

# Igarapé Institute Contributions to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

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In a context of a weakened multilateral system, marked by growing skepticism about the ability of international processes to deliver concrete outcomes, the implementation of commitments made under the Paris Agreement, particularly in light of the first Global Stocktake (GST), has become the primary test of credibility for the climate regime and for global governance more broadly. The increasing proliferation of generic or non-operationalized commitments deepens the erosion of trust in multilateral institutions and reinforces the perception of a widening gap between political ambition and tangible delivery.

Against this backdrop, “roadmaps” have emerged as strategic instruments capable of translating ambition into concrete implementation pathways. By offering a practical, results-oriented approach, such instruments can help narrow the gap between ambition and execution, strengthen coordination among state and non-state stakeholders and public and private actors, and provide greater predictability in a context of geopolitical fragmentation.

The Igarapé Institute is an independent *think-and-do tank* with an observer status with the UNFCCC and the UNCBD since 2022,<sup>1</sup> is actively contributing to this effort, particularly through its engagement around the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Forest Degradation by 2030.<sup>2</sup> Building on this work, and in the spirit of the Global Climate *Mutirão*, Igarapé shares its perspectives also to the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels (TAFF Roadmap). The Institute offers input on two strategic priorities for a more effective and nature-positive energy transition:

**i) The energy transition and the protection of forests and ecosystems are interdependent pillars of the same climate response.** As underscored by the first Global Stocktake, achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement requires acting simultaneously on transitioning away from fossil fuel, halting and reversing deforestation, and scaling up nature-based solutions. Mitigation strategies focused solely on the energy transition will not be sufficient to limit global warming and avoid the most severe climate impacts.<sup>3</sup> The TAFF Roadmap should reflect this integrated logic in alignment with the Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation and the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T.

**ii) The transition must be carefully managed to avoid generating new environmental pressures.** Without integrated planning that jointly addresses climate, biodiversity, and land use, the expansion of low-carbon activities risks creating new trade-offs for people and nature. Renewable energy infrastructure (from wind and solar parks to bioenergy supply chains and critical mineral extraction) can have significant ecological impacts when poorly sited or inadequately planned.<sup>4</sup> The TAFF

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<sup>1</sup> Respectively, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

<sup>2</sup> Igarapé Institute (2026). [Towards a Roadmap to Zero Deforestation](#); and Szabó, I., Waisbich, L.T. and Kuele, G. (2026). [A roadmap to zero deforestation: a global platform for forests](#). *Exame*, 23 March 2026.

<sup>3</sup> World Meteorological Organization (2026). [State of the Global Climate 2025](#).

<sup>4</sup> Igarapé Institute (2025). [Climate-Nature Synergies](#).

Roadmap is well-placed to address this challenge by embedding nature considerations into energy transition planning from the outset rather than treating them as secondary concerns.

This contribution is organized in three parts. It opens with the case for an integrated climate-nature response to the energy transition, drawing on scientific evidence and concrete examples of both risks and opportunities. It then identifies the critical barriers that currently prevent such integration. Finally, it outlines key levers (from global governance to national implementation) through which the TAFF Roadmap can help advance a more effective and nature-positive energy transition.

## **1. The case for an integrated climate-nature response to the energy transition**

The energy transition and nature and biodiversity protection are both necessary and mutually reinforcing, but only when pursued in an integrated manner. The most authoritative scientific assessments, from the IPCC and IPBES,<sup>5</sup> consistently underscore the need to address the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in a coordinated way, maximizing synergies while avoiding unintended consequences.<sup>6</sup> An integrated approach that works with nature could reduce emissions by up to 11.7 gigatons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year by 2030, delivering over 40 per cent of the climate mitigation the world urgently needs.<sup>7</sup>

In this context, the energy transition presents risks and opportunities for nature. On the risk side, renewable energy infrastructure alters landscapes and habitats at a global scale, with documented impacts on species, populations, and ecosystem services. As renewable energy infrastructure scales up globally, its construction and operation alter landscapes and habitats in ways that can have compounded (and in some cases net negative) effects on biodiversity. For instance, wind installations can disrupt connectivity at a continental scale; large hydropower dams built in megabiodiversity river basins disrupt water flows and eliminate fish connectivity; and bioenergy monocultures replicate the biodiversity costs of intensive agriculture. Even auxiliary infrastructure (roads, transmission lines, mineral extraction for batteries) carries ecological costs that compound at scale.<sup>8</sup>

At the same time, the evidence points to real opportunities when the transition is well-governed. Healthy ecosystems underpin the transition itself; water availability, climate regulation, and soil stability are structural requirements for long-term energy system viability. Protecting and restoring nature is, therefore, not a constraint on the transition but a condition for its success. Moreover, a well-planned transition can actively generate co-benefits for ecosystems: solar parks sited in degraded areas and outside biodiversity hotspots can have neutral or even positive net effects on local biodiversity; curtailment measures for wind turbines during peak migration periods have proven effective at substantially reducing wildlife fatalities with minimal losses in energy output; and strategic land-use planning can minimize trade-offs between bioenergy and conservation when energy crops are placed on existing agricultural land rather than displacing native vegetation.

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<sup>5</sup> IPBES & IPCC (2021). [Scientific Outcome of the IPBES-IPCC Co-sponsored Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change](#)

<sup>6</sup> Igarapé Institute (2025). [Climate-Nature Synergies](#).

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme. [UNEP and nature-based solutions](#).

<sup>8</sup> WWF and BCG. (2023). [Building a Nature-Positive Energy Transformation: Why a low-carbon economy is better for people and nature](#); and Bauer, S., Lancaster, L. T., & Zimmermann, N. E. (2025). Towards a sustainable energy transition. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 62(7), 1570–1578.

Combining energy transition and biodiversity goals is both necessary and possible, but requires integrated planning from the outset, not mitigation as an afterthought.<sup>9</sup>

## 2. Critical barriers to synergetic transition

**Fragmented environmental governance.** A primary structural barrier is the fragmentation of global environmental governance frameworks. Although the three Rio Conventions<sup>10</sup> emerged together from the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, they continue to operate through separate institutions, mandates, reporting cycles, and financing channels. In practice, this creates overlaps, gaps, and at times conflicting incentives, with climate, biodiversity and land-use agendas frequently advancing in parallel, slowing implementation. The TAFF Roadmap could offer an opportunity to address this fragmentation by explicitly aligning with the Forest Roadmap and leveraging ongoing governance reform efforts.

**The persistence of fossil fuel dependence and the underdevelopment of nature-compatible alternatives.** In many forest- and biodiversity-rich regions, development models remain heavily dependent on extractive activities (including fossil fuels, mining, and land conversion for agriculture) that generate short-term economic returns while undermining long-term ecosystem viability.<sup>11</sup> Nature-compatible alternatives such as bioeconomy, restoration economies, and pathways that value standing forests remain insufficiently developed and financed, in part because current economic systems fail to adequately price or value ecosystem services.<sup>12</sup> As a result, transitioning away from fossil fuels does not automatically generate nature-positive outcomes: without deliberate policy and investment to develop these alternatives alongside the energy transition, the energy transition risks being replaced by other extractive pressures rather than by economies compatible with people and nature.

**The climate and nature finance gap.** A third structural barrier to a nature-positive energy transition is that climate finance and nature finance continue to operate largely in parallel. The flows mobilized for the energy transition remain heavily concentrated in energy infrastructure, with limited attention to biodiversity safeguards, land-use impacts, or the co-financing of nature-positive alternatives. Finance flows to Nature-based Solutions (NbS) represent less than 3 per cent of nature-negative finance flows, with private investment still concentrated in sectors such as utilities and energy.<sup>13</sup> An important step forward is the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T,<sup>14</sup> which explicitly recognizes that

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<sup>9</sup> IPBES & IPCC (2021). [Scientific Outcome of the IPBES-IPCC Co-sponsored Workshop on Biodiversity and Climate Change](#); WWF and BCG. (2023). [Building a Nature-Positive Energy Transformation: Why a low-carbon economy is better for people and nature](#); and Bauer, S., Lancaster, L. T., & Zimmermann, N. E. (2025). Towards a sustainable energy transition. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 62(7), 1570–1578. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.70075>.

<sup>10</sup> The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

<sup>11</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme (2025). [High-risk forests, high-value returns: A co-benefits assessment for decision-makers](#).

<sup>12</sup> Igarapé Institute (2025). [Private Sector Roadmap for a Sustainable Amazonia](#); Igarapé Institute (2024). [Re-Imagining Bioeconomy for Amazonia](#); and World Economic Forum. (2025). [Mainstreaming Natural Capital: Advancing the Global Agenda to Integrate](#)

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme (2023). [State of Finance for Nature](#).

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2025). [Report on the Baku to Belém roadmap to 1.3T](#).

climate finance increasingly overlaps with nature- and land-related investments, including forests, ecosystems, and agriculture, and identifies financing nature and supporting ecosystem guardians as core components of the transition. Building on this, scaling up finance for an integrated transition requires not only increasing overall volumes but ensuring that flows are genuinely additional and complementary, avoiding double counting across instruments, frameworks, and reporting systems, and strengthening coherence across investment pipelines capable of delivering co-benefits.<sup>15</sup>

### **3. Multilateral levers for a nature-positive energy transition**

At the global level, a key lever is stronger policy coherence across the three Rio Conventions. As climate impacts intensify, biodiversity loss accelerates and land degradation deepens, the costs of fragmented governance have become increasingly evident. In recent years, both the CBD and the UNCCD have advanced decisions aimed at strengthening policy coherence and multilateral coordination. Within the UNFCCC, a relevant opening emerged at COP30 through the agenda item on "cooperation with other international organizations," which can help create a more structured basis for dialogue across conventions and processes.<sup>16</sup>

The year 2026 will be particularly important for sustaining this momentum. As all three Rio Conventions will hold COPs in 2026, the year offers a timely political opportunity to strengthen coordination across the three processes and give greater practical relevance to cooperation agendas, including on the linkages between the energy transition, land use, and biodiversity. It also provides an opportunity to build on the direction set by the first GST, which made clear that achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement requires addressing land-use change and ecosystem loss alongside the energy transition.

A further lever is the alignment of the TAFF Roadmap with the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T and the COP30 Presidency Roadmap on Halting and Reversing Deforestation. Taken together, advances across these three tracks can help strengthen coherence between climate, land-use, nature, and finance agendas, creating more practical conditions for moving the implementation cycle of the Paris Agreement forward. In particular, aligning the TAFF Roadmap with the Forest Roadmap offers an opportunity to ensure that energy transition pathways are designed in ways that avoid generating new pressures on forests, ecosystems, and local communities and that nature-compatible economic alternatives are developed alongside clean power solutions.

Closing the implementation gap, therefore, requires not only better instruments and more finance but also stronger institutional alignment and coordination at the international level. In this regard, the Roadmap has an opportunity to connect with and inform broader reform efforts currently underway, including the UN80 Initiative<sup>17</sup> and proposals for a Global Climate and Nature Council within the UN system,<sup>18</sup> both of which point toward governance arrangements capable of reducing

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<sup>15</sup> Igarapé Institute (2026). [Towards a Roadmap to Zero Deforestation](#).

<sup>16</sup> Igarapé Institute (2026). [Climate-nature synergies at COP30 and beyond](#).

<sup>17</sup> A system-wide reform process launched by Secretary-General Guterres in March 2025 to make the United Nations more coherent, effective, and fit for purpose. See: United Nations. [UN80 Initiative](#).

<sup>18</sup> Building on the Brazilian President Lula 2024 call for a UN Climate Council: Presidency of the Republic of Brazil. (2024). [Speech by President Lula at the 3rd Session of the G20 Leaders' Meeting: Energy Transition and Sustainable Development](#); and Igarapé Institute (2025). [Towards a Global Climate and Nature Council: Underpinning the Global Mutirão and Modelling the Future of Governance](#).

fragmentation, providing political leadership, and sustaining momentum across the climate and nature agendas.

By strengthening coordination at the global level, this approach can support more integrated and cost-effective implementation at regional and national levels, helping countries identify and address potential trade-offs between energy transition pathways and land-use and biodiversity objectives, and, where conditions allow, turn those trade-offs into co-benefits.<sup>19</sup>

### **About Igarapé Institute**

The **Igarapé Institute** is an independent *think-and-do tank* that conducts research, develops solutions, and establishes partnerships to influence public and corporate policies and practices, addressing key challenges related to security, nature, and climate in Brazil and worldwide. Igarapé is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in Rio de Janeiro, operating at both local and global levels. The Igarapé Institute holds United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status since 2016 and observer status with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) since 2022.

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<sup>19</sup> Igarapé Institute (2025). [Climate-Nature Synergies](#).