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CVF FRONTLINE

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CVF FRONTLINE

February 2026

Special Edition No. 1

This special edition of CVF Frontline celebrates a shared commitment across CVF-V20 member states to protect what matters most: people, planet, and the natural systems that sustain them.

Across regions, governments are advancing ecosystem restoration, forest protection, sustainable land management, and nature-based adaptation strategies that strengthen communities while safeguarding biodiversity.

In this Month of Love, we highlight these stories of care for the Earth, showing how climate action, the protection of nature, and the nurturing of communities are all expressions of our shared responsibility to one another and to the living world that sustains us.

Loving Nature through Restoration, Strengthening Communities in Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, a new climate initiative is working to restore ecosystems while strengthening rural resilience. The project, led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with national partners, aims to help communities adapt to climate change by rebuilding the natural systems they depend on.

Titled *Adapting to Climate Change and Enabling Sustainable Land Management Through Productive Rural Communities in Timor-Leste*, the initiative runs from 2023 to 2028 with a budget of nearly USD 10 million and additional co-financing support. Its approach is rooted in ecosystem-based adaptation, using nature itself as a frontline defense against climate risks.

Timor-Leste's ecosystems are rich but under tremendous pressure. Tropical rainforests, mangroves, and wetlands provide vital services, including water regulation, soil protection, and coastal defense. Yet decades of logging and unsustainable farming have taken a heavy toll. Some estimates suggest that 90 percent of the country's forests have already been cleared or degraded.

The project responds to this challenge by restoring natural landscapes while helping

communities manage land more sustainably. Its goals include the rehabilitation of 15,000 hectares of forests and ecosystems and directly supporting about 68,000 people. Activities range from restoring watersheds and improving agricultural practices to strengthening climate adaptation planning and expanding climate-smart agribusiness.

Water security is another priority. By rehabilitating catchment areas and improving water provision, the initiative seeks to safeguard supplies for rural households and farms, thus reducing the risk of drought-related hardship. At the same time, sustainable land management systems are designed to boost productivity without further damaging the environment.

Beyond its technical components, the project reflects a broader shift in climate policy: recognizing that protecting nature can also protect people. Healthy forests, wetlands, and soils can buffer communities against floods, erosion, and changing rainfall patterns while supporting livelihoods.

In a country where many rural families depend directly on natural resources, this integrated approach offers more than environmental restoration. It represents an investment in long-term stability—strengthening resilience, reducing land degradation, and helping communities adapt to an uncertain climate future.



Timorese carry palm leaves used to construct a traditional sacred house in Timor-Leste, where community-based practices support resilience and ecosystem restoration efforts. (Photo: United Nations Timor-Leste/UN)



Fishermen stand along the coast in Weligama, Sri Lanka, highlighting community livelihoods linked to marine stewardship. (Photo: Freepik)

Sri Lanka's Love Letter to the High Seas

Sri Lanka is taking steps to strengthen national stewardship of marine biodiversity in response to the entry into force of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement. This landmark international treaty, which entered into force in January 2026, establishes a global framework for conserving and sustainably using marine life in the high seas.

According to [Climate Fact Checks](#), the country is working to harmonize legal and institutional frameworks to support biodiversity protection, data sharing, and responsible management of marine resources as the global agreement takes effect. This alignment signals a broader shift toward long-term stewardship and coordinated ocean governance.

The BBNJ Agreement provides tools that help nations collectively care for the vast ecosystems that connect continents, including the creation of marine protected areas, stronger environmental impact assessments, and capacity-building measures for sustainable use of marine genetic resources. For island and coastal nations like Sri Lanka, these measures hold particular significance. The health of the ocean is directly tied to livelihoods, food security, and resilience against climate change.

In an era when environmental challenges transcend borders, Sri Lanka shows how national commitment can support global care. Through policy reform, collaboration, and foresight, Sri Lanka's actions reflect a deepening

recognition that protecting nature is not simply an obligation, but an enduring expression of care for the planet that sustains us all.

Embracing Bamboo as a Pathway to Resilience in the Philippines

The Philippines is turning to one of its oldest natural resources to help secure a more resilient future, placing nature at the heart of climate action through a renewed national push for bamboo development.

This month, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) [launched the campaign "Kawayan: Kabalikat ng Klima at Komunidad,"](#) highlighting bamboo as a powerful nature-based solution that supports environmental protection, community resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.

At its core, the initiative reflects a broader commitment to preserving ecosystems while strengthening communities that depend on them. Bamboo, a fast-growing and versatile plant, plays a critical role in climate adaptation. It absorbs carbon emissions, helps regulate water, and offers natural protection against flooding and strong winds.

The campaign seeks to raise public awareness of bamboo's environmental value while encouraging its wider cultivation and integration into development planning. The Philippines has an estimated 39,000 to 53,000 hectares suitable for bamboo production, offering significant potential to restore landscapes, support rural

livelihoods, and promote sustainable economic growth rooted in ecological care.

Anchored in the country's National Adaptation Plan, the effort positions bamboo as both a protective and productive resource. Officials have emphasized its role in stabilizing ecosystems, reducing climate risks, and supporting local industries—from small-scale crafts to engineered bamboo products. The country is home to around 70 bamboo species, including wide endemic varieties, underscoring the importance of conserving natural heritage while expanding its benefits for communities.

More than a technical solution, the campaign signals a deeper investment in nature as a partner in national resilience. By promoting bamboo cultivation and stewardship, the Philippines is advancing an approach that protects ecosystems while creating opportunities for green jobs and inclusive growth.

Through this initiative, preservation becomes both practical and purposeful — strengthening the bonds between communities and the landscapes that sustain them, while ensuring that natural resources continue to support future generations.

Ecosystems at the Heart of Jordan's Adaptation Agenda

Jordan's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2025 reflects a strategic shift toward embedding environmental resilience and nature based solutions at the heart of national climate adaptation planning.

The plan acknowledges that ecosystems, from wadis and forests to agricultural landscapes, are vital buffers against intensifying climate impacts such as drought, water scarcity, and land degradation. Key nature based actions prioritized in the plan include ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management, and integrated water resource practices. These aim to enhance the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities while simultaneously boosting biodiversity and soil health.

Echoing broader climate finance and international support priorities, Jordan's NAP underscores landscape level interventions to rehabilitate degraded lands and manage watersheds sustainably, particularly in the Jordan Valley and northern agricultural zones, where climate change threatens both ecological function and rural livelihoods.

Also central to the plan are community led adaptation initiatives that leverage local knowledge and participation. Projects that restore natural habitats, promote agroecological



Mountain landscapes in Jordan illustrate ecosystems prioritized under the country's National Adaptation Plan to strengthen climate resilience. (Photo: Jordan National Adaptation Plan 2025/UNFCCC)

A person holds a young plant, symbolizing forest conservation efforts in Gabon, a country with extensive tropical rainforest protection policies. (Photo: Freepik)

practices, and support ecosystem friendly livelihoods (such as sustainable beekeeping and climate smart agriculture) are highlighted for their dual benefits. They strengthen resilience while increasing income opportunities while partnerships with UN agencies and international donors guide the on the ground nature based interventions.

Water scarcity, a defining climate challenge for Jordan, receives specific focus through actions that combine green infrastructure, efficient water management, and natural recharge support for aquifers. These environmentally rooted strategies align with Jordan's long term adaptation and sustainable development vision, fostering resilient landscapes that protect both people and nature.

The Right Union: Gabon Proves Conservation and Economic Growth Can Coexist

The Gabonese Republic has been classified as a high-forest low-deforestation country, with a recorded deforestation rate of just 0.6%. This remarkable outcome highlights the impact of forward-looking national policies and ambitious government commitments amid mounting threats of forest degradation across Africa.

Roughly 88% of the country's land is covered with tropical rainforest, supporting rich biodiversity and complex ecosystems. The number of plant species it shelters exceeds that of all West Africa's forests combined. Gabon is

among the few places where forest elephants can wander from the forest edge to the sea.

Often called Africa's *Last Eden* while absorbing 140 million tons of CO2 each year, the Gabonese government strives to preserve its extensive forest area through proactive regulations, setting a strong example for the region. Efforts can be traced back more than a decade, when the country decided to impose a total ban on log exports, strengthening enforcement against illegal logging. This policy also opened opportunities to strengthen the domestic wood market across the country by encouraging local processing, value addition, and job creation. The country had also established its own National Climate Council, responsible for incorporating climate change considerations and sustainable development priorities into nationwide sectoral strategies.

In full implementation of its *Green Gabon* national agenda, the government entered into a partnership with the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) program in 2019, securing a USD 150 million result-based payment contract for carbon absorption. Two years after the agreement, Gabon became the first African country to receive a REDD+ payment of USD 17 million. Gabon and CAFI have agreed to use the payout to support the country's Forest Law Enforcement Unit, organize nationwide capacity-building programs on forestry conservation, and enhance national botanical gardens.

Gabon stands as a global lifeline for nature conservation and sustainable development.

Its extensive forest cover is vital not just for African nations, where it helps maintain ecological stability, protect watersheds, and support local communities, but also for the entire world. It serves as a carbon sink, a reservoir of biodiversity, and a natural defense against climate change. By safeguarding its forests, Gabon contributes directly to global efforts to combat environmental degradation and secure a sustainable future for future generations.

Protect What You Love: Grenada's Community-Driven Marine Conservation

Our Bay, Our Future takes center stage as Grenada seeks to advance its marine protection initiatives. The project was officially launched last month at the Woburn Bay Jetty by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund in collaboration with the Grenada Sustainable Development Trust Fund and with the financial support of Global Affairs Canada.

As one of Grenada's key marine protected areas, the Woburn Bay Jetty is home to the country's largest intact mangrove ecosystem, providing essential habitat for birds and fish while protecting the coastline. It is a critically managed marine area that also safeguards coral reefs and seagrass beds, serving as a

demonstration site for the Fisheries Division under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and supporting both biodiversity and sustainable local livelihoods.

Our Bay, Our Future project focuses on enhancing marine protection and monitoring, restoring degraded habitats, and supporting sustainable livelihoods, while ensuring that women, youth, and coastal communities have an active role in decision-making. The initiative aims to modernize enforcement, strengthen ecosystem restoration, and empower the communities that depend on this coastline.

"Marine protected areas are extremely potent for our country in conserving our biodiversity and in creating the conditions for our people to benefit in the development of their livelihood," Hon. Lennox Andrews, Minister for Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, Creative Economy, Culture, Agriculture and Lands, Forestry, Blue Economy, Marine Resources, and Cooperatives, said during the launch of the project.

In implementing this project, the Government of Grenada anticipates mobilizing community participation in the community of Woburn Bay Jetty, integrating their indigenous knowledge and lived experiences to ensure the cleanliness of the bay. The project also emphasizes gender empowerment, with particular focus on the participation of women and youth.



Community members gather during the launch of the "Our Bay, Our Future" marine protection project at Woburn Bay, Grenada, on Jan. 17, 2026. (Photo: Grenada Sustainable Development Trust Fund Inc.)

A coastline in Saint Lucia reflects coastal planning efforts under the country's Marine Spatial Plan supporting sustainable ocean management. (Photo: Government of Saint Lucia/OECS)

Care for the Blue Economy: Saint Lucia Charts a Sustainable Course

Saint Lucia is championing sustainable ocean governance with comprehensive blue economy strategies designed to strengthen economic resilience and foster inclusive growth.

The Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan, developed under the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project, provides a roadmap for the sustainable and equitable use of the coastal and marine spaces, protection of coastal and marine ecosystems, and management of land-water interactions. Funded through the Global Environment Facility, the plan maps out risk assessments and investment opportunities across nearshore and offshore areas, contributing as a key knowledge asset to inform strategic visions for blue economy development.

Anchored in the elements of expanded fisheries, self-sufficiency, healthy ecosystems, a diversified economy, and responsible tourism, the plan serves as a framework for zoning configuration and the calibration of planning scenarios. Its priorities also emphasized efforts on five key investment packages such as village tourism, solar farm enhancement, resilient fisheries facilities, business accommodation, and wind energy development.

The Unleashing the Blue Economy of the Caribbean (UBEC) project, on the other hand, is a people-centered and cross-sectoral regional initiative that leverages marine and coastal

resilience in driving economic growth across tourism, fisheries, and waste management.

In Saint Lucia, the project is spearheaded by the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Youth Economy with an allocation of USD 29 million. The project has four strategic components: championing institutional capacity with sound climate policies, increasing financial modalities for businesses, capacitating community crisis emergency response, and facilitating monitoring and evaluation.

Both the country's Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan and UBEC project demonstrate Saint Lucia's commitment to marine conservation while upholding community-driven initiatives, showcasing leadership that sets a benchmark for CVF-V20 member states.

Market Romance: Paraguay's Carbon Credit Innovation and Climate Investments

With strong legislative enforcement of the Carbon Credit Law, the Republic of Paraguay is advancing environmental protection and conservation in the Chaco region, supporting projects that safeguard ecosystems while attracting over USD 10 million in responsible investment. At the same time, the country is expanding certification processes across more than 400,000 hectares, strengthening long-term stewardship of forests, biodiversity, and natural carbon sinks.

Rising interest in global carbon markets has prompted Paraguay to leverage domestic capacities and rich biodiversity to create new revenue streams for the nation. Through the introduction of the Carbon Credit Law, Paraguay affirms that high-quality carbon credits are essential in reducing, eliminating, and capturing carbon emissions while preserving ecological integrity and providing vital income opportunities for indigenous communities.

The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development leads the country's carbon market efforts, establishing a clear legal framework that prioritizes transparency, environmental accountability, and rigorous oversight of carbon credit projects. By aligning with international voluntary carbon market standards, Paraguay is reinforcing its commitment to credible, conservation-focused climate solutions and building trust among project partners and buyers alike.

As a member of the CVF-V20, Paraguay's strategy aligns with the organization's carbon finance agenda, recognizing its immense potential to strengthen national economic resilience, promote social equity, advance climate action, and protect biodiversity—while unlocking critical funding for countries facing the greatest climate vulnerabilities and the deepest gaps in climate finance.

The Carbon Credit Law is expected to draw significant carbon market investments to

Paraguay, potentially generating over USD 100 million in annual revenue. The country aims to become a global leader in carbon credit regulation while expanding access to high-quality projects for the international carbon market.

Community Vow: Chad Rolls Out Nationwide Drive for Environmental Responsibility

Strengthening environmental stewardship in Chad has reached a pivotal milestone with the launch of a nationwide campaign to implement Law No. 023. This legislative framework, bolstered by international partnerships and localized outreach, represents a shift from abstract policy to community-led conservation.

Adopted as part of Chad's broader "Vision 2030," Law No. 023 serves as a comprehensive update to the country's environmental governance. It addresses the legal gaps found in earlier versions of the Forestry and Water Codes, providing a more robust basis for pollution control, conservation, and the sustainable use of natural resources, responding to persistent environmental challenges such as deforestation, land degradation, and unmanaged waste.



Residents in a mountainous region of Chad whose daily lives are shaped by national environmental protection policies. (Photo: Impact Reports Africa)

To translate policy into meaningful action, the government is placing public awareness at the center of implementation. In January 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development launched an ambitious national campaign focused on strengthening legal literacy and accelerating local capacity. The initiative will be rolled out across multiple regions, with particular emphasis on environmentally vulnerable areas where ecosystem decline directly impacts food security, public health, and economic stability.

Through regional workshops, educational materials, community radio programming, and stakeholder consultations, the campaign aims to build understanding of the law while encouraging active community participation in environmental protection. By connecting legal frameworks with local realities, the government seeks to foster long-term compliance and shared responsibility.

Inclusivity remains a cornerstone of the effort. Outreach strategies are designed to engage traditional leaders, youth, women's groups, and civil society organizations as key partners in promoting sustainable practices. Information will be delivered through accessible channels, including radio, print media, and digital platforms, to ensure that communities across the country can engage with and benefit from the initiative.