



COP29
Baku
Azerbaijan

Forests, Fairness, Finance

#Trees4Resilience

CIFOR-ICRAF's vision for global climate action at COP29 in Baku

The 2024 Forest Declaration Assessment recently showed that, despite global commitments to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030, progress remains alarmingly insufficient. Last year, deforestation and forest degradation continued at the same levels, or even worsened in some places, with primary forests facing significant destruction. Forest fires, exacerbated by human-induced climate change and land clearing, are growing in intensity and frequency, further undermining forest conservation efforts. Meanwhile, over 1 million hectares of tree cover was lost in 2023 in forested Key Biodiversity Areas, internationally recognized as critical for endangered species. Without a transformation of economic models and a global commitment to prioritize forest conservation, the world's 2030 forest goals will remain out of reach.

This year's UN climate summit (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan, can mark a turning point for the protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests and landscapes. At COP29, major areas of work on forests, land use, agriculture and climate, embedded in the broader goals of climate resilience and adaptation within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, will be supported by the COP Presidency's priorities of enhancing ambition and enabling action. In particular, the New Collective Quantified Goal, which aims to mobilize significantly more public and private finance than the current USD 100 billion annual target to support vulnerable nations with mitigation, adaptation as well as loss and damage, will be a high priority at COP29.

CIFOR-ICRAF at COP29

COP29 offers a strategic opportunity for CIFOR-ICRAF to present and engage global stakeholders on the pressing issues of forestry, landscapes, peatlands, agriculture, food systems, climate finance, as well as transparency and accountability.

Our calls to action:

1. Forests and food: Policymakers **globally should work to** reduce greenhouse gas emissions through forest conservation and restoration, along with sustainable food system transformations, to ensure climate resilience, ecosystem health and sustainable livelihoods.
2. Fairness: **On the ground, stakeholders need to work together to** ensure inclusive decision making and equitable benefit distribution for fair climate action supporting all communities, Indigenous Peoples, women and youth, and other underprivileged groups
3. Finance: **All actors in the finance world need to work hand in hand to** increase transparent and high-integrity forest finance at the **scale needed** for meaningful sustainable solutions, particularly in vulnerable and under-resourced regions and countries.

CIFOR-ICRAF will focus on providing science-based knowledge to users of our research, emphasizing the need for transparency, accountability and fair transitions in climate action. For forests and landscapes, COP29 is a crucial stepping stone towards COP30 next year in Belem, Brazil, where tropical forests will be the focus of discussions.

Our key focus areas at COP29 include



Forests and climate change

CIFOR-ICRAF emphasizes the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of forests, along with soil health, as key nature-based solutions (NbS) to mitigate climate change. We have also expanded our support to include **Blue Carbon** initiatives, harnessing the potential of coastal and marine ecosystems to capture and

store carbon. Recognizing Indigenous Peoples as the best custodians of biodiversity and intact forest landscapes, we advocate for Indigenous-led conservation approaches that include fair and equitable payments for forest services. The cross-sectoral integration of forest conservation with sustainable land-use practices is highlighted in much of our work. At a COP29 side event on 19 November, CIFOR-ICRAF will also focus on the role of biomass, including wood in buildings, for the long-term storage of carbon.



Agriculture and climate change

CIFOR-ICRAF will build on its participation in the CGIAR **Low-Emission Food Systems** initiative and engage in discussions on sustainable agriculture, focusing on resilient food systems that prioritize equitable access to food and nutrition while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. CIFOR-ICRAF advocates for policy coherence and international cooperation to enhance sustainable agricultural practices and food security.



Climate policy and finance

CIFOR-ICRAF also works on developing the optimal policies and financial approaches that support the role of forests and sustainable landscapes in addressing climate change. For example, we emphasize the importance of transparency in climate monitoring – the topic of a side event at COP29 on 14 November – and highlight our work with Indonesia on its enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submission, with a focus on sustainable forest and land use as well as soil health as key climate solutions. CIFOR-ICRAF also conducts research on high-integrity carbon and biodiversity credits, building on our 15 years of experience in **studying** the practices and policies needed to successfully implement the “Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries” (REDD+) programme.



CIFOR-ICRAF's plan for COP29

CIFOR-ICRAF's strategy for COP29 centres on our role as an honest broker of science-based knowledge, fostering partnerships and raising funds to support our work on climate resilience and sustainable land use. Updates on all CIFOR-ICRAF events at COP29 are available [here](#).

Science and knowledge brokerage

CIFOR-ICRAF will engage all stakeholders through two official side events focusing on transparent climate monitoring and sustainable agriculture. Another side event features our [Resilient Landscapes](#) programme. The aim is to contribute actionable knowledge, supported by CIFOR-ICRAF's expertise on forests, agroforestry and climate adaptation. Together with the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), we are also staging "Forest Day" on Saturday, 16 November, at COP29.

Partnerships

CIFOR-ICRAF will prioritize the strengthening and building of new partnerships with governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector to advance regional and global climate goals. COP29 provides an ideal platform to solidify such collaborations.

Fundraising

CIFOR-ICRAF will use COP29 to engage potential donors and funding partners, seeking support for climate-related research and action in the Global South. Focus areas include the policy and practice of forest conservation and sustainable management; sustainable agriculture; and climate resilience in vulnerable regions.

Pathway to COP30 in Belem, Brazil, in 2025

CIFOR-ICRAF will support the advancement of the forest, landscape and climate agenda beyond COP29 on a pathway to next year's UN climate summit (COP30) in Belem, Brazil. We will support this transition by focusing on tropical forests and landscape management in Brazil, linking the discussions that take place in Baku to the policies needed for a successful COP30. In Baku, we will start planning for a large conference hosted by our flagship Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) in mid-2025 as a stepping stone between the COPs in Azerbaijan and Brazil. Stakeholders will gather at the GLF conference to help shape forest and landscape policies for the next decade.

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The Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF) harnesses the power of trees, forests and agroforestry landscapes to address the most pressing global challenges of our time – biodiversity loss, climate change, food security, livelihoods and inequity. CIFOR and ICRAF are CGIAR Research Centers.

Learn more at
www.cifor-icraf.org/event/cifor-icraf-at-unfccc-cop29/

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