

# INSIDE

# SCIENCE



MESSAGE  
FROM CEO

WORLD CLIMATE  
ACTION SUMMIT

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RECOVERY, PEACE

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OCEANS

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WATER

REFLECTIONS  
FROM DUBAI

# Introduction

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Stantec continues to support the efforts of the United Nations Conference of Parties (COP), the Paris Agreement, and the outcomes from the most recent COP28 convention.

As a global business, [we have pledged](#) to do our part to address climate change. We continue to work towards our sustainability targets and know we can make a substantial impact through our project work.

Together with our clients, we are working towards and supporting many of the agreements and outcomes of COP28. This work will help build the resilient communities of tomorrow.

From climate advisory services, including climate risk and finance, to building resilient communities by using nature to adapt to designing for net zero and supporting the energy transition, we empower our practitioners to consider climate change in their thinking.

In this, the third edition of Inside SCOPE, we share key discussions and outcomes from each day of COP and have included links to help you dive deeper into topics that interest you. By downloading our interactive PDF you can access different sections using the bottom menu bar.

Our practitioners have also played a part in summarizing topics they are passionate about. Click the 'Learn More' link to gain their insights from their LinkedIn blogs. Click on their names to connect via their LinkedIn Stantec.com profile. We hope these deeper insights will allow you to think about and have conversations around what your organizational and client needs may be and how we can work together to solve them.

Learn more about our [Climate Solutions](#) today.

\*Money in USD unless noted otherwise.

# COP28 Two Week Schedule

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## Nov 30

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Opening Day

## Dec 06

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Transport

## Dec 01-02

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World Climate Action Summit

## Dec 08

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Youth, Children, Education, Skills

## Dec 03

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Health / Relief, Recovery, Peace

## Dec 09

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Nature / Land Use / Oceans

## Dec 04

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Finance

## Dec 10

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Food, Agriculture, Water

## Dec 05

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Energy

## Dec 10-11

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Final Negotiations

# Message from our president and CEO



We are proud to have attended the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). We are almost halfway between the 2015 Paris Accord and 2030 targets. It remains clear that while marked progress has been made, more urgency is required. Now is the time to focus on transforming our efforts.

At Stantec, sustainability is more than what we do, it's who we are. It is embedded in our people, our projects, and our direction as an organization. I am very proud of our employees, who push us to think differently and support our clients and communities as they face the impacts of climate change at unprecedented levels of intensity.

As a Company, we strive to lead by example. Stantec delivered on our promise to achieve operational carbon neutrality, and we continue our progress towards achieving operational, science-based net zero.

In 2022, we met the terms of our sustainability-linked loan and are the first company in Canada to direct the interest savings earned into communities to further climate action and social equity. We also established a Climate Solutions leadership team; appointed a sustainable development goals (SDG) Impact Leader; supported our [Institute for Applied Science, Technology & Policy](#); invested in climate-related innovations; and established our environmental, social, and governance (ESG) Advisory Services team.

There were many great discussions and outcomes from this year's COP. We all benefit when learning from each other's successes and working together to find innovative solutions to our collective challenges.

I encourage you to reach out to our experts if you have questions about what COP28 means for your business or community.

—Gord Johnston



# World Climate Action Summit

A recently released report by the United Nations (UN) notes worldwide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions rose by 1.2 percent last year, starkly demonstrating the scale of change required to reach a 43 percent reduction by 2030. The World Meteorological Organization has estimated that \$4.3 trillion in economic losses resulted from weather, climate, and water extremes between 1970 and 2021.

Speakers such as UAE president Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres, and the United Kingdom’s King Charles III continue to heed the warning that the road we have been on will not get us to our destination on time. The main topics presented during both days of the summit spoke to the need for the inclusion of fossil fuels in the discussion, as well as a greater understanding of how the immediate cumulative effect of ecological change is at a pace that will far outstrip nature’s ability to cope.

**Key takeaways from the discussions include:**

- Operationalizing the COP27 **Loss and Damage Fund**, the UAE pledged \$100 million in support, with a further \$100 million from Germany, \$16 million from Canada, \$50 million


from Britain, \$17.5 million from the United States (US), and \$10 million from Japan. The fund will be hosted at the World Bank for a minimum of four years and managed by a board where developing nations have more than half the seats.

- The UAE announced a \$30 billion climate fund called **ALTÉRRRA**, aimed at steering private markets towards climate investments while focusing on transforming emerging markets and developing economies.
- The biggest take away from the day included the announcement of the **Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter**. The charter includes over 50 oil and gas company signatories, with the focus of accelerating decarbonization action within the industry through investment, alignment, transparency, and the reduction of energy poverty.
- The new panel on **Critical Energy Transition Minerals** was announced, bringing together governments, international organizations, industry, and civil society to develop common and voluntary principles to guide extractive industries.

**Day 2-3 | COP28**

Gain further insights from our practitioner – read their blogs...



**GHINA ANNAN**   
Decarbonization  
Business Lead, Canada

**“Renewable energy isn’t just a promise; it’s a gamechanger, reshaping the energy landscape and sending ripples through businesses, economies, and governments.”**

[Learn more →](#)

# Health / Relief, Recovery, Peace

On day four, COP28 president, Sultan al-Jaber noted that “Climate-related impacts are one of the greatest threats to human health in the 21st century.” We are seeing the impacts of climate change on health across the globe, including destabilizing of health care systems and the reduction of adequate care, deepening inequalities on health access and funding, and increasing disparity between the well-being of communities around the world.

**Key takeaways from the discussions include:**

- With input from key partners, the COP28 Presidency developed and approved the [Guiding Principles for Financing Climate and Health Solutions](#). The 10 principles focus on climate and health finance, including enabling fiscal reform and moving away from subsidies that are harmful to health and the environment.
- Endorsed by 123 nations, the [COP28 UAE Declaration on Climate and Health](#) was unveiled to place health at the heart of climate action, with the goal to accelerate the development of climate-resilient, sustainable, and equitable health systems.
- With an unprecedented show of [support for the health community](#), \$300 million was pledged from the Global Fund to prepare health systems, \$100 million from the Rockefeller

Foundation to scale up climate and health solutions, and \$777 million from the UAE and various charities to eradicate tropical diseases that are expected to worsen as temperatures climb.

- Over 40 million signatures and 29 organizations have signed the [WHO petition](#) in advance of COP28. The petition brings health impacts resulting from climate change to the forefront, including air pollution from wildfires, contaminated drinking water from flooding, lack of access to potable water due to droughts, and deaths and heat stroke due to the urban heat island effect.
- Climate change is threatening children’s rights to a quality and safe education, affecting over 40 million children a year. An initial \$70 million investment aims to support the construction of [climate-resilient and green schools](#), including the integration of climate change into curricula.
- There is a clear link between climate breakdown and conflict, with communities most affected not being able to access international funding. Signed by 70 countries and 43 organizations, the [Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace](#) aims to increase climate adaptation efforts and access to finance for communities in war-torn and fragile settings.

**Day 4 | COP28**

Gain further insights from our practitioners – read their blog...

**“When evaluating decarbonization progress, businesses can work with public health professionals to characterize health benefits.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**LAURA ALLEN**   
Senior Health Scientist,  
US



**OLIVIA MESSINA LELECK**   
Health Scientist II/ESG Advisor, US

**“There are important implications on how health vulnerabilities relate to wider socio-economic inequalities.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**PRUDENCE WALES**   
Health and Social Value  
Consultant, UK

# Finance

Key topics discussed during Finance Day included the need for increased investment in renewables, infrastructure in developing countries, and the development of frameworks to ease access to funding resources. The end of the fifth day of COP28 saw over **\$57 billion mobilized** to the following areas.

- \$725 million focused on loss and damage
- \$3.5 billion for the Green Climate Fund
- \$2.5 billion to support renewable energy
- \$568 million for technology
- \$1.2 billion to address methane
- \$30 billion for climate finance
- \$2.6 billion to support food and nutrition
- \$2.6 billion to support nature
- \$2.7 billion on health
- \$150 million for water
- \$1.2 billion for relief, recovery, and peace
- \$467 million for local climate action

**Key takeaways from the discussions include:**

- The UN Environment Programme released its **Adaptation Gap Report** in November 2023. Discussion on Finance Day focused on innovative ways to scale up the flow of adaptation-related funding to developing countries.

- Abu Dhabi was announced as the location of the new **Global Climate Finance Centre**. This aims to develop financial frameworks to overcome existing barriers.
- The Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance released their second report—**A climate finance framework**— with recommendations on public/private financing to support the Paris Agreement.
- 13 national governments endorsed the UAE Leaders’ **Declaration on a Global Climate Finance Framework** focused on climate finance investment through collective action, access, and scale.
- The International Monetary Fund estimates global fossil fuel subsidies hit \$1.7 trillion in 2022. increases seen in transport, food, and electricity. Led by the Netherlands, a new **Coalition** was formed to address and move forward fossil fuel subsidy reform. The Coalition has set out six areas for improvement.
- This year’s Global Youth Statement also calls for explicit demands related to financing, including increasing public funding for Action for Climate Empowerment activities including climate adaptation and mitigation funding for developing countries and debt cancellation.

**Day 5 | COP28**

Gain further insights from our practitioner – read their blog...



**ANDY BURNHAM**   
Vice President, Management and Technology Sector Leader, US

**“There needs to be more creativity and diversification in funding sources.”**

[Learn more →](#)

# Energy

Day six saw a plethora of pledges, alliances, declarations, and discussions centered around alternative energy, enhancing energy efficiency, and solidifying global carbon markets.

## Key takeaways from the discussions include:

- Led by the United States, 10 new members joined the [Powering Past Coal Alliance](#) (PPCA), supporting the shift away from coal power generation to clean energy.
- PPCA also announced the launch of the [Coal Transition Accelerator](#), aimed at sharing best practices, policy design, and accessing funding to support the clean energy transition away from coal.
- The [Global Decarbonization Accelerator](#) was unveiled focusing on rapidly scaling the energy system of tomorrow and decarbonizing the energy system of today by targeting methane and other non-carbon dioxide GHG.
- The International Organization of Securities Commissions published a [Consultation Report](#) to promote sound and effective practices for the voluntary carbon markets. A 90-day consultation period on the report has begun to gather feedback and further develop best practices.
- The International Renewable Energy Agency, industry, and the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions launched the [Utilities for Net Zero Alliance](#) to accelerate the adoption of renewables through the development of infrastructure, a reliable supply chain, and access to capital.
- On the last day of COP, 130 countries signed the [Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge](#), agreeing to work collaboratively to triple renewable generation capacity to at least 11,000 gigawatts by 2030.
- More than 20 countries supported the [Declaration to Triple Nuclear Energy](#) to advance goals of tripling global nuclear energy capacity by 2050.
- The Intergovernmental Declaration of Intent on [Mutual Recognition of Certification Schemes for Renewable and Low-carbon Hydrogen and Hydrogen Derivatives](#) was made to create a global certification standard specific to hydrogen, as well as a suite of initiatives to accelerate commercialization.
- A report from the [University of Oxford](#) found that a carbon capture and storage pathway to net zero would be highly costly compared to pathways built on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and electrification.
- The Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Council and International Solar Association released a [report](#) estimating solar generation capacity could reach up to 75,000

gigawatts by 2050, emphasizing the transformative potential of combining renewables with LDES.

- The [Global Cooling Watch report](#), titled 'Keeping it Chill,' laid out sustainable measures for passive cooling, higher energy efficiency standards, and a faster phase-down of climate-warming refrigerants.
- The Ocean Resilience and Climate Alliance launched the [Ocean Energy Pathway](#) initiative to accelerate offshore wind development at the frontier of the energy transition.

## Day 6 | COP28

Gain further insights from our practitioner – read their blog...



**CHRISTOPHER BERRYMAN**   
Technical Director, UK

**"It's estimated that UK soils currently hold around 9.8 billion tons of carbon, but this is only half of potential."**

[Learn more →](#)

# Transport

The transportation sector continues to have the highest demand for oil and accounts for almost one-fourth of GHG emissions. At the same time, uptake in the EV sector saw annual growth of 59 percent. COP events focused on the maritime, aviation, and transportation sectors all spoke to new opportunities for energy alternatives and carbon reduction.

**Key takeaways from the discussions include:**

- The Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Transition Council launched the first **Global ZEV Transition Roadmap** that will systematically strengthen global support of ZEV deployment in emerging markets and developing economies.
- A combination of ship operators, cargo owners, ports, manufacturers, and green hydrogen producers signed a **joint statement** to collectively catalyze investment in hydrogen production, providing affordable and reliable hydrogen-derived fuels to transition the shipping value chain.
- 10 new freight buyers joined the **Cargo Owners for Zero Emission Vessels** group to accelerate the transition to zero-emission maritime shipping.
- The United States and the United Kingdom released a **joint statement** to focus on building a bilateral consortium to

progress a green shipping corridor, including undertaking a feasibility study to identify the most effective and viable maritime routes between the two countries.

- The Accelerating to Zero Coalition released their **COP28 Progress Update**, including the current state of play for the ZEV transition. The report highlights established policies or commitments by members to phase out car/van combustion engines, with 27 countries making similar commitments for trucks/ buses.
- Landing its first test flight, TotalEnergies and Masdar demonstrated the potential of converting methanol into a **sustainable aviation fuel** (SAF). Derived from renewable electricity, no infrastructure modifications are required.
- The International Civil Aviation Organization adopted its **Global Framework for Aviation Cleaner Energies**, focusing on using cleaner energies and SAFs to reduce carbon emissions by five percent by 2030.
- The **Air Transport Action Group** presented and highlighted the opportunities involved with the aviation transition, including building between 5,000 to 7,000 production facilities, creating up to 14 million jobs and financial investment of up to \$1.45 trillion.

- The UN high-level climate champions established targets to distinctly drive change and reduce car use in what’s called the **“Avoid & Shift” dimension**. Strategies include access to sustainable transportation modes, identifying spending based on share percentage and establishing clear reduction targets.

**Day 7 | COP28**

Gain further insights from our practitioners – read their blogs...

**“The key to unlocking mass adoption is in the data and ensuring end users are aware of their choices.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**KATE JACK**   
Sector Lead Smart(er)  
Mobility, UK

**“We need all the participants in community building to seize the momentum to decarbonize and adapt.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**STEPHEN OLIVER**   
Senior Planner,  
Canada



# Youth, Children, Education, Skills

More than 43 million children were internally displaced because of extreme weather over the past six years, equaling about 20,000 children a day abandoning their homes and schools. According to the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), these figures, shocking as they are, are likely a massive underestimate. UNICEF suggests the number of children at extremely high risk is more like a billion.

Less than half of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) globally consider the impact or involvement of children. Less than three percent of climate finance will support child-responsive projects. As current sufferers of climate change, the future generation of consumers, and climate policymakers, youth need a voice at the table.

Indigenous youth across the globe need to continue to participate and share the traditional knowledge of their ancestors. Women and girls also have a role to play in climate action, given their susceptibility to being undereducated, having limited access to technology, and often working in poor conditions exacerbated by climate change.

With only one in eight employees currently possessing green skills, youth will be the next generation of workers to fill roles that respond to climate change. Gender disparity is also a consideration for these roles, with only 10 percent of women currently having at least one green skill, compared to 16 percent of men.

## Key takeaways from the discussions include:

- Launched by UNICEF and **Generation Unlimited**, the Green Rising initiative will create opportunities for 10 million children, especially girls, to action climate change through volunteering, skill development, and advocating for change. The Green Rising India Alliance was also announced, with the aim to equip 50 million children and young people to become climate-conscious, adaptable, and resilient by 2030.
- UN Women released its **Feminist Climate Justice report**, predicting climate change will push nearly 160 million women and girls into poverty by 2050, leading to 236 million more into hunger. The report highlights the need for women and girls to build their resilience to climate change, including being an important part of the transition to a green economy. The COP28 Presidency launched the **Gender-Responsive Just Transitions & Climate Action Partnership**. Endorsed by 68 parties, the partnership includes commitments for finance, data, and equal opportunities.
- The UAE Ministry of Education, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and UNICEF hosted **the Greening Education Hub** at COP28. Hosting more than 250 sessions and workshops during the summit, the Hub focuses on how education can mitigate climate change and attracted more than 18,000 visitors in its first week.

- An education summit, **RewirEd** put education center stage with 35 sessions, bringing together key actors from diverse sectors to shape a collective path forward for transformed education systems to be at the forefront of climate action.

## Day 9 | COP28

Gain further insights from our practitioners – read their blogs...

**“It’s about progress, not perfection. What are the actions within our control and sphere of influence?”**

[Learn more →](#)



**RICARDO CARLOS PEREZ**

Director, Global Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity, US

**“Any emissions abatement strategy needs to focus equally on three elements: regulatory, economic and technical/technology.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**CAITLYN OSZ-THERIAULT**

Senior Planner, Canada

# Nature

According to a new UN State of Finance for Nature annual report, nearly \$7 trillion is spent yearly on activities that will directly harm nature. This in contrast to the roughly \$200 billion spent on Nature-based Solutions (NbS). The focus of COP28 discussions included increased access to capital for NbS and the engagement of indigenous communities in decision making.

**Key takeaways from the discussions include:**

- **Nature4Climate** gathered over 80 businesses, leaders in science, youth groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and environment ministers to endorse an open letter advocating for nature to be central to the stocktake countries are negotiating at COP28 and be a primary solution for mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- The UAE COP28 Presidency, the People’s Republic of China, the COP15 Presidency, and another 16 countries endorsed the **COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People** calling for accelerated implementation of nature action.
- Discussions occurred on the need to drastically increase capital to support project implementation under the 2022 **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund**.
- A research coalition that includes hundreds of scientists was launched to try and correct a historic lack of

information about the **Congo River** Basin and rainforest. The panel will issue a report in 2025 offering the most detailed scientific assessment to date on the Congo basin.

- The **Forest & Climate Leaders’ Partnership** convened various leaders from governments, society, and business to launch a roadmap to scale investment in forest carbon results and credits. Discussions also include developing a platform for indigenous peoples and local communities to actively participate in high-level discussions.
- Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom announced a new investment of up to \$34 million to protect deforestation hotspots and boost the creation of sustainable local economies in the **Colombian Amazon**.
- **Announcement of \$186 million** of new financing for forests, mangroves, and the ocean.
- The **Team Europe Initiative** on deforestation-free value chains received €70 million in funding to contribute to implementing laws on deforestation-free products.
- The Netherlands announced €22.5 million to National Initiatives for Sustainable and Climate-Smart Oil Palm Smallholders in Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Ghana, targeting areas where certification is difficult or uneconomical.

- **Indigenous communities** called on governments to protect ancestral land, including the push to make ecocide—the severe destruction of nature—an international crime. Laws on ecocide already exist in 11 countries.

**Day 10 | COP28**

Gain further insights from our practitioners – read their blogs...

**“We need an integrated approach to achieve climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable development.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**GEORGE ATHANASAKES**   
Vice President, Ecosystem Restoration Services, US

**“We have to work at reversing the trend by mitigating direct environmental damage while increasing focus on nature.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**JOSHUA RUNNING**   
Principal, Senior Environmental Scientist, US



# Land Use

Land use is emerging as a defining issue given the inability of governments to make land available for climate interventions due to insecurity in land rights, informality, and inefficient land use planning and permitting. Competition for the best land, particularly with access to water, will intensify as the population grows.

Add rapid urbanization and decreasing land availability due to climate change into the mix, and we have an unprecedented land crunch.

There is an urgent need for innovative programs, policies, and financing to better manage land for both climate mitigation and adaptation. At the same time, we need to ensure the protection of land rights, preservation of forests and food systems, and incentivize the planning of compact cities.

**Key takeaways from the discussions include:**

- Commitments made during the COP28 Nature, Land Use, and Ocean Day built on goals from COP26, covering deforestation and the adoption of the **30x30 Biodiversity Goal** as part of the Global Biodiversity Framework focus to protect 30 percent of land and oceans by 2030.

**Day 10 | COP28**

Gain further insights from our practitioner – read their blog...

**“Our aim should be to make these planning processes personal and customized.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**BETH ELLIOT**   
 Planning and Design  
 Team Leader, US

# Oceans

Energy and fossil fuels have dominated COP28, yet 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water. Oceans generate 50 percent of the Earth's oxygen, absorb 25 percent of carbon dioxide, and capture 90 percent of emission-related heat. The critical role oceans can play in mitigating climate change was the key topic for day 10.

## Key takeaways from the discussions include:

- \$186.6 million of new financing for nature, forests, mangroves, and oceans was announced by [United for Nature](#), building on the \$2.5 billion in commitments already made at the beginning of the summit. Mangrove ecosystems are incredible at capturing and storing carbon, but over the last 50 years they have been lost at a higher rate than any other forests. 30 countries have now joined the Mangrove Alliance for Climate, and 21 countries formally endorsed the Mangrove Breakthrough aiming to restore and protect 15 million hectares globally.
- Pacific leaders, critical of hard to access climate finance, launched the [Blue Pacific Prosperity](#) initiative, aiming to try and create a new way for the Pacific to generate finance, especially for ocean management and conservation. The International Monetary Fund estimates that \$1 billion per year should be spent in the Pacific on climate adaptation. Currently annual investment is around \$200 million.
- The Bezos Earth Fund pledged up to \$100 million financing over five years for marine protected areas in the Pacific, with another \$125 million from the Global Environment Facility.
- The [UN Ocean Breakthroughs](#) program was launched and targets five key sectors: marine conservation, ocean renewable energy, shipping, aquatic food, and coastal tourism. The initiative aims to reduce GHG emissions by up to 35 percent and reach a net zero future by 2050 through at least \$72 billion in funding. Discussions at COP focused on the deployment of the breakthroughs relying on key enablers (i.e., science, finance, governance, and Inclusivity) defining objectives and quantifiable targets.
- Organizers and partners of the Ocean Pavilion at COP drafted the [COP28 Dubai Ocean Declaration](#) calling on world leaders to:
  - Improve global stocktake estimates by providing better measures of carbon fluxes through the ocean and a more comprehensive view of Earth's ocean-climate system.
  - Implement robust, cooperative monitoring and reporting to ensure measurable progress towards net-negative emissions.

- Measure the widest possible suite of variables to better understand impact on the distribution of ocean life, marine ecosystem health, biomass, and biodiversity.
- Develop capacity among island nations and developing countries to account for contributions by the ocean's natural functions and the blue economy to climate stabilization.

## Day 10 | COP28

Gain further insights from our practitioner – read their blog...

**“Non-governmental organizations, including philanthropy and private industry must step up to help.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**FRANCIS WIESE** 

Climate Science Director, US

# Food, Agriculture, Water

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates a \$3.8 trillion loss in crop and livestock production over the last three decades due to flooding, drought, and other disasters. Globally, food and farming contribute around a third of anthropogenic GHG emissions, and agriculture irrigation accounts for 70 percent of water use. At the same time, climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution continue to drive the global water crisis.

**Key takeaways from the discussions include:**

- The [COP28 UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action](#) was signed by over 150 countries, scaling up adaptation, reducing farm vulnerability, and strengthening water management in agriculture and food systems.
- A few countries also joined the [Alliance of Champions for Food Systems Transformation](#) with the intention to work collaboratively and move the needle by committing to 10 priority intervention areas.
- In the first of three reports, the FAO unveiled a [global roadmap](#) to advance climate action while remaining within the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold, accelerating and transforming agrifood systems to maintain food security and nutrition in support of the second SDG (zero hunger).

- With support from Mars, McCain, McDonalds, and PepsiCo, the [Sustainable Markets Initiative Agribusiness Task Force](#) launched a new framework, including a blended financing model to make regenerative farming financially viable and scalable.
- The [Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate](#) has announced an additional \$17 billion in funding to invest in innovative technologies and practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- The [Environmental Defense Fund](#) announced the creation of a new alliance to help dairy farmers reduce methane emissions—signatories including Danone, Kraft Heinz, and Nestlé.
- With a dedicated [Water4Climate Pavilion](#), COP28 discussions focused on the continued effects of water loss on humans and biodiversity, including reducing water scarcity, addressing water hazards, and creating more resilient water supplies.

**Day 11 | COP28**

Gain further insights from our practitioner – read their blog...

**“Our response to climate change requires adaptation of critical infrastructure, including innovative strategies for food production and distribution.”**

[Learn more →](#)



**GARY SORGE**   
Vice President and Discipline Leader,  
Landscape Architecture, US

# Reflections from Dubai

After Day eight, we saw significant developments. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change released a draft text for the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, including options for phasing out or phasing down fossil fuel use.

The definition of “abated” and “unabated” fossil fuels was contested, with concerns about potential loopholes. Despite the progress made, the “phase out versus phase down” debate remains a complex and challenging issue. The ability to find common ground and translate promising intentions into concrete action will ultimately determine the success of COP28 in shaping a sustainable future.

Nature Day highlighted the immense potential of natural solutions, but addressing funding challenges for biodiversity conservation was called out as being crucial in realizing this.



COP28 Day 9 showcased both the urgency of addressing climate change and the ongoing efforts to build a more sustainable future. The host city, Dubai, announced a bold plan to slash its carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2030, demonstrating commitment to clean energy and net zero goals. This was in addition to several leading UAE specific initiatives. Altéra announced a \$30 billion catalytic fund for climate action in developing countries. The MENA Green Finance Platform was established to facilitate investments in green projects across the Middle East and North Africa. The Middle East Green Initiative supported regional collaboration to promote sustainable development and enhance environmental protection.

The launch of the International Youth Climate Program and the Podong Indigenous Peoples Initiative highlighted the crucial role of youth and Indigenous communities in shaping climate solutions. The endorsement of the Gender-Responsive Just Transitions & Climate Action Partnership also underscored the need to address the disproportionate impact of climate change on women. We need to engage young people and women in climate action and decision-making.

The final days of COP28 saw intense, high-level negotiations between global leaders, with the goal of reaching an agreement on the Global Stocktake and other key issues.

Day 11 marked a crucial turning point. While negotiations intensified to address key issues like the Global Stocktake and Article 6, the day also saw significant progress in collaboration and implementation-focused discussions. Regardless of the outcome achieved, businesses should continue aligning their objectives with national climate policies to capitalize on emerging opportunities in the clean energy sector and support the global transition to low-carbon economy.

At Stantec, we’re here to support adaptation and resilience efforts across the entire built environment, offering interdisciplinary advice and consultancy to aid this transition. Via these Inside SCOPE articles, we’ve aimed to actively showcase our expertise in climate solutions and translate COP28 goals into practical roadmaps for real-world applications. Get in touch with any of our practitioners to see how we can help you address your challenges.



**GHINA ANNAN**  
 COP28 Delegate  
 Decarbonization Business Lead, Canada

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Design with community in mind

