



# Call for Action

## IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group (IFLA CCB)

Over 70,000 landscape architects around the world are taking action as global citizens to limit planetary warming to 1.5° C.

In 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported on the looming global warming crisis and the resultant impacts it will have on environments and communities throughout our world. As a response, IFLA launched the **IFLA Climate Action Commitment** with the belief that landscape architecture is a critical component key to solving the climate crisis in the reduction of emissions, in the resilience and transformation of human society, and in ensuring the sustainability of the natural environment.

As a creative discipline, we bring expertise on Nature-based Solutions, technological innovation, and strategic thinking that deliver for nature and people. We accelerate city afforestation to sequester carbon, generate urban biodiversity, and protect cities from extreme heat – a growing threat to human survival. Beyond urban environments, we work at all scales: global, regional, local, and human, to strengthen, protect and enhance the wider functional ecosystems. Landscape architects deliver climate solutions at scales that matter.

As our mission, landscape architects are uniquely qualified to help prevent catastrophic global environmental and societal breakdowns. Through planning, design, and management, our work protects and repairs global ecosystems; fosters human health, well-being, and happiness; cools the environment and draws down atmospheric carbon.

**Through the IFLA Climate Action Commitments (the 6 commitments), we commit to:**

1. Advancing the UN SDGs
2. Attaining global net zero carbon emissions by 2040
3. Enhancing capacity and resilience of livable cities and communities
4. Advocating for climate justice and social well-being
5. Learning from cultural knowledge systems
6. Galvanizing climate leadership

It is now time to Act. IFLA is asking for your support and your actions at the IFLA World Congress in Kenya.

**Action1: What is a commitment that your national association will commit to with IFLA and all national members that will be completed in 1 year?**

As the climate crisis is escalating, what is the critical role of landscape architecture in the role of the climate crisis? IFLA's President and the IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group ask for one commitment to action from your national association's profession. Within the 6 Commitments, we will reconvene at the IFLA World Congress in Kenya and host a workshop with all national associations. Your commitment to action and its realized impacts will be shared at the IFLA World Congress in 2025.

**Action 2: Please share a selected landscape architect climate champion from your jurisdiction and their effect on climate adaptation activities. We may then invite them to be part of our IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Webinar, the annual webinar that our working group hosts.**

**Action 3: Could you share one of your nation's landscape architecture-built best practices, projects, or cultural landscape strategies from your jurisdiction that IFLA can feature and apply to be part of UN landscape architecture Nature-based adaptation implementation guidelines?**

As landscape architects, we are champions of Nature-based Solutions. It is now time for us to amplify our impact and implementation in all regions and conditions as we are currently collaborating with the UN National Adaptation Plan (UN NAP), aiming to help regions and localities become resilient and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Society needs new approaches to decision-making, progressive policies, and a universal commitment to innovative ideas. It is now time for each national member to submit exemplary projects, including design-build best practices and cultural landscape architecture that embodies practices of the wisdom of the land that are relevant to tackling the climate crisis together.

The project submittal categories include:

Flood, drought, urban heat, coastal erosion, sea level rise, decreased agricultural and fishery yields, landslides, human settlement and security.

We ask that each national association submit at least one 1 project and no more than 3.

Through our partnership with UN NAP, we will select and include best practices from around the world to acknowledge the power of landscape architecture as a tool for tackling climate change.

Thank you for your kind consideration and collaboration. This is an urgent issue and we appreciate your committed actions. Please provide documentation regarding all 3 of your actions in this link.



<https://forms.gle/JmfKC7j2SUN5QtAu7>

**Please submit before the 30th of November 2023** to your regional climate and biodiversity chairs. Stay tuned for further information and we look forward to seeing you and your actions in Kenya.

With our commitment to Action,  
The IFLA Climate Change and Biodiversity Working Group

**Kotchakorn Voraakhom**, Chairwoman of IFLA Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Pamela Conrad**, Vice Chairwoman of IFLA Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Claire Martin**, Chairwoman of IFLA Asia Pacific Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Tony Williams**, Chairman of IFLA Europe Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Farimah Jamali**, Chairwoman of IFLA Middle East Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Raquel Peñalosa**, Chairwoman of IFLA America Climate Biodiversity Working Group

**Tamsin Faragher**, Chairwoman of IFLA Africa Climate Biodiversity Working Group