



## **POST-2020 PAVILION PARTNERSHIP <sup>1</sup>**

### **CALL TO ACTION**

for

***“An equitable, carbon-neutral, nature-positive world”***

**Submitted to the UN General Assembly Summit on Biodiversity  
September 2020**

**This decade must become the pivotal moment in human history when we change our relationship with nature and restore a healthy natural environment, for the sake of all people and the planet.**

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<sup>1</sup> The Post-2020 Pavilion Partnership is a diverse coalition of organisations, which will be convening a programme of events at the forthcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France January 2021. The Pavilion recently hosted 10 multi-stakeholder, expert-led Virtual Biodiversity Dialogues to deepen collective thinking on key issues relating to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations. A second round of webinars is planned for later this year. The Post-2020 Pavilion partners include: African Wildlife Foundation, BirdLife International, Business for Nature, Capitals Coalition, Conservation International, Friends of Ocean Action, Google Earth, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, International Fund for Animal Welfare, International Institute for Environment and Development, International Land Coalition, IUCN, MAVA Foundation, National Geographic, National Resources Defence Council, Pew Charitable Trusts, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, The Nature Conservancy, UNDP, UNEP, World Commission on Protected Areas, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Trust for India, We Mean Business, WWF International. The Post-2020 Pavilion Partners who have formally endorsed this Call to Action are listed below.

We, leaders of global environment and development organisations, call upon Heads of State and Governments to unite global actions under all Multilateral Environmental Agreements and related policy processes to achieve an equitable, carbon-neutral, nature-positive world. We call for the UNGA 2020 Summit on Biodiversity to take bold and decisive leadership by calling for and demonstrating the highest possible levels of ambition, in line with science, for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

**We outline below the measures that we believe are central to the Summit's call for "urgent action on biodiversity for sustainable development".**

### **1. Seize the opportunity to transform our relationship with nature**

The current, devastating pandemic has brought into sharp focus how our mismanagement of nature is not only causing ecological breakdown and exacerbating climate change, but driving the emergence of zoonotic diseases.<sup>2</sup> While an economic and societal tragedy, COVID-19 presents an unprecedented opportunity and imperative to reset humanity's relationship with nature and to catalyse the equitable transformative change necessary in our political, economic, financial and governance systems.

Nature and its contributions to people underpin the delivery of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>3</sup> However, our systematic disregard for the environment, deep-rooted societal inequalities and unbalanced relationship with nature have pushed the natural world to its limits, threatening the livelihoods of current and future generations. Continued loss of nature threatens not only over half the global GDP<sup>4</sup>, but more importantly, human lives and wellbeing, with the poorest and most vulnerable hit first and hardest. The UN-75 Global Dialogue reveals that people around the world overwhelmingly believe that climate and the environment will most affect humanity's future.<sup>5</sup>

Heads of State and Government must recognise the value of nature, not only as the foundation of a healthy and resilient economy, but first and foremost as the basis for human wellbeing, peace and security. Governments must deliver an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which puts nature on a path to recovery and secures a healthy, equitable and sustainable future for all.

### **2. Set the global compass to halt, and start to reverse, nature loss by 2030**

We urge governments to adopt a global goal for nature that commits the world to take action now to ensure an equitable, nature-positive planet for all people by the end of this decade - the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Action on the SDGs. "Nature-positive" means that further loss of biodiversity must be halted and nature must be on the path to recovery by 2030, in order to ensure full recovery by 2050, to achieve the UN 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature. Actions for nature cannot be met without addressing both the climate emergency and social inequalities, which are mutually reinforcing, so we must all strive for an equitable, carbon-neutral, nature-positive world in order to deliver the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

### **3. Act now to achieve a nature-positive world by 2030**

The global goal for nature requires immediate, effective actions to both conserve nature and address the causes of its decline by 2030. These include the following:

- ***Retain and restore ecosystems***

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environment Programme and International Livestock Research Institute (2020). Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission. Nairobi, Kenya.

<sup>3</sup> IPBES (2019). Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. IPBES Secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

<sup>4</sup> World Economic Forum in collaboration with AlphaBeta (2020). The Future of Nature and Business Report. Geneva, Switzerland.

<sup>5</sup> Office of the Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Preparations for the Commemoration of the UN's 75th Anniversary (2020). Resolved to Combine Our Efforts: Preliminary Assessment of the UN75 Survey and Dialogues. United Nations, New York.

We must effectively protect, conserve and restore at least 30 percent of land, inland waters, coasts and oceans of most importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services by 2030. These protected and conserved areas must be equitably governed and with appropriate recognition, protection and land tenure security assured for all lands and waters traditionally governed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Such areas must be adequately and sustainably resourced and not undermined by legal changes.

Areas important for biodiversity and that allow for species movements in response to climate change should be prioritised, including Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as those areas which are ecologically intact and/or deliver ecosystem services. This requires integrated, biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning across the entire planet, at ecologically-relevant scales (including in areas beyond traditional boundaries and national jurisdictions) through spatially-explicit National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Strategic Environmental Assessments and national development plans.

● ***Safeguard the diversity and recover the abundance of life***

We must address illegal and/or unsustainable wildlife exploitation, trafficking and trade and implement intensive species management actions where necessary, to help halt the decline of genetic diversity, prevent extinctions and start to recover wildlife populations.

● ***Transition towards an equitable nature-positive economy***

Governments must recognise that nature lies at the heart of a sustainable, resilient, green transition that “builds forward”, to mitigate future economic and societal shocks. We must mainstream biodiversity into public and private decision-making (e.g., green recovery plans), halve the footprint of production and consumption across all sectors and redirect financial flows away from activities that harm biodiversity towards those that restore, conserve and manage it sustainably. Our food systems must be transformed as well as key productive sectors such as forestry, fisheries and infrastructure. Governments and the private sector must value natural capital, invest in nature-based solutions, require sustainable supply chains, and critically, incorporate the true value of nature into economic systems, while ensuring that social and environmental safeguards are fully enforced, so that both public and private sector actions have an overall positive impact on nature and society.

● ***Ensure a healthy environment for healthy societies***

Rights, equity and justice must lie at the heart of the Post-2020 GBF. Governments must recognise the universal right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and put in place legislation and actions to achieve this. Both intergenerational and intragenerational equity are needed to ensure that decision-making and implementation by state and non-state actors is inclusive and that decision-makers are held accountable. In particular, the role and rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and girls as stewards and defenders of nature must be recognised, protected and supported.

**4. Implement these actions across all-of-government, all-of-UN and all-of-society**

Synergies between the Post-2020 GBF and other global processes are essential because biodiversity loss, climate change, land and marine degradation, the deprivation of human rights and unsustainable development are inseparable challenges caused by interdependent drivers. For example, the Post-2020 GBF should commit Parties to incorporate nature-based solutions that protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem integrity into both NBSAPs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to meet the Paris Agreement on climate, and, where relevant, Post-2020 GBF targets and indicators should replicate or build on those already tracking progress towards the SDGs. Similarly biodiversity in the high seas must be addressed systemically and synergistically through coordination and cooperation between and within governments and policy processes.

The Post-2020 GBF must mobilise and be implemented by all of society. It must be supported by a robust and rigorous implementation and accountability mechanism that is translatable into and across national

contexts. It must be scalable to track global progress, and integrate targets and actions relating to other conventions and the SDGs. It must include: (i) an effective, binding and transparent system of national targets (accompanied by indicators, milestones and strategies to achieve them), (ii) monitoring, reporting, review and accountability, as well as (iii) a ratcheting mechanism to ensure Post-2020 GBF goals and targets will be achieved by 2030.

**Disclaimer:**

*This Call to Action is presented as a contribution to the UN Summit on Biodiversity, September 2020. The content of this document does not preclude the debates to be held in and the outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress or the meetings related to the negotiation and adoption of a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.*

**The following Post-2020 Pavilion Partners have signed this Call to Action.**



Kaddu Sebunya  
CEO

On behalf of African Wildlife Foundation



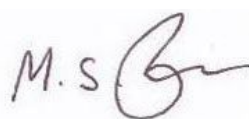
Patricia Zurita  
Chief Executive

On behalf of BirdLife International



Eva Zabey  
Executive-Director

On behalf of Business for Nature



Mark Gough  
CEO

On behalf of Capitals Coalition



M. Sanjayan  
CEO

On behalf of Conservation International



Christian Schwarzer, GYBN Global North Focal Point  
Swetha Stothra Bashyam, GYBN Global South Focal Point

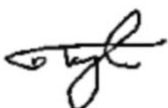
On behalf of Global Youth Biodiversity Network





Azzedine Downes  
CEO

On behalf of the International Fund for Animal Welfare



Michael Taylor  
Director

On behalf of the International Land Coalition



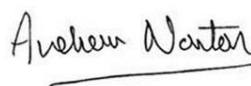
Guido Schmidt-Traub  
Executive Director

On behalf of the UN Sustainable Development  
Solutions Network



Vivek Menon  
Executive Director and CEO

On behalf of Wildlife Trust of India



Andrew Norton  
Director

On behalf of International Institute for Environment  
and Development



Lynda Mansson  
Director-General

On behalf of the MAVA Foundation



Kathleen MacKinnon  
Chair

On behalf of IUCN/World Commission on Protected  
Areas



Marco Lambertini  
Director-General

On behalf of World Wildlife Fund





Jodi Hilty  
President and Chief Scientist

On behalf of Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation  
Initiative



**Strictly embargoed for 00:01 BST on Friday, September 18, 2020**

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