



# RACE TO ZERO

## Dialogues

### Outcomes Document “Nature-Based Solutions”

Friday 13th of November, 2020

Organised by Nature4Climate, IUCN, Business for Nature,  
TFA, UN-REDD, CDP, Oxford University, WWF

**THIS DOCUMENT IS A ‘LIVING DOCUMENT’.**  
**IT WILL BE UPDATED AND ADDED TO IN THE COMING MONTHS**



## Nature's Place In the Race - Seven Key Points:

1. **Time is ticking.** We know what to do: in ten years, it is possible to transform our systems and create [nature-positive](#), resilient and net zero emission economies. Our response to climate change requires a fundamental transformation across all our systems of food, land, and ocean use; infrastructure and the built environment; and extractives and energy. These systems represent more than a third of the global economy and provide up to two-thirds of all jobs. This is the launch of a transition - a decade to turn around our food system and how we relate to our land, water and seas. We have to learn lessons from other transitions and ensure this addresses the nexus of people, planet and prosperity. Now is the decisive decade for action - under the umbrella of the Paris Agreement and the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.
2. **Nature is a powerful ally.** We know that nature-based solutions<sup>1</sup> have the potential to provide around a third of the solution to climate change by 2030 and are one of the most powerful ways for countries to enhance their national climate commitments in the lead up to COP26. Nature-based solutions have benefits for both mitigation and adaptation and can be fully integrated into all Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) - and can also play a critical role in carbon-neutral nature-positive recovery packages, while providing a host of other benefits.
3. **There is momentum but we need more action on the ground and from governments.** There is growing recognition that [the destruction of nature and climate change are critical risks for businesses, the economy and society](#) – and that many sectors need to transform how they operate if we are to avoid collapse. Nearly all private sector companies can and should responsibly integrate nature-based solutions into their science-based climate change (and nature-positive) strategies<sup>2</sup>.
4. **No time like the present.** By 2030, we need to enhance resilience, halve emissions and be nature positive globally. Nature-based solutions are ready to be implemented and must be designed in accordance with the four fundamental principles<sup>3</sup> that responsibly tackle the climate crisis, restore biodiversity, and benefit planetary health and human well-being. Furthermore, States and non-state actors can now use the [IUCN Global Standard](#) on nature-based solutions to facilitate implementation. There is a growing movement – among governments, businesses, civil society, scientists, Indigenous Peoples, youth groups and concerned communities everywhere – calling for nature-based solutions to be integrated and scaled-up within all decision-making processes.
5. **To realise these ambitions, we must collaborate.** We need to work with all stakeholders to bring about a new circular and regenerative economy, from all sectors, which aims for:
  - a. Nature-positive investments will be deforestation free by 2022; halting conversion of intact natural landscapes; commit significant, scaled up resources to ecosystem restoration; and

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<sup>1</sup> Nature-based solutions are defined by IUCN as 'actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits', [Resolution 69](#), adopted by 1,300+ IUCN State and NGO Members at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress, Hawaii, USA.

<sup>2</sup> There are a wealth of nature-based resources for companies to seek guidance from including the Science Based-Targets Network, Business for Nature, We Mean Business, the NCS Alliance, the Tropical Forest Alliance, We Value Nature.

<sup>3</sup> The four fundamental NBS principles can be found here: <https://www.togetherwithnature.com/> and here <https://nbsguidelines.info/>



work to ensure that all investments in agriculture, forestry and fisheries support the net-zero and nature-positive transitions, building a sustainable, regenerative, fair and resilient food system and circular economy for all. This includes responsible consumption and production based on **traceable, deforestation-free investments** and **supply chains** across all of our natural landscapes, underpinned by **high standards of corporate disclosure**.

- b. We now have twenty years of experience in understanding **landscape-scale transformation**, through initiatives such as REDD+, from which governments, jurisdictions and the private sector can build an ambitious and accountable approach to forest conservation and restoration.
- c. A major driver of these transformations will be finance, and it is estimated that these transitions will require **USD 2.7 trillion per year** through to 2030. However, despite offering a third of the climate solution by 2030, NBS still receives **less than 10%** of public climate funding; the need for new and innovative financial instruments is therefore critical and clearer than ever before. This will also require incentivising the protection and restoration of ecosystems including through new financial mechanisms, repurposing of subsidies, ensuring total financing aligned with the Paris Agreement and nature positive which will require scaling up opportunities of NBS investment.

**7. Emerging from emergency.** Nature is one of the best defences we have for addressing the [planetary emergency](#) we face: threats to our health, our climate, biodiversity and to sustainable development. Moreover, emerging economic evidence shows that investing in nature is a sensible choice, especially in the context of Covid-19 recovery and stimulus packages, in view of the jobs they create and the economic and social resilience they help build. The future ‘business-as-usual’ has to embrace the triple win notion of ‘people, prosperity, and planet’ to build a decade of restoration from 2020. This is what we mean by nature-positive and climate-positive recovery.

**Session outcomes for NBS Day: Driving towards outcomes in the next 12 months**

*This document reflects the outcomes put forward from the session leads and organisations represented on the NBS / Land Use Day of the Race to Zero Dialogues. This is a ‘living’ document; we welcome contributions from other organisations reflecting concrete actions being taken to deliver this NBS Acceleration Plan.*

Session name & lead partner	Highlighted outcomes from the session plus key goals for 2021 of the session lead partner
Nature’s Place in the Race: Opening Session <b>(N4C, IUCN, BfN)</b>	<b>Goal to increase the quality of NBS in NDCs/recovery plans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At least 15 countries will enhance how nature-based solutions are implemented to inform NDCs.</li> <li>● Action taken to plan and develop new and transparent systems to monitor and report community rights-based violations related to NBS land use change and ownership. N4C to lead with partners process to launch ahead of 2023 NDC stocktake.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At least 50% of IUCN members express concrete support for nature-based recovery at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille in 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enhancing NBS implementation on the ground</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The quality and resilience of over 200 NBS initiatives will be supported and strengthened through the application of the IUCN Global NBS Standard before COP26.</li> <li>● The Bonn Challenge will aim to increase restoration pledges to 250 million hectares by COP26.</li> </ul> <p><b>NBS corporate mobilisation campaign to engage the private sector</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● That will recruit 100 private sector players to incorporate nature-based solutions into their supply chains and climate strategies.</li> <li>● Aim to commit companies to follow science-based targets for climate and nature.</li> <li>● Recruit at least 50 more companies will sign up to Business for Nature's Call to Action, <i>Nature is Everyone's Business</i>, and urge governments to adopt policies now to reverse nature loss in this decade.</li> </ul>
<p>Collective Action for Forest-Positive Commodity Supply Chains <b>(TFA / WEF)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Mobilize support for UK COP26 campaign:</b> Help raise the profile and give traction to the UK COP26 Presidency's Sustainable Land Use and Commodity Trade Dialogues, leveraging multi-stakeholder input and lessons from past decade while mobilizing green finance for sustainable supply chains</li> <li>● <b>Mobilize increased private sector action.</b> TFA supports leading coalitions of companies, such as the CGF Forest Positive Coalition of Action, along with individual businesses, to advance green supply chains by increasing ambition and leadership and engaging with governments of key consumer and producer countries to shape and inform policies that enable the private sector to drive broader sector transformation.</li> <li>● <b>Raise ambition at EU level.</b> TFA mobilizes a large and growing group of leading companies from across the supply chain and civil society organizations to develop and mainstream a 'smart mix' of EU measures necessary to reduce commodity-driven deforestation, in response to the European Commission's communication on 'Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests. Emphasis on demand side measures and development of effective producer partnerships.</li> </ul>
<p>Landscapes in Action <b>(UN-REDD)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commitment to advance the NBS narrative and a common road map for action that can be resolved at an operational meaningful level of detail.</li> <li>● Commitment to build on new research from the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)</li> </ul>



	<p>and partners which underscores the size of the prize on offer from integrating action to save nature and combat climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement specific actions that can be taken over the next 12 months by donor country governments, forest country governments, and private companies to accelerate supply (i.e. REDD+ actions on the ground) and demand (i.e. financing for forest solutions) to deliver the first gigaton of high-quality emission reductions from NbS by COP26, addressing the missing middle (between grand pledges and field-level projects) and the challenges to implement at scale.</li> <li>● Champion the development and wide-scale uptake of a global carbon market that trades credits for nature-based solutions with transparency and environmental integrity (including REDD+), by 2025.</li> </ul>
<p>The Business Case (CDP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Increased corporate environmental transparency:</b> CDP will work with key policy stakeholders to enhance corporate environmental reporting policy.</li> <li>● <b>Measuring corporate impact on NBS:</b> the criteria, metrics and measurement of business action on NbS and biodiversity must be improved. CDP will work to improve these measurements and collect further data from its disclosure platform outlining corporate action and impact on NBS, as well as policy recommendations in select geographies.</li> <li>● <b>Raise ambition in NDCs</b> for climate resilient infrastructure, water smart cities and improved water resources management.</li> <li>● <b>Mobilize increased private sector action: CDP Forests Members Challenge.</b> CDP is calling on its supply chain forests members to take action on deforestation by selecting and pursuing collaborative NBS projects that have been proposed by their suppliers.</li> </ul>
<p>A Regenerative and Circular Economy (Oxford University)</p>	<p><b><u>Outcomes of the session:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outlining the case for the regenerative economy and how it fits into NBS work as a whole</li> <li>- Demonstrating four case studies at different levels of the business community as to how regenerative economies can be implemented in practice</li> <li>- Build the <b>economic case for regenerative economy</b> (from a resilience or risk management perspective) &amp; share four case studies of regenerative businesses</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Outcomes for the lead up to the COP26 2021</u></b></p> <p><b>Outcomes of panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● HiveLend (Dawn Musil)- working to establish an insect indicator for the Sustainable Development Goals as they relate to climate and agriculture</li> <li>● Sinba (Pipo Reiser) - By December 2021, we want to have recovered 4,000 tonnes of organic matter that was destined for landfills, mitigating an equivalent of 5560 tonnes of CO2.</li> </ul>



- We also want to create decent jobs for vulnerable populations and improve incomes for our partner recyclers by at least 25%.
- In terms of policy, we strive to make a significant contribution to at least one new regulation that will help steer waste management towards circular models
- Promote [Oxford Offsetting principles](#) to the private sector for high-integrity NBS offsets.

**Summaries of what different groups in Oxford will do:**

In support of CoP26 during 2021 Oxford University will be engaged in a wide range of activities to enhance awareness and evidence to support the upscaling of Nbs nationally and globally.

the [Nbs Initiative](#), will be producing:

- Series of short documentaries showcasing Nbs in Action around the UK
- Policy briefs on climate, land and nature-based solutions
- Reports bringing together evidence from science and practice on the effectiveness of Nbs in the UK, Peru, Bangladesh and the Global South, and on the biodiversity and development outcomes of investment in nature-based solutions.
- Frameworks and guidelines to support robust investment in successful, sustainable nature-based solutions in the UK and globally
- A 3-day conference (6-8 July) on [Nature-based Solutions](#) in a Changing Climate

**Blavatnik School of Government**

- Work with the Galvanizing the Groundswell of Climate Actions coalition to ensure a strong institutional framework for cities, states and regions, businesses, and others in the global climate regime after 2020
- Serve as chair of the Race to Zero campaign’s Expert Peer Review Group to ensure that the thousands of net zero targets mobilized from all of society on the road to COP26 meet high standards

**Regenerative and Circular Economy Lab**

- Working in partnership on a Regenerative and Circular Business Model Playbook
- Working on a Regenerative and Circular Economy Guide for Consumers
- Developing teaching materials for Primary and Secondary schools on Regenerative and Circular Economy



<p>Nature’s Place in the Race: A Call to Action (WWF)</p>	<p><b>Country Commitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase support for and expansion of Leaders Pledge for Nature from 70+ to 100+ countries</li> <li>● COP26 decision text to include the important role of other ecosystems beyond forests (e.g. freshwater, coastal and marine habitats) in storing carbon and shielding humans from climate change impacts, including mandating a work programme on Oceans.</li> </ul> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At least \$ 5T is committed to deforestation-free investment portfolios and the adoption of sustainable blue economy finance principles</li> <li>● Coalition of Finance Ministers reports on substantial progress made on fossil fuel and agricultural subsidy reform by COP26.</li> <li>● Climate Adaptation Finance to represent 50% of total climate finance with a privilege to Nature-based Solutions wherever possible.</li> <li>● Approval of a NbS “readiness” mechanism within UNFCCC.</li> </ul> <p><b>NBS for Pandemic Recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Remaining 16 G20 countries change from the brown to the green quadrant of Vivid Economics Index</li> </ul> <p><b>Science-Based Commitments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At least 25% of companies with a net zero commitment through Business Ambition for 1.5C have committed to investment in NBS projects or high quality credits beyond their 1.5C aligned decarbonization strategies.</li> </ul>
<p><i>In addition to the above, relevant NBS-related commitments were also made in oceans, coastal zones and water dialogues as well as in the regenerative resilient food system dialogues, which are summarized below</i> Water dialogue<sup>4</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Commitments to strengthen and clarify bold ambitious targets for wetland restoration to inform greater inclusion of wetland restoration into NDC development;</li> <li>● The day mobilised a hugely diverse group of actors calling for governments to increase ambition and specificity of water measures in both NDC’s and NAP’s., from celebrity A Listers to Religious Leaders; the world’s largest financier to the indigenous leaders of Thailand, all support the need for climate action through water.</li> <li>● The entire UK water supply and sewerage sector launched a detailed road map to Net Zero by 2030 including commitments to restore</li> </ul>

<sup>4</sup> Please see full outcomes document from the Waters dialogue day  
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	<p>20,000 ha of peatland and grassland and plant 11m trees. A world first which aims to reduce emissions by 10mt CO2e pa by 2030</p>
<p><i>Ocean and coastal zones dialogue</i><sup>5</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Blue Climate Initiative launched the “Innovation Challenge” a new prize to promote innovative solutions in the nexus of oceans and climate change.</li> <li>• Growing commitment from the insurance, finance and tourism sectors with the initiative to protect 30 percent of the ocean by 2030.</li> <li>• Progress on understanding the nexus of ocean-energy and ocean-shipping which requires ensuring minimum impact on the ocean. Showing more involvement of the private sector toward a healthy ocean.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Regenerative resilient food systems dialogue</i><sup>6</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the context of the decade of agriculture and of farmers UK’s NFU has announced Net Zero targets expected to deliver this on and then back up climate smart, regenerative farming, that puts more life on the land and creates healthy soil, powered by renewable energy transition.</li> <li>• 2021 is a special year for nature, food &amp; agriculture. The UNFSS will be the first of its kind, the multiple Food Systems Dialogues will take the debate to the many regions and communities. Inclusion, diversity, and radical collaboration are mandatory requirements for success, as well as to de-risk and usher new investment, and we must unite around the core principles of a food and agriculture that puts back more to the land than it extracts, reduces synthetic inputs, and produces varied and nutritious food in abundance whilst enhancing environmental function and reduce pressure on natural habitats. Produce more food + Protect more land + Ensure human rights is the name of the game.</li> <li>• Policy and subsidies must be repurposed to serve environmental services for food and agriculture systems. In the UK, the Just Rural Transition is advocating this globally, securing political commitments for NBS, scaling up finance, connecting across silos to serve de 2030 SDG agenda, NDC’s and other commitments, and mass mobilizing NSA’s for NZ pledges.</li> <li>• More to come from FOLU</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> Please see full outcomes document from the Oceans dialogue day

<sup>6</sup> Please see full outcomes document from the Food dialogue day



## Acceleration Plan for Next 12 Months

Over the past few years, beginning with the transition to implementation of **the Paris Agreement**, the world has come to understand and embrace the **extraordinary importance of natural ecosystems to ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation**, to the immense potential for carbon storage, and to the increased resilience and improved livelihoods of highly vulnerable people and ecosystems.

Indeed, at the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit, hundreds of non-state actor groups - businesses, cities, states, investors, local communities, indigenous peoples, and civil society - came together to demonstrate and commit to action on forest, food, and land, and in so doing elevated the critical role of nature in the global climate discourse. One year later at the **2019 UN Secretary General's Climate Action Summit**, alongside governments, a growing coalition further solidified the potential of nature, by endorsing the [Nature-Based Solutions Manifesto](#), a plan to unlock the full potential of nature for climate action. And one year beyond that, countries rallied further action for nature by signing on to the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#), a commitment to decisive action to reverse nature loss to protect human and planetary health.

Through these efforts, the message is now clear: **nature is fundamental to achieving the [race to zero carbon and climate resilient economies and to becoming nature positive by 2030](#)**. To realize its potential, our task over the next 12 months will be to collaborate to further mature this critical sector in support of COP26, and to help strengthen the nature components within the [Marrakesh Partnership Climate Action Pathways](#). We call on the High-Level Champions to support the momentum built within this important sector, and the achievement of these key goals. And we, the organizations included in this outcomes document, call also specifically on other non-state actors, as well as Governments to join us in this effort to further mature the actions of the nature sector.

The scale of system change we seek will require engagement and transformative collaboration from players across the whole of society, each reinforcing one another - a dual ambition loop in which non-state actors identify and support win-win-wins for people nature, and climate, while also motivating and setting expectations for the role of state actors in helping to mainstream their ambition.

### 2020 Milestone moments for review and accountability

Primary milestone moments in 2020 to review and update the NBS acceleration plan (and outcomes document), both ensuring it is kept on track and remains relevant are:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Key 2020 Momentum Moment</i>	<i>Action</i>
12th December	Ambition Summit	OP-eds on nature's role in climate action. Support governments submit enhanced NDC with nature.
January (tbc)	One Planet Summit	Dialogue on nature positive investments and upscaling investments in NBS to enhance NDCs.  Dialogue on defunding deforestation.

February	COP26 Sustainable land use and Commodity Trade Dialogue- global event	Enhance commitment of NSA to support development of a set of principles to aid partnerships to help in the implementation of deforestation supply chains.
April	The publication of the 2.1 <a href="#">Marrakesh Partnership Climate Action Pathways</a>	Discuss implications and enhance alignment with Marrakesh Partnership.  Launch of NBS in NDCs acceleration workshop in key geographies.
May (tbc)	WEF Annual Meeting	High level corporate focused dialogue on NBS acceleration including high Level dialogue on nature positive investments (enhancing financial flows for nature and climate change) and upscaling investments in NBS to enhance NDCs.  Launch of NBS Corporation Mobilisation Campaign (N4C, BfN, WMB, WBCSD, WEF)
September	UNGA / NY Climate Week	Stakeholder workshop and review meeting to support the review progress and help reaffirm commitments within the Leaders Pledge for Nature.
September	<a href="#">United Nations Food System Summit</a>	Stakeholder workshop and review meeting on accelerating resilience and deforestation free investments.
September (tbc)	IUCN Congress	Several high-level NBS sessions and discussions. Stakeholder workshops and review meetings in context of high level dialogues on upscaling investments in NBS to enhance NDCs/ nature-based recovery/ NBS Standard application.
October	Countdown	High level gathering of champions of nature and food systems for enhanced to halve emissions by 2030.
October	CBD CP15 (tbc)	The CBD 2020 Aichi Targets will be replaced in Kunming next year. Ensure we incorporate new targets and reflect common time frames into commitments of the acceleration plan.
November	UNFCCC CoP26	Review point and delivery plan for NBS acceleration plan ahead of the 2023 stocktake.