

ADRA welcomes the COP30 Presidency's initiative to develop roadmaps on (i) transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly, and equitable manner, and (ii) halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

As a global humanitarian and development network operating in over 118 countries, ADRA brings field-based experience from climate-vulnerable and fragile contexts, where communities face limited livelihood options and systemic barriers to clean energy that continue to drive deforestation. We emphasize that achieving both objectives requires linking global ambition with locally led implementation and elevating locally driven solutions, grounded in the knowledge, priorities, and leadership of frontline communities. Community-level carbon approaches represent a critical, yet underutilized, pathway to do so.

### **Why Community-Level Carbon Matters**

Frontline communities are key stewards of forests and ecosystems yet remain largely excluded from climate finance and carbon market mechanisms. When designed with integrity, community-based carbon initiatives can:

- Deliver cost-effective mitigation and forest and biodiversity protection
- Provide predictable, long-term income streams for vulnerable populations
- Strengthen local governance and ownership of natural resources
- Align mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable livelihoods

This makes them directly relevant to both Presidency roadmaps.

### **Key Gaps**

Despite their potential, community-level approaches face persistent barriers:

- High entry thresholds (technical, financial, and administrative)
- Inequitable benefit-sharing, limiting local incentives
- Governance and integrity risks, including insufficient safeguards and weak application of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) ensuring Indigenous Peoples can give or withhold consent
- Fragmentation across frameworks, particularly between voluntary markets, national systems, and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Without addressing these gaps, carbon mechanisms risk bypassing those most critical to delivering outcomes on the ground.

## Recommendations to the COP30 Presidency

To ensure effective and equitable implementation, ADRA recommends:

### 1. Anchor community-based carbon in both roadmaps

Recognize these approaches as a core delivery mechanism for mitigation, forest protection, and just transition.

### 2. Reduce access barriers

Promote simplified methodologies, aggregation models, and targeted readiness support for small-scale and community-led initiatives.

### 3. Ensure integrity and equity

Strengthen safeguards, including robust FPIC application, transparent governance, and fair benefit-sharing arrangements.

### 4. Integrate livelihoods and resilience

Prioritize models that combine carbon outcomes with agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, degraded landscape restoration, and biodiversity conservation.

### 5. Improve coherence across systems

Enhance alignment between voluntary carbon markets, national registries, and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement to ensure integrity and scalability.

### 6. Mobilize dedicated finance

Establish funding windows and blended finance instruments to support early-stage, community-based carbon initiatives.

## Conclusion

Achieving both roadmaps will depend on closing the gap between global ambition and local reality—by placing frontline communities at the center of climate action as decision-makers, innovators, and stewards of natural resources.

Community-level carbon approaches are not a niche solution—they are a test of whether the transition is truly just. If designed with integrity, they can channel climate finance to those most affected, strengthen resilience in fragile contexts, and create sustainable economic alternatives that reduce pressure on forests and other vulnerable landscapes.

COP30 now has the opportunity to move from commitments to delivery.

This requires embedding community-centered, high-integrity approaches at the core of both roadmaps.

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