

8.072 Defining a robust Nature Positive for Business framework, to mobilise corporate, civil society and government support for high-integrity nature positive contributions aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2022, sets out ambitious 2030 targets for the conservation of biodiversity, including for species and ecosystems, as well as a vision and a mission aligned with the nature positive global societal goal, defined as "halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 on a 2020 baseline, and achieve full recovery by 2050" (Nature Positive Initiative);

RECOGNISING that a whole of society approach is needed to achieve the CBD's goals and targets, and further recognising that international biodiversity conservation is a shared responsibility requiring coordinated action and financial contributions from all sources – public and private, international and domestic;

RECALLING the necessity to continue to strive for but go beyond "impact reduction", to bring measurable and sustainable improvements to the state of nature;

RECALLING ALSO that a company can only claim to contribute to this "nature positive" goal if it demonstrates it through various actions within its value chain and in a coordinated approach at the territorial level;

RECALLING that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has identified five direct drivers of nature change and biodiversity loss and that, according to the mitigation hierarchy, the private sector has to prioritise contributions to a "nature positive" future that first and foremost avoids and reduces the pressures on biodiversity identified by the IPBES;

NOTING that risk and reporting frameworks for corporate and financial institutions are increasingly requiring measurement and disclosure of nature-related including biodiversity dependencies, impacts, risks and opportunities;

FURTHER NOTING that achieving the nature positive objective requires measurable net results in terms of biodiversity to be robust, notably through improvement in the health, abundance, diversity, integrity and resilience of species and ecosystems that help maintain natural processes;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), through the Impact Mitigation and Ecological Compensation (IMEC) Thematic Group, has produced a technical report which lists principles, definitions and recommended actions for use by companies, governments and civil society;

ALSO RECALLING that IUCN supports private sector contributions to achieving the goals of the KMGBF and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has proposed a Measuring Nature Positive approach to support this process;

ACKNOWLEDGING the contributions of the IUCN Commissions and Members to the review of IUCN's *Measuring Nature-Positive* approach to support this process, a draft version of which, focusing on species metrics, received contributions from IUCN constituents between November 2023 and March 2024;

RECALLING the work done within dedicated voluntary frameworks and regulatory requirements for businesses (e.g. the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), Science Based Targets Network (SBTN), Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD));

RECALLING ALSO efforts such as the Nature Positive Initiative, which aims to drive alignment around use of the term "nature positive" and support broader, longer-term efforts to deliver nature-positive outcomes; and

RECALLING FURTHER the effort of nature transition planning, including strategic approaches that set out an organisation's goals, targets, actions, accountability mechanisms and resources to contribute and respond to the transition implied by the KMGBF, mirroring established approaches for climate transition planning;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN Commissions to:

- a. support companies for their rapid, high-integrity contributions which seek to achieve nature positive outcomes, through outreach across the Union, of approaches (including those proposed by IUCN) that support strong ethical values and prioritise avoidance, mitigation, restoration and compensation of residual impact and further give priority to conservation and protection or, if the ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity are degraded, restoration; and
- b. support Union-wide efforts to work with governments to improve and support the development of market-led mechanisms (including biodiversity or nature credits that align with generally agreed-upon principles such as published by the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB)), with environmental integrity, to deliver positive contributions towards nature positive, including as informed by IUCN;

2. INVITES IUCN and its Members to support:

- a. actions beneficial to biodiversity, beyond mere resource commitments, and that prioritise reducing the pressures on nature in alignment with the mitigation hierarchy;
- a.bis. prioritisation of actions focused on avoidance and mitigation of impact on biodiversity as required by the mitigation hierarchy, while further advancing towards nature positive actions beyond avoidance and mitigation ideally followed by additional positive conservation action as outlined in the mitigation and conservation hierarchy, in order to deliver an overall net gain of biodiversity;
- b. actions that go beyond compensation for degradation to ensure net gain for biodiversity and that integrate territorial governance and long-term benefits for Indigenous Peoples and local communities and ecosystems;
- c. evaluations that include cumulative, secondary and indirect impacts (e.g. on other species, long-term, ecosystem functions); and
- d. actions that promote local biodiversity and its resilience, including connectivity; and

3. CALLS on States, international agencies and multilateral biodiversity financing bodies to:

- a. support the development of frameworks that encourage companies to take action to reduce the total environmental footprint of production and service delivery and to make high-integrity contributions to achieving nature positive including through actions aligned with the four goals of the KMGBF, in particular Goal A on species and ecosystems;
- b. collaborate with companies to set targets for and rapidly deliver and publicly report high-integrity actions to reduce pressures on biodiversity and contributions to achieving nature positive goals;
- c. ensure that contributions claimed towards nature positive align with best practice including balanced and active participation of all stakeholders including recognition of community-level governance structures and the importance of strengthening territorial governance to enable long-term biodiversity stewardship in formulation and delivery of contributions, respecting the important role, contributions, rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, as well as those of local communities, including free, prior and informed consent in accordance with national and local circumstances as well as the IMEC core principles (Annex 1); and

d. promote the integration of climate adaptation, including ecosystem-based adaptation and Nature-based Solutions, into high-integrity contributions by companies towards nature positive outcomes, ensuring alignment with the KMGBF, and the resilience of biodiversity and local communities.

Annex 1: Best practice, including equal and active participation of all stakeholders in formulation and delivery of contributions, compliance with the highest standards of participation and consultation, and core principles, as summarised in the report *Nature positive for business: developing a common approach* (Baggaley et al., 2023) of the Impact Mitigation and Ecological Compensation (IMEC) Working Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM):

- 1. Nature as a whole:** Adopt targets which capture all realms of nature upon which the business impacts and depends, balancing trade-offs to ensure that nature benefits.
- 2. Avoid and mitigate:** Apply the mitigation hierarchy and focus on impact avoidance and minimisation measures, and work to achieving a net gain for all elements of nature negatively impacted by operational activities and material impacts in the value chains.
- 3. Holistic actions:** Extend actions to encompass landscape-level thinking, up- and down- stream impacts and dependencies; and include sector-wide efforts to 'transform' and drive systemic change.
- 4. Aligned with global goals:** Apply measurable, science-based targets that are consistent with global goals (e.g. the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Sustainable Development Goals).
- 5. Mainstreaming:** Integrate nature and the importance of biodiversity into the decision-making processes of the business, from boardroom down, into the operations, risk and financial decision-making, and into the value chains.
- 6. Collaborative:** Identify and engage with stakeholders within landscapes, sectors and value chains that will enable and support nature positive outcomes.
- 7. Adaptive:** Apply effective monitoring of the state and pressure on nature across landscapes and value chains with a clear process for triggering adaptive management responses.
- 8. Transparent:** Introduce commitments and targets that are externally communicated and backed up by credible, clear and replicable approaches to measurement.
- 9. Just:** Deliver safeguards and activities that respect the important role, contributions, rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as custodians of biodiversity and partners in conservation, restoration and sustainable use.
- 10. Measurable:** Adopt clear and demonstrable measurement and accounting of losses and gains, for operational level commitments (e.g. net gain or net positive impact) and within the value chain.

(Source: Baggaley, S., Johnston, M., Dimitrijevic, J., Le Guen, C., Howard, P., Murphy, L., Booth, H., & Starkey, M. (2023). *Nature-positive for business*. IUCN. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/51299>)