reached approximately US$220 billion in 2023, while annual investment would need to increase 2.5 times and reach US$571 billion by 2030 to meet biodiversity, climate and land restoration targets under the Rio Conventions[5]. This challenge is also reflected in the broader adaptation finance gap, with developing countries' adaptation finance needs estimated at approximately US305 billion annually by 2035, compared with international public adaptation finance flows of US$28.2–31.7 billion in 2024[6].

These financing needs highlight the importance of integrating NbS into national investment priorities, strengthening access to finance and developing financially feasible interventions that can support long-term implementation.

Against this background, COP31 provides several opportunities to strengthen NbS implementation through existing UNFCCC processes. The operationalisation of the Belém Adaptation Indicators[7] offers an opportunity to improve understanding of the contribution of NbS to adaptation outcomes, particularly ecosystem resilience and biodiversity. Also, ongoing work under the Baku Adaptation Road Map[8], the Belém-Addis Vision[9] discussions on climate finance, and the initiation of the second Global Stocktake provide further opportunities to strengthen implementation, evidence and cooperation. These processes can help countries move beyond the recognition of NbS towards their integration into adaptation planning, investment and monitoring, while recognising different national circumstances and priorities.

Beyond the formal negotiations, COP31 will provide opportunities for governments, practitioners, non-state actors and other stakeholders to exchange experiences, share lessons learned and explore opportunities for cooperation to advance NbS implementation. ENACT will host and co-host a series of events during COP31, convening spaces for dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration to advance discussions on scaling up NbS implementation, mobilising finance and strengthening synergies across the Rio Conventions.

1. Antalya Rio Synergies Technical Dialogue

- Date and time: 10 November, 12:00-13:30 (local time)
- Venue: One World One Future - Zero Waste Museum (Green Zone)
- Organisers: Türkiye COP31 Presidency, G20 Global Land Initiative at the UNCCD, IUCN and the ENACT Partnership.

[4] ENACT 2026 State of NbS Report (pre-launch unedited publication version).
[5] UNEP (2026): State of Finance for Nature 2026: Nature in the red: Powering the trillion-dollar nature transition economy.
[6] UNEP (2026). Adaptation Gap Report
[7] Decision 12/CMA.7
[8] Decision 3/CMA.6, paragraph 29
[9] Decision12/CMA.7, paragraph 21

2. From Pilots to Pipelines: What Will It Take to Scale NbS Finance?

- Date and time: 12 November, 11:30-12:30 (local time)
- Venue: UNIDO COP31 Pavilion, Blue Zone
- Organisers: ENACT Partnership, in collaboration with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization), and the Government of the Netherlands.

This technical panel discussion will focus on financing and scaling NbS. The event will showcase practical country experiences and lessons learned from UNIDO, the Netherlands, and other ENACT partners in mobilising finance, supporting implementation, and creating enabling conditions for scaling NbS.

3. The Future is Nature: Accelerating Climate Action and Rio Conventions Delivery through Nature-based Solutions

- Date and time: 17 November, 10:15-11:15 (local time)
- Venue: Ethiopia Pavilion, Blue Zone
- Organiser: ENACT Partnership

The event will feature the announcement of new ENACT State Partners, the launch of the ENACT 2026 State of Nature-based Solutions Report, and the official launch of the Nature4Resilience (N4R) Project. Celebrating these milestones, the session will demonstrate the strength of ENACT in advancing the global climate and nature agenda, while supporting country priorities through the knowledge, partnerships, capacity, and investment needed to translate integrated solutions from policy ambition into action on the ground.

4. Seeking Synergies, Connecting Actors: Nature-Based Adaptation for Climate, Nature and People

- Date and time: 17 November, 13:30-14:30 (local time)
- Venue: BENELUX-EIB Pavilion
- Organisers: Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature, and Wetlands International, in partnership with ENACT.

This session will bring together stakeholders from across sectors and levels of governance to explore how stronger partnerships can accelerate the implementation and scaling of nature-based adaptation. Through practical examples and diverse perspectives, participants will examine the conditions for successful collaboration, approaches to aligning interests and responsibilities, and the role of public and private finance in supporting the transition from project-level interventions to integrated, landscape-scale solutions that deliver benefits for climate, nature, and people.

ENACT key messages as per UNFCCC COP31 agenda

Specific focus on the discussions of particular relevance to NbS:

Agenda items relating to adaptation

CMA8 9 Matters relating to adaptation (a) Global goal on adaptation (b) Report of the Adaptation Committee (c) Review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee

COP31 6 Matters relating to adaptation (a) Report of the Adaptation Committee (b) Review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee

- NbS can contribute to achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation by strengthening the resilience of ecosystems, communities and economic sectors. The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience explicitly recognises the role of NbS and ecosystem-based adaptation in reducing climate impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity[10] . Integrating NbS into national adaptation planning and relevant sectoral strategies can support country-driven adaptation priorities while delivering complementary biodiversity and sustainable development benefits.

- The operationalisation of the Belém Adaptation Indicators provides an opportunity to strengthen the monitoring and assessment of NbS contributions to adaptation across different sectors. This process should draw on practical implementation experiences, methodologies, technical inputs, and evidence from governments, practitioners, implementing agencies, UN organisations, and other stakeholders to inform how NbS can be reflected in indicators under the ecosystem and biodiversity target (9(d)), as well as other relevant targets on water (9(a)), food and agriculture (9(b)), infrastructure (9(e)), and poverty and livelihoods (9(f)). This can help countries identify entry points for integrating NbS into existing national monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems, strengthening the assessment of their effectiveness and generating evidence to inform future adaptation planning, investment decisions and international assessments of progress, such as the GST2.

- Strengthening institutional arrangements is essential to translate the growing recognition of NbS in national policies into sustained implementation. Evidence suggests that what distinguishes policy recognition from implementation is whether NbS commitments are anchored in long-term institutional frameworks, with clear responsibilities and supported by financing and monitoring mechanisms[11]. Through NAP implementation processes, Parties can strengthen institutional coordination across sectors and levels of government, connecting national adaptation priorities with subnational and locally-led action. Developing and refining

[10] Decision 2/CMA.5, paragraph 9(d)
[11] ENACT 2026 State of NbS Report (pre-launch unedited publication version)

these arrangements can help sustain institutional capacity, clarify responsibilities, and ensure that NbS interventions are effectively integrated into existing governance structures.

- Strengthening coherence between national adaptation and biodiversity planning processes can support more integrated NbS implementation. A review by the NAP Global Network found that 49 out of 57 countries acknowledged the linkages between climate change and biodiversity loss in their NAPs, with only 27 explicitly referencing their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)[12]. This highlights an opportunity to strengthen coordination between NAPs and NBSAPs, helping countries translate shared climate and biodiversity priorities into more coherent planning and implementation.

- Inclusive approaches can contribute to the long-term effectiveness and sustainability of NbS interventions. Meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and other relevant stakeholders can help ensure that NbS respond to local climate risks and priorities, while considering potential social and ecological trade-offs.

Agenda items relating to finance

COP31 8 Matters relating to finance (c) Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Green Climate Fund - (d) Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties and guidance to the Global Environmental Facility

CMA8 11 Matters relating to finance (b) Guidance to the Green Climate Fund (c) Guidance to the Global Environment Facility and (e) Matters relating to the Adaptation Fund

- Scaling up financing for NbS is important for translating national adaptation and climate commitments into implementation. UNEP estimates that annual NbS investment would need to reach US$571 billion by 2030 to meet global biodiversity, climate and land restoration targets. Strengthening the integration of NbS financing needs into national adaptation and investment planning can help connect climate commitments with appropriate financing opportunities.

- Existing multilateral climate funds can play an important role in supporting NbS as part of country-driven adaptation priorities. The Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Adaptation Fund can support the integration of NbS within relevant project preparation, capacity-building and investment planning processes, helping countries develop interventions that address climate risks while delivering biodiversity benefits. Evidence suggests that NbS can provide cost-effective approaches to disaster risk reduction, although their performance varies across hazards and implementation contexts[13]. This approach is consistent with the invitation to these funds to support implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience[14].

[12] Vicarelli et al (2024): On the cost-effectiveness of Nature-based Solutions for reducing disaster risk.
[13] Terton, A., Qi, J., & Jang, N. (2024). Tracking progress on the integration of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation in National Adaptation Plan processes. NAP Global Network synthesis report
[14] Decision 12/CMA.7, paragraphs 17–19.

Blended finance can provide opportunities to mobilise additional private investment in NbS, although its potential varies across contexts and interventions. According to UNEP's Adaptation Gap Report 2026, private finance could potentially cover 15–20% of adaptation needs in developing countries, with significant variations across sectors and countries[15]. However, CPI (2026) highlights the volatility of private adaptation finance and the persistent challenges in directing resources towards the most climate-vulnerable countries[16]. These limitations reinforce the continued importance of public, grant-based and concessional finance, particularly for interventions with substantial public benefits but limited financial returns.

- Strengthening the economic and financial viability of NbS interventions can help translate national commitments into investment-ready projects and pipelines. Developing technically sound NbS projects, supported by assessments of their expected benefits, costs and potential risks, can help countries identify suitable financing mechanisms, strengthen project preparation and develop pipelines of bankable NbS interventions where appropriate. These efforts can help mobilise resources and support the long-term implementation of NbS across national climate and biodiversity priorities.

Agenda item relating to cooperation with other organisations

SBSTA 65 14. Cooperation with other organisations

CMA 4 Matters relating to the global stocktake: report on the annual global stocktake dialogue referred to in paragraph 187 of decision 1/CMA.5.

- Strengthening cooperation across the Rio Conventions can support more coherent implementation of NbS across climate, biodiversity and land objectives. Greater alignment between NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and Land Degradation Neutrality targets can help countries identify shared priorities and translate existing commitments into complementary implementation measures.

- Existing cooperation arrangements provide opportunities to strengthen the implementation of NbS across the Rio Conventions. The Joint Liaison Group has identified integrated national planning, strengthening national focal-point capacities, resource mobilisation and stakeholder engagement as priorities for 2025–2026. Building on these efforts can support more coordinated planning, implementation and financing of NbS interventions[17].

- Knowledge-sharing and technical cooperation can help countries identify practical approaches to implementing NbS across multiple environmental objectives. Existing initiatives, including the Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme, provide opportunities to exchange experiences on integrated planning, implementation, financing and monitoring. These efforts can support country-driven approaches while reducing fragmentation across national policy processes[15].

[15] UNEP (2026). Adaptation Gap Report
[16] CPI (2026). Adaptation and Resilience Finance in an Overshoot World The Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2026: Adaptation Deep Dive
[17] UNFCCC (2026). Note by the secretariat: Summary of cooperative activities with United Nations entities and other international organizations that contribute to the work under the Convention

Matters relating to the Global Stocktake

CMA8 Item 4 – Matters relating to the Global Stocktake: Report on the annual Global Stocktake Dialogue referred to in paragraph 187 of Decision 1/CMA.5.

- The second Global Stocktake provides an opportunity to strengthen the evidence base on NbS implementation and their contribution to climate action. Building on the recognition of NbS in the first Global Stocktake, information on national implementation experiences, adaptation and mitigation outcomes and financing needs can contribute to a more comprehensive assessment of collective progress under the Paris Agreement.

- Use UNFCCC COP31 to more comprehensively embed NbS in the cycle leading up to the Second Global Stocktake in 2028. NbS should be positioned as a delivery mechanism, with associated finance and monitoring arrangements, rather than as a framing approach. Guidance for the next NDC round could invite cross-referencing to corresponding NBSAPs and LDN targets, and the findings lodged as a non-Party stakeholder input to the information-gathering phase of the Second Global Stocktake. The assessment of NbS policy integration across 127 countries in the ENACT 2026 State of Nature-based Solutions Report is the type of evidence the process could draw upon[18].

[18] ENACT 2026 State of NbS Report (pre-launch unedited publication version)