

United Nations Climate Change Conference 2023

High-Level Segment of COP 28/CMP 18/CMA 5



**Statement by Dr. Grethel Aguilar, Director General
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

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Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Mr. President,

We humans depend on nature for our own survival, but we are destroying it at an unprecedented rate.

Species, forests, the ocean and land are all suffering because of our actions.

Nature is kind, and has provided ecosystem services for millennia, and continues to be a key ally to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We need to urgently act **now** to keep the 1.5 goal alive.

The Global Stocktake must result in a strong and clear decision that leads to more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions in 2025.

We have three main expectations from it.

First, the Global Stocktake must drive rapid and deep greenhouse gas emission cuts across all sectors of the global economy. This must include the time-bound phase-out of all fossil fuels within a framework that ensures a just transition.

Second, it should clearly recognise

- the valuable role of healthy ecosystems in providing effective nature-based solutions for both adaptation and mitigation;
- the links between the climate change and biodiversity loss crises; and
- the need for greater operational synergies across all 3 Rio Conventions.

Finally, it should deliver scaled up global climate finance across the entire continuum of mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage. An increased proportion of this should be made directly accessible to Indigenous peoples and local communities.

The well-being of humanity depends on the well-being of our planet. We must do everything in our power to protect it.

I thank you Mr. President.