



Iguazu National Park, State of Paraná, Brazil

Regional Governments at the Forefront of Jointly Tackling the Twin Biodiversity and Climate Crises

The present briefing for Regions4 members addresses why and how climate change and biodiversity loss can be tackled together, and what Regions4 members can do today to accelerate their influence and play a stronger role in moving towards a more sustainable, healthy, and equitable world for all



Regions4

Sustainable Development

According to [OECD](#), at least 105 out of 169 Agenda 2030 targets strongly depend on the action at local and regional level. The most pressing challenges at the global level are those related to Climate and Biodiversity action. Following Climate CoP 27 and Biodiversity CoP 15 and the launch of the new [Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), **enhancing synergies between the biodiversity and climate agendas within the framework of a comprehensive vision for sustainability is more important than ever.** [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\) report from March 2023](#) highlights irreversible risks we are facing; however, it also offers pathways to avoid increasing damage to nature by recognizing the interdependence of climate, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human societies. The report also shines a light on the fact that climate resilient development strategies that integrate nature and people are a big part of the solution.

These crises are interconnected and impact each other through multiple **positive feedback loops**. For example, degradation and loss of ecosystems reduce carbon sinks, exacerbate climate change and accelerate its impacts such as droughts, floods, and sea level rise, as well as influence the emergence of new diseases. [Key scientific findings](#) have been identified on the nexus between climate and biodiversity that are **particularly relevant for subnational leaders looking to accelerate their responses to these “twin crises”:**

- Successfully resolving climate change and biodiversity loss will **require policies that consider their mutual influences, as well as their impacts to human livelihoods**. Climate change policies need to consider biodiversity impacts such as habitat loss, range shifts, and altered ecosystem functioning. At the same time, biodiversity conservation requires a strong climate risk analysis and adaptation actions. Shared knowledge and data, joint risk analysis and vulnerability assessments, cross-sector planning, and coordination, including nature-based solutions, are therefore necessary for integrated responses to these two crises.
- **Protection and restoration actions** are highly effective for both **climate change mitigation** and biodiversity, with great **adaptation co-benefits**. Aside from enhancing climate resilience, such actions can directly benefit local communities by regulating floods, enhancing water quality, and promoting pollination and sustainable agriculture, among others. Alongside restoration actions, Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches also represent a great opportunity to expand synergies.
- Achieving the global goals on Climate, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development will require far reaching actions at **all levels of government**. Local and subnational efforts should be incentivized and prioritized by global targets and national governments. Regional efforts to enhance biodiversity and climate action can make significant contributions, considering the importance of **bridging the urban-rural divide and of inter-sectoral and multi-level governance approaches**. Supporting coalitions and subnational-led initiatives remains key, to both galvanize political leadership and foster knowledge sharing and technical exchange towards replicability of best practices.

THE DECLARATION ON RABAT-SALÉ-KÉNITRA OF SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS COP27:

Regions for a Resilient Future: Driving Transformative Action for the Planet, People and Prosperity

48 Regions4 members and subnational leaders called for:

- Greater coherence, coordination, and cooperation on environmental governance ensuring connections between the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework.
- A renewed effort from the parties to enhance scientific knowledge, data, and statistics availability; and disseminate, inform, raise awareness and educate about the interlinkages between the climate, biodiversity, and ecosystem services crisis.
- A significant contribution to enhance the importance of adaptation efforts through nature-based solutions and local and regional level capacities to implement them.

And commit to:




- Expressing and sharing our perspectives and experience with the UNFCCC and at all levels are recognized as key drivers for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the goals of the Paris Agreement, and ensure the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.
- Accelerate our actions and the “glocalisation” of the global goals by enhancing innovative solutions, including actions that are integrated into ecosystem approaches at all government levels to simultaneously improve the preservation of biodiversity and promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

FIND OUT MORE [HERE](#)




A **coherent, integrated approach** that can tackle both climate change and biodiversity loss and promote co-benefits is **urgent to accelerate solutions for people and the planet**. A long-term view of human and economic development in all countries, in fact, cannot ignore the local effects of such global issues. Regional governments, through their close relationships with actors and citizens across multiple jurisdictions, play a pivotal role in developing comprehensive approaches that address local challenges. They are also key drivers of change and innovative solutions to tackle the twin crises

What **Regions4 members** can do today to accelerate solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss while fostering sustainable development and climate adaptation, through **Regions4 led initiatives**:




Global influence

-  Join the [AC SNG](#), a permanent CBD platform to channel subnational leaders' voice
-  Join and engage in the [RegionsAdapt initiative and the Regions Race to Resilience](#) to provide input into international climate negotiations, processes and events through the Marrakech Partnership and Race to Resilience
-  Take part in the [High level Political Forum](#) and in the SDG Summit to contribute to the leading political declarations and reviews on Agenda 2030 implementation




Strengthen regional commitments

-  Sign up to [RegionsWithNature](#), recognized by the CBD COP15 as the platform of choice for subnational governments to monitor and report their commitments to the GBF
-  Share with the Race to Resilience campaign concrete integrated solutions for climate and biodiversity by contacting regionsadapt@regions4.org
-  Take part to the surveys on the role of Subnational Governments in [SDG implementation](#). Develop a monitoring system and set your targets




Share best practices

-  Participate in the [Case Study Database](#), exclusive for **Regions4** and RegionsWithNature members
-  Report your progress through the [CDP/RegionsAdapt reporting mechanism](#) to figure in our [RegionsAdapt progress report](#) that informs progress to the UNFCCC and Race to Resilience/Marrakech Partnership
-  Deliver a [Voluntary Subnational Review](#) to the HLPF and contribute to the [Regions4 Knowledge Hub](#) with your best practices

Peer to peer learning and exchange of good practices exclusive for Regions4 members

-  Engage with **Regions4 members** in the [Biodiversity Learning Platform](#) (R4BLP) webinar sessions focused on finding global solutions to regional challenges
-  Join [RegionsAdapt and its community of practice](#) sessions to learn from other peer regions on how to assess, plan, implement and report on progress on adaptation
-  Join the [SDGs Community of Practice](#) and the SDGs Working Group to take part in a common learning process on highly challenging issues

Key:

 Regions4 Biodiversity Programme |  Regions4 Climate Action Programme |  Regions4 SDGs Programme

