

Forests & Biodiversity at COP30

Student-Led Seminar Preparation Sheet

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❖ What are Forests & Biodiversity?

Forest

- Large ecosystems dominated by trees
- Store carbon and regulate climate

Biodiversity

- Variety of life (plants, animals, ecosystems)
- Forests hold most land-based species

Key idea: Forest loss weakens biodiversity and climate stability

❖ Why Do They Matter for Climate Change?

- Forests absorb CO₂ (carbon sinks)
- Healthy ecosystems reduce climate risks
- Support food, medicine, and livelihood

❑ **Key Matter:** Forest destruction and biodiversity loss are the main reason for climate change

❖ What Have COP Conferences Promised?

- REDD+ created to reduce deforestation
- Forests included in national climate targets (NDCs)
- Global pledges to halt deforestation by 2030
- Increasing recognition of Indigenous land rights

❖ What Have COP-30 Conferences Promised?

Key Commitments

- \$100 billion per year pledged by developed countries
- Creation of the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund (COP27)

❑ **Promise:** Support vulnerable countries in addressing climate impacts

❖ Why COP30 Matters (Brazil, 2025)

- Hosted in the Amazon region
- Strong focus on tropical forests
- New forest finance ideas
- Better link between climate & biodiversity agendas

❑ **Key question:** Will COP30 turn promises into real action

❖ Key Challenges So Far

Finance

- Pledged funding often delayed or incomplete

Governance

- Most commitments are voluntary
- Weak enforcement

Equity

- Indigenous communities receive limited benefits

❑ **Reality:** High ambition, uneven delivery

❖ Questions to Think About

- Are forest pledges effective without legal enforcement?
 - Can finance alone stop deforestation?
- Should biodiversity be central to climate negotiations



United Nations
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