

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



UNDP NATURE PLEDGE 2030

UNDP'S COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE
THE GOALS AND TARGETS OF THE
KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



Strategic Setting

“ **Without nature, we have nothing.
Without nature, we are nothing.** ”

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, December 6, 2022, Montreal

Nature underpins our lives, societies, and economies. Nature is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The majority of the 169 SDG targets require nature-based solutions to achieve them.[1] But the world faces a multi-dimensional planetary emergency of nature loss and climate change, exacerbated by widening inequality, conflict, insecurity and health crises. The well-being and human rights of billions of people today, and of future generations, are in jeopardy. Unless world leaders, governments, businesses and individuals take bold steps to reduce the immense pressure that is being exerted on nature, efforts to achieve the SDGs will fail.

The UNEA-5 resolution [2] in 2022 formally adopted the definition of nature-based solution as ‘actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social,

economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.’

The internationally agreed climate goal of 1.5° cannot be achieved without better governance and management of nature.

Yet the biodiversity and ecosystems that sustain our life support systems, societies and economies are in rapid decline. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report 2022 lists the loss of biodiversity and failure to act on climate as the gravest global risks—as the most likely to occur and with the severest impacts to humanity. These risks compound each other through declining ecosystem goods and services such as soil fertility, pollination and water provisioning, threatening nature-dependent livelihoods, weakening social cohesion, increased risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks, mass involuntary migration, increased interstate conflict, famine, and drought.

Humanity’s ability to survive into the future is directly threatened.

Current trends are especially severe for the more than 2 billion poorest people who rely upon direct access to natural resources for their everyday existence and for the 3 billion people living today in areas facing severe water stress—a number that is likely to rise to 4 billion by 2030. Women, indigenous peoples, and local communities are disproportionately impacted. Environmental threats, as they intensify, are compromising our obligations and responsibilities to future generations. They constitute one of the greatest challenges to human rights in our era

Nature Crisis

The world is amid the 6th Mass Extinction, possibly losing up to a million species in the coming decades. Wildlife population has plummeted by 69% since 1970. There has been a 70% decline of wetlands, lakes and rivers, which are among the ecosystems most affected by habitat destruction and pollution. Almost one-third of freshwater species face extinction.

Source: Living Planet Report 2022

Nature loss impacts economies locally, nationally, and globally.

Half of global GDP is dependent on Nature.[3] The World Bank estimates that ecosystem service collapse could result in a decline in global GDP of \$2.7 trillion annually by 2030. It is estimated that 50% of global GDP is at risk from land degradation and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services[4]. Nature loss poses a serious risk to the world’s economic and financial systems.

THERE IS HOPE.

In December 2022, 196 parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on the historic Kunming-Montreal

Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) with 23 ambitious targets for 2030.[5] The GBF sets a new course for a thriving future on a healthy planet that leaves no-one behind. A new nature-positive economy could generate up to \$10.1 trillion in annual business value and create 395 million jobs by 2030. This \$10 trillion of business opportunities could be unlocked by transforming the economic systems that are responsible for almost 80% of nature loss: food, infrastructure, energy and extractives.[6]

Investing in nature is a development opportunity.

Investment in conservation increases resilience of societies and economies generates positive economic returns, creates income multipliers, and provides practical green recovery options for countries addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic. Each dollar invested in restoration activities is estimated to return between \$ 7 to 30 in economic benefits.[7] Shifting sectors and value chains toward nature-positive practices has the potential to create inclusive, long-term value and greener and higher quality jobs. Investing in nature is an opportunity to achieve interdependent goals such as women’s economic empowerment, gender equality and human rights.

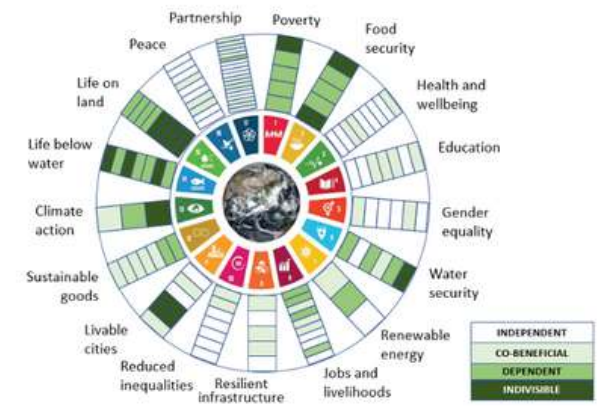


Figure 1: Illustration of the Dependencies of the Sustainable Development Goals on Nature Based Solutions

The world is collectively taking steps forward to integrate solutions to curb climate change and nature loss.

We recognise strong interlinkages with food and economic systems as well as an enhanced role for the private sector and civil society in delivering solutions. The GBF, the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) framework, Paris Agreement, and other crucial instruments such as the Treaty on Plastic Pollution accelerate and scale action towards protection and restoration of land and ecosystems and address biodiversity loss.

TIME IS LIMITED. Rapid progress to address the planetary crises by 2030 will be critical.

It is delusional to think is that we have a choice whether or not to preserve nature. The stark truth is that there is no choice. Failure to act in this timeframe will reduce our chances of reversing the potential long-term consequences to ecosystems and human wellbeing, and will increase the difficulty and expense of future actions on restoration and protection.

At the same time, the people most directly dependent on nature are invisible in global

decision-making, and wield the least power to protect it.

Citizens' movements, such as the diversity of women's environmental movements and the work of environmental defenders, have long fought for the rights of nature itself as well as the equitable right to use and govern nature. However, they have been powerless to influence norms and therefore largely overshadowed, despite the fact they are the custodians of natural resources on the ground. Shifts at the pace and scale necessary will only reach their potential if they are also equitable and inclusive.

Economic and environmental interests must align quickly.

Where democratic societies and environmental movements have begun to shape regulatory and legal frameworks, incentives and deterrents require businesses and individuals not to pollute and better account for their environmental risks. Nature policy-making must transform to dismantle assumptions that economic development interests and environmental interests are mutually exclusive or a zero-sum trade-off. This argument belongs to the last century and is no longer valid.





Our Vision: Nature at the Heart of Development



Biodiversity is interconnected, intertwined, and indivisible with human life on Earth. Our societies and our economies depend on healthy and functioning ecosystems. There is no sustainable development without biodiversity. There can be no stable climate without biodiversity.



UNDP's Vision for Nature places nature at the heart of our global understanding of development.

Only nature-based human development, with a systematic, inclusive, and rights-based approach to nature-based solutions can leverage the potential for the large-scale transformative change needed to achieve the SDGs. By putting nature at the centre of our development agenda, UNDP will work with countries to scale and fast-track actions necessary under the GBF. Our vision is a future where the world's biodiversity and ecosystems are protected, restored and valued as a planetary safety net for all of humanity, safeguarding our food, our water, our livelihoods and jobs, our climate, our health and our security, enabling people to rise out of poverty and inequality to live more just and sustainable lives.

Incrementalism and logic alone are failing us.

This is what the world has learned over

decades of global efforts to conserve biodiversity. Breakthrough will be at points of shared values and common priorities, where we align environmental interests with development interests. UNDP will forge new narratives, partnerships, and solutions to trigger systems change and shift incentives behind the nature-positive trajectory. At stake is the legacy of our generation and the future of the next.

Through enhanced country support, UNDP will advance three essential transformative shifts to protect biodiversity, enhance the resilience of ecosystems and harness the power of nature towards achievement of the 2030 Agenda: a narrative and behavioural shift; an economic and finance shift; and a policy and practice shift. These shifts must unleash catalytic and cascading impacts, and trigger the necessary momentum, speed and scale of action and behaviour change on the ground, in all countries, to address our urgent planetary crises.



Transformational Systems Shift Approach



2030 Targets delivered by 10 Action Pathways

UNDP NATURE PLEDGE 2030 TARGETS - 11 ACTION PATHWAYS

NARRATIVE AND BEHAVIORIAL SHIFT

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE SHIFT

POLICY AND PRACTICE SHIFT

SUPPORT 50 COUNTRIES

- Increased nature-as-development asset narratives in media and public fora including industry circles;
- Improved legal system and increased access to environmental justice in 50 countries;
- Increased use of legal and regulatory tools for mitigating and reducing nature destruction.

SUPPORT 100 COUNTRIES

- \$100 billion new financing mobilized for nature from public and private sources;
- \$ 200 billion nature-harmful subsidies redirected, repurposed and eliminated
- Private sector companies with total market capitalization exceeding \$1.5 trillion, have embarked on investment in nature-positive targets as defined by the Science Based Target Network (SBTN), duly reporting on their progress using global disclosure framework such as TNFD

SUPPORT 140 COUNTRIES

- 100 countries increase and/or strengthen conservation areas and/or Indigenous and community conserved areas, covering at least 500 million ha of land and 500 million ha of ocean , strengthening water and food security for 1 billion people;
- Improved livelihoods for 100 million people through nature-based jobs and enterprise development, and decreased vulnerability towards climate change impact and other external shocks.
- 50 million hectares of land and marine areas newly restored for conservation, food and water security, climate resilience and peace.
- 100 countries are promoting women's leadership and decision making in natural resource management and closing gender gaps in access to and control of natural resources.
- Increase in hectares of Indigenous claimed territories in priority ecosystems are under Indigenous land tenure.

ACTION PATHWAYS

- 1.1 Define and deploy new narratives to elevate nature to the heart of development so as to catalyse behavioural change in different economic sectors and societal segments
- 1.2 Catalyse rapid global behaviour shifts through increased accountability, strengthened deterrence and empowered indigenous people and local communities

- 2.1 Accelerate adoption of tailored economic, fiscal and monetary policies, tools and plans
- 2.2 Implement biodiversity finance solutions, in line with national and sub-national development and recovery programmes, including reduction of nature negative public finance
- 2.3 Mobilize and upscale private investment in nature-positive actions, while reducing financing of nature-negative business processes.

- 3.1 Strengthen national capacity for GBF implementation and policy coherence
- 3.2 Mainstream nature into development, production sectors and land/water/marine area policy, planning and practice
- 3.3 Upscale gender responsive nature-based solutions targeting climate action, poverty reduction and inclusive growth, job creation, disaster and conflict prevention and pandemic prevention
- 3.4 Strengthen coverage and management of terrestrial and marine protected and conserved areas including indigenous and community conserved areas
- 3.5 Accelerate and upscale sustainable land and water management and ecosystem restoration



Working in Partnership

The UNDP Nature Pledge redoubles our commitment to successfully deliver the GBF and ensure synergies with the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda.

Together with the UN Environment Programme, sister UN agencies, and numerous other partners, we are ready for action.

UNDP is committed to deliver the systemic changes that can shift the needle on our nature crisis, leveraging our global programme portfolio of around \$ 5 billion per year in 170 countries, which spans SDG areas including governance, rule of law, human rights, health, inclusive growth, and gender equality, in addition to strong nature, climate and energy portfolio. This includes \$ 3.3 billion nature-related portfolio across 143 countries, with the coverage of 931 million hectares of terrestrial and marine ecosystems directly benefitting 30 million people and indirectly benefitting hundreds of millions.

Our work across the world is anchored in diverse and effective partnerships, which are vital to our country-level work as an integrator and convener across policy, programmatic

and organizational silos; and as an operational accelerator for the United Nations and partners on the ground.

The truth is that the world will not be able to achieve the GBF without a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, which is the foundation of the GBF. UNDP believes in the power of diverse alliances – with UN member states, with key economic players such as financial institutions and corporates across sectors, and with civil society and indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs). We will leverage the diverse capabilities, resources, influence and knowledge of all of our partners.

Delivering on the UNDP Nature Pledge at the speed and scale required will depend on these strategic alliances, as well as the formation of coalitions and crowdsourcing public and private finance at scale for action towards common goals for a sustainable future for humanity.

UNDP will catalyse reinforced alliances among the United Nations system through the Common Approach on Biodiversity, which was endorsed by the UN System Chief Executive Board, UN Biodiversity Lab and other related UN platforms.

UNDP will support a number of existing alliances and platforms, including the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, Leaders' Pledge for Nature, High Ambition Coalition, Taskforce on Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA) Consortium, Global Environment Facility Integrated Programme platforms, and the UNDP-led Nature for Life Hub.






How We Will Deliver

UNDP Nature Pledge

UNDP Nature Pledge will be delivered through elevated support to at least 140 countries catalysing rapid and large-scale action to achieve GBF and ensure resilient and inclusive livelihoods, societies and economies. In countries, UNDP's on-the-ground presence, expertise and network will be further mobilised for action, catalysing the three systemic shifts that are essential to realise fast-tracked and scaled action with cascading impact across societies and economies.



**Narrative and
behavioral shift**



**Economic and
finance shift**



**Policy and
practice shift**

Action target by shift

NARRATIVE AND BEHAVIORAL SHIFT – VALUING NATURE

UNDP will support at least 50 countries to fill action gaps for nature, shifting social norms through new narrative creation, advocacy campaigns, civil society and community mobilization, and leveraging legal and human rights instruments, resulting in:

- Increased “nature-is-a-development-asset” narratives and related campaigns in media and public fora including industry circles
- Improved legal system and increased access to environmental justice
- Increased use of legal and regulatory tools for mitigating and reducing nature destruction

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE SHIFT – ACCOUNTING FOR NATURE

UNDP will support at least 100 countries to close the biodiversity finance gap through the development and implementation of a robust biodiversity finance plan, resulting in:

- \$100 billion new financing mobilised for nature from public and private sources
- \$200 billion nature-harmful subsidies redirected, repurposed, and eliminated

UNDP will support creation of incentives for the private sector to increase nature-positive investment, resulting in:

- Significant increase in private sector financing for nature with private sector companies with total market capitalization exceeding \$1.5 trillion, embarked on investment in nature-positive targets as defined by the Science Based Target Network (SBTN), duly reporting on their progress using global disclosure framework such as TNFD

POLICY AND PRACTICE SHIFT – HARNESSING THE POWER OF NATURE

UNDP will support at least 140 countries to integrate nature into their national development and spatial and sectoral plans and practice with gender responsive approaches, resulting in:

- 100 countries have increased and/or strengthened protected areas and/or Indigenous and community conserved areas, covering at least 500 million hectares (ha) of land and 500 million ha of ocean, strengthening water and food security for 1 billion people
- Improved livelihoods of 100 million people through nature-based jobs and enterprise development, and decreased vulnerability towards climate change impact and other external shocks
- 50 million hectares of land and marine areas newly restored for conservation, food and water security, climate resilience and peace
- 100 countries are promoting women's leadership and decision making in natural resource management and closing gender gaps in access to, and control of, natural resources
- Increase in hectares of Indigenous claimed territories in priority ecosystems are under Indigenous land tenure

Strategic Pathways for Delivery

UNDP will implement actions under 10 strategic pathways to deliver on the targets. Building on the trust and leadership of our country partners, UNDP will deploy our Global Policy Network (GPN), tools and expertise to deliver our Nature Pledge. These pathways are aligned with the achievement of the following 2030 targets, which contribute directly to the achievement of the SDGs, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the targets of

the UNDP Strategic Plan and UNDP Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025. They will be collectively pursued through diverse themes across the breadth of UNDP's programmes, including Nature, Climate and Energy, Sustainable Finance, Resilience, Poverty and Inequality, Governance, Gender, Health, Digitalization, Innovation, and Rule of Law, Human Rights and Security.

Narrative and Behavioural Shift:

UNDP will contribute to and accelerate global narrative shifts around nature itself, nature and economies, and nature and societies to transform understanding of the true value of nature to all of humanity. We will challenge and disrupt the misconception that environmental interests and development and economic interests are a trade-off, and instead assert that nature is our greatest asset and most powerful ally, will ensure that nature-negative actions become socially and economically taboo, enabling large-scale behavioural shifts. This narrative will drive behavioural shift and nature-positive actions everywhere at multiple levels among governments, businesses, civil society and individuals. It will transform understanding of the true value of nature. A shift towards a nature-positive narrative, building on existing momentum and collaborations, will create and strengthen an enabling environment that can support increased and significant accountability for actions that degrade or destroy nature and insulate against backsliding.

There is a need to create and apply legal, human rights and financial tools and incentives so that destruction and degradation of nature or the dereliction of duty to account for nature-based risks and responsibilities will become socially and economically unacceptable. Actions need to be supported to deter malfeasance and encourage actions from individuals, corporations and governments for the improved stewardship of nature. Civic action is particularly critical for narrative and behavioural change, especially by those who are direct custodians of their natural environment and those most directly dependent on nature but who have the least power to safeguard it, including indigenous people and communities.

Economic and Finance Shift:

Despite the fact that over half of the global GDP depends on nature [8], nature has historically been invisible in balance sheets, financial reports, development theory, business plans, insurance policies, supply-chain risks and business models. The dominant view is that nature is a resource to be exploited for economic development instead of a finite economic and development asset to be protected. Nature remains an externality which is not directly related to the production or consumption of goods or services. This has perpetuated a persistent and pervasive belief that nature is divorced from these interests. The truth, however, is that they are inextricably linked. Failure to understand this nexus perpetuates a hesitant and weak policy environment that holds back bolder and more rapid action, ambition, investment, and prioritization. It is necessary for the world to start seeing nature as an asset of humanity. Nature is an asset to nurture, an asset to invest in, and an asset to grow.

UNDP'S VISION FOR NATURE

A world where nature lies at the heart of global understanding of sustainable development, where the world's biodiversity and ecosystems are protected, restored, and valued as a planetary safety net for all of humanity, safeguarding our food, our water, our livelihoods and jobs, our climate, our health and our security, enabling people to rise out of poverty and inequality to live more just and sustainable futures.

Under the current global economic system, demands on nature far exceed nature's capacity to provide its services on a sustainable basis. Urgent economic transformation is needed to realise a nature-positive scenario; essentially, a way of using natural resources or

services whereby the rate of their use is equal to or lower than the rate of their natural or assisted regeneration.

This is the only way to avoid eventual societal collapse [9] and is the only scenario which helps reduce the cost of achieving the SDGs and mitigating or adapting to climate change [10]. The new economic paradigm will both better respond to and perpetuate nature-positive market signals and must have a new definition and indicators for growth that integrate the value of natural capital. Governments and businesses must increasingly and more accurately calculate their nature-related risks, as well as their dependency and impacts on nature, so that they can better direct their finances towards nature-positive outcomes and eliminate nature-negative investments. Only through these actions can flows of finance be redirected to nature positive and the biodiversity finance gap of \$ 700 billion per year be closed.

Policy and Practice Shift:

National, sub-national and sectoral policies need to align the needs of nature with the needs of people, to realise the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that is essential to deliver on the GBF. There is a need to reconcile the frequently witnessed situation where nature-positive policies and practices are eclipsed by nature-negative policies and incentives. Policy coherence must be assured through systemic, institutional, and individual capacity building, clear systems of target, accountability and monitoring,, and advancement of environmental governance and rights. Improved policy coherence will support cost-effective implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies & Actions Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans, and commitments on Land Degradation

Neutrality (LDN), the Global Plastics Treaty and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Bold shifts in policy and practice are also needed to tackle the direct drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. These include those that drive habitat degradation and loss, such as fragmentation of natural areas, overutilization of natural resources, illegal extraction and trade in wild species, pollution, inequitable land tenure and land rights, and invasive non-native species. Countries must be able to harness the power of nature to tackle multiple development challenges: to create sustainable livelihoods and jobs, to enhance resilience to climate impacts, eradicate poverty and create inclusive, gender-just and equal societies, promote good governance, peace and security, improve resilient health systems, strengthen social cohesion and incorporate rights-based approaches, and prevent and control future pandemics. For this, improved application and enforcement of environmental laws and environmental justice that better protect nature and people will be critical. Inclusive, human rights-based and gender-responsive approaches must be central, with full involvement of indigenous peoples, local communities and women and youth in decision making and action.

NARRATIVE AND BEHAVIOURAL SHIFT

Building on existing momentum and collaboration, UNDP will support 50 countries to transform the value that policymakers, private sector leaders, constituents and consumers place on nature to operate within safe and just boundaries for people and planet. Starting by catalysing a shift in their beliefs and attitudes towards nature as the foundation for human wellbeing and prosperity, UNDP will work to shift global narratives around ‘nature’, ‘nature and economies’, and ‘nature and societies’ among governments, businesses and individuals, and advance the basic concept of valuing nature.

As some 80% of nature loss is associated with the food, infrastructure, energy and extractives sectors, particular attention will be placed on changing behaviours related to resource use (including unsustainable and discriminatory agricultural, forestry, mineral extraction and other land use practices, deforestation, illegal logging, and illegal trade and consumption of wildlife species), behaviours related to financial decision-making (including investment decisions, choices and behaviours of financial institutions), and behaviours related to business and consumer decision-making (e.g. choice of vendors, suppliers, products, brands etc.).

Pathway 1.1 Define and deploy new narratives to elevate nature to the heart of development to catalyse behavioural change in different economic sectors and societal segments

Working with partners, and grounded in behavioural science, UNDP will explicitly identify and execute targeted narrative shift strategies at global, national, and local levels, including but not limited to strategic storytelling, advocacy and campaign for increasing accountability, supporting new

regulatory and legal frameworks, and local action campaigns. The delivery of these strategies will capitalize on UNDP’s broad range of expertise across the SDGs, capacity for thematic integration, and engagement of partners, as well as the work of the UNDP Accelerator Lab in 91 countries, and the UNDP Human Development Report office.

UNDP will work with platforms relevant to target sectors to drive behavioural and business practice change. Activities will be implemented to change the behaviour of pivotal geopolitical audiences primed by the above norm change work (1.1), where an enabling environment is putting positive pressure on governments and corporations to do things differently. Linkages will be established or strengthened with existing and emerging platforms and actions such as the NBSAP Accelerator Partnerships, Leaders’ Pledge for Nature, and High Ambition Coalition. Alliances will be forged with financial and corporate actors including the TNFD, Central Banks and financial regulators and standard setters, Science Based Target Network, WEF, and LEAF (Lowering Emissions by Accelerating Forest) Coalition.

Nature-based human development

refers to human development, including social and economic systems nested within the ecosystems and biosphere that support human life and prosperity. The potential is enormous, with benefits ranging from climate change adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk reduction to improving food security and improving water availability, timing, and quality.

Source: 2020 Human Development Report

Pathway 1.2 Catalyse rapid global behaviour shifts through increased accountability, strengthened deterrence and empowered indigenous people and local communities

Targeted behavioural change will be triggered in different economic sectors, societal segments and geopolitical audiences, including local action interventions, introduction of new regulatory and legal frameworks, and increasing accountability and access to environmental justice.

UNDP will promote transparency by encouraging reporting investment and business impact on nature, and by leveraging legal and human rights frameworks and instruments as a behavioural deterrent. Close collaboration with legal and human rights organizations and constituencies will be critical, including the International Criminal Court, UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as international and local civil society organizations working on rights to ecosystem services and the rights of nature. Consequently, UNDP's thematic teams such as those focused on the rule of laws, human rights, anti-corruption, sustainable finance, and information integrity, will provide key inputs to ensure the greatest impact.

A groundswell of local action and a rising tide of demands for behavioural change is critical. Through our Local Action Offer, UNDP will support the empowerment of IPLCs to strengthen governance and advocacy. It will increase their voice on local and global issues that have direct and significant impact on nature and communities. In particular, strengthening indigenous people and local communities' rights over lands and natural resources will be supported. Women are typically the backbone of natural resource

management and are more sensitive to ecological, environmental and health concerns, and opportunities will be sought and strengthened to enable the inclusion of more women as agents of change for sustainable consumption. UNDP will also support local initiatives that engage women as leaders to bring about behavioural shifts.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCE SHIFT

Finance institutions and corporates realise that their businesses and investments are dependent on nature and often are also having negative impacts on nature. This creates enormous risks for sustainability of businesses and long-term financial viability of both public and private investments. Building on existing work through the SDG Finance Hub and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and other finance related workstreams, UNDP will support at least 100 countries to realign flows of public and private finance from nature negative to positive, in order to fill the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year and repurpose negative finance such as the majority of nature-harmful agricultural subsidies at \$500 billion per year.

Pathway 2.1 Accelerate adoption of tailored economic, fiscal and monetary policies, tools and plans

Building on the existing work, UNDP will support at least 100 countries in tackling primarily public sector challenges to accelerate the adoption of enabling economic, fiscal and monetary policies, tools and plans. Through its teams on governance, biodiversity finance, sustainable finance, climate finance, green economy and circular economy, and policy integration at national and global levels, UNDP will enable countries to:

- Develop national biodiversity finance plans: complete national-level 'biodiversity finance assessments' that include policy and institutional reviews, existing expenditures, finance gaps and potential finance solutions and insuring strong integration with Climate Finance Plans, and other green and sustainable finance plans. Primary levers include finance, policy, capacity strengthening and inclusive dialogues.
- Accelerate inclusive green economies by supporting the implementation of national biodiversity finance plans that use fiscal tools best tailored to country contexts.
- Accelerate integration of nature within national accounting systems by supporting the adoption and widespread use of economic accounting and valuation systems for nature's essential role in supplying goods and services, including the adoption of SEEA.
- Guide and facilitate countries, private sector and IFIs (International Financial Institutions) mainstreaming of nature and ecosystem integrity to carbon credits and emission trading systems.
- Facilitate greater engagement of finance ministries in greening the public financial management systems for climate, nature, and biodiversity issues, including via the active participation in the Coalition of Finance Ministers for climate action and with member states.

Pathway 2.2 Implement biodiversity finance solutions, in line with national and sub-national development and recovery programmes, including reduction of nature negative public finance

UNDP will support countries through its BIOFIN Initiative, sustainable financing, circular and green economy, food and agricultural commodity systems, trade and value chains,

gender equality and other service offers to:

- Support 80 countries to review, reduce and repurpose nature-harmful subsidies, including subsidies that promote unsustainable use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers, over-harvesting of fish, timber and other resources, and conversion of natural ecosystems to managed lands. This will include estimating the existing subsidies; identifying and estimating the impact of the subsidies; designing the approach for repurposing agricultural producer support, including identifying needed reforms; estimating the social and economic impact of the repurposing strategy with particular emphasis on impacts on the poor and vulnerable, reviewing and refining the repurposing strategy, prior to implementation; and monitoring the outcomes of the new agricultural producer support.
- Promote sustainability-linked debt instruments, including nature performance bonds and debt-for-nature swaps as scalable solutions for accelerating nature conservation at the same time as contributing to reducing the sovereign debt burden. This will include support for development of bond structures including Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), political dialogues within a government and between debtor and creditor countries, and support for action towards attainment of KPIs.

Pathway 2.3 Mobilise and upscale private investment in nature-positive actions, while reducing financing of nature-negative business processes.

Despite the growing demand for ESG (Environment, Social, Governance screened or themed) investments globally [11], there is no universally accepted criteria and metrics for defining the nature-related risks and

dependencies of business operations, insurance companies and investments. There is also a need for metrics for determining nature-related performance of results-based payments and impact investment. Respective fiscal incentives will have to be introduced to boost investments in ESG sectors. Working with a range of finance and private sector partners, as well as innovation and technology partners, UNDP will support creation of enabling conditions for private finance to be redirected from nature negative to nature positive outcomes. UNDP will:

- Support the creation of financial and corporate transparency, accountability and disclosure. This includes accelerating the uptake of the TNFD framework through capacity building within developing countries, alignment with work of regulators and standard setters, and developing sector specific guidance.
- Promote the use of digital technologies to ensure transparent commodity supply chains, including using the latest digital technologies to promote transparent supply chains of the commodities most associated with the destruction of nature, including beef, palm oil, soy, timber, fisheries products and cocoa. This also includes putting environmental science at the centre of financial and corporate standards by ensuring that financial and corporate standards are grounded in credible science, including through initiatives such as Science-Based Targets for Nature. Primary levers include policy, finance, advocacy, and digital technologies.
- Upscale investment in nature-based solutions through diverse private finance and insurance instruments. This will include biodiversity credit market development, premier carbon credits with direct biodiversity outcomes, performance-based payments for ecosystem services (PES)

mechanisms, nature bond piloting, nature insurance instruments, further development of innovative financing mechanisms such as the Nature Facility and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs, and establishment of new blended finance mechanisms. Such mechanisms will integrate gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches, including targeting women's groups, indigenous peoples and local communities for financing.

POLICY AND PRACTICE SHIFT

UNDP will support at least 140 countries to strengthen their capacity and fast-track and upscale actions necessary for achieving the GBF. These actions will avoid ecosystem collapse and the exacerbation of inequalities by deepening the impacts of water and food insecurity and natural disasters on the most poor and vulnerable. Leveraging country programmes including the Accelerator Labs, UNDP will provide strategic support, through cutting-edge technologies and innovation, to achieve policy coherence and the whole-of-society approach to safeguarding nations' natural capital. Special attention will be given to gender equality, recognizing that women, especially rural and indigenous women, have an important lead role to play in biodiversity conservation and management and the sustainable and equitable access to, and governance of, the use of natural resources. They are also disproportionately affected by the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services [12], yet they are often excluded from decision-making spaces and formal leadership opportunities. [13]

Pathway 3.1 Strengthen national capacity for GBF implementation and policy coherence

UNDP, with UNEP, GEF, and other partners, will support at least 138 countries to fast-track update and implementation the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs). Support will be provided to update NBSAPs in line with the GBF including national targets and develop & improve national monitoring systems. Increased use of spatial data will be promoted through the UN Biodiversity Lab and Map of Hope [14] for pilot studies that support priority setting. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring policy coherence for biodiversity conservation. National biodiversity finance plans supported under Pathway 2.1 will enhance financial resource base for sustained efforts. Through the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, UNDP will support elevating political recognition and importance of NBSAPs towards realising the whole-of-government and whole -of-society approach to NBSAP implementation.

Pathway 3.2 Mainstream nature into development, production sectors and land/water/marine area policy, planning and practice

Nature-based human development must place the preservation of ecosystem integrity at the core of economic and social processes. UNDP will support transformation of land, water and marine use planning and productive sector processes into integrated, coherent, and cohesive whole-of-society approaches that help governments put nature at the heart of achieving their sustainable development goals. We must also transform our production and consumption patterns to become sustainable, and especially focus on the production of agricultural commodities that drive ecosystem degradation and loss. Through its ecosystems and biodiversity, climate, food and agricultural

commodity systems, green economy and circular economy, innovation, digitalization, gender, poverty and inequality and other service offers, UNDP will support countries to:

- Embed nature in national and subnational development plans and policies through multisectoral approaches to create policy coherence using digital technologies and the promotion of policy-science-practice dialogues through the BES-Net platform and NBSAP Forum platform for evidence-informed solutions to help secure diverse, healthy and resilient ecosystems.
- Integrate essential life support areas, using the UN Biodiversity Lab, into national spatial and area-based plans and policies. Primary levers include technology, inclusive dialogue, capacity strengthening, policy support and mobilizing investment in nature-based solutions that connect blue and green economy development.
- Ensure the sustainable production of commodities, supporting the production of key commodities to shift to sustainable approaches, and focusing on long-term productivity over short-term gains.
- Catalyse a shift toward nature-positive, regenerative and resilient agricultural, fisheries and forestry systems. UNDP will catalyse a shift in agricultural practices that maintain pollinator habitats, minimise impacts on nature, restore soil productivity, sequester carbon, secure water supply, minimise disease risk, and foster genetic and crop diversity. This includes a shift toward agroforestry and agroecological approaches and practices.
- Reduce inequalities and generate nature-positive jobs and livelihoods through gender just, inclusive commodity production. UNDP will catalyse a shift in production systems to create new agreements between production communities and traders, and secure long-term, sustainable jobs and livelihoods for

women and men through fair trade agreements and other instruments.

Pathway 3.3 Upscale gender responsive nature-based solutions targeting climate action, poverty reduction and inclusive growth, job creation, disaster and conflict prevention and pandemic prevention

Nature-based Solutions (NbSs) comprise “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits [15]”. Through integrated offers tapping expertise and networks of range of UNDP service offers including nature, climate and energy, inclusive growth, resilience, gender, disaster and conflict prevention and health, UNDP will support countries to:

- Harness and upscale a new generation of NbSs through civil empowerment and enhanced public and private investments. NbSs are typically bottom-up, with a diversity of approaches and technologies that rely on local participation and complement ecological engineering solutions.
- Create incentives for integrating NbSs into prioritization efforts, such as those related to NDCs, water security, food security, disaster risk reduction, economic growth and jobs. COVID-19 stimulus packages offer another opportunity for alignment of priorities around a coherent framework that advance NbSs.
- Demonstrate the value and effectiveness of NbSs as critical elements in our response to global, national and local challenges.

- Generate knowledge, decision-support tools, and human capacities to enable the large-scale roll-out of NbSs globally and across diverse contexts. A spatial tool offered by the UN Biodiversity Lab [16] that supports countries to identify opportunities for protecting, restoring and managing nature through NbSs with a high level of multi-sector participation.

Pathway 3.4 Strengthen coverage and management of terrestrial and marine protected and conserved areas including indigenous and community conserved areas

UNDP will support at least 90 countries to expand and strengthen protected and conserved area systems, including indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCA), towards achievement of GBF Target 3 (30X30). Without these protection and conservation efforts, system-level tipping points and ecological collapses are more likely to occur around the world, reducing resilience and undermining our ability to meet the challenges of the coming decades. However, the creation of new protected and conserved areas must be an inclusive process, grounded in prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities and with full recognition of their human rights, and must benefit those who live in and around these areas.

UNDP recognises that lands traditionally owned, governed and managed by IPLCs cover approximately 32% of the planet, including many areas that have proven to be more effective in safeguarding biodiversity as compared with areas administered by other types of governance, and these areas overall support higher levels of biodiversity richness. [17] UNDP will support legal recognition of these indigenous and community conserved areas to empower communities in the face of land conversion for activities

such as extractive industries, agriculture, and infrastructure that has directly led to the loss of biodiversity, livelihoods and wellbeing. [18]

Combining technical expertise and networks of nature, climate and energy with local action and SIDS offers, and deploying human rights and security offers, UNDP will support countries to:

- Safeguard essential ecosystem services and strengthen societal resilience by expanding coverage and strengthening the management effectiveness and financial sustainability of terrestrial and marine protected and conserved areas, including indigenous peoples and community conserved territories and ICCAs. Freshwater ecosystems and inland fisheries need particular attention due to dramatic species loss and biochemical pollution threatening planetary boundaries. [19]
- Enhance the governance, legal recognition, financing, coverage, representativeness, connectivity and management effectiveness of protected and conserved areas, both public and private, building on integrated land- and seascape approaches around the world, with a focus on protecting areas with high levels of intactness, ecological integrity and biodiversity value (i.e. KBAs). Primary levers include programming support, policy, and capacity development for protected area systems.
- Expand the creation and recognition of OECMs to build on their significant contribution to the global network of protected areas (since OECMs were first recorded in 2019, these areas have added a further 1.6 million km² – much of this in the marine realm) and strengthen their governance, management, ecological representation and connectivity.

- Support and strengthen the appropriate recognition of ICCAs, or lands and territories traditionally governed by IPLCs, to generate positive outcomes for biodiversity conservation, cultural diversity, and other associated values. Primary levers include policy and legislative support for human rights and land rights, jurisdictional and landscape approaches, inclusive dialogues, advocacy, digital technologies, and capacity building.

Pathway 3.5 Accelerate and upscale sustainable land and water management and ecosystem restoration

According to the Global Land Outlook 2, 40% of land is degraded, affecting 50% of the world's population. Deforestation, for timber and fuelwood, crop production and livestock grazing; conversion of grasslands or draining of wetlands to cultivate food or expand urban areas; mining and infrastructure development in both urban and rural areas, all cause land degradation. In the drylands, the over-exploitation of soil, water, and vegetation results in desertification. We are beginning to see large-scale ecosystem collapses, and large-scale climate-induced disasters, such as widespread droughts and wildfires.

UNDP will support 100 countries to restore ecosystems, a proven and cost-effective solution to help reverse climate change and biodiversity loss caused by the rapid depletion of our finite natural capital stocks. This will directly support global restoration goals and targets, currently estimated at 1 billion hectares [20] as well as implementation of the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030). UNDP will support countries to:

- Upscale sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices that maintain and enhance the ecological health and long-term productive capacity of

agroecosystems, which are central to keeping existing farmlands productive and conserving wild ecosystems by reducing the need for further conversion. Agroecological and other innovative approaches [21] that employ a variety of sustainable land management practices, such as agroforestry, soil and water conservation techniques and river-channel restoration, will be promoted.

- Accelerate LDN target setting and translate the commitments into action and promote synergies with NDCs and post-2020 biodiversity targets through integrated planning, programming, monitoring and reporting systems and approaches.
- Implement sustainable land and water management [22] to avoid degradation in productive land/seascapes and intact natural systems; reduce the rate of degradation in partially degraded land and

ecosystems with reduced productivity; and restore and rehabilitate severely degraded land and ecosystems that are unproductive by scaling-up appropriate land and water management practices and nature-based solutions. Priority landscapes and ecosystems include degraded agricultural lands, wetlands, coral reefs and associated ecosystems (e.g.. mangroves and seagrasses), forests and riparian systems, and ecosystems that can buffer humanity from the impacts of climate change.

- Support communities in drylands and other fragile ecosystems to build resilience to climate-induced shocks and stresses, including droughts, floods and wildfires, through ecosystem-based adaptation and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction approaches.





Looking Forward

The vision of the GBF is a world of living in harmony with nature where: “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

The UNDP Nature Pledge is our firm commitment for catalysing necessary shifts for achieving the GBF vision. It is also our conviction that pursuit of nature-based human development is the only way to

navigate the uncertainty of the Anthropocene and to ensure an inclusive, just, and sustainable future for humanity. Making peace with nature is the defining task of this decade. Nature is the greatest but most silent ally.

UNDP is ready for action. Together with countries and our partners, we will work to secure our shared future for people and planet.



Endnotes

- [1] The UN Secretary General's speech at the CBD COP 15 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0bskMLyMcA>
- [2] The UNEA-5 resolution in 2022 formally adopted the definition of nature-based solution as 'actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.'
- [3] World Economic Forum https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_New_Nature_Economy_Report_2020.pdf
- [4] Ecosystem Services are nature's contributions to people according to the IPBES. The most obvious ecosystem services include food, the water, plant materials used for fuel, building materials and medicines. There are also many less visible ecosystem services such as the climate regulation and natural flood defences provided by forests, the billions of tonnes of carbon stored by peatlands, or the pollination of crops by insects. Even less visible are cultural ecosystem services such as the inspiration taken from wildlife and the natural environment.
- [5] <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-cbd-press-release-final-19dec2022>
- [6] World Economic Forum <https://www.weforum.org/reports/new-nature-economy-report-ii-the-future-of-nature-and-business>
- [7] World Resource Institute <https://www.wri.org/insights/nature-economic-winner-covid-19-recovery>
- [8] World Economic Forum (WEF, 2020). Nature risk rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy
- [9] UNDP. Human Development Report 2020. The Next Frontier.
- [10] World Bank. The Economic Case for Nature: "Nature supports all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides cost-effective mitigation options to the climate crisis".
- [11] According to the IMF (International Monetary Fund), from 2010 to 2019, the number of ESG-tagged funds has risen from 913 to 1,931, with assets growing from \$352 billion to \$856 billion: a 143% increase. Nearly three-quarters of investors plan to increase investment in ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) instruments from 2021 onwards (Global Investor, 2020). Yet, tagging investment as 'green' remains arbitrary for some asset classes, and nature-related risks are not routinely accounted for under the 'environment' or 'sustainability' tag.
- [12] CBD, Addressing Gender Issues and Actions in Biodiversity Objectives: <https://www.cbd.int/article/business-women-youth-and-other-stakeholders-2019-11-26-21-49-31>
- [13] <https://www.women4biodiversity.org/publications/>
- [14] <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/maps-of-hope/>
- [15] <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/about-unea-5>
- [16] <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/>
- [17] See: https://www.fint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/report_the_state_of_the_indigenous_peoples_and_local_communities_lands_and_territories.pdf

[18] <https://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-report>

[19] Often perceived as components of the lands in which they are embedded, inland waters conservation targets have been combined with terrestrial targets within the CBD's Aichi Targets (e.g., Target 11). This lumping obscures both the distinct threats that inland waters face, and the potential need for targets adjusted for their disproportionate levels of imperilment. (https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/one_pager_post_2020_fw_final_002.pdf)

[20] 1 billion target is expressed through the Bonn Challenge, which calls for the restoration of 350 million hectares by 2030 and the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets = which account for another 450 million hectares.

[21] HLPE. 2019. Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome.

[22] SLM: Sustainable land management practices in croplands, rangelands, forestry, water systems, human settlements, and their surrounding landscapes, specifically directed at avoiding, reducing and reversing land degradation