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Deep Dive: Land Tenure and 2024's triple COP Outcomes



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This technical report offers an in-depth exploration of the issues introduced in the policy brief, [“Unlocking Land Tenure: Pathways for Policy Action after the Triple COPs of 2024.”](#) Readers seeking a condensed overview are encouraged to consult the brief.

Disclaimer

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Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COP	Conferences of the Parties
CRIC	Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GM	Global Mechanism
IPLCs	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
KMGBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFP	National Focal Point
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLM	sustainable land management
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
URL	Urban–rural linkage
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security

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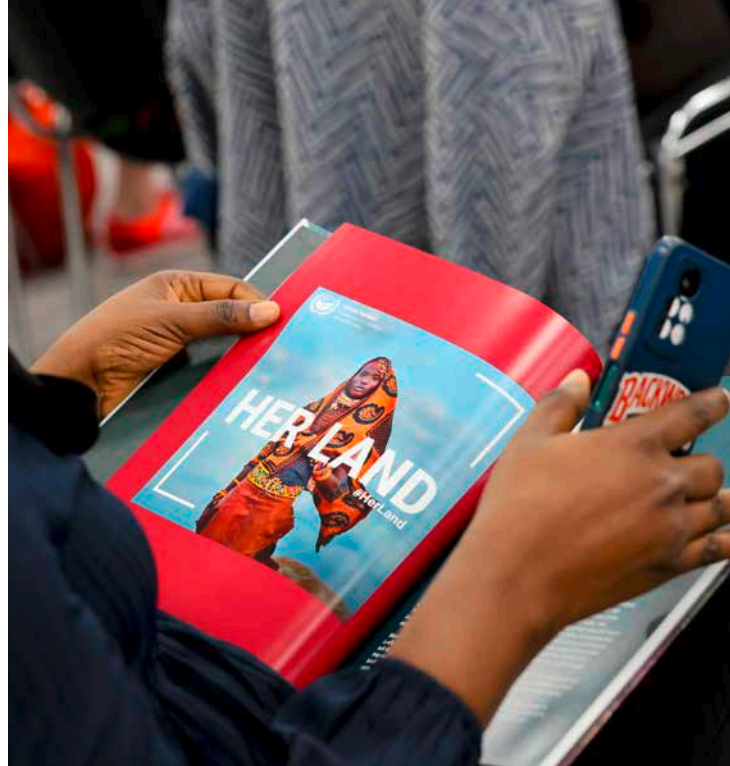
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In 2024, the three Rio Conventions held their Conferences of the Parties (COPs) successively in the same year for the first time. The triple planetary crisis – biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution – has increased the urgency of joint approaches that safeguard human rights, given the direct or indirect impacts of climate change, land degradation, and biodiversity loss on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), particularly women and other equity-deserving groups. The meeting of the three Conventions in the same year provides an opportunity to leverage synergies and foster alignment on the role and recognition of land rights as a driver of land-based commitments. Parties to each Convention have highlighted the importance of synergistic action. For example, at UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) COP16, Parties acknowledged that the implementation of the Convention is enhanced by strong collaborations with key agreements like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Paris Agreement (8/COP.16, preamble).

Strengthening land rights is critical to achieving climate justice and action. In relation to climate justice, the recognition of land rights empowers communities to provide leadership on land management initiatives based on conservation, restoration, and carbon markets, and to mitigate the risk of displacement from such activities. Secure land tenure also enables equitable access to climate finance, which can depend on legal recognition of formal and customary land rights (TMG 2024a). Regarding climate action, land rights protect vulnerable groups facing displacement, migration, or relocation, and enable investment in climate adaptation strategies (TMG 2024a).



UNCCD COP16, 4 December 2024 © Anastasia Rodopoulou

Clear tenure rights empower land users to invest in conservation, reducing degradation and enhancing resilience. Strengthening governance prevents conflicts and ensures equitable resource access, particularly for IPLCs and women (TMG 2024b). With regard to gender equality, secure land rights can enhance women's participation in decision-making processes related to land use and management. While existing gender inequalities often leave women more vulnerable to climate change, securing land and property rights can reduce this vulnerability by providing them with the resources and security needed to adapt to changing environmental conditions (Stanley & Lisher 2023).

Parties to the UNCCD adopted a landmark decision on land tenure at the 14th meeting of the COP, which recognized that responsible land governance is a fundamental component of sustainable land management (SLM) and important in addressing desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD). Given that decisions at COPs are taken by consensus – often following complex and lengthy negotiations among nearly 200 countries – reaching such an agreement reflects a significant political and procedural achievement. Parties were encouraged to recognize legitimate tenure rights, including customary rights, and were invited to grant legal recognition to equal use and ownership rights of land for women. Thus, UNCCD decisions clearly underscore the importance of acknowledging non-formalized and non-documented rights, customary rights, and women's land rights.

Women's Land Rights Initiative

The WLRI, hosted by TMG, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Huairou Commission, UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD, is a network of more than 60 partners dedicated to systematically embedding women's land rights within the three UN Rio Conventions on biodiversity, desertification, and climate change. The WLRI aims to enhance coordination across the Conventions to safeguard women's land rights, promote gender-equitable land governance, and support women's active role in climate action. Through strategic collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy, the WLRI ensures that global decisions are informed by local realities and prioritize women's meaningful contributions to advancing the Conventions' goals. Outcomes from the WLRI workshop were reviewed for this report and were built on to strengthen or identify relevant entry points for synergies.

1.2 Methodology: Objectives, audience, and approach

Reaching decisions at the COPs is a complex and often cumbersome process marked by continuous negotiations, amendments, and divergent viewpoints. As a result, while outcomes are eventually agreed upon, the information is typically dispersed across multiple documents and platforms. For stakeholders seeking to engage with specific topics, especially after decisions have been made, it can be challenging to identify a clear entry point for action.

As a first objective, this report aims to address this gap by compiling, from a land tenure perspective, the outcomes of the 2024 COPs of the three Rio Conventions: the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD, October 2024), the UNCCD (December 2024), and the UNFCCC (November 2024). This policy analysis focuses on land tenure, land rights, women's land rights, and the rights of IPLCs. As the first compilation of its kind, this "catalogue" provides a foundation for identifying synergies across the Rio Conventions. A second objective is to identify actionable entry points for civil society organizations (CSOs), National Focal Points (NFPs), women's caucuses, and the secretariats of the Rio Conventions to create synergies that strengthen the protection and recognition of land rights.

This paper builds on TMG's ongoing work on land tenure and climate, the advancement of land rights recognition within Rio Conventions spaces, and the Women's Land Rights Initiative, which seeks to advance the recognition and protection of legitimate land rights, and women's land rights in particular.

For this report, the audience are decision-makers and advocates in international policy, particularly those that engage with the Rio Conventions, in addition to stakeholders including grassroots organizations, civil society advocates, and individuals with an interest in the intersection of land rights with gender equality and human rights.

The report employs a qualitative content analysis framework, guided by six thematic pillars:

- 1 Land Tenure and Land Rights
- 2 Gender
- 3 Rights of IPLCs
- 4 Indicators and Monitoring
- 5 Inter-Convention Synergies
- 6 Human Rights.

In our approach, we reviewed outcomes from the triple-COP year in 2024 – including decisions, resolutions, and initiatives – that are directly or indirectly relevant to land tenure, land rights, women's land rights, and gender and human rights. We mapped out official decisions across the three Conventions, with keyword searches including the terms "land tenure", "land rights", "gender", "IPLCs", "synergies", and "cooperation". Relevant reports were also reviewed. Our analysis is presented in Section 2 of this report, and all literature reviewed is contained in the Bibliography section. Outcomes from the Women's Land Rights Initiative workshop were also reviewed and were built on to strengthen or identify relevant entry points for synergies (Section 3).

2 Outcomes from the triple-COP year

2.1 Decisions from the Rio Conventions

The respective decisions of the 2024 UNCCD, CBD, and UNFCCC COPs are discussed according to themes related to land tenure, women's land rights, the rights of IPLCs, human rights, participation, and synergies and cooperation. Selected relevant COP decisions are summarized

here, with decision names paraphrased for brevity (Tables 1–3). Decisions directly related to land tenure or land rights are shown in bold. This is to distinguish them from those which lend indirect support to land tenure through, for example, enhanced participation mechanisms in implementation of Convention targets. Annex I contains a more comprehensive overview of all relevant decisions.

Table 1: Reference table of key COP16 decisions corresponding to the UNCCD

UNCCD	
Land Tenure and Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Encourage Parties to integrate land tenure security into UNCCD implementation, aligning with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) (28/COP.16, 1). ▶ Invite Parties to integrate land tenure into national plans and prioritize data collection on legitimate tenure rights for voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) (28/COP.16, 2). ▶ Invite Parties to nominate a focal point for land tenure to improve coordination in national plans and activities (28/COP.16, 3). ▶ Utilize digital mapping to document legitimate and customary land tenure rights within national legal frameworks (28/COP.16, 7). ▶ Support initiatives restoring degraded land, improving land tenure, and creating rural jobs for IPLCs, women, and youth (23/COP.16, 1d). ▶ Strengthen tenure security in rangelands under the VGGT (29/COP.16, 3). ▶ Support Global Mechanism (GM) efforts on a business case and checklist for sustainable land tenure investments (28/COP.16, preamble). ▶ Align efforts with the VGGT, ensuring safeguards and inclusion of IPLCs, women, and youth (28/COP.16, 9b).
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Collect sex-disaggregated data on income, poverty, land ownership, migration, and other indicators through national statistics offices (25/COP.16, 2). ▶ Leverage the “Her Land. Her Rights.” campaign and recent workshops to enhance advocacy (25/COP.16, 7). ▶ Convene the Gender Caucus annually as part of COP and Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention programmes (25/COP.16, 8). ▶ Collaborate with Rio Conventions and international organizations to advocate for women’s land rights, especially for IPLCs (25/COP.16).
IPLCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop terms of reference for the creation of a Caucus, ensuring representation and alignment with Convention principles (5/COP.16, b). ▶ Facilitate consultations among Parties, UNCCD bodies, UN entities, and IPLCs before COP17 to strengthen participation (5/COP.16, a).
Indicators and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Explore existing global indicators and datasets on land governance, including IPLC and women's land rights (28/COP.16, e). ▶ Engage relevant partners to pilot potential indicators for future UNCCD reporting, ensuring alignment with national contexts and avoiding duplication (28/COP.16, e).

UNCCD	
Inter-Convention Synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Foster national cooperation among Rio Convention focal points and international processes to reduce policy fragmentation (8/COP.16, 3). ▶ Support coordination among NFPs and stakeholders, developing engagement plans with awareness strategies for policymakers, CSOs, IPLCs, farmers, and the private sector (8/COP.16, 7c). ▶ Raise awareness of land tenure grievance mechanisms through the Secretariat, GM, and Global Environment Facility, while encouraging Parties to strengthen national mechanisms for DLDD and LDN (28/COP.16, 10). ▶ Work with Rio Conventions, UN Women, and others to implement the Gender Action Plan (GAP), focusing on resource access, capacity-building, and SLM (25/COP.16, 6).
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote inclusive national dialogues on land tenure with CSOs to advance past decisions (28/COP.16, 4). ▶ Refine consultation methodologies using multi-stakeholder formats, ensuring dialogues at all levels and addressing legitimate and customary land tenure rights (28/COP.16, 5).

Table 2: Reference table of key COP16 decisions corresponding to the CBD

CBD	
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Emphasize gender equality in KMGBF implementation, ensuring women and girls have equal opportunities in biodiversity efforts (CBD/COP/DEC/16/7, Targets 22 & 23).
IPLCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Call for guidelines with IPLC participation to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for land tenure, Indigenous territories, and restoration efforts (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.1). ▶ Promote best practices for securing IPLC land tenure and integrating traditional lands into spatial planning and environmental impact assessments (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.2). ▶ Advocate for IPLC rights, including for those without formal land access, and their role in biodiversity conservation, restoration, and urban green spaces (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.3). ▶ Support securing IPLC land tenure to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with national laws (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 7.2). ▶ Reinforce free, prior, and informed consent for actions affecting IPLC lands and resources, ensuring compliance with national and international law (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6, 3e).
Indicators and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Endorse technical updates to headline and binary indicators for tracking biodiversity commitments (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 1), including Target 22 key land tenure indicators, to track land use change in IPLC territories and countries and ensure inclusive biodiversity decision-making (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 22). ▶ Urge integration of KMGBF Section C into implementation, disaggregating indicators by IPLC, gender, age, disability, and ecosystem type (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 14).
Inter-Convention Synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Urge national, regional, and subregional coordination among CBD focal points and other Conventions, while respecting their mandates (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 18). ▶ Call for continued cooperation with the UNFCCC and UNCCD through the Joint Liaison Group, exploring a joint programme of work (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 24b). ▶ Request collaboration among Rio Conventions for a technical information exchange in 2025 to enhance policy coherence in the CBD, KMGBF, UNFCCC, and Paris Agreement (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 19).

CBD	
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensure inclusive participation, engaging women, youth, IPLCs, CSOs, and stakeholders while aligning with national and international regulations (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13, 2). ▶ Request a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, ensuring safeguards are fit for purpose and reviewed before COP17 (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 17). ▶ Strengthen cooperation with global agreements, ensuring alignment with human rights law and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (CBD/COP/DEC/16/17, 12c). ▶ Invite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop tools for a human rights-based approach to KMGBF implementation (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 21). ▶ Ensure KMGBF implementation aligns with IPLC rights, complying with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and human rights law (CBD/COP/DEC/16/8).

Table 3: Reference table of key COP29 decisions corresponding to the UNFCCC

UNFCCC	
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reaffirm gender mainstreaming across climate targets and policies, emphasizing fairness, sustainability, and addressing gender disparities in climate impact, particularly for women, IPLCs, and developing countries (-/CP.29, preamble - Gender). ▶ Extend the Lima Work Programme on Gender for 10 years, with a review in 2029 (-/CP.29, 11-12 - Gender). ▶ Maintain a senior gender focal point to oversee gender mainstreaming (-/CP.29, 22 - Gender). ▶ Enhance gender inclusion by requesting a technical workshop and urging Parties to appoint gender and climate focal points (-/CP.29, 14, 17 - Gender).
IPLCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthen IPLC engagement, continuing the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) and integrating Indigenous voices in climate action (-/CP.29, 3 - IPLC). ▶ Reaffirm commitment to Indigenous rights under the Paris Agreement and UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (-/CP.29, Preamble - IPLC). ▶ Strengthen IPLC participation, requesting mechanisms for FWG members to engage in COPs and subsidiary bodies (-/CP.29, 9 - IPLC). ▶ Expand IPLC engagement in climate governance, maintaining open access to LCIPP events and encouraging stronger participation (-/CP.29, 15 - IPLC).
Indicators and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Streamline global indicators, focusing on common adaptation challenges and implementation factors (-/CMA.6, 10c, 10d).
Inter-Convention Synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enhance collaboration among expert groups, avoiding duplication and maximizing synergies in climate governance (FCCC/SBI/2024/L.16, 7).
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensure diverse representation in the UAE–Belém Work Programme, incorporating Indigenous and local knowledge into adaptation tracking (-/CMA.6, 9, 15). ▶ Develop inclusive adaptation indicators, addressing social inclusion, Indigenous rights, human rights, and gender equality (-/CMA.6, 19d). ▶ Expand IPLC engagement in climate governance, maintaining open access to LCIPP events and encouraging stronger participation (-/CP.29, 15 - IPLC).

2.1.1 UN Convention to combat desertification (UNCCD)

A Land tenure and rights

Secure land tenure and responsible governance are fundamental for achieving SLM and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), key pillars of activities under the UNCCD. At COP16, Parties adopted a suite of decisions to strengthen action on land tenure. The COP called for integrating land tenure security into national policies and LDN initiatives and highlighted how strengthening urban–rural linkages (URLs), restoring degraded land, and addressing land-related drivers of migration help ensure equitable access to land and sustainable livelihoods for vulnerable communities. The land tenure decision also urged enhanced synergies and cooperation for implementing the Rio Conventions, particularly in supporting responsible and inclusive land governance and secure land tenure.

Integrating land tenure security into UNCCD implementation

The COP encourages Parties to continue integrating land tenure security into the implementation of the Convention, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT, 28/COP.16, 1). To further strengthen this effort, the COP invites the Parties to incorporate land tenure into their plans and activities to combat DLDD, aiming to proactively collect data on legitimate land tenure rights in priority areas for voluntary LDN (28/COP.16, 2). In support of effective coordination, the COP invites Parties to consider nominating a focal point for land tenure to coordinate the integration of land tenure into their plans and activities (28/COP.16, 3).

Additionally, the COP invites developed country Parties, other Parties, relevant UN entities, international financial organizations, and private sector institutions to support:

- the design and implementation of land tenure administration systems to strengthen responsible governance of tenure, in line with the VGGT
- the delivery of requested national consultations to integrate land tenure into LDN initiatives (28/COP.16, 8).



UNCCD COP16, December 2024 © COP16 Riyadh, 2024

To complement these efforts, the COP invites the Group on Earth Observations LDN Initiative, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Committee on World Food Security, and other relevant stakeholders to provide data, tools, approaches, and capacity development for evidence-based decision-making. This support may include innovative digital approaches to mapping legitimate land tenure rights, including customary rights, in accordance with national legal frameworks and upon request from Parties (28/COP.16, 7).

Urban–rural linkages to address land degradation and migration

At COP16, the UNCCD Secretariat was requested to assist Parties in strengthening URLs through territorial governance systems to support the achievement of voluntary LDN targets and enhance the implementation of the Convention (23/COP.16, 3a). Parties were encouraged to review development policies, including those on integrated land use planning, land tenure, and agricultural practices, to promote ecosystem conservation, sustainable land use, and land restoration, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards (23/COP.16, 1b).

Furthermore, the COP encourages Parties to implement land use planning that integrates sustainable land and ecosystem management, including land restoration, as a key strategy for combating DLDD, as well as sand and dust storms. (23/COP.16, 1c).

Global Mechanism efforts on land tenure

The COP acknowledged that further efforts are needed in policy and programming to integrate land tenure into the implementation of the Convention. As part of these efforts, the COP encourages Parties to enhance tenure security in rangelands in alignment with the VGGT (29/COP.16, 3).

The COP welcomed the GM work in developing the business case for responsible and sustainable public and private investments in land tenure and the checklist for integrating land tenure into projects and programmes where appropriate (28/COP.16, preamble). Building on the business case, they will implement the tenure checklist to identify financing opportunities and promote sustainable investments in land governance and tenure to combat DLDD (28/COP.16, 9b). These efforts involve relevant partners and financing institutions, align with the VGGT in the Context of National Food Security, uphold social and environmental safeguards, and ensure the full and effective participation of IPLCs, women, and youth (28/COP.16, 9b).

The Secretariat and the GM are asked to communicate the business case, tenure checklist, and financing opportunities, providing guidance on their use in updating national LDN plans while ensuring a do-no-harm approach that safeguards legitimate land tenure rights (28/COP.16, 9c). Moreover, they will compile and publish key land tenure documents related to DLDD through a land tenure toolbox on the UNCCD website. This toolbox includes COP decisions, the technical guide on integrating the VGGT in the Context of National Food Security into the implementation of the UNCCD, a mapping of financing institutions, the business case, the tenure checklist, policy briefs, and other relevant resources (28/COP.16, 9f).

B Participation and engagement

Inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue is key to strengthening land tenure security. This section highlights the COP's commitment to engaging CSOs, refining consultations, and ensuring broader representation, particularly for vulnerable communities. CSOs bridge governments and communities, advocating for policy reforms and inclusive land governance (TMG 2024b). Strengthening their capacity enhances advocacy, partnerships, and tenure security through participatory consultations (TMG 2024b). Weak governance and inequitable land access undermine DLDD efforts, making CSO engagement essential (FAO & UNCCD 2022). By promoting participatory governance, the COP aims to enhance equitable and sustainable land management.

Strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogues on land tenure

Agenda-setting at the national level

The COP encourages Parties to promote inclusive and participatory national-level dialogues, including partnering with civil society, to enhance the implementation of Decisions 26/COP.14 (Gender Caucus) and 27/COP.15 (Sand and dust storms) (28/COP.16, 4). These consultations should:

- ▶ build on existing multi-stakeholder formats
- ▶ include dialogues at different levels, from local to national
- ▶ discuss legitimate land tenure rights, including customary rights, within the respective national context and legal frameworks (28/COP.16, 5).

To promote more balanced and equitable representation, the COP encourages countries with no or few CSOs accredited to the COP to facilitate and promote their involvement in the UNCCD process at the international level (5/COP.16, 4). This is particularly important for CSOs working with people in vulnerable situations, including IPLCs, people living in rural areas, women, youth, and persons with disabilities (5/COP.16, 4).

UNCCD process

The role of CSOs is critical in addressing these challenges. The COP recognizes the importance of engaging CSOs most affected by DLDD in the UNCCD (5/COP.16). In addition, to strengthen the participation of CSOs, the Secretariat is requested to continue working with key stakeholders, including IPLC organizations, youth, farmer organizations, pastoralist groups, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, to strengthen their engagement in the UNCCD process (5/COP.16, 5).

Addressing weak land governance and tenure insecurity demands inclusive dialogue and collaborative action. To strengthen collaborative efforts, the COP welcomed the open dialogue sessions organized by CSOs as part of the official agenda of COP16, as well as the Youth Forum, the Gender Caucus, and the first Indigenous Peoples' Forum convened during COP16 (5/COP.16). Furthermore, the COP reiterates its request to the Secretariat and the GM, pursuant to Decision 27/COP.15, to continue supporting Parties integrating land tenure considerations into the Convention LDN initiatives (28/COP.16, 9), and to organize further consultations to assist Parties in incorporating land tenure into LDN targets, plans, projects, and programmes (28/COP.16, 9a).

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Agenda-setting at the national level

The COP requests that the Secretariat continue collaborating with the other Rio Conventions, relevant conventions, and international organizations, including UN Women, to support the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and its Roadmap. This collaboration should address critical issues for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment, focusing on access to resources, capacity-building, and technologies for SLM and women's economic empowerment (25/COP.16, 6).

UNCCD process

The Gender Caucus serves as a platform to identify bottlenecks in GAP implementation, share best practices, and promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment. It also aims to encourage the participation and engagement of women and girls from IPLCs, youth, and CSOs (25/COP.16, 8). Additionally, the COP requests that the Secretariat facilitate the convening of the Gender Caucus as part of the official programme of work for both the COP and the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) on an annual basis, as well as informal sessions (25/COP.16, 8).

Youth engagement in land stewardship

The COP expressed appreciation for the observance of Desertification and Drought Day 2024. The COP requests that the Secretariat support and guide Parties and other stakeholders in implementing the Youth Engagement Strategy. This includes supporting the convening of the UNCCD Youth Caucus, the Land Heroes campaign, and other youth-led initiatives, such as the Land Youth Negotiators Programme, within available financial resources (5/COP.16, 6).

C Gender Action Plan implementation and policy framework

Securing women's land rights is essential for equitable land governance and combating land degradation. This section highlights the COP's commitment to the UNCCD GAP, calling for awareness-raising, policy action, and data collection to address discrimination and strengthen women's access to land and natural resources. By promoting collaboration among governments, UN bodies, and civil society, these efforts aim to enhance tenure security, livelihoods, and SLM.

Promoting gender equality and women's land rights

The COP notes that the GAP of the UNCCD prioritizes strengthening women's land rights and access to natural resources as a key area for action (28/COP.16). In this context, the COP requests efforts to:

- raise awareness of responsible land governance for combating DLDD
- engage Parties, UN organizations, civil society, and key partners
- improve the livelihoods of vulnerable populations, including IPLCs, rural populations, women, youth, and persons with disabilities (28/COP.16, d).

The COP also invites Parties to address the gender data GAP by collecting sex-disaggregated data through national statistics offices and systems (25/COP.16, 2).

Strengthening implementation through collaboration and partnerships

To enhance implementation efforts, the COP requests that the Secretariat expand activities that empower women and girls in the implementation of the Convention, both at the country level and within Convention institutions, in alignment with the GAP (2/COP.16, 5a).

The COP requests that the Secretariat continue collaborating with the other Rio Conventions, relevant conventions, and international organizations in advocating for the recognition and expansion of women's land rights, particularly for IPLCs. These efforts should build on the high-level advocacy and global visibility achieved by the "Her Land. Her Rights." campaign, as well as the collaborative momentum from recent workshops on leveraging synergies between the Rio Conventions and other key actors on women's land rights (25/COP.16, 7).

The COP further requests that the GM continue establishing, strengthening, and evaluating partnerships to design flagship initiatives and projects that promote gender equality and women's empowerment in land tenure establishment, efforts to combat DLDD, and the achievement of LDN (25/COP.16, 9).

D Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Strengthening IPLC land rights and participation is crucial for SLM and rangeland conservation. This section highlights the COP's commitment to enhancing IPLC engagement through awareness-raising, capacity-building, and participatory governance. It emphasizes the need for community-led approaches to land stewardship and calls for data collection on IPLC land rights to inform policies and strengthen tenure security. By supporting inclusive decision-making and the establishment of an IPLC Caucus, the COP aims to ensure representativeness and safeguard IPLC perspectives in land governance efforts.

Strengthening IPLC participation and engagement

The COP requests that the Secretariat and GM support Parties in awareness-raising, capacity-building, and resource mobilization through inclusive, community-based, and participatory approaches. These efforts should meaningfully engage pastoralist and other rangeland communities, including IPLCs, to strengthen their role in sustainable rangeland management (29/COP.16, 5). In particular, the Secretariat is requested, subject to the availability of resources, to

- facilitate consultations among Parties, UNCCD institutions and bodies, UN entities, and civil society – especially IPLCs – before the 17th session of the COP, to strengthen their participation in the UNCCD
- support, as appropriate, the development of relevant terms of reference for the creation of a Caucus for IPLCs, ensuring an approach that guarantees representativeness and reflects the unique perspectives and priorities of IPLCs, in alignment with the principles of the Convention (5/COP.16, a-b).

Data and indicators on land governance and IPLC rights

The COP calls for an exploration of existing global indicators and datasets related to land governance, including data on IPLC and women's land rights. When appropriate, relevant partners and institutions should be engaged to pilot options for integrating potential indicators into future UNCCD reporting processes. This approach aims to ensure alignment with national contexts while avoiding duplication of efforts (28/COP.16, e).

E Cooperation

This section underscores the COP's commitment to enhancing coordination among the Rio Conventions, international agreements, and financial institutions to reduce policy fragmentation and align global efforts. It calls for multi-stakeholder engagement, public-private partnerships, and resource mobilization to address DLDD through integrated and nature-based solutions. By reinforcing accountability mechanisms, supporting grievance systems, and promoting regional cooperation, these efforts aim to build resilience, improve land governance, and foster sustainable development.

Enhancing coordination and synergies

The COP encourages Parties, where appropriate, to leverage synergies at the national level in the planning and implementation of the three Rio Conventions through integrated actions and approaches (8/COP.16, 1). It also invites Parties to engage nationally to foster cooperation among NFPs of the Rio Conventions and other relevant international processes, aiming to reduce policy fragmentation (8/COP.16, 3).

To support these efforts, the COP calls on the Secretariat and relevant Convention bodies to support Parties in enhancing coordination among NFPs and key stakeholders. It also requests that they develop stakeholder engagement plans that include awareness-raising and information dissemination strategies targeting policymakers, women, youth, CSOs, IPLCs, landowners, land managers, farmers, pastoralists, the media, and the private sector (8/COP.16, 7c).

Strengthening partnerships and mobilizing resources for DLDD actions

To reinforce existing partnerships and explore new ones, the COP encourages enhanced collaboration with key initiatives, including the Group of Twenty Global Land Initiative, the Group on Earth Observations LDN Flagship Initiative, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, the Changwon Initiative, the International Drought Resilience Alliance, and the Peace Forest Initiative (8/COP.16, 7a). Furthermore, the COP calls for stronger coordination with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This includes engaging in common work under the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and collaborating with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), UN entities, and partners to develop best practices, technical guidance, and capacity-building initiatives related to UNCCD policy frameworks (8/COP.16, 7b).

In addition, the COP invites the Secretariat and the GM, together with the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to carry out awareness-raising actions regarding their existing accountability and grievance mechanisms related to land tenure. This outreach aims to ensure the widest possible engagement of all stakeholders concerned with their activities. To complement these efforts, the COP further invites Parties to consider establishing and/or strengthening their accountability and grievance mechanisms at national and subnational levels, as appropriate, to support national activities aimed at combating DLDD and achieving LDN (28/COP.16, 10).

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2.1.2 UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

A Participation and involvement

Parties, governments at all levels, and relevant stakeholders are urged to promote inclusive and transparent participation in biodiversity governance. This includes ensuring the full and effective engagement of women, youth, IPLCs, CSOs, academia, the private sector, and all levels of government in the revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (CBD/COP/DEC/16/1). Additionally, the COP calls for biodiversity mainstreaming across all sectors, with support from international organizations, business, and financial sectors, to align efforts with the three objectives of the CBD. A key focus is enabling gender-responsive and socially inclusive participation across governance structures, fostering contributions from all stakeholders while ensuring compliance with relevant national and international regulations (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13).

B Monitoring of the KMGBF

The monitoring framework for the KMGBF outlines key measures to track biodiversity commitments. Strengthening community-based monitoring systems is emphasized to ensure effective incorporation of relevant component, complementary, national, and local indicators, including traditional knowledge indicators.

The COP endorses technical updates to the headline and binary indicators within the monitoring framework (Annex I, CBD/COP/16/L.26/Rev1, 1). The headline indicators for Target 22 are presented in Table 4.



Table 4: Headline indicators for Target 22 of the KMGBF

Target	Headline Indicator
22 Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for all	22.a Land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities 22.b Number of countries taking action towards the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders
23 Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action	23.b Number of countries with legal, administrative or policy frameworks, inter alia, to implement the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030), to ensure that all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by ensuring women's equal rights and access to land and natural resources

In addition, Parties and governments, including local and subnational authorities, are urged to integrate Section C of the KMGBF into their implementation efforts. This includes disaggregating headline indicators by IPLC, sex, age, persons with disabilities, and other relevant groups, as well as by ecosystem type (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 14). They are also encouraged to strengthen their monitoring systems, through a participatory approach involving all relevant institutions, IPLCs, women, youth, and relevant stakeholders, with support from international organizations and initiatives, to facilitate reporting against indicators in the seventh national report, due in February 2026 (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 19). Additionally, Parties and relevant organizations, including the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, IPLCs, women, and youth, are encouraged to exchange knowledge and build capacity related to headline, component, and complementary indicators, particularly in alignment with Section C of the KMGBF (CBD/COP/16/L.26/Rev1, 25).

C Gender

Parties, along with other governments at national, subnational, and local levels, are urged to undertake biodiversity mainstreaming, as reflected in the KMGBF, in a manner supportive of the three objectives of the CBD to integrate biodiversity considerations at all levels of government and society (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13, 2). The initiative aims to foster meaningful and

effective contributions from women, youth, IPLCs, CSOs, and other stakeholders by ensuring that biodiversity mainstreaming is conducted inclusively, aligned with relevant national and international regulations, and adapted to specific sectoral needs as appropriate (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13, 2).

D Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Securing IPLC land rights is critical for biodiversity conservation, SLM, and governance. This section highlights the COP's commitment to strengthening legal and policy frameworks through IPLC participation, tenure security, and the integration of traditional lands into planning processes. It emphasizes the recognition of IPLC knowledge systems, ensuring land and biodiversity policies respect their rights through free, prior, and informed consent. By promoting data accessibility, intergenerational equity, and inclusive decision-making, these efforts seek to empower IPLCs as key partners in land governance and conservation.

IPLCs and land tenure

The COP decided to establish a subsidiary body on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the CBD related to IPLCs. This body is mandated to provide advice to the COP on matters relevant to IPLCs that fall within the scope of the Convention and its Protocols (CBD/COP/DEC/16/5, 1). Article 8(j) Section III

outlines key elements to strengthen land tenure and governance. To further support these efforts, guidelines should be developed with the full and effective participation of IPLCs to enhance legal and policy frameworks for implementing Targets 2 and 3, including on Indigenous and traditional territories for supporting protection and restoration practices led by these IPLCs (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.1). In addition, it is crucial to identify and promote best practices for securing land tenure by IPLCs and the development of guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and resource use into spatial planning and environmental impact assessments, in line with national legislation and international obligations (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.2).

Article 8(j) Section III also highlights the need to promote the rights of IPLCs without formal land access, including in urban areas, and to collaborate with them in biodiversity conservation, protection, and restoration, and in the maintenance of blue and green spaces (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.3). Finally, it calls for the support and promotion of traditional land tenure and securing land tenure for IPLCs to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with national legislation (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 7.2).

IPLCs and the KMGBF

The COP invites Parties, in accordance with national legislation and circumstances, to recognize the contributions of people of African descent, particularly collectives that embody traditional lifestyles (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6, 1). This includes acknowledging their shared knowledge and deep connection with their lands in implementing the CBD and the KMGBF, while ensuring that such recognition does not diminish or affect the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, either currently held or acquired in the future (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6, 1).

The KMGBF is to be implemented, reported, and evaluated in alignment with the rights and contributions of IPLCs and with recognition of their essential roles as custodians of biodiversity and partners in conservation, restoration, and sustainable use. The Framework recalled that its implementation must comply with international instruments, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and human rights law, ensuring that no provision diminishes or extinguishes the rights that Indigenous peoples currently hold or may acquire in the future (CBD/COP/DEC/16/8).

The COP emphasizes the importance of recognizing diverse values, worldviews, and knowledge systems, including the traditional knowledge of IPLCs. It calls for intersectional approaches to ensure actions are contextually relevant in respecting, protecting, promoting, and fulfilling human rights, while also enhancing empowerment, agency, and intergenerational equity (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6, 3e). Furthermore, the decision highlights the need to enhance empowerment, agency, and intergenerational equity, as well as the protection of IPLCs' rights over their lands, territories, and resources, and to ensure that potential synergies between biodiversity and climate actions – whether directly or indirectly affecting land or human rights – are undertaken only with IPLCs' free, prior, and informed consent. Such actions must comply with national legislation and align with international instruments (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6, 3e).

E Human rights and safeguards

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is invited to develop tools and guidance on integrating a human rights-based approach into the implementation of the KMGBF and to convey the results to the Secretariat (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 21). Parties are urged to ensure that actions taken toward achieving Targets 8 and 11 of the Framework, along with related targets, are aligned with national circumstances, priorities, and capabilities, and that they fulfill their obligations under relevant MEAs to implement effective social and environmental safeguards (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 3).

The Executive Secretary is requested to develop a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, ensuring resource availability and avoiding duplication of efforts. This supplement will provide guidance and tools for the design, implementation, and scaling-up of nature-based solutions to meet Targets 8 and 11 and their related goals. Additionally, it calls for updating fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards, based on existing frameworks, for review by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice before the 17th meeting of the COP (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 17).

F Cooperation

The FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are invited, in collaboration with the Rio Conventions and other relevant partners, to continue implementing the Framework. This includes advancing efforts through the Roadmap for Target 2 in consultation with Parties, governments, IPLCs, women and youth groups, persons with disabilities, and other relevant stakeholders (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 6).

Parties, governments, relevant multilateral agreements, intergovernmental processes, international organizations and initiatives, IPLCs, women, and youth organizations are encouraged to use relevant tools and guidance to implement the Framework, adapting them as needed to the national context. They are also urged to share experiences and lessons learned to overcome challenges at the national level (CBD/COP/DEC/16/12, 3).

Additionally, the Executive Secretary, subject to resource availability, is requested to enhance cooperation and synergies with MEAs, regional organizations, global initiatives, and relevant stakeholders, including IPLCs, women, and youth representatives. These efforts should align with national legislation, human rights law, and international instruments, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, while supporting marine, coastal, and island biodiversity. The goal is to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (CBD/COP/DEC/16/17, 12c).

G Synergies

The COP welcomes the *Global Land Outlook: Thematic Report on Rangelands and Pastoralists*, launched on 21 May 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, which underscores the importance of healthy rangelands for environmental sustainability and socio-economic development (29/COP.16). Furthermore, the COP appreciates the potential synergies between these efforts and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030), along with other multilateral frameworks and processes relevant to rangelands and pastoralism (29/COP.16). The COP requests that the Secretariat report on progress made to the COP at its 17th session (29/COP.16, 7).

The Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions are recognized for enhancing cooperation and synergies among the Conventions (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 4). Parties to the Rio Conventions are invited to strengthen cooperation in implementing each Convention, considering national circumstances and priorities (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 5). Additionally, Parties are urged to establish national, regional, and subregional coordination mechanisms to enhance collaboration among CBD NFPs and those of other Conventions, while respecting the independent mandates of each Convention (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 18).

UNEP is encouraged to continue supporting collaboration among biodiversity-related Conventions and MEAs to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the CBD, its Protocols, and the Framework (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 12). The Executive Secretary is requested to continue collaborating with Convention secretariats and UNEP to support the implementation of specific Framework targets (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 24 a). This includes ongoing cooperation with the UNFCCC and the UNCCD through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, identifying opportunities for collaboration and exploring the potential for a joint programme of work of the Rio Conventions to be considered ahead of the meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and COP17 (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 24 b).

Additionally, the Executive Secretary is requested to invite Parties, observers, and stakeholders to submit their views on options for enhanced policy coherence, including a potential joint work programme of the Rio Conventions, by May 2025. These inputs will be compiled and submitted to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and later reviewed by the SBSTTA before COP17.

Furthermore, the Executive Secretary is asked to invite the executive secretaries of the other Rio Conventions to collaborate on the organization of a technical information exchange in 2025. The exchange will explore options to enhance cooperation and policy coherence, thereby supporting the implementation of the CBD, the KMGBF, the UNFCCC, and the Paris Agreement (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 19).



21 November 2024, Pavilions: Where Ideas Meet Action © COP29 Azerbaijan, 2024

2.1.3 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Strengthening existing frameworks and initiatives is essential to safeguarding rights and promoting rights-based approaches in land- and forest-centered climate change mitigation (Betge et al. 2024). In this context, the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement reaffirms that climate change is a common concern of humankind. Parties should respect, promote, and consider their obligations on human rights, the right to health, and the rights of IPLCs, migrants, children, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable groups, as well as the right to development, gender equality, women's empowerment, and intergenerational equity in climate action (SBSTA 60, Art. 6.4).

A Participation and involvement

To strengthen IPLC participation, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board is urged to continue incorporating the needs of frontline communities, including IPLCs, in its decision-making processes, in line with existing GCF policies (FCCC/CP/2024/L.10, 15). The COP welcomes the progress of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) in facilitating the implementation of its functions (-/CP.29, 1 - IPLC). To ensure sustained participation, the COP has decided to continue the mandate of the FWG, reinforcing its role in advancing the engagement of IPLCs in climate action (-/CP.29, 3 - IPLC).

To strengthen gender-inclusive participation, the COP requests the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), with the support of the Secretariat, to organize a technical workshop at the 62nd session of the SBI. The workshop will facilitate the design of GAP activities, considering progress, challenges, gaps, and priorities identified by Parties and observers during the review, as well as the information in the synthesis report (-/CP.29, 14 - Gender). To further support capacity-building and knowledge-sharing, the COP has decided that additional in-person or hybrid technical workshops may be held throughout 2025, alongside existing events such as regional climate weeks, to ensure inclusive and balanced geographical representation (-/CP.29, 16 - Gender). To enhance institutional gender engagement, the COP encourages Parties to appoint and support a national gender and climate change focal point to oversee climate negotiations, implementation, and monitoring (-/CP.29, 17 - Gender).

Additionally, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) underscores the need to integrate traditional, Indigenous, and local knowledge systems in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)–Belém work programme (-/CMA.6, 15). To further enhance inclusivity, the CMA stresses the need for indicators that capture information on social inclusion, Indigenous Peoples, participatory processes, human rights, gender equality, migrants, children and young people, and persons with disabilities. These indicators will ensure that adaptation efforts reflect diverse perspectives and effectively address the needs of all communities (-/CMA.6, 19d).

A Gender (Decision -/CP.29 – Gender and Climate Change)

The COP takes note of the synthesis report outlining progress, challenges, gaps, and priorities in implementing the GAP, along with future work on gender and climate change. It also acknowledges the summary report from the in-session workshop held at the 60th session of the SBI and recognizes efforts by Parties, UNFCCC constituted bodies, the Secretariat, and observers in advancing the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its GAP (-/CP.29, 1 - Gender) (Section 2.1.3.2.1). Furthermore, it acknowledges the synthesis report by the Secretariat on gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies, and actions, as reported by Parties, and the progress reflected therein (-/CP.29, 3 - Gender).

Gender Action Plan for the Lima Work Programme on Gender (Decision -/CP.29 – Gender and Climate Change)

The decision acknowledges the important role of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its GAP in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls within the UNFCCC process, as demonstrated by their review by the SBI (Decision -/CP.29 - Gender).

The decision takes note of the synthesis report on progress, challenges, gaps, and priorities in implementing the GAP, as well as future work on gender and climate change. It recognizes the actions taken by Parties, UNFCCC constituted bodies, the Secretariat, and observers in advancing the implementation of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its GAP. In support of these efforts, Parties are invited to include information on their initiatives and progress in implementing the Lima Work Programme on Gender and any subsequent GAP in their national reporting under the UNFCCC process, as applicable (Decision -/CP.29, 1, 9 - Gender).

The decision extends the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender for a period of 10 years, reaffirming the long-term commitment to advancing gender equality in climate action (Decision -/CP.29, 11 - Gender). The decision requests that the SBI begin developing a new GAP at its 62nd session in June 2025. The goal is to recommend a draft decision for consideration and adoption by the COP at its 30th session in November 2025 (Decision -/CP.29, 13 - Gender).

The COP encourages facilitating simplified access to climate finance for grassroots women's organizations, Indigenous Peoples – especially women – and local communities (-/CP.29, 20). The decision also emphasizes the urgent need for scaled-up support for developing country Parties to implement the Lima Work Programme on Gender and any future GAPs in line with relevant provisions of the Convention (-/CP.29, 21 - Gender). Furthermore, Parties are invited to provide support to developing countries in addressing gender-related actions under the Convention, including those related to the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and future GAPs (-/CP.29, 24 - Gender).

The Secretariat is requested to maintain a senior gender focal point to ensure expertise and oversight in implementing the Lima Work Programme on Gender and any subsequent GAP. Additionally, the Secretariat is tasked with facilitating coordination with UN entities, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations to support gender-related climate action, as well as strengthening the skills and capacities of national gender and climate change focal points (-/CP.29, 22 a, d, e - Gender).

B Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (Decision -/CP.29 – LCIPP)

The COP recalls the Paris Agreement and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, reaffirming the commitment to recognizing and respecting Indigenous rights in climate action (-/CP.29, Preamble - IPLC). It acknowledges the critical role of IPLCs in nature stewardship and climate leadership, while also recognizing that these groups face disproportionate impacts of climate change (-/CP.29, Preamble - IPLC). The COP further recognizes that Indigenous knowledge systems are deeply embedded in their identities, values, spiritualities, and worldviews, and that local knowledge and value systems are shaped by the unique contexts of their respective communities. These diverse knowledge systems contribute significantly to climate resilience and sustainable practices.

Additionally, the COP reaffirms that sustainable and just climate solutions must be rooted in meaningful and effective social dialogue, ensuring the participation of all stakeholders, including IPLCs. Furthermore, the LCIPP is recognized for

its role in strengthening the capacity of IPLCs to effectively engage in the inter-governmental climate process under the Paris Agreement (-/CP.29, Preamble - IPLC).

The COP requests that the Secretariat explore mechanisms that would enable members of the FWG, particularly those representing Indigenous Peoples organizations, to participate in sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP when carrying out their specific tasks within the FWG (-/CP.29, 9 - IPLC).

C Cooperation

Cooperation remains a key driver in strengthening climate action, ensuring gender-responsive approaches, and enhancing the engagement of IPLCs. Across various initiatives, collaboration among expert groups, financial institutions, and international frameworks continues to align efforts for more effective and inclusive climate governance.

The SBI encouraged the Consultative Group of Experts to enhance collaboration with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, as well as with multilateral programmes and organizations, to maximize synergies and avoid duplication in implementing its 2025 workplan (FCCC/SBI/2024/L.16, 7).

Further supporting coordinated action, the COP welcomes ongoing efforts by the GCF, in collaboration with the GEF, the Adaptation Fund, and the Climate Investment Funds, to improve access to climate finance and scale up successful projects with greater coherence (FCCC/CP/2024/L.10, 3h).

Effective integration of gender considerations into climate action requires coordinated efforts across multiple UN processes. The decision highlights the importance of coherence with relevant UN processes, particularly the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to improve efficiency and effectiveness in mainstreaming gender considerations (-/CP.29, 7 - IPLC). To support this goal, UN entities are encouraged to collaborate with Parties to integrate gender- and age-disaggregated data into policies, mechanisms, and programmes at all levels of governance.

The LCIPP plays a critical role in fostering inclusive dialogue and ensuring IPLCs contribute meaningfully to climate governance. To further enhance the engagement of IPLCs, the COP encourages Parties,

relevant constituted bodies, particularly the FWG, and representatives of work-streams under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to explore ways to strengthen participation (-/CP.29, 15 - IPLC).

Stakeholders are invited to submit feedback by 1 November 2026 on the impact of the LCIPP's work, which will serve as input for the 2027 review of the FWG (-/CP.29, 19 - IPLC). Finally, the COP invites interested Parties and organizations to provide financial support for the implementation of the LCIPP's functions (-/CP.29, 21 - IPLC).

2.2 Relevant processes

Apart from official decisions of the Rio Conventions, several parallel processes, initiatives, and commitments are relevant to the themes addressed above (land tenure, land rights, women's land rights, and cooperation and synergies) and are loosely categorized under the relevant Convention.

2.2.1 UN Convention to combat desertification (UNCCD)

- The [Riyadh Action Agenda](#) promotes voluntary action and partnerships to contribute to the UNCCD's goals and objectives and promote alignment across its "sister" Conventions focused on climate and nature. The Action Agenda promotes three action areas:
 - 1 conserve and restore land
 - 2 enhance drought resilience through water system resilience
 - 3 promote sustainable, resilient, and inclusive agri-food systems.

Key enablers of success include:

- adopting rights-based and landscape approaches
- addressing land water and resource tenure for marginalized groups, including women
- ensuring equitable resource allocation, transparency, and knowledge-sharing.

- A joint report, [Economics of Drought: Investing in Nature-Based Solutions for Drought Resilience – Proaction Pays](#), by the UNCCD, the Economics of Land Degradation Initiative, and the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (Thomas et al.

2024) develop the economic case for SLM and nature-based solutions as part of a proactive approach to drought management. Land tenure and water rights are highlighted as critical for providing the legal basis to enable better land management and for ensuring investment by communities in long-term conservation and sustainable land use practices.

- ▶ The first [Indigenous Peoples Forum](#) took place at UNCCD, focusing on mechanisms to formalize Indigenous Peoples' participation in UNCCD strategies, integrate their traditional knowledge into national and international policies, and foster collaboration with other stakeholders. The forum also highlighted strategies to mitigate rangeland degradation. A key outcome was the [Sacred Lands Declaration](#), which calls on Parties to respect, recognize, promote, and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights in UNCCD policies and actions, and states that Indigenous Peoples' lands and territorial rights, tenure systems, and governance need to be recognized and upheld. With respect to land tenure, the Declaration states that "Indigenous Peoples' abilities to manage their lands and territories should be maintained and enhanced in all UNCCD policies and actions, including recognition and support for Indigenous Peoples' collective actions and efforts related to the restoration of degraded lands and conservation of our lands and territories."

2.2.2 UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- ▶ The [Rio Conventions Joint Capacity-building Programme](#) is led by the Rio Conventions secretariats and aims to:
 - enhance capacity for integrated planning and policy development
 - improve awareness of approaches to mobilize financial resources for synergistic projects
 - strengthen recognition of the role of local and Indigenous knowledge in environmental governance
 - promote cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

A recent [webinar](#) focused on enhancing the role of Indigenous knowledge in supporting synergies, and further work examining sustainable land management and governance can be encouraged as a focal area of synergies across the three Conventions.

- ▶ The [NBSAP Accelerator Partnership](#) is a country-led initiative to support the development and implementation of ambitious National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and collectively achieve the goals and targets of the KMGBF. Led by Colombia and Germany, the partnership raises the profile of NBSAPs and provides technical and financial implementation support through a matchmaking service. It also facilitates sharing of best practices and support for countries and regions. The partnership enables enhanced advocacy for integrating gender-responsive SLM and voluntary LDN targets, with recognition of land rights, into NBSAPs.
- ▶ The [Human Rights and Biodiversity Working Group](#), established in Chiang Mai in 2020, comprises diverse organizations and aims to strengthen human rights implementation in the KMGBF, embed the human rights-based approach into KMGBF implementation, and provide monitoring at national and subnational levels. The group published key asks in the lead-up to CBD COP16. These included:
 - ensuring accountability on Section C of the KMGBF
 - facilitating the full and effective participation of IPLCs, women, youth, and other rights holders in the ongoing revision of NBSAPs and in the update of national targets
 - adopting the proposed headline indicator for Target 22 tracking land tenure and land use change (indicator 22.1, "land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of IPLC")
 - adopting the indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) as a component indicator to Target 23.

2.2.3 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

- The [NDC Partnership](#), co-chaired by Brazil and Denmark, brings member countries and institutions together on climate action that helps to achieve the Paris Agreement and the SDGs. Governments identify their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) implementation priorities and the type of support needed to translate them into actionable policies and programmes. Members support requests with expertise, technical assistance, and funding, providing countries with access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development. Its knowledge portal contains [resources on land tenure](#), including the [LandMark database](#) on Indigenous and Community lands and the [Landscape Monitoring Accelerator](#).
- The [COP29–Climate and Peace Co-lead Initiative](#) is endorsed by Egypt, Germany, Italy, Uganda, the United Kingdom, and Azerbaijan. It aims to:
 - address the connection between climate change, conflict, and humanitarian needs
 - ensure climate action is peace-sensitive and conflict-sensitive
 - scale up support and finance for climate-vulnerable countries
 - demonstrate how environmental cooperation can contribute to peacebuilding.

The [Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief and Recovery](#) calls for mitigating the negative impacts of climate change and conflicts on land use and degradation as threats to human security, including through the implementation of ecosystem restoration activities related to reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD), as well as SLM and LDN under the UNCCD. The Baku Climate and Peace Action Hub will be established, with an objective of “fostering joint action and pilot projects between climate- and peace-related initiatives, other interested parties, UN agencies, etc. to support delivery on identified solutions”. Although there is no direct mention of land rights as a priority, the outcomes of the Baku Call can be monitored for entry points for

stakeholders and civil society to advocate for land rights as a contribution to reducing conflict over land use while simultaneously conserving biodiversity, adapting to climate change, and avoiding desertification and land degradation.

- The [Climate Action Finance Fund](#), one of 14 initiatives under the COP29 Action Agenda, is a catalytic public-private partnership fund mobilizing the private sector and de-risking investment. Part of the fund will focus on the food and agriculture sector as a priority to protect livelihoods and achieve net zero. Fifty per cent of the capital will be directed toward climate projects in developing countries that rely on support, across mitigation, adaptation, and research and development. Given the fund's emphasis on food and agriculture, there is an opportunity to investigate the financing of initiatives supporting recognition of land rights as an enabler of SLM, LDN, and drought mitigation.
- The [Baku Harmoniya Climate Initiative for Farmers](#), another of the 14 initiatives under the COP29 Action Agenda, aggregates various coalitions, networks, and partnerships during COP29 to share experiences, identify synergies and gaps, and foster collaborative efforts concentrated on the agriculture, food, and water nexus. This includes the empowerment of local communities and women in rural zones.
- The [Forest & Climate Leaders' Partnership](#) unites governments with partners committed to expanding and maintaining high-level political leadership on forests, land use, and climate. At COP29, the Partnership provided progress updates on six country packages and reported that over the first three years of the Global Forest Finance Pledge, the 11 participating governments and the European Union have contributed a total of \$10 billion toward the \$12 billion committed for forest conservation and restoration.
- The [Rio Trio Initiative](#) is a partnership between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Government of the Republic of Colombia, and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Rio Trio Joint Declaration, adopted by the three countries, focuses on practical, coordinated efforts to address the intertwined challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and desertification.

3 Recommendations: Entry Points for Synergies on Land Tenure and Women's Rights

In this section, we build on the analysis of 2024 COP outcomes (both decisions and relevant initiatives) to identify the entry points for CSOs, NFPs, women's caucuses, and the secretariats of the Rio Conventions to create synergies that strengthen the protection and recognition of land rights. We build on the entry points identified from the work of the Women's Land Rights Initiative and categorize the entry points into two sets. The first is those with a **direct** focus on land rights, arising from the Rio Convention COP decisions (arranged by thematic area). The second set comprises entry points with an **indirect focus** on land rights (whether or not mandated by Parties), achieved through interaction with rights-holders, stakeholders, and civil society through various processes and initiatives that are relevant to COP outcomes. We focus on entry points from the decisions and initiatives or processes that are most actionable or impactful.

3.1 Direct entry points through decisions and declarations

UNCCD Land Tenure Decision (Decision 28/COP.16)

UNCCD's land tenure decision, first adopted at COP14, encouraged countries to integrate the principles of the VGGT developed by UNCCD, FAO, and partners into LDN. At COP15, Parties then requested the development of guidance and an exchange of lessons learned to support countries with the integration of land tenure into LDN initiatives. Parties were encouraged to host national dialogues, while the Secretariat was invited to provide support for Parties' implementation of land tenure strategies and action plans, and for national consultations, with a first phase held in 2024. The COP16 decision provides several entry points for the integration of land rights into national land restoration initiatives (adapted from Kazungu, 2024):

- Parties are invited to consider nominating focal points for land tenure, which will help expand teams and reduce the burden on principal NFPs. Land tenure focal points can initiate analyses of opportunities to integrate land tenure into national land restoration initiatives, review governance modalities, and propose land tenure interventions, in addition to supporting relevant decisions on gender and rangelands and pastoralists.
- Land tenure focal points can support the development of data management strategies regarding land tenure rights that inform national land restoration plans.
- Land tenure focal points can support participation and the mobilization of resources in the second phase of national dialogues as a continuation of the UNCCD and FAO joint initiative on "Integrating tenure security into land restoration initiatives", with the involvement of stakeholders and in consultation with other Rio Convention NFPs, FAO national offices, and other relevant ministries/organizations.

Stakeholders and civil society can also strengthen efforts to integrate land tenure and women's land rights into existing country-led processes and existing work programmes. They should consult within secretariats to determine strategic pathways for engagement, reducing duplication of efforts, and to add value to existing efforts to support country-led tenure initiatives – for example, through the UNCCD Committee on Science and Technology's Science Policy Interface.

Targets and Convention Instruments

CBD Decision 16/1 on national target-setting and updating of NBSAPs urges Parties to revise or update their national targets and NBSAPs. It also encourages them to enable the full and effective participation and engagement of women, IPLCs, youth, civil society, all levels of government, and stakeholders in revisions through inclusive and transparent modality. This decision provides an entry point for Parties to align their NBSAPs and targets to the human rights-based approach outlined in [Section C](#) of the KMGBF and to strengthen commitments to the rights of IPLCs, including on land tenure and women's land rights.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Under the **CBD**, the new workplan for Article 8j and relevant decisions emphasize gender and intergenerational justice, while retaining the Ecosystem Approach. The new subsidiary body will need to define their agenda and prioritize tasks, with a likely focus on the development of voluntary guidelines for area-based conservation to be considered by Parties at CBD COP17. These guidelines will be open for expert comments, providing an entry point for emphasising land tenure, women's land rights, and human rights in the context of meeting national targets for area-based conservation.

Joint or Complementary Approaches to Monitoring and Evaluation, and Developing Indicators

The negotiations on headline indicators for the KMGBF concluded at **CBD COP16.2** in Rome in February 2025. The Traditional Knowledge Indicators that were adopted in previous COP decisions (status and trends in land use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of IPLC).

An entry point for land tenure is to ensure NFPs to the Conventions have coordinated or aligned language on monitoring the respective frameworks of the Conventions (GBF, Paris Agreement, UNCCD Strategic Plan). In addition, socializing the FAO/UNCCD Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Land Governance to CBD Parties and stakeholders will be important for ensuring relevant guidance and tools are available to measure progress in the land tenure indicator, while aligning with key SDG indicators on LDN and land tenure.

The headline indicators that will be adopted by Parties that are relevant to Section C of the GBF, which references human rights, should also be tracked by NFPs and stakeholders as examples of indicators for participatory and inclusive efforts to monitor the implementation of the respective Convention frameworks.

Safeguards and Standards

Under the **CBD Biodiversity and Climate Change** decision (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22), Parties were requested to develop a supplement to the previously adopted Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, specifically on mitigation/adaptation and with fit-for-purpose social and environmental safeguards. The supplement will be presented for consideration at CBD SBSTTA in October 2025, and it is expected that CBD Parties, observers, and stakeholders will be invited to comment on the supplement. This provides an opportunity, before establishing such initiatives, to ensure:

- ▶ the consideration of land rights and human rights-based approaches and their integration into nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches
- ▶ recognition of free, prior, and informed consent, and of forest, land and carbon rights
- ▶ the establishment of benefit-sharing and grievance redress mechanisms.

In the same vein, environmental and human rights safeguards have been agreed on by a **UNFCCC** supervisory body under the [Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism](#) (also known as Article 6.4), a carbon crediting mechanism established under the Paris Agreement. The [Article 6.4 Supervisory Body](#) has mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, which provides an opportunity to strengthen land rights and women's land rights in the context of the UN carbon market.

3.2 Indirect entry points through initiatives and processes

Updates to UNFCCC NDCS and NAPS

NDCs and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the UNFCCC are due to be revised in 2025. This presents an important opportunity for advocacy to Parties to ensure that national strategies for adaptation and reduction of greenhouse gases are underpinned by secure land tenure, women's land rights, and rights of IPLCs. Under a decision on matters related to LDCs, Parties agreed to establish a support programme for the implementation of NAPs for LDCs, which provides an entry point to advocate for gender-responsive adaptation policies and the strengthening of land tenure and women's land rights. Under the decision on [adaptation](#), Parties launched the Baku Adaptation Roadmap and established the Baku high-level dialogue on adaptation to be convened on the margins of each COP to identify ways of enhancing the [UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience](#). Under this framework, a two-year UAE–Belém work programme was established to develop more specific and standardized indicators for measuring progress. At COP29, Parties decided that indicators should capture information pertaining to social inclusion, Indigenous Peoples, participatory processes, human rights, gender equality, migrants, and children and young people, among other areas.

Gender

Several gender-related commitments from the triple-COP year could be built on to strengthen the women's land rights agenda. There is an important opportunity to bring together women's caucuses under the Conventions to influence gender-responsive monitoring on progress toward achieving the Rio Conventions' targets and commitments on land, biodiversity, and climate. Increased coordination on gender-related outcomes across the UN system would strengthen the prioritization of women's land rights.

The CBD Women's Caucus, the CSO representatives of the UNCCD Gender Caucus, and the **Women and Gender Constituency of the UNFCCC** prepared a "[Call for Inclusive and Gender-Just Outcomes](#)" to "develop a holistic, integrated, and gender-

responsive approach to addressing the planetary crisis". A focal area of the call is capitalizing on the convergence of the three COPs in the 2024 triple-COP year to ensure greater coordination for gender considerations, enhance ambition, and avoid policy fragmentations. While the call did not reference land tenure explicitly, it could be referenced and supported by Parties, CSOs, and stakeholders in policy advocacy for land rights.

Beyond the Rio Conventions' women's groups, another entry point is organizing information exchanges involving women's caucuses of the CBD and UNCCD, the Women and Gender Constituency (UNFCCC), and UN Women, building on their recent report, [Advancing Gender-responsive Synergies across the Rio Conventions](#).

The UNCCD-FAO Guideline on the Integration of Sand and Dust Storm Management into Key Policy Areas builds on the UNCCD Policy Advocacy Framework for Sand and Dust Storms, and contains references to gender, youth, and equity, calling for gender-based differences and intergenerational equity to be addressed in sand and dust storm policies, strategies, and action plans through meaningful youth engagement and gender-responsive measures. The upcoming [UN Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, 2025–2035](#), provides an opportunity for advocacy and education on the gendered impacts of sand and dust storms and the relevance of women's land rights in managing them.

Synergies and Cooperations

CBD Decision 16/22 on Climate Change and Biodiversity invited Parties to the Rio Conventions, observers, and stakeholders to submit views on enhanced policy coherence for biodiversity and climate change. NFPs to the CBD are encouraged to engage with their UNFCCC and UNCCD counterparts. Submissions are welcome by 1 May 2025 through an official letter addressed to the [Executive Secretary](#). A technical information exchange is anticipated in mid-2025. A compilation of submissions, inputs from the Joint Liaison Group, and outcomes of the technical information exchange will be considered at SBSTTA 27. Supporters of land rights initiatives should jointly submit views on human rights-based approaches and securing land rights as key enablers of achieving national biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation commitments.

A suite of decisions strengthening the role of IPLCs were adopted at CBD COP16 and UNCCD COP17. These include the creation of a permanent subsidiary body for IPLCs and adoption of a new work programme at CBD COP16, and the adoption of the first UNCCD Caucus of Indigenous Peoples and the first Caucus of Local Communities. Given the increased advocacy for human rights in the GBF and the UNCCD, more coordination across the Rio Conventions and with other UN bodies would reduce duplication of efforts and enhance a system-wide approach, including efforts of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples.

The [Bern III Conference on Cooperation Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the Implementation of the KMGBF](#) took place in January 2024, hosted by the Government of Switzerland in collaboration with the CBD and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre. Among its aims were to make recommendations on further steps that could be taken to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant MEAs. The Bern Process and its future meetings should be monitored for opportunities for engagement and advocacy on land tenure.

Climate and Peace

The Baku Call on Climate Action for Peace, Relief, and Recovery references SLM and LDN; however, there is no mention of land rights, human rights, or gender. UNFCCC Parties and non-Party stakeholders are invited to formalize their support by note verbale, letter, or email to the [COP29 Presidency](#). Close monitoring and participation in the activities under the Baku Call may enable opportunities to strengthen land rights and women's land rights in climate and peace initiatives through advocacy, education, and outreach to NFPs.

Human Rights

Under the Human Rights and Biodiversity Working Group coordinated by SwedBio, a series of workshops, dialogues, and [publications](#) have been released. Key advocacy events have also been targeted at Parties and decision-makers at the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and CBD SBSTTA in 2025 in the lead-up to UNFCCC COP30, in addition to other strategic events related to the Rio Conventions. This initiative presents an opportunity for collaboration, information-

sharing, and synergies with the work of the Women's Land Rights Initiative and other efforts to promote land rights.

The universal human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment was adopted by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in 2021 and 2022. Following this, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights published [The Right to a Healthy Environment: A User's Guide](#) on Earth Day 2024, which notes that states must comply with the procedural obligation to

»respect the rights (including land and tenure rights) of Indigenous Peoples and peasants in all actions that could cause environmental harm in their territories, ensure that they receive a fair share of the benefits from activities relating to their lands, territories, cultures or resources, and also respect traditional knowledge, customary practices and Indigenous Peoples' right to free, prior and informed consent.«

(Boyd 2024)

Parties, civil society, and stakeholders should reference this specific aspect of the right to a healthy environment in capacity-building and advocacy efforts for land rights.

Nature-based Solutions

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions (NbS) has eight criteria and associated indicators that allow users to:

- ▶ assess the aptness, scale, and economic, environmental, and social viability of a nature-based intervention
- ▶ consider its possible trade-offs
- ▶ ensure transparency and adaptive project management
- ▶ explore possible linkages to international targets and commitments.

Indicator 6.2 stipulates that legal and customary rights to access, use, and control management over land and natural resources must be respected and upheld, especially those of vulnerable and marginalized groups, and including, for Indigenous Peoples, free, prior, and informed consent rights. IUCN will be revising the NbS Global Standard in 2025 and is currently soliciting feedback. This provides an opportunity for advocacy for:

- ▶ respecting and upholding existing land rights and women's land rights in the Global Standard

- ▶ preventing the initiation of NbS projects in places with no, or only weak, tenure regimes and where forest, land, and carbon rights are not recognized
- ▶ ensuring that there are benefit-sharing and grievance redress mechanisms.

UN Decade on Restoration: Opportunity for Integrating Land Rights into Global and Regional Forest Landscape Restoration Commitments

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, led by the UNEP and FAO, has a mission of halting the degradation of ecosystems and creating political momentum and on-the-ground initiatives to advance ecosystem restoration. The Decade initiative is a collaboration with several agencies, including the three Rio Conventions, other international conventions, and initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge. The Bonn Challenge is a voluntary global initiative centred around forest landscape restoration to meet national priorities and international commitments, such as the UN SDGs and the UNCCD's LDN targets. By 2022, 115

countries had committed to land restoration targets under one or more of the three Rio Conventions or the Bonn Challenge. About 1 billion hectares are now undergoing restoration or are targeted for restoration between 2020 and 2030, with a few commitments extending to 2040. Almost half of all the land to be restored is in Sub-Saharan Africa. These efforts are supported by regional initiatives, such as AFR100, which aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded and deforested land in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2030. In Central and South America, the Initiative 20x20 aims to restore 50 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2030. Integrating land rights into these global and regional forest landscape restoration commitments is crucial, given the importance of land tenure security in motivating land users to engage in activities that protect and increase the land's long-term productivity and ecological value. The Decade's task forces provide an entry point for engagement in monitoring and best practices for integrating land rights and gender equality into restoration initiatives.

COP16, 1 November 2024, Plenary © COP16 Riyadh, 2024



4 Timeline of Relevant Events in 2025

Relevant Convention	Organizers	Events and Meetings	Date(s)	Location/Registration
UNCCD	ICLEI, UNCCD, ZEF	Healthy land – healthy city: Rural-urban solutions for land, climate and justice	6 March 2025	Virtual event
	Land Conference Team World Bank	World Bank Land Conference 2025: Securing Land Tenure and Access for Climate Action	5–8 May 2025	World Bank Headquarters, Washington, DC
	UNCCD	World Health Assembly 2025 (informing United Nations Decade on Combating Sand and Dust Storms)	19–27 May 2025	Geneva, Switzerland
	All Occasions Group	XII International Rangeland Congress	2–6 June 2025	Adelaide, Australia
		Desertification and Drought Day	17 June 2025	Worldwide
	UNCCD	UNCCD CRIC	Likely December 2025	Panama
CBD	CBD	2nd resumed session of the 16th meeting of the COP to the CBD	25–27 February 2025	Rome, Italy
		Consultations for the development of a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction	19 March 2025, 7–9 May 2025	Online/hybrid, Cambridge, UK
		International Day for Biological Diversity	22 May 2025	Montreal, Canada
		Technical Information Exchange, Biodiversity and Climate Change (related to views on Rio Conventions policy coherence and potential joint work programme)	TBC	TBC
		27th meeting of the SBSTTA	20–24 October 2025	Panama City
		1st meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the COP to the CBD Related to IPLC	27–30 October 2025	Panama City

Relevant Convention	Organizers	Events and Meetings	Date(s)	Location/Registration
UNFCCC	UNFCCC	Information session on gender in the Rio Conventions	25 February 2025	Virtual event
		3rd Workshop under the UAE–Belém work programme on indicators	21–22 March 2025	Bonn, Germany
		NAP Expo 2025	8–11 April 2025	Lusaka, Zambia
		5th Meeting of the Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage	8–10 April 2025	Barbados
		23rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage	5–9 May 2025	UN Campus
		27th meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC27)	6–9 May 2025	Bonn, Germany
		16th meeting of the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body (SBM 016)	12–16 May 2025	Bonn, Germany
		22nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage	13–15 May 2025	Bonn, Germany
		Sixth Global Climate and SDG Synergy Conference	27–28 May 2025	UN-DESA, UNFCCC. Copenhagen, Denmark
		SBI 62	16–26 June 2025	World Conference Center, Bonn, Germany
		SBSTA 62	16–26 June 2025	World Conference Center, Bonn, Germany
		62nd Session of the IPCC (IPCC-62)	24–26 June 2025	Hangzhou, China
		17th meeting of the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body (SBM 017)	4–9 August 2025	Bonn, Germany
		23rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage	30 September – 3 October 2025	Bonn, Germany
		18th meeting of the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body (SBM 018)	6–10 October 2025	Bonn, Germany
		UN Climate Change Conference - Belém, November 2025	10–21 November 2025	COP 30 Belém, Brazil

5 Conclusions and next steps

The 2024 Rio Convention triple-COP year yielded several entry points for engagement of CSOs in advocating for strengthened land tenure, women's land rights, human rights, and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. There were setbacks in finance commitments, inconclusive negotiations for resource mobilization and monitoring under the CBD, and disappointment on commitments to gender equality under the UNCCD. The treatment of human rights is uneven across the Conventions as well. However, a suite of decisions strengthened the recognition and role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the achievement of the

targets across the Rio Conventions. There was also a call for resourcing the work of Parties through additional focal points for land tenure (UNCCD) and climate and gender (UNFCCC). Overall, each COP yielded further decisions on cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the Rio Conventions, with a proposed joint work programme being considered at the next CBD SBSTTA and with specific calls for further collaboration between NFPs. The 2024 COP decisions and parallel processes provide an ample pathway for increased action by Parties and stakeholders on land tenure and land rights, gender, and IPLCs.



23 November 2024, Closing Plenary of COP, CMP, CMA © COP29 Azerbaijan, 2024

6 Annex I: Decisions

Decisions relevant to land tenure, women's land rights, IPLCs, and human rights from the Rio Conventions COP outcomes in 2024

UNCCD COP16*	CBD COP16**	UNFCCC COP29***
Participation and Involvement of CSOs 5/COP.16	Article 8j Work Programme and Institutional Arrangements, and people of African descent CBD/COP/DEC/16/4 CBD/COP/DEC/16/5 CBD/COP/DEC/16/6	Local Communities and Indigenous People's Platform
Rangelands & Pastoralists 29/COP.16 Land Tenure 28/COP.16	In-depth Dialogue (languages) CBD/COP/DEC/16/7 CBD/COP/DEC/16/8	Consultative group of experts FCCC/SBI/2024/L.16
Drought 24/COP.16	National Targets and NBSAPs CBD/COP/16/L.25	Gender and Climate Change
Gender 25/COP.16	GBF Monitoring Framework CBD/COP/16/L.26/Rev.1	Just Transition Work Programme
Cooperation 8/COP.16	Cooperation CBD/COP/16/L.30/Rev.1	Framework for Non-Market Approaches (Article 6.8) FCCC/SBSTA/2024/L.15
Migration 23/COP.16	Scientific and technical needs CBD/COP/DEC/16/12	Global goal on adaptation Decision -/CMA.6
Strategic objectives 7/COP.16	Biodiversity and Climate Change CBD/COP/DEC/16/22	Capacity-building FCCC/SB/2024/L.11
Capacity-building 2/COP.16	Capacity-building CBD/COP/DEC/16/3	Green Climate Fund FCCC/CP/2024/L.10
Collaboration with GEF 9/COP.16	Marine biodiversity CBD/COP/DEC/16/17	Draft Decision on Article 6.4 Rules & Procedures SBSTA 60
Science 18/COP.16	IPBES work programme CBD/COP/DEC/16/11	

* UNCCD Decision text extracted from final Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixteenth session, held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2 to 13 December 2024. Part two: action taken. <https://www.unccd.int/official-documents/cop-16-riyadh-saudi-arabia-2024/documents/iccdcop1624add1>

** CBD Decision text extracted from final texts available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-16> and Draft Decisions 26 and 30 at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-16-R2>

*** UNFCCC Decision text extracted from advanced unedited versions <https://unfccc.int/cop29/auvs>

Table 1: Complete reference table of key COP16 decisions corresponding to the UNCCD
Decisions in **bold** are discussed in Section 2 of this report.

UNCCD	
Land Tenure and Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Invite Parties to align LDN planning with climate adaptation, biodiversity strategies, land restoration, social protection, financial inclusion, and disaster risk finance (18/COP.16, 9, 10). ▶ Recall commitments to responsible land governance, secure tenure, and resource access for women, youth, and IPLCs in the KMGBF (28/COP.16, preamble). ▶ Emphasize that these actions contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs (28/COP.16, preamble). ▶ Reaffirm previous decisions emphasizing land tenure security within the UNCCD (28/COP.16, preamble). ▶ Recognize that secure land tenure strengthens cooperation under the Rio Conventions (28/COP.16, preamble). ▶ Invite Parties to promote inclusive land governance that supports SLM, restoration, and rangeland conservation (29/COP.16, 2). ▶ Encourage Parties to integrate land tenure security into UNCCD implementation, aligning with the VGGT (28/COP.16, 1). ▶ Invite Parties to integrate land tenure into national plans and prioritize data collection on legitimate tenure rights for voluntary LDN (28/COP.16, 2). ▶ Invite Parties to nominate a focal point for land tenure to improve coordination in national plans and activities (28/COP.16, 3). ▶ Integrate land tenure data into capacity development and analytics for evidence-based LDN decision-making (28/COP.16, 6). ▶ Support data sharing, tools, and capacity development through FAO, the Group on Earth Observations LDN Initiative, and other stakeholders (28/COP.16, 7). ▶ Utilize digital mapping to document legitimate and customary land tenure rights within national legal frameworks (28/COP.16, 7). <p>Urban–rural linkages to address land degradation and migration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Support Parties in strengthening URLs through territorial governance, using frameworks like the Primer on URL and Land to scale up SLM and restoration (23/COP.16, 3a). ▶ Review policies on land use, tenure, agriculture, water, and infrastructure to ensure sustainability and restoration (23/COP.16, 1b). ▶ Implement integrated land use planning to address DLDD, sand/dust storms, and rural–urban interactions (23/COP.16, 1c). ▶ Support initiatives restoring degraded land, improving land tenure, and creating rural jobs for IPLCs, women, and youth (23/COP.16, 1d). <p>Global Mechanism efforts on land tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthen tenure security in rangelands under the VGGT (29/COP.16, 3). ▶ Prioritize policies and investments for sustainable rangeland management to address DLDD, food security, biodiversity loss, and climate change (29/COP.16, 1). ▶ Support GM efforts on a business case and checklist for sustainable land tenure investments (28/COP.16, preamble). ▶ Use the tenure checklist to identify financing opportunities and promote land governance investments (28/COP.16, 9b). ▶ Align efforts with the VGGT, ensuring safeguards and inclusion of IPLCs, women, and youth (28/COP.16, 9b). ▶ Share the business case, tenure checklist, and financing guidance for LDN plan updates while protecting tenure rights (28/COP.16, 9c). ▶ Publish key land tenure documents in a toolbox on the UNCCD website, including COP decisions, VGGT guides, and financing maps (28/COP.16, 9f).

Gender

- ▶ Prioritize strengthening women's land rights and access to resources in the UNCCD GAP (28/COP.16).
- ▶ Address discrimination against women and girls in gender-responsive policies and programmes for DLDD (25/COP.16, 3).
- ▶ Encourage voluntary national reports on key GAP activities (25/COP.16, 3).
- ▶ Collect sex-disaggregated data on income, poverty, land ownership, migration, and other indicators through national statistics offices (25/COP.16, 2).
- ▶ Report on progress at COP17 (25/COP.16, 10).
- ▶ Expand efforts to empower women and girls in Convention implementation, aligned with the GAP and subject to funding (2/COP.16, 5a).
- ▶ Collaborate with Rio Conventions and international organizations to advocate for women's land rights, especially for IPLCs (25/COP.16, 7).
- ▶ Leverage the "Her Land. Her Rights." campaign and recent workshops to enhance advocacy (25/COP.16, 7).
- ▶ Strengthen GM partnerships to develop initiatives promoting gender equality, land tenure establishment, and LDN (25/COP.16, 9).

IPLCs

- ▶ Acknowledge the importance of rangelands for IPLCs, women, youth, and vulnerable groups, emphasizing sustainable land and water management (29/COP.16, preamble).
- ▶ Support awareness, capacity-building, and resource mobilization through inclusive, community-based approaches (29/COP.16, 5).
- ▶ Facilitate consultations among Parties, UNCCD bodies, UN entities, and IPLCs before COP17 to strengthen participation (5/COP.16, a).
- ▶ Develop terms of reference for the creation of a Caucus, ensuring representation and alignment with Convention principles (5/COP.16, b).
- ▶ Explore existing global indicators and datasets on land governance, including IPLC and women's land rights (28/COP.16, e).
- ▶ Engage relevant partners to pilot potential indicators for future UNCCD reporting, ensuring alignment with national contexts and avoiding duplication (28/COP.16, e).

Inter-institutional Synergies**Enhancing coordination and synergies**

- ▶ Acknowledge that strong collaborations with key agreements like the KMGBF, UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UNFCCC, and the Paris Agreement enhance Convention implementation (8/COP.16, preamble).
- ▶ Leverage synergies in planning and implementing the Rio Conventions through integrated approaches (8/COP.16, 1).
- ▶ Foster national cooperation among Rio Convention focal points and international processes to reduce policy fragmentation (8/COP.16, 3).
- ▶ Support coordination among NFPs and stakeholders, developing engagement plans with awareness strategies for policymakers, CSOs, IPLCs, farmers, and the private sector (8/COP.16, 7c).

Strengthening partnerships and mobilizing resources for DLDD actions

- ▶ Prioritize integrated DLDD approaches linked to climate and biodiversity strategies through nature-based solutions (8/COP.16, 2).
- ▶ Encourage funding and support from developed countries, financial institutions, CSOs, and the private sector for DLDD partnerships (8/COP.16, 5).
- ▶ Support rangeland management, restoration, and conservation through multi-stakeholder dialogues (29/COP.16, 6).
- ▶ Expand partnerships with initiatives like the Group of G20 Global Land Initiative, Group on Earth Observations LDN Flagship, and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (8/COP.16, 7a).
- ▶ Strengthen cooperation with CBD, UNFCCC, and other agreements for best practices, technical guidance, and capacity-building (8/COP.16, 7b).
- ▶ Raise awareness of land tenure grievance mechanisms through the Secretariat, GM, and GEF, while encouraging Parties to strengthen national mechanisms for DLDD and LDN (28/COP.16, 10).

UNCCD	
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Promote inclusive national dialogues on land tenure with CSOs to advance past decisions (28/COP.16, 4). ▶ Refine consultation methodologies using multi-stakeholder formats, ensuring dialogues at all levels and addressing legitimate and customary land tenure rights (28/COP.16, 5). ▶ Engage CSOs most affected by DLDD (5/COP.16). ▶ Urge countries with few or no accredited CSOs to promote participation, prioritizing IPLCs, rural populations, women, youth, and persons with disabilities (5/COP.16, 4). ▶ Welcome open dialogue sessions, the Youth Forum, Gender Caucus, and the first Indigenous Peoples Forum (5/COP.16). ▶ Call for further consultations on land tenure in LDN targets, plans, and projects (28/COP.16, 9a). ▶ Work with Rio Conventions, UN Women, and others to implement the GAP, focusing on resource access, capacity-building, and SLM (25/COP.16, 6). ▶ Use the Gender Caucus to address GAP challenges, promote gender equality, and enhance participation (25/COP.16, 8). ▶ Convene the Gender Caucus annually as part of COP and CRIC programmes (25/COP.16, 8). ▶ Support the Youth Engagement Strategy, including the UNCCD Youth Caucus and Land Heroes campaign (5/COP.16, 6).

Table 2: Reference table of key COP16 decisions corresponding to the CBD

CBD	
Monitoring KMGBF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Endorse technical updates to headline and binary indicators for tracking biodiversity commitments (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 1). ▶ Urge integration of Section C into implementation, disaggregating indicators by IPLC, gender, age, disability, and ecosystem type (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 14). ▶ Encourage strengthening of monitoring systems through participatory approaches engaging IPLCs, women, youth, and stakeholders, with international support where needed (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 19). ▶ Emphasize community-based monitoring to incorporate traditional knowledge indicators (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 14). ▶ Promote knowledge exchange and capacity-building on biodiversity indicators among IPLCs, women, youth, and organizations like the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 25). ▶ Include in Annex Target 22 key land tenure indicators, tracking land use change in IPLC territories and countries, and ensuring inclusive biodiversity decision-making (CBD/COP/16/L.26, 22). ▶ Call for equitable representation in biodiversity governance, ensuring IPLC rights, access to justice, and protection of environmental human rights defenders (CBD/COP/16/L.26, Annex Target 22b).
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Urge biodiversity mainstreaming at all government levels to support the CBD's three objectives (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13, 2). ▶ Ensure inclusive participation, engaging women, youth, IPLCs, CSOs, and stakeholders while aligning with national and international regulations (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13, 2).
IPLCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Establish a subsidiary body on Article 8(j) to advise the COP on IPLC-related matters within the Convention and its Protocols (CBD/COP/DEC/16/5, 1). ▶ Call for guidelines with IPLC participation to strengthen legal and policy frameworks for land tenure, Indigenous territories, and restoration efforts (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.1). ▶ Promote best practices for securing IPLC land tenure and integrating traditional lands into spatial planning and environmental impact assessments (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.2). ▶ Advocate for IPLC rights, including for those without formal land access, and their role in biodiversity conservation, restoration, and urban green spaces (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 1.3). ▶ Support securing IPLC land tenure to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with national laws (CBD/COP/DEC/16/4, 7.2). ▶ Ensure KMGBF implementation aligns with IPLC rights in compliance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and human rights law (CBD/COP/DEC/16/8). ▶ Request that the Executive Secretary exchange updates with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (CBD/COP/DEC/16/8, 2).

CBD	
Knowledge Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Recognize diverse knowledge systems, including traditional IPLC knowledge, and call for intersectional approaches to ensure contextually relevant human rights-based actions (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6, 3e). ▶ Reinforce free, prior, and informed consent for actions affecting IPLC lands and resources, ensuring compliance with national and international law (CBD/COP/DEC/16/6, 3e). ▶ Promote access to knowledge for governance through education, monitoring, research, and awareness-raising, ensuring IPLC knowledge is only used with free, prior, and informed consent (CBD/COP/DEC/16/7, Target 21). ▶ Emphasize gender equality in KMGBF implementation, ensuring women and girls have equal opportunities in biodiversity efforts (CBD/COP/DEC/16/7, Targets 22 & 23).
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Invite the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop tools for a human rights-based approach in KMGBF implementation (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 21). ▶ Urge alignment of Targets 8 and 11 with national priorities while ensuring compliance with social and environmental safeguards (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 3). ▶ Ensure inclusive biodiversity governance, engaging women, youth, IPLCs, CSOs, academia, and the private sector in national strategies (CBD/COP/DEC/16/1). ▶ Promote biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors with international and financial support (CBD/COP/DEC/16/1). ▶ Call for gender-responsive and socially inclusive governance, ensuring compliance with regulations (CBD/COP/DEC/16/13). ▶ Request a supplement to the Voluntary Guidelines for ecosystem-based climate adaptation and nature-based solutions, ensuring safeguards are fit for purpose and reviewed before COP17 (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 17).
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensure the support of FAO and UNEP for the Framework and Target 2 Roadmap with IPLCs, women, and youth (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 6). ▶ Strengthen cooperation with global agreements, ensuring alignment with human rights law and SDGs (CBD/COP/DEC/16/17, 12c).
Synergies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Recognize the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions for enhancing cooperation (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 4). ▶ Urge national, regional, and subregional coordination among CBD focal points and other Conventions while respecting their mandates (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 18). ▶ Encourage UNEP to continue supporting collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions and MEAs (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 12). ▶ Request that the Executive Secretary work with Convention secretariats and UNEP to implement specific Framework targets (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 24a). ▶ Call for continued cooperation with UNFCCC and UNCCD through the Joint Liaison Group, exploring a joint programme of work (CBD/COP/16/L.30, 24b). ▶ Promote synergies with biodiversity-related agreements, particularly under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 14). ▶ Invite Parties to submit views on policy coherence and a joint work programme of the Rio Conventions by May 2025 (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 19). ▶ Request collaboration among Rio Conventions for a technical information exchange in 2025 to enhance policy coherence in CBD, KMGBF, UNFCCC, and the Paris Agreement (CBD/COP/DEC/16/22, 19).

Table 3: Reference table of key COP29 decisions corresponding to the UNFCCC

UNFCCC	
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthen IPLC engagement, continuing the FWG of the LCIPP and integrating Indigenous voices in climate action (-/CP.29, 3 - IPLC). ▶ Enhance gender inclusion, requesting a technical workshop and urging Parties to appoint gender and climate focal points (-/CP.29, 14, 17 - Gender). ▶ Ensure diverse representation in the UAE–Belém Work Programme, incorporating Indigenous and local knowledge into adaptation tracking (-/CMA.6, 9, 15). ▶ Develop inclusive adaptation indicators, addressing social inclusion, Indigenous rights, human rights, and gender equality (-/CMA.6, 19d). ▶ Streamline global indicators, focusing on common adaptation challenges and implementation factors (-/CMA.6, 10c, 10d).
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reaffirm gender mainstreaming across climate targets and policies, emphasizing fairness and sustainability, and addressing gender disparities in climate impact, particularly for women, IPLCs, and developing countries (-/CP.29, preamble - Gender). ▶ Encourage capacity-building and knowledge exchange to strengthen gender-responsive climate policies and enhance their effectiveness and scalability (-/CP.29, 5 - Gender). ▶ Link gender-responsive policies to raising climate ambition, ensuring a just transition and promoting decent work (-/CP.29, 9 - Gender). ▶ Request that constituted bodies continue reporting on gender integration in their processes (-/CP.29, 18 - Gender).
Lima Work Programme on Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Extend the Lima Work Programme on Gender for 10 years, with a review in 2029 (-/CP.29, 11-12 - Gender). ▶ Develop a new GAP by COP30 in 2025 (-/CP.29, 13 - Gender). ▶ Increase support for developing countries to implement gender actions (-/CP.29, 21, 24 - Gender). ▶ Maintain a senior gender focal point to oversee gender mainstreaming (-/CP.29, 22 - Gender). ▶ Engage men and boys as partners in gender equality (-/CP.29, 25 - Gender).
IPLCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Recognize IPLCs as key climate leaders while acknowledging them as disproportionately impacted by climate change (-/CP.29, Preamble - IPLC). ▶ Highlight Indigenous and local knowledge as essential for climate resilience and sustainable solutions (-/CP.29, Preamble - IPLC). ▶ Strengthen IPLC participation, requesting mechanisms for FWG members to engage in the COP and subsidiary bodies (-/CP.29, 9 - IPLC).
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enhance collaboration among expert groups, avoiding duplication and maximizing synergies in climate governance (FCCC/SBI/2024/L.16, 7). ▶ Support climate finance access, encouraging GCF–GEF collaboration and private sector investment (FCCC/CP/2024/L.10, 3h, 12, 3l). ▶ Integrate gender considerations across UN processes, promoting disaggregated data collection and gender-responsive finance (-/CP.29, 7-8, 19). ▶ Expand IPLC engagement in climate governance, maintaining open access to LCIPP events and encouraging stronger participation (-/CP.29, 15 - IPLC).

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