



COP30 ACTION AGENDA

COP30
BRASIL
AMAZÔNIA
BELÉM 2025

RAIZ

Resilient Agriculture Investment
for net-zero land degradation

A Global Mutirão for food security, land restoration and sustainable agriculture

Over 20% of agricultural land is degraded worldwide¹. Degraded land has a lower productive potential, contributing to food insecurity and triggering a negative spiral of deforestation. Restoring degraded land is a priority across all Rio Conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG Target 15.3).

However, we must rapidly scale financing to meet these global commitments and achieve important co-benefits for climate, nature and food security. The COP30 Resilient Agriculture Investment for Net-Zero land degradation (RAIZ) (<https://www.fao.org/climate-change/fao-at-cop30/raiz/en>) will convene existing initiatives, stakeholders and investors across the UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD conventions to unlock funding from multiple sources for agricultural land restoration at scale.

¹ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0e82eb25-237f-4f9c-8e7e-9007cabd4bde/content>;
<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0472/15/12/1249>

THE STATE OF LAND DEGRADATION IS ALARMING

1 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/0e82eb25-237f-4f9c-8e7e-9007cabd4bde/content>; <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0472/15/12/1249>

2 https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2022/11/SRCCCL_Chapter_4.pdf

3 <https://www.fao.org/land-water/solaw2021/en/>

4 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e9662d8c-0dcl-444b-a7af-cl8947c2a8ce/content>

5 <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/13/2/200>

6 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/7f60b088-de3e-4e08-b88e-b26e37b5b18e/content>

7 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cdl254en>

8 <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/land-degradation>

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *Special Report on Climate Change and Land*, around **25%** of the global land area experiences degradation induced by human activities and approximately **23%** of human-induced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions originate from Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU).¹

Degradation is geographically widespread. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that around **1.6 billion** hectares of agricultural land are degraded.² In Africa, **221 million** hectares are degraded³. In Brazil, an estimated **109.7 million** hectares of pastureland are degraded.⁴ In Asia, around **33%** of land is classified as highly or moderately degraded.⁵ The impact of yield loss from degradation is amplified when considering rates of malnutrition. According to the *2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World*, between **713 and 757 million people** may have faced hunger in 2023 and around **2.33 billion people** (28,9% of the global population) were moderately or severely food insecure.⁶

In fact, land degradation generates a multitude of impacts on humans and environmental well-being. The livelihoods, health, environment, and security of around **3.2 billion people** are at risk globally due to land degradation.⁷ Restoring agricultural land is a win-win solution to tackle the multifaceted obstacles of fostering climate resilience and ensure low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production, as stated in Article 2 of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement.

GOVERNMENTS HAVE CLEAR TARGETS TO REDUCE LAND DEGRADATION

9 https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2022-10/29_cop15.pdf

10 <https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2025-03/19-cop16.pdf>

11 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>

12 <https://unfccc.int/documents/641792>

As a response to this global challenge, FAO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have designated the current decade as the *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration* (2021–2030). The initiative was conceived as a **rallying call for the protection and recovery of ecosystems around the world to improve livelihoods, stabilize the climate, and halt biodiversity loss**. The UNCCD endorses the efforts to combat desertification at the core of its goals. In 2022, at the *15th Conference of the Parties* (COP15), the *Land, Life and Legacy Declaration*⁹ invited Parties to pursue a systemic approach to land conservation and restoration, envisioned to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030. At COP16, in 2024, Parties agreed to make full use of opportunities to improve the health of agricultural lands and soils to simultaneously reduce the degradation of land resources and increase drought resilience¹⁰.

According to the CBD, the restoration of degraded ecosystems is critical to avoid biodiversity loss and foster the sustainable use of biological diversity, including mangroves, riverbanks, floodplains, wetlands, and estuaries. At COP15, in 2022, Parties approved the *Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (KMGBF)¹¹ setting the vision towards a world of living in harmony with nature by 2050 and putting forward **23 biodiversity** targets up to

2030. Target 2 aims to restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems; target 10 focuses on ensuring that areas under agriculture are sustainably managed and restored; and target 11 seeks to restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people.

Under the UNFCCC and its *Paris Agreement*, Parties' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) include land use (142 NDCs) and agriculture (141 NDCs), combining mitigation and adaptation. One hundred NDCs identify ecosystem restoration, afforestation, and reforestation as priority strategies to achieve mitigation goals¹². Under the Bonn Challenge, countries and their partners have pledged to restore **210.12 million hectares**, representing over 80% of the UNCCD objective of restoring 250mIn hectares of land by 2030.

The *Global Stocktake* agreed at COP28 made it clear that it is essential to protect, conserve and restore natural ecosystems; implement multi-sectoral solutions such as land use management, sustainable agriculture, resilient food systems and nature-based solutions; and increase sustainable and regenerative production, as well as equitable access to adequate food and nutrition for all.

COP 30 represents a **unique opportunity to convene a global mutirão for land restoration and sustainable agriculture, catalysing action on climate, biodiversity, combating desertification, and food security**.

The effort will build on new global momentum to address food security delivered by the *G20 Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty*.

As the COP30 host, Brazil is leading by example, developing an ambitious policy to restore **40 million hectares** of degraded land through its *Green Way Program*, and by establishing innovative financial mechanisms, such as the *Eco-Invest* blended fund, to combine private capital mobilization, multilateral development finance and domestic funding. This approach aligns with the need to mobilize and diversify financial resources from multiple sources, a key objective in both the climate and biodiversity agendas¹³.

IT'S TIME TO ACCELERATE DELIVERY OF THE GST

¹³ <https://www.gov.br/agricultura/pt-br/campanhas/caminho-verde/eco-invest>

While efforts such as the *Land Degradation Neutrality Fund*, under the UNCCD, play a critical role in supporting countries to advance land restoration, there remains a significant gap in connecting finance to concrete projects on the ground. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) also plays a key role in supporting the achievement of degradation neutrality targets by Parties¹⁴.

Restoring degraded forest and farmland worldwide is estimated to cost around **USD\$300 billion per year**, yet only USD\$65 billion are currently being invested¹⁵. The agrifood sector could make a significant contribution by investing less than one percent of annual revenues, around USD\$90 billion in on-farm solutions¹⁶.

Restoring farmland could deliver huge wins for climate and people. Restoring **250 million hectares by 2050**, could cut between **12– 20 gigatonnes of emissions** and increase food production by **9–15 billion tonnes of food**¹⁷. Farmers understand the benefits, over 200 projects around the world are ready to scale.

Land restoration should be financed through a mix of **public, private, and philanthropic** sources, reflecting the multiple benefits it delivers. A blended finance approach aligns with the aims of the new collective and quantified goal on climate finance, the *Baku-Belém Roadmap* towards the **\$1.3 trillion target**, the CBD and the UNCCD resource mobilization decisions¹⁸.

There is also growing political will for further investment in agricultural land restoration. In Africa, initiatives such as the *Great Green Wall Accelerator* have made significant progress in mobilizing funding for land restoration as well. Furthermore, the *Ministerial Declaration of the BRICS Agriculture Ministers*,¹⁹ published on April 17, 2025, acknowledges the importance of restoring degraded areas and highlights the need to establish a dedicated financing mechanism involving multiple stakeholders.

FINANCING NEEDS TO BE RAPIDLY SCALED

¹⁴ <https://www.unccd.int/land-and-life/land-degradation-neutrality/projects-programmes/tpp-financing>

¹⁵ <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/46730>

¹⁶ <https://www.foodandlandusecoalition.org/knowledge-hub/future-fit-food-and-ag/>

¹⁷ <https://drawdown.org/solutions/abandoned-farmland-restoration>

¹⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-33-en.pdf> ; https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/2025-03/3-copl6_0.pdf

¹⁹ <https://brics.br/pt-br/documentos/acervo-de-presidencias-antiores/agriculture-ministerial-declarations>

THE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE INVESTMENT FOR NET-ZERO LAND DEGRADATION

Objectives

MAP DEGRADED LANDSCAPES

to prioritize areas for investment

IDENTIFY INVESTABLE RESTORATION PROJECTS AND ASSESS THEIR FINANCING NEEDS

SPOTLIGHT OPTIMAL INVESTMENT MECHANISMS AND SCALE PROVEN SOLUTIONS

FOSTER COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITHIN THE FINANCIAL ECOSYSTEM

The Resilient Agriculture Investment for **net-Zero land degradation** (RAIZ) aims to accelerate investments for agricultural land restoration at scale through a long-term approach that supports food security, climate action, biodiversity conservation, and efforts to combat desertification.

Principles

- 1. Co-benefits:** Spotlighting the climate, biodiversity, desertification, and food security co-benefits of restoring degraded areas;
- 2. Country engagement:** Recognizing local and regional challenges and specificities, including production systems and practices, family farming, traditional and indigenous knowledge, as well as access to technologies and innovation;
- 3. Science and innovation:** Ensuring that the best available science and innovation are considered, alongside local knowledge and practices;
- 4. Local recognition:** Promoting country engagement in accordance with national interests, priorities and needs;
- 5. Stakeholder engagement:** Fostering the participation of multiple stakeholders, including scientific partners, the business sector, the financial market, producer and supply chain organizations, civil society and governments; and
- 6. Coordination:** Coordinating and collaborating with existing global and regional initiatives and partnerships to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.

Governance

RAIZ will be built and delivered by the existing initiatives and stakeholders that are part of the *Activation Group of the COP30 Action Agenda* on the key objective 8 - *Land restoration and sustainable agriculture*. The group will be co-chaired by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and FAO as the secretariat of the Food and Agriculture for Sustainable Transformation (FAST) Partnership. We invite all existing initiatives working on the topic, investors coalitions, business coalitions and philanthropies to join this effort.

Check out the
RAIZ website



Signal your
interest to
get involved

