



COP29 FOREST PAVILION

2024 UN Climate Change Conference

11-22 November 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

COMMUNIQUÉ

- From Baku to Belém: Forests for Climate, People and the Planet -

Baku, 22 November 2024 – Over the two weeks of the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP29), held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024, over 500 partners and representatives from Parties/countries, organizations and stakeholders came together to participate in the inaugural Forest Pavilion¹, and discussed forest themes relevant to the COP29 discussions, showcasing forest-based climate action, implementation, and partnerships at national, regional and international levels by governments, organizations, science and research communities, the private sector, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and women and youth, among others.

The COP29 Forest Pavilion was the first such convening at a session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Forest Pavilion was held within the SDG Pavilion organized by UN DESA.

During the two-week period, over fifty sessions¹ were held on the daily themes as follows:

- Forest Finance, Investment and Trade
- Forest Policy and Legal Instruments
- Science, Technology and Innovation / Digitalization
- Women, children and youth, Indigenous Peoples
- Multi-stakeholder Partnerships
- Sustainable forest-based bioeconomy for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Forests, Nature and Biodiversity

Scaling up forest-based climate actions

As Forest Pavilion Partners, we are united in the belief that Forests stand as the bedrock of our journey towards a net-zero, climate-resilient, and equitable future for all. We are resolved to leverage the tools and resources at our disposal to catalyze further action to halt and reverse deforestation by 2030.

¹Programme and further information on the sessions are available on the [Forest Pavilion webpage](#).

We will also aim to utilize the interconnected nature of forests as an indispensable means of achieving all SDGs, and leverage action towards the Global Forest Goals to catalyze progress towards overcoming some of the world's most pressing global challenges and crises.

To this end, we call on all governments and all other stakeholders to deliver on the existing pledges and commitments on forests, and enhance their ambitions to secure a just and equitable net-zero transitions.

As Forest Pavilion Partners, we call for further action towards the following areas to tap into the full potential of forests for climate, people and the planet:

- Besides being a powerful tool to address climate change mitigation and adaptation, forests and the services they provide are critical for all other aspects of humanity's existence. Climate action should be based on fairness for all actors involved, and supported by a transparent and high-integrity financing system that looks at long-term solutions.
- Forests are under pressure from global demand for land and materials and climate-related stressors, such as wildfire and pests. In this context, a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy is needed more than ever to sustainably balance economic development, social equity and environmental conservation, including climate and biodiversity goals.
- A range of initiatives are already supporting the transition to a sustainable forest bioeconomy, including by strengthening global action on sustainable wood long-lived harvested wood products, enhancing forest data transparency and building capacity for carbon accounting, and mobilizing new investments and innovations in forest product value chains to assist the transition to carbon neutral economies. But more can and must be done.
- We need to maintain momentum and strengthen our global cooperation on forests, particularly as we look to next year's COP30 in Brazil. We also need to work together, including through the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to fully unlock the potential of the forest bioeconomy for climate action, by supporting enabling and inclusive policies; improving high-quality, transparent forest data and monitoring; scaling up forest-sector innovations; boosting capacity building for sustainable bioeconomy practices, and increasing forest investment at all levels, ensuring that this reaches small-scale producers.
- International cooperation in forestry and forest carbon market access is pivotal for achieving global goals, including NDC targets, through mechanisms like Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and REDD+. To this end, robust policy frameworks, technical assistance, and capacity building are essential for integrating projects into national and international carbon markets. Transparent, efficient tracking systems and collaborative approaches between host and recipient countries are critical for ensuring effective implementation and compliance.
- Integrated approaches are essential for successful forest restoration, linking biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and the Sustainable Development Goals. Collaboration among communities, governments, private sector, and international partners is vital for addressing challenges such as wildfires and economic pressures. Restoration must balance benefits like

adaptation and biodiversity gains with trade-offs, requiring robust monitoring and community involvement.

- High-integrity voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) can contribute to sustainable development and nature-positive outcomes by ensuring transparency and robust standards. Collaboration among stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, public regulators, and private investors, is essential for building trust and scaling impact in carbon markets.
- We must address data gap, access and fragmentation related to forest financing opportunities, flows, knowledge and best practices. A global data hub could be considered for development building on existing efforts of relevant organizations such as the UNFF Clearing House on Forest Financing in partnership with relevant partners.
- Knowledge-sharing and dynamic learning platforms, such as the REDD+ Academy 3.0, are vital for tackling deforestation and strengthening climate action strategies. The REDD+ Academy 3.0 was launched, featuring AI powered chatbot, enhanced learning tools, and tailored microlearning resources to support government practitioners working on the topics of forests and climate. The platform addresses gaps in fragmented knowledge, bringing together key resources, tools, and a global community of practice for improve collaboration on emerging topics like nesting REDD+ and carbon markets for forests.

We express sincere appreciation to the Forest Pavilion for creating a “home” to forests at climate COP29 and call for strengthened presence of the Forest Pavilion at COP30. We express appreciation to the UNFF Secretariat for convening the Forest Pavilion.

Roadmap from Baku to Belém

It is envisaged that COP30 will be held from 10 to 21 November 2025 in Belém, Brazil. Mr. Mukhtar Babayev, COP29 President, at the High-level Event on Forests “Forests for Climate, Nature and People: Harnessing Climate Finance for Forests” convened on 21 November 2024 by the COP29 President and the UN Forum on Forests, outlined several priorities under a roadmap moving towards COP30². These priorities are: i) the need for elevating the forests as a top priority at all levels; ii) the importance of scaling up forest financing, leveraging both existing and new innovative mechanisms; iii) addressing the critical gaps in forest-related data by improving access; and iv) catalyzing and expanding strategic partnerships to accelerate impactful actions on forests.

The international conference planned on forests and biodiversity next year in Azerbaijan with the support of international organizations, including the UN Forum on Forests, will provide an opportunity to join forces under this roadmap and to make tangible progress in preparations for UNFCCC COP30 in Belém. The 20th session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF20) in May 2025 in New York, will also serve to help build momentum toward the Baku Conference and COP30 in Belém.

Planning is also under way for the Forest Pavilion at COP30.

² Press release of the COP29 President’s High-level Event on Forests is available on the [UNFF website](#).

ⁱ About Forest Pavilion- The Forest Pavilion is organized by multi-stakeholder founding partners with the support from the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat. The founding partners are: Asian Development Bank; Asian Forest Cooperation Organization; Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Global Judicial Institute on the Environment; Government of Canada; Government of the People's Republic of China; Government of Japan; Government of the United Kingdom; International Bamboo and Rattan Organization; International Council of Forest and Paper Associations; International Sustainable Forestry Coalition; International Tropical Timber Organization; International Union of Forest Research Organizations; Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation; and United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat.