



## **IUCN Programme 2021–2024**

The IUCN Members by electronic vote taking place from 27 January to 10 February 2021:

*On the proposal* of the IUCN Director General and with the approval of the Council in accordance with Article 88 (e) of the Statutes,

**Approved** the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 (Annex hereafter).



# NATURE

# 2030

One nature, one future



**A Programme  
for the Union  
2021-2024**

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# **NATURE 2030**

## **One nature, One future**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### ***IUCN's Programme – a key tool to guide the Union***

The future of life on earth depends on the choices we make and the way these decisions are implemented over the coming years. There is an urgent need for immediate action on a global scale. The need grows with every day that passes.

For over 70 years, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, as a Membership Union, has worked towards a sustainable future for people and nature. Our vision guides us: **a just world that values and conserves nature**. Drawing on a large and diverse membership, and thousands of volunteer experts, with global reach, IUCN is focused on the crucial mission of safeguarding our natural world and rebuilding a healthy and equitable planet for people and nature.

IUCN's membership, which comprises States, government agencies, and national and international non-governmental and indigenous peoples' organisations, approves a Programme once every four years, accompanied by a statutory four-year Financial Plan. The IUCN Programme defines broad areas of work and sets aspirational targets as well as indicators to measure success.

The IUCN Programme marks the culmination of many years of deliberation across the Union. The **Nature 2030** IUCN Programme, for the first time, sets its ambition in a decadal timeframe (2021–2030) and is a call for mobilisation to the entire Union, through a high-level, strategic document that includes and invites contributions from the IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat.

This longer-term outlook ensures alignment with United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In keeping with its own statutory cycles, the IUCN membership will have the opportunity to shape and approve, in 2024 and 2028, a revised **Nature 2030** IUCN Programme, building in turn from what will then be the adopted post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Moreover, this **Nature 2030** IUCN Programme begins in the extraordinary global context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and societal response to this. The pandemic does not fundamentally change the rationale or structure of the **Nature 2030** IUCN Programme, and, indeed, underscores its overall importance. However, both the pandemic itself, and the issues it reveals regarding the linkages between nature and infectious disease emergence, and human health overall, will clearly impact the specifics of Programme implementation. To ensure that these are adequately addressed, a companion document on the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and human health for the **Nature 2030** IUCN Programme is under development with a view to having it discussed and approved during the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in late 2021.

In sum, **Nature 2030** is a truly unified Programme, as envisaged in the IUCN "One Programme Charter" that aims to strengthen the Union's delivery and impact more effectively by leveraging the respective roles, capacities and unique features of the constituent parts of the Union – our Members, Commissions, National and Regional Committees and Secretariat.

#### **Box 1: A broad-based Programme development process**

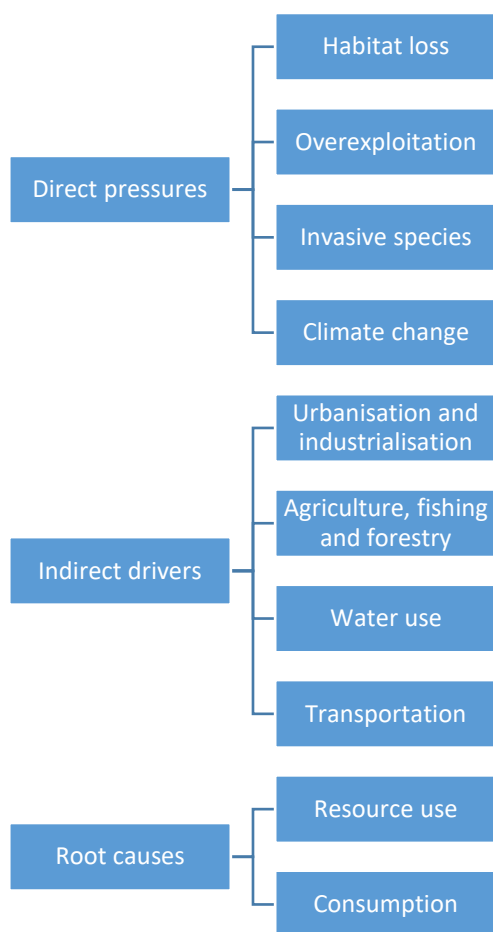
**This Programme was developed in an iterative process over a period of 18 months, involving several rounds of consultations, inputs and feedback from: Council, Secretariat and representatives of the six IUCN Commissions; comments from the IUCN membership especially through the Regional Conservation Forums held in all IUCN regions between May and November 2019; and comments from various sources submitted online. This broad-based process has resulted in a draft that was reviewed by Council at its meeting in February 2020 and endorsed for transmission to the IUCN membership. As a result of the amendments to World Conservation Congress timelines resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, a further online review was then undertaken in November 2020, in accordance with Regulation 94 of**

# SECTION 1

## The planetary crisis

Our world is in a crisis. Rapid loss of biodiversity and dangerously changing climate are some indicators of this crisis. Conserving nature is fundamental to achieving a more prosperous, healthy, just and equitable world, with this importance underscored and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We need to reverse the loss of nature, recover our natural ecosystems, and do it now if we want to achieve the vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050” as indicated in the emerging post-2020 global biodiversity framework. While one in ten people still suffer from extreme poverty, more than one billion people have lifted themselves out of poverty during the last 25 years. However, humanity’s collective economic prosperity has come at a high cost for nature, as multiple drivers and pressures (Figure 1) negatively impact biodiversity and ecosystem services: never have human impacts on nature been greater. Environmental assessments reveal two headlines. First, trends are overwhelmingly negative for all life on Earth and the benefits that nature provides to people. But second, urgent transformative change can still turn these trends around.

Figure 1: Priority drivers and pressures on ecosystem services addressed by the IUCN Programme 2021–2024



Some assessments are based on IUCN’s global standards. The [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™](#) assesses 112,432 species and finds that extinction risk is high (~25%) and worsening. The [Red List of Ecosystems](#) will soon complement this in assessing risk of ecosystem collapse. Comparing the 238,563 sites documented in the [World Database on Protected Areas](#) with the 16,366 sites documented in the [World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas](#) finds that average protected area coverage of sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity is only 43%.

The science and evidence on which IUCN’s work is based shows that many of the planetary systems that regulate climate and support life on Earth are suffering major impacts from human activities. IUCN’s reports on ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation for example, demonstrate the tremendous pressures that our marine systems and the biodiversity they support are undergoing. Similarly, our land, freshwater and climatic systems are undergoing dramatic changes and their capacity to support life is rapidly decreasing. While not yet published, preliminary results from IUCN studies suggest substantial environmental linkages of the COVID-19 pandemic and human health in general.

Similar messages emerge from other authoritative sources. The 2019 Global Assessment report of the [Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity](#)

[and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES) and the [Global Biodiversity Outlook](#) found that the world’s governments are not on track to deliver the 2011–2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Negative trends are also revealed in biome-specific assessments, e.g. the [Global Land Outlook](#) shows productivity declines from 20% of vegetated land 1998–2013; the [Global Wetlands Outlook](#) shows a 35% decrease in the extent of wetlands since 1970; the [World Ocean Assessment](#) indicates severe and increasing human impacts through climate change, fisheries, ocean use and pollution; and the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) reports on global warming and on oceans show that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions have caused 1°C global warming above pre-industrial levels with widespread negative impacts, and that net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will need

to reach zero by 2050 and stay negative thereafter to limit global warming to 1.5°C. The [Global Environmental Outlook](#) and the [Global Sustainable Development Report](#) also highlight that transformative change is essential if these trends are to be reversed.

But there is great room for optimism. There is overwhelming evidence that conservation works and is an effective and essential contributor towards many of humanity's goals. Global societal investment into recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic offers an important opportunity for transformative change through implementation of nature conservation at the scales required to reduce the risk of such crises in the future. IUCN supports a wide variety of successful conservation measures that give our planet – our own life support system – a chance, but they need to be urgently deployed at greater scale to change our current trajectory.

## **SECTION 2**

### ***Delivering transformative change***

#### ***2.1 Conserving nature supports the Sustainable Development Goals***

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by all 193 State Members of the United Nations, sets out an ambitious framework of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), targets and indicators to address global societal challenges. It recognises that the natural world must be urgently protected, both for its own sake, and for it to be possible to fulfil the needs of 9.8 billion people by 2050. Life on earth is directly embedded into two of the SDGs, for conserving life in the oceans (SDG14) and life on land (SDG15). These support, and are in turn supported by, the SDGs for maintaining gender equality (SDG5), freshwater (SDG6), climate (SDG13) and good governance (SDG16). The COVID-19 pandemic has shed stark light on the equivalent interrelationships with the SDG for good health and well-being (SDG3), and the importance of multi-sectoral approaches, encompassing the health of humans, domestic animals and the environment (known as “One Health”) in addressing them.

Relationships between living nature and the remainder of the SDGs are no less important. The conservation of nature is central to supporting and sustaining the world's economies. Globally, nearly half of the human population is directly dependent on natural resources for their livelihood, and many of the most vulnerable people depend directly on biodiversity to meet their daily subsistence needs. The SDGs for poverty eradication (SDG1) and food security (SDG2) are therefore closely linked to those for nature, with these linkages encompassing trade-offs (especially over short-time scales) as well as synergies. This represents the crux of the global challenge faced by society: how can attainment of all SDGs be delivered in a way that minimises threats to biodiversity whilst optimising the profound contribution that a healthy nature offers for human and planetary well-being?

The Programme recognises that the current suite of global problems are interconnected and interdependent; none of them can be understood and addressed in isolation. Systemic solutions are required to address all of the SDGs in an integrated manner. Addressing the SDGs simultaneously is essential since the implementation of some in isolation could have a negative effect on others in the long term. Optimal realisation of all the SDGs will require social, ethical and cultural issues to be addressed. Without a healthy nature at the core, sustainable development will not be possible.

In 2021, the targets for conserving life in the oceans and on land will be reset, and the world will choose new targets for nature to 2030 under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, while continuing the implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. If we do not reverse the loss of nature, however, we will undermine any prospect of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, as the 2019 IPBES Global Assessment report clearly demonstrates. The critical role that a healthy nature plays in addressing other challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, human health and food and water security – and vice versa – is vital in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework therefore represents an opportunity for collaboration as we accelerate and deepen our efforts towards “living in harmony with nature” by 2050.

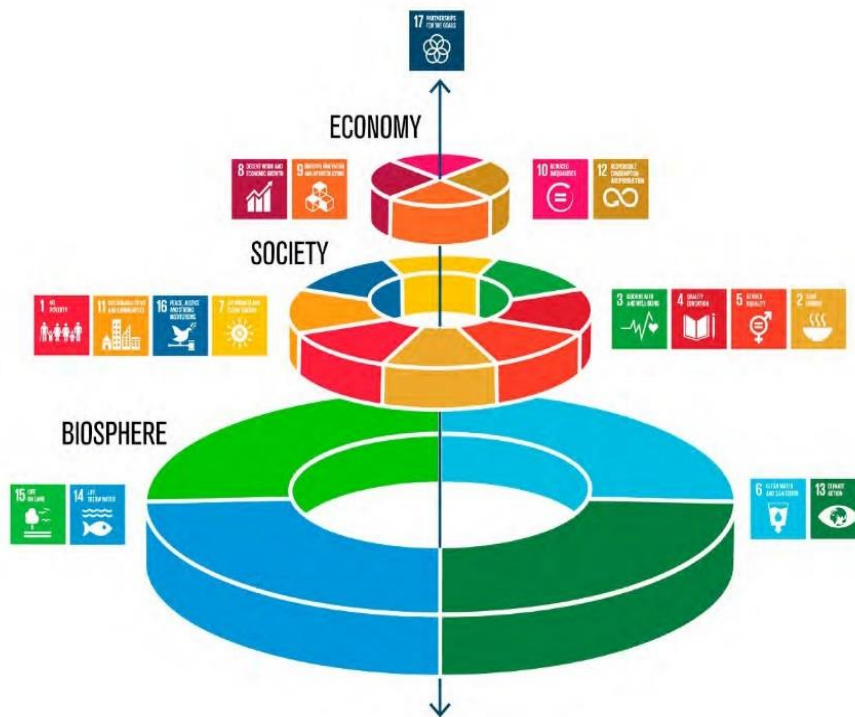


Figure 2: Economy and society are dependent on a healthy biosphere. Source: J. Lokrantz/Azote, in Rockström & Sukhdev (2016) and Folke et al. (2016)

## 2.2 Conservation can work

There is great room for optimism, underpinned by clear evidence. The [IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™](#) reveals that trends in species extinction risk would have been at least 20% worse in the absence of conservation action. Techniques from other disciplines are being applied to reveal the genuine impact of conservation to date. Transformative change requires taking this impact to scale. For the purpose of this Programme, we understand transformative change to require fundamental, system-wide reorganisation across all sectors, using levers for economic and social change to help achieve the ambition of this Programme including pricing environmental externalities, removal of perverse subsidies that adversely impact on nature, and the use of positive pro-nature incentives to change business and social behaviour.

Moreover, there is a growing recognition that human well-being does not need to come at the expense of nature. Rather, nature provides the basis that supports human prosperity, and economic systems, and the involvement of communities everywhere in the restoration and maintenance of biodiversity can itself generate human well-being and economic benefits. Nature conservation in general, and protected areas specifically, also has a critical economic and health-related disaster mitigation role in responding to and limiting the emergence of infectious disease, and thus the resulting economic loss including that due to reductions in tourism. The [New Climate Economy Report](#) showed that a shift to more sustainable forms of agriculture combined with strong forest protection could deliver over US\$ 2 trillion per year of economic benefits, while low-carbon growth could deliver economic benefits of US\$ 26 trillion to 2030. Many countries are working towards being able to include nature's benefits to people in GDP and national accounting. In the long term, sustainable green growth requires decoupling economy from its adverse impacts on nature.

There is much to recognise and learn from the knowledge and actions of the world's indigenous peoples. Many of the planet's most valuable ecosystems are home to indigenous peoples and local communities. This is why it is imperative that their rights be recognised and enforced and their knowledge and expertise respected. More generally, the growing size and diversity of the conservation constituency, encompassing broad social movements, youth, new partners, cities and local governments, and many private sector companies, gives further cause for optimism.

Finally, nature plays an essential role in helping achieve humanity's ambitions. Nature-based Solutions (NbS) provide important contributions to tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation, securing food and water security, alleviating poverty, reducing the risk of future pandemics and other crises, contributing to good health and well-being, and even securing world peace. This is why conserving nature is not only important in its own right, but is fundamental to delivering ecologically sustainable development.



Figure 3A: Conservation works! In Mauritius, Echo Parakeet (*Psittacula eques*), assessed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ as recently as 2007, continues its recovery thanks to conservation efforts. The species was re-assessed on the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable in 2019. Meanwhile, Przewalski's Horse (*Equus ferus*) was Extinct in the Wild from the 1960s until reintroduced in Mongolia and northern China in 1992, and is now assessed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™.



Figure 3B: Restored forest landscapes such as the hills around this lake in Rwanda, help to retain the soil along the steep banks and reduce siltation, stimulating a healthier, functioning watershed while supporting livelihoods – and sequestering carbon.



Figure 3C: Goascorán River Basin in Honduras-EI Salvador, from the IUCN “Improved Coastal Watershed and Livelihoods Project”.

### 2.3 The unique value proposition of IUCN

Many of the multilateral structures that were built over the past seven decades are today under pressure and the international cooperation they facilitate is under threat. Yet the challenges that the world faces require collective action internationally and at all levels of society. As an organisation that brings together States, civil society, Indigenous Peoples’ Organisations (IPOs) and individual expert volunteers, IUCN is a singular vehicle for leading and inspiring cooperation and action that can transcend the shifting international political landscape. By harnessing the experience, resources and reach of over 16,000 experts, IUCN is the pre-eminent global authority on the status of the natural world and the standards and measures to safeguard it.

Through IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, developing and implementing policies and standards that have driven and continue to drive the global conservation agenda. IUCN congresses have paved the way for key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. IUCN continues to work with these conventions to flag important issues, provide technical advice, and influence effective and collaborative responses to emerging challenges. IUCN is also an implementing agency for both the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and an official observer organisation at the United Nations General Assembly. IUCN has honed a unique value proposition among international organisations supporting the advancement of nature and people. The Union provides credible,



trusted knowledge; it convenes and builds multi-stakeholder partnerships for action; it has a global-to-local and local-to-global reach; it sets and influences standards, practices and global policies impartially; and it draws on a vast network of volunteer scientists and expert practitioners worldwide.

IUCN's **One Programme approach** underpins and strengthens the delivery and impact of the **IUCN Programme**, effectively leveraging the respective roles, capacities and unique features of the constituent parts of the Union – our Members, Commissions, National and Regional Committees and Secretariat – in partnership with a diversity of sectors engaged in the sustainable development agenda. In a world facing unprecedented planetary challenges, IUCN is unique in its ability to respond at the scale needed for positive, timely transformative action for a more sustainable future. This uniqueness draws from IUCN's convening power, scientific strength, broad and diverse membership, and truly global presence.

## SECTION 3

### *Nature 2030: A Union in Action*

For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, decision makers have treated nature conservation as peripheral to national and global agendas. At best, it was considered a worthy interest, at worst an obstacle to development. The growing scientific consensus however indicates that such views were deeply flawed; *nature is essential for human existence and good quality of life*<sup>6</sup>. **Nature 2030** builds on this fact by serving a lead role in the implementation of Life below Water (SDG 14) and Life on Land (SDG 15), while aligning with the other Sustainable Development Goals and, in particular, bringing IUCN's knowledge and collective action to help deliver the goals of Health and Well-being (SDG3), Gender Equality (SDG5), Clean Water (SDG 6), Climate Action (SDG13), and Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), among others. Central to this commitment and consistent with IUCN's vision of "a just world that values and conserves nature" are People; how nature's contribution to people is shared and distributed from the local to the global level and how humanity, women and men, young and old, poor and rich, are enabled to take informed, equitable and sustainable decisions. IUCN's values and approach also emphasise the need for a just transition as the world moves to transform its economies and societies to address urgent planetary challenges.

At IUCN's heart is respect for nature and respect for people. IUCN's foundational expertise is particularly well placed to connect the biosphere elements of the SDGs with a commitment to work towards more just and equitable societies and economies, and in doing so to build stronger partnerships for People and Planet. This approach is underpinned by the mandate and guidance embodied in the Resolutions that IUCN Members have adopted over the past 72 years. Engaging all the components of the Union in the delivery of the **Nature 2030** call to action will further advance the implementation of these Resolutions, in addition to contributing to the achievement of global commitments.

Over the next decade IUCN's 1,400+ State, Government Agency, Indigenous Peoples and NGO Members, its network of 16,000+ scientists and its Secretariat will mobilise collectively around the **Nature 2030** agenda. Through this global call-to-action, we commit to delivering a clear and demonstrable contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Together, we will build innovative partnerships and coalitions of action that bring our Members, governmental and non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector to confront two of the 21<sup>st</sup> century's major challenges – the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis – and report our progress at the 2024 World Conservation Congress.

The Union will take advantage of its unique structure: generating the necessary science-based evidence and knowledge that decision makers require, building trust and consensus among disparate stakeholder groups, identifying feasible policy options and, critically, fostering a culture of delivery and action that accelerates early and sustainable implementation. It will deliver concrete and tangible positive impacts to **People, Land, Water, Oceans and Climate** using the following five pathways to transformative change:

**Recognise:** and promote a shared understanding of the interconnected challenges the world is facing, the urgency and timelines involved, what can be done about it and the role each actor can play, including governments, non-governmental organisations, academia, indigenous peoples, communities, the private

sector, women and youth. But also recognising the incredible nature we have, and the champions at all levels working endlessly to protect and restore it!

**Retain:** the importance of safeguarding, maintaining and sustainably using the world's biodiversity and natural and cultural heritage, in key biodiversity areas and other intact areas.

**Restore:** the condition of species and ecosystems, and the full suite of benefits that nature provides to people which have already been lost or degraded, capitalising on the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

**Resource:** the movement by funding and investing in nature and the people working to conserve it, through finance, capacity development and knowledge, to support humanity and the planet through both conventional and innovative sources.

**Reconnect:** people to nature to build a culture of conservation that aligns not just people with the planet, but through nature with other individuals, communities and their own heritage.

IUCN interventions will systematically address and incorporate inclusive leadership and partnerships, including with youth, women and girls, indigenous peoples and environmental defenders, as well as three key enablers necessary to bring about the intended transformations described in this Programme: i) the application of available technology and data, including innovative uses; ii) the power and outreach of communication, education and public awareness; and iii) the leverage of investment and sustainable financing.

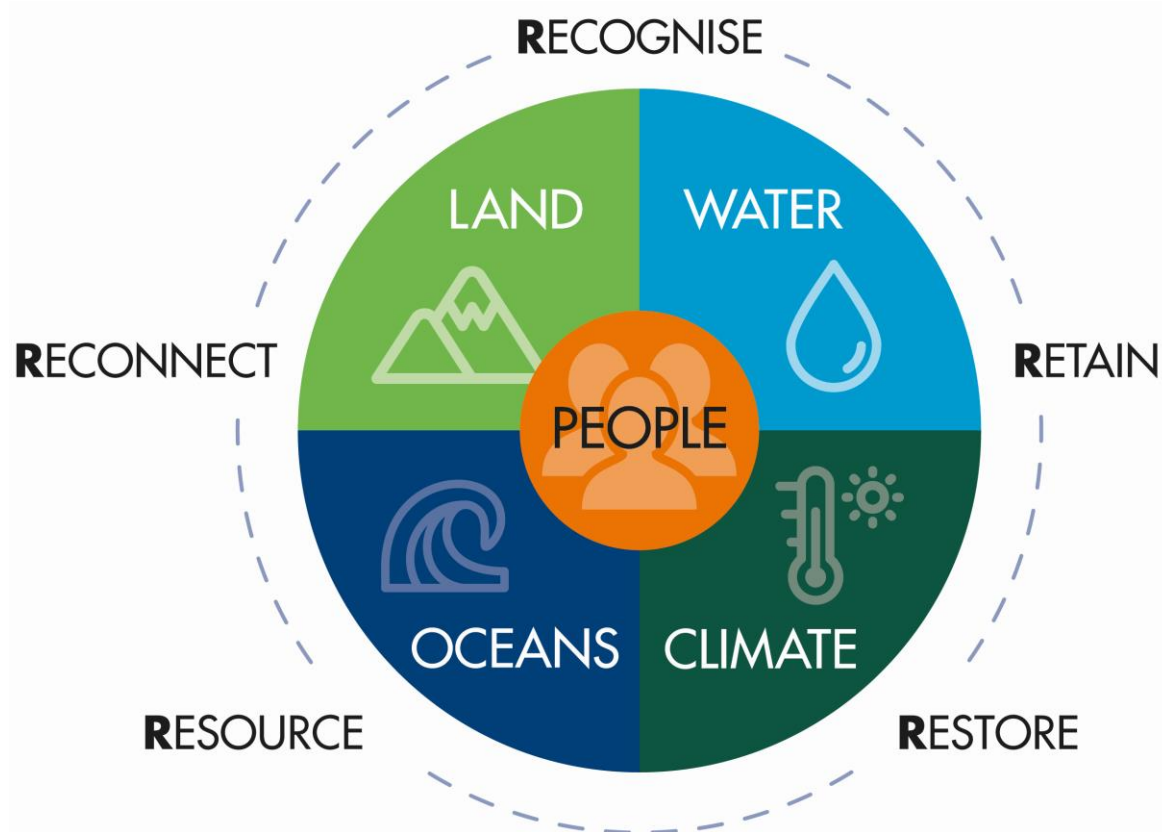


Figure 4: IUCN's **Nature 2030** Programme Framework

In practice these components come together as an effective and coordinated driver of global and ambitious change. The Union is built upon its Members and is well placed to deploy their collective network and reach in the following manner:

- Drawing on long-established trust and widespread respect, the Union convenes and brokers agreements and consensus among disparate stakeholder groups.

- That, together with the knowledge, capacity and know-how IUCN offers, combine to enable governments, companies and communities to better embrace the conservation and sustainable development agenda.
- IUCN then supports these stakeholders in setting their own goals, innovating new solutions and proactively shaping and influencing policy at different levels.
- Progressive and clear policy frameworks, along with effective and tested approaches to conserving and better using nature and ecosystem services, open the door to improved and better directed resource flows.
- More and better targeted resources, good policies, innovative approaches and engaged societies are the building blocks for large-scale delivery of conservation and sustainable development action in both the public and private domains.

IUCN is a delivery-orientated Union and judges success only when its efforts to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity result in tangible changes to the health of lands and oceans, the availability and quality of our water resources and the stability of the planet's climate. But the story of change does not end there because these improvements must also return clear benefits and well-being for society and more knowledge and learning on how best to live sustainably in a world of 7.8 billion people. And this in turn further feeds and enhances peoples' willingness and agency to make further advances towards a just world that values and conserves nature. Figure 5 illustrates the Union's Theory of Change with the purple boxes representing the ultimate impact level changes the Union is pursuing, the orange boxes the enabling conditions we catalyse, the dark blue box the necessary leadership and partnership, and the green circles the transformative processes the Union facilitates. This change process is driven by combinations of five transformative pathways, RECOGNISE, RETAIN, RESTORE, RESOURCE and RECONNECT as described in Section 7 and represented by the blue arrows.

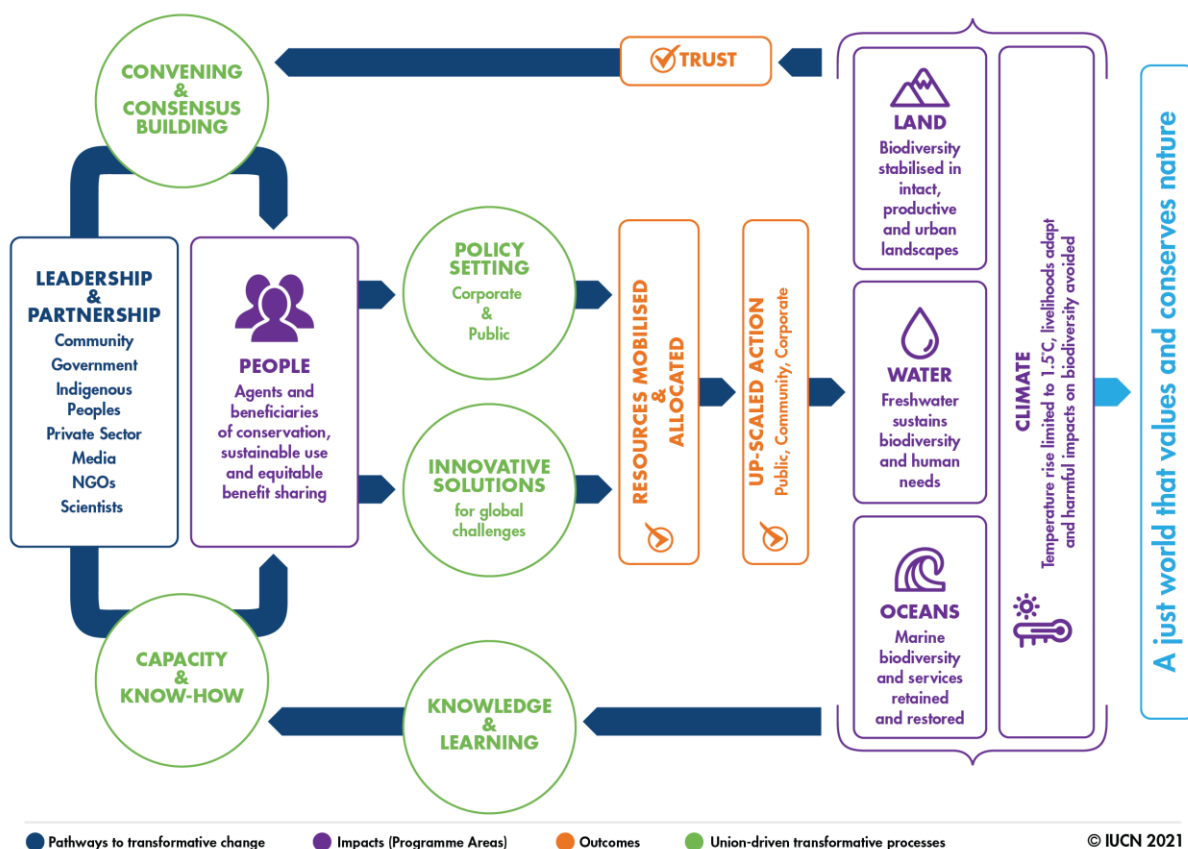


Figure 5: IUCN Theory of Change

# SECTION 4

## Prioritised Programme Areas

### 4.1 PEOPLE

#### **What is the issue?**

Pervasive injustice, inequality and unsustainable use of nature undermine the prospects for human prosperity and nature conservation alike. Persistent gender gaps block the realisation of conservation and undermine sustainable development, while indigenous peoples and environmental defenders face daily threats to their rights, cultures and environments. Youth voices spearhead calls to action at all levels of responsibility. Nature's contributions to people, both material and cultural, lack recognition and integration into decision making. Equitable and effective governance, the environmental rule of law, and enforcement of environmental obligations remain weak in much of the world.

#### **What needs to be done?**

We must collaborate across sectors to achieve gender equality and the full realisation of rights and roles of indigenous peoples and local communities, and fully harness the power of youth and inter-generational partnerships for nature conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. We must secure equitable governance of natural resources and ensure that nature's contributions to human good health and well-being are recognised, sustained and equitably shared, especially in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery from it. We must close gaps in compliance and enforcement of the environmental rule of law to protect people and nature. We must help build a global culture of conservation.

#### **Ambition**

A world in which a dynamic and inclusive conservation movement, effective and equitable natural resource governance, and the environmental rule of law and obligations protect and sustain healthy biodiversity while contributing to the realisation of human rights, social equity, gender equality, good health and well-being, prosperity, respect for the rights of nature, resilience to climate change, and a just transition to sustainability.

#### **What will we do?**

The Union will contribute to this vision by aiming to achieve the following three **Impact Targets**:

#### **1. Fully realised rights, roles, obligations and responsibilities to ensure just and inclusive conservation and sustainable use of nature**

**Indigenous peoples and local communities** hold and manage 37.9 million km<sup>2</sup> of land. This encompasses 40% of protected area, encompasses significant areas of the Earth's most biodiverse regions, and plays a vital role in conserving lands, waters and other natural resources. In keeping with the self-determined strategy developed by IUCN IPO Members, IUCN will expand partnership with indigenous peoples in its own governance, programmes and international policy engagements in a manner that is fully consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. IUCN will support efforts to increase the recognition and enforcement of indigenous rights to lands, territories and resources; secure traditional and customary law, indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage; reduce conflicts impacting indigenous and communal lands; and protect environmental defenders. The apparently disproportionate vulnerability of some indigenous peoples to COVID-19 underscores the importance and timeliness of these efforts.

**Women and girls** possess invaluable knowledge, experiences and capacities for conservation. However, persistent gender gaps block the realisation of this potential and undermine sustainable development progress. IUCN will work to achieve gender equality as a fundamental right and a driving force for effective, equitable and sustainable environmental solutions. To enable gender-responsive action, IUCN will work to empower women's full and active participation in environmental decision making, promote the access of women and girls to lands and natural resources that provide a foundation for their economic empowerment, and enhance awareness and capacity for gender-responsive action at multiple levels.

**Youth** are vital catalysts for change and 52% of the world's population today is under 30 years old. IUCN will actively engage with and invest in youth and intergenerational partnerships to foster the new generations of conservation leaders. To empower youth in conservation, IUCN will improve its outreach to young people so that intergenerational partnerships become a day-to-day reality in the work of the Union, the IUCN Council, the Commissions, Secretariat and Members. IUCN will work across all fronts, including education, engagement, activation and communication to foster intergenerational knowledge sharing, enhance meaningful participation of youth in IUCN's work, and increase youth engagement in policy advocacy and programmes.

IUCN will also promote **collaborative and collective action** across sectors, including governments and their agencies at all levels, non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the private sector using IUCN's unique convening power to build coalitions of action to help deliver this Programme, in a just and inclusive way.

## **2. Equitable and effective governance of natural resources at all levels to benefit people and nature**

Nature conservation and equitable and effective sustainable natural resource governance entails the adoption and implementation of inclusive decision making, recognition and respect for diverse tenure rights, cultural values and knowledge, accountability and transparency, environmental rule of law, and access to justice. IUCN will support the strengthening of diverse types, levels and dimensions of sustainable natural resource governance, including public, private, community and customary governance. IUCN will also support rights-holders and stakeholders at all levels to make better informed and more equitable decisions on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the fair and equitable distribution of nature's benefits, including through use of the Natural Resource Governance Framework, the Green List Standard for Protected and Conserved Areas, Green Lists of Species and Ecosystems, and other governance and equity frameworks.

Nature is the foundation of human well-being and survival, and all aspects of economic, social, cultural and religious life. IUCN will promote recognition and integration of the multiple contributions of nature to people's health and well-being in public, private and individual decision making, greening of property rights, and accounting for both material and cultural values. IUCN will enhance generation of multiple benefits from ecosystems, with a focus on Nature-based Solutions that enable a shift to ecologically sustainable and regenerative development. IUCN will work to ensure sustainable consumption and production and fair and equitable sharing of all benefits from nature, including those arising from utilization of genetic resources; and also to present the benefits of nature as global solutions to health and disease risk to humans.

## **3. Enhanced realisation and enforcement of the environmental rule of law**

Realising rights, obligations and principles inherent to the environmental rule of law and to justice requires strong legal frameworks and independent judicial institutions, the adoption and enhancement of well-designed policies, principles (like *in dubio pro natura*, polluter pays, etc.) and rules, and fair enforcement of the law to protect and restore biodiversity on land, water and the oceans. A just and fair legal system that protects the rights of nature and people is particularly essential in the face of the climate and biodiversity crisis. IUCN will work to strengthen the frameworks and implementation of the environmental rule of law, drawing on the 2016 IUCN World Declaration on the Environmental Rule of Law and its Principles for Promoting and Achieving Environmental Justice through the Environmental Rule of Law. IUCN will also engage directly with judges, prosecutors and public interest lawyers to build capacity, increase understanding and enforcement of environmental legislation, promote information sharing to improve the implementation of law at all levels, and promote whistleblower protection and reward laws. IUCN will fight illegal wildlife trafficking and other environmental crimes, stand by environmental defenders and ensure that their rights are properly respected, and eliminate activities that breach environmental legislation and cause harm or risk to nature, human health, or both.

## **4.2 LAND**

### **What is the issue?**

Biodiversity on land is in decline globally, and is vanishing more rapidly than at any other time in human history. Approximately 75% of the land surface is significantly altered, primarily for food production and

forestry, with one-third of land globally degraded or degrading, adversely impacting biodiversity, land productivity, carbon storage and ecosystem functioning. Encroachment and unsustainable, often illegal, exploitation threaten remaining populations of wildlife and the human populations depending on them. An average of around 25% of species in assessed animal and plant groups are threatened. The growing footprint and impact of cities and infrastructure exacerbate these pressures, adding to species extinction risk and the fragmentation and loss of habitats, ecosystem integrity and associated services. Moreover, many of these impacts are potentially exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and societal responses to it, with investment in recovery from the pandemic presenting an important opportunity to transform conservation action to scales sufficient to reduce the risk of similar future crises.

## ***What needs to be done?***

There is an urgent need to protect intact landscapes and biodiversity and to upscale the sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems and the conservation and recovery of species. Areas necessary for the persistence of biodiversity – key biodiversity areas – must be conserved with protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Redesigned and improved management of production landscapes must protect biodiversity and the services it provides. Regulatory frameworks along with incentives and investments must be reoriented towards sustainable land stewardship and food systems, based, among other ethical, policy and legal pillars, on the principle of the inherent ecological function of property rights. Urban planning and management must incorporate Nature-based Solutions to address climate change, water demand, disaster risk reduction as well as human health and well-being.

## ***Ambition***

By 2030, the status of biodiversity is stabilised across intact, production and urban landscapes. Conventional models of land and natural resource exploitation, and perverse incentives including property rights without recognition of environmental obligations, are replaced by integrated conservation and sustainable use frameworks that effectively respect and balance the needs of people and nature.

## ***What will we do?***

The Union will contribute to this vision by aiming to achieve the following three **Impact Targets**:

### ***1. Ecosystems are retained and restored, species are conserved and recovered, and key biodiversity areas are safeguarded.***

IUCN will work to support the retention of primary forests and other terrestrial ecosystems, and restoration to increase their intactness, integrity and connectivity as well as their benefits to human well-being. We will work to halt and reverse species' population declines and prevent extinctions; and we will help document and protect key biodiversity areas and other sites of particular importance for biodiversity through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures meeting standards for effective and equitable conservation.

IUCN will work to bring the use and trade of wild fauna and flora to sustainable levels and address and reduce illegal wildlife trade. We will help to halt the loss of biodiversity caused by invasive alien species both reactively (through eradication and control of existing invasive alien species) and proactively (through managing the most significant pathways of introduction). We will work to conserve geodiversity sites, including areas important for their fossil and other geological heritage.

Global initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge to restore 350 million hectares of degraded lands by 2030, as well as the unprecedented global investment in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, offer a unique opportunity to enhance biodiversity conservation while restoring degraded ecosystems by planting native species and focusing on those that are threatened nationally or globally.

### ***2. Thriving production landscapes are sustainable, and nature's value and benefits are safeguarded in the long term.***

IUCN will broaden its engagement with land-use and agriculture sectors, both public and private, to help restore and maintain critical ecosystem services and biodiversity upon which health, food and nutrition security depends. It will respond to, advise and guide the growing demands from government and the private sector for viable strategies that support land-based activities, green jobs and rural livelihoods without compromising biodiversity.

IUCN will enhance societies' understanding of the importance of soil biodiversity and strategies to restore, manage and conserve it under productive land-use and agriculture systems. It will work on improving the sustainability and legality of supply chains and trade that, in turn, will encourage and reward progress towards land degradation neutrality and biome-based climate mitigation. We will work to reduce habitat fragmentation and improve ecological connectivity.

IUCN will engage with high-impact sectors to establish biodiversity net-gain approaches as a standard benchmark at both a corporate, investment and regulatory level. It will seek the reorientation of perverse public and private incentives towards investments in Nature-based Solutions.

### **3. *Nature and people thrive in cities while delivering solutions for urban challenges and a sustainable ecological footprint.***

IUCN will strengthen its engagement with cities and scale up its work on urban dimensions of nature conservation. We will leverage the value of nature in cities for enhanced education, recreation and human health and well-being. We will strive to improve resilience to the challenges of climate change, disaster and disease risk, food and water security and safety. This will involve supporting the establishment and strengthening of protected and conserved areas to safeguard key biodiversity areas in or near cities. It will include the promotion of Nature-based Solutions to urban challenges and the integration of biodiversity values into urban planning, design and decision making by cities, including through mobilisation of urban nature indices. Better documenting and mitigating the embodied impacts of cities, through their supply chains, will be essential. Finally, IUCN will also promote the re-connection of people to nature.

## **4.3 WATER**

### ***What is the issue?***

Life in freshwater is in crisis. With an unprecedented 83% decline in freshwater biodiversity and wetlands disappearing three times faster than forests, water use and management is driving ecosystem degradation and fragmentation, as well as species loss. Many countries will increasingly face water stress, negatively affecting economic growth and their natural resource base and contributing to migration and regional instability. Current water laws and management strategies have proven insufficient to address these multiple challenges, which are exacerbated by climate change.

### ***What needs to be done?***

Water management and the protection, sustainable use and restoration of freshwater systems for biodiversity conservation and human needs require urgent reform. Better management and investment in water resources must protect freshwater biodiversity and at the same time, manage water resources for equitable access for people and broader human needs and well-being.

### ***Ambition***

By 2030, freshwater systems support and sustain biodiversity and human needs.

### ***What will we do?***

The Union will contribute to this vision by aiming to achieve the following three **Impact Targets**:

#### **1. *The loss of freshwater species and decline of freshwater ecosystem health is halted, and restoration initiated.***

IUCN will provide the necessary scientific information on freshwater biodiversity, taking into account direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. It will share and promote the use of knowledge from the local to transboundary levels, across sectors and among stakeholders. It will ensure this knowledge is available to mobilise decision makers on the implementation of protection, sustainable water management, and wetland and river restoration.

IUCN will help protect, restore and promote healthy freshwater systems and habitats (e.g. ancient lakes, free flowing rivers, peatlands) for people, nature and climate resilience, safeguarding key biodiversity areas, and targeting better connectivity, water quality, pollution control and mitigation, and system integrity. It will promote the integration of freshwater biodiversity with terrestrially-focused conservation interventions.

## **2. *Equitable access to water resources and all associated ecosystem services are secured.***

IUCN will support countries and communities to ensure that the use of water resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable. It will promote and work to safeguard the rights to access clean and safe water for the most vulnerable communities.

IUCN will champion policy, regulatory frameworks and action for freshwater systems that integrate across transnational, national and local scales. Such frameworks will be forward-looking, targeting climate change resilience and long-term water security for both people and nature. Trade-offs in water allocation will be negotiated openly and fairly using established hydro-diplomacy frameworks. IUCN will work together with partners in order to reform water law and governance.

IUCN will promote and help facilitate the equal participation of women and youth in water-related decision making and champion the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

## **3. *Water governance, law and investment decisions address the multiple values of nature and incorporate biodiversity knowledge.***

IUCN will support, enable and facilitate stakeholder dialogues to forge strong and diverse partnerships, governance reforms and collaboration across borders, sectors and scales. Union actions will build capacities to challenge conventional, deterministic and sectorally-limited approaches and assumptions regarding water resource management.

Solutions to address real-world problems that integrate a wide range of science, policy and economic disciplines will be developed, expanded and mobilised. Stakeholder engagement and communication approaches will help mobilise action across sectors.

IUCN will recognise and promote indigenous knowledge and intrinsic values, diverse stakeholder rights, and the spiritual and cultural values of rivers and wetlands in national policies. It will foster integrative, inclusive and adaptive governance of water resources.

## **4.4 OCEANS**

### ***What is the issue?***

Less than 3% of the global ocean is free from human pressure. A long history and legacy of unsustainable exploitation of marine living resources has had a major impact on marine species and ecosystems. Ocean warming, ocean acidification and ocean deoxygenation, overfishing and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and pollution from plastics, pesticides and other chemicals are causing long-term and negative impacts on people and marine life, at both a local and planetary scale. Poorly regulated sea-bed mining has the potential to impact sensitive marine ecosystems. The current momentum of change in the oceans will continue to exert profound impacts on life in the oceans and on global weather systems.

### ***What needs to be done?***

Stronger legal and policy frameworks and their collaborative implementation for the more effective governance of marine resources are urgently required. This is particularly the case for the High Seas and the Arctic and Antarctic. These governance arrangements must enable adaptive management approaches for both natural and modified ecosystems. The ocean also plays a fundamental role in regulating global temperatures, and efforts to protect the ocean and its vitally important ecosystems cannot be considered in isolation from the challenge of stabilising the global climate. Global greenhouse gas emissions need to be urgently reduced; the flow of plastics, chemicals and other pollutants halted; illegal and unsustainable exploitation of living marine resources controlled; and the exploitation of non-living marine resources prevented in sensitive and vulnerable marine ecosystems. We need to ensure that coastal ecosystems are maintained, sustainably used, and restored, working hand in hand with governments, communities and the private sector in an integrated management approach of natural resources and the marine environment. Valuable ocean resources have the potential to meet rising global food security challenges and increasing demand for rare-earth metals. However, exploitation must be done in a sustainable manner with strong environmental protections. All this needs to be underpinned by significant investment in the sustainable blue economy, including technological innovation, science and knowledge of ocean biodiversity.



## **Ambition**

By 2030, a healthy ocean supports nature and people, governed by strengthened national and international legal frameworks and sustainable investments that retain and restore ocean and coastal biodiversity and associated services for future generations.

## **What will we do?**

The Union will contribute to this vision by aiming to achieve the following three **Impact Targets**:

### **1. *The loss of marine species and decline of marine ecosystem integrity is halted, and restoration initiated.***

IUCN will combine the efforts of its different Members to promote and implement sustainable fishing practices, halt destructive practices, protect coastal and marine biodiversity and restore degraded habitats. It will work to significantly reduce all forms of pollution entering marine and coastal ecosystems, advance safeguards in the exploitation of non-living resources (e.g. for seabed mining), and prevent the spread of harmful exotic and invasive species while maintaining genetic diversity.

IUCN will work with governments and civil society to designate and implement a global network of highly protected marine protected areas (MPAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures, taking into account the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. It will work with a range of partners and stakeholders to set and pursue ambitious targets capable of adequately addressing marine biodiversity loss.

IUCN will champion better governance of marine habitats and resources, especially in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It will actively promote an internationally legally binding agreement under UNCLOS, as well as the ratification and implementation of existing treaties and conventions.

### **2. *Uses of marine natural resources generate overall positive biodiversity outcomes and sustain livelihood benefits for coastal communities.***

IUCN will develop and implement holistic and integrated marine and coastal zone management, through identification of Key Biodiversity Areas and application of Area-based Management Tools such as Marine Protected Areas, Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures, and Marine Spatial Planning. It will support governments, local communities and practitioners by developing best practice guidelines and standards for marine economic actors.

IUCN will reach outside to other sectors and work constructively with them, filling the many knowledge gaps on sustainable use of marine resources as well as supporting the practical application of the precautionary principle where uncertainty persists, to protect our common heritage.

IUCN will develop stronger accounting for marine assets and natural blue capital to better ensure equitable benefit sharing, while targeting food security. It will support a drive towards sustainability within marine economic sectors in and beyond national jurisdiction. In particular, it will target the elimination of harmful subsidies.

### **3. *Ocean and coastal processes are maintained as a key foundation for planetary stability.***

IUCN will generate cutting-edge knowledge and advice to better equip policy and decision makers to develop fit-for-purpose strategies on conservation and management of ocean emergencies, such as ocean warming, acidification and deoxygenation. It will remain at the forefront of profiling and raising awareness on other emerging issues that may have planetary implications, and make a major contribution to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

IUCN will promote and help guide investment in Nature-based Solutions to safeguard ocean biodiversity. It will support communities of action to restore some of the most globally threatened marine ecosystem types and species, including where conventional management and conservation approaches are no longer sufficient to safeguard important functions. It will work with Government Members to ensure marine issues are built systematically into national legislation and programmes, including through reorientation of subsidies, and in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). In response to stressors on the continent of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, including climate change impacts, IUCN will support the ongoing

implementation of the Antarctic Treaty and the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Resources, including through the expansion of marine protected areas.

## 4.5 CLIMATE

### ***What is the issue?***

Greenhouse gas emissions have risen progressively over the past decade despite the current and future threat posed by climate change. Global average temperatures have risen 1°C compared to pre-industrial levels and continue to rise. The impacts of climate change are harming societies, the natural world and the multiple services that healthy nature provides. These impacts will worsen if the 1.5°C threshold is crossed, and will disproportionately affect countries, communities and peoples that are least able to adjust and adapt, for example, on islands. Moreover, some proposed solutions to mitigate climate change could themselves lead to further degradation of biodiversity.

### ***What needs to be done?***

Limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C requires global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to decline by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030, and reach net zero by 2050. Global emissions by 2030 need to be 25% lower than in 2018 to put the world on the least-cost pathway to limit global warming to below 2°C and 55% lower to limit global warming to below 1.5°C. This requires urgent, rapid and sustained reduction of emissions by sources and increase in removals from sinks, with the aim of reaching a balance around 2050. Effective mitigation measures are required to accelerate transition to a low carbon future – including through eliminating all fossil fuel subsidies, eliminating use of coal for energy and reducing other fossil fuel consumption – and enable societies and nature to adapt to unavoidable impacts. Within this overall suite of responses, nature conservation has a specific role in advancing Nature-based Solutions for both adaptation and mitigation, as well as in ensuring that other climate change responses do not themselves cause negative impacts on nature.

### ***Ambition***

A world that limits temperature rise to 1.5°C through ambitious measures to mitigate climate change and enables effective adaptation in a changing world.

### ***What will we do?***

The Union will contribute to this vision by working with actors across different sectors to achieve the following three **Impact Targets**:

#### ***1. Countries use Nature-based Solutions to scale up effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change.***

The aim is to reduce vulnerability of societies, ecosystems and species through Nature-based Solutions. IUCN will mainstream Nature-based Solutions into adaptation planning and actions, including integration of Nature-based Solutions in the adaptation component of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions and their national adaptation plans. Working with actors across different sectors is key, with particular recognition of low-lying islands and other climate-vulnerable states. To reach a transformative change in the way risk reduction and adaptation takes place, IUCN will incubate and scale up innovative climate-responsive, ecologically- and socially-responsible investment opportunities in the land and seascapes where IUCN strengthens the use of nature-based solutions for adaptation. The aim is to leverage private sector investment to amplify the impact over that from public finance targeted for nature based-solutions. Ultimately, this will grow the number of people, institutions and systems that become more resilient to climate change and climate-related disaster risks.

#### ***2. Countries scale up Nature-based Solutions to reach climate mitigation targets.***

The aim is that countries apply Nature-based Solutions to contribute to at least 30% of the overall climate mitigation required by 2030, without replacing necessary deep emission cuts from all other sectors. This requires that Nature-based Solutions for greenhouse gas emission reduction, avoidance and removal are mainstreamed into the mitigation targets of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions and long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies. Substantially increasing the number of tonnes of carbon dioxide stored or sequestered through Nature-based Solutions will require redirecting financial flows and

creating new and innovative financial flows to climate-responsive and ecologically- and socially-responsive investments in land and seascapes where IUCN scales up efforts to improve their management and restoration. Engagement with new partners from the banking, insurance, infrastructure and technology sectors will be key to unlocking efforts to redirect investment in opportunities revolving around nature-based climate mitigation. The Bonn Challenge Barometer, biodiversity indicators and other tools for measuring emission reductions will serve as key tools to track our progress.

### ***3. Responses to climate change and its impacts are informed by scientific assessment and knowledge to avoid adverse outcomes for nature and people.***

There is an increasing interest among diverse groups to innovate on the responses needed to enable societies to adapt to, mitigate and repair the damage from climate change. IUCN will assess and communicate the impacts of climate change and the responses to it with a view to bringing about the most beneficial impact for societies, nature and economies, and ensuring that existing policies are implemented. In addition to assessing, communicating and addressing the direct impacts of climate change on the world's ecosystems and species, adverse impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation responses on biodiversity and people will be systematically identified, assessed and communicated through the development, dissemination and application of appropriate principles, safeguards and solutions. The climate change responses that may require such appraisal could include large-scale renewables (such as hydropower), bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, infrastructure development, geoengineering, carbon dioxide removal, negative emission technologies and climate investments by financial institutions, and indeed Nature-based Solutions. The aim is to inform and transform decision making on climate responses to benefit both people and nature. These responses will require actions to ensure the intactness and integrity of nature, safeguard the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples, and strengthen the rule of law, legal institutions and tools at national and international level to ensure accountability and justice in climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

## ***SECTION 5***

### ***Leadership and Partnership***

The task facing us over the next decade is immense. Addressing the twin global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss can no longer be postponed. At the same time climate and biodiversity action must go hand in hand with optimising nature's contribution to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. This will require the collective power of the Union working in concert with governments, non-governmental organisations, indigenous peoples and local communities, environmental defenders and the private sector. This is particularly the case in the context of the COVID-19 and societal investment in recovery from the pandemic.

It will also require recognising, mobilising and harnessing leadership from multiple sources including those constituencies whose voices are often not sufficiently heard, such as youth, indigenous peoples, and women and girls.

The Union will promote leadership from youth by facilitating young people's representation in decision-making processes and governance arrangements. It will foster intergenerational partnerships that enable mentoring and learning opportunities. Young people are typically referred to as tomorrow's leaders but IUCN believes they are today's leaders and will therefore prioritise empowering youth ambassadors and youth-led movements.

With Indigenous Peoples now recognised as a formal and distinct constituency of the Union, IUCN will work with its indigenous peoples Members to facilitate the development of their self-determined response to this Programme that they will own and lead. This will build and expand upon a similar approach IUCN used with its indigenous peoples Members in the 2016–2020 period.

The impacts of ecosystem degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change disproportionately affect women and girls, particularly those living in disempowered and vulnerable communities and marginalised societies. Studies show that discrimination, harassment and gender-based violence are prevalent where the fabric of society is eroded through loss and degradation of environmental resources. The Union will therefore ensure the voice of women and girls in the implementation of this programme, creating the space for them to

emphasise not only the protection of their rights but also the critical role they play as agents of change at the local, national and global levels.

In addition to promoting a diversity of leadership IUCN will also extend its existing partnerships and further diversify new and innovative collaboration with a wider range of actors. We will reach across sectors to those who may not necessarily share all the Union’s values to promote constructive dialogue and find areas of common cause in order to build coalitions that commit to ensuring nature has the best chance to recover and thrive for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

In summary, in delivering the **Nature 2030** Programme IUCN will work to secure enhanced political will, committed and innovative partnerships and leadership at all levels to embrace and help implement the changes that are needed across economies and societies to secure our natural world and its contributions to people.

## **SECTION 6**

### **Enablers**

In addition to connecting with the energy and leadership of diverse stakeholders and actors, IUCN will ensure that the implementation of the Programme effectively uses enablers as levers for economic and social change, including pricing environmental externalities, removal of perverse subsidies that adversely impact on nature, and the use of positive pro-nature incentives to change business and social behaviour. As a consequence, this Programme defines three important enabling themes – 1. Technology, Data and Innovation; 2. Communication, Education and Public Awareness; 3. Investments and Financial Sustainability – that will support each of the Programme Areas. The table below shows how each of these enablers could interact with the individual Programme Areas.

<b>How we deliver</b>	<b>People</b>	<b>Land</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Oceans</b>	<b>Climate</b>
<b>Technology, data and innovation</b>	Blockchain to protect right holders  ICT for greater environmental transparency and accountability, and legal education	Innovation in data sensing, big data and AI in conservation knowledge and insights	Innovation in data sensing and machine learning for freshwater species and freshwater ecosystems	Innovation in data sensing and machine learning for marine species and marine and coastal ecosystems	Innovation in data sensing, big data and AI in climate change knowledge and insights
<b>Communication, education and public awareness</b>	Access to information and clarity of communication  Bottom-up information sharing  Communication and education that is inclusive for all audiences: multilingual for all ages  Foundational importance of the SDGs  Enhanced understanding and creation of stronger cross-	Raise awareness and inspire conservation action through a renewed global narrative for nature: post-2020 global biodiversity framework; #NatureForAll; One nature, one future  Foundational importance of the Life on Land SDG	Raise awareness and inspire freshwater conservation action and responsible water resources stewardship through a renewed global narrative for nature: post-2020 global biodiversity framework; #NatureForAll; One nature, one future  Foundational importance of the Water SDG	Continued public-facing campaigns on threats facing the ocean (plastics, acidification, species loss, overfishing, sea-level rise) and solutions to solving them  Foundational importance of the Life Below Water SDG	Public understanding of climate risks and necessary actions  Awareness raising on citizen action that can be taken for climate change mitigation  Capacity building for climate resilience  Foundational importance of the Climate SDG

	sector partnerships that promote nature's benefits for human health and well-being				
<b>Investments and financial sustainability</b>	Ensuring the financial sustainability of environmental governance and rule of law institutions	Shifting investment flows to sustainable production and de-risking investments the restorative economy  Mobilising conservation finance and financing of conservation outcomes  Ensuring that COVID-19 recovery investment is nature-positive and reduces the risks of similar future crises	Promoting sustainable investments in water resources	Steering finance towards sustainable blue industries	Mobilisation of climate finance from a wide range of sources  Mobilisation of eco-disaster risk resilience financing and insurance

## **SECTION 7**

### ***Pathways to Transformative Change: The 5Rs***

The planet is facing a biodiversity and climate crisis of unprecedented scale, overlain in 2020 with the proximate crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the response must be systemic, immediate and highly ambitious. Anything less risks failure. To deliver on this ten-year programme and the vision it presents, IUCN is proposing a bold Union-wide call to action, **Nature 2030**, which will be framed by five crosscutting conduits to change. These five pathways will define the actions that enable delivery of the five programme areas. They will act as a guiding, organising and convening tool to ensure that the Union's collective actions help drive the transformative shifts required. These calls to action are embedded in the 5Rs: **Recognise, Retain, Restore, Resource and Reconnect**.

#### ***We RECOGNISE:***

- Nature, our life support system, is under threat; people and planet face unprecedented challenges. Lands, oceans and waters are being transformed. The risk of emergence of infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, is increasing. Ecosystems, species and the livelihoods of people worldwide are being compromised. Political will and leadership, good governance, policy and legislative reform, and the rule of law are essential but often weak or absent.
- However, human well-being does not need to come at the expense of nature: positive transformative change is necessary and already happening. The voices of all people – including indigenous people and local communities, women and youth, governments at all levels, and the private sector – are being amplified daily. The importance of environmental rule of law and justice, including traditional environmental law, is growing. A healthy environment is a fundamental human right.
- Conservation works where measures are effective and constant. Ecosystems and habitats must be retained and restored and species recovered. We have an amazing planet, wondrous nature and champions at all levels that are active and succeeding in protecting and restoring nature. We know communities everywhere must be involved to ensure that the use of nature is sustainable and that both nature and people are respected, to enhance nature's benefits in the long term.

- IUCN's wealth of knowledge, number of dedicated practitioners, and its wide-ranging expertise can be unleashed and strengthened through its convening power. The unique influence of the Union can drive positive change in the next decade towards a *just world that values and conserves nature*.

### **We will work to *RETAIN*:**

- Nature, vital for our continued existence on this planet, and nature's contributions to all people. By protecting species, ecosystems, habitats and genetic diversity through addressing drivers and targeted conservation action we can conserve the planet's life support system.
- The knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and the sustainable use of resources derived from nature providing vital benefits.
- Places where natural and cultural diversity and traditional knowledge can flourish.
- Protected areas that safeguard the most important freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and, especially, key biodiversity areas.
- Human-nature connections across the world to deliver positive change building on generations of learning. An optimism that we can fix the planet based on a 'can do' spirit, underpinned by science.

### **We will *RESTORE*:**

- The integrity, quality and functionality, and sustainable use of degraded ecosystems of all kinds in the ocean, in freshwater and on land so they can again support society, nature and culture through championing the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems, including cities.
- Severely impacted populations of all species, through conservation measures including an increase in action to control pathways of introduction of invasive alien species and to reduce their impacts through eradication and control.
- Links between people and nature and interest in the stewardship of nature by communities, indigenous peoples, private sector, governments and individuals. Awareness and consciousness of nature to achieve equitable and sustainable access to nature's benefits, reduce risk of disasters such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and ensure sustainability of nature to support human development.

### **We will work to *RESOURCE*:**

- Conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of the world's ecosystems and the services they provide and an urgent scaling up of conservation action for species. Livelihoods that maintain the balance needed for earth systems to function. Nature-positive post-COVID-19 recovery financing that supports – and does not undermine – conservation and restoration, thereby maintaining human health and reducing future risk to society.
- Mobilisation of the private sector to support financing of conservation partnerships to scale up investments in conservation. The appetite to fund and invest in nature conservation from the private sector, supporting subsidies and removal of constraining barriers that respond to and generate conservation values.
- Investment in new knowledge including about biodiversity on land, in water and in the ocean. Shared knowledge of the risks of investing in projects that damage biodiversity, concrete guidance on how to avoid this damage, information about exposure to nature-related risk and positive impact of investments in nature.
- Increased investments in nature by two orders of magnitude, including through COVID-19 recovery funding, to support nature and the people on this planet to strive for “business unusual”, and ensure accessibility of this funding to those on the front lines of conservation. Investment in the maintenance of knowledge products mobilised by IUCN as the basis for action and the human resources necessary to face the challenge of global conservation.

### **IUCN will *RECONNECT*:**

- All people with nature, each other, their own heritage, and sustainable, nature-based economic opportunities to create a global culture of conservation and sustainability, enhance human health, well-being and prosperity, and inspire love for the planet.

- Fragmented ecosystems and habitats across landscapes and seascapes to facilitate the flow of genetic diversity and maximise resilience to climate change. Lost connections between people and nature and diverse cultures for conservation, sustainability, health and well-being. The economy with nature.
- Life on land, in freshwater and in the ocean to maximise resilience in the face of climate change. Migratory species on land, in the ocean, in freshwater and in the air across international borders. Protected and conserved areas linked across landscapes and seascapes.
- Diverse visions of good quality of life – as a foundation for renewed stewardship of our planet through hopeful Voices for Nature. Coalitions of indigenous peoples, youth and local communities for bio-cultural diversity. To communities of faith and spirituality, as crucial actors in our planets' future.
- International treaties and conventions through synergies to deliver cross-cutting implementation thinking for nature, people and the planet. All parts of IUCN as never before, to advocate solutions for the planet.

IUCN will lead by example to strengthen confidence in global environmental agreements and commitments that seek to conserve and restore nature's support to humanity. The power of the Union to be a true champion for nature, mobilising efforts across the world.

## SECTION 8

### *How will we know we succeeded?*

To deliver and scale up the most effective solutions to the most pressing challenges of our times, we must be ready to critically assess progress against our Impact Targets, celebrate our achievements and learn from our failures. Since truly transformative outcomes are never achieved alone and only result from partnerships of actors, we must be ready to recognise all contributions to the achievements of the Impact Targets.

We will create a digital **platform** where all parts of the Union can voluntarily share their planned and realised contributions to meeting the Impact Targets as well as towards global policy targets such as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. This mechanism to document, and ultimately report on, contributions from the IUCN membership, National and Regional Committees, Commissions and Secretariat must be as light as possible (otherwise it will not be used), build on available information, be spatially explicit, be considerate of restrictions and reservations to share such information, provide maximal benefits to all users, and yield the most informative documentation possible. By doing this we can truly show the strength of the Union.

Monitoring our progress, in line with internationally agreed Tier I SDG indicators and other authoritative indicators, and periodically correcting our course of action will not be enough. First, we must be open to exploring alternative solutions rooted in scientific knowledge to meet the Targets. Second, as a Union, we must then leverage our diverse experiences to contrast and compare the effectiveness of our interventions across varied settings. Finally, we will use the results of our systematic evaluations to update our knowledge and adjust our interventions. From Panorama, IUCN's repository of narratives on successful approaches and their underlying success factors, mapped against specific geographies, counterfactual approaches can emerge that allow progressively more sophisticated consideration of genuine conservation impact.

To succeed in continuously adapting our efforts to best meet our goal for nature in 2030, we must commit to the highest level of transparency and dedicate ourselves to knowledge sharing. We must seek new knowledge partnerships between practitioners, academics, scientists and other stakeholders to generate unique insights. In other words, we must allow ourselves to be challenged. The IUCN Secretariat itself will thrive for the highest level of accountability. It must strategically set priorities around its contributions and how it will deliver for the Union. Therefore, the Secretariat will adopt an operational plan that will commit to a set of well-defined objectives and performance measures against which it will report with a clear line of sight to the Targets.

## Annex 1: Programme Impact Framework by 2030

Programme Area	Impact Target	Indicator
PEOPLE	Impact Target 1: Fully realised rights, roles, obligations and responsibilities to ensure just and inclusive conservation and sustainable use of nature	SDG 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognised documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure  SDG 15.6.1. Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits
	Impact Target 2. Equitable and effective governance of natural resources at all levels to benefit people and nature	SDG 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group  World Bank: "Natural Capital Share of Total Wealth", derived from <a href="#">The Changing Wealth of Nations</a>
	Impact Target 3. Enhanced realisation and enforcement of the environmental rule of law	<i>No existing indicator in the SDG framework or elsewhere would be fully adequate to track progress towards this specific target. IUCN will work with relevant competent international institutions to ensure the measurability of progress.</i>
LAND	Impact Target 1. Ecosystems are retained and restored, species are conserved and recovered, and key biodiversity areas are safeguarded.	SDG 15.5.1 Red List Index (terrestrial species)  SDG 15.1.2. Proportion of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
	Impact Target 2. Thriving production landscapes are sustainable, and nature's value and benefits are safeguarded in the long term.	SDG 15.2.1. Progress towards sustainable forest management  SDG 15.3.1. Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area
	Impact Target 3. Nature and people thrive in cities while delivering solutions for urban challenges and a sustainable ecological footprint.	SDG 15.8.1. Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species  <i>Other existing indicators in the SDG framework or elsewhere are not yet fully adequate to track progress towards this target. IUCN will work with relevant competent international institutions to ensure the measurability of progress.</i>
WATER	Impact Target 1. The loss of freshwater species and decline of freshwater ecosystem health is halted, and restoration initiated.	SDG 15.5.1. Red List Index (freshwater species)  SDG 15.1.2. Proportion of important sites for freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type
	Impact Target 2. Equitable access to water resources and all associated ecosystem services are secured.	SDG 6.4.2. Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources  SDG 6.6.1. Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time
	Impact Target 3. Water governance, law and investment decisions address the multiple values of nature and incorporate biodiversity knowledge.	SDG 6.5.1. Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)  SDG 6.b.1. Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and



		procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management
<b>OCEANS</b>	Impact Target 1. The loss of marine species and decline of marine ecosystem integrity is halted, and restoration initiated.	SDG 15.5.1. Red List Index (marine species)  SDG 14.5.1. Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas
	Impact Target 2. Uses of marine natural resources generate overall positive biodiversity outcomes and sustain livelihood benefits for coastal communities.	SDG 14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels  SDG 14.6.1 Degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
	Impact Target 3. Ocean and coastal processes are maintained as a key foundation for planetary stability.	BBNJ: <a href="#">Number of countries ratifying BBNJ treaty</a>  <i>Other existing indicators in the SDG framework or elsewhere are not yet fully adequate to track progress towards this specific target. IUCN will work with relevant competent international institutions to ensure the measurability of progress.</i>
<b>CLIMATE</b>	Impact Target 1. Countries use Nature-based Solutions to scale up effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change.	UNFCCC: Proposed additional indicator of number of <a href="#">UNFCCC Parties submitting National Adaptation Plans</a> . This clearly goes beyond Nature-based Solutions, but could perhaps plausibly be considered an appropriate indicator given the “effective adaptation to the impacts of climate change” component of the Impact Target.  <i>Other existing indicators in the SDG framework or elsewhere are not yet fully adequate to track progress towards this specific target. IUCN will work with relevant competent international institutions to ensure the measurability of progress.</i>
	Impact target 2. Countries scale up Nature-based Solutions to reach climate mitigation targets.	UNFCCC: Number of <a href="#">Parties submitting updated Nationally Determined Contributions</a> . This clearly goes beyond Nature-based Solutions, but could perhaps plausibly be considered an appropriate indicator given the “reach climate mitigation targets” component of the Impact Target.  <i>Other existing indicators in the SDG framework or elsewhere are not yet fully adequate to track progress towards this specific target. IUCN will work with relevant competent international institutions to ensure the measurability of progress.</i>
	Impact target 3. Responses to climate change and its impacts are informed by scientific assessment and knowledge to avoid adverse outcomes for nature and people.	<i>No existing indicator in the SDG framework or elsewhere would be fully adequate to track progress towards this specific target. IUCN will work with relevant competent international institutions to ensure the measurability of progress.</i>