



**2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue - SBSTA 64**  
**Plenary Statement Submission from the Mangrove Breakthrough NDC Task Force**  
*Submitted to the co-facilitators on June 5, 2026*

Members of the Mangrove Breakthrough [NDC Task Force](#) (NDC Task Force) look forward to participating in the 2026 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue (Dialogue), taking place at SBSTA 64 in Bonn, Germany on June 10th and 11th, 2026. The NDC Task Force offers our congratulations to the co-facilitators of the Dialogue –Mr. Ulrik Lenaerts from Belgium and Dr. Sivendra Michael from Fiji– for their tireless coordination and commitment to elevating the critical role that the ocean plays as a climate solution. Specifically, the NDC Task Force wishes to express gratitude, and share complementary resources, for this year’s three important themes: 1) Ocean-based measures in NDCs; 2) Means of Implementation; and 3) Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation.

Mangrove ecosystems exist at the edge of land and sea and provide benefits to coastal countries by buffering floods and storms, providing habitat for fish and other coastal wildlife, sequestering and storing large amounts of carbon, and providing innovative opportunities to finance climate action. Yet more than half of these ecosystems are at risk of collapse by 2050, [according to the IUCN](#).

The NDC Task Force is a community of global mangrove policy and science experts that mobilizes policy action through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and aligned frameworks in support of the [Mangrove Breakthrough](#)’s goal to secure the future of 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030 through collective action by non-state actors and governments. The NDC Task Force provides technical policy and data guidance to governments as they develop and implement science-based and measurable NDCs that recognize the climate adaptation and mitigation benefits of mangroves.

**Dialogue theme: *Ocean-based measures in NDCs***

To date, 12 Mangrove Breakthrough endorsing governments –Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Indonesia, Jamaica, Liberia, Mexico, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Sierra Leone, and the United Arab Emirates– have included mangrove-specific targets in their NDCs, reinforcing the role of mangroves as a proven solution for climate mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity. For Mangrove Breakthrough endorsing governments that have included mangroves in their NDC’s, the NDC Task Force is available to provide technical guidance for NDC implementation and investment planning.

For countries that are still developing their NDC 3.0s, there is an opportunity to include measurable and science-based targets in NDCs. In fact, the NDC Task Force recently developed a [set of practical policy guidance resources for recognizing mangroves within NDCs](#) which are in alignment with the Dialogue’s themes. Governments may seek to include targets for mangrove conservation, restoration, management and sustainable finance within their NDCs to advance their country’s climate adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage goals. Furthermore, including mangrove targets in NDCs can help countries access sustainable blue finance. Recognizing the benefits of mangroves can help countries attract external financing and can catalyze national sustainable financing for mangroves and the communities that depend on them.



**Dialogue theme: *Means of Implementation***

As countries move from ambition to implementation, Means of Implementation must remain at the center of discussions on ocean-based climate action. While many countries increasingly recognize the role of mangroves within their NDCs, significant barriers remain for translating these commitments into action on the ground. Barriers like limited access to finance, technical capacity, up-to-date mangrove data and monitoring systems, and implementation support continue to constrain progress, particularly in developing coastal nations.

The Dialogue provides an important opportunity to identify practical solutions that can help countries operationalize mangrove-related commitments and accelerate investment in coastal resilience, mitigation, and sustainable development. Key priorities include:

- Mobilizing and scaling finance for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of mangroves and other coastal wetlands;
- Highlighting innovative financing mechanisms that recognize the value of mangrove ecosystems;
- Supporting countries in developing investment-ready project pipelines that connect NDC commitments with implementation;
- Establishing and strengthening cross-sectoral partnerships for implementation of large-scale mangrove conservation and restoration projects;
- Highlighting existing mangrove monitoring platforms, like the [Global Mangrove Watch](#), available for all countries to inform their mangrove targets, and conservation and restoration priorities and report on them; and
- Enhancing technical assistance and capacity-building, including on best practice approaches for mangrove restoration and conservation.

The Global Mangrove Alliance has developed several tools and guidelines to support implementation, including [Best Practice Guidelines for Mangrove Restoration](#) in line with ecological restoration and participatory principles, to support effective implementation, at scale.

There is an urgent need to ensure that coastal marine ecosystems and connected wetland ecosystems are adequately financed and embedded in future climate and biodiversity finance flows. The establishment of a Blue Finance Window could be considered, in line with discussions of the 2026 Forum of the Standing Committee on Finance. In support of mobilizing finance for mangroves, the Mangrove Breakthrough developed a [Mangrove Finance Roadmap](#), a Mangrove Catalytic Facility to enhance investment readiness, and [how-to guides](#) designed to help governments, financial institutions, and project developers unlock the full potential of mangrove investment.

The Mangrove Breakthrough, the Global Mangrove Alliance, and a wide range of local stakeholders have developed [Regional Readiness Reports and a set of Country Propositions for fundable landscape scale mangrove initiatives](#) that provide governments, donors, financial institutions and NGOs with clear region-and country specific pathways and propositions to scale up efforts to conserve and restore mangroves, to mobilize the Mangrove Breakthrough at national levels.

**Dialogue theme: *Ocean-climate-biodiversity synergies and international cooperation***

The NDC Task Force emphasizes the vital importance of ocean ecosystems—especially mangroves—in delivering synergistic outcomes for climate mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and coastal community resilience. We recommend that Parties and stakeholders align ocean-based climate actions with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), particularly:

- **Target 2:** By ensuring that mangrove restoration efforts explicitly aim for *effective and equitable restoration* that delivers measurable benefits for climate, biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity, with long-term monitoring and community engagement as core components.
- **Target 3:** By prioritizing the *conservation of existing intact mangrove ecosystems* through area-based measures that secure long-term protection, contributing simultaneously to NDCs and the GBF’s 30x30 conservation ambition.

Furthermore, the recently adopted indicator framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is already aligned with the indicators of these GBF targets. The Ramsar Convention also recently released guidance on how to use National Wetland Inventories in national greenhouse gas reporting. To maximize impact, national and subnational climate, biodiversity, and wetlands policies should be coordinated, ensuring that ocean-based measures in NDCs contribute meaningfully to the implementation of the KM-GBF, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and other relevant conventions, such as the UN Convention on Migratory Species.

Countries can adopt single cross-ministerial mangrove strategies and institutional coordination mechanisms that simultaneously fulfill commitments under the UNFCCC, KM-GBF, and Ramsar and establish mangroves as a nexus solution across biodiversity, climate and development agendas. For example, Costa Rica’s [National Blue Carbon Strategy](#) and [Action Plan](#) establishes a framework that integrates actions related to the management, conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of coastal wetland ecosystems, including mangroves, to promote a model that benefits communities that directly depend on the ecosystem services they provide. The Strategy mandates the development of a Technical Board to strengthen institutional coordination across relevant government entities as well as non-governmental blue carbon ecosystem stakeholders. Since its launch, the Technical Board has overseen the coordination and implementation of Costa Rica’s coastal wetland commitments, including the NDC, commitments to the Ramsar Convention, and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Ocean-climate action is critical in 2026 as countries design and implement their NDCs 3.0 and enhance climate-ocean-biodiversity synergies. The NDC Task Force is committed to supporting these integrated approaches through shared learning, technical guidance, and strategic partnerships, and expresses gratitude to the co-facilitators for planning a constructive and action-oriented Dialogue which will progress ocean-climate action while recognizing the conservation, management, and restoration of mangrove ecosystems as one of the most powerful nature-based solutions to climate change.