

Submission from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership on how to accelerate climate action and drive implementation

Context

The role of the High-Level Champions was created in 2015 at COP 21 in Paris to facilitate, through strengthened high-level engagement, the successful execution of existing efforts and the scaling-up and introduction of new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions. Through the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the Champions specifically accelerate ambitious climate action among non-State actors, including cities, regions, businesses, investors and civil society, with the speed, scale and justice needed in support of Parties and the UNFCCC process.

For this year, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership launched a 2024 High-Level Champions and Marrakech Partnership [Work Programme](#). The Work Programme was developed on the basis of the 2021-2025 five-year plan and is informed by past work. An [achievements document](#) has been released with the activities delivered from January until May 2024.

Recommendations

- 1. How can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership add the most value and complement existing efforts to accelerate climate action and drive implementation?*

To maximize their impact during the remainder of their five-year work program, the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership should focus on targeted influence rather than broad support. By emphasizing the delivery of existing voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions, they can drive tangible progress and avoid a dilution of efforts that could occur at this point with the introduction of new calls for further commitments. This approach will prevent overburdening actors and channel resources toward achieving established targets.

Acknowledging the successes of initiatives like Race to Zero, Race to Resilience, and the Glasgow Finance Alliance for Net Zero, the increased engagement of non-State actors (NPS) has been significant. Similarly, the commitment of Parties and NPS towards nature-focused targets, as seen in initiatives such as the Nature Positive for Climate Action campaign, the Ocean and [Mangrove Breakthroughs](#), the Freshwater Challenge, and the Call to Action for Transforming Food Systems, has been commendable. Consolidating these gains through strengthened, coordinated delivery is now crucial. By using their existing platforms to raise awareness of the importance of key ecosystems such as mangroves in climate mitigation and adaptation, the Champions and the Marrakech Partnership can attract more support

from different stakeholders (e.g., governments, civil society, private sector, financial institutions) and funding towards safeguarding these. In addition, they could help strengthen alignment across these different major global initiatives, such as the between the Mangrove and Ocean Breakthroughs and other ecosystem-focused Breakthroughs (e.g. corals and seagrasses), to help streamline efforts, reduce redundancy, and enhance the effectiveness of each of these.

The Champions and the Partnership could also help raise awareness and maximize the contributions of additional efforts led by NPS that directly contribute to the work program's three key priorities: accelerating the just transition away from fossil fuels, protecting and restoring nature, and providing equitable finance to climate solutions. For instance, [Nature4Climate](#), as a coalition of environmental organizations dedicated to promoting nature's role in tackling the climate crisis, has produced tools such as [naturebase](#) and is leading advocacy efforts and dialogue around topics which strongly align with these priorities.

As COP30 and the enhanced round of NDCs approach, translating existing pledges into concrete actions is imperative. Current initiatives provide clarity on the commitments that parties and NPS should aim to fulfill and have been successful in garnering support. Strengthening the interlinkages and synergies between these initiatives, commitments, and pledges, and prioritizing the achievement of clear goals by COP29 and COP30, is essential to demonstrate the capacity of these commitments to drive real, structural change.

2. How can the High-Level Champions enhance collaboration between Parties and NPS to advance the outcomes of the first GST?

The first Global Stocktake called for more ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets aligned with the latest science, addressing the interlinked crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems. As COP30 in Brazil approaches, there is a brief window to secure updated NDCs with high ambition, renewed political will, and committed financing. Success at COP30 must deliver measurable increases in ambition for high-quality nature-based solutions (NbS) and ensure nature is central to government actions. The next 18 months are crucial for achieving this goal, so the Champions should focus on strengthening collaboration between national and subnational governments and other non-state actors (NPS) during the enhancement of NDCs.

The Champions have already raised awareness on these issues through events like the 'Dialogue on Multilevel Partnership for Enhanced NDCs' at the 60th session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC. However, they can further assist by addressing bottlenecks faced by initiatives such as: the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action, which fosters cooperation between national and subnational governments; efforts by N4C and others to guide Parties on including nature in NDCs; and through ecosystem-focused efforts such as through the Mangrove Breakthrough's NDC Task Force and the efforts its currently undertaking to ensure the inclusion of mangrove-positive commitments in upcoming NDC enhancement cycles. They can also support the Nature-Climate Coordination Platform's working groups to strengthen synergies across rio conventions and nature-climate planning instruments.

Furthermore, given the calls for increased and more effective climate finance in the first GST, the Champions could also ensure NPS are better included in discussions on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) and to accelerate efforts to redirect finance from nature-negative to nature-positive activities. Currently, nearly \$7 trillion in public and private finance harms nature annually, while investments in nature need to triple to \$542 billion by 2030 (State of Nature Finance, 2023).

The Champions could strengthen support and engagement in existing initiatives by TNC and others to enhance dialogue and action among investors, corporations, and policymakers on accelerating the transition to a net-zero and nature-positive economy. This includes:

- Defunding deforestation and primary land-use conversion – supporting efforts such as the campaign co-led by N4C to ‘defund’ deforestation and primary land-use conversion, through initiatives such as the [FSDA](#) and the Finance and Deforestation Advisory Board.
- Innovation in debt refinancing, macroeconomic and fiscal policies - considering when debt refinancing is valuable given the heavy transactions required, what fiscal and macroeconomic policies can mobilize sustainable finance, tackle climate risk and offer opportunities to redirect investment into nature positive climate resilient development and economic growth.
- Re-engineering subsidies to shift economic actors from destructive activity to climate and nature positive action.
- Policies that can enable investment into greening supply chains – including tracing of commodities.
- Ensuring High-Integrity VCM – by helping to expand the work to build trust in scaling up carbon markets and other financial mechanisms for nature.
- Overcoming corporate hesitation and barriers to private investment on nature-based solutions.

3. How can the Marrakech Partnership be enhanced to support Parties in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, including through new and existing tools?

For the remainder of its five-year plan, the Marrakech Partnership could further strengthen regional engagements and elevate Global South voices and solutions in UNFCCC processes, particularly given the absence of regional climate weeks this year.

We applaud the launch of tools such as the 2030 Climate Solutions at COP 28, which aim to accelerate climate action by providing specific on-the-ground solutions for 2030 and integrating existing frameworks (e.g., Climate Action Pathways, 2030 Breakthroughs, Breakthrough Agenda, Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, and the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience campaigns). The Regional Platforms for Climate Projects and the regional consultation process to identify priority solutions, key stakeholders, and progress toward the 2030 targets are steps in the right direction. Yet, engagement across geographies could be further strengthened to better tailor efforts to regional circumstances and support stakeholders who are already advancing specific sectoral targets at the regional level.

Ensuring Global South voices and expertise are well-represented in multi-stakeholder dialogues and decision-making processes is also vital. There is a need for deeper understanding of solutions relevant to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). The Partnership should continue its efforts on this, such as gathering testimonies from leaders on alternative funding mechanisms and the impact of providing IPLCs with direct access to finance.

To effectively do so, we encourage the Partnership to maximize collaboration opportunities with actors on the ground that have already been leading important work. For instance, TNC and other N4C partners, are placing a strong focus this year on collaborating with regional experts, facilitating capacity building sessions, and organizing multi-stakeholder dialogues to encourage solution-oriented exchanges on topics such as:

- Innovation in delivery architecture: Promoting country platforms for creating shared visions and costed plans across governments and societies, with pooled funds for international support, especially in underserved regions
- Delivery mechanisms for investing in locally led adaptation: Including devolving climate finance to local actors for resilient landscapes, shock-responsive social protection, public works schemes, natural asset insurance, and climate-positive enterprise accelerators.
- IPLC-led landscape governance mechanisms: Supporting the development of regenerative economies in high-integrity ecosystems stewarded by communities with deep generational knowledge systems.
- Jurisdictional REDD+: Developing Indigenous-led REDD+ that directly contributes to conservation and forest management within Indigenous territories.
- The economic benefits of investing in IPLCs' knowledge and contributions to attract more support and investment from both public and private sectors.

By maximizing partnerships with actors on the ground, the Partnership could enhance the effectiveness of these efforts and not start from scratch. We stand ready to support these efforts through our regional and country-level offices.