



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Position: Climate and Biodiversity

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Climate Action Network (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1300 members in over 120 countries.

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Understanding and acting upon these inter-related crises for effective and long-lasting outcomes

Summary

Two crises pose serious threats to life on Earth: the climate change crisis and the biodiversity crisis. Major global intergovernmental assessments, including from the IPCC and the IPBES, have demonstrated that they are strongly interlinked. This calls for Parties to move beyond treating these separately towards integrated approaches. Both the IPCC and IPBES reports, along with an increasing body of literature, highlight and stress the importance of intact resilient ecosystems in meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement. Indeed, nature-based solutions, with appropriate safeguards, can provide 37% of the solution to meeting the 1.5 C target by 2030 (IPBES 2019).

However, much needs to be done for this to be recognised in international action, including under the UNFCCC, CBD and SDG post-2020 agendas. This position statement sets out the scope of the crises, the potential for perverse outcomes, the opportunities in the current agreements and the steps governments need to take to jointly approach the biodiversity and climate crisis. Very often, carbon-rich high integrity ecosystems, such as forests, grasslands, peatlands, mangroves and other wetlands, are under significant pressure. The consequent reduction in carbon stocks and sequestration potential, as a result of land-use change and degraded ecosystems, contributes significantly to the climate and biodiversity crises.

CAN acknowledges that the global population will exceed 8 billion people by 2030, and that all countries and people are reliant on land to generate food, fodder and raw materials. However current management practices pose existential threats to biodiversity and ecosystems and contribute to escalating climate change.

Therefore, to meet the Paris objectives and at the same time address biodiversity objectives for 2030 and beyond, CAN has set out the following recommendations:

Focus on Conservation, Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions

Protecting the remaining primary including intact ecosystems, restoring degraded lands, in particular forests and wetlands, and mainstreaming sustainable land management practices, is the most important and most urgent priority for international climate change and biodiversity cooperation. Conservation, restoration and responsible use are not a zero-sum game, but the basis for the survival of mankind.

Integration is needed between international conventions

We need to see integration of actions under key international conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC) and other key international instruments (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals) that recognise the scale of and linkages between the climate and biodiversity crises and the need to deal with them in a coherent, integrated, holistic manner. The Secretariats to these Conventions have a key role to play in encouraging this. CAN calls on all Parties to these Conventions to:

- Ensure that actions implemented under the UNFCCC and CBD are coherent, integrated and co-beneficial and better support the SDGs.
- Harmonise mechanisms including ratchets to drive ambition and action within the CBD, matching the UNFCCC.

Ecosystems must play a central role in NDCs

Parties must embed the understanding that halting biodiversity loss is essential for achieving 1.5°C, and that mitigating climate change helps sustain the natural systems our societies and economies rely on. This must be reflected in their NDCs. CAN is calling for Parties to:

- Ensure that all government policies, investments and development plans must be climate-positive and biodiversity-positive. Favour activities that address more than one area across climate, development and nature.
- Prioritise the role of ecosystems: protecting carbon rich primary natural ecosystems; restoring previously degraded ecosystems; reconnecting primary natural ecosystems, and maximising ecosystem resilience and adaptive capacity through landscape scale initiatives.
- Invest in sustainable agriculture, nature conservation, forest and peatland restoration, and other nature-based solutions.
- Include relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, sub-national governments, academia, civil society and indigenous peoples, local communities, youth and women in the design and implementation of NDCs and NBSAPs.
- Align NDCs with commitments under the post-2020 CBD framework, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans as much as feasible.

UNFCCC definitions need fixing

UNFCCC definitions should encourage outcomes that benefit rather than harm ecosystems. CAN is calling for forest definitions that recognise the different types of natural and man-made forests.

Land use and forestry accounting must benefit not harm the climate and biodiversity

Substantial revisions are needed to current rules to ensure good outcomes for the climate and nature. Current rules can lead to very large unaccounted emissions and incentivise ecosystem damage. CAN is calling for a new accounting system that:

- Accounts for emissions from all categories and all emission pools of land, forests and wetlands, including peatlands and mangroves, that accurately reflects emissions released, with particular information on *what* pools are accounted for, specifying the gaps and developing a roadmap for how to fill these gaps.
- Accounts for carbon stocks, not just flows.
- Includes emissions from all bioenergy and “unmanaged land”.

1. Context: The biodiversity and climate crises

1.1 The role of ecosystems in climate change mitigation

Ecosystems play a fundamental role in climate change mitigation, but the earth's ecosystems are being destroyed and degraded. Globally, land is currently a net source of greenhouse gas emissions, when the cumulative impacts of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are taken into account.

Tropical deforestation and degradation alone account for 14-21% of all anthropogenic carbon emissions. However, tropical forests also sequester a significant amount of carbon through regrowth and restoration, the sum of which in common GHG accounting practice is subtracted from gross emissions to arrive at a net figure. In addition, significant amounts of carbon are locked up in boreal and temperate forests, are also subject to logging and other significant pressures, also entailing substantial emissions. Therefore, the often-cited net figure that deforestation accounts for 10% of global emissions omits the true scale of gross emissions in this sector. It also ignores the fact that degradation of ecosystems is as much of a problem as complete land use change.

The **biodiversity crisis** is extremely significant as we seek to reduce these land-based emissions and address the climate crisis. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem (IPBES) report (May 2019) concluded that habitat fragmentation, damage from the overuse of natural resources and the rapidly escalating scale of human activities over the past century have created a biodiversity crisis that is resulting in the collapse of natural and agricultural ecosystems, posing a threat to life on Earth as serious as the climate crisis.

This is a twin crisis. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has emphasised the important role biodiversity plays in climate mitigation. Recently, it expressed deep concern not only about the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem function, but also “deep concern that escalating destruction, degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems would reduce the capacity of ecosystems to store carbon and lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the resilience and stability of ecosystems, and make the climate change crisis ever more challenging”.

- Climate change is exacerbated by biodiversity loss and ecosystem decline, which in turn increases stresses on natural systems caused by a changing climate.
- The escalating risk to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity has direct implications for the success or failure of climate action.

1.2 Role of ecosystems in climate change adaptation

Furthermore, biodiversity is fundamental to maximising the resilience and adaptive capacity of all ecosystems. A species diverse ecosystem increases the ability of that ecosystem to maintain its function while adapting to impacts such as those resulting from climate change. The benefits humans gain from healthy, functioning (high integrity) ecosystems are many, such as supplying direct services and products, moderating regional climate and supplying high quality, fresh water. Protecting and restoring primary including intact forests, peatlands, mangroves and other ecosystems will improve the stability of ecosystems and produce a range of other benefits, including strengthening the capacity of low-lying areas to withstand storms and improving resistance and resilience to drought, flooding, and fire. Stable carbon storage and long-lived sequestration are critically important services to humans as we seek to adapt to escalating climate change.

1.3 Addressing the twin crises

Just as the climate and biodiversity crises are linked, so too are the solutions. Improving the health and resilience of biodiversity and ecosystems is the best way to prevent emissions and sequester more carbon in long-lived, relatively stable carbon pools. As new ground-breaking research,

following the IPCC Special Report on 1.5 C shows, nature-based solutions and ecosystems play a crucial role in mitigation scenarios: “Overall, the median assumed sequestration pathways (...) would result in the sequestration of 151.9 GtC. This is approximately equivalent to all historical land-use-related CO₂ emissions”.

The following solutions can help address biodiversity loss and climate change mitigation:

- Climate action must **support and strengthen the integrity and stability of natural ecosystems**, in particular carbon rich ecosystems such as **primary forests, mangroves, grasslands and peatlands**, in order to minimise future risks and costs.
- **Protecting and ensuring the stability of existing natural land, forest, peatland and coastal carbon stocks** should be prioritised in policy, implementation and investment goals, as well as increasing carbon sequestration and long-term stable carbon storage.
- **Ongoing disturbance** from deforestation, degradation and the **drainage of wetlands** – responsible for at least a billion tCO₂eq. per year – must stop, and natural growth and the rewetting of wetlands must be a key priority.
- There are **significant differences in risks** associated with different forms of climate action in land, forests and marine systems. The risk of ecosystem loss (and thereby emissions) is directly related to the stability of ecosystems.
 - **Natural forests** with their full complement of plant and animal species found in primary (or old growth) forests, including intact forest landscapes safely store far more carbon (and supply other important ecosystem services like water) than agricultural tree crops (plantations) or secondary forests.
 - **Natural peatlands and other wetlands**, once irretrievably degraded, cannot be restored.
 - Carbon stocks in **monocultures** and intensely managed systems are much more vulnerable to loss and degradation from pests, disease, drought and fire than primary and relatively unmodified ecosystems.
- **Agricultural systems** based on ‘agro-ecology’ that maintain or increase biodiversity in the soil, better protect and restore soil carbon than intensive, industrial scale agricultural systems.
- The limited role of planted agricultural **tree crops** in climate mitigation needs careful consideration, as tree crops are inherently higher risk, offer far lower long-term abatement value than restoration of degraded natural forests and make achieving the 1.5 – 2 degree goal of the Paris Agreement far more difficult. However, if strategic planting is explicitly linked to taking the pressure off, and fosters recovery of, natural forests it could result in a long-term positive impact on abatement.
- **Oceans** are a massive carbon and heat sink. This buffering effect has slowed down the impacts of increased carbon emissions and global warming. However, the marine absorption of heat and CO₂ emissions is now driving a process of ocean warming, oxygen loss and acidification which is already causing massive degradation and loss of coral reefs and has profound implications for other life in the sea, such as the fish populations which hundreds of millions of people depend on. Furthermore, the photosynthesis of marine plant life produces over half of the world’s atmospheric oxygen, but this activity is vulnerable to increased marine acidity and higher temperatures. With CO₂ levels and temperatures increasing and projected to do so for some time, the historic contribution of oceans as a carbon sink appears increasingly vulnerable. In the meantime, efforts to protect marine biodiversity and reduce significant pressures on marine ecosystems should be intensified.
- **Peatlands and coastal ecosystems** are of great importance and potential as allies in the fight against climate change, whether as carbon sinks and stores, natural defences against erosion, storms and floods, or in guaranteeing food, materials and water supply. The Ramsar

Convention on wetland conservation highlighted in its latest conference of the parties the importance of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- **Mangroves** provide a huge number of adaptation and mitigation services to people: breeding grounds for fish and nurseries for juveniles, fish stocks that humans depend on, water filtration, natural defence to coastal erosion and storm surges and significant carbon storage capacity. For example, in the Philippines, mangroves provide more than £500 million in direct flood reduction benefits alone every year.
- **Grasslands** sequester much higher levels of carbon from the atmosphere when compared to overgrazed or converted lands. A global estimate of grassland soil carbon stocks equates to nearly 50% more stored carbon than in forests. However, approximately 20% of native grasslands globally have been converted to cultivated crops, resulting in a loss of around 60% of soil carbon stocks.
- Growing loss of fertile **soils** due to drainage of organic soils, mono- and over exploitation, as well as fertilizer misuse threatens the world's most productive carbon sinks, biodiversity and food supply systems.

Robust, low risk mitigation pathways also provide significant climate change adaptation benefits and enhance achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Priority integrated pathways include:

- Reversing biodiversity loss is critical to maintain and increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of people in the face of the adverse effects of climate change. It is particularly important to support the rights and livelihoods of indigenous communities whose management practices underpin ongoing biodiversity protection, ecosystem integrity and carbon storage in many of the world's remaining natural ecosystems.
- Focusing restoration on rebuilding ecosystem integrity to buffer and reconnect areas of primary forest and other primary carbon rich ecosystems and restoring degraded natural forests and other key natural ecosystems to rebuild diversity, ecological function, adaptive capacity and low-risk carbon storage.
- Ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation also provide significant mitigation benefits, contribute to reducing climate risks, enhance climate resilience, improve biodiversity conservation, reduce ecosystem degradation, and restore ecosystem integrity.

2. International policy

2.1 Tackling the two crises: aligning international goals under UNFCCC, CBD and SDGs

In a world facing two interlinked life-threatening crises, international policy making under the UNFCCC, CBD and SDGs should align climate goals with actions that protect biodiversity and improve ecosystem integrity as set out above. These synergies enable the best use of scarce resources, cut out duplication, lessen negative trade-offs and perverse outcomes, and increase information-sharing to deliver triple wins for people, the climate and biodiversity.

2.2 2020 - a pivotal year

In 2020, world leaders will meet to take critical decisions on climate change, the health of our natural world and sustainable development, giving an excellent opportunity to align actions pursuant to international agreements:

- The post-2020 biodiversity framework will be agreed under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity at COP 15 in Kunming;
- Parties to the Paris Agreement will update and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs);

- Governments agree on how to get new targets for the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which currently have 2020 timeframes: and
- IUCN World Conservation Congress will determine resolutions and mandates of relevant IUCN commissions, and the work plans of those Commissions, providing an opportunity to ensure that climate and biodiversity is embedded in this work.

While the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are largely aligned, connections with the UNFCCC goals and processes are yet to be achieved. Despite supportive language in the Paris Agreement, the UNFCCC has not recommended that to conserve and enhance carbon stocks NDCs include actions to arrest destruction and degradation of natural ecosystems and their biodiversity and to restore them, and Parties are not obliged to make connections to the Aichi targets or the SDGs in their content. Yet there is also a growing discussion of the benefits of aligning efforts to achieve the SDGs with climate change action in the NDCs. As global processes gather momentum, opportunity arises for greater integration reflected in the updated NDCs.

2.3 Basis for Action under the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement in its **preamble** notes the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity when taking action to address climate change. This now needs to be operationalised in the implementation of the agreement.

Article 5 of the Paris Agreement provides that “Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d) of the Convention, including forests.”

It is vital to understand that such actions should not be restricted to tropical forests in developing countries, as often assumed. In fact, natural forests in all the biomes and in developed as well as in developing countries are vital repositories of carbon and of biodiversity that require conservation and enhancement. Serious degradation and loss is occurring in many locations globally.

Such consideration should not be restricted to forests either. The important role of other carbon rich ecosystems, outlined earlier in this paper, means that these sinks and reservoirs must also be conserved and enhanced globally as part of climate action under this Article.

To deliver on this important element of the agreement in a way that integrates with ‘ensuring ecosystem integrity and biodiversity protection’, a number of problems within the Paris Agreement and its implementation need to be addressed and are outlined below.

3. CAN recommendations

CAN calls on all Parties to recognise that activities undertaken in natural ecosystems to address the climate crisis should ‘ensure biodiversity protection and ecosystem integrity’. Prioritising the protection and restoration of primary, carbon rich ecosystems provides the most efficient and cost-effective pathway to tackle both crises facing life on Earth.

3.1 Integration of actions between international conventions

The CBD called in 2018 for synergistic action between the three key international conventions (UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC) and other key international instruments (notably the Sustainable Development Goals) in recognition of the scale of and linkages between the climate and biodiversity crises and the need to deal with them in a coherent, integrated, holistic manner. The CBD also encouraged Parties to integrate climate change issues and related national priorities into national

biodiversity strategies and action plans and to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem integrity considerations into national policies, strategies and plans on climate change.

To achieve such alignment, a stronger integration of the science basis between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and climate change is essential. CAN welcomes and encourages the IPCC to pursue the proposed joint IPBES/IPCC report on the interlinkage between biodiversity and climate change, recently proposed at IPBES-7 Plenary ([Technical Report 1\(b\)](#)).

CAN calls on all Parties to the UNFCCC and CBD to:

- Ensure that actions implemented under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement are coherent, integrated and co-beneficial with those under the CBD.
- Recognize that ecosystem-and-livelihoods-based approaches should lead the way.
- Leverage the power of non-state actors to drive implementation across both conventions.
- Align the CBD implementation process with the Paris Agreement by introducing a ratcheting mechanism, similar to the periodic pledge and review of NDCs, into CBD implementation so that – like in the Paris Agreements – Parties should periodically increase ambition and action.
- Integrate ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions in NDCs and domestic actions.
- Build a common narrative that supports mutual understanding through joint communication strategies and campaigns on how reversing biodiversity loss can support the 1.5°C and vice versa.
- Align technical support, financial assistance and investment for planning, accounting and reporting, and implementation in developing countries.
- Develop guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- Consider when setting targets and adopting mechanisms for the CBD post-2020 biodiversity framework, how to do so in a way that supports climate change mitigation.
- Look for ways to better harmonise and coordinate their frameworks and better support the SDGs by:
 - initiating a dialogue to strengthen, align and enhance climate and biodiversity-related action to raise ambition and strengthen implementation by 2020 (when updated NDCs will be due for submission) and environmental related SDGs will be reviewed.
 - requesting the Secretariats of both the CBD and UNFCCC to provide joint technical guidance (e.g. papers and working groups) on the potential of an integrated approach, how to overcome institutional and other barriers, how to manage trade-offs and how to capitalize on co-benefits.

CAN calls on the UNFCCC and CBD to:

- Guide the creation of enabling conditions to mainstream climate and biodiversity into national planning to help translate commitments under each convention into national legislation and policies.
- Support a joint work programme to be undertaken by the subsidiary technical bodies of the UNFCCC and CBD to identify and encourage integration and synergistic action under these UN Conventions. This should outline opportunities to deliver robust climate mitigation and adaptation action in land, forests and marine ecosystems that enhances biodiversity protection and ecosystem integrity and the stability and longevity of carbon sequestration and storage.

- Align reporting cycles and require countries to report on integrated action, developing common indicators and sharing information on financing and resource mobilization.

3.3 NDCs: delivering on UNFCCC and CBD objectives

As Parties develop their NDCs they should seek to embed nature-based solutions to climate change for all the reasons set out in the context section of this Position. Based on the example set by some countries, the opportunity for countries to submit updated and enhanced NDCs before 2020 can be used for greater integration of nature and alignment of the Rio conventions when crucial decisions on climate, biodiversity and development will be taken in 2020.

CAN calls on all Parties to UNFCCC and the CBD to carry out the following in their NDCs:

- Incorporate in all planning processes the understanding that halting biodiversity loss is a necessary strategy for staying well below 2°C of warming, let alone 1.5°C, and that mitigating climate change helps sustain the natural systems our societies and economies rely on.
- Align NDCs with National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as much as feasible.
- Include dedicated targets in NDCs to tackle emissions from land use and agriculture in a biodiversity-friendly manner and implementing nature-based solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation. In particular:
 - Prioritise better protection and management of carbon rich primary natural ecosystems.
 - Protect previously degraded ecosystems, such as logged natural forests, and allow them to reach their natural carbon carrying capacity.
 - Link ecosystem restoration to improved protection of primary ecosystems and prioritise buffering and reconnecting areas of primary forest and intact natural ecosystems.
 - Maximise the contribution to ecosystem resilience and adaptive capacity through landscape scale initiatives that strengthen and rebuild ecological connections and functions.
 - Restore water catchments to secure healthy wetland and peatland ecosystems.
 - Facilitate species movement and adaptation to changing conditions.
- Strengthen the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities to underpin robust, long-lived mitigation outcomes.
- Include relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, sub-national governments, academia, civil society and indigenous peoples, youth and women in the design and implementation of NDCs and NBSAPs.
- Upscale investment in climate change related innovation in non-energy sectors e.g. in sustainable agriculture, nature conservation, forest restoration, and other nature-based solutions.
- Include a broader perspective to their climate change and biodiversity-related reporting and showcasing the activities that are benefiting both areas.
- When allocating resources, favour activities that address more than one area across climate, development and nature.

3.4 UNFCCC definitions

There are a number of problems in the way that forests are defined and described under the UNFCCC which lead to perverse outcomes for the climate and biodiversity. The current definition of forests in use, (derived from the FAO definition):

- Does not distinguish between plantations and natural forests

- Explicitly excludes areas ‘temporarily de-stocked’ from being categorised as deforested, with a loose definition of ‘temporary’
- Sets the bar for deforestation so low that in many biomes ecosystem collapse will have occurred long before the threshold is reached. Only 10% coverage with forest is required, and tree heights can be minimal
- Cannot be used to address degradation issues as it is limited to forest cover, thus not addressing changes in forest structure, carbon stocks and biodiversity

Pledges of ‘no net deforestation’ still allow wholesale conversion of natural forests to plantations under these definitions, with very negative climate and biodiversity consequences.

CAN calls on all Parties to undertake the following actions:

- The definition of a forest adopted by the UNFCCC should be elaborated to recognise the 3 basic distinctions drawn by the FAO between primary, secondary natural and planted monoculture forests.
- Add a new definition of ‘modified natural forests’ to enable Parties to see how carbon storage and biodiversity have been impacted by industrial use, and to see the mitigation (and adaptation) opportunities afforded by encouraging biodiverse restoration of key parts of production forests in developed countries.
- Plantations should be recognised as a tree crop.

3.5 Land use and forestry accounting under the UNFCCC

Accounting for land and forests under the Paris Agreement allows for a variety of approaches. It is possible that Parties will use the existing, deficient land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) accounting rules for their NDCs. However, these have a number of negative implications for the climate and biodiversity.

Stocks and flows

The Paris Agreement encourages “conserving and enhancing reservoirs of greenhouse gases” i.e. carbon stocks. However, the LULUCF rules under the Kyoto Protocol focus on the flows of greenhouse gases from and to sources and sinks. This means it is not possible to see what is happening with carbon stocks in the landscape – where they are located, the nature of that stock, and actions that may positively or adversely affect them.

Missing emissions

Also problematic is that countries can choose the baseline against which they account for emissions from cutting down their forests. Indeed, they can include expected future tree harvests in the baseline meaning that these emissions, often substantial, are not counted. This is equivalent to a country setting a baseline in which it includes the construction of 8 new coal fired power stations and if it builds 8 it receives no penalty, if it builds 6 it receives a credit. This analogy works because if the harvested trees are used for energy is every bit as polluting as coal. These rules allow large quantities of emissions to go into the atmosphere that are not accounted for by Parties – this needs to be addressed urgently.

Perverse incentives – bioenergy use

Bioenergy use is incentivised by these carbon accounting rules. Globally we are seeing escalating use of forest biomass for large-scale energy production, with significant adverse impacts on the carbon stocks, biodiversity and ecosystem integrity of natural forests. Because forest emissions are supposed to be counted when the forests are harvested under the LULUCF rules, emissions from

biomass combustion for energy are counted as zero in the energy sector. However, due to the accounting rule flaws outlined above, the emissions are not fully counted when forests are harvested. A zero for biomass creates the false impression that there are no emissions. The assumption that logging is carbon neutral, or worse that logging primary forests is sustainable and therefore a climate mitigation solution, has done immense harm to some of Earth's most important forests for carbon storage and biodiversity. It should be noted that carbon stored in primary forests is 30-70% greater than the average carbon stock in a wood production forest.

CAN calls on all Parties to adopt:

- A stock and flow accounting system plus new recognition and a definition of “forest degradation”. This enables parties to see qualitative differences in stability and risk of loss.
- Accounting of all-natural ecosystems including on ‘unmanaged land’. Anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic emissions to be disaggregated. This provides positive incentives to protect and restore all-natural ecosystems.
- A system of accounting for emissions from the land and forests that reflects the emissions that go into the atmosphere. If Parties fail to adopt this, they will need to ensure accounting for biomass combustion emissions for large scale energy production takes place in the energy sector of the consuming Party and avoid double-counting.

3.6 Longer term action

The Paris Agreement invited countries to communicate their “mid-century long-term low GHG emissions development strategies,” or “long-term strategies” by 2020. The CBD is working towards a vision of ‘living in harmony with nature’ by 2050. These long-term visions help guide short-term strategies and actions already set for 2020 and 2030. They should – in the mid-term – guide a better alignment towards these common objectives.

In the long run, there should be one integrated approach to planning and implementation to address climate change, nature loss and unsustainable development together. CAN calls on Parties to:

- **In 2020**, develop the elements for updated NDCs to account for nature-based solutions and conservation measures as well as a strong and well aligned post-2020 biodiversity framework under the CBD and agree on how to extend the environmental SDG targets that expire in 2020.
- **In 2022**, Rio +30 and Stockholm +50 are opportunities to create renewed political momentum, to strengthen and improve existing commitments and undertake new and better aligned action.
- **In 2030**, the SDGs should be achieved as well as the objectives/targets of the new CBD biodiversity framework and most of the NDCs. This is the opportunity to move forward with *one* integrated approach across climate, nature and development.
- **Now**: If the Paris Agreement goal of keeping global warming well below 2°C, striving for 1.5°C, and the CBD vision of living in harmony with nature are to be achieved, countries need to start implementing and enhancing their national pledges, ensuring a central role for ecosystems and reviewing now how to initiate a transformational change in their economies. National sustainable development strategies must be developed and implemented as a matter of urgency, with full and open participation of civil society actors.