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More than 560 companies with revenues of US\$ 4 trillion call on governments to act now to reverse nature loss

Geneva Switzerland, 21 Sept 2020

On the same day as the UN General Assembly adopts its 75th declaration that recognizes the urgent need for Member States to act to protect our planet and build back better, more than 560 companies with combined revenue of US\$ 4 trillion, including Walmart, Citigroup, Microsoft, JD.com, Hitachi, IKEA, Unilever, Axa, Mahindra Group and H&M urge governments to adopt policies now to reverse nature loss in this decade through the following statement: *"Healthy societies, resilient economies and thriving businesses rely on nature. Governments must adopt policies now to reverse nature loss in this decade. Together let's protect, restore and sustainably use our natural resources."*

Business for Nature's Call to Action is the first time so many businesses have stepped forward with the ambition of influencing discussions in the run up to delivering a Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. It follows [recent and widespread calls](#) from Conservation, Development and Humanitarian Organizations, Faith Groups, Cities, Indigenous Peoples and Youth groups for more ambitious action on nature to protect human and planetary health.

More than 560 businesses from 54 countries, employing 9.5 million people and across all sectors are calling on governments to act with courage and urgency by putting nature front and centre of policymaking. Without doing so, we simply will not be able to meet the 1.5C climate target set out in the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 or prevent a catastrophic loss of biodiversity.

Importantly, businesses recognize that it is in their best interests. Before COVID-19, the need to create more resilient economies and societies was clear, now it is inescapable. The natural resources and ecosystems that power businesses and underpin economies and communities are under huge strain and the potential for disruption to whole industries is significant. According to the [World Economic Forum](#), industries highly dependent on nature generate 15% of global GDP (\$13 trillion), while moderately dependent industries generate 37% (\$31 trillion). Natural disasters linked to ecosystem degradation and climate change [cost more than \\$300bn](#) each year – while an estimated 40 to 60 percent of small businesses never reopen after such events.

Forward-thinking businesses are committing, acting and now advocating to reverse nature loss. But we need to scale and speed up efforts if we are to have any chance of what scientists tell us is necessary to mitigate climate change and to thrive within nature's limits. The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is our opportunity to reset our relationship with nature and create a

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carbon-neutral, nature-positive and fair world, where we give back to nature and climate more than we are currently talking. This means that by 2030 we have more nature than we have now.

Businesses cannot address this global crisis on their own. To accelerate action, businesses are calling on governments to work together and create a positive policy feedback-loop to spur more business action and ambition.

Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature said: *"It is exciting and unprecedented to see so many businesses urging for bold government action to reform nature policies. Many businesses are making commitments and taking action. But for us all to live well within the planet's finite limits, we need to scale and speed up efforts now, not tomorrow. We need to see positive political ambition to address nature loss, climate change and inequality which will drive more even more action by business."*

Bart De Smet, CEO, Ageas: *"At Ageas we do not invest in coal tobacco and weapons and we commit to being fully divested by 2030. We need ambitious policies on nature to create a stable environment in which we can all prosper long-term. We owe it to our stakeholders and the next generation of stakeholders to protect nature and help secure the future of our planet."*

Arie Koornneef, Director, ASN Bank: *"At ASN Bank we measure the impact on biodiversity at portfolio level and strive for a net positive gain in 2030. Collaboration is key. Together with 20 other institutions we have initiated the Finance for Biodiversity Pledge."*

Emmanuel Faber, CEO, Danone: *"We need to make sure that we stop working against nature. This means rethinking the way we live, produce, consume and eat, to build a resilient food model and taking into account our dependence on nature and life. We must bend the curve on climate change and nature loss in the next 10 years and we need collective effort now. Governments must support businesses in making the shift to Nature Based Solutions by making sure there is the appropriate regulatory framework to make these transitions at scale."*

Ivan Menezes, CEO, Diageo Plc: *"At Diageo our brands have been around for over 200 years. We're determined to protect and restore nature so they're around for the next 200. We need ambitious policies on nature because only by working together with governments, communities and societies will we be able to create a healthy planet for everyone."*

Geraldine Hatchett, Co-CEO and CFO, DSM: *"At DSM people and the planet are core to our purpose led performance driven strategy and we're proud of applying our science to drive innovation that helps reverse nature loss. But to succeed with our ambitions and our dreams we also need strong"*

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policy. Because to truly reverse nature loss will require collaboration across sectors, across value chains and with the support of global leaders."

Helena Helmersson, CEO, H&M Group: *"Nature is important for business because we see an urgent need to de-couple our growth with our use of natural resources. We need governments and policy makers to be transformative and create new laws and frameworks in collaboration with business that need to step up with their actions and commitments."*

Jan Jenisch, CEO, LafargeHolcim: *"At LafargeHolcim we are shaping a new era of circular construction to build a world that works for people and the planet. By recovering waste as a source of energy and as a source for raw materials, we are preserving earth's resources and shaping cleaner cities. We need ambitious policies on nature because a net zero world requires the joint effort of all."*

Maria Fernanda Garza, CEO, Orestia: *"At Orestia we are committed to reducing our impact on nature by reducing or eliminating packaging, using recycled and recyclable materials, avoiding single use plastic and manufacturing water-friendly products to reduce waste. We need ambitious policies on nature because the value of nature can never be fully quantified. We need to develop and implement frameworks that integrate the value of nature in decision-making and global market mechanisms, including pricing the use of natural resources."*

Alexandre Ricard, Chairman & CEO, Pernod Ricard: *"At Pernod Ricard we're fully committed to protecting and nurturing natural ecosystems, from grain to glass. As part of our 2030 sustainability and responsibility roadmap we have committed to 100% of our global affiliates putting in place a strategic biodiversity project by 2030, in addition to continuing our over 40-year commitment to ocean preservation working with the Paul Ricard Oceanography Institute. Our collective future depends on our global communities coming together to ensure a greener and more inclusive tomorrow."*

David Taylor, CEO, Procter & Gamble: *"The science is clear - nature is everyone's business and the next 10 years are critical. At P&G, we're working with Conservation International, the World Wildlife Fund, and others to fund projects that protect and restore critical ecosystems will help the communities and the environment."*

Jean-Pascal Tricoire, Chairman & CEO, Schneider Electric: *"We need to make sure companies build strategies and business models around biodiversity and ecosystems. We welcome rules and regulation which encourage a circular economy, climate action and incentivize companies to have a positive impact on biodiversity. We need to make sure companies build strategies and business models around biodiversity and ecosystems."*

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Ilham Kadri, CEO, Solvay: *"No business can be made at the expense of the planet. At Solvay we aim to reduce our biodiversity pressure by 30% in the next 10 years. This is one of the pioneering goals of Solvay's One Planet Strategy. We need ambitious policies on nature because we are the very last generation that has the luxury to make a choice."*

Alan Jope, CEO, Unilever said: *"The science on nature loss is terrifying. Nature underpins everything on this planet. An ambitious post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that brings transformative change to our relationship with our planet is absolutely critical. Business should be at the fore of calling for this change."*

Doug McMillon, President & CEO, Walmart: *"Nature sustains life let alone the products are customers rely on. We must reverse nature loss before we reach a tipping point from which ecosystems will not recover."*

Signatories:

The full list of signatories will be available on the [Business for Nature website](https://www.businessfornature.org/) on 21 September.

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

Business for Nature is a global coalition bringing together influential organizations and forward-thinking businesses. Together, we demonstrate business action and amplify a powerful business voice calling for governments to reverse nature loss.

<https://www.businessfornature.org/>

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Business for Nature is an initiative by:



Further information and interview requests please contact:

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