

UK climate leadership at COP30

November 2025

Background: COP30 in the Amazon

- This year's UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP30 will be held in Belém, Brazil, close to the Amazon Rainforest. Sir Keir Starmer and other world leaders will gather in Brazil beforehand for a Leaders Summit on Thursday 6 and Friday 7 November.
- COP30 is the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the landmark legally binding international treaty that committed the world to keep global temperature rises to below 2 degrees and aim for less than 1.5C.
- The UK submitted a strong Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) at COP29 last year that committed to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions by at least 81% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. Many other countries are due to submit their updated NDCs this year.
- In 2024, NDCs collectively showed that emissions are expected to [reduce by 5.9% by 2030](#) compared to 2019 levels. However, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that a [43% reduction is needed](#) to limit global temperature rises to 1.5C.
- The UK's current International Climate Finance commitment (ICF3) runs until April 2026. This is a form of aid that is intended to fund low-carbon development and build climate resilience. The UK is expected to announce a new climate finance package this COP.

The UK must announce an ambitious new International Climate Finance commitment:

- There is [increasing evidence](#) that the breakdown of ecosystems due to climate change and biodiversity loss risks UK economic growth and food security. Around half of UK nature-related risks come from overseas, through supply chains and financial exposures, pointing toward the importance of working internationally to close the gaps in disclosures and risk management.
- Meanwhile, global aid budgets from rich countries are shrinking. This is damaging the ability of developing countries to prevent and prepare for climate change.
- The government has recommitted to fulfilling the International Climate Finance 3 (ICF3) pledge of £11.6bn between 2021 and 2026, with £3bn dedicated to nature and forests.
- International Climate Finance 4 (ICF4) is expected to start from April next year. The government should announce an ambitious ICF4 covering another five years to 2031, to demonstrate leadership and give the Global South more certainty.
- The climate and biodiversity crises cannot be separated, and at least a third of ICF4 funding should be dedicated to biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions.

The UK should invest in the new Tropical Forest Forever Facility

- At COP26 in Glasgow, world leaders committed to ending deforestation by 2030. But the destruction of vital ecosystems has accelerated year-on-year. In 2024 alone, tropical primary forest loss [surged to 6.7 million](#) hectares, and the amount of forests burning was five times greater than in previous years.
- Protecting tropical rainforests is essential for global climate stability and securing resilient food and water supplies. A hectare of the Amazon cleared for cattle pasture typically generates just \$100 to \$200 in annual income, while the same area of intact Amazon forest provides ecosystem services worth from \$400 to [over \\$700](#).
- The Tropical Forest Forever Facility is a Global South-led initiative that Brazil, hosts of COP30, are set to make it a centrepiece of the negotiations. Brazil has already committed an investment of \$1bn.

- The Facility is pioneering a new model not based on grants or debt, but a “payment-for-performance” model that uses satellite monitoring to reward tropical forest countries with a continued source of funding as long as they preserve their forests. The Facility will raise public and private funds that are invested, generating a return that is used to pay countries with tropical forest for maintaining their forests.
- There is private sector appetite for the Facility as an investment opportunity. It also presents an opportunity for the City of London to become the global hub for Facility bond issuance.
- The UK’s partners including Norway and Germany are also planning to make investment announcements. To maintain leadership and build on the Glasgow declaration, the UK should at least match their investment commitments. The cross-party [Environment Audit Committee](#) has also called on the government to deliver investment. If it does not, the UK must set out how it will encourage private investment in the facility.

What further actions can the UK advocate for at COP30?

- The UK should collaborate with partners to establish a concrete roadmap for a just transition to end fossil fuels. At COP28 governments agreed to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, triple renewable energy by 2030, and double the average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements globally. We urgently need [clear national pathways](#) with timelines for power-sector decarbonisation, and rapid methane reduction from energy and waste.
- The UK should advocate for a [new ‘adaptation finance goal’](#) to be set at COP30, as the current one expires this year. A global goal on adaptation (GGA) was established in Paris 2015, and at COP28 government adopted a framework to guide the implementation of the GGA. At COP30 they will need to agree on indicators to track the progress made.

What do voters think?

- More than [two-thirds](#) of British people (69%) say it is important that the UK is a global leader in tackling climate change.
- [70%](#) of adults in Great Britain believe that the UK should be doing more to prevent animals and plants from becoming extinct.
- Nearly [three-quarters](#) of the public (74%) want to see nature around the world protected from harmful climate impacts.

Suggested interventions

- Will the government announce an ambitious new International Climate Finance target, with at least a third dedicated to nature restoration?
- Will the government invest in Brazil’s COP30 TFFF initiative, given its financial opportunities and the long-term benefits that this will provide to habitats and ecosystems?