

Submission on SBSTA62 agenda item 14: Cooperation with other international organizations

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In response to the invitation to Parties and observers, contained in SBSTA62 conclusions on agenda item 14: "Cooperation with other international organizations", to provide further views to inform the SBSTA's consideration of this matter¹.

Summary:

- Cooperation between the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UN CBD, and UNCCD) is necessary to accelerate effective action on climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- Building on the strong cooperation already demonstrated between the CBD and UNCCD, the UNFCCC should take the initiative to foster deeper collaboration and more effective communication across the Rio Conventions.
- Enhanced cooperation among the Conventions should not be seen as an added obligation or burden for Parties or the Convention Secretariats, but as a strategic opportunity to identify priorities, establish clear and supportive mechanisms, and ensure resources are allocated effectively to address the three issues together
- SBSTA63 should prioritise strengthening policy coherence across the Rio Conventions as a central agenda item for discussion to achieve global biodiversity, climate, and land targets efficiently and synergistically.
- Beyond policy coherence, Parties should also prioritise synergistic financing through existing mechanisms such as the GEF to support integrated Nature-based Solutions (NbS) aligned with NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and LDN targets, while identifying gaps in investment.
- A potential joint work for enhanced cooperation between the Rio Conventions is needed to address longstanding gaps in the UNFCCC and support synergistic implementation of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Land Degradation Neutrality goals.

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2025_04_adv_Prioritise0.pdf

- Parties and Secretariats must also prioritise the participation of youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC), uphold intergenerational equity and climate justice, and embed integrated safeguards and human rights-based approaches at the core of implementation.
- Continued discussions beyond COP30 will be essential to deepen work on synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions and other MEAs, ensuring delivery on the 2030 timelines of the KMGBF, UNFCCC global stocktake outcomes, and the Land Degradation Neutrality Framework.

Introduction

At SBSTA 62, under Agenda Item 14 on “Cooperation with Other International Organisations”, Parties recognised the importance of synergies between the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UN CBD, and UNCCD). They concluded that further discussions should take place in SBSTA 63 in Belem, Brazil, and Parties and Observers were invited to submit further views.

YOUNGO Nature Working Group welcomes the SBSTA’s continued discussion on enhancing cooperation among the Rio Conventions and acknowledges the critical need to streamline synergistic implementation of climate, biodiversity, and land degradation goals. As children and youth, we emphasise that it is crucial to ensure climate, nature, and land issues are collectively addressed to maximise synergies and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

With nature at the heart of COP30, the conference presents a pivotal opportunity to accelerate joint action under the Rio Conventions. This submission highlights why Rio Convention synergies must remain central to the “Cooperation with Other International Organisations” agenda item at SBSTA 63 and beyond, and sets out actionable recommendations for a COP30 decision that could drive forward the synergies agenda to achieve real-world benefits.

The need for synergistic action across Rio Conventions

Climate change, biodiversity and land degradation are deeply integrated crises and are part of a mutually reinforcing cycle which requires a holistic, integrated approach to tackling these global challenges as highlighted by the [IPCC and IPBES](#). Having an integrated approach to decision-making, implementation, and monitoring will result in positive outcomes for global climate, nature and land degradation targets as well as national cost savings by aligning across sectors. Whilst mitigating potentially detrimental impacts or trade-offs between global goals and simultaneously protecting human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The current siloed approach across Rio Conventions hinders policy coherence and undermines progress towards global targets, costing the world \$10-25 trillion per year, as highlighted by the 2024 IPBES [Nexus Assessment](#). Despite an ever-increasing body of scientific literature highlighting the linkages between biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation,

implementation continues to remain fragmented. Current efforts lack coordination, resulting in inefficiencies, conflicting outcomes, and missed opportunities for synergistic action.

There are significant opportunities to enhance coherence and further integrate action across the biodiversity, climate, and land agendas with recent high-level progress at CBD COP16 with a decision on [biodiversity-climate synergies](#), and at UNCCD COP16 on [cooperation](#). Moreover, with the recent [Technical Information Exchange](#) just before SB62 and the [call for submissions](#) on enhancing policy coherence for the CBD, there is a clear window of opportunity to strengthen policy coherence and synergies across the Rio Conventions.

Cooperation should be viewed by Parties as an opportunity to maximise synergies for global environmental goals and prioritise action where it is needed most, thus being more time and resource-efficient in the run up to 2030 to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goals. COP30 provides a unique opportunity to address the policy gap and integrate action for climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation if we are to successfully tackle these interlinked global environmental crises.

Recommendations and opportunities for Rio Convention synergies

1. Strengthening policy coherence through the expansion of initiatives and platforms

While climate change has created adverse impacts on biodiversity, land, and people, collaborative efforts to tackle the triple planetary crisis remain limited and often siloed within individual Rio Conventions. Several initiatives are already working to bridge gaps across the Rio Conventions under the CBD and UNCCD, such as the CBD Technical Series [40](#) and [41](#); the [High-Level Thematic Ministerial Dialogue](#) on Synergies Between Biodiversity and Climate Change; the CBD [Joint Liaison Group](#); and the [Joint Work Programme](#) between CBD and UNCCD. However, most of these efforts remain anchored within the CBD and UNCCD, and progress has not been systematically evaluated or communicated. This hinders the actual effectiveness, contributions, and benefits of these initiatives, also leaving the challenges and needs for improvement unclear when considering the scale of collaboration and coordinated action now required. The UNFCCC should be inspired by these joint approaches and take the lead in scaling up collaboration, ensuring that climate processes actively reinforce biodiversity and land agendas rather than remaining in parallel silos.

The 2021 [IPCC–IPBES joint workshop](#) provides an excellent example of how stronger science-policy collaboration can enhance coherence. Its report not only informed the scoping of the IPBES assessment on interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, and health in the context of climate change, but also fed directly into the IPCC’s Sixth [Assessment Report](#) and [Synthesis Report](#). Building on this model, further collaboration between the IPCC, IPBES, and the Science–Policy Interface (SPI) of the UNCCD could help bridge knowledge gaps, align evidence bases, and guide integrated policy development across the three Conventions.

We therefore urge the UNFCCC secretariat to acknowledge the interconnected impacts of climate change on land and biodiversity by taking the lead in strengthening collaboration with its sister Conventions. This can include:

- Establishing a **biennial joint dialogue** involving the CBD and CCD to align priorities, identify gaps, and foster coherence in policy implementation.
- Establishing a **joint monitoring and evaluation framework** to track progress of cross-Convention initiatives, ensuring transparent reporting on outcomes, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Supporting Parties across the Rio Conventions in developing synergistic national planning by: updating the Voluntary Guidelines on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Developing guidance on priority actions that safeguard high-integrity ecosystems to maximise synergies; and organising regional workshops to facilitate the application of this guidance in national contexts.
- Supporting national-level coordination mechanisms, such as cross-ministerial task forces or integrated national frameworks, to help countries align reporting and implementation across the three Conventions.
- Ensuring meaningful and inclusive participation of youth, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and civil society in these collaborative spaces, recognising their role as knowledge holders and agents of change.

2. Enhance institutional cooperation between the Rio Conventions' secretariats, including joint technical workshops on harmonised reporting metrics and unified digital platforms

YOUNGO's Nature Working Group welcomes the discussion during the SB62 COP30 Presidency Special Event on synergies between the Rio Conventions and acknowledges the challenges faced by Parties regarding reporting to multiple platforms. These fragmented processes often result in the duplication of effort, increased reporting burdens for national focal points, and data gaps that limit the effectiveness of global stocktakes and progress assessments.

To overcome these barriers, we call for enhanced institutional cooperation between the Rio Conventions' secretariats, particularly through the organisation of **joint technical workshops** and the development of **harmonised reporting metrics**.

As highlighted during the SB62 event, the current use of separate digital platforms for each of the Rio Conventions places great administrative burdens on Parties. To reduce administrative burdens and improve data transparency across UNFCCC BTRs, CBD National Biodiversity Strategies and UNCCD reporting mechanisms, we recommend the development of a **unified digital platform**. This improves efficiency and has cost savings for national implementation.

Moreover, reporting cycles and the indicators used by Parties for monitoring are currently unaligned. Where appropriate, we recommend further aligning monitoring and reporting through harmonised reporting metrics and indicators under each of the Rio conventions. This involves identifying common challenges and gaps in the current monitoring and reporting frameworks, and assessing the benefits of synergistic monitoring and reporting across frameworks, including the potential for more cost-effective reporting by Parties. Recommendations should be put forward on how to align metrics, monitoring and reporting, and supporting Parties in implementing this approach.

3. Prioritise synergistic financing (e.g., through the GEF) to support integrated Nature-based Solutions projects that align with NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs and Land Degradation Neutrality targets (LDN).

Mobilising financial flows to achieve global environmental targets underpins all three Rio Conventions. However, current actions towards resource mobilisation targets are significantly falling short. Existing financial mechanisms are fragmented and poorly coordinated and overall there is insufficient finance dedicated to supporting integrated actions that simultaneously address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

Broadly, financing mechanisms should enhance co-benefits for climate, biodiversity and land outcomes by optimising resource allocation in a synergistic and efficient manner. Furthermore, public and private finance strategies should align with the objectives of the Rio Conventions, ensuring that climate finance also delivers tangible biodiversity and social benefits.

This can be implemented by:

- Advancing synergistic finance through existing financial mechanisms, such as the GEF, which supports integrated Nature-based Solutions (NbS) projects that align with NDCs, NAPs, NBSAPs, and LDN targets, while identifying potential gaps in investment.
- Incentivising and prioritising direct access to funding for solutions led by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth and individuals from other marginalised communities.
- Ensuring that financial institutions, donor countries and others avoid double-counting with enhanced transparency, reporting and accountability to ensure that funding can be effectively delivered for biodiversity and climate co-benefits.

4. Aligning the financial system or (private finance sector) with Rio Convention synergies

Achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and Land Degradation Neutrality Framework requires a fundamental shift in how

the financial sector allocates capital, manages risk, and measures impact. Relying on public funding alone cannot close the financing gap. Private finance such as banks, institutional investors, insurers, and capital markets, must become a catalyst for integrated solutions and align with the goals of the Rio Conventions.

4.1. Risk, Disclosure, and Data

- Financial institutions should adopt harmonised disclosure frameworks for biodiversity and land degradation and disclose nature-related risks to ensure comparability and coherence across the Rio Conventions.
- Central banks and financial supervisors should incorporate nature and land risks into prudential frameworks, building on existing climate stress-testing practices.
- Developing interoperable digital platforms that link UNFCCC BTRs, CBD NBSAPs, and UNCCD reports can reduce reporting burdens, enhance transparency, and provide a robust evidence base for informed investment decisions.

4.2. Standards, Taxonomies, and Integrity

- Interoperability between sustainable finance taxonomies is essential to facilitate seamless cross-border flows of climate finance. Cross-convention cooperation should ensure that “nature-positive” activities are consistently defined, avoiding greenwashing and giving clarity to investors.
- Establish minimum MRV (monitoring, reporting, verification) principles for biodiversity and land outcomes, including baselines, additionality, and safeguards, so that investments deliver measurable and credible results.

4.3. Instruments and Capital Mobilisation

- Multilateral funds and development banks should expand first-loss or guarantee facilities for projects that deliver climate, biodiversity, and land benefits simultaneously.

5. The development of a Joint Work Programme across Rio Conventions

The absence of a consolidated Work Programme acting as a structured framework for practical implementation diminishes focus on the synergies between climate and nature, and the potential of nature in climate solutions, leading to a significant implementation gap in nature-related climate actions. This fragmentation impedes the holistic integration of climate, nature and land considerations into national strategies, targets, and objectives. Furthermore, these synergies should be approached through a whole-of-society approach, integrating human rights and empowering Indigenous Peoples and local communities, which is crucial for equitable and effective nature-based climate action.

YOUNGO Nature Working Group proposes a **Joint Work Programme (JWP)** across Rio Conventions. A JWP should harmonise policy coherence across Conventions and encourage the pooling of resources and expertise through stronger collaboration between IPBES, IPCC

and the UNCCD SPI. The Joint Work Programme would identify the necessary actions to strengthen policy coherence across the implementation of the Rio Conventions to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, Global Biodiversity Framework and LDN targets. The [JWP should](#) provide implementation support and action-oriented activities at the national and sub-national level to support Parties to achieve the goals of the Rio Conventions whilst maximising synergies.

The delivery of the JWP can be complemented with an **Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG)** to strengthen policy coherence, as well as operationalise [Article 5.1](#) of the Paris Agreement, and build on the outcomes of the [first Global Stocktake](#) and Decision [CBD/COP/DEC/16/22](#). Possible areas of focus for an AHTEG include assessing UNFCCC processes relevant for collaboration; identifying gaps and barriers to enable Parties to prevent synergistic action through inputs provided by Parties and non-Party stakeholders; and identifying opportunities for increasing cooperation and policy coherence across Conventions.

The development of a JWP and establishment of an AHTEG should recognise the outcomes of other relevant processes and Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the UNFCCC Oceans Dialogues, the Sharm-El-Sheikh Joint Work on Implementation of Climate Action on Agriculture and Food Security, the GST Implementation Dialogue and the Mitigation Work Programme 5th Global Dialogue on Forests.

For more on how a JWP could be established and implemented, please refer to [here](#) and [here](#).

Other elements to be considered in the Joint Work Programme:

Recalling previous Joint Youth Constituencies Submission of views on options for enhanced policy, coherence, in response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) [notification 2025-005](#), YOUNGO Nature Working Group also recommend the following elements to be considered in the Joint Work Programme:

- **Ensure meaningful participation of rightsholders:** Effective decision-making requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach by recognising Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, and youth as rightsholders with legitimate roles in co-design, governance, and knowledge creation. The JWP should establish a power-sharing mechanism to ensure that all rightsholders are engaged throughout all stages of programme development, implementation, and monitoring progress.
- **Integrated safeguards and human rights-based approaches:** Social and environmental safeguards must be placed as the centric of all funded activities to ensure all climate, biodiversity, land actions, and environmental, social and cultural values are respected in an integrated and mutually supportive manner. Parties should co-develop an integrated social and environmental impact assessment framework that includes ecological integrity, human rights, and social justice to prevent unintended harm, and implement mandatory impact assessments across all funded activities.