

IUCN intervention in GST Technical Dialogue 1.3

Roundtable 4 on Integrated and Holistic Approaches

Delivered by Sandeep Sengupta on 10 June 2023, 15:00-18:00, Chamber Hall

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important dialogue. I have the honour of speaking today on behalf of IUCN's 1400+ members around the world, which include over 200 states and government agencies as well as over 1,200 NGO and indigenous peoples organisations.

As we now begin to transition from the technical phase of the Global Stocktake to its political phase, IUCN would like to highlight **3 key messages**:

First, there is a growing recognition today of the deep interlinkages that exist between the climate change and the biodiversity loss crises, and the need to address these two crises in an integrated and holistic manner. We saw this both at COP26 and COP27, and also in the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* that was adopted under the CBD last year.

Protecting, restoring and sustainably managing the world's terrestrial, marine and coastal ecosystems can make a major, near-term, and cost-effective contribution towards both climate mitigation and adaptation, while also supporting biodiversity conservation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A study published by UNEP and IUCN has estimated that these Nature-based Solutions can deliver mitigation benefits of at least 5 gigatonnes of CO₂ per year by 2030 and at least 10 gigatonnes by 2050. Likewise, on adaptation, mangrove ecosystems alone have been estimated to provide over US\$ 65 billion in flood protection benefits each year, safeguarding 15 million people across the world. It is therefore critical that Parties include these in an ambitious and concrete manner in their future NDCs, NAPs, and Long-Term Strategies. We note that some have already done so, and we welcome that. But much more can be done, including with the support of Non-Party Stakeholders, including those in the Marrakech Partnership.

Second, there is a need to substantially increase financing towards nature, especially considering the multiple benefits that they provide for human wellbeing. It has been estimated that investments in Nature-based Solutions need to at least triple by 2030 and increase four-fold by 2050 if the world is to meet its climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation neutrality targets under the 3 Rio Conventions. It is also important that a significant proportion of this financing flows to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who are the key stewards and custodians of the world's ecosystems on the ground – and also that their rights, concerns, and interests are fully taken into account in this entire process.

Finally, the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report reminds us that nature itself is under serious threat from climate change today, and the ability of ecosystems to provide benefits, either for mitigation or adaptation, can diminish if certain temperature thresholds are crossed. It is, therefore, an absolute imperative to limit warming to 1.5 degrees C through the rapid, sustained and deep reductions of GHG emissions across all sectors of the global economy. Nature can play an important role in the fight against climate change. But it can do so only with timely and ambitious action in other sectors.

Thank you.