



## NEW YORK CLIMATE WEEK EVENT

Leveraging 30x30 to Protect Oceans, Forests,  
and Indigenous and Local Community  
Territories from Extractive Industries

PARTICIPANT GUIDE  
SEPTEMBER 2025

## Participant Guide

### *Leveraging 30x30 to Protect Oceans, Forests, and Indigenous & Local Community Territories from Extractive Industries New York Climate Week 2025*



Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Jay Suites, 2nd floor Paris Room, 109 W 39th St, NYC



Open Doors: 1:30 pm | Event: 2:00–6:30 pm | Reception to follow

[Full Agenda and Speaker Lineup](#)

Provided translation in Spanish and Portuguese.

#### I. About the Event

We are delighted to welcome you to this convening co-hosted by Earth Insight, Campaign for Nature, Rainforest Foundation Norway, the Key Biodiversity Areas Secretariat, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC), Oceans 5, Climate Land Use Alliance (CLUA), and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

This gathering builds on a shared commitment to advance **Target 3**<sup>1</sup> of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in December 2022, which calls for the effective protection and management of at least 30% of the Earth's terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine areas by 2030 (30x30). This goal was reaffirmed at CBD COP16 in 2024 in Cali, Colombia, alongside the scientific call to protect 50% of the planet by 2050 (50x50).

<sup>1</sup> Target 3: Conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas “Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories” Retrieved from <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/3>. Accessed on September 17 2025.



Yet despite major advances in data and science, massive industrial expansion is threatening protected areas, key biodiversity areas, and Indigenous territories: Across the pantropics, 518 Key Biodiversity Areas (18% by area) overlap with active or potential oil and gas concessions, and over 180 million hectares of high-integrity forests face current or planned fossil fuel extraction<sup>2</sup>. Offshore, a recent study found that across the case study frontier regions, oil and gas blocks cover 2.7 million km<sup>2</sup>—an area about the size of Argentina—with 88,500 km<sup>2</sup> overlapping protected areas, 19% of coastal and marine protected areas at risk, and 14% of marine and coastal Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) overlapping with oil and gas blocks<sup>3</sup>.

These mounting pressures underscore the urgency of turning global commitments into real protections on the ground and at sea. As we look toward COP30 in Brazil (2025) and CBD COP17 in Armenia (2026), there is a critical need to move from commitments on paper to concrete implementation. At this gathering at New York Climate Week on Thursday, September 25th we are convening together Indigenous leaders, experts, policymakers, and advocates to advance greater cohesion and momentum for achieving Target 3.

## II. Purpose and Format

**In two back-to-back sessions, focusing on oceans and tropical forests, we will work collaboratively to:**

- Build a shared understanding of the barriers enabling extractive expansion despite 30x30 commitments, the opportunities to address them, the strategies most urgent to scale ahead of COP30 in Brazil (2025) and CBD COP17, and the movement needs to prioritize.
- Surface key solutions/success models that need scaling on identified thematic areas (Policy, Legal, Finance, IP&LC, Corporate, Philanthropy, Communications and Narrative Building).
- Explore how we can more effectively collaborate over the next 12 months (and beyond) to move the needle.

This event is designed as a working space to harness the collective expertise in the room and generate concrete, actionable strategies to help operationalize Target 3 as a milestone on the path to 50x50. Your insights will help inform a shared plan that can be carried forward to CBD COP17 in Yerevan.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on threats to forest please see: Earth Insight, One Earth, Campaign For Nature, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and Wild Heritage. (2024). Closing Window of Opportunity: Mapping Threats from Oil, Gas and Mining to Important Areas for Conservation in the Pantropics. Retrieved from <https://earth-insight.org/report/closing-window/> Accessed on: September 15, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> For more information on threats to oceans please see Earth Insight, et al. (2025). Ocean Frontiers at Risk: Fossil Fuel Expansion Threats to Biodiversity Hotspots and Climate Stability. Retrieved from: <https://earth-insight.org/report/ocean-frontiers-at-risk/> Accessed on: September 15, 2025.

### III. Leveraging the collective expertise: Interactive Pod-Discussions

After the expert panel discussion highlighting key barriers, opportunities, and strategies for implementing Target 3 ([see agenda for the full program](#)), we will break into small groups by theme to harness the collective expertise in the room and explore the following guiding questions:

#### 1. Policy

##### Prompts:

- *How can we strengthen policy and governance frameworks so that Target 3 becomes operational and enforceable, ensuring that PAs, KBAs, and IP & LC territories are shielded from extractive pressures?*
- *Which policy precedents (moratoria, Protected Areas downgrading reversals, recognition of IP&LC rights/territories, creation of new Protected Areas and/or strengthening of existing ones) could be replicated and scaled?*

##### Context:

While most countries have adopted biodiversity targets, weak enforcement, conflicting mandates, and policy loopholes continue to allow extractive concessions inside protected and key biodiversity areas. Ministries of environment are often underfunded and politically sidelined, while climate and energy policies still promote industrial expansion. Embedding 30x30 into binding law, closing loopholes, and aligning biodiversity, climate, and development policies can transform these paper commitments into real protections.

#### 2. Legal & Rights-Based Approaches

##### Prompts:

- *What legal tools and reforms—domestic and international—are needed to close enforcement gaps, address absence of protective laws, and ensure Target 3 protections are upheld in the face of extractive pressures?*
- *What enabling conditions and strategies are needed to establish, strengthen, and scale such legal protections and ensure their effective implementation?*

##### Context:

Even where constitutional or statutory protections exist, enforcement is often weak and contradictory sectoral laws enable extractives to override conservation rules. High barriers to justice and limited international accountability compound the problem. Leveraging constitutional rights, reforming extractive laws, and using international legal instruments and precedent-setting court rulings can help secure lasting legal safeguards for biodiversity and community rights.

### 3. Finance

#### Prompts:

- *How can Target 3 be leveraged to shift financial flows away from destructive industries and toward IPLC-led conservation and restoration?*
- *What enabling conditions, mechanisms, and reforms are needed to scale up financial flows toward IPLC-led conservation and restoration under Target 3?*

#### Context:

Financial flows still overwhelmingly support extractive industries, while IP&LC-led conservation remains severely underfunded. Misaligned subsidies and weak accountability enable greenwashing. Redirecting capital using Target 3 as a benchmark, deploying financial risk levers, scaling innovative finance tools, and embedding nature-positive investment standards can help realign the financial system with biodiversity goals.

### 4. Indigenous Peoples & Local Communities (IP&LCs)

#### Prompts:

- *What concrete steps can guarantee that IP&LC tenure, finance, and leadership are embedded at the core of 30x30 implementation and beyond?*
- *What enabling conditions and strategies are needed to establish, sustain, and scale these IP&LC-centered approaches over the long term?*

#### Context:

IP&LCs steward much of the world's biodiversity yet often lack formal tenure, political voice, and direct access to finance. They face the dual risk of extractive expansion and exclusionary "fortress" conservation. Scaling IP&LC-led governance models, securing land rights, unlocking direct finance, and ensuring their leadership in decision-making are critical to achieving Target 3 with justice and legitimacy.

### 5. Corporate Accountability

#### Prompts

- *How can corporate actors realign their practices, investments, and supply chains to support Target 3 and reduce pressures on biodiversity and IPLC territories?*
- *What enabling conditions, incentives, and accountability mechanisms are needed to scale corporate contributions while preventing greenwashing and rights violations?*

#### Context:

Corporate incentives often favor short-term profits at the expense of biodiversity, enabled by weak due diligence rules and opaque supply chains. Voluntary ESG frameworks frequently allow greenwashing. Strengthening regulatory oversight, linking corporate rewards to nature-positive performance, applying market pressure, and building accountability coalitions can drive real corporate contributions and reduce harm.

## 6. Philanthropy

### Prompts:

- *How can philanthropic actors align their strategies and funding models with Target 3 to catalyze long-term, IP&LC-led conservation and restoration efforts?*
- *What enabling conditions and collaborative approaches are needed to scale philanthropic support while avoiding fragmentation, short-termism, or top-down agendas?*

### Context:

Philanthropic funding is often short-term, top-down, and fragmented, leaving local organizations under-resourced. Shifting to multi-year core support, co-designing priorities with IP&LC leaders, pooling donor resources, and building local institutional capacity can transform philanthropy from a fragmented patchwork into a strategic driver of durable territorial protection.

## 7. Communications and narrative building

### Prompts:

- *How can we reshape dominant narratives so that protecting Protected areas, Key Biodiversity Areas, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities territories is seen as central to national prosperity and human well-being rather than a trade-off against development?*
- *What communications strategies and messengers can build broad-based public and political support for rights-based conservation, especially ahead of COP30 and Convention on Biological Diversity COP17?*

### Context:

Fragmented messaging, technical language, and perceptions of conservation as anti-development have weakened support for Target 3, while Indigenous and local voices remain sidelined. Building impact will require unified, relatable narratives that link nature, climate, culture, and livelihoods; elevate IPLC storytelling; and use creative campaigns and global moments like COP30 and CBD COP17 to amplify coordinated messages.

## 8. Strategic Alignment & Next Steps

### Prompts for all groups (1-7 above):

- *What is one joint strategy and one concrete action participants can commit to in the next 12 months to advance rights-based Target 3 implementation and build momentum toward COP30 and CBD COP17?*



- *What collective milestones and coordinated actions should we prioritize over the next four years to take stock of progress and ensure the effective implementation of Target 3, and in doing so, what can we offer and what do we need from one another?*

## IV. How to Engage

Bring your expertise, creativity, and bold ideas to co-create; focus on operationalizing Target 3 with concrete recommendations and commitments; and build shared priorities to shape outcomes at COP30, CBD COP17, and on the path to 2030.

**Thank you for joining us to explore pathways from commitment into lasting protection for people and the planet.**

**Contact information:** For any further information about the program, please contact Ms. Florencia Librizzi, Program Director at [social@earth-insight.org](mailto:social@earth-insight.org).