

Synergistic landscapes for the Rio Conventions

Axis: **2. Stewarding Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity** ▾

Key objective: 6. Efforts to conserve, protect, and restore nature and ecosystems with solutions for climate, biodiversity and desertification ▾

Solution: **Synergistic landscapes for the Rio Conventions**

Host Initiative: Secretary for Biodiversity, Forests and Animal Rights of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change - Brazil

Scope: This proposal will build a platform for cooperation between countries and organizations, with a special focus on tropical forests and South-South relations, resulting in strategic landscapes for the synergistic implementation of the Rio Conventions, based on the promotion of ecological and socio-biocultural corridors for tropical and sub-tropical countries. The proponents will include the Amazonian countries, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of Indonesia (still to be confirmed). Together, they are home to 52% of the planet's tropical forests and are already united through the Trilateral Cooperation on Tropical Forests and Climate Action, announced at COP27/UNFCCC, which focuses on conservation, restoration, the bioeconomy, and a common climate finance agenda. We propose a collaborative identification of guidelines and commitments that can be applied to "territories of intervention" (nationally defined landscapes). These strategic landscapes of connectivity and integration should promote positive feedback between public policies and actions implemented to achieve at least 30% of the targets established by each country for 2030 implemented under a synergistic approach. This deadline follows those of the CBD, the GBF, the UN Decade for Restoration, and the UNCCD/SDG 15 targets. Countries that make up the G-20 and the BRICs, which were chaired by Brazil in 2024 and 2025, respectively, interested in financially supporting the synergistic 30x30 goal of this Plan can also become proponents.

Assessment of roadblocks:

The relevance of the Rio Conventions and international efforts have not been sufficient for implementation that values the intrinsic synergies between them. This characterizes a scenario in which, instead of strengthening integration, it has generated disconnection, isolation, and competition, including for financial resources, which ultimately exacerbate the fragmentation of efforts. Seeking synergy among initiatives can strengthen integration and accelerate the achievement of agreed goals.

Levers assessment:

- **Opportunities and Risk-informed decision-making:** **Medium maturity** ▾
 - *Rationale: Knowledge about potential risks exist but is rarely systematically integrated into planning (especially for climate, geopolitical, financial and variability risks), methodologies, or tools for these purposes. Strategic landscapes with integrated actions already exist in the form of protected and conserved territories, mosaics, sustainable use settlements, priority areas for public policy implementation, and corridors of remaining native vegetation, along rivers and mountainous areas, and cross-border areas in many countries.*

Inclusive decision-making governance & design: **Medium maturity** ▾

- *Rationale: Action implementation is still centralized. Inclusion among stakeholders from indigenous and traditional communities is still limited, and interactions between agribusiness and urban communities (consumer centers) are highly fragmented, if any. However, the existing and active network of initiatives and partners has great potential to promote the necessary inclusion processes.*
- **Knowledge & Capacity building:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: Workforce training has progressed, but there are critical gaps in scale and specialization — especially in developing countries, including extension, training and advisory activities. There is a need for youth involvement, and better decentralized communications, in support of understanding the complex interactions between climate, nature, land use and economic markets.*
- **Technology shifts:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: There are multiple initiatives to implement nature friendly productive systems under a nature-based solutions approach that are integrated with nature-friendly educommunication and economic development actions, including agroforestry, forest and other native vegetation management, and restoration and extractive activities on marine ecosystems, including those based on social technologies. These have been used by traditional communities, consisting of responsible practices that add value to production, but can be scaled up if polycentric governance and integrated project design is implemented in the target territories of this Plan.*
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- **Standards & Taxonomies:** Low maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: Technical standards for sustainable taxonomy do exist, but international harmonization and clarity on green taxonomies are still limited, and there is a need for reinforcing the importance of monitoring and of innovation for its improvement and application on a broad scale, among different sectors of society.*
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- **Demand:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: The demand for nature-based solutions is high, dependent on political incentives, and not yet systemic. Through more explicitly articulated mechanisms that promote efforts toward common and broader objectives, it is desirable to combine lessons learned from efforts already undertaken by countries with territories targeted for synergistic actions. This will be relevant for generating more impactful environmental, climate, economic, and social results that generate transformative legacies.*
- **Public/private finance:** Medium maturity ▾
 - *Rationale: Public funding exists but remains insufficient; private investment is constrained by regulatory risk and uncertain returns. Regulations on payment for environmental services, carbon markets, and credit for sustainable production remain a challenge. Once implemented, the Synergistic Landscapes will offer territories of lower risk and better positioned to scale up solutions, creating an*

environment of better chances of positive outcomes. Through the investments on capacity building, better regional planning and catalytic capital investment on strategic infrastructure, it will also diminish implementation risks.

- **Partnerships and collaboration:** High maturity
 - *Rationale:* Multi-stakeholder platforms exist, and coordination is fully embedded at national/regional levels. There is a history of international cooperation and several formal agreements for partnership among countries, as well as with conservation organizations and business. The proposal platform can act as an unlocker of catalytic funds for specific synergistic activities.
- **Policy & regulatory:** Medium maturity
 - *Rationale:* Few countries have robust frameworks that fully recognize, value, and integrate landscape management as Brazil, which is reflected in its policies and investments through international cooperation projects. However, through Brazil's accumulated experience in integrated landscape management, based on an integrated approach that combines science, traditional knowledge, and various public policies, national programs, projects under implementation, as well as the lessons learned from these efforts, we expect to advance the proposed approach for tropical and sub-tropical countries.
- **Public opinion:** Low maturity
 - *Rationale:* The topic can have very high public visibility because it aims to diminish the gap between development and conservation, building a more balanced understanding of the positive feedback solutions, bringing life quality improvement and less risk for business. There is pressing need to offer more opportunities of recreation in contact with nature, in order to win hearts and minds of the citizenry, specially amongst urban dwellers.

Expected impact of this plan on the 2030 targets (if any): High

By 2030, this plan aims to unlock measurable progress through three main impact pathways:

1. **Combined implementation of national targets in strategic landscapes:**

The initial step in implementing the Pact is the collaborative identification of guidelines and commitments that can be applied to “territories of intervention” (nationally defined landscapes). These strategic landscapes of connectivity and integration should promote positive feedback between public policies and actions implemented to achieve at least 30% of the targets established by each country for 2030 implemented under a synergistic approach. This deadline follows those of the CBD, the GBF, the UN Decade for Restoration, and the UNCCD/SDG 15 targets.

2. **Accelerating project implementation at national and regional levels:**

Through country-level multicriteria analysis and coordinated stakeholder engagement, the plan will contribute to the identification of strategic geographic areas to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, management and restoration of native vegetation, control and reduction of land degradation through joint efforts, resulting in connected landscapes through ecological and sociobiocultural corridors that promote adaptation and mitigation to the effects of climate change and of threats to biodiversity, and the maintenance of sustainable territories.

3. **Mobilizing cross-sector collaboration and financial innovation:**

The creation of a Synergistic Implementation of actions and structured governance systems will promote partnership and alliances, which will add greater capillarity in the territories and may facilitate the unlocking of financing mechanisms to promote institutional capacity for the long-term implementation of this Plan. They should also allow for transparency and citizen monitoring of results.

4. **Cross-border initiatives in South America:**

Under a gradual strategy, following the launch of this Plan at COP30, its expansion is expected to strengthen cross-border initiatives in South America and South-South cooperation with forest and savannah nations that hold tropical and subtropical ecosystems. Likewise, these countries are expected to engage their subnational governments, civil society, private initiatives, and entrepreneurs in efforts to implement policies, raise financial resources, promote exchanges, and implement actions with an emphasis on the establishment, governance, and management of national socio-biocultural and ecological connectivity corridors.

Expected contributions to global processes:

- **Implementation of the Paris Agreement, through:**
 - **Global Stocktake (GST):** To address key gaps in means of implementation and produce a geographically explicit map of synergistic landscapes where expected outcomes are higher and positively more impactful than in other regions;
 - Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); and
 - UNFCCC Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) strategies.
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- **2030 Climate Solutions targets:** supports the scaling up of nature-based solutions to meet the GST commitments
- **SDGs:** contributes directly to SDG 14 and 15 (Life on land and below water) and SDG 13 (Climate action)



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- **CDB:** Contributions to the accelerated implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets, under the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 13.

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	All ecosystems — terrestrial (forests, grasslands, farmlands), freshwater (rivers, lakes, wetlands), marine and coastal (mangroves, reefs, seagrasses), and urban areas — at global, regional, and local scales.	UN Decade on Restoration	Existing a... ▾	Partnerships ... ▾ Standards & T... ▾	UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration	2030	Multi-stakeh... ▾	UNEP, FAO, UN agencies, national governments, global and local NGOs, Indigenous peoples' organizations, scientific institutions, private companies, and philanthropic and multilateral donors.
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	Degraded territories in Latin America and the Caribbean; forest, agricultural, pasture, and marginal lands; implemented at regional, national, and local scales.	20x20 Initiative - Restoration and conservation of degraded lands across Latin America and the Caribbean, creating healthy multifunctional landscapes for people and nature.	Existing a... ▾	Partnerships ... ▾ Standards & T... ▾	Initiative 20x20 Secretariat	2030	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Member countries of Initiative 20x20, technical and financial partners, forest restoration organizations, research institutions, environmental NGOs, international donors.

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		At least three hubs of sociobioeconomy present in Synergistic landscapes identified by the map of strategic areas	Existing a... ▾	Demand ▾	SMC-MMA	Novembe... ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests		To implement, manage Network of Long Trails as ecological connectivity tools, linking protected areas and OECMs.	Existing a... ▾	Inclusive deci... ▾	DAP/Sbio/MM A	Novembe... ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Federal, State and Local Governments, hikers and mountain biker's associations, Protected areas agencies.
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes		Implementation of the action plan for the Conecta Program of the MMA	New action ▾	Inclusive deci... ▾	Sbio/MMA	June 202... ▾	Cities and lo... ▾	
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	Amazon	Social inclusion of traditional communities of protected areas of the Amazon (Arpa Program - Communities component)	New action ▾	Inclusive deci... ▾	Sbio, SBC , SNPCT/MMA	Novembe... ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Philantropies, WWF, CI, ICMBio, MMA, Besos Foundation, KFW
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes	Priority landscapes selected under PLANAVEG 2025–2028 and Agenda Restaura Brasil: degraded areas in strategic	Restoration Territories - Creation of regional restoration hubs ("Territórios da Restauração") that integrate ecological, productive, and social dimensions, scaling up restoration through enabling conditions, governance structures, and sustainable	New action ▾	Partnerships ... ▾	DFLO/SBIO/M MA	Novembe... ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	MMA/DFLO, IBAMA, ICMBio, SFB, Restoration Alliances, etc

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	watersheds, biodiversity corridors, and productive chains (coffee, cocoa, agroforestry, native seeds), with action at municipal and state levels.	value chains						
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes	The Atlantic Forest biome within the Trinational region of Alto Paraná, spanning Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. Includes forest landscapes, degraded lands, biodiversity corridors, riparian areas, and restoration initiatives that cross political boundaries and socio-ecological contexts.	Trinational Atlantic Forest Restoration Network - A cross-border coalition among Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay to restore and conserve the Atlantic Forest in the Trinational ecoregion	Existing a... ▾	Public/private ... ▾ Partnerships ... ▾	Atlantic Forest Restoration Pact (Brazil), Trinational Atlantic Forest Restoration Network (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay)	2050	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Over 300 organizations within the Atlantic Forest Restoration Pact, more than 60 in the Trinational Network, national governments of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, WWF, seed networks, local NGOs, research institutions, and international donors.
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable	Global — degraded forest landscapes	Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration - A global network uniting	Existing a... ▾	Public/private ... ▾ Partnerships ... ▾	GPFLR Secretariat	▮ ▾ 2030	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Over 36 governments and dozens of

Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Guidelines and mechanisms for synergistic actions established	set of countries of the Plan	Establishment of criteria for country adherence to the Plan	New action ▾	Inclusive deci... ▾	Plan Steering Committee	2026/Sem.1 ▾	Countries ▾	Representative s of National Ministries
Guidelines and mechanisms for synergistic actions established	set of countries of the Plan	Establishment of guidelines for implementing synergistic actions	New action ▾	Inclusive deci... ▾	Plan Steering Committee	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.1 ▾	Countries ▾	Representative s of National Ministries and Partners on the theme
Guidelines and mechanisms for synergistic actions established	set of countries of the Plan	Definition of synergistic actions to be implemented by each country	Existing a... ▾	Risk-informed... ▾	Each Country	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.2 ▾	Countries ▾	Defined by country
Guidelines and mechanisms for synergistic actions established	set of countries of the Plan	Establishment of financial partnerships	New action ▾	Inclusive deci... ▾	Plan Steering Committee	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.2 ▾	Countries ▾	Defined by country
Guidelines and mechanisms for synergistic actions	set of countries of the Plan	Establishment of multisectoral partnership networks	Existing a... ▾	Partnerships ... ▾	Each country, Partnerships	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country

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established					and Collaborators			
Guidelines and mechanisms for synergistic actions established	set of countries of the Plan	Establishment of national landscapes for implementing actions under the Rio Conventions	New action ▾	Inclusive deci... ▾	Each country	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.2 ▾	Countries ▾	Defined by country
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Multi-stakeholders pla... ▾ Biodiversity and Forests	Each Country	Internalization of the Kunming-Montreal Framework into the NBSAPS	Existing a... ▾	Policy & regul... ▾	Each country	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.2 ▾	Countries ▾	Defined by country
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	Each Country	National action plans for implementing the NBSAPs developed	Existing a... ▾	Policy & regul... ▾	Each country	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.2 ▾	Countries ▾	Defined by country
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	UNEA member countries	Implementation of actions to meet the forest management sustainability criteria of the binding treaty deliberated by the UNEA	New action ▾	Demand ▾	Set of member countries of UNEA	2028/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	ACTO member countries	Implementation of actions associated with forest management guidelines within the scope of the ACTO (RAFO, Integrated Fire Management Working Group, and Regional Forest Program)	New action ▾	Demand ▾	set of member countries of OTCA	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	Each Country	Strengthening efforts to implement UN CBD/UN (Decade of Ecosystem Restoration) vegetation restoration target 2	Existing a... ▾	Demand ▾	Set of countries involved in the Plan	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾		Defined by country

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Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	Each Country	Regulation of national public policies for the recognition of OECMs	Existing a... ▾	Policy & regul... ▾	Each country	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Regulators ... ▾	Defined by country
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	Each Country	Creation of protected areas and recognition of OECMs	Existing a... ▾	Demand ▾	Each country	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Countries ▾	Defined by country
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes	Each Country	Implementation of actions to restore degraded pastures	Existing a... ▾	Technology sh... ▾	Set of countries involved in the Plan	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests	Each Country	Implementation of actions to improve the effectiveness of protected area management	Existing a... ▾	Demand ▾	Set of countries involved in the Plan	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes	Each Country	Implementation of actions to reduce the expansion of land used for agriculture	Existing a... ▾	Technology sh... ▾	Set of countries involved in the Plan	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes	Each Country	Implementation of actions for sustainable low-carbon production	Existing a... ▾	Technology sh... ▾	Set of countries involved in the Plan	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes	Cross-border regions between countries	Implementation of integrated management actions for synergistic landscapes using an approach based on ecological and socio-biocultural connectivity corridors	Existing a... ▾	Demand ▾	Set of countries involved in the Plan	▮ ▾ 2028/Sem.1 ▾	Multi-stakeh... ▾	Defined by country



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Output	Action Scope	Action	Type of action	Implementation Lever	Responsible	Time horizon	Stakeholder engagement	Committed Stakeholders
Regional Planning and Multiscale Integrated Governance of Sustainable Landscapes	Plan Implementation Dimensions	Defining baselines for the land degradation emissions neutrality target for each country	Existing a... ▾	Knowledge & ... ▾	Each country	▮ ▾ 2026/Sem.2 ▾	Regulators ... ▾	Defined by country