The Climate Reality Project Japan Biodiversity Group
OUR INPUT FOR COP 30 Belém

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The Earth is facing an unprecedented crisis. In recent years, we have witnessed some of the hottest years on record, and the risk of the global average temperature exceeding the 1.5°C limit has become increasingly real.

As highlighted in reports by the IPCC[1] and IPBES[2], the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis are both driven by unsustainable production and consumption, and nature itself holds the key to addressing these challenges. Therefore, we consider biodiversity not as a mere ancillary concern but as an essential pillar for climate stability, and we believe that climate action and biodiversity conservation must advance together as mutually reinforcing efforts. Climate change and biodiversity loss are closely interconnected, and ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and mangroves provide multiple benefits, including carbon storage, water, food, and medicine provision, as well as disaster risk reduction. Sustainable land-use practices, including forest protection, restoration of degraded ecosystems, and agroforestry that leverages Indigenous knowledge, can simultaneously achieve climate mitigation and adaptation, maintain ecosystem services, and strengthen the resilience of local communities.

COP30, to be held in Belém, Brazil in 2025, represents a crucial opportunity to integrate climate action and biodiversity conservation and to strengthen international frameworks. We call for global climate measures to be designed with the restoration of biodiversity as a central pillar.

Biodiversity Group's Positions for COP30: Global and Japan-specific Perspectives

Point 1: Strengthening Funding and Policy for a New Biodiversity Conservation Framework

Global

We call for the establishment of a new global framework to protect critical ecosystems such as wetlands and mangroves, with active support from the international community through funding and policy measures.

Special attention must be given to Brazil's Pantanal and extensive mangrove forests. We support the "Mangrove Breakthrough" initiative, which the Brazilian government has pledged to advance in 2025. Protection and restoration of mangrove ecosystems should be accelerated, drawing on verifiable management frameworks such as those implemented in Sri Lanka.[3]

At COP30, mangroves and wetlands, which provide both carbon sequestration and coastal protection, should be recognized as key targets for Nature-based Solutions (NbS).[4] We call for strengthening international mechanisms, including carbon credit schemes to be used in instances where strictly reducing emissions is not feasible for conservation and restoration, wetland conservation incentives linked to national targets, and international fund support frameworks.

Moreover, climate adaptation and mitigation financing should be expanded and directly linked to forest conservation and the sustainable development of local communities. Central to this is the promotion of a just and renewable bioeconomy. Economic models that protect forests while creating jobs and income must respect local communities' rights and the diversity of native species. Integrating circular economy principles to reduce dependency on extractive resources, and promoting regenerative agriculture to restore soils, reduce pesticide use, and minimize food loss, are also urgent priorities.

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[1] https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/
[2] https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3553458
[3] https://srilanka.un.org/en/262045-mangrove-regeneration-sri-lanka-recognized-one-seven-un-world-restoration-flagships
[4] http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/ngeo1123

Japan

- Japan should integrate biodiversity into urban policies. Specifically, measures are needed to enhance resilience to climate change and improve quality of life through the creation of green corridors, restoration of small wetlands, and expansion of urban green spaces.
- To protect Japan's marine resources and ecosystems, we call for strengthened sustainable fisheries management, reduction of marine plastic pollution, and the establishment of new marine protected areas. Effective policies should be reinforced across Japan's extensive coastlines and Exclusive Economic Zone to ensure sustainable fisheries and reduce plastic pollution. Additionally, the creation of new marine protected areas is strongly encouraged to safeguard critical ecosystems, including coral reefs and habitats for marine mammals.

Point 2：A Nature-Positive Just Transition Addressing Both Climate Change and Biodiversity

Global

We call for a just transition based on biome conservation and strengthened environmental governance to simultaneously advance climate action and biodiversity protection.

First, in major biomes such as the Amazon, Cerrado, and Pantanal, it is essential to rigorously enforce laws against illegal logging and to expand protection coverage across these regions. In addition, we urge the Brazilian government to establish clear regulations and incentives for the financial sector to divest from deforestation and fossil fuel projects. Immediate suspension of oil exploration at the Amazon River estuary and the elimination of developments that undermine ecosystem resilience are also necessary. These measures represent responsible action aligned with the 1.5°C target and provide a pathway toward a sustainable future.

In particular, in the Amazon basin, where Indigenous peoples continue traditional land-use practices, it is crucial to ensure their full and meaningful participation in the development and implementation of forest protection policies. Furthermore, countries' NDCs must include clear targets and effective mechanisms for ecosystem conservation and restoration. Comprehensive policies of this nature are key to achieving a just transition that addresses both climate change and biodiversity, providing a sustainable foundation for future generations.

Japan

- Japan must strengthen forest management and regeneration. Post-war monoculture forests are aging, increasing the risk of landslides and causing biodiversity loss. Promoting a transition to native species and encouraging the sustainable use of domestically managed timber will support the regeneration of diverse forests.
- In deploying renewable energy, it is imperative to institutionalize biodiversity conservation. Legal frameworks should require the involvement of ecologists and natural science experts at every stage, including site selection, design, operation, and decommissioning, and they should mandate consultation and consensus-building with local communities. As numerous studies have shown, promoting renewable energy must be carried out in a way that coexists with nature.[5]

[5] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652623041161, https://doi.org/10.1787/357ac474-en

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The Climate Reality Project is a global initiative tackling the climate crisis through training and mobilizing people worldwide to accelerate climate action to reach true net zero by 2050.
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This document was prepared by volunteer members of the Biodiversity Group, one of the Action Groups of CRP Japan. It does not represent the official views of CRP Japan. The position paper summarizing CRP Japan's overall stance, which also incorporates some input from the Biodiversity Group, can be accessed at the following link: https://climaterealityjapan.org/01/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/EN-COP30-Position-Paper-Full.pdf